

WINTER 2011

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University



IT'S SIMPLE:
COMPLEX IS AWESOME

pg 14



Over the course of just a few weeks, Dr. Bill Gondring '56, a local orthopedic surgeon, had the opportunity to experience Western in several different ways.

He attended the Griffons' first football game of the season, and got a firsthand look at not only the players, but the marching band as well. He visited with administrators at a tailgate prior to the game.

Then Dean Philip Nitse and Dr. Durai Sundaramoorthi of the Craig School of Business helped Dr. Gondring with statistics for an article he wants to publish. After meeting with them, he walked around campus and observed the students going to and from their classes.

Lastly, Dr. Gondring performed surgery on a Griffon baseball player, and the player and his father told him how much Coach Buzz Verduzco is involved in his players' lives and education, and how the coach followed up to find out how the surgery went.

So why did Dr. Gondring become a member of the Founder's Circle of the Western League for Excellence?

In all those instances, Dr. Gondring said, "I saw character, I saw purpose, I saw intensity and discipline. And I liked what I saw. I wanted to be a part of this university because everyone has the same goal – academic excellence. I decided I could help out by joining the Founder's Circle."

Thank you, Dr. Gondring, for supporting Western and the League for Excellence!

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MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: The practice field in the new Griffon Indoor Sports Complex.
Photo by Double E Images.

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Dr. Frances Morgan, demonstration scientist/master lecturer, and Walter Anderson, lab/administrative assistant, are pictured with Western's mobile biotechnology lab.

Bus brings science to schools

Thanks to an almost \$1 million federal grant, high school and middle school students in northwest Missouri now have access to a state-of-the-art biotechnology laboratory, because Western's mobile lab hit the road in October.

Dr. Frances Morgan, demonstration scientist/master lecturer, said high school and middle school students will conduct experiments in the mobile lab so they can understand basic chemistry, biology and physics concepts. Students will also gain insights into the vast array of rewarding biotechnology career opportunities in Missouri.

"I hope this gives every student the opportunity to have hands-on experiments with science and to realize that science is for everyone," Frances said. "Science can be fun and rewarding."

When the university was awarded the \$950,000 federal grant in March 2009, the Western Institute sent surveys to area schools to determine the format for the classes in the lab (most likely 50-minute sessions) and what equipment and types of experiments were needed. The lab can accommodate up to 16 students.

While many larger urban schools in the area may have some of the equipment found in the mobile lab, they most likely do not have some of the more sophisticated equipment on the bus, Frances said. And for smaller rural schools, all the equipment may be new to the students.

"We wanted sophisticated equipment that would introduce biotechnology lab techniques to prepare students for careers in the biotechnology sciences."

Frances noted that the mobile lab is part of a nationwide effort to educate the workforce for careers in science and math. "If we can provide the workforce in Missouri, the state can recruit the industries. This is directly linked to Missouri's economic growth."

Once schedules were in place, Frances planned to be on the road almost every day, visiting schools in seven counties — Andrew, Buchanan, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Jackson and Platte.

Along with the Western Institute, project partners include the Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO) and the Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences. ■

Professor's play in London theaters

"You have to control your head from exploding. You just can't believe it." That is how Assistant Professor of Theatre Don Lillie described his feelings about seeing his original play performed in London, one of the premier theatre capitals of the world. His play, "Marlowe," is about 16th century playwright Christopher Marlowe, a contemporary of William Shakespeare.

Not only was "Marlowe" performed two nights at Teatro Technis in May 2010, selections from it were performed as part of a William Shakespeare birthday fest in the bard's hometown, Stratford on Avon, in April.

But Don said a play in London needs a three-week run to get any publicity from the press and to be picked up by a producer to run it on London's West End (comparable to New York's Broadway). "Marlowe" achieved that at the Hot Tap Theater in London this past October and November.

"London is so steeped in tradition, that to go to Shakespeare's birthplace and have your work performed, you can't describe it," Don said. "It just felt right. You start getting goosebumps."

Don said getting the play on stage in London was no easy task. He taught a semester-long class about London's fringe theaters at the Imperial College in London in the spring of 2010, and started from scratch to get "Marlowe" on stage, sharing his experiences with the class all along the way.

"To have it there (for three weeks) is beyond anyone's expectations," Don said.

Western theater-goers had an opportunity to see the play performed for the first time in the spring of 2009, in the Potter Hall theater. "I think a lot of people felt like it had something," Don said. And he's hoping Londoners agree. ■

Record enrollment – again!

In the fall of 1969, Western moved to its present-day campus and 2,536 students enrolled. Except for a few off years, enrollment has steadily increased each year since then, and in Fall 2010, Western exceeded 6,000 students for the first time. As of the official census date Sept. 28, a record 6,134 students were enrolled in Western, a seven percent increase over last year. That number includes 6,010 undergraduate students and 124 graduate. Students are taking 71,654 undergraduate and graduate credit hours this semester, also a record.

This year's incoming freshman class is a record 1,270, surpassing the 1,234 incoming freshmen in 2002. The number of freshmen coming to Western directly from high school is up 11.4 percent from a year ago, said Howard McCauley, director of admissions, and those new students are better prepared than ever before.

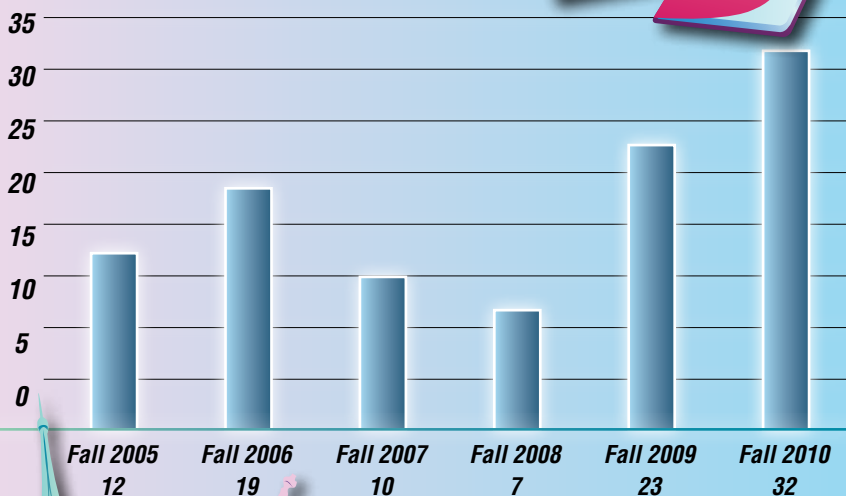
"The number of incoming freshmen who scored 25 and above on their ACT is up 19.4 percent from a year ago. This is the best prepared freshman class I've ever seen," said Howard, who has worked in Western's admissions office full-time since 1985.

The number of transfer students is also up significantly, rising 48 percent from a year ago. Howard credits that growth to articulation agreements with nearby community colleges.

Western's Graduate School has a rapidly growing enrollment, as well. The number of graduate students increased from 70 last fall to 124 in the fall of 2010, and five of the graduate students are international students from Bangladesh and India.

Western first offered graduate programs in the fall of 2007, and there were five new graduate programs offered this academic year. ■

International Student Enrollment



International students represented 14 different countries in the fall: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea and Turkmenistan.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In many ways, you have helped shape Missouri Western. You have helped us to become what we are today.

This fall, we experienced our sixth consecutive year of record enrollment growth – we are now 6,134 students strong. For those of you who remember our days as a Junior College when the student body was just over 600, this growth may be even more meaningful if not even a little surreal.

Growth is good, but more important than mere growth is the quality of our product. Just within this past year, we ...

- Completed construction on Remington Hall as well as the renovation of Agentstein Hall, which now gives us approximately 120,000 square feet for math and science instruction.
- Watched as two of our recent Craig School of Business graduates joined a 2008 graduate and opened their own Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchises, thanks to the support and entrepreneurial spirit of Steven L. Craig.
- Are constructing a new 250-bed residence hall in an effort to meet the high demand for on-campus living space. The new building will open in the fall of 2011.
- Built the Spring Sports Complex. Our baseball and softball teams will compete on these new fields this spring.
- Are responsible for the Chiefs' significant improvement, thanks to hosting their summer training camp (Possibly!).

While we are very proud and appreciative of you, our friends and alumni, we hope that you are proud of what you have helped us to become and where we are heading.

Robert A. Vartabedian
Robert A. Vartabedian
President



Dr. Vartabedian celebrates Western surpassing 6,000 students.

Applicable apps



Last spring, Dr. Joe Boyce, chief medical information officer at Heartland Health, began looking for iPhone applications (apps) that could solve some communication issues for Heartland doctors.

He couldn't find what he wanted, so he turned to Western for help, and the university provided solutions.

This past summer, Dr. Baoqiang Yan, assistant professor of computer science, created an app development course at Western, and Heartland offered cash awards to the students if they could develop meaningful software and create a working prototype of an app by the end of the eight-week class.

Joe spoke to students at the beginning of the summer session, gave them the contest rules (one was that Heartland gets to use the software free of charge) and offered them seven ideas for apps that he wanted to see developed.

The students exceeded his expectations. In fact, although Joe expected a working prototype by the end of the class, the first place \$1,500 winner, Noah Hendrix, developed a fully functional app, and the second place team wasn't too far behind. "The projects are amazing," Joe said.

Noah, a St. Joseph native and a student at University of Kansas in Lawrence, learned about the class from his sister who is a student at Western. "It's very new," Noah said. "KU doesn't offer a class like that." He developed Survey Says, an app that offers real time answers to surveys or questionnaires.

Joe said this app could be used if a doctor is speaking before a group and wants its input on a sensitive or personal issue. With the Survey Says app, the speaker can gather audience answers quickly and confidentially.

A team of three, Ricky Brown, Levi Neely and Nick Burtner, developed

DocTalk and earned a second place prize of \$1,200. DocTalk gives doctors the option of leaving a voice mail, text message or page without going through the recipient's voice mail system. "I wanted something they could use in the car," Joe said. "You hit one button and leave a voice mail."

"It's all on a closed app, so personal patient information can't be leaked out," Nick said of DocTalk. "That's the big sell for it."

Joe planned to use both apps at Heartland and said the students could adapt them for other clients, as well. "They have serious potential business use."

Baoqiang said the class was not easy. Students had to learn an entirely new programming language, new interface builder software and the iPhone app environment.

"iPhone application development is a course that is getting more and more popular at many universities. It is cutting edge technology," Baoqiang said.

Levi and Ricky, who both work in Western's instructional media center, said

they took the course so they could possibly develop apps for the university. The biggest challenge, they said, was completing the work in only eight weeks.

Noah said he had been reading a book and trying to teach himself app development for more than a year, so he was pleased with what he learned in the summer course. "The class gave me direction, motivation and focus, and I was able to learn it. (Dr. Yan) did a great job. I learned a lot."

Nick, a computer science major at Western, said he was always interested in learning app development and had even worked in app development at Sprint last year. "It was a very good class and very interesting. I learned a lot."

"It was a great opportunity for students," Baoqiang said. "They need real-world experience."

Baoqiang, Joe and the students said they hope the class will be offered again. "It's a win-win-win," Joe said. ■



"Galileo's Vision," located on the south side of Remington Hall, is the campus' latest sculpture. Jim Estes, professor of art who retired last spring, donated his time in designing and constructing the steel structure and the MWSU Foundation provided funding for the materials. This is the fourth sculpture he has donated to Western.



Newt Gingrich poses for a photo with the MWSU College Republicans.

Newt Gingrich visits campus

They may have only been in grade school when Newt Gingrich was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, but the students who were selected to have breakfast with him knew who he was and were excited to meet him.

Newt, Western's speaker for the 17th annual Convocation on Critical Issues, visited with about 150 people at a private reception, participated in a Q & A with a sell-out crowd in the Fulkerson Center at the Convocation Dinner Oct. 6, and spoke to a full arena on Oct. 7.

But before he was scheduled to speak at the main event in the arena, Newt agreed to have breakfast with 19 student leaders.

"I thought it was awesome," said Colin Hoffman, director of finance for the Student Government Association and former president of the MWSU College Republicans. "It was fun how informal it was."

Several of the students came prepared to ask the Speaker some questions about today's issues, but to their surprise, Newt had some questions for them first, and he seemed genuinely interested in their responses. And not only did he ask questions, he went around the table so each student had a chance to answer them.

Newt asked them about their biggest fear (most said "finding a job") and their greatest hope (many said "making a difference"), and if they ever had a job they hated (oh, yeah).

"Every chance I get, everywhere I go, I try to listen," Newt told the students when he arrived for breakfast. He also asked for a show of hands of Twitter and Facebook users, and how many watched Fox News and MSNBC.

"I liked it," Natalie Colboch, senior criminal justice major and member of the MWSU College Republicans, said of the breakfast. "I was expecting him to give a speech and was so glad he didn't. I liked that he gave everyone the opportunity to answer questions."

When it was their turn, students asked Newt about the health care bill, the prison system, diversity in schools and the constitution. Oh, and of course, someone asked whether or not he was planning to run for president in 2012.

"It was surprising how candidly he talked about the possibility of running for president," said Colin, a political science and economics double major who has worked on political campaigns before.

"He's pretty straightforward," Natalie said. "He's not afraid to say what we should do; he was honest."

At the end of the breakfast, Newt suggested having his photo taken with each student, and they readily agreed.

"I thought it was nice he took the time to have breakfast with us. He didn't have to do that," Natalie said. "It was a great opportunity." ■

Shelves collapse in library

Last July, students and employees in the Hearnes Center library were startled by a thunderous crash on the second floor when several rows of shelves collapsed. All library employees were immediately accounted for, but staff was concerned that there may have been patrons by the shelves when they collapsed, said Julia Schneider, library director.

For approximately 30 minutes, city and county rescue workers and university police worked feverishly to remove the books (mostly bound journals), and dismantle the fallen shelves to make sure no one had been injured. Campus employees, mainly from the physical plant, athletics and admissions, took the 11,565 volumes from the emergency personnel and stacked them on tables and the floor.

The cause was due to unbalanced shelves, and new shelves were purchased. The second floor of the library was closed for three months.

"Many thanks for all the help at the time of the collapse," Julia said. "We are so thankful no one was injured." ■

New part-time evening LEA

Western's Law Enforcement Academy began a part-time evening academy this fall, designed to meet the needs of individuals unable to attend a full-time or daytime academy. The academy, which exceeds 900 hours, consists of three separate classes over the course of one year. All three classes must be taken consecutively in order to satisfy POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) requirements.

The evening academy can also be used to fulfill partial requirements for an associate or bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. Students who meet admission requirements and wish to take additional coursework to qualify as a full-time student may be eligible for financial aid. ■

Congratulations, Dr. V!

As part of the centennial celebration of California State University, Fresno, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, was named one of 100 Notable Alumni. ■

User-friendly technology - it's here!

Have you ever felt dumb because you had trouble finding information on a website? And remember how hard it was to program a VCR? Well, it turns out, maybe you weren't so incompetent after all. The fault may have been the design of the VCR or the website, but that is changing.

In the past several years, many businesses, especially companies that produce technological products, have created divisions that focus on making their products and websites more user-friendly. As you can imagine, there is a great need now for qualified employees in that field. Western responded to that need when the university began offering the master of applied science in human factors and usability in the fall of 2009.

"It used to be if you created a website, that was good enough. Now it has to be user friendly," said Dr. Jeremiah Still, assistant professor of psychology and instructor in the master's program. "And, products used to be engineer-designed and they never asked the user. Now they put the user first."

But along with the consumer demanding more user-friendly products, companies realize they can save a lot of money if they create a product with the user in mind. Jeremiah explained that if a consumer can find answers on a company's website or figure out themselves how something works, they won't have to call the company for help, and that saves money.

It was the director of the User Experience Group at Sprint in Overland Park, Kan., that initially approached Western about the lack of qualified employees in the usability field, said Dr. Brian Cronk, professor of psychology and interim dean of Western's graduate school.

"Sprint was having trouble hiring for the User Experience Group, and they were sending employees to a private institution in Massachusetts for training," Brian said. He worked with Sprint to develop a curriculum for Western's master's program.

Western's program boasts a state-of-the-art research lab which includes an eye-tracker, where a participant views a website or software and the eye-tracker records where they were looking, how long their eyes stayed in one spot, and more.

"It's great for web designers," Jeremiah said. He also said the eye tracker is a great tool for those who sell advertising on websites to find out where users are looking and for how long.

The master's program, the only one of its kind in Missouri, is also unique because it contains a business component. "We're combining MBA skills with human factors skills, because companies tell me it's a great thing for people in this field to have a business background," Jeremiah said.

Sujoy Kumar Chowdhury, from Bangladesh, is enrolled in the program and is Western's first international graduate student. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science in Bangladesh, and had

Dr. Jeremiah Still and Dr. Brian Cronk observe graduate students Sujoy Kumar Chowdhury and Joe Grgic in the Human Factors and Usability research lab.



been working in the telecommunications field when he learned about Western's program through the internet.

"It was exactly the program I was looking for," Sujoy said. He likes that he was able to see the lab being built and appreciates the diverse group of students from both professional and academic backgrounds in the program.

The two-year program requires a summer internship, and Sujoy spent last summer conducting research at Motorola's headquarters in Schaumburg, Ill. As a result of his work, he is named co-inventor on a product that will be patented and co-author on a published article. Additionally, Sujoy was recently recognized by IBM as a winner in its developerWorks contest for university students. He was among the 60 fastest students in the nation to complete a section of the competition 100 percent correctly.

Graduate student Jody Winn said her internship at Hallmark in Kansas City, Mo., last summer turned into a full-time job there, so she is grateful that the master's classes are offered in the evenings.

Jody said she has worked in the usability field for a number of years, but decided she needed to earn a degree when she was laid off in early 2009. She was surprised

when an internet search turned up only one such program in Missouri, and she was pleased to see it was only about an hour drive from her home.

The program consists of several team projects, which Jody enjoys. "Everyone works really hard and we work really well together," she said of the seven graduate students in the program.

Joe Grgic, the lab manager for the program, said he appreciates the business component of the program because of its value to potential employers. He also likes the hands-on experiences and available resources to complete projects.

"You're always going to need people who understand usability because technology is constantly changing and there is a lot of competition," Joe said.

He completed an internship at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where its Human-Computer Interaction Institute is one of the top programs in the nation. "It was fun. I got to play with the coolest technology I've ever seen."

If you've replaced your VCR with a TiVo, did you notice how much easier it is to operate than the VCR? You can thank the human factors and usability field for that. ■

Campus Kudos

- Dr. Kristen Walton, assistant professor of biology, was one of 23 nationwide selected to participate in the 2010 American Society for Microbiology/National Science Foundation Biology Scholars Program Research Residency. The yearlong virtual research residency offers scholars the opportunity to design a research project to investigate student learning, understand methods for collecting, analyzing and interpreting data on student learning, and identify appropriate venues for publishing.
- Joseph Byer, a senior accounting major, won third place in the Yellow Pages Advertising Challenge, a competition that drew more than 1,050 entries from nearly 150 two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.
- Campus Police Officers Dennis Johnson '73, and James Bench received the Meritorious Conduct Award in acknowledgment of their efforts that helped save the life of a man at Spratt Memorial Stadium Sept. 2. When sophomore wide receiver Kyle Knox's grandfather, Harvey, suffered a heart attack before the Griffon's first football game, James brought the automatic external defibrillator from the patrol car and Dennis used it to bring the man back to life. ■

Two alumni join Board of Governors

Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Deborah J. Smith '79, to the Board of Governors in August and Leo Blakley '62, in November.

Deborah, of Country Club Village, Mo., earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a private contractor for Shelter Insurance. She is a school board member for the Savannah R-III School District and a member of the board of directors of Northwest Health Services. Deborah is also on the advisory board for Cotillion for Achievement in St. Joseph, Mo. She replaces Diza Eskridge, who died June 29, 2010.

Leo, from St. Joseph, Mo., works for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and had served as teacher, administrator and principal in the St. Joseph School District for 30 years. He has been on the district's Board of Education since 1997. Leo replaces Patt Lilly, whose term expired in October. ■

The Western Institute's Center for Community Arts once again held the annual Artscape, a weeklong hands-on arts camp for children. This year, 173 participated.



Students elect to help at polls

Even as a young girl, Professor of Legal Studies Joanne Katz knew her parents never took their right to vote for granted. Her father was a Jew who lost his right to vote in Germany in 1935, two years after the Nazis came to power, and her mother served as president of the League of Women Voters.

“Historically, when people are denied the right to vote, they feel unempowered, and it often segues to violence,” Joanne said. “I was brought up to take voting seriously; I never miss an election, no matter how small.”

Her convictions have led her and Professor of Legal Studies Dave Tushaus to develop and publish a curriculum to train college students to be poll workers, and she hopes it will be used throughout the state. The manual has been sent to universities and election offices across Missouri.

Joanne and Dave have been involved with making sure everyone has access to polls since they volunteered for a national project in 2004. That year, they created a

curriculum and trained more than 300 poll workers, mostly college students from Western, University of Kansas and University of Missouri-Kansas City.

After that experience, the two professors decided to teach an Election Law class as an honors colloquium in 2006 and they trained Western students to work at the polls.

Joanne noted that the average age of election poll workers is 72, and most people that age don’t like computers or don’t know how to use them. If someone comes in to vote and is not on the roster, it takes a lot of time for the worker to make phone calls and try to figure out the correct polling site. But if computer-savvy college students are working at the polls, they can quickly find the information on the computer.

At the start of the semester, students are often resistant and don’t really want to work at the polls, Joanne said. But once they learn about the history of the vote, “they start to understand that something they take for granted is really precious.” In post-surveys of the class, students

always say they enjoyed working at the polls and helping people.

The two professors decided to teach the class in 2008 and again this past fall, and about 50 Western students helped out at Buchanan County polling places in 2010.

In the fall of 2009, Joanne and Dave received a \$74,807 grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to publish the training manual they had developed and distribute it throughout the state.

The manual gives professors and other education officials all the information they need to incorporate the College Student Poll Worker Service Learning Project into their college and university courses, Joanne said.

She hopes the program catches on and college students across the state have the opportunity to work at the polls. In the training manual, Joanne notes, “You will be offering your students an opportunity to participate in the democratic process in a very meaningful way, an experience that will change most of them for a lifetime.” ■



Max the Maze

Any Western fans flying over a corn field northeast of St. Joseph this past fall might have had to do a double take if they thought they were seeing Griffons, but they really could believe their eyes (and the ears). A 12-acre maze was carved out of a corn field in the shape of Max the Griffon as the featured attraction at a fall family business owned by two alumni.

For the second year in a row, Brad '93, and Amy '94, Grooms operated St. Joe Corn Maze every weekend this past October. While the large maze was the main draw, they also offered hay rides, a play area and smaller maze for children, and areas for private parties with fire pits.

The Max mascot, created by Western in 2005, is named in honor of Brad's father, Max Grooms, who was a great supporter of the athletic program and a charter member of the Gold Coat Club. Max Grooms died in 2001. ■

Two more students garner entrepreneurship opportunities

Graduate in May, become an entrepreneur by fall. Sound too good to be true? Not for Craig School of Business graduates. Thanks to Steve Craig and the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, this is the second year for a program where Craig School of Business graduates have the opportunity to become a part owner with Steve in a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Brady Ellis '10, moved to Vicksburg, Miss., in September to open a new store there. In November, Rob Schimming '10, took over a store in California.

"I always wanted to be my own boss," Brady said. "I like to be the person to take responsibility for something."

The panel that selected Brady and Rob included Seth Lyons '08, who was the first graduate to be selected for the entrepreneur opportunity in 2009. Seth entered into a partnership agreement with Steve to operate a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in Silverthorne, Colo., which he runs with his wife, Kelsey (McFarland) '08. Steve said that has worked out very well, and based on that success, he and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory elected to continue the program and expand it.

"I wanted to be an entrepreneur, to build and start a self-sustaining business," Rob said. "This will put me on the fast track."



Steve Craig, Brady Ellis '10, and a box of Rocky Mountain chocolates.

Steve noted that, just like Seth, Brady and Rob will be supported by a faculty mentor in the Craig School of Business and him. "This is just the beginning. Faculty will assist them to help them avoid the pitfalls and help them do the best that they can do."

"I want to thank everyone for their support, especially Steve Craig," Brady said. "It's amazing to be in this position and I'm extremely excited." ■

Student affairs structure changes

The division of student affairs recently underwent several structural changes in an effort to provide better services to students.

"We are moving from a division with decentralized services to a division offering highly centralized services," said Dr. Esther Perález, who was named vice president for student affairs last spring. "The change improves coordination of services by providing an opportunity to address issues of cooperation, communication and resource allocation from a division-wide perspective rather than from individual departments."

The division is now divided into four major units: 1) Health and Wellness, which includes counseling, disability services, the health center, recreation services and the fitness center; 2) Student Academic Support Services, including center for academic support, student success center, advising and A+ program, and testing and assessment; 3) Student Development includes center for multicultural education, career and leadership development, student employment, student life and nontraditional student services, international student services and residential life programming initiatives; and 4) Student Services, which includes Blum Union, Greek life, judicial affairs and special programs. ■

Western presents "Phantom"

Don't miss Maury Yeston's "Phantom," a joint production between Western's music and theatre departments. The event will be held March 3-6, 2011, in the Potter Hall theater. Dr. Susan Carter, assistant professor of music, is artistic director; and Dr. Roger Hale, assistant professor of music, is music director. Tee Quillin, assistant professor of theatre, is director; and the orchestra will be conducted by Rico McNeela, associate professor of music.

For more information, call 816-271-4420 or email music@missouriwestern.edu. As the production dates near, you will be able to order tickets online at www.missouriwestern.edu/tickets. ■

Western's newest residence hall is scheduled to open in time for the Fall 2011 semester.



Achieving Greatness

The Foundation's capital campaign, Achieving Greatness, wrapped up the solicitation phase at the end of fiscal year 2010, raising more than \$17.7 million and exceeding the overall goal of \$15 million by 18 percent. It was the largest capital campaign in Western's history.

"Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of this campaign," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, at the wrap-up celebration. "Even in these tough economic times, all groups rose to the challenge. I can't thank you enough for supporting our students."

The campaign saw the two largest gifts in Western's history, from Steve Craig of Newport Beach, Calif., and Wes and Patsy '79, Remington of St. Joseph, Mo. The Craig gift allowed the creation of Western's Steven L. Craig School of Business and was a significant factor in Western receiving prestigious accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), Dr. Vartabedian said. Also, the Remington gift helped build and equip the new Remington Hall and renovate Agenstein Hall for Western's science and math facilities.

Campaign contributions also included a \$1 million pledge from a graduate who wishes to remain anonymous, and a \$250,000 pledge from the Leah Spratt Charitable Trust. Joyce Rochambeau '47, and Rene Rochambeau-McCrary are the trustees, and the trust is administered by US Bank Wealth Management. Additional gifts include a \$150,000 gift from the W.T. Kemper Foundation and \$100,000 gifts from

Western's capital campaign a success

The Thanksgiving Fund, the Goppert Foundation and the Beavers Charitable Trust. The Foundation also received almost \$90,000 from the estates of Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert.

All campaign goals were met or exceeded with the exception of the science building endowment goal, which helps offset ongoing maintenance needs for Agenstein and Remington Halls. The goal is approximately \$318,000 short. Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the MWSU Foundation, said they are working to generate funds to make up for the goal's shortfall.

One especially satisfying aspect of the campaign was the deepening commitment to the school by several local individ-

uals, businesses, area foundations and charitable trusts, Dan said. "We're grateful that the donors' belief in the university's mission motivated them

to so generously contribute their time, talent and financial resources to the cause. I am truly proud to be a part of the Western family."

Achieving Greatness was the private fundraising component of Beyond Excellence, a comprehensive investment of almost \$70 million to enhance Western's resources and facilities. ■

Foundation receives \$150,000

The MWSU Foundation recently received word of a \$150,000 donation over the next three years (\$50,000 per year) for nontraditional student scholarships from the Thanksgiving Fund, a fund of the American Endowment Foundation. The money will be added to two existing endowed scholarships, as designated by the Thanksgiving Fund.

Jerry Pickman '85, noted that the Foundation received \$50,000 in both 2008 and 2009 from the Thanksgiving Fund, and the \$150,000 represents a larger grant than they are accustomed to giving. "They told me they believe in the good work we are doing at Western, and they want the endowed scholarship funds to be funded at a level to provide scholarships for nontraditional students in perpetuity. We are very grateful for their generosity." ■



Dan Nicoson presents a plaque to Pat Dillon in recognition of his work on the capital campaign. Al Purcell, Foundation Board chair, toasts to the success of the campaign. Right: Remington Hall, plaques in Leah Spratt Hall honoring campaign donors, and Agenstein Hall in progress.

Final Campaign Report

Category	Goal Amount	Gifts & Pledges	Percent of Goal
Science Building Construction	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	100.0%
Scientific Equipment	1,000,000	1,000,000	100.0%
Science Building Endowment	1,500,000	1,182,239	78.8%
School of Business	5,500,000	5,523,834	100.4%
Mission Endowments	1,000,000	1,355,204	135.5%
Permanent Trusts	-	2,252,889	
Emerging Needs	1,000,000	1,410,933	141.1%
Total	\$15,000,000	\$17,725,099	118.2%



Campaign Highlights

• Two largest gifts in Western's history:

- Steven L. Craig
- Wes and Patsy '79, Remington

• Stakeholder participation:

- 100% of Board of Governors, MWSU Foundation Board of Directors and the President's Cabinet contributed
- 78% of Western's employees contributed, the highest known percentage in Western's history

• Growing commitment:

- Nearly 50% of campaign donors contributed more than their total lifetime giving on record
- Nearly 30% of campaign donors were first-time donors



Beyond Excellence Initiative

Lewis and Clark Discovery Fund – Agenstein and Remington Halls	\$30.1 million
U.S. Economic Development Administration grant – Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator	\$ 2.5 million
Max Experience student fee bond issue	\$ 5.5 million
Kansas City Chiefs, Buchanan County, City of St. Joseph, Herzog Companies, KCP&L, St. Joseph News-Press/Cablevision – Griffon Indoor Sports Complex	\$13.8 million
Achieving Greatness	\$17.7 million

Total **\$69.6 million**



Fall sports

Another year of high expectations awaited Griffon **football** as they kicked off the 2010 season. A host of returning players and a high national ranking gave the team extra motivation as another tough schedule awaited.

For the first time since 2006, the football team was selected to play in the Division II national playoffs. Griffons were the sixth seed in Super Region 4 and played third-seed Northwest Missouri State University Nov. 20 in Maryville. The Griffons gave it their all and almost knocked off Northwest. It was the first-ever meeting between the two schools in post-season play.

Western finished the regular season by winning its last three games, which included a 48-21 victory over the Fort Hays State Tigers in Spratt Memorial Stadium, for an 8-3 record. The Griffons were led by senior quarterback Drew Newhart, Cameron, Mo., who completed 61.5 percent of his passes (203-325) for 2,799 yards and 25 touchdowns. Drew broke the all-time record for completions in a career at 798. (Kasey Waterman's '02, record was 730.) Drew became the all-time leading passer against Nebraska-Omaha, with 10,397 career passing yards (Kasey, 10,025). Drew also set the record for most passes attempted in a career with 1,312, breaking Kasey's mark of 1,304.

Senior wide receiver Andrew Mead, Gower, Mo., had a nice season, catching 62 passes for 852 yards and 12 touchdowns while sophomore Terrell Downing, St. Louis, caught 40 passes for 580 yards and four touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball the Griffons played very well. Western is second in the MIAA, holding its opponents to 22.2 points per game. The Griffons led the league in pass defense giving up just 198.3 yards per game and pass efficiency at 105.9. Western also leads the MIAA in interceptions (22), turnover margin (+10) and red zone defense. The Griffons blocked eight kicks.



Safety Jack Long, Parkville, Mo., led the Griffons with 75 tackles on the season while linebacker Sean Whitters, Kansas City, Mo., had 63 stops. Both were named first-team All-MIAA. Corner Kendall Davis, Hazelwood, Mo., led the squad with four interceptions with two coming against Fort Hays. Defensive end David Bass, St. Louis, led the Griffons with 10.5 tackles for loss and eight sacks.

At the end of the season, a total of 10 football players were named to All-MIAA teams.

Second-year Head **Volleyball** Coach Cory Frederick's rebuilding project is right on track to where he thought his team should be at this point in time. At season's end, the Griffons were 12-17

overall and 8-12 in MIAA play. That's quite an improvement from a team that won just four matches two years ago. Leading the way are a nice mix of veteran players and a few fresh faces. Two-time returning All-MIAA player Kelli Sicner, Omaha, Neb., led the Griffons in total kills with 291 and total points with 324. Following closely behind her, is junior transfer Tahler Johnston, Marshalltown, Iowa. Tahler had 271 kills and 311 points. Stephanie Hattey, Kearney, Mo., was named MIAA Freshman of the Year.

Entering the 2010 campaign, fifth year Head Coach Jeff Hansen had several reasons to be optimistic about the potential of his **soccer** team. He returned six all-conference players from a team that set a school record for wins with eight in 2009. However, from day one of fall practice, injuries to five front-line players made offense a tough chore for the squad. One bright spot was the play of senior goalie Jenna Weis, St. Louis. Jenna led the team in saves and was also named the MIAA Player of the Week in October as she recorded 19 total saves in helping the team go 1-0-1. She was named to the All-MIAA second team, along with four teammates receiving All-MIAA Honorable Mentions. ■



Spring Sports Complex nears completion



People entering campus on James McCarthy Drive have noticed heavy dirt work since the beginning of July as the new homes for Griffon baseball and softball are well underway and near completion. Both stadiums will feature state-of-the-art dugouts, seating areas including chairback stadium seats and ample size press boxes. The baseball field will be

unique that it will feature an artificial turf infield and grass outfield. This will allow the team the ability to potentially play cold weather games when damp conditions may have otherwise not allowed it. Both teams are set to open play in the Spring Sports Complex in early March. ■

MIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT IN KC
MIAA Men's & Women's Basketball Championships
March 3-6, 2011
Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City
Game times determined after the regular season -
for tickets, call 816-271-4481

Griffons give back to community

Avaluable part of the student athlete experience is the many community service projects Griffons take part in throughout the year. Already this year, student athletes have been a part of several endeavors.

Sept. 25 was United Way Day at Spratt Stadium, and students solicited donations, sold raffle tickets and handed out literature to raise funds for the local United Way Campaign. In October, all three fall sports participated in Pink Week for breast cancer awareness. Athletes wore

pink t-shirts, headbands, shoe laces and other memorabilia, and they raised more than \$1,000 over the three days. It was donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Once again, athletes adopted six families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and held their annual Night Out on the Griffs, where children in grades two through six come to the fieldhouse for a free night of fun, games and activities. Night Out On the Griffs won a national award from the NCAA last year. ■

NEWS Briefs

Basketball preview

The sky is the limit for the Griffon basketball teams this season as they enter the bulk of conference play in the months of January and February. On the men's side, Head Coach Tom Smith enters his 24th season at the helm and began the season just 13 wins shy of 600 victories for his career. The roster is loaded with talent with several new faces that look to make it to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year and the 12th time in program history.

On the women's side, Head Coach Lynn Plett looks forward to his fourth season on the Griffon bench as he returns all five starters and a host of other faces who saw significant minutes. ■

Don't miss Griffon basketball in the fieldhouse – see gogriffons.com for a complete schedule.

For ticket information call 816-271-4481 or log on to the website.



GRIFFON SPORTS INSIDER

Griffon Sports Insider TV show debuts

Griffon Athletics introduced a new weekly television show this past fall called "Griffon Sports Insider." The show, which is co-hosted and produced by Athletics Video Production Specialist Ryan Menley and Assistant Athletics Director - External Relations Brett Esely, features weekly game highlights, interviews with coaches and student athletes, in-depth features and a look at the weekly events calendar. It airs each week on St. Joseph Cablevision Channels 3, 20 and 39. Fans living outside the area may also view the show weekly online at gogriffons.com. ■

GRIFFON INDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX



IT'S SIMPLE: COMPLEX IS AWESOME

Western employees spent several months preparing for the Kansas City Chiefs three-week training camp this past summer, and the camp was a huge success (see next page).

But the Chiefs left campus on Aug. 19, and the brand new, state-of-the-art \$10.3 million Griffon Indoor Sports Complex (GISC) remained.

"The camp created a huge amount of work for all our athletic staff and several others in the campus community," Athletic Director Dave Williams said. "But it was offset by the fact that we now have an outstanding new facility."

This fall, coaches for Western baseball, football, golf, soccer, softball and tennis moved into the new building, freeing up much-needed office space in the Looney Complex. Mike said the softball and baseball coaches were really excited about the indoor field because the spring sports complex is still under construction and they had no on-campus outdoor fields to practice on. Additionally, the soccer and football teams and the marching band never had to miss a practice because of inclement weather. They practiced outdoors in Spratt Memorial Stadium, but when the weather



"Outstanding" is just one of the words used to describe the new building, said Mike Halloran, director of athletic facilities. He said the Chiefs players and staff, the campus and the community have all marveled at the amenities in the complex.

The 118,000 square-foot facility contains a full-size indoor football field, a 5,500 square-foot weight room (named the Herzog Strength Training Room) with state-of-the-art equipment, a locker room with 121 oversized oak lockers and a training room with two hydrotherapy pools. Additionally, there are 18 offices, a break room area, seven classrooms equipped with the latest presentation technology and the KCP&L Lecture Hall with 120 seats that can be divided into two rooms of 60. Also new are two outdoor practice fields with "NFL-caliber playing surfaces," Dave said.

Mike, whose office is in the new building, said the Chiefs were very happy with the GISC during the camp. "With very few exceptions, the building design and construction enabled them to have the most efficient training camp ever," he said. "For them, timing during the camp is everything."

He said the Chiefs loved the fact that they could watch films in the lecture hall and then split up into smaller groups in the classrooms in the same building. Mike said that was not the case when the Chiefs trained at River Falls, Wis.; the theater and classrooms were in two different buildings and the team had to board a bus to go from one to the other.

was bad, they were able to move to the indoor field.

Several academic departments are also taking advantage of the new building. Biology and physics classes were held there this fall, along with health, physical education and recreation classes. The construction also yielded two new parking lots, which is never a bad thing on a college campus.

And every day, Mike says, he receives phone calls from community groups and area businesses wanting to use the facility. "It's exciting to hear the ideas people have (to use the facility)," said Mike. "We can't do everything but we'll do our best."

Part of his job duties is to line up use of the facility by outside groups to generate revenue. Most groups are interested in the indoor field, and he's already scheduling football league play on it. Although there is no permanent seating around the field, there is a six-foot wide path around the entire perimeter, so spectators can bring in chairs.

Mike said he plans to attend conferences with the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau in the coming year to promote the facility nationwide.

"Academically and competitively, it can't do anything but help," Mike said of the facility. ■

Camp wrap: Red + black and gold



Western and the Kansas City Chiefs now know that when red mixes with black and gold, everybody's happy. That was proven this past summer when the Chiefs spent three weeks on campus for their annual training camp, a first for both the Chiefs and the university.

"It was a great experience," said Dave Williams, director of athletics. "The facilities fit their (the Chiefs) needs very well. All went well."

Dave said everyone on campus expected a lot of media coverage, but it was a pleasant surprise that the coverage was so extensive and positive throughout the entire camp. For the dedication of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, 62 members of the area media attended.

No one quite knew how the campus would handle the increased traffic and visitors, but the 60,000 estimated attendance throughout the three weeks was manageable. The only challenge came on Family Fun Day, when an estimated 12,000 filled every parking space and even some grassy areas on campus.

Dr. Pat McMurry, professor of economics, is trying to find out if red plus black and gold equals green. He is completing an economic impact study of the camp on the campus and community. In a preliminary economic impact report of the camp, he estimated a \$20 million campus and community impact, which includes construction of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex. ■

Many **employees** worked very hard to make the camp a success, but a few departments went above and beyond and did a great job — athletics, campus dining, physical plant, university police, and Western Institute conferences and special programs.

THANK YOU!

CAMP NUMBERS

60,000

Estimated attendance throughout the three-week camp

14,280

Pounds of ice used by Hy-Vee in the Food Court

10,721

Official attendance at Family Fun Day Aug. 7; some estimate it was closer to 12,000

9,520

Meals served to the Chiefs

4,732

Bottles of Gatorade sold by Hy-Vee in the Food Court

3,000

Estimated attendance at a scrimmage between Chiefs and Vikings in River Falls, Wis., in 2009.

2,300

Smoothies made for the Chiefs

900

Pounds of seafood and fish served to the Chiefs

28

Western students who worked in the kids' play area of the Chiefs camp



Athletics Hall of Fame Class of '10

Western inducted four individuals and one team into its Athletics Hall of Fame during ceremonies this past fall: John Fisher, football; Tonya Foster, basketball; Steve Marlay, football; Bob Orf, KFEQ radio broadcaster; and the 1977 football team.

John Fisher was a stand-out athlete as a two-way player throughout his career (1992-95) as a Griffon. John finished with the most return yards off of interceptions for 114 yards in 1993, and the MIAA honored him with first-team honors at defensive back for the 1994 season.

During his senior year, he led the team and league in several offensive categories and holds the program record for scoring the most points (30) and touchdowns (five) in a single game. John received All-MIAA first team honors and Daktronics/CoSIDA second-team All-American status. At the conclusion of his senior year, the Jacksonville Jaguars drafted him in the sixth round of the 1995 NFL draft.

Tonya Foster is one of the most successful players to ever suit up for the women's basketball team despite playing only two seasons here, 1993-95. (She played the first two seasons of her college career at Butler County Community College.) Tonya led the Griffons to two straight Elite Eight appearances in 1994 and 1995. During those two campaigns, the teams finished 29-3 and 31-3 respectively. She played in 66 games throughout her career and tallied 446 field goals and 163 free throws for a total of 1,055 points, the 14th in all-time in career points scored. Tonya's career average was 16.0 points per game, which is the fourth best scoring average in program history.

Steve Marlay played defensive line for the Griffons from 1980-83. He was a three-time All-CSIC, a two-time All-District and a two-time honorable mention All-American selection throughout his playing career at Western.

Steve signed a professional contract with the St. Louis Cardinals (football) at the conclusion of his senior campaign but was unable to make the team due to a preseason, career-ending shoulder injury.

Bob Orf has been the "voice of the Griffons" for 35 years. He graduated from Central Missouri State University (now University of Central Missouri) with a degree in speech and mass media, and obtained his master's in communications.

Bob began his career at 680 KFEQ in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1975 and is currently the program director. He began his broadcasting duties with Western's football team in 1975, the men's basketball team in 1989 and the women's basketball team in 1992.

He has hosted Western's weekly coaches' radio show for many years and has filled in as the master of ceremonies for several athletic events including the Hall of Fame banquet, the Student Athlete

Honors Banquet, many Gold Coat Club gatherings and a wide variety of individual sport banquets.

The **1977 Griffon football team** finished with the best record (8-2-1) in the program's history and finished with the school's second winning season up to that point. Head Coach Rob Hicklin led the team and received the District 16 Coach of the Year for his team's success in 1977. The team won the Boot Hill Bowl, marking the second bowl victory for the Griffons.

The team began its season with a 5-0 start and earned its first national ranking in the NAIA Division I poll. The Griffons entered the rankings at #16 and never lost their spot in the country's top 20, ranking as high as #14. The team was the District 16 Division I Champions and was also voted by the coaches as the best NAIA team in the state.

The Wendy's Hall of Fame weekend included a reception, brunch and recognition at the football game. ■



Western Pride on Parade!

A black and gold float, cheerleaders and the marching band represented Western well in the South Side Fall Festival parade in September.





UNDERWATER AVOCATION

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU EVER WANT TO SWIM WITH SHARKS:

Always swim under the sharks and don't dawdle on the surface, because they attack up; swim upright, because it's harder for sharks to bite a vertical victim; and don't bleed in the water (everybody knows that one!). Those were just a few of the tips that Cory Frederick shared with Professor of Biology Dr. David Ashley's Field Natural History of Belize study away class about his dive in the Bahamas last year.

"It was a great experience. Part of the reason I wanted to take the trip was because I wanted to see if all stories about sharks being really docile was true," Cory, head volleyball coach at Western, told the students. "The ones we saw were on average 15 ft. in length, and it was absolutely amazing to be in the water with them. They were a lot more beautiful than I ever thought they would be."

"However," Cory quickly added, "I'm not going to tell you my heart wasn't beating fast the first couple times I dove." He said when he first got in the water there were about 25 sharks near the boat.

That was just one story out of the hundreds that Cory and his wife, Becky, could tell about their experiences since they began diving eight years ago.

"I'm fascinated by underwater life; everything is incredibly beautiful," Becky said. "It's extremely relaxing. It's very quiet; all you hear is your own breathing." But, she added, it's very loud for the sea creatures, which are often startled by the noise.



Since their first dive, Cory and Becky have taken a lot of training and have become open water certified and rescue diver certified. Cory also trained to be a public safety diver, and he volunteered with a group in Lee's Summit, Mo., that performs search and recovery operations in area waters.

The couple has swum with sea lions in Mexico and octopuses off the Florida Keys. They have dived in Aruba and Canadian waters, and this past summer in Honduras. "Until I got into diving, I'd seen pictures, but it was unbelievable when I got in the water," Cory said.

Becky said although she was environmentally conscious before, scuba diving has made her realize that many species are overfished and don't get a chance to grow to their natural size, so she carries a pocket seafood selector guide with her to grocery stores and restaurants that she found at oceansalive.org.

"There are so many ecological changes happening, I know there are things I want to see that won't be around in five or 10 years," Cory said.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico this past summer was difficult to watch, Cory said. "When you dive and see how beautiful the underwater world truly is, seeing so many marine creatures suffer is hard to swallow."

Cory and Becky have no plans to stop diving, and they are excited to get their daughters in scuba gear when they are old enough.

"If I could make a living doing scuba diving, I would," Cory said. "Even our worst dives have been a lot of fun." ■



From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am writing this message on the heels of concluding Western's 2010 Homecoming and the annual Alumni Awards Banquet. The one word that describes all the events of the week has to be WOW!

On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, Western held its Convocation on Critical Issues activities, with former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. The entire community had the opportunity to hear his speech regarding the myriad of issues



Diane Hook '90

we are facing as Americans. Having such a high profile speaker at Western is absolutely a feather in the university's cap!

On Thursday evening the Alumni Association held its annual Awards Banquet with some really terrific recipients being recognized for their accomplishments – read more about them on the next pages.

On Friday morning, the Alumni Association hosted the annual golf outing at Fairview Golf Course that promises to be even bigger and better next year. On Friday evening, we hosted a mixer of reunions at the Tap Room, which included local musical talents and some impromptu jamming!

Saturday, of course, included the parade and some great football by the Griffons, who crushed Truman State. Afterwards, everyone relaxed at Smooth Endings for appetizers and drinks.

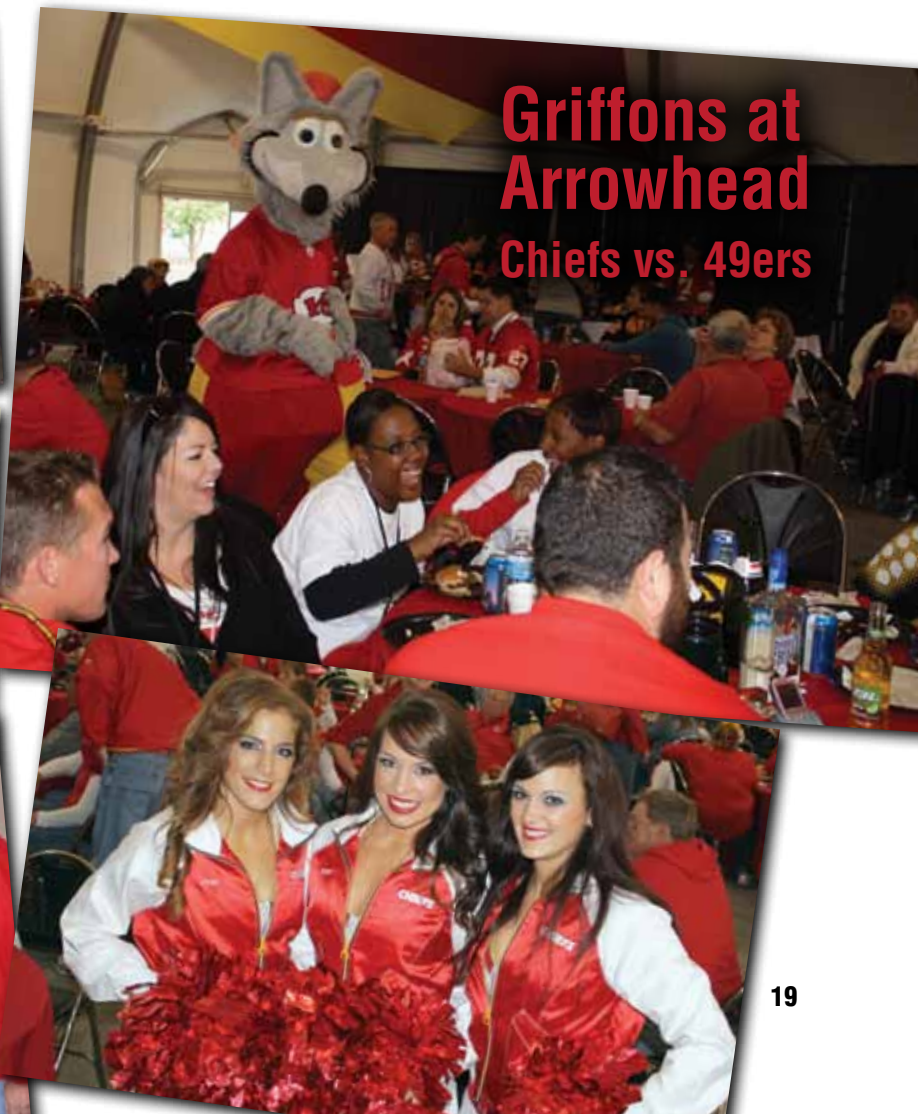
On October 14, the KC Chapter of the Alumni Association hosted the first Kansas City-area Business Networking Breakfast, which had a fabulous turnout. Attendees heard Dr. Philip Nitse, dean of the Craig School of Business, and Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement, speak.

Come see what the Alumni Association is all about!

Leadership, excellence ... Griffons.

Diane Hook
Diane Hook '90

President, Alumni Association



2010 Alumni Association awards



Five alumni, a faculty member and a longtime Western supporter were honored at the 20th annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet during Homecoming:



Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University

Charlie Shields
Hon. '09

Charlie is chief operating officer at Truman Medical Center (TMC) Lakewood and was state senator for Missouri's 34th district. In 1990, he was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, the first Republican from Buchanan County to be elected to that seat since 1946. He

served six terms in the House, serving as Minority Whip. He was elected as State Senator for the 34th district in 2002 and served for eight years. He was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President Pro Tem in 2009. He also served as the Senate Majority Floor Leader.

Charlie served as a strong advocate for Western while in the Legislature, playing a pivotal role in Western obtaining university designation and bringing the Chiefs training camp to campus.

Charlie earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to his position at TMC, he was health marketing and communications officer at Heartland Health for 17 years.

He is involved in several community organizations, including Boy Scouts, Success by Six and Allied Arts Council.



GOLD Award

Natalie Leonard-Redmond '00

Natalie is vice president of membership services for the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce. She graduated with a degree in speech communication with a public relations emphasis.

In her current position, Natalie oversees all membership activities, including membership recruitment and retention. She also coordinates special events like Lunch and Learn, Business Mixers, Parties on the Parkway and the annual Chairman's Breakfast.

Before joining the Chamber in 2005, Natalie worked for Woody Bibens and Associates in St. Joseph.

She is very involved in the community as a United Way volunteer, graduate of Leadership St. Joseph, president of the

Above: 2010 Alumni Association Award recipients include, from left, Dr. Len Archer, Dr. Craig Fuchs, Charlie Shields, Linda Judah, Steven Koenig, Natalie Leonard-Redmond and Stan Pearson II.



Junior League in St. Joseph, and hospital-ity chair for Trails West! She also serves on the Junior League Board, YWCA Board and Allied Arts Council, where she is vice president.



GOLD Award

Stanley Pearson II '02

Stan graduated with a Spanish major and general business minor. He currently lives in Atlanta and is the owner of SPII, working as a diversity and leadership speaker, author and speaker coach.

After graduating, Stan worked at Enterprise Rent-A-Car and then returned to school to earn an MBA at Texas A & M International in Laredo, Texas, while working in student affairs.

The majority of his audiences are university students, staff or administrators. He has spoken all over the country, in Canada, Mexico and the British Virgin Islands, conducting workshops and making keynote addresses at conferences and conventions. He spoke at Western's new student orientation this fall and the Global Women's Leadership Summit on campus last spring.



Distinguished Alumni Award

Linda Judah '02 & '04

Linda has served as the Executive Director of the Social Welfare Board of Buchanan County since 2006.

She graduated in 1982 with a bachelor of science in technology with an emphasis in criminal justice. In 1994, she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Western and earned a master's in nursing in 2004 from the University of Phoenix.

Prior to her current position, Linda worked for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney Child Support Division in Buchanan County. After earning her

nursing degree, she was a school nurse for the St. Joseph School District for 10 years.

Some of Linda's community involvement includes Cotillion for Achievement board member, Show Me Women Who Care, Junior League, YWCA and an MWSU Ambassador. Linda also accompanied nursing students to Honduras in 2009.



Distinguished Alumni Award

Craig Fuchs '04

Craig, who graduated with a degree in music with an instrumental music emphasis, is the director of the Honors College and professor of music at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan.

Craig joined the Pittsburg State faculty as director of bands in 1998. He served as chair of the music department for eight years and acting chair of the art department for one year. He was appointed director of the Honors College this past June.

In 2009 and 2010, Craig was invited by the United States Embassy in Paraguay to serve as guest conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra of Paraguay. He will return in 2011 as consultant and visiting professor to the National Symphony and National Conservatory.

Craig earned a master's in music education from University of Missouri-Columbia. He holds a doctorate of musical arts in wind conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music.



Distinguished Alumni Award

Steven Koenig

Steve is the managing director and co-head of the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) emerging markets trading for JP Morgan London.

After playing football for four years at Western, Steve completed a two-year diploma program in financial planning and management at New York University School of Continuing Education in 1988 and joined EF Hutton in New York as a derivatives trader. He worked as a chief currency trader for Bank Brussels Lambert in New York and joined JP Morgan in 1997. For five years, Steve was the managing director and co-head: Latin America sales and trading before taking his current position this year.

Steve lectures in the Craig School of Business and in 2009, helped fund the Koenig-Simmons Trading Room in the Craig School of Business. When business students visited New York last year, Steve helped set up tours at JP Morgan and BGC Partners.



Distinguished Faculty Award

Leonard Archer Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Archer started as a lab assistant in the chemistry department in 1968. He was an associate professor from 1973-90, was promoted to full professor in 1990, and served as department chair from 1989 to 2007.

Dr. Archer earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, a master of science and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was a member of the Army National Guard for 26 years, retiring as a major in 1996.

Dr. Archer has had several articles published and has made many presentations across the country. He has directed the MWSU Advanced Chemistry Education Seminar, was director of the Chemathon and program coordinator of the Chemistry Educators Association. ■



Homecoming 2010

Beautiful weather and a victory on the football field made Homecoming extra special this year. Along with the annual awards banquet, the Alumni Association held reunions for Greeks, health, physical education and recreation, and marching band members; a golf outing; a fun family event; and a post-game gathering. We hope all who returned for the weekend had a great time! ■



St. Joseph: This is GRIFFON COUNTRY



Nontrad alumni reach out to nontrad students

Brandy Meeks '07, who had her third child the week after she graduated from Western, knows what it's like to be a nontraditional student, and she wants to help other nontraditional students succeed. She has agreed to chair the Nontraditional Alumni Chapter of the Alumni Association, whose mission is to serve as mentors and networking sources for nontraditional students.

"The Nontraditional Student Alumni Chapter serves two purposes," said Brandy. "First, it enables us to continue to support one another as we did when we were students. Second, alumni will have the opportunity to share their experiences with, and mentor current nontraditional students." ■



Patt Lilly – Faithful, Proud and True

When Patt Lilly ended his second term on the Board of Governors last year, he left with great memories and a wonderful sense of accomplishment. He also left with a distinction only a few can claim – he has served on the Board of Governors since 1998, which was during the terms of three of Western’s presidents.

“It’s been interesting to know and work with each of the three and their administrations,” he said. “We’ve been fortunate to have the right people at the right time.”

Patt said he is proud of the role he played as a board member in hiring both

Dr. James Scanlon, who served from 2001-2008, and the current president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian.

Patt, originally from Houston, first came to St. Joseph to serve as its city manager. He then became president of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, and has been chief administrative officer at Triumph Foods for more than four years.

“Right away, my perception of the college was how important of an asset it was to the community of St. Joseph,” Patt said. “When I came here, it was exciting

to know that St. Joseph had a four-year college. It certainly adds to the culture and economy of the community.”

Dr. Jim McCarthy, who was executive vice president at the time, asked Patt to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors, which he did from 1995-98.

“It’s been exciting being involved in a growing, ever-expanding entity. There’s a real excitement in being involved in so many programs that will have a far-reaching effect on the university and community,” Patt said. “Being involved with it is a very rewarding experience.” ■

Professor taps alumna to co-teach

When Dr. Greg Lindsteadt, assistant professor of criminal justice, needed a teaching assistant for his Juvenile Corrections Critical Assessment Tour course this past summer, he contacted an alumna who had conducted research with him as a student. Britani Rush ’08, who had earned her master of social work degree from University of Missouri–Kansas City in May 2010, was willing to sign on.

Along with classroom lectures, the course included tours of 10 juvenile correctional facilities in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Britani graduated from Western with a criminal justice degree and said the experience with Greg’s class offered her the opportunity to use both of her degrees and explore a career related to juvenile corrections.

The class of 11 students spent many days on the road and several hours at each facility. Greg held the course two years ago, and he said many of the facilities they visited then, requested that the group stay longer this time around.

After a tour and visit with an administrator, the students had the opportunity to shadow an employee in their field of interest at each facility. The class not only included criminal justice majors with a

juvenile delinquency emphasis, but social work, psychology and education majors, too. Britani said she had never visited a juvenile corrections facility before, so she shadowed counselors at each facility.

She liked having a close look at the facilities and discovering the great differences between them. The facilities not only differed greatly in size, but there were differences in philosophies and models between the states, as well.

Britani also liked that she gained teaching experience, something she hadn’t done before. Even though she had made several presentations in college, Britani was surprised at how nervous she was her first day in front of the students. “I learned a lot about myself. I’m not as calm and cool as I thought I was,” she said with a laugh.

Britani said she may want to teach someday, but realized that Greg has had a lot of work and life experiences that he draws on that make him a better teacher.

Greg said Britani’s educational background in social work was a good complement to his background, and he split up the class lectures to reflect that. The class contained a diverse group of students, including an international student who extended his stay at Western so he could participate in the class.



Britani Rush ’08, co-taught a summer class with Dr. Greg Lindsteadt.

The group spent two days at the end of the course discussing what they learned, and Greg was pleased with what the students took away from their experiences at the facilities. “It doesn’t work without a good class, and it worked.”

“I’m grateful Greg asked me to teach with him,” Britani said. “It was a great experience.” ■

1950s

CHARLES B. LARSON '52, is the author of two books. In September 2010, he published "The Entrepreneurial CPA," which addresses a new business model for the "E-CPA." In May 2010, he published "TIME," a collection of pithy sayings to address professional billing matters for CPAs.

1970s

DR. MICHAEL BALTEZOR '72, is director of the Biotechnology Innovation and Optimization Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, a research and commercialization group that operates the Lawrence and medical center campuses.

PAT GROVE '79, retired as captain from the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department in July 2010, after a 30-year career. He spent several

years with the SWAT Team as supervisor and commander, and seven years flying helicopters for the department. He also served on the Western Alumni Association Board of Directors. Pat recently took a 5,800-mile trip on his Harley Ultra Classic and says more bike trips are planned.

1980s

JAMES D. BEESLEY, COL RES USAR USARC '81, graduated from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Pa., receiving a master's of strategic studies degree. He was also recently honored with the Legion of Merit by the U.S. Army. James is deputy commander of a Combat Engineer Brigade in Montgomery, Ala.

STEPHANIE GLENN '81, is the medical office assistant instructor at Highland Community College's Technical Center in Atchison, Kan.

DENNIS SNETHEN '82, and his wife, Becky, were grand marshals in the 2010 Southside Fall Festival parade.

DOUG AXON '83, chief financial officer of Country Club Bank in Kansas City, Mo., was named one of three winners in the category of Large Private Company in the Kansas City Business Journal's CFO of the Year awards program.

SUSAN FERGUSON '85, teaches English composition at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, Ariz., and creative writing at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. In October, she published "Gaze: A Collection of Stories," and it is available at Amazon.com and ninthmonthpublishing.com. She taught at South Texas College in McAllen last year and was one of 15 recipients of the college's Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award.

Top administrator remembers his time at Western

"I will be forever indebted to Missouri Western for giving me a chance," says Bernie Patterson '73. "I've never forgotten that."

That chance to succeed in college and his experiences as a Western student led Bernie into a more than 30-year career in higher education, and he says Western shaped him as a person and shaped his philosophy about education. In May 2010, Bernie was named chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"I didn't give them much to show that I would succeed," Bernie said of his professors at Western. "They helped make that happen."

Bernie said he moved to St. Joseph, Mo., from Camden, Ark., when he was 15 years old and started working at McDonald's. "I probably worked too many hours in high school and was not as studious as I should have been." Because

of that, and coupled with being a first-generation college student in his family, he wasn't prepared for college.

After one year at the St. Joseph Junior College and a semester at Kemper Military Academy, Bernie joined the Army and was drafted the day he enlisted. After three years in the military, he returned to Western to earn a criminal justice degree. This time he was serious, and he got a lot better grades the second time around.

"What I remember most is the dedication of the faculty to student success," he said, and it was a lesson he took into his teaching career. Bernie said he

has always tried to reach out to first-generation college students and help them stay in school.

In 1977, he began his career in higher education teaching criminal justice courses at Valdosta State College (now University) in Georgia.

After 12 years in the classroom, he was named assistant dean of the College of Arts

and Sciences, where he learned a lot about "the human side of administration" from the dean. He was then named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia College and State University. In his nine years in that position, the institution was totally transformed, including a new name, mission statement, admission requirements, mascot and strategic plan. In 2002, he became provost and vice president for academic affairs at Oklahoma City University and began his duties as chancellor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point last July.

"As a teacher and administrator, my number one priority has always been helping our students succeed. We need to prepare today's college students for life and experiences they are yet to have and jobs that do not exist yet."

Bernie says he is very happy with his long career in higher education. "It's a great environment. Working at a university, you really are a lifelong learner." He likes that he is in a position where he can make a difference in students' lives.

And he hasn't forgotten how his professors at Western made a difference for him. ■



A drawing was held for a t-shirt among all Alumnote submissions for the Winter 2011 issue. The winner was Andrew Jezak '85.

Congratulations!

ANDREW JEZAK '85, was promoted to protection and control manager for the Fort Worth (Texas) District of Oncor Electric Delivery.

JENNY RUSSELL '87, is technology director at Maysville (Mo.) R-I School.

REID T. FESSLER '88, was promoted to corporal and is the assistant zone commander of Zone 4, Putnam and Sullivan Counties for the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop B.

M. TYLER MORGAN, CWCA, '88, was named president of Tilton, Thomas & Morgan Insurance Professionals in St. Joseph, Mo.

1990s



STEVE ALLEN '92, designed a commemorative/geocaching coin to coincide with the Pony

Express Trail Sesquicentennial. It is also an achievement coin for geocachers who have completed the Pony Express Trail Challenge.

TENA ROSE (WOOD) MAZURAK '94, published her first book. It is a children's book titled, "Harley Hits a Homer." Tena is a reading specialist in Robesonia, Pa.

DEBRA (COOK) KOCH '98, earned a master's in nursing from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She is a family nurse practitioner at the I-70 Medical Clinic.

AMANDA (OSBORN) OZENBERGER '99 & '08, and her husband, Jon, announce the birth of a son, Jax, born March 6, 2010.

JAMIE L. GRAYSON '99, sponsored the Grip It n' Rip It Golf Tournament at the Plattsburg (Mo.) Country Club to raise money for scholarships.

Global traveler – Jenny Pawlowski '04

In 2006, when Jenny Pawlowski '04, first heard the description for her current job at University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), she couldn't believe a position like that existed. She immediately applied for it, was hired and has loved it ever since. As an enrollment services coordinator, Jenny's main responsibility of recruiting international students takes her overseas on extended trips at least three times a year.

"I've always wanted to travel," Jenny said. "My study abroad experience (at Western) really made me want to get involved in travel and international experiences. When I heard about the job, I thought, 'can it be real?'"

Of UMKC's almost 1,000 international students, the majority hail from India, China and Saudi Arabia, and Jenny has visited all three countries, along with other countries in the Middle East, southeastern Asia and Latin America. She said she is usually gone for two or three weeks at a time, visiting as many as 10 countries on some trips.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a really great experience. Most students in the United States have the luxury of visiting a school before they attend, but we have to bring the school to international students."

Back home in the office, every day is different, she says. Her tasks may include planning orientation sessions, processing applications, advising UMKC's international student ambassadors, producing marketing materials, planning events for international students and managing the welcome center. "There is never a slow day and I really like that. I've never stopped learning."

After high school, Jenny, a native of St. Joseph, Mo., enrolled at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., and headed there a few days before the fall semester. But her grandmother, who had lived with her family since Jenny was five, wasn't well, and Jenny wanted to be closer to her. "I liked Truman a lot. There was really nothing I didn't like about it, but I just felt it wasn't the place to be at that time."

So she returned to St. Joseph on the first day of Western's fall semester, and was very grateful to the admissions office for getting her enrolled and on board quickly.

As a Western student, she tutored at Neely Elementary School, was an intern in the public relations and marketing office and an admissions VIP. Along with her speech communications – public relations major, she earned a Spanish minor, gaining some of her credits on a summer study away trip to Spain. Jenny said those experiences, along with her coursework, "helped bring me to the point I am at today."

After she graduated, Jenny returned to Truman State and earned a master's degree in elementary education. From there, she started working at UMKC.

"I love the interaction with so many cultures, and I like that I'm part of facilitating global education. Education is important to promote world peace," Jenny said. "I have a great passion for facilitating international exchange and global awareness." ■

Jenny Pawlowski '04, speaks to prospective UMKC students in India.



2000s

ANDREA AESCHLIMAN '00, received the Outstanding Kansas Elementary Art Educator of the Year Award for 2010-2011. She teaches K-5 art at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School in Easton, Kan., and for the past nine years, has been an Artscape instructor at the weeklong art camp sponsored by the Western Institute's Center for Community Arts. She also teaches both after-school and summer classes for SKIES in Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

MARCIE BROWN '00, and Andy Grooms were married Aug. 7, 2010.



KATE (PIERSON) '00, and BRETT '01, ESELY announce the birth of a son, Dax Carder, born July 31, 2010.

SCOTT SOLLARS '00, was named vice president and portfolio manager for The Private Client Reserve in U.S. Bank's Wealth Management Group in the Kansas City Metropolitan area.

BRANDI (PHILLIPS) FULLER '02, and her husband, Jardin, announce the birth of a son, Jathan Steven, born July 14, 2010.



MICHELLE (BROWN) MCELHINEY '02, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of a daughter, Anna Lynn, born April 15, 2010.

W. TYLER COMPTON '03, joined Tilton, Thomas & Morgan Insurance Professionals as a licensed insurance agent and will be mostly working with the commercial lines department of the agency.

DAN BRADFORD '04, is a co-author on a paper that has been accepted for publication in *Nature!* He is a research specialist in the molecular biology department at Stowers Institute for Medical Research.

MELODY GRIER '04, and Sydney Shaw were married Sept. 4, 2010. The couple resides in Overland Park, Kan.



KYLEE (DILLON) STROUGH '03, was named president of United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Kylee had been the vice president of development for the agency since 2009 and has led the annual United Way campaign since 2005. Kylee is chair of Western's Board of Governors and serves on a number of community boards and committees. ■

AARON '05, and SARA (FREEL) '05, BUNKER moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where Aaron is an assistant professor of physiology at Morning-side College and Sara is teaching eighth-grade earth science at Dakota Valley Middle School in N. Sioux City, S.D. Aaron earned a doctorate in biomedical sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Sara earned a master's in secondary science education from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

ROSS MARTIN '05, was named sports editor for the St. Joseph News-Press. He had been assistant sports editor since 2006.

ADAM ARNOLD '06, and ASHLEIGH ZEIGLER '10, were married May 8, 2010, in St. Joseph, Mo. The couple resides in Plattsburg, Mo.

HAYLEIGH (HINTON) DIEBOLT '06, and her husband, Adam, announce the birth of a son, Ryker Douglas, born Oct. 3, 2009.

BOB HUGHS '06, was promoted to captain in the U.S. Air Force.

TARA (GNUSCHKE) BROWN '07, received the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. She will complete her postdoctoral training in family medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

ALICIA (CUMMINS) BRYAN '08, and her husband, Randall "Scott," announce the birth of a son, Caleb Scott, born Feb. 2, 2010.

EMILY FISHER '08, is an account executive for MVC Sports Properties in St. Louis.

AUSTIN NOLD '08, joined Raymond James Financial Services as an associate wealth adviser/registered investment adviser representative in the Gertsema Wealth Services office in St. Joseph, Mo.



BARBARA (MEYER) SPENCER '08, and her husband, Clint, announce the birth of a son, Clinton Snyder, "C.J.," born July 8, 2010.

AUTUMN TODD '08, and Jason Foulk were married July 17, 2010. The couple resides in Warrensburg, Mo.

Alumni Family Scholarships

The following students received 2010 Alumni Family Scholarships, which is for incoming freshmen who have at least one parent who is an alumnus: Jamie Brinnen, whose mother, Marsha (Jones) Brinnen, graduated in 1984; Jared and Katie Caldwell, son and daughter of George Caldwell '81; Ashley Cameron, daughter of Charles Cameron '80; Amy Davis, daughter of Scott Davis '01; Stephanie Dilley, daughter of Stacy Dilley '05; Jordan Lovejoy, son of Eula Ruth (Smith) Lovejoy '03 & '09; Kelsey Noe, daughter of Janet (Keller) Abbott '88; and Dominique Whitten, daughter of Robin (Talley) Whitten '02.

Applications are reviewed by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and not all candidates are chosen. ■

Eric Bruder '92 - wired for success

When Eric Bruder '92, was an electronics engineering student at Western, Dr. Virendra Varma told him that a local company, Wire Rope, was looking for an intern and that Eric would be perfect for the job.

Although Eric's reply to the department chair was, "What's Wire Rope?" he did accept the internship. Today, 18 years later, Eric serves as the executive vice president and chief operating officer for that very company, now known as WireCo WorldGroup.

"I wasn't really interested in the internship, but Dr. Varma told me to take it. It worked out real well for me," Eric said.

But the path to getting his electronics engineering degree and ending up at WireCo as an intern seemed to take several detours along the way.

As a high school senior and three-sport athlete from Blue Springs, Mo., in 1982, Eric was heavily recruited and even had a Congressional appointment to the Air Force Academy, but his college choice came down to two institutions: Western and Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. "I actually had Coach (Rob) Hicklin and the Northwest coach on a conference call at the same time, but Hicklin seemed like a guy I wanted to play for."

He even considered playing both baseball and football, but decided to concentrate on football. It was a good decision. Eric played three positions in every game – wide receiver, punt returner and place kicker – and broke many school records.

"I loved football," Eric says. "I had good friends and teammates and the coaches were great."

When he finished his football eligibility, Eric was pretty close to a degree, but decided to take a detour and join the military. "My parents wiggled out over that decision."

But just as he had distinguished himself on the football field, he did the same in the Army. Eric served in Operation Desert Storm and

Operation Desert Shield and earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, three Army Commendation medals and four Army Achievement Medals for exemplary actions. In 1989, he was selected as the U.S. Army Soldier of the Year from more than 200,000 soldiers who were serving in Europe at the time.



When his four-year commitment was over, Eric returned to Western to finish his degree. That was when he was approached about the Wire Rope internship.

At WireCo WorldGroup, Eric has served as plant engineer, manager of plant engineering, plant manager in Sedalia, Mo., corporate

manufacturing manager, vice president of manufacturing, senior vice president of operations, and has been in his current position since 2007.

Today, he is responsible for more than 2,000 employees and 11 locations, including plants in China, Mexico, Germany and the United States. He says he loves working with the diverse cultures as he travels frequently to the plants around the world and in the United States. "We have state-of-the-art videoconferencing, but we believe in face-to-face operations control. I go to the sites a lot and meet with the operating teams."

Somewhere between leaving Western the first time and getting assigned overseas, Eric married his wife, April, and they have two children, Erica and Chad.

Eric says he owes a lot of his success to both the military and his years as a student and athlete at Western. His professors in the engineering technology department, he says, did a great job of preparing him for his career, and both his professors and coaches taught him how to interact with people with integrity and how to get along in the working world.

"It was a long process to get in a good place," Eric says with a laugh. ■

Don't miss this trip!

Grab your passports! The Alumni Association is hosting a trip to the **Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park** for alumni and friends of Western June 27 through July 4, 2011.

Highlights of the trip include Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park in Montana, "Going to the Sun" Road, Banff, Icefields Parkway that parallels the Great Divide, Athabasca Falls, Jasper and Calgary. The trip also includes a stop at the Columbia Icefields, a 200 square-mile stretch of land filled with glaciers.

"We are very excited to offer this trip to our alumni and friends," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services. "I am looking forward to traveling with everyone to see the beautiful sights of the Canadian Rockies and so much more."

Cost for the trip is \$2,499 double, \$3,249 single, and \$2,469 triple, which includes air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, and round trip air fare from Kansas City International airport. The cost also includes nine meals and seven nights lodging.

A first deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation, which are on a first come, first served basis. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 27, 2011, and the final payment is due April 28, 2011.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Bob Cotter of Cotter Travel, 816-364-3232. ■



Alumni events planned

Western alumni have many opportunities to get together with other alumni this spring and summer.

The Kansas City chapter held an alumni business networking breakfast in October. Dan Nicolson, vice president for university advancement; and Dr. Philip Nitse, dean of the Craig School of Business; were guest speakers. On Jan. 19, Esther George '80, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, will speak to the group.

Alumni chapters in St. Joseph, Kansas City and St. Louis are making plans for events this spring, and this summer, the alumni associations of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association will host MIAA Day at a T-Bones baseball game at CommunityAmerica Ballpark in Kansas City, Kan.

For details about all alumni events, check out griffonalumni.org. ■

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.

RAYMOND A. ALVAREZ '81, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 11, 2010.

PAUL R. BEAUCHAMP '40, Topeka, Kan., Aug. 21, 2010.

JOSEPHINE (ROSS) HAZEL COOK '80, Maryville, Mo., Aug. 14, 2010.

DEBORAH CURTIN '89, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 2, 2010.

JUNE FRICKE '75, Overland Park, Kan., Aug. 1, 2010.

KEN HAWK, Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 4, 2010. Ken was Western's vice president for business affairs from 1966-1991.

MARY (MORTON) HILLIX '32, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 7, 2010.

KELLEY SARA KEYKHAH, Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 27, 2009. She is the daughter of Lynda (Sadler) Redman '89, Arkansas City, Kan.

GARLAND C. KING '74, St. Joseph, Mo., June 17, 2010.

GARY D. MCKOWN '75, Excelsior Springs, Mo., March 20, 2010.

DAVID WILLIAM PAGE '72, Rushville, Mo., Sept. 2, 2010.

RONALD S. REED JR., St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 19, 2010. Ronald served in the Missouri legislature and was a sponsor of the original bill establishing the four-year college. In 1967 and 1969, he sponsored and passed the bills that transferred the former St. Joseph State Hospital property to Missouri Western, the site of the present campus. He published a monograph, "Reflections on the Founding of Missouri Western State University." In 2008, the main entrance drive of Missouri Western was renamed "Ronald S. Reed, Jr. Way."

GARY G. WECKERLIN, SR. '52, Clive, Iowa, Sept. 12, 2010.

NORMAN YOUNGER '64, Tonganoxie, Kan., Aug. 5, 2010. ■

Tell us what's new!

Let your classmates know what you are doing since you graduated! Everyone who submits an entry for Alumnotes for the Spring 2011 issue will be entered into a drawing for a free MWSU T-shirt! You may submit using the form below and send it by regular mail, or submit by email or online (see addresses below). Deadline for entries is March 15, 2011.

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 email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.

IRONMAN



Britton Johnson

5:00 a.m. Arrived at course, got checked in and put five bags and bike in place for transitions. Feeling rested and energized.

9:20 a.m. They teased us - the first 15-20 miles along the lake were relatively flat. Then I hit immensely big hills.

So how do you usually spend your Sundays? Dr. Britton Johnson, assistant professor of physical education, will probably never forget how he spent June 27 last year. Britton competed in an Ironman triathlon, a race that has been called "a grueling event that pushes its participants to the limits of endurance."

"I told my wife that at the end of the Ironman event, either two things would happen," Britton said. "I would finish and say, 'I did it,' or I would not finish and say, 'Okay, I can't do it.' Either way I won't do another one."

No more Ironmans. No thinking about it. No hesitation.

bike ride of more than five hours on Saturday and a 19-plus mile run on Sunday.

6:59 a.m. Lined up with more than 2,700 at the edge of Lake Coeur d'Alene. I just hope I don't get kicked in the face, break my nose and not be able to finish the race. Lake temp 61 degrees.

11:30 a.m. Half finished - 56 miles. But now I have to repeat the loop and take the hills again.

7:00 a.m. A mad scramble to funnel into the narrow course.

12:45 p.m. I'm into the hills on the second loop. Legs are starting to cramp. Have to stop three times to stretch.

7:20 a.m. Swimmers start to spread out. Fortunately, I am a decent enough swimmer so I got somewhere near the front.

1:27 p.m. With about 30 miles to go, I begin to relax as I realize I will have enough bike tubes to get me through the 112 miles. Haven't had any mechanical problems yet.

"The general theory is that it is the most demanding thing you can do to your body," Britton said of the Ironman triathlon. And when the event that took him almost 15 hours was over, he tended to agree with that assessment.

Britton, a swimmer and runner at Albion College in Michigan, said he had always wanted to compete in an Ironman triathlon, and completing a half Ironman two years ago gave him the confidence to compete in a whole one. When he began teaching at Western in the fall of 2009 while his wife and daughter were going to remain in Michigan for the year, he knew the time was right.

8:10:18 a.m. Two laps and 2.4 miles completed. The swim is done.

Britton, 31, competed in the Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He swam for 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles and ran a marathon, 26.2 miles, one event after the other. He started with the swim at 7 a.m. and finished his marathon at 9:54 p.m., with a little more than two hours to spare before they closed the course at midnight. He said he was happy that he finished and was pleased with his time.

3:08:54 p.m. For the last five miles of the bike ride, there were lots of spectators. They were very encouraging. That was cool.

3:35 p.m. The bike ride is finished. I feel horrible. My legs are shot.

Britton followed a stringent, 36-week training schedule. His first day of training was a 30-minute swim, followed the next day with a 50-minute bike ride and a 35-minute run, and his last weekend before tapering off before the race was a 93-mile

3:42:35 p.m. Started the marathon. My goal was to finish the bike ride by 3:15 p.m. so I could do the marathon at an average of three miles per hour. I knew I would have to walk a lot of the marathon.

3:55 p.m. Walked the first mile.

"I used several stories of my training in my PED 101 (Fitness and Wellness) classes," Britton said. "The training really helped in that class with the exercise, fitness and nutrition sections because I could relate."

6:45 p.m. Eventually, your legs just wear out. I got to mile 14 and I just couldn't do it anymore. I kept looking at my watch to figure out how fast I had to go to finish in 15 hours, my goal.

8:45 p.m. You start thinking you can't go anymore, but then you say, "I've already gone 136 miles, it would be a shame to stop."

Britton said he appreciated the support from his colleagues in the health, physical education and recreation department. Dr. Brenda Blessing, the department chair, allowed him to use the department's exercise science lab for some of his bike training, and Dr. Justin Kraft biked with him sometimes. Throughout his training, his fellow professors encouraged him, and at the end of the triathlon, several called him to see how it went. "I got a lot of support, and believe me, you need all the support you can get."

9:53 p.m. The last .2 mile, both sides of the street were absolutely packed with spectators screaming for the runners.

"It was a great experience; I'm glad I did it," Britton said. "Having now gone through it, it's significantly more difficult than people say."

9:54:18 p.m. I am an **Iron Man**. ■





Missouri Western State University

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