

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO & JULIET

ARTS PROGRAMS SOAR
page 14





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“I’ve always had fond memories of my years at Missouri Western. I recently visited the campus and was excited to see how much it has grown. It made me proud to be a Griffon.”

By including the MWSU Foundation as a beneficiary of my estate plan, I was able to plan for the future and know that I was supporting my alma mater. The Development staff was very helpful as I determined the best use of my gift.”

David A. Grahl '74

Member of the Clock Tower Society, an honorary society of donors who have made the MWSU Foundation a beneficiary of their estate and financial planning.



The Western Magazine is a publication of the University Advancement Office for alumni and friends of Missouri Western State University and the St. Joseph Junior College.

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WESTERN MAGAZINE

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," starring Kiefer Helsel and Misty Ballew was the theatre program's first of four major productions for 2011-12. Photo by Jeff Meyer '11.

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There's lots of excitement throughout Missouri Western's arts programs. Read about the growth of the theatre and band programs, a new Arts Society, and a faithful, proud and true professor.

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Harmony University has held its weeklong workshop on campus for more than 30 years. The editor spent a fun day with some of its participants to see what it was all about.



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It's new! It's open! Griffon Hall

Missouri Western's newest residence hall, Griffon Hall, opened in time for students to move in this past fall.

"I love the awesome kitchen area and new appliances," said senior Brook Carter as she moved in. "It feels just like an apartment. We feel like we're not in the dorms."

Dr. Esther Pérez, vice president for student affairs, is happy to hear that, because she said the new hall was specifically built with upperclassmen in mind.

"We know that there's a strong correlation between living on campus and succeeding in school, but we also know that upperclassmen sometimes prefer the independence that comes with an off-campus apartment," Esther said. "The new hall was designed to give those older students a more attractive on-campus alternative."

The hall features apartments with a living room, full kitchen and four single bedrooms. The building also contains an exercise room, laundry facilities and a community lounge.

Mark Stier, director of residential life, said he has heard a lot of positive feedback from the Griffon Hall residents. "It's a fan-

tastic transitional living community from our other residence halls to off-campus living."

Mark noted that the juniors and seniors serve as role models to the younger students, so the university wanted to provide a place for them to live on campus.

Brooner & Associates Construction Inc. of St. Joseph, Mo., was the general contractor, and Ellison-Auxier Architects Inc. was the architect. Cost was approximately \$12 million and will be paid with revenue bonds.

Griffon Hall, which houses 242 students, is south of Scanlon Hall and brings the residence hall capacity to 1,328. ■



Western's newest residence hall, Griffon Hall, opened in time for the fall semester. The apartment-style units accommodate 242 students.

VP announces retirement

Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the MWSU Foundation, announced his retirement effective June 30, 2012.

"Dan is a valued member of my Cabinet, an outstanding administrator, and, on a personal level, a good friend," Dr. Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, said. "He will be missed, and I certainly want to wish him the very best in his retirement."



Dan Nicoson

Dan joined the university in 2004. Along with the Foundation, he has administrative responsibility for the development, alumni services, public relations and marketing departments.

During his tenure, Western has received eight of its 10 largest gifts ever, including the largest gift of \$5.5 million to endow the Steven L. Craig School of

Business, and the second largest gift of \$5 million toward the construction of Remington Hall. Those two gifts were a part of Achieving Greatness, the largest capital campaign in Missouri

Western's history. The campaign raised \$17.7 million, exceeding the \$15 million goal.

Dan has also been an active member of the St. Joseph community, serving on several boards and committees. He received the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Mid America Chapter Hope Award, the chapter's highest honor, for his contributions to the St. Joseph philanthropic community.

"Dan has been a great asset to Missouri Western and the Foundation," said Jim Carolus, chair of the MWSU Foundation board of directors. "He's going to be hard to replace." ■

Changes in Academic Affairs area

Several changes have been made in the past six months in the Academic Affairs division in response to the restricted budget situation, according to Dr. Jeanne Daffron, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

The open position of dean of professional studies will not be filled, and Dr. Philip Nitse, dean of the Craig School of Business, will assume the duties while remaining dean of the CSB. Additionally, the political science, sociology and social work department has been dissolved, with political science and sociology joining the economics department and social work joining the criminal justice/legal studies department. Also, the physical therapist assistant program has joined the nursing department. That department, which also includes the health informatics and information

management program, has been named the nursing and allied health department.

Also, two vacant positions, director of institutional research and director of grants and sponsored research, will not be filled. Dr. Brian Cronk, associate provost and dean of the graduate school, will assume those responsibilities. Howard McCauley, director of admissions, took on additional responsibilities and his title is now dean of enrollment management.

Dr. Jimm MacGregor, associate professor of history and director of study abroad and exchange programs, resigned his position last summer. Those responsibilities have been moved to the Western Institute. Two departments in the library, technical services and public services, have been combined into access services, and Terry Weaver has been named assistant director for access services. ■



Thomas Friedman was the featured speaker at the 2011 Convocation on Critical Issues in September, and his topic was, "That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World We Invented and How We Can Come Back." He is pictured speaking at a dinner the evening before his presentation.

NEWS Briefs

President's Perspective



Dear Friends,
"Griffon Pride: Keeping it Real" was the theme of this year's Homecoming. Our students chose a theme that befits the mood of campus. During the annual

alumni awards banquet, I heard that pride transcended throughout the 37-year span between award recipients' graduation years.

Jackie Lewin '66, recalled going door-to-door as a student to campaign for the formation of the Missouri Western Junior College District which eventually became, according to her, "this beautiful campus — one that brought such pride to this community." Bernie Patterson '73, told of how he was placed in school with the kids who weren't going to college, and how his life was transformed through first the Junior College and later Missouri Western College. "You gave me a chance to learn when others were not inclined to do so."

From Eric Bruder '93, we heard of his decision to return to college while he was a soldier in Desert Storm. "I promised myself that as soon as I finished my tour that I would contact Howard McCauley and set in motion whatever it took to finish my degree with honor."

Shannon Brewer '01, and Kylee Strough '03, told tales of lessons learned from faculty members, and Rob Schaaf '79, vowed to do all he can in the State Senate to support Missouri Western.

As the state legislature continues to debate and define Performance Funding for state supported colleges and universities, I urge you to follow the advice of these outstanding and distinguished alums and keep Griffon Pride real in your lives.

Robert A. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

Editor's note: President Vartabedian will address funding for higher education in the state of Missouri in the Spring 2012 issue.

Views from the Orient

When Tiantian Zou flew into the Kansas City International airport last August, she was greeted by heavy thunderstorms and driving rain. But she didn't mind. The Chinese believe that's a good omen, she said, because the rain will wash the dirt away from the journey.

That is just one of hundreds of insights into her native culture that Tiantian is sharing with the campus community as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. She is teaching Chinese at Missouri Western for the 2011-12 academic year.

"People are very nice and warm-hearted," Tiantian said. "Teachers and staff do their best to help me feel at home and help me out."

Tiantian had been teaching English to Chinese students who are English majors at Xidian University in Xi'an, China, for five years, but she had never visited an English-speaking country. So she applied for the Fulbright program and was accepted last April.

In the fall semester, 31 students signed up to learn beginning Chinese. Tiantian readily admits her native language is quite different from the English language, but



Tiantian Zou holds a paper cutout representing the Chinese spring festival. In the background are snapshots of sights in her native China.

noted that students try their best to work on the Chinese characters and tones. They are also very interested in learning about the Chinese culture and ask a lot of questions.

Last fall, she hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival, a popular festival celebrated by the Chinese, and she was pleased with the enthusiasm of her students. Although they had not been in class very long, all the students participated in reading Chinese poetry, in Chinese, at the festival. "I was amazed that almost all the students took part. I figured if half took part, that would be good. They recited poems which were very difficult for them at that time."

When she first arrived in August, she was quite surprised by how different everything was from her homeland. She still finds it hard to believe that there is not much public transportation, and no public transportation between St. Joseph and Kansas City. "We have a lot of cars, but we prefer the bus and subway because it is environmentally friendly."

She admits she misses the food back home. "We had an orientation in Austin, Texas, and it was meat, meat, meat!" she said with a laugh, adding that the Chinese eat more fruits and vegetables than Americans eat.

Tiantian plans to travel while she is in the United States, hopefully to Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon. Her city is bordered by a mountain, and she wants to compare this country's mountains to hers.

Tiantian believes her experience here will in turn benefit her students when she returns to Xidian University. She said her listening comprehension of English has improved, and she is learning a lot of new words. Tiantian hopes to continue the relationship and pair her students with Missouri Western students when she returns home.

"I am so glad I came. I see something new almost every day."

Foundation board serves university well

From school superintendents and physicians, to CEOs and presidents, the MWSU Foundation's board of directors represents a broad spectrum of experience and talents as it supports the mission of Missouri Western. That, says Dan Nicolson, the executive director, manifests the value of the board to the university and the important role it plays.

Jim Carolus, president of Hillyard Industries in St. Joseph, Mo., and chair of the Foundation board, said members made a committed effort several years ago to make it one of the top boards in the community. "I think they have done that," he said. "Our Foundation Board is a top notch board of people."

Dave Shinneman, who owned several McDonald's restaurants before he retired, serves on the investment and allocation committees. "It's an unusually strong board," he said. "These are people who run businesses in the community. I've been very fortunate to be on it."

Dan said when he became executive director in 2004, his goal was to make the Foundation board something that would bring its members great satisfaction and give them a meaningful experience. He wanted it to be "board of choice" in the community. "We give members real responsibility so they can make a difference," he said.

Esther George '80, who joined the board in 2002, said she enjoys serving

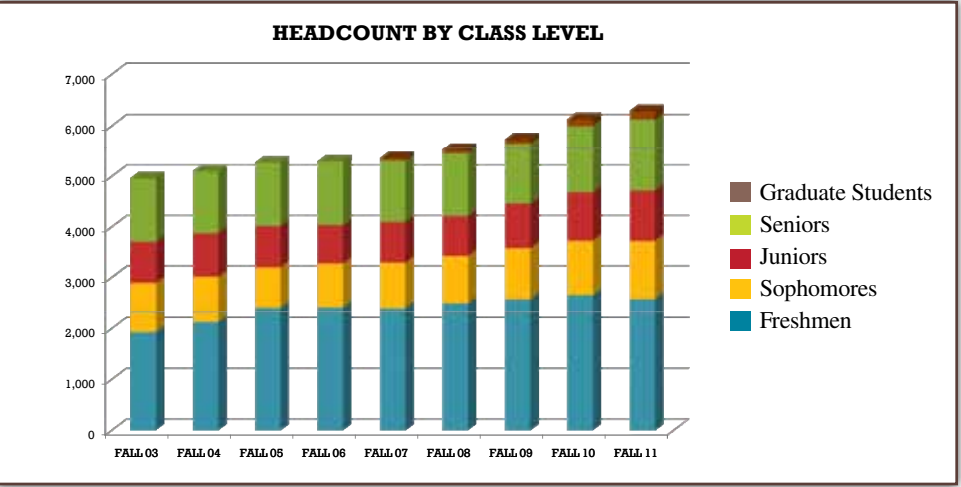
because it provides an opportunity to support the university's goals. "The board has become a highly engaged group – people who serve with enthusiasm, ingenuity and hard work."

Dan said the Foundation looks for board members who are willing to be active members and reach out to constituents, and people with expertise to advise the board. He also ensures that alumni are well represented on the board.

Esther, who was recently named president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, agreed, saying the board members bring their business acumen to the table. "They serve as a critical base of support for advising, planning, budgeting and fund raising."

"It's a board that looks to the future," Jim said. "Missouri Western is one of the best assets we have in the community."

Current board members include Ted Allison, Drew Brown, Michelle Cebulko '93, Dirck Clark '85, Stephen Cotter '78, Pat Dillon, Ed Haffey '62, Stephen Hamilton, Cindy Hausman, Judith Hausman, Dian Hook '90, Jason Horn '95, John Jarrett, Jennifer Kneib '89, Chris Looney, Corky Marquart '84, Al Purcell, Dave Roberts, JL Robertson, LaVell Rucker '03, Lee Sawyer, Dave Shinneman, Melody Smith '87, Jon Styslinger, Robert Vartabedian, Julie Woods '96, Seth Wright and Zack Workman '74.



For the seventh consecutive year, Missouri Western set a record for fall enrollment. For Fall 2011, enrollment was 6,296, an increase of 2.6 percent from last fall. Since Fall 2003, enrollment has grown by nearly 27 percent.

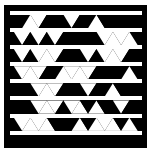
NEWS Briefs

Campus Kudos

- **Dr. Todd Eckdahl**, professor of biology; and **Dr. Jeff Poet**, associate professor of mathematics, were awarded two grants from the National Science Foundation. A \$200,000 grant will fund faculty and student research and a \$269,700 grant will fund three synthetic biology workshops for interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate faculty. This grant was also awarded to two professors from Davidson College in North Carolina who are collaborating with Todd and Jeff.
- **Dr. Susan Hennessy**, professor of French and foreign language coordinator, has been named a Knight of the Order of Academic Palms, an award to recognize those who have made major contributions to the expansion of French culture. The award was originally created by Napoleon Bonaparte, and nomination decisions are made by the French Minister of Education.
- Criminal justice major **Melissa Turner** won first place in the undergraduate student paper competition at the 2011 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association meeting in Chicago for her paper, "Voices in the Hall: Utilizing Alumni Advice for Effective Program Assessment." Her original research paper was also presented in a refereed panel discussion.
- **Martha Greer**, director of the Center for Community Arts, was honored with the 2011 Arts Educator Award by the Allied Arts Council's Mayor's Awards for the Arts. Missouri Western received an award in the category of business/corporation supporting the arts.

MWSU Foundation Annual Report

The MWSU Foundation's annual report covering July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, was printed this past fall. You may see it online at www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation/annualreport.pdf. Or, if you have a smart phone, scan the code at left.



Judy Njeri '11: Living to serve others

As a young girl, Judy Njeri '11, often shared her lunch with needy children, sometimes giving her whole lunch away. "Because," she said, "I knew they didn't have breakfast." As a teen-ager, she volunteered at an orphanage and ministered to children who live on the streets in her hometown of Thika, Kenya.

Her dream has always been to help children living in third world countries, and earning her nursing degree from Missouri Western last month takes her one step closer to that dream.

It's been a long, twisting road to her graduation, but Judy never gave up or lost sight of her goal. She eventually wants to form her own nongovernmental organization some day to establish an outreach program and an orphanage to make sure "every day children are getting food."

"I know if I don't give up and don't give in, I can win," she said.

When Judy graduated from high school in Kenya in 2003, her grandfather was ill and the family already had the expense of her older brother in college, so even though she was accepted at a medical center for nursing training, she decided to delay her schooling.

For the next three years, she helped take care of her grandfather and volunteered at a local hospital.

Judy began her studies in the United States at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg in 2006, but the high cost led her to Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Mo., the next year. When she earned an associate's degree there in 2009, she transferred to Missouri Western that fall.

"It has been such a great experience here," Judy said. "I am so thankful to be

here. The clinical instructors and nurses I work with have been so good."

It was not an easy road to the degree. Judy considers English her third language, behind the mother language of Kenya, Kikuyu; and the official language, Swahili. She started learning English when she was eight years old, and in high school, English and Swahili were spoken, but she still struggled with the language once she came to the United States.

At Missouri Western, the pharmacology class was especially difficult, she said, because the drugs all go by different names in Kenya, even the over-the-counter drugs.

"But instructors took the time and opened their offices for me," she said. "All the instructors have been so good to me."

Expenses were another issue throughout her college career, but Judy said angels have always stepped in when she needed them the most. A family in Kansas City, Mo., offered Judy a place to stay during her summers and when she worked clinicals in the area throughout the school year. A Missouri Western employee gave her free lodging in St. Joseph. Judy babysat and cleaned homes to raise some money for living expenses, and her good grades earned her some scholarships. Members of her church bought her a plane ticket to visit her home in Kenya.

"I've seen so many doors open," she said.



"So far, I have seen God step in and step in a lot in my life. Someone greater than us is always beside us."

And through it all, amidst classes, homework, clinicals, and language and money issues, Judy continued to reach out to others in need.

The nursing students raised money that Judy distributed to needy children when she traveled home. This past summer, she went to Haiti on a Christian medical mission trip. She also volunteers to help HIV and AIDS patients, and helps with the youth group at her church, Lenexa Christian Center. Through LCC, she also volunteered for Convoy of Hope.

Judy said her mother, who has a fifth-grade education, has been her inspiration. "I told her, 'when I walk (across the stage at graduation), I'm walking for both of us.'"

Now that she has graduated, Judy plans to work a lot to save up money to start her organization. She also plans to devote half her income to children in Kenya. "I will live a life of sacrifice to be a hand for someone else," Judy says.

"I always say, 'God, you have not brought me this far to not do something to help children not starve,'" Judy said. "I'm not going to waste my life." ■

Heard around campus ...

“There are five kinds of columns (based on readers’ reactions): 1. I never knew that. 2. I never looked at it that way before. 3. You said exactly how I felt; I just didn’t know how to say it. 4. I want to kill you. 5. You made me laugh, you made me cry. No. 5 is very hard to achieve.”



Thomas L. Friedman, *New York Times* columnist and the featured speaker at the 18th annual Convocation on Critical Issues, at a breakfast with student leaders and student journalists.

"In partnering with Dr. Brett Luthans, we (Dr. Bill Russell and I) conducted research on the motivation of students. The most interesting piece of information we found was that students who believed they could



achieve success had significantly higher GPAs. Don't hold yourself back." Dustin Strickler '09, guest speaker at the annual Convocation for new students.

"Part of the problem we have as a country is an attention span problem, especially with foreign policy. We want the problem on the front pages of newspapers today solved by the next day."



William Armbruster, speaking on "The Middle East – Then and Now" at an Eggs and Issues breakfast and presentation in October. ■



A large crowd gathered for the free pancake breakfast, a new feature of Family Day this past fall. The breakfast was held in the atrium of Remington Hall.

NEWS Briefs

Nursing department celebrates 40 years

The nursing program celebrated its 40th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of becoming a baccalaureate program this past fall.

Fifteen students enrolled in the first class of the two-year associate degree program in 1971. Four-year bachelor of science nursing degrees began in 1986, with 20 students in the initial class. The program has awarded a total of 419 associate degrees, and 1,602 bachelor degrees.

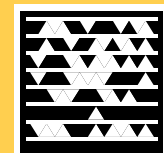
A master of science in nursing healthcare leadership degree began in 2010. Also, a partnership with Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City allows Missouri Western to offer classes at MCC's Penn Valley campus for current registered nurses to complete their bachelor's degrees.

The bachelor's program has been nationally accredited since it began. The most recent national accreditation survey was in 2003 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Missouri Western received a full 10-year accreditation, and a midpoint continuous improvement progress report in 2008 indicated that the program continues to meet all accreditation standards. ■

Western wish list

Would you like to have your donation to Missouri Western be used for a specific item or for a particular department? The development office has worked with departments across campus to create a wish list of items with costs ranging from \$85 to \$100,000. Five current priority items include a mechanical ventilator for the nursing skills laboratory, a one-ton white truck and a ½-ton white truck for the physical plant, ballistics vests for the police department, and a GPS mapping unit.

To view the entire list and costs, go to www.missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern, and click on "Other Funding Priorities," or call 816-271-5648. ■



If you have a smartphone, scan here for the entire wish list.

2011 Kansas City Chiefs Training Camp

National Football League players and owners settled their contract dispute on July 25, 2011, just in time for the Kansas City Chiefs to head to Missouri Western for their three-week training camp on July 28.

The number of visitors was down from the first year of the camp in 2010, but opening day drew 2,200 and a night practice Aug. 10 brought 7,100 to campus.

As part of camp festivities, the Family Investment Center in St. Joseph sponsored a training camp photo contest, and awarded \$1,000 in prize money.

The winners:

Family Fun

- 1st - Dallas Henry, St. Joseph, “#1 Chiefs Fans” **A**
- 2nd - Michaela Haag, St. Joseph, “Best Day of His Little 3-Year Old Life” **B**
- 3rd - Shawn Kobzej, St. Joseph, “Dad and the Twins at Camp” **C**



General Camp Fun

- 1st - Jacqueline Johnson, Ypsilanti, Mich., “The Fall Embrace” **D**
- 2nd - Bridgette Berry, St. Joseph, “Hustle” **E**
- 3rd - Angie Briggs, Lawson, Mo., “This is Football” **F**

Kid Fun

- 1st - Bridgette Berry, St. Joseph, “Obstacle Course” **G**
- 2nd - Julia Bird, St. Joseph, “Ready to Catch” **H**
- 3rd - Dallas Henry, St. Joseph, “Beat the Heat” **I**

Autograph Fun

- 1st - Bridgette Berry, St. Joseph, “Dexter McCluster” **J**
- 2nd - Dallas Henry, St. Joseph, “Leonard Pope is a Teddy Bear” **K**
- 3rd - Tee Quillin, St. Joseph, “Signing Day” **L**

The judges were Mike Bracciano of KQ2 television, professional photographer Eric Callow of Double E Images, and Ashley Mullock of the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau. ■



Local businesses benefit CSB students

Two new businesses in St. Joseph, Mo., are offering students in the Steven L. Craig School of Business a unique learning opportunity. Steve Craig, the school's benefactor, and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Inc., are leasing part of the former Russell Stover Candies store, 3715 Frederick Ave., and opened two stores, a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and an Aspen Leaf Yogurt store, which is a subsidiary of RMCF, Inc. Missouri Western students will complete internships in the RMCF, and a portion of the sales proceeds will be donated to the CSB.

Since 2009, graduating seniors in the CSB have had the opportunity to take an elective course in entrepreneurship and compete for a chance to operate and eventually own their own RMCF franchise. As part of the course, students were asked to do internships at existing stores. The new location will allow them to complete those internships at a franchise without leaving St. Joseph.

One interesting feature planned for the store is a video connection to campus that will be used as a teaching tool, allowing students to deepen their understanding of retail operations by viewing videos of customer interactions, with the consent of employees and customers.

There are currently six RMCF franchises being operated successfully by CSB graduates in five states. The company and Missouri Western are discussing opportunities for CSB graduates to participate in the Aspen Leaf Yogurt franchise, as well. Aspen Leaf Yogurt features a variety of flavors of self-serve frozen yogurt, and customers choose from several toppings. A grand opening was held in December for both stores. ■

100 reasons to celebrate

Mark your calendar now! In 2015, Missouri Western will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding as St. Joseph Junior College. A centennial committee of faculty, staff, alumni, students and community members has already formed and is meeting on a regular basis. Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services, is chair of the committee.

“We are proud of Missouri Western and want to celebrate its great history,” Colleen said, adding that the committee has already come up with some wonderful ideas for the year-long celebration.

Several events marking the centennial will be held from January through December 2015.

Diane Holtz, editor of the Western Magazine, has begun researching and writing a sequel to Missouri Western’s original history book that was written by Dr. Frances Flanagan and published in 1983. Plans are to publish the sequel close to the centennial.

The St. Joseph Junior College opened in September 1915 with 35 students and eight faculty members. Classes were held in Central High School at 13th and Patee, which is no longer standing. ■



Central High School, the first home of the St. Joseph Junior College.

History mystery

If you’ve been around Missouri Western for awhile, chances are you may have heard that the Griffon logo’s shape was changed in 1977 to reflect that the college was now receiving funding from the state for all four years, not just the junior and senior years. No one had really questioned this until someone noticed that the cover of the 1974 Griffon Yearbook sported the current Griffon, indeed in the shape of the state of Missouri. So now we had a mystery to solve – how and why did the logo change come about?

Last summer, Jerry Myers ’71, who was hired as Missouri Western’s sports information director in August 1973, became involved in a conversation about the Griffon’s shape, and he solved the mystery.

Jerry said shortly after he started working at Missouri Western, he created the Griffon in the shape of Missouri to establish a connection between the school and the state. He used it on his stationery when he sent letters to prospective student athletes because he wanted to show that the college was located in Missouri. The Griffon Jerry designed has not changed over the years.

He said he created the design shortly after he arrived on campus, and it didn’t have anything to do with the state’s full funding!

Friend Linda Perry ’60, crafted a 2 ft. x 2 ½ ft. wooden Griffon in the shape of Missouri, painted it and gave it to Jerry as a gift. Linda said when Jerry held his Missouri Western sports program on KQ2, her wooden Griffon was in the background. It now hangs in Jerry’s home.

Although the mystery of the origin of the Griffon shape has been cleared up, employees have not been able to figure out why “State” was added to Missouri Western’s name at about the same time. In fact, the 1974 yearbook says, “Missouri Western State College,” and the Griffon News student newspaper began using that name in the fall of 1973.

Diane Holtz, editor of the Western Magazine, said research with the state legislative librarian showed that HB210 that passed in 1965 to establish Missouri Western as a four-year college noted that the state may provide funding and that Missouri Western could have added “State” to its name at that time. But the question remains why “state” was added at that particular time in 1973. ■



www.missouriwestern.edu

Scholarship honors memory of Randy Bever

As an emergency room nurse at Heartland Health, Randy Bever mentored many Missouri Western nursing students when they were working in their clinicals. When he was tragically killed in a LifeNet helicopter crash last August, Randy’s son, Justin, thought it was fitting to honor his memory with a scholarship for nursing students.

“He enjoyed helping people. He was very intelligent and everyone asked him for advice,” Justin said.

Justin said his father loved his medical career and was very good at it. Randy, who grew up in Nodaway County, began working as a nurse’s aid at St. Francis Hospital-

in Maryville, Mo., as a high school student. He received medical training as a member of the Missouri Army National Guard and earned an associate degree in nursing from Excelsior College.

Randy worked for several ambulance districts throughout his career, and was serving as chief flight nurse for LifeNet when he was killed.

“One of his favorite things was flying in the helicopter,” Justin said. “He was very good at it and everyone looked up to him.”

Justin said the scholarship also honors the memory of Chris Frakes, a flight paramedic who was a friend of his father’s and was also killed in the helicopter crash. ■

Wildlife Society student chapter takes international honors

The latest honor for Missouri Western’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society is the biggest one yet: they were named 2011 International Student Chapter of the Year out of 119 chapters.

“This is the most prestigious recognition available to student organizations in the wildlife management discipline,” said Dr. Cary Chevalier, associate professor of biology and faculty advisor. “Our students were recognized from a field of some of the largest, oldest student chapters at some of the most recognized natural resources management schools in the world. We can be very proud of the hard work and commitment of our students.”

This is the first time a chapter from the state of Missouri has been named International Student Chapter of the Year. The MWSU chapter has been named North Central Section Student Chapter of the Year four times.

In its award application, Western’s chapter detailed members’ involvement in projects and programs at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Mo., and other nearby conservation areas, attendance at professional conferences and workshops, volunteer work in the community, research and other activities designed to serve the community while enhancing the professional skills and knowledge of students. The application covered the 2010-2011 school year. ■

New memorial bench on campus

A memorial bench outside the building that houses the computer science department is in memory of a man who was one of the first to work in the computer field. Gordon and June Robaska recently purchased a bench in memory of his cousins, Joe and Jeanne Davis, to be placed on the north side of Remington Hall. Joe died in 2006 at the age of 94 and Jeanne died in 2007 at the age of 95.

Joe had been working for Marshall Field’s in the Chicago area when the company decided they needed to start using computers. Joe was a cabinet maker for Marshall Field’s, but went back to school to learn about computers.

Gordon said when June’s parents died, the Robaskas established scholarships in their memories at Missouri Western, but they decided to do something different to honor the memory of Joe and Jeanne.

The Robaskas, who moved to St. Joseph in 1976, have been long-time supporters of Missouri Western. Gordon was president and CEO of Acoustics Development Corporation (ADCO) in St. Joseph. He was a member of the MWSU Foundation Board and after he retired from ADCO, he began teaching in the business department. He also served on the Advisory Council of the Craig School of Business.

All three of Gordon and June’s sons and one daughter-in-law are alumni of Missouri Western.

“Missouri Western is a jewel in the community,” Gordon said. “We’re blessed to have it. I think it is one of the main focal points of the community.” ■

PR director in new role

Roger Swafford ’68, director of public relations and marketing, is taking a new position as a faculty member in the Steven L. Craig School of Business this semester.

Roger earned an associate of science degree from the St. Joseph Junior College, a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in education from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a master’s degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He joined Missouri Western in July 2008.

The search for his successor will begin this month. ■

New athletic director: Kurt McGuffin

Kurt McGuffin was hired as Missouri Western's new director of athletics and began his duties Oct. 31, 2011. Kurt had been assistant athletic director/director of athletics development at the University of Colorado-Boulder. More than 80 people applied for the position, and Kurt was one of four finalists invited for on-campus interviews.

Kurt had been at the University of Colorado-Boulder since 2010. In that position, he created and implemented a new annual giving program which increased total giving by 15 percent and added more than 600 members in the first year. He assisted with fundraising and development of a new \$12.5 million court sport practice facility.

Prior to his time there, Kurt served 10 years in the Kansas State University athletic department in Manhattan, Kan. From 2008-2010, he served as senior



Kurt McGuffin

associate athletic director for external operations. He was the administrator for men's basketball, men's and women's track and field/cross country and men's and women's golf. He oversaw all external operations in the department, including development, ticketing, marketing and communication offices.

Previously at Kansas State, Kurt served as associate director of athletics for development from 2005-2008. In that role, he directed the efforts of six fundraisers and four staff members to raise more than \$12 million annually. Kurt successfully completed the \$90 million athletics department piece of a university-wide capital campaign, and oversaw a \$16.5 million growth in the endowment for athletics.

Kurt received his bachelor of science in education from Kansas State in 1996 and his master of science in education from Wichita State in 1999. ■

Fall Sports 2011

FOOTBALL

Back in August, the Griffon football team, coached by Jerry Partridge '85, was ranked 21st in the Division II preseason poll and kicker Greg Zuerlein, a transfer from University of Nebraska-Omaha, was selected to the preseason All-America second-team. As the season progressed, the Griffons proved they deserved to be in the top 25, and Greg played a large role in that.

The Griffons finished their regular season with a 55-17 win over Fort Hays State Nov. 12. The win gave the Griffons seven consecutive victories for the first time since 1981, and the second time in program history. Western finished the regular season 9-2, winning nine regular season games for just the second time in program history; the last time in 2006.

But the Fort Hays victory meant more: it sealed a berth in the NCAA Division II National Playoffs and a first-ever home

field advantage. The end of the regular season found the team in fourth place in the Super Region 4 polls.

Perhaps the sweetest victory in the regular season and a huge boost to the team ranking was when the Griffons, ranked 25th in Division II national rankings, upset rival Northwest Missouri State University, which was ranked 3rd. A school- and individual-record 58-yard field goal by Greg put the winning points on the board, and Missouri Western won 31-28.

Greg earned D2Football.com Student-Athletes of the Week and MIAA Special Teams Player of the Week (for the second time) for that kick. That victory was the first time Missouri Western beat Northwest in football since 2003.

Two weeks later, Missouri Western again faced Northwest in the first game of the playoffs. It was the first home playoff game in school history and the seventh consecutive year the Griffons have qualified for post-season play. Unfortunately, the Griffons lost 35-29.

Other players honored throughout the season included junior defensive end David Bass, D2Football.com Student-Athlete of the Week and MIAA Defensive Player of the Week twice; junior Michael Yardley, Capitol One Academic All-District team; and Michael Hill, MIAA Offensive Player of the Week.

At the regular season's end, Missouri Western had the most players named to the All-MIAA first team – five. Those players included Greg, Michael Hill, David, Shane Simpson and Macon Allan. Additionally, Greg was named MIAA Player of the Year.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team closed out their season with a 3-2 win over the Southwest Baptist Bearcats, wrapping up the season 14-17 overall and 7-11 in MIAA play.

Griffon senior outside hitter Tahler Johnston, from Marshalltown, Iowa, was named to the University of Nebraska-Kearney Fall Classic All-Tournament Team and the 2011 Holiday Inn Express & Suites Classic All-Tournament team.

Along with Tahler, Hannah Zimmerman, Lincoln, Neb., and Alex Behnke, Seymour, Wis., played their last match for the Griffons. Head coach is Cory Frederick.

SOCCER

New head coach for women's soccer

When women's soccer coach Jeff Hansen resigned in late July, the athletics department moved quickly to find a replacement, and Chad Edwards was hired Aug. 9.

Chad joined Missouri Western after three seasons as the assistant men's and women's soccer coach at Avila University in Kansas City, Mo. He played a vital role in the day-to-day operations of both the men's and women's programs and was the director of the Avila elite soccer camps.

At Avila for three seasons, he helped 12 players earn all-conference honors. The women's team went a combined 25-24-4, with their best season in 2010 when they went 10-8.

He played soccer at Missouri Southern from 1997-2000, where he was voted team captain and helped the team win a conference championship in 1997. He graduated from there in 2001 with a bachelor of science in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and earned an MBA from Baker University in 2005.

The soccer team finished the 2011 campaign with a 4-10 overall record and 1-7 in MIAA play. Senior Molly Slattery was named to the Capitol One All-District 6 Second Team. Molly, from Eklhorn, Neb., played in 70 games as a Griffon.

GOLF

The women's golf team wrapped up its fall season with a second-place finish in Truman State University's Bulldog classic. Earlier in the season, the team finished second in the Fort Hays State Invitational and first in the NWMSU Bearcat Classic. The women are coached by Cathy Habermehl.

Men played in five matches in the fall, with a third at the Park University Fall Invitational their best finish. The men are coached by Jim Perry. ■

NEWS Briefs

Griffon heroes!

Two football players made national news this past fall when they stopped to help a grandmother in distress. Safeties Jack Long and Shane Simpson are credited with saving the life of a baby who was accidentally locked in his grandmother's car on a hot day. Missouri Western videographer Ryan Menley created a video about the incident, and the story was picked up by CNN, Fox News, CBS, ESPN

and MSNBC. The video can be seen at gogriffons.com/highlights.asp?article=2999. Or, if you have a smartphone, scan the QR code at left. ■

Men's coach sees 600th victory

Men's Basketball head coach Tom Smith earned his 600th career victory with a 69-55 win over Fontbonne University Nov. 12, the first game of the 2011-12 season.

Tom became Missouri Western's head coach in 1988 and is the university and MIAA's winningest coach. He coached his 900th career game two seasons ago.

Tom has coached the Griffons to 11 NCAA Division II national tournaments, five MIAA regular season championships and four MIAA postseason tournament titles. He has also been named the MIAA's Coach-of-the-Year twice during his tenure at Missouri Western and three times overall.

Tom was inducted into the Missouri Western Athletics Hall of Fame in September 2006 and is also a member of the Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. ■

Basketball player goes pro

Former Griffon Adrian Thomas signed a contract to play with 08 Stockholm for the upcoming season. Adrian played in the guard position last season for Missouri Western. He played in 23 games with 19 starts, averaging 8.3 points, 3.1 rebounds and 2.52 assists per game. He shot 49.3 percent from the field and 40.0 percent from long range. Adrian had a career-high 18 points three different times. Adrian joins a long list of former Griffons to continue their basketball career professionally – Larry Taylor (Brazil), Demarius Bolds (England), Jason Warren (Lithuania) and Lonnell Johnson (United States). ■

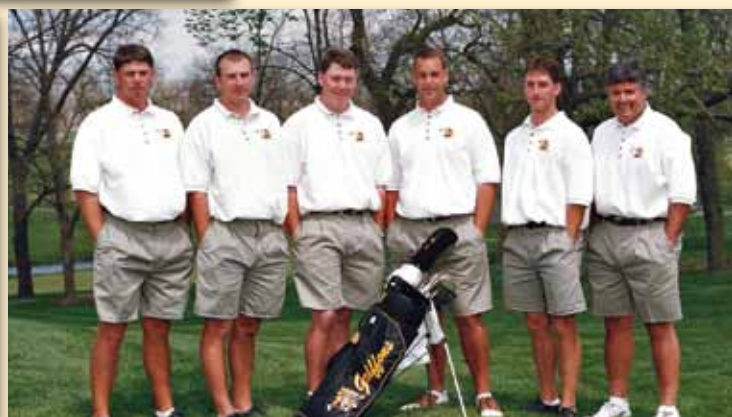
Athletics Hall of Fame, Class of 2011



Top left: The 1989-90 men's basketball team: Brian Boyer, Greg Benney, Mark Bradley, Steve Hall, Tom Palasky, Head Coach Tom Smith, Chris Palmer, Scottie Williams, Eric Smith and Jerome Jordan.

Below left: Former women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie, head football coach Jerry Partridge and former quarterback Kasey Waterman.

Below: Chris Weddle, Mark Korell, Joel Wilhite, Kyle Sinclair, Erin Hatcher, members of the 1996-97 golf team, and Head Coach Mike Habermehl.



ARTS PROGRAMS SOAR

There's excitement in the air – Missouri Western's arts programs are producing awesome student performances and exhibits as they prepare students for careers in art, music, theatre and cinema. Along with gaining broad community support, the programs' student numbers are increasing. The articles on these pages reflect that excitement – the theatre program is performing to sellout crowds and the marching band continues to grow!

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

When theatre assistant professors Tee Quillin and Dallas Henry were hired in the fall of 2010, they were charged by Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, to produce theatre performances that would bring in the crowds. The two professors have more than accomplished that feat, with two more fantastic shows yet to come this spring.

Last spring, Tee teamed up with Dr. Susan Carter, Dr. Roger Hale and Rico McNeela in the music department to produce "Phantom," based on Gaston Leroux's novel, "Phantom of the Opera." Audiences were blown away by the acting and singing performances, the set and costumes, and responded by selling out the theatre for all four performances.

When Tee and Dallas began planning the 2011-12 theatre season, they kept the audience at the forefront of their decisions. "We wanted to do four good shows, shows the community knows," Dallas said.

For each season, they plan to produce a classical piece, a contemporary production, a musical and a holiday show.

The first play of the 2011-12 season, directed by Tee, was Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," but with a slight twist. The setting was Verona, Mo., instead of Verona, Italy, and it was at the start of the Civil War, to coincide

with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Along with four community performances, they also staged matinees for area high school students.

That was followed by "A Christmas Carol" for seven performances over two weekends in December. "Arsenic and Old Lace" will run Feb. 16-19, and "Little Shop of Horrors," the musical, April 19-22 and 26-29.

The department also teams up with the art and music departments to produce the "Lights and Tights" Renaissance feast, and the third annual one was held in early December.

Onlookers are amazed at the rapport between the two professors, who had never met before joining the Missouri Western faculty. "We are investigating to see if we were separated at birth," joked Tee, who moved here from Tennessee. "From day one, my kids treated him (Dallas) like an uncle. To immediately have what feels like family made the transition easier."

"It's the greatest thing," said Dallas, who moved to the area from Los Angeles. "We feed off each other's energy and back each other up."

Dallas received his bachelor of arts in theatre from the University of Saint Mary, and a master of fine arts in theatre from Wayne State University and the prestigious Hilberry Repertory Theatre Program in Detroit, Mich. While in graduate school, he received additional

theatrical training from the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford Festival of Canada and Second City of Chicago.

Dallas owned and operated his own production company, Wheatfield Productions, in Los Angeles for eight years. He directed and produced numerous award-winning films, network television shows, music videos and national commercial campaigns.

Dallas directed Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" in the fall of 2010 and "A Christmas Carol" last month. For the spring theatre season, he will direct "Little Shop of Horrors."

Tee earned his bachelor of arts in theatre from the University of Alabama and his master of fine arts in acting from the Meadows School for the Arts at Southern Methodist University.

His professional on-stage credits include performances with the Dallas Theater Center, Kitchen Dog Theatre, WaterTower Theatre, as well as the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Tee has also starred in various national television commercials and voice-over spots.

Tee has been an invited guest of The Humana Festival of New American Plays at the Actors Theatre of Louisville in Louisville, Ky.

He will direct "Arsenic and Old Lace" this spring.

Their department, which recently changed its name to Communication Studies, Theatre and Cinema, wanted to offer a theatre and cinema major to students, and a friend told Dallas about Missouri Western's opening to teach both theatre and cinema. He had not taught at a college before, but had directed a lot of students and taught a lot of student actors.

"It was the only application I sent in and it was the best move I ever made. I get to do cinema and theatre in one job." He said no other program in the region integrates theatre and cinema like this program.

"We want our students to go out in the real world and have lots of opportunities," Dallas said. He and Tee, who worked together to develop the curriculum for the new degree, believe the theatre and cinema major provides that. Students are developing several films through their coursework and gaining a lot of hands-on experience.

ARTS EVENTS

To find out about art, music or theatre events this spring, check out missouriwestern.edu/arts-events. To purchase theatre tickets, go to mwsutix.com.



Music students were treated to a backstage tour of the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Mo., thanks to volunteer Bill Wright. Students sang Missouri Western's alma mater on the stage of the center's Helzberg Hall, home of the Kansas City Symphony.

Along with more than tripling the number of their department's majors since they arrived two years ago, the two have resurrected the honorary theatre program, Alpha Psi Omega. Tee said he was a member when he was an undergraduate, and he wanted to see it come back to Missouri Western.

"We want student excitement," Dallas said. "That's why we do the work we do."

AND THE BAND MARCHED ON ...

Arrive on campus a week before the semester starts; practice 30 to 40 hours that week in the hot sun; perform before, at half-time and after every home football game; rehearse five days a week throughout the semester, march in two parades and perform in at least one regional marching festival. Plan to spend about 200 hours during the fall semester. Interested? Welcome to the Golden Griffon marching band, where more and more students are signing on and loving it.

Jeff Hinton, the band's director, said the marching band has grown 30 percent in the past three years – in the fall of 2008, there were 99 members, and this past fall, 129 students took to the football field and streets.

"It's fun performing in front of a lot of people," said Tahani Atieh, who has been in a marching band since seventh grade and plays the mellophone in Missouri Western's band.

Jeff said marching band makes for a busy fall for the students. The members who are music majors, which is about half the band, are also members of other music department ensembles that are rehearsing and performing throughout the fall semester, too. Also, the marching band hosts a Tournament of Champions half-time show competition of high school bands each fall.

continued on next page



Romeo and Juliet

ARTS PROGRAMS SOAR

But one advantage, Tahani said, is that every band member is awarded a \$700 marching band scholarship, so she doesn't have to try to fit in a part-time job around the several hours of band rehearsal and performances.

Jeff said for several years, they had enough equipment to field a band of about 115, but when Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, arrived, he wanted to increase the size of the marching band. "Our target is 150, but we'd like to see 170. However, we need more space; we're wall-to-wall right now," Jeff said. It's not an issue of space when they are rehearsing or performing on the football field, but the different sections of the band need rehearsal space inside.

The band, about half music majors and half non-majors, also consists of the flag squad and the Mystics dancers.

"We're proud of the kids, they have a great work ethic," Jeff said. "We have a lot of great musicians. We welcome everyone."

Jeff, a member of his high school and college marching bands, directed high school bands before joining Missouri Western in 1995. He was the assistant director of an All-America college marching band that performed in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and President Ronald Reagan's inauguration the following January.

"It's exciting – the music and the movement, and all the possibilities you can do with it," he said of his marching band.



MISSOURI WESTERN ARTS SOCIETY

Last June, the Missouri Western Arts Society was launched to support the university arts programs – art, music and theatre departments, the Western Institute's Center for Community Arts and the musical theatre program. To date, 161 members have pledged their support.

"Arts education is an essential part of the university's mission, and Missouri Western is focusing on the further development of its arts programs," said Dr. Laurel Vartabedian, membership committee co-chair, along with Karen Graves. "Western's arts programs provide a foundation of knowledge and skills in the arts which will prepare students to practice their craft on a professional level."

In September, the music department hosted "An Evening of Sondheim," and the Arts Society held a reception for members following the performance. The reception was held on the Potter Hall theater stage, and members had the opportunity to meet music students and professors.

In November, members were invited for a "back-stage" tour of the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Mo.

Left: Dominique Goblet, a Belgian illustrator and artist, guides art students in one of several classes she taught while visiting campus last September. While at Missouri Western, she created drawings for a limited edition print.

Above: The Missouri Western Arts Society reception on the Potter Hall theater stage.

Laurel said the goal of the society is to build a permanent and loyal audience base for students and provide financial resources that supplement the annual budgets of the arts programs.

Funds from the society will enrich the arts curricula, expand performance and exhibition opportunities for students, provide scholarships for youth enrolling in the Community Arts classes and provide technological and artistic support.

Contact the MWSU Foundation Office at 816-271-5647 for more information about the Arts Society.

FAITHFUL, PROUD AND TRUE: DR. DENNIS ROGERS

In 1978, Dr. Dennis Rogers had just resigned from his teaching position at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to pursue an advanced degree. One week after his resignation, a colleague called and told Dennis he was teaching at Missouri Western. "I said, 'Where's that?'" Dennis said. He was hired as an adjunct instructor for a year, and became full-time the next year.

"We had a 12-piece ensemble. I brought all the equipment I owned and I begged and borrowed. And, boom – we had an instant percussion department!" Dennis said with a laugh.

Today, he directs the steel drum band, the percussion ensemble, the chamber classical ensemble, the drum sets, and the drum line in the marching band. In his first year at Missouri Western, there were no percussion majors. But by the end of the year, there were six. Today, there are 34 percussion students, 28 majors.

"It's by God's grace that it happened," he says of the growth. "I give them unconditional love."

Dennis says preparing students to succeed has always been his goal, and the number of successful graduates points to his success in reaching that goal. Several of his percussion students have earned doctorate degrees or are performing professionally. Three current students and one alumnus are members of the Kansas City Chiefs Rumble Drum Line, a professional drum line that plays at every Chiefs home game.

"My greatest joys are performing with the students and seeing the students succeed."

Dennis earned a bachelor of music-percussion performance, and a master of music-percussion performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He also earned a master of arts-adult and continuing education, an educational specialist degree, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the UMKC School of Education.

Dennis has been the recipient of several merit awards from Missouri Western, and in 2005, the first year for the award, he received the Distinguished Professor Award. Additionally, he has published five books relating to percussion, and his performing has taken him around the world.

In 2007, Dennis received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Missouri Western Alumni Association. He had been nominated by two former students, Kevin Griffin and Darren Verbick. "Dennis continually maintains a high musical standard for his students and ensembles," they wrote in the nomination letter. "At the same time, he teaches students to be business minded, professional, ethical, moral, responsible, and happy in their education, career, and in their lives."

Dennis keeps busy as a clinician and instructor, working with band directors throughout the region. He also gives private lessons to percussionists to prepare them for college, and many enroll at Missouri Western. During semester breaks, he is often an artist in residence for a week at elementary schools. Last April, he traveled with the Park Hill South High School symphonic wind ensemble that performed in Carnegie Hall in New York.

And, every chance he gets, Dennis will perform with a steel drum band made up of former Missouri Western students.

"I love my life. I totally love what I do," Dennis said.

Music excellence runs in his family. His brother Phil is a recording studio owner and keyboardist, and his brother Kevin is a guitarist and vocalist found on more than 80 albums. Kevin performed on campus as part of last spring's eXtreme Percussion performances.

Also for that performance, Dennis arranged for Rascal Flatts drummer Jim Riley to perform and to hold master-classes with students.

And after all these years, he says students really haven't changed much. "I still see the same passion to succeed, the desire to work hard and be the best they can be." ■



Dr. Dennis Rogers directs musicians at an eXtreme Percussion rehearsal last spring.



A tag-along's guide to the

Every August, the Barbershop Harmony Society holds Harmony University, a weeklong music education workshop, on campus.

I decided it was time to find out a little bit more about the hundreds of barbershop quartet members who descend on Missouri Western every summer and entertain us in four-part harmony while we work.

So I arranged to shadow a Harmony U. attendee, and at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4, the fifth day of the workshop, I found myself sitting in on their general session in the Potter Hall theater.

I've been to a lot of conferences and workshops before, but this was the first general session I had ever been to where the participants were required to b-r-e-e-a-the, stretch their tongues, massage their throats and sing. Hearing

an entire theater of barbershoppers singing was a great way to start the day!

So that was my first surprise, because I just expected something like general announcements; I didn't expect to hear a chorus of 500 singing, "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do," so early in the morning.

But speaking of announcements, the man who gave the announcements threw in a pretty good pun. In the music world, the term "woodshedding" means practicing, so the announcer said, "How much wood would a woodshedder shed if a woodshedder could shed wood?" Answer: "A chord or two!"

Now I thought that joke was funny, even though I didn't know what a "woodshedder" was at the time. But I have to admit that the speakers did say some things in the general session that everyone laughed at but me. I just didn't know all the barbershopper jargon.

After the general session, I got my second surprise. I would not be following around an individual; I was going to shadow a whole quartet! In all the years that I had seen the barbershoppers come and go, I never realized that there were actually three conference tracks or "colleges" to the workshop: quartets, individu-

als and directors. In the quartet college, the four members attend every session together.

My quartet was Chordiology, from southeastern Michigan. Dave Spizarny, Rob Pettigrew and Paul Ellinger had been part of Chordiology since it began 22 years ago, and Clifton Dake had been in the quartet for 12 years. Paul, the lead, owns an insurance agency. Clifton, the tenor, is in industrial sales. Rob is the baritone and an IT guy for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. And Dave, who sings bass, is a radiologist.

The quartet has performed all over the Midwest, and in 2007, they were named champions in their district.

"Our love for singing and barbershopping got us started," Rob said. "But we are best friends, and that's what kept us together for over 20 years. We feel blessed to hang out with our friends and make incredible music together."

Paul performed with an a cappella pop group for 11 years in addition to performing with Chordiology. "This is 10 times harder, but more rewarding," he said of barbershop music.

"I was brought up singing barbershop and I was hooked on it immediately," Clifton said. His father was in a barbershop chorus that won the first international competition ever held.

Chordiology members Clifton Dake, Paul Ellinger, Dave Spizarny and Rob Pettigrew sing for Rik Johnson.

Rob said his homeroom teacher in high school was also the choir director, and "she told me I was going to join the choir." The first song she taught them was a barbershop song.

Dave, too, was in high school when he was first introduced to barbershop singing, when their choir wanted to play a trick on a student during their performance. The student was going to be in a barber chair and didn't know that he'd get covered with shaving cream. The teacher said they needed to learn a barbershop song, so they went to a local barbershop quartet's rehearsal. "I was walking down the hall and I thought it was 100 guys singing, and it was one quartet," Dave said. He was hooked.



based on those criteria, and each quartet meets individually with a coach. They meet with the same four coaches all week, so each quartet who attends Harmony U. gains huge amounts of information and insight tailored just for them.

Rik Johnson worked with Chordiology on singing. Employed at IBM in O'Fallon, Mo., he was originally a music major in college and wanted to be a music teacher, so Harmony U. fulfills that dream, he said. Barry Towner, who was the quartet's overall performance coach, is an executive management consultant from Toronto. The week after this Harmony U., he was heading to Germany to coach at its Harmony U. Incidentally, the coaches do not get paid for Harmony U.; they all volunteer their time.

Harmony universe

by Diane Holtz

All four men had attended Harmony U. before and couldn't say enough good things about it. "The best coaches in the Society are here," Dave said. "These are the experts at barbershop and the best teachers."

Our first session was for all the quartets. Paul pointed out a gentleman at the session that had been named the best tenor in the history of the Harmony Barbershop Society.

Two quartets stood out in the crowd - one that consisted of two married couples, called "The Honeymooners," and one a quartet of high schoolers. Women barbershoppers are called Sweet Adelines, and since 1992, women have been allowed in at Harmony U. But a quartet of two men and two women is still an unusual sight at the workshop. And the high schoolers? Well, most of the quartet members are probably closer to middle age or older, but the number of young barbershoppers is growing.

This particular session offered tips on self-coaching your group and offered sage advice even if you weren't part of a barbershop quartet: For every "gentle suggestion," give two positive comments. Another session that week had focused on marketing your quartet, another on contracts.

On our way to the next session, we stopped to visit with the Reens family from Greensburg, Ind. Mom, dad and three sons ages 13, 11 and 10 were attending Harmony U. for the first time. "We've been singing since we were babies," said Bernard, age 10.

The quartet's next sessions helped me understand the great value of Harmony U. When quartets compete, they are judged on four criteria - singing, music, presentation and overall performance. So four sessions each day are

While my quartet went to lunch, I stopped by the "office" to visit with Sherry Lewis, who works for the Harmony Barbershop Society at its headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. She was serving as the registrar this year for the first time. Although it was only Sherry's third year at Western, Harmony U. has been holding its workshops on Western's campus every year but one since the mid-1970s. "It's because of the high level of cooperation of your conference staff," she told me. "We've looked at other places, but we can't locate a better staff."

She also told me that they had attendees this year from 10 foreign countries, including New Zealand and Japan, and someone from every state in the United States. "If we're missing a state, I can't think what it would be. We even have someone from Alaska." Some years, there has been as many as 600 barbershoppers, but this year, the number was closer to 500.

I attended two more sessions with my quartet. Phrases such as "awesome breaths," "magical transitions," and "lyrical resolution" liberally peppered the lessons. In the last session, my quartet performed the song they were planning to sing Friday night, when every quartet performs in Potter Hall theater. The guys had made up their own words to "Nevertheless" that had me laughing through the whole number.

After that session, I visited with Rob, Clifton, Paul and Dave for a little while longer and then I got up to leave. Wait! The quartet wanted to serenade me with "Don't Be a Baby, Baby" before I left. What more could a girl ask for? It was a perfect ending to a fun day. ■



From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

"Tis the season of giving. When I became president of the Alumni Association, I made a pledge that 100 percent of the alumni board would donate to the Missouri Western Annual Fund. In fact, I would like to see 100 percent of alumni give to the Annual Fund.

I feel that strongly about the opportunities we as alumni can give to students.

Our gifts, large or small, can impact their lives. Through us, alumni who benefitted from others' gifts, our students receive:

- Scholarships
- Enhanced academic programs
- Opportunities to travel through study away programs
- Opportunities to participate in faculty-sponsored research
- An aesthetic and beautiful campus
- Enhanced campus life and student activities

I say this not because I'm paid to do so, far from it. I don't receive a thing from Missouri Western other than the feeling that I get knowing that my gifts as a volunteer and a donor matter.

For many years, our Junior College alumni and the St. Joseph community have supported Missouri Western. Now it's our turn. Without Missouri Western, many of us wouldn't be where we are today. We owe our support to future generations of alumni.

So I challenge you to join me in making a gift to the Annual Fund. For less than \$10 a month, you can join the Western League for Excellence. Make this your New Year's resolution.



Randy Klein '78

Randy Klein

President, Missouri Western Alumni Association

Alumna named president of Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Esther George '80, was appointed president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 15.

"On behalf of the board of directors, I congratulate Esther on her appointment as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City," said Paul DeBruce, chair of the Bank's board of directors. "Esther is a great leader who possesses an extraordinary depth of knowledge of the financial system and the economy that will enable her to carry out the tradition of excellence at the Kansas City Fed. We are confident that she will uphold the high standards of performance at this Bank and will be a strong voice for Main Street on national policy issues."

"It is a privilege to have this opportunity to lead the Bank as it continues to fulfill its key missions of conducting monetary policy, providing financial services and su-

pervising and regulating financial institutions," Esther said in a news release from the Federal Reserve Bank. "The financial and economic landscape is changing in our region and around the world, and I am mindful of the challenges ahead. I am honored to be selected to serve."

Esther graduated from Missouri Western with a bachelor of science in business administration in management. She joined the Federal Reserve Bank in 1982 and served as a commissioned bank examiner until 1995, when she was named to the Bank's official staff. She has held numerous leadership positions at the Bank within its research support, public affairs and human

resources functions. She was named first vice president and chief operating officer in 2009.

Esther has made presentations at the Bank for International Settlement's Financial Stability Institute programs in Lima, Peru; Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.; and Sin-

gapore. She also has served as the Tenth District's lead officer for international partnership programs involving the central banks of Morocco, Iraq and Malawi.

She holds an MBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking and the Stanford University Executive Program. She currently serves on the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank's news release, Esther will rotate with other regional Bank presidents as a voting member on the Federal Open Market Committee, which has authority over U.S. monetary policy. She will participate in FOMC meetings with her appointment as president and will be a voting member in 2013.

As the regional headquarters of the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and its branches serve the seven states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Missouri. ■



Esther George '80



Griffin Hartmann, named after Missouri Western's mascot, is pictured with his parents and sister.

Griffin Hartmann predates Griffon Doornink!

In the Fall 2011 issue of the magazine, we featured Ben and Dana Doornink, who named their baby boy Griffon after Missouri Western's mascot. At the end of that article, I asked if anyone else had named their sons after the Griffon. Here is a response I received from Lisa Taylor-Hartmann '89. Her husband, David Hartmann, was a professor, scenic designer and technical director for Missouri Western from 1986 to 1990:

As cute as baby Griffon Doornink is, he is not the first to be named in honor of our beloved MWSU Griffon! Griffin Gray Hartmann was born on June 11, 1993, and named in honor of the Missouri Western Griffon where his parents met and fell in love. Sound scandalous? It wasn't! The one class I did have with "Professor Hartmann" I received a "B," and we didn't actually begin dating until after my graduation. We were married in the summer of 1990 and in attendance was the majority of MWSC's administration!

We moved to South Carolina after our wedding, where David has taught, designed, and built scenery at Clemson University for over 21 years. He is currently serving as the chair of the department of performing arts. I am an elementary school teacher teaching third- through fifth-grade English/Language Arts and Gifted & Talented students.

Griffin graduated from the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics in May and is now a freshman at Brown University in Providence,

R.I. He is studying neuroscience but has a dramatic flair like his mom and dad! He is a member of Brown's oldest dance troupe, Fusion, and he also enjoys filmmaking.

The Hartmann family has a beautiful daughter too! Rylee Taylor Hartmann – we call her "Rouby" after the famous St. Joseph founder Joseph Robidoux. She is 16 and a junior at Seneca High School.

My father, Lynn Richard Taylor, after serving in the Vietnam War, returned to MWSC, graduating in 1972 with his B.S. degree in political science and business administration. Lynn was a nontraditional student – a married father of two – but active on campus and in the community nonetheless. He served as senior class president, but was most proud of implementing the veterans' program at MWSC.

Thanks for the update, Lisa! ■

Drive with pride!

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



NEWS Briefs

Alumni Family Scholarships

The following students were awarded 2011 Alumni Family Scholarships, which are for incoming freshmen who have at least one parent who is an alumnus/alumna:

- Emily Anderson, Liberty, Mo., daughter of Susan '97, and Robert '87, Anderson.
- Marinda Baker, Amazonia, Mo., daughter of Brenda Howard '04.
- Andrew Basch, Kansas City, Mo., son of Wendy Basch '99.
- John Beamon, St. Joseph, son of Michelle (Parker) Beamon '75.
- Kaitlyn Christian, St. Joseph, daughter of Joyce (Freeman) Christian, '81.
- Tyler Coder, St. Joseph, son of Gary Coder '90.
- Kristine Daugherty, Bogard, Mo., daughter of John '81, and Jill '85, Daugherty.
- Michelle Edmondson, St. Joseph, daughter of Lisa '90, and John '88, (deceased) Edmondson.
- Alyson Hill, St. Joseph, daughter of Kerri Hill '97.
- Brittany Kearns, Brookfield, Mo., daughter of Shawn Kearns '89.
- Aubrey Kimbrell, Maysville, Mo., daughter of Christa Kimbrell '03.
- Nathan Middleton, St. Joseph, son of Renae (Dorrel) Middleton '89.
- James Mrkvicka, St. Joseph, son of James Mrkvicka Jr. '86.
- Eric Muehlbach, St. Joseph, son of James Muehlbach '79.
- Amanda Paden, St. Joseph, son of Kenneth Paden '72.
- Mitchell Pierson, Lathrop, Mo., son of Elizabeth (Weir) Pierson-Poe '86.
- James Schoonover, Fairfax, Mo., son of Kayla Morgan Schoonover '77.
- Nicole Teeter, Stewartville, Mo., daughter of Nancy Coon '89.
- Jessica Thornton, St. Joseph, daughter of Karolyn Schmitz Thornton '94.

A new Legacy Scholarship will be established for fall 2012; this is the last year the Alumni Family Scholarship will be awarded. ■



Eight recognized at 2011 Awards Banquet

The Alumni Association honored eight individuals at their annual awards banquet on October 20. Selected for the Distinguished Alumni Awards were Jacqueline Lewin '66, Bernie Patterson '73, Rob Schaaf '79, and Eric Bruder '93. GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award recipients were Shannon Brewer '01, and Kylee Strough '03. Jane Frick was the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient and Dave Shinneman was awarded the Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University.

Jackie Lewin '66

Distinguished Alumni Award

Jackie Lewin was a high school history teacher when she began working part-time at the St. Joseph Museum. That made her realize she really liked museum work, which led to a full-time job there. Today she is the executive director of St. Joseph Museums, Inc.

Jackie graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College with an associate degree in 1966. She earned a B.S. in education with a political science major and history minor and an M.A. in history, with an emphasis in American History, from Northwest Missouri State University.

She began working for the museum in 1973, and has served as head of research, curator of history, site administrator and assistant director of external affairs. She has been executive director since 2006.

Dr. Bernie Patterson '73

Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Bernie Patterson graduated with a criminal justice degree and has spent more than 30 years in higher education. In 2010, he was named chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

His career in higher education began in 1977, when he was 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 at Valdosta, then Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia College and State University. In 2002, Bernie became Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Oklahoma City University.

He holds a Ph.D. and a master of arts in criminology from State University of New York at Albany, and an education specialist degree and a master of science from Central Missouri State University.

Sen. Rob Schaaf '79

Distinguished Alumni Award

In addition to his duties as a Missouri State Senator, Sen. Rob Schaaf is a physician and chair of the board of Missouri Doctors Mutual Insurance Co., a company that provides medical liability insurance to Missouri doctors. Rob helped form the company in 2004, and it employs approximately 50 people in downtown St. Joseph.

Rob was born in St. Louis but moved to St. Joseph in elementary school. At Missouri Western, he was a math major, with minors in biology and physics. He decided to become a doctor in his junior year, and was the only pre-med student at Missouri Western at the time. He earned his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1983.

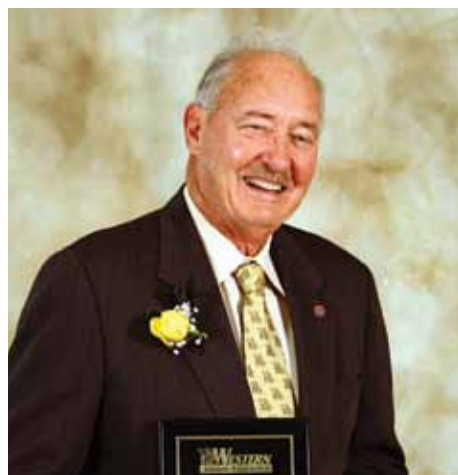
Rob was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002 and served four two-year terms. In 2010, he was elected to the 34th Senatorial District, representing Buchanan and Platte counties.

Eric Bruder '93

Distinguished Alumni Award

Eric Bruder began working at WireCo WorldGroup as an intern when he was a student at Missouri Western. When he graduated with an electronics engineering degree, he began working for them full time and is now the Chief Operating Officer for the company.

Eric played football for the Griffons and still holds many school records. Eric served in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and in 1989, he was named U.S. Army Soldier of the Year, selected



Shannon Brewer, Kylee Strough and Dave Shinneman. Top, p. 23: Alumni Association President Randy Klein, Rob Schaaf, Eric Bruder, Jane Frick, Bernie Patterson, Jackie Lewin and Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president.



from more than 200,000 soldiers who were serving in Europe at the time.

He earned an MBA from Rockhurst University in 2000. Eric was awarded Missouri Western Athletic Department's Silver Anniversary Award in 2010 and the Engineering Technology Community Excellence Award in 2011.

Dr. Shannon Brewer '01

GOLD Award

Dr. Shannon Brewer earned a biology degree with an emphasis in conservation and wildlife management. She is currently a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey as the assistant unit leader for the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. She also facilitates graduate student education and is an adjunct professor at Oklahoma State University.

Shannon said she loved the opportunities for research and extra projects as a biology major at Missouri Western. A part-time job with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a junior made her realize there were a lot of career opportunities with fisheries.

She went on to earn a master's and doctorate in fisheries and wildlife sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Kylee Strough '03

GOLD Award

After graduating with a bachelor of science in business administration with a marketing emphasis, Kylee Strough was working in her family's business when her uncle encouraged her to volunteer at the United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Within a year, she was hired as the campaign director there. In 2007, she became the director of resource development, and the vice president of development in 2009. In August 2010, she became president of the nonprofit agency.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph's annual campaign raises over \$3 million, funding 19 partner agencies and seven of their own programs.

Kylee, a native of St. Joseph, was appointed to Missouri Western's Board of Governors in 2008 and currently serves as Board Chair. She served on the search committee for the Dean of the Craig School of Business and is on the university's centennial committee.

Special Presentation

Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement, joined the university in 2004 and has made significant contributions to the Missouri Western and St. Joseph communities ever since. Dan will retire in June 2012 (see p. 2). For his ardent support of Missouri Western, its students and its alumni, Dan was awarded an Honorary Alumni Award at the 2011 Awards Banquet.

Dr. Jane Frick

Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Jane Frick has been a professor of English at Missouri Western since 1972. She served as chair of the English, Foreign Languages and Journalism Department from 1982 to 2001, and is currently the coordinator for the Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing and Master of Applied Sciences, Writing Option.

Jane became the director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project in 1999 and holds that position today. As director, she has secured grants totaling \$637,000 between 2000 and 2011.

Jane earned a bachelor of science in English from Drake University, a master of arts in English from the University of Northern Colorado and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an English emphasis from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

She was awarded the Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching award in 1988.

Dave Shinneman

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

Since he retired in 2007, Dave Shinneman has become one of Missouri Western's most valuable volunteers. He served as chair of the Craig School of Business Advisory Council and is now chairing the council's Entrepreneurship Committee. Dave is also a member of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors.

A native of Illinois, Dave was a high school chemistry teacher for many years before he and his wife, Sonja, became owners of a McDonald's restaurant in Chillicothe, Mo. Later, the couple bought a McDonald's in Cameron, Mo. In 1990, they bought three McDonald's in St. Joseph and eventually opened two more in the city.

Because Dave knows what it takes to open up a new store, his entrepreneurship expertise has been invaluable to the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory entrepreneurship program in the Craig School of Business. He has travelled to several states to help the Missouri Western graduates get ready to open their stores. ■

Alumni abroad

Korea:

Natalie '08, and Kenney '09,
Newville and Erica Neier '08



No one would be surprised to discover that it sometimes takes awhile for college graduates to find careers in their fields after they graduate. That was the case for Natalie (Bailey) Newville, who graduated in May 2008 with double majors in history, and government and public affairs, and her husband, Kenney, who graduated with a history degree in December 2009. They were both working in retail stores while they searched for better jobs.

Meanwhile, fellow alumna Erica Neier, who graduated in December 2008, was having a hard time looking for work in her field of speech communication. She was working as a waitress when a job offer from a company fell through, so she began researching jobs overseas. Erica discovered English-teaching opportunities in South Korea and began teaching English in Daegu, South Korea, in July 2010.

She told the Newvilles how much she enjoyed it, so they started researching, and they began teaching in Busan in January 2011.

Erica, Natalie and Kenney are three of an estimated 22,000 English-speaking persons from all over the world currently living and teaching in South Korea. In the 2010-11 academic year, Erica taught English at a private academy in Daegu, and this year she is teaching at a Montessori preschool. Natalie and Kenney are teaching at You and i English Academy, and have signed on for a second year.

The private, for-profit academies are known as hagwons, and they are a familiar sight in South Korea. Korean students attend regular school during the day and attend the academies in late afternoon and evenings. There are hagwons for the arts and sciences, as well, but many are for students to learn English. Natalie said

their students, ranging in ages from five to 16, attend the academy for five or six hours a week.

The three say living in Korea, which is very Westernized, has been an amazing experience.

"I never thought I'd go to Asia, but I'm so glad I went," Erica said. "I love it. I feel so privileged to experience the culture and society."

Natalie said she had travelled abroad as a student at Missouri Western, even spending three weeks in Afghanistan, but always felt the trips were too short. "Living in another country is so different from visiting. It seemed like such

a good opportunity to work with my husband and experience something neither of us had before."

Erica laughs about the money she saves on clothes while living in Korea, since she is unable to buy clothes in her size. "As a tall blonde, I really stand out in Korea," Erica said. Kenney's height of 5' 11" has garnered many stares, as well. "I'm talking full eye contact, watching our every move and turning in place as we pass by type of staring," he said.

Erica joined a roller blade team where all 12 members are Caucasian, which brings even more stares. "It's an unusual sight. Kids follow us and want pictures and autographs."

Resources

Natalie (Bailey) Newville '08, said three websites were particularly helpful for her and her husband, Kenney '09, when they were looking into moving to South Korea to teach English:

- www.eatyourkimchi.com
- www.saykimchirecruiting.com
- www.teacheskorea.com

To Natalie's surprise, she found she likes Korean food. "There's so much more to Korean food than kimchi (a popular food with hundreds of varieties)," she said. "But if there was a way to mail a diet vanilla Dr. Pepper to me, I'd be in heaven!"

Kenney says he misses Sonic's Happy Hour Route 44s and Arby's roast beef sandwiches. "There is absolutely nothing like a roast beef sandwich here."

The language differences have presented several challenges for the trio. Luckily for Kenney and Natalie, the academy's owner speaks fluent English, so that has helped a lot. "I'll never forget how important communication is," said Natalie of their experience. "It can be so hard not being able to talk to people, whether it's the waiter at a restaurant or a doctor at a hospital, or to our students. We can't even do something as simple as ask for no pickles on a sandwich."

Kenney noted that the native alphabet of the Korean language is considered the third hardest language for an American to learn. He said he has learned how to read most of the language, although speaking is still difficult.

Natalie, from Sedalia, Mo., said she visited campus as a high schooler and never applied anywhere else. She was involved in a lot on campus, including serving as Student Government Association president. "I learned as much inside the classroom as I did outside the classroom."

Kenney, from St. Joseph, spent one year at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., before transferring to Missouri Western. "It started out as 'just the hometown university,' but I wouldn't trade my time at Western for any

other university," he said. "I especially value my classes spent in the department of my major."

Erica, from New Bloomfield, Mo., didn't decide to attend Missouri Western until August after she graduated from high school. She really didn't want to go to Missouri Western, but after spending her first three days here at the Griffon Edge orientation, she knew she had made the right decision.

Like Natalie, Erica was involved in a number of organizations, including Residence Council, Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and student senate. "There were so many opportunities at Western. I couldn't have done all I did at a smaller school."

After studying a semester in Prague, Czech Republic, as a college student, Erica caught the "overseas bug." For her, the greatest experience has been meeting people from all over the world and learning about different cultures.

"I love being an American, but I love being a global citizen."

South Africa: Katie Roebling '11

For Katie Roebling '11, moving to South Africa was all about answering God's call to serve as a missionary. After graduating with a graphic design degree in May 2011, Katie headed to Johannesburg, South Africa in August as part of the International Mission Board's Hands On program. She worked as a graphic designer for the program and shared her faith with the locals, returning to the United States last month.

"I just knew God was leading me to it and calling me to go," she says. "The entire experience has been one adventure after the other."

Her ministries and experiences included caring for AIDS orphans and babies while agencies try to find adoptive homes for the children, working at a soup kitchen and teaching English as a second language in a small rural, Christian school.

Katie's favorite experience, however, was learning to use henna to teach Bible stories. Hennas are temporary tattoos named for the dyes from the henna plant. "Henna is a huge part of South Asian and Muslim culture," Katie said. "The women of these cultures put beautiful designs on their hands and feet." Katie shared Bible stories with children through henna drawings on her hands.

She lived in a modern apartment with two other women who were involved in the ministry. "I was completely surprised by how similar South Africa is to America. I had this misconception that I would be living out in the bush in a mud hut somewhere."

Katie says she would definitely recommend traveling and living abroad, even for just a few months.

"Coming over to South Africa has truly been the chance of a lifetime for me," she said. "I will never forget the wonderful people I've met or the ministries I am involved with." ■

Left to right: Kenney and Natalie Newville; Katie Roebling in South Africa; Katie's hand with henna.



Calendar

FEB. 21 6th annual Mardi Gras

Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks in St. Joseph

MARCH 1-4 MIAA Championship Tournament

Kansas City, Mo. gathering for alumni and friends.

MARCH 28 Kansas City Business Network breakfast

APRIL 13-15 Softball Reunion

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the national championship!

APRIL 20 Kansas City Alumni Chapter gathering

at Stonehaus Farms Winery, Lee's Summit, Mo.

MAY 20 St. Joseph Junior College Reunion

For more information, go to missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events.

Ashlie Spiegel '98, shows her dismay at her husband, Mark's, Buffalo Buffalo Bills t-shirt at Missouri Western Alumni Day at Arrowhead. Alumni and friends enjoyed a tailgate party in the pavilion across from the stadium.

1980s

JACK JEFFERS '82, is the vice president of quality for Dean Foods in Dallas.

COL. MICHAEL PANKAU '84, was named the commander of the Air National Guard 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Airport in St. Joseph, Mo.

SUSAN (GODAT) FERGUSON '85, is an independent editor, writer and graphic designer. She owns Ninth Month Publishing. She recently published a short story collection, "Gaze: A Collection of Stories," which is available online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

STACEY (HAMBACH) ELLSWORTH '86, was recently inducted into the President's Million Dollar Club as a territory sales manager for Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits of Central Indiana. Stacey is in her 13th year with employee-owned Lifetouch.

JERRY (JAY) MYERS JR. '89, was appointed president and CEO of Archway Auditing Group LLC in O'Fallon, Mo.

1990s

LEANN NEAL REILLY '90, published her second book, "Saint Sebastian's Head." It is available online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble, and bookstores nationwide. Her first book is "The Mermaid's Pendant."

DR. GERRY (NOAH) WALKER '91, was promoted to associate professor of nursing at Park University in Parkville, Mo.

ANTHONY ROBINSON '93, received his master's in human resource management, with distinction, from Keller Graduate School of Management in Cincinnati.

DUANE BRUCE '99 is the assistant dean in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York City. He recently earned a doctorate in higher education administration.



BECKY (ALMOND) STRATMAN '99, and her husband, Curtis, announce the birth of a son, Xavier Curtis, on Dec. 18, 2010. He joins a sister, Isabella Marie.

ALUMnotes

2000s

GINI FITE '99 & '01, of Lenexa, Kan., is a physical therapist assistant and athletic trainer for BOOST Physical Therapy and Sports Performance.

MAGGIE (JAYNES) BEALL '02, is a branch manager and loan officer at the Meadville (Mo.) Banking Center of the Bank of Brookfield-Purdin.

EVAN CLINE '02, recently opened Griffon Auto in St. Joseph, Mo.

LASHANDRA (ACKLIN) '02, and LEE '04, SHEPARD announce the birth of a daughter, Trinity Leigh, on Oct. 14, 2010. She joins a brother, Nathaniel, and a sister, Serenity.

J. BRENT '03, and THERESA (HELM) '04, GERLING announce the birth of a son, Ty Louis, May 6, 2011. The couple also has two daughters, Isabella Rose and Ava Louise.

KAYLA TUCKER '03, and RICK SANDERS '06, were married Oct. 16, 2010 in Excelsior Springs, Mo. The couple resides in Trimble, Mo.

BREANN (BAKER) '05, and SCOTT '06, BJERTNES announce the birth of a daughter, Ella, in February 2011. She joins a brother Gavin. Scott is a military loan officer for Chase and BreAnn is an at-home mother.

AMY RAMSEY '05, and Dr. Thomas Etter were married Oct. 15, 2011. The couple resides in Olathe, Kan.

LUCAS GORHAM '06, is the leadership and educational resources advisor for the residential life department at University of Missouri-Columbia.

JONATHAN BEST '07, received the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor, for saving the life of a fellow officer.

LEON DOUGLAS '07, was named head football coach at North Kansas City High School in North Kansas City, Mo.

From "Western Weekly" to Nebraska nightly

As a Missouri Western student, Colleen Williams loved video production and figured she'd have a great career behind a camera. But when the college debuted the student-produced "Western Weekly" in 1994, she was encouraged to audition for the anchor spot. Colleen became the college's first anchor for the show, and has been in front of the camera ever since. Today she is the weeknight news anchor at Nebraska TV, KGHI, Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney.

"It just happened and I ended up feeling at ease and at home in front of the camera," Colleen said. "From my perspective 20 years later, it just seemed like it was all meant to be."

Max Schlesinger, who was the director of the Instructional Media Center at the time, said space for a television studio on campus was part of the Hearn Center addition that was completed in 1990, but they had no equipment for it. In 1993, Kansas City's WDAF television station was installing a new news set in its studio, and WDAF personnel said they would donate their old set to Missouri Western if the college would dismantle and remove it.

There was a catch – Missouri Western personnel had to arrive after the last evening news broadcast and remove the set by 6 a.m. the next morning. Max said he, several employees and students arrived at the station at midnight on the appointed day with tools, dismantled the entire set and loaded it into a moving van. It took them practically all night, but the job was completed by the 6 a.m. deadline.

The set included two news desks with backdrops, the weather set, and a green screen. Additionally, the Missouri Western Foundation contributed approximately \$250,000 to equip the studio and studio control rooms with the necessary television production equipment.

"Western Weekly," which was directed, reported, anchored, recorded, and edited entirely by students, debuted with Colleen as the anchor in October 1994. She said her first story was about a coffee cart opening in one of the buildings. "There was just a handful of us working on it," she said of "Western Weekly." "It was one-man-banding at its best."

Shortly after she began her stint as "Western Weekly" anchor, Colleen became a general assignment reporter for KQTV, then a weekend anchor in Kirksville, Mo., and later the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. anchor in Kearney, Neb.

When she married, she and her husband, Chris, moved to New York City, where Colleen was a free-lance reporter for Fashion TV and Entertainment Weekly, among others.

They returned to the Midwest four years later and Colleen became the 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. anchor at NTV.

"I have an amazing job. I get to talk for a living," she said. "I couldn't have dreamed of a better career." She said she has met many incredible people, including two United States presidents.

Colleen said choosing Missouri Western was an easy decision. When she was a high school student in Gallatin, Mo., a Missouri Western student from Gallatin returned to her high school to speak about the college, and Colleen decided to schedule a campus visit.

"I was sold the first minute I stepped on campus. I felt this was where I wanted to spend the next four years," she said.

That first year, when it was time to register for her third semester classes, she hadn't really selected a major yet and was registering for general studies courses. One choice was Introduction to Video Production taught by Dr. Robert Nulph, and she selected it only because it met at 10 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. It immediately became her favorite class and her major, which led to the "Western Weekly" experience and to a career in broadcasting.

"I can say with 100 percent certainty that none of this would have happened without Missouri Western. My whole career has been directed by my experience at Missouri Western." ■



2000s

KELLI KLINE '07, and Jared Zuckerman were married July 23, 2011 in Kansas City, Mo. The couple resides in Kansas City.

MINDY (SOUTHARD) '07, and KYLER '07, KEITH announce the birth of a daughter, Evalynn Rose, born May 20, 2011.

JEREMY WILDER '07, and Laura Dooley were married July 9, 2011, in New Bloomfield, Mo. Jeremy is an admissions representative for William Woods University, and began the MBA in accounting program this past fall. The couple resides in Fulton, Mo.

AUTUMN (TODD) FOULK '08, and her husband, Josh, announce the birth of a daughter, Winter Sage, born, July 31, 2011. The couple married July 17, 2010. ■

In Memory ...

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

SHIRLEY M. (BAILEY) BUTRUM '87, Prue, Okla., Aug. 31, 2011.

VIOLET E. (CLARK) GILMORE '73, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 18, 2011.

RONALD E. GRIFFIN '78, St. Joseph, Mo., July 4, 2011.

RITA J. HARMON '92, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 25, 2011.

MARGARET ELLEN KEMP '72, King City, Mo., June 11, 2011.

GRACE VOGELMAN MINOR '36, Melbourne, Fla., July 27, 2011.

RUSSELL T. SCOTT '60, Tyler, Texas, May 28, 2011.

Missouri Western offers family and friends the opportunity to donate a *memorial bench* in memory of their loved ones. Each bench is a six foot cast iron bench with recycled plastic slats in a cedar finish and a black frame that is bolted to a cement pad. Every bench is also inset with up to two, 2" x 10" x 5/16" thick bronze cast plaque. The cost of a bench with the cement pad is \$4,000 and plaques on the bench are \$225 each. Donors may choose from several campus locations for placement of the bench. For more information, contact the development office at 816-271-5648 or go online to www.missouriwestern.edu/development/MemorialBenchProgram.asp.

Tell us what's new!

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Spouse _____ Class of _____

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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.

Homecoming 2011





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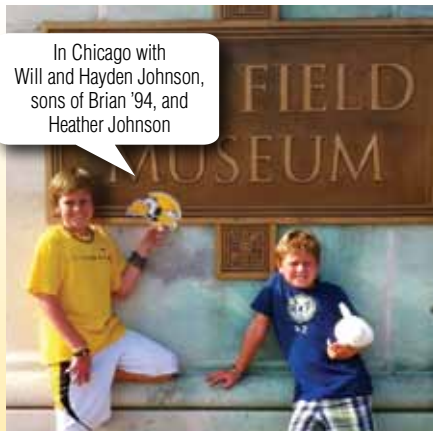
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We asked, you delivered! (Max, that is!)

Max showed up all over the place, from national monuments to sky-high adventures. Thanks to all our alumni and families who participated!



In Chicago with Will and Hayden Johnson, sons of Brian '94, and Heather Johnson



In the sky above MWSU with Ricky Brown '00



In South Korea with Natalie, Kenney and Erica (see pg. 24)



Corban and Landan Springs, sons of Angie '02, and Josh Springs.



Patrisha and Josie on Jen Jen in New Mexico; submitted by Jeffery Schoenbacher '87



Drum Major Kendra Stevenson, daughter of Kay '97 and Keith Stevenson, at a band competition in Charleston, Mo.



Look at me! I'm with the Alumni Association Board of Directors!



In Washington, DC with Noah and Madison Johnson, children of Scott and Christina Johnson