

Missouri Western

The Magazine of Missouri Western State College • Spring 2003



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

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Missouri Western State College is an equal opportunity institution.



President's Perspective

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This is the inaugural issue of the *Western* magazine. We expect to use the magazine as one means to communicate with alumni and friends about Missouri Western State College, and about the "Western Advantage" that the College continues to offer students and others on the campus and in the world beyond the campus.

At Western, we point with pride to the success of our students and programs. Our students continue to succeed wonderfully as a result of their work with faculty and staff at the College. They are admitted to law school and medical school at a rate well above the national average. They pass licensure examinations in nursing and other health professions at levels above the state and national averages. They exceed state expectations on the National Teacher's Examination, placing Western in the top group of public colleges and universities in Missouri.

Last year, our teacher education program was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Carnegie Foundation as one of four exemplary programs in the nation in assessing student learning as a means to strengthen program results. Certain programs in engineering technology are the only programs in Missouri that have received national accreditation. This year, a graduate in economics was one of only 50 applicants from around the world admitted to graduate study at the London School of Economics and International Political Science in England. For students, these accomplishments help to define the "Western Advantage."

Our students, faculty, and staff also bring the "Western Advantage" to the larger community and region. Fully one third of the employees are actively involved in community service. Together they average more than 2,500 hours of community service each month. Students participate actively in service projects in the schools of the area and with human service agencies in the region. Recently, the regional Second Harvest Food Bank presented Western with their Humanitarian Award in recognition of the years of service given by students and employees to the people of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Again, the "Western Advantage" finds a place in our region!

At Western, we look optimistically to the future as we continue to focus on the success of our students and the good of our region. We hope that the *Western* magazine will keep us connected with alumni and friends, as we tell the ongoing story of the "Western Advantage."

Yours sincerely,

James J. Scanlon
President

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Cover photo by Eric Callow



The **BIG** Event

Students spend a day volunteering in community

Ryan Bane actually had a free Saturday last fall. Between working 35 hours a week at the mall and carrying 15 credit hours of classes, almost all his Saturdays were booked. So how did this junior from Blue Springs, Mo. decide to spend his rare day off? He volunteered to help out at Western's Big Event, spending the morning painting for Economic Opportunity Corporation (EOC), a not-for-profit organization in St. Joseph.

Accompanying Ryan were 75 Western students and staff volunteers who contributed a combined 300 service hours at 12 not-for-profit agencies in the community. "Giving back to the community is always a good thing," Ryan said. "I don't get a day off much. I might as well

spend my free time painting."

The Big Event is an example of Western's emphasis on community service. Increasing participation in community service activities and providing service opportunities for students are two of the goals in the five-year strategic plan of the college.

The Big Event, the third one held, was planned by Western's Unity Services Office. Director of Unity Services Danielle Carter said her office coordinates one each semester. The fall event was planned to coincide with the National Make a Difference Day, and the spring event will fall on the Saturday of National Volunteer Week.



Curtese Howard and Lauren Scanlon work on a drywall project at a Habitat for Humanity house. Students volunteered at several locations on the Big Event day.

Danielle said she wants Western students to take more than a college education with them when they graduate – she wants them to leave the College with an attitude of service. "If students commit to service in college, it's more likely they'll make a lifelong commitment," Danielle said. "I think it's important for us to provide students with the opportunity for service. We will know we did something to impact our community now and, hopefully, in the future."

Danielle said she realizes that a lot of students are like Ryan, and they don't have the time to volunteer on a long-term, ongoing basis. She believes the one-time commitment of the Big Event attracts students who do not get a chance to volunteer very often.

But there were exceptions. Elizabeth Aderton, a junior from Savannah, Mo., was a familiar face at the EOC as she painted alongside Ryan. She volunteers 20 hours a week there in the marketing office.

And, working on drywall at the Habitat for Humanity house was Curtese Howard, who said volunteering was second nature to her. "I've always been involved in community service, and

I always get a warm feeling inside," she said. "I just want to help people." Curtese, a senior from St. Louis, is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, a public service sorority on campus, and she noted that members from her sorority have volunteered for each Big Event.

Jim Scanlon, Western's president, and his wife, Lauren, were covered with dust and joint compound at the Habitat for Humanity house. It was Lauren's first Big Event and Dr. Scanlon's second. He noted that he had completed a lot of household projects, but the drywall duty was his first.

Students chose from a variety of service projects, including preparing a meal at a food kitchen, packing food baskets, cleaning toys, replacing batteries in smoke detectors in senior citizens' homes, and playing kick ball with nursing home residents. Danielle said all the organizations were grateful for the help and had positive comments about the student volunteers.

The Big Event is an example of the college's emphasis on community service. Increasing the participation of students, faculty and staff in community service activities and providing service opportunities for students are

Students Ryan Bane and Elizabeth Aderton paint an office at the Economic Opportunity Corporation (EOC) in St. Joseph. The EOC was one of several locations where Western students spent a day doing volunteer projects.



two of the goals in the five-year strategic plan of the college.

"Through service in the community, our students gain a sense of ownership of community issues and a commitment to be involved in solving problems," according to the strategic plan. "They learn what it means to be a member of a community and that they can apply the knowledge and skills they have learned to address community concerns throughout their lives."

"It's really neat to help people," said Brooke Kuykendall, a freshman from Kansas City who served at the food kitchen. "You really feel like you contributed to help someone have a good day. It makes me happy to see people happy, even if it's a small thing." ■

Western receives award for community service

At St. Joseph's 16th annual Mayors' Thanksgiving Dinner, Missouri Western State College received this year's Humanitarian Award for its service to the community. The award was given to recognize the College's volunteer support of America's Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater St. Joseph, where students volunteered and departments and organizations on campus held food drives for them.

The award is symbolic of Western's commitment to community service. Last year, faculty and staff at Western gave close to 2,500 hours per month in volunteer service to the community, and almost 100 served on organization boards.

About 500 students were also actively involved in service to the community in the past year. Along with projects such as the Big Event, Western students tutored at area elementary schools, delivered Easter Baskets for the Salvation Army, assisted with Special Olympics and more. In addition, 20 students logged over 4,500 hours in America Reads, a program that helps elementary students improve their literacy skills.

The Unity Services Office coordinates several ongoing service projects, such as nursing home visits, creating greeting cards for the elderly for each holiday, assisting at the campus daycare and working at the St. Joseph Open Door Food Kitchen.

"The benefits by the people of Western to the people of the larger community, many of whom are in great need, are manifold," said Jim Scanlon, Western's president. "It is very necessary work in service to the community." ■

Harvard dean addresses Western's Convocation

Increasing globalization and the information revolution are realities of the 21st century, and although the United States may be the world's only superpower, we cannot act without considering the rest of the world, said Dr. Joseph

"On Sept. 11, we found out that chaotic conditions in poor, weak countries around the world can matter very much to us."

Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go it Alone.

"On Sept. 11, we found out that chaotic conditions in poor, weak



Dr. Joseph Nye (left), featured speaker at the ninth annual Convocation on Critical Issues, poses with Dan Boulware, former Regent president who helped arrange Joseph's visit.

Nye, Western's featured speaker at the ninth annual Convocation on Critical Issues. His topic was "The Paradox of American

countries around the world can matter very much to us," he said.

Joseph, the dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, believes military strength is critical, but said we need to listen to others and pay attention to their views, also.

"If we forge ahead with too little attention to the opinions of others, it will haunt us," he told the audience.

Joseph spoke to 2,000 at the Convocation, and to almost 200 at dinner the evening before. ■

GPS classes offered

People throughout the state took advantage of three Global Positioning System (GPS) courses offered by biology professor Dr. Cary Chevalier at Western last summer and fall.

The three-day workshop is an introductory course to the basic concepts of the GPS, and the class is limited to 10 participants.

"The purpose of the course is to take folks who have little or no knowledge about commercial mapping grade with the GPS," Cary said. "Our goal is to produce a level of competency in the students to take units on their own and to effectively execute programs and produce data for geospatial analysis."

Western alumnus Jeff Partridge enrolled in the summer workshop. He works for the Missouri Department of Conservation. GPS mapping is an integral part of his job, and he felt the workshop was very beneficial.

Last year, Cary was awarded a competitive educational grant by the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

He plans to offer more GPS workshops this year. For more information, contact him at 816-271-4252 or cchev@mwsc.edu. ■

Planetarium show features Lewis and Clark

Communities along the Missouri River are already planning activities in July of 2004 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's visit to the area. For the past year, Western has offered an interesting insight into the expedition that has proven to be popular.

"Navigating with Lewis and Clark" was shown several times at the Bushman Planetarium in the Agenstein Science and Math Building, and the 40 seats were sold out for all six showings.

One evening filled so quickly that Jerry Wilkerson, planetarium director, added a second show the same evening. Several teachers have arranged private showings for their classes.

"The show does a nice job describing how Lewis and Clark determined where they were on their expedition, and how they kept track of where they had been," said Jerry. "It gives the audience a good appreciation of the challenges facing Lewis and Clark in the early 1800s."

Six programs were shown this spring, along with two shows that featured a general astronomy lesson. Jerry plans to schedule more shows in the fall.

The planetarium held its first show in 1969. It underwent a complete renovation in 1998, including an upgrading of the computer-controlled programs. ■

College offers "Challenge" for high school students

Twenty-five area high school students became regular visitors to campus this year when they participated in the newly formed Western Challenge. The course, entitled "Perceptions and Reality," began in October and will continue through the spring semester.

The high school students may also have the opportunity to participate in research projects with Western faculty and students this summer.

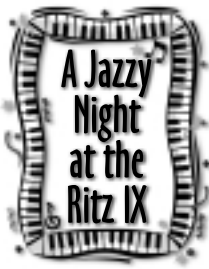
"The Western Challenge was designed for high-performing students who

are looking for a challenging, academically based experience," said Dr. Brian Mann, Western's director of extended campus. "The course will help them prepare for and get a head start on their college career."

Students will earn one college credit after the successful completion of the course, and there are no fees or charges for the course.

Classes are held once every two weeks and are sponsored by Western and the St. Joseph School District. ■

Mark your calendar for "Night at the Ritz"



Plans are underway for the ninth annual "Night at the Ritz," the major fundraiser of the MWSC Ambassadors. This year's event, "Jazzy Night at the Ritz," will be held on Friday, April 25, at the Ramada Inn. Featured entertainment will include Western's Jazz Ensemble, a marimba trio, and Western's steel drum band.

All proceeds of the event fund scholarships for non-traditional students at Western, which is anyone over 25. Last year's event raised approximately \$18,500, and since 1989, the Ambassadors have awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships. ■

Campus KUDOS

- **Taylor Crouse**, a 2002 graduate of the Economics Department, was accepted to the London School of Economics and Political Science. The school accepts only 50 students annually from around the world
- **Dr. Alicia de Gregorio**, of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism (EFLJ) presented "Lo natural y la naturaleza en los personajes femeninos de La Barraca de Blasco" at an international symposium in Madrid.
- **Joanna Stuelke**, a student in the Economics Department, presented a project entitled, "The Effects of the Euro Adoption on the Corresponding Economies" at an international conference in Mexico.
- **Dr. Timothy Holian** of EFLJ received the Annual Award for Excellence in Literature by the American Breweriana Association for his two-volume work.
- **Jill Miller**, chair of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, was awarded the 2002 Status Offenders Challenge Grant on "Study of Confinement of Status Offenders in Missouri" in the amount of \$50,000.
- **Dr. Phil Wann** of Psychology has been appointed consulting editor for the Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research, a publication for student research in the psychological sciences.
- **The Small Business Institute** received the "Best Case" distinction at the district level and their entry, "Platte County Economic Development Council," has been forwarded to the national competition. Students are Tiffany Jenkins, Alicia Stevens, Jonathan Rittman, Nick Gardner and Chad Scheiter.
- **The Developmental Math Program** received the Award for Outstanding Developmental Education Program from the National Association for Developmental Education. ■



Volleyball and football successful in 2002

The Western volleyball team finished the 2002 season in fourth place in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). The Griffons went 19-9 overall and 8-8 in the league. Lindsay Palaia led the team in hitting (3.79 kills per game) and blocking (1.31 blocks per game). Western went 13-4 at home, winning the MWSC Labor Day Invitational.



Lindsay and Mary Pickert were named to the All-Tournament team. Lindsay was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Player. Mary, along with freshman setter Therese Hand, were tabbed Honorable Mention All-MIAA as voted on by the league coaches.

The Griffon football team went 6-5 this past season, getting wins over Winona State and South Dakota in the pre-season and going 4-5 in the MIAA, recording wins over Missouri-Rolla, Washburn, SW Baptist and Missouri Southern.

The Griffon victories over Winona State and Washburn came in overtime, while the Griffs lost their last two games by a total of seven points.

Eric "Ebo" Walker was a First-Team, All-MIAA pick as well as defensive tackle Jason Chancellor. Other Griffons on the MIAA's Second Team were wide receiver Adam Ziesel, offensive lineman Brett Mingee, defensive back Desmond Polk and defensive lineman Eric McDowell.

It was the fourth year in a row the Griffons finished above the .500 mark. ■



Griffon forwards Lynn Stevenson (No. 3), Tyrice Mitchell (No. 33) and Matt Grove (No. 20) battle for a rebound vs. Southwest Baptist University, at the MWSC Fieldhouse.

Important dates to remember

- The Western Department of Athletics will be hosting the 2003 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball "Elite 8" at the St. Joseph Civic Arena, March 26-29. The top eight Division II women's basketball teams in the country advance to St. Joseph to determine its national champion. For ticket information, contact the Department of Athletics at 816-271-4481.
- Missouri Western Athletics is holding its annual Gold Coat fund drive through the month of May. Those who wish to become members of the Gold Coat Club or donate to the program, please call the Department of Athletics at 816-271-4481. ■



Pete Chapman, director of athletics since 1999, died of cancer on Jan. 13 at the age of 53. Although he was at Western a relatively short time, Pete accomplished a great deal, and will be missed by all who knew him.

A message from the Foundation President



Dear Friends,

As president of the Missouri Western State College Foundation, I am keenly aware of the vital role the Foundation plays in assisting Western with its mission to serve as an educational resource for the citizenry. Over the years, the College and the Foundation have worked together to enhance services and programs at Western. I want to extend my personal thanks for the support you have provided.

The Missouri Western State College Foundation is committed to continuing its growth as a vital resource for Western's students, faculty, staff, and the community. The partnership between the College and the Foundation is increasingly important as we continue to work together to meet the challenges of fostering student development with diminishing resources; please continue to contribute to the Foundation.

Thanks to all of those who continue to offer their time, talent and resources. Your support is sincerely appreciated. I look forward to working with you to meet the challenges presented, and continuing to meet the educational aspirations of Western's students and our community.

Bill Cole, President
Missouri Western State College Foundation

Distinguished alumna supports Department of Education

Helen C. Gettys, 1940 graduate of St. Joseph Junior College, provided more than \$46,000 in her estate to support Western's Department of Education. Helen was appointed chair of the Elementary Education Department when Western became a four-year institution in 1969.

"Helen made a significant contribution to Missouri

Western State College, and to the Foundation," said Jim Roeber, Foundation executive director. "She was one of the original founders of the Foundation and served as a member of the Foundation Executive Committee for a number of years."

Helen was recognized for her efforts as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996. ■



Yes, I want to support Missouri Western State College!

Name(s) _____

Maiden _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Graduation Year _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

e-mail _____

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ for
(please check one)

- Alumni Association
 MWSC Foundation

Mastercard Visa Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Western Advantage Scholarship Fund

The Western Advantage Scholarship Fund established by the Missouri Western State College Foundation Board last fall provides a general scholarship fund for Western students. Donors are offered the opportunity to make contributions for student scholarships. Donations may be used as memorials or in honor of someone, and contribute to the endowment for scholarship awards. Recognition of contributions will be published by the Foundation.

The funds will be accumulated until a level of \$50,000 is reached, at which time scholarships will be awarded to students who meet established guidelines.

For more information contact the Foundation Office, 816-271-5647. ■

Scholarship endowments

The Missouri Western State College Foundation Board has established \$10,000 as the minimum amount to establish a "named" scholarship endowment. Contributors are provided two years from the time of initiation to reach the \$10,000 level. Accounts not attaining the \$10,000 within two years will be added to the Western Advantage Scholarship Fund. Please note that scholarship accounts established prior to September 2002 with less than \$10,000 are not affected. ■

For information about estate planning, contact the MWSC Foundation at 816-271-5647 or 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

St. Joseph Junior College alumnus provides for special scholarships

Pete O. Reiplinger, a 1934 alumnus of St. Joseph Junior College, provided an estate gift of more than \$349,000 for Western students. The Reiplinger estate specified the funds be administered by the Missouri Western State College Foundation. The Trust noted special consideration be given to children of members of the St. Joseph Fire Department planning to attend Missouri Western State College. Pete and his wife, Myrtle, lived in St. Joseph, and his father served as a member of the St. Joseph Fire Department.

"We are especially pleased the Reiplingers recognized the importance of supporting the educational pursuits of our community through their estate," said Jim Roever, executive director of the Foundation. "This scholarship will be particularly important for the families of St. Joseph firefighters."

Individuals desiring more information regarding applications for the scholarship may contact the Missouri Western State College Foundation office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507; telephone 816-271-5647; fax 816-271-4134. ■

Unrestricted gifts benefit Western

Year-end drive a success

In these times of decreased state funding, unrestricted contributions are even more important, according to Jim Roever, vice president for institutional advancement. Because donors do not designate these gifts for a specific purpose, the funds help support top priorities or provide seed money for a variety of new initiatives.

"These are difficult times for higher education, and our hope is that our supporters will recognize the need for unrestricted funds to help fill the gap presented with diminishing resources at the state level," Jim said. "Unrestricted gifts are so vital to Western's academic enterprise that they are often described as the greatest gifts donors can make."

A 2002 year-end request to donors, faculty and staff yielded \$61,857. A challenge from several generous donors provided \$60,000 in matching funds for a total of \$121,857.

Unrestricted funds are distributed by the Foundation Board based on recommendations from the College faculty, staff and administration. Examples of programs and projects funded through unrestricted funds include educational opportunities for student travel to conferences to make

presentations, support for special lectures and programs, awards for students and faculty, academic equipment and innovative programs.

"While those of us on the Foundation staff are always available to discuss specific donor wishes, we are also encouraging donors to provide unrestricted funds. These funds can be used to move forward with the goals of

"Unrestricted gifts are so vital to Western's academic enterprise that they are often described as the greatest gifts donors can make."

- Jim Roever, vice president for institutional advancement

our strategic plan for which regular funds are not available in the College budget," Jim said.

To discuss opportunities to contribute to the Foundation please write or telephone the MWSC Foundation, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507; telephone 816-271-5647; fax 816-271-4134. ■

Helene G. Droher Business Development Program established

Western's Department of Business will benefit from a \$250,000 donation that was used to establish the Helene G. Droher Business Development Program as a memorial for Helene Droher.

"I am pleased to provide this support as a lasting memorial in recognition of the efforts of my mother," said Carole Tuttle, who attended St. Joseph Junior College. "Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to develop as productive community members."

She worked with the Foundation staff to establish a program that would reflect the interests of her mother. Helene was a longtime resident of St. Joseph and served as an active member of the community.

"This grant will be very

important to further the educational pursuits of students within the Department of Business," explained Dr. Larry Lawson, chair of Western's Business Department. "We are extremely appreciative of the efforts of Carole and her husband, Fred, as this program will serve as a model for Western donors."

With current budget limitations, Larry said these funds will be "very important as we strive to help students participate in international and multicultural experiences, expand applied learning activities and research, and to develop their individual capacities for knowledge, leadership, and teamwork." The funds will also help the department pursue a prestigious national accreditation. ■



Foundation Board officers for 2002-2003 are, from left, Stan Hall, vice president, Bill Cole, president, Richard Rochambeau, treasurer, and George Richmond, secretary.

Life on the Color Line

Award-winning author captivates audiences at Western

“I urge all of you to find ways to show another human being that his or her life is of value and merit.”



Dr. Gregory Williams (right), pictured here with Dr. David Arnold, visited Western in October. His book, “Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black”, was required reading for all Griffon Edge students.

500 about his life experiences as told in his autobiography, “Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black.” The book was chosen for a common reading program at Western this year and was required reading for new students who participated in the Griffon Edge orientation

program. It was also the topic of a Brown Bag Lunch discussion series, and many faculty members used the book in their classes.

Until he was nine years old, Gregory related, he lived in Virginia in a white, middle class neighborhood. His father owned a bar and restaurant. When his parents divorced, he and his younger brother stayed with his father, who was an alcoholic. Six months after his mother left, his father had lost the business, their home and all their possessions, and the family was living in poverty. His father decided to move back to his hometown of Muncie, Ind.

On the bus trip to Muncie, Gregory found out that he would be living with his father’s family, and not his mother’s as he believed. That was when he found out his father’s family of origin was African American. “The greatest change in my life was in January 1954 on a Greyhound bus somewhere in Ohio,” he told the audience.

“By the laws of the day in the United States, I was black. Everything I believed in was a lie – I lost my entire identity. Even at age 10, I knew how the benefits and rewards in America were structured, and I didn’t want to be black. In those days, being black sentenced me to a life more challenging than I could have ever imagined.”

Gregory told campus and community members that he had seen segregation all around him when he was growing up in Virginia, but he never considered the injustice of that situation until he began living as a black person.

“I was devastated by our poverty and bewildered by the anger we faced from blacks and whites alike.”

He said he owes his success in life to a 55-year-old widow who helped raise his brother and him. “She gave us a refuge from the racism, poverty and helplessness we faced. If people tell me they can’t make a difference because they don’t have enough money, enough support, or enough fortitude, I tell them about Miss Dora.”

Gregory encouraged the audience to believe that one person can make a difference in someone’s life. “As educated men and women, it is your moral responsibility to make a difference. Like Miss Dora, you have to see something is wrong and make a commitment to change it.”

The author also met with Western’s Diversity Committee and Griffon Edge facilitators and had lunch with student leaders. Sylvester Brandon, an intern in the Student Affairs Office, was invited to the lunch.

“He proved that you can beat all odds. He fought his way back,” Sylvester said of Gregory. “If he can go from where he came from to where he ended up, then dreams can come true.”

Sylvester said he liked the realism of the book - it did not have a happy ending since the author’s brother dropped out of high school and did not have the successes that Gregory had. In his talk, he noted that his younger brother was “never able to escape from the web of the past and what happened to him.”

At an early morning Eggs and Issues presentation to the community, Gregory’s topic was “Diversity Means Success.”

The face of our colleagues is changing, he told the audience. In the next five years, the Latino population will surpass blacks as the largest minority in the United States. And, in 25 years, the United States population will be 60 percent white.

“The success of your business and community will depend on your ability to embrace diversity,” he said. As the client and customer base

becomes more diverse, “the smart and right thing to do is to diversify your staff.”

But, Gregory was quick to point out that diversity is not only reflected in ethnicity – it also refers to age, gender, sexual orientation – “anything that makes us different.” ■

“As educated men and women, it is your moral responsibility to make a difference ... you have to see something is wrong and make a commitment to change it.”

Campus institutes Diversity Committee

Selecting a book for the common reading program and bringing its author to Western was the work of the College’s new Diversity Committee.

The committee was formed last spring to address the needs of minority students and offer diversity education for both students and College personnel. Members represent the Student Success Office, Unity Services, Residential Life, Student Affairs, faculty, the community and students.

“We want to create a multicultural environment for students,” said Ernie Stufflebean, assistant dean of students and chair of the committee. “Some of the best learning happens in a diverse setting.”

The book chosen by the committee, “Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black,” was required reading for all students who participated in the Griffon Edge orientation program, and faculty and staff were offered free copies of the book. It was also the topic of a newly instituted Brown Bag Lunch Series, an ongoing forum for diversity discussions.

“The common reading program allows students to begin college with several expectations,” said Danielle Carter, a member of the committee. “Everyone is on the same page when it comes to the diversity issues outlined in the reading, and there is a high expectation regarding a commitment to academics. Also, all first-year students will have a common experience that bonds them as a group.”

Minority enrollment at Western is currently 13.7 percent of the student population. ■

A message from the Alumni President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of the *Western* magazine! I hope you are as excited about this great publication as I am. The magazine is one more way we hope to improve our connections and relationships with alumni and friends of the college.

I wanted to share with you a project that the members of the Alumni Association's board have been working on for several months. They are creating a long-range plan for the Association as part of the College's overall strategic plan. A lot of great ideas have come out of the process, and we will share them with you in upcoming issues.

But as we plan, your input and ideas are very important to us. Please let us know what events you would like to see coordinated by your Alumni Association. We are very anxious to find out what types of activities would bring you back to campus for a visit, or what activities and alumni gatherings you would attend in your area.

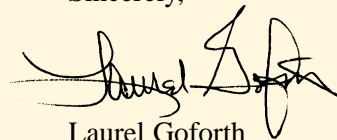
What are your interests? That's what we want to find out, so we can plan activities around those, whether they be musical, athletic, social or academic.

Also, let us know what you would like to see in upcoming issues of this magazine. The Alumni Office is open to your ideas and suggestions. You may reach them at mwalumni@mwsc.edu, or 816-271-5651.

This is an exciting time at Western. Not only have we launched a new magazine, we also are looking ahead and planning for a great future for the College and the Alumni Association.

Help us by keeping in touch and sharing your ideas!

Sincerely,



Laurel Goforth
Western Alumni Association President

Alums build pavilion for tailgate lunches

Alumni and friends who attend Griffon football games now have a great place to tailgate before the game. Several alums got together last fall and spearheaded a pavilion-building project near the campus softball fields.

Alumni and friends gathered before each football game last fall to enjoy a tailgate lunch and socializing. ■

Telefund time!

The Alumni Association's 2003 Telefund is underway!

On March 3, faculty, staff and students began calling alumni for pledges. The drive will continue through April 3.

"The Telefund is a major fund-raiser for the Alumni Association as part of our annual fund drive that continues through the year," said Diane Holtz of the Alumni Office. "Our alumni are always generous in their support of Western."

The Telefund is also a great way to keep in touch with Western alumni and to update the database, she added. Callers always enjoy visiting with alumni and finding out their experiences since college.

Money raised in the Telefund supports scholarships and Alumni Association activities such as this magazine, the annual Distinguished Service Awards and banquet.

If you do not receive a call and would like to support the Telefund, please call the Alumni Office at 816-271-5653.

Thank you! ■

Make plans to attend Homecoming Reunion Weekend

Mark your calendar now for Homecoming 2003 – Oct. 10-12! It may be a long way off, but the Alumni Office is already making plans to celebrate the event. For the first time, Western will host class reunions, this year for the classes of 1973 and 1983.

Jim Jeffers, class of 1973, believes a reunion is a great idea, especially for those who have been away a long time. "The campus has changed so much in 30 years. It would be a good time to come back and see all the changes."

Twenty- and 30-year graduates will receive a special invitation to attend the annual Awards Banquet, usually held on Friday evening of Homecoming weekend.

Those in attendance will be seated together at the banquet. On Saturday, between the parade and the game against Central Missouri State University, the College will host lunches for each class.

Last year, the Alumni Office also hosted campus tours and several activities on Friday afternoon, including a free planetarium show and open house in the DNA Sequencer lab. "We plan to offer even more activities for alumni and the community for this Homecoming," said Diane Holtz of the Alumni Office. "We received a very good response from both the campus and community and want to expand it this year."

Bob Roth, a 1973 graduate,

said he is looking forward to the reunion during Homecoming weekend.

"I've always enjoyed my affiliation with the College," he said. "The activities I've participated in have always been worthwhile and interesting. Of course I will come."

If you would like to help plan the reunions, please call 816-271-5651 or e-mail Diane Holtz at holtz@mwsc.edu.

For the first time, Western will host class reunions, this year for the classes of 1973 and 1983. Twenty- and 30-year graduates will receive a special invitation to attend the annual Awards Banquet.

Junior College holiday brunch



Jim Jeffers, '73, Alumni Association Board member, enjoyed the Junior College Holiday Brunch with his mother, Etta Jeffers.



Over 60 alumni and friends of the St. Joseph Junior College attended the annual Holiday Brunch. Pictured at the brunch are Kermit, '60 and Connie Boyer, '61, Ralph Schank, '82, Dick Sipe, '61, and Linda Dillon, '61.

2002 Distinguished Alumni and Faculty honored at Homecoming banquet

A full house in the Nelle Blum Student Union honored three alumni and one faculty member at the Alumni Association's annual Awards Banquet on Homecoming weekend.

Honored were alumni Weldon Judah, St. Joseph, class of 1972; Thomas Kalin, Shawnee, Kan., Junior College class of 1955; and William McMurray, St. Joseph, Junior College class of 1970. Kathleen Andrews, chair of Western's nursing department, received the Distinguished Faculty Award.



Weldon Judah
Class of 1972

Along with being honored at the banquet, the awardees rode in the Saturday morning Homecoming parade, enjoyed a tailgate lunch and watched the football game from the Stadium Club. They were recognized on the field at halftime.

Weldon "Don" Judah graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a graduate of the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law. He has served as the Circuit Court Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Missouri since 1995.

He served as assistant prosecuting attorney for Buchanan County, Mo., as St. Joseph Municipal Court judge, and as associate Circuit Court judge of Buchanan County.

He was a member of the Western Alumni Association

Board of Directors and the Supreme Court committee on training and certification of municipal and associate division judges. Don is also chair of the Trial Court Performance Standards subcommittee.

For several years, Don has coordinated an internship program in his office for Western students.

After Junior College, **Thomas Kalin** earned a bachelor's degree from the Rolla School of Mines (now University of Missouri - Rolla) in 1957. He retired in 1998 as the managing director and chief executive officer of Black and Veatch Engineers' Asian division after 41 years of service.

Thomas was in charge of numerous plants, and the major electrical power plant design, procurement, construction and startup of units in China, Australia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Pakistan.

He is a member of the University of Missouri - Rolla Mechanical Engineering Academy, and is a registered professional engineer in 17 states and Australia.

William McMurray earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He is a semi-retired partner in the insurance firm of Burnham, Colman, McMurray and Squires; an adjunct instructor of music history and organ at



William McMurray
Class of 1970



Kathleen Andrews
Nursing Department

Western, and an organist and choirmaster at the Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph.

He has been a member of over 20 organizations in the St. Joseph area, including Allied Arts Council, Boy Scouts of America, Knights of Columbus, St. Cecilia Guild for Sacred Music and Sertoma International. He has received numerous awards for his efforts, including the Community Hero Award in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay and the Distinguished Community Leader of 2001.

Kathleen Andrews has been an instructor at Western for 20 years and is the chair of the nursing department. She received her bachelor of science in nursing from Creighton University in Omaha in 1972, and earned her master's degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, in 1986. Presently, she is working on her doctorate in nursing from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. She is also a critical care staff nurse at Heartland Health in St. Joseph.

Kathleen is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. She has published

and reviewed several professional papers, and written test manuals for the nursing profession.

The Alumni Association has sponsored the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awards since 1983. ■

Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awards are accepted year round.

Deadline is June 30 for the following October banquet.

To request an application, call 816-271-5651, or nominate online at

www.mwsc.edu/alumni/dsa.asp.

Scholarship recipients honored at banquet

The 2002-2003 Alumni Association scholarship recipients were recognized at the Alumni Awards Banquet Homecoming weekend. This year, 22 regular scholarship and five family scholarships were awarded.

Sophomores through seniors are eligible for the regular scholarships and may apply through the financial aid office by March 1 of each year. Finalists are interviewed as part of the selection process.

This was the second year that the alumni family scholarships were awarded. Incoming freshmen with one or both parents who are Western alumni are eligible. Criteria include a 3.0 high school GPA and involvement in at least four extra-curricular activities. Applicants must submit a high school transcript, two reference letters and a personal statement. To obtain an application, contact the Alumni Office at 816-271-5651 or stop by the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, room 106. Application deadline is June 15 of each year.

The alumni family scholarship winners for 2002 - 2003 were Adam Brown of St. Joseph, son of William and Jean Brown, who are both alumni; Marissa Daniel, daughter of alumni Terry, and Linda Daniel; David Fankhauser, son of Glenn and alumnae Gail Fankhauser; Thad Marr, son of alumni Steven, and Luanne Marr; and Abbey Newhart, daughter of Robert and Karen (Speck) Newhart, who are both alumni. ■

Help us find our MISSING ALUMS!

Please help us update our database - if you know any alums who are not receiving our mailings, have them contact us with their current address! E-mail us at mwalumni@mwsc.edu; phone 816-271-5651; or write us at MWSC Alumni Office, MC 106, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. THANK YOU!

Former Board of Trustees Members Reminisce

"The four-year college truly represents a hope that existed in this city since before the turn of the century. It was a hard fight to win the election that created the college district."

- St. Joseph News-Press, 1969



Loren Schneider of Gower holds an October 1969 copy of the St. Joseph News-Press that features the dedication of the four-year Missouri Western College. Loren was a member of the Board of Trustees when the transition from the two-year junior college to the four-year college was made.

When Loren Schneider and John Newhart were elected to the Missouri Western Junior College Board of Trustees in 1965, they realized they were serving at a momentous and exciting time as the College made the transition from the two-year St. Joseph Junior College to the four-year Missouri Western College.

"We were going in uncharted waters," John said as he reminisced about his board term. "Those were hard years, but the reward is in the success of it – Missouri Western is a highly successful institution."

John, a Junior College alumnus, and Loren were elected to the board of trustees in the same election that voters approved establishment of the College district as an independent, self-governing unit. The new College district now included the Gower and Savannah School Districts in addition to the St. Joseph District, and John and Loren were elected from those outlying districts.

The first duty of the board was a decision regarding the transition to a four-year

college. "It was time consuming," said John, a retired lawyer now living in St. Joseph. "We devoted a lot of time to it because there were so many issues."

Loren, who owned the Farmers Bank in Gower, represented some people who were hesitant at that time to see the institution change to a four-year college. He felt the decisions made at the time represented a good compromise. Today, he has discovered that the majority of students from Gower who go on to college attend Western.

"My approach was always to consider what was best for the College in the long run," Loren said. "It was all worth it. The four-year College is good for the community and good for a lot of young people who are getting a college education."

John readily credits Dr. M.O. Looney, Western's second president, and Nelle Blum, dean of the Junior College, with making the transition smoother.

However, the greatest challenges arose regarding the location of the new College. In

1965, the Junior College was located in a former high school building owned by the St. Joseph School District. Enrollment at the Junior College had steadily increased over the years, and the building was at capacity even as a two-year institution. The need for a new location for the four-year College was evident.

The original site proposed was a 130-acre tract owned by the state on Frederick Ave., across from the St. Joseph State Hospital. After studying other colleges and universities, the board realized the site was too small and began investigating larger sites.

"We knew we had to relocate," said John, "but there was some controversy because a lot of people wanted it on Frederick Ave. Some said we were buying too much property but it turns out we weren't."

The original purchase on the present site was approxi-

mately 400 acres. Loren noted that at the time of the purchase, people believed the property was too far out of town. "But you had to think about growth," he said. Currently, the College owns 745 acres.

Today, Loren and John are pleased and proud to have been a part of the board when it was involved in so many transitions. Both believe their greatest achievement was choosing the present location. "It's far bigger than I ever imagined," said John. "The first president thought we could grow to 5,000 (enrollment), but we thought that was impossible."

"I figured if we got up to 1,500 (enrollment) it would be a good college," Loren added. Current enrollment is approximately 5,200.

An editorial in the St. Joseph News-Press in 1969 noted, "The four-year college truly represents a hope that existed in this city since before

the turn of the century. It was a hard fight to win the election that created the College district. In brief, we in St. Joseph and this northwest Missouri area have lived through a great and at times difficult experience in bringing into being the four-year Missouri Western College." ■



John Newhart is shown in his home office in St. Joseph. John was a member of the Board of Trustees at the time the college moved to its current location and became a four-year institution.

John Downs awarded honorary degree

Former State Senator and Junior College alumnus John Downs was recently awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Western.

John graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College in 1937 and earned a law degree in 1940 from the University of Missouri - Columbia. He served as Buchanan County prosecuting attorney, as a state representative for two years, and as a state senator for 10 years.

As a state senator, he introduced the bill to make Western a four-year institution, and he was instrumental in choosing the College's current location.

The College's perimeter drive is named for John, and he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1984. ■



Jim Scanlon, Western's president, and John Downs

Alumnotes

Dr. Robert Willoughby, '70, has published a book entitled "The Great Western Migration to the Gold Fields of California, 1849-1850." He is currently a professor of Government and History at Hannibal LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo.

Ann George, '71, received a doctorate of education from St. Louis University. Her dissertation was entitled "Preventing the Inappropriate Referral of Limited English Proficient Students to Special Education."

Gary Richardson, '72, is a master instructor at Shin's Martial Arts School and a physical education instructor for the Waco Independent School District. He lives in Texas.

Richard Larkam, '77, of Jefferson City has accepted a new position with the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture Milk Board. He has worked for the state for 25 years.

Dan Danford, '78, recently co-authored an investment book entitled "Million Dollar Management." Dan is co-owner of Family Investment Center in St. Joseph and an adjunct professor at Western.



Douglas Burkett, class of 1987

Kit L. (Jackson) Blake, '80, of St. Joseph recently accepted a position as a reading specialist in Western's Education Department.

Craig Fuchs, '80, of Frontenac, Kan., has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Music at Pittsburg State University. He also holds the position of director of bands.

Ted King, '84, recently transferred from the B-2 program at Whiteman AFB in Missouri, to the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program in Fort Worth, Texas. He is involved in the design engineering of stealth technology for Northrop-Grumman Corporation. Ted, his wife, Stacy, and two daughters live in Aledo, Texas.

Julie Small, '84, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and to the position of chief, strategic planning, headquarters Air National Guard in Washington, D.C. She recently completed a four-month tour of duty in Turkey.

Douglas Burkett, '87, of Phoenix, was elected chairman of the board of directors of Zila, Inc. He had been serving as president and chief executive officer since May 2002.

Dale Martin, '89, and Christan (Asbacher) Martin, '95 of Liberty, Mo., announce the birth of their son, Logan Dale, born Feb. 6, 2002. He joins a sister, Ashleigh Nichole, seven years old. Christan was recently promoted to probation supervisor for Midwest ADP's Gladstone and Kansas City offices. Dale is a financial analyst for ERC in Overland Park, Kan.

Darcy (Mitchell) Willis, '90, of Belton, Mo., and her husband, Jerry, had twins, Ella and Eric, June 28, 2002.

Bonnie (Yates) Behrman, '93, and husband, Stacy, of Lone Jack, Mo. announce the birth of their son, Shane, born Aug. 1, 2002. He joins two brothers, Cody, 5, and Troy, 3.

Rob, '94, and Lori, '97, Albright of Rolla, Mo. announce the birth of their son, Grant Robert, born Oct. 20, 2002.

Johnathan Compton, '95, graduated in May 2002 from the University of Missouri - Columbia School of Medicine and is now completing residency training in Family Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Christine (Kerns) Daffron, '95, and husband, Michael, of Kansas City announce the birth of their son, Blake David, born June 3, 2002.

Angela (Paden) Compton, '96, graduated in April 2002 with her master's degree from Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, and is teaching sixth-grade for the Omaha Public Schools.

Christopher Archer, '97, graduated from Benedictine College in May 2002 with an executive masters in business administration. He is currently employed by Nestle Purina Petcare Company in St. Joseph. His wife, Lara (Peppers), is a 1998 graduate.

Heather (Hill) Stoneburner, '99, and her husband, James, of Independence, Mo. announce the birth of their daughter, Lailah Marie, who was born Oct. 11, 2002.

Bridget (Shirey) Clark, '00, of Platte City, Mo. joined US Bank's St. Joseph office as an assistant relationship manager on Aug. 19, 2002.

Ryan Cox, '01, of Independence, Mo. is an assistant band director at Grain Valley High School, Grain Valley, Mo.

Chad William Huskamp, '02, of St. Joseph, passed his nursing boards in September 2002. His wife, Stacey, is a 1998 graduate.

NOW AVAILABLE!
"Out of the Night the Angels Sang" (1995) by Raymond Elliott, a history of the Junior College Music Dept. Call 816-271-5651 for your free copy today! Quantities are limited.

92-Year-Old New York alumna keeps in touch

Hazel Petree Hambert, of Auburn, N.Y., wrote a note to the Alumni Office recently, expressing regrets about not being able to attend the Junior College Holiday Brunch.

"I enjoy telling all my friends about the beauties of northwest Missouri: the scarlet and orange fall foliage, the spectacular Missouri River bluffs, the Krug Park Bowl, the beautiful parkway running from north to south, the band concerts in Bartlett Park and its pavilion, etc., etc."

"Warm greetings to my Central High School friends as well as Junior College friends." ■

JC alumna remembers Raymond "Pop" Elliott

Norma Klein, 1941 graduate, recently reminisced about her fond memories of Raymond Elliott and the Music Department at the Junior College. "Pop Elliott was a wonderful inspiration for all of us who came in contact with him," she wrote in a recent letter. Norma said that she kept in contact with Raymond until he died, and she continues to keep in touch with his daughters. ■

Tell us what's new!



Name _____ Maiden _____

Spouse _____ Graduation Year (s) _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

What's New _____

Return to: MWSC Alumni Office, MC 106, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507

Honor Roll of Donors

The following is a list of those who donated to the **Western Alumni Association** between July 1 – Dec. 31, 2002. Please call 816-271-5653 with any questions or comments.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
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Contributors to the MWSC Foundation are listed in the Foundation Annual Report.





Calendar of Events

March 3 - April 3 Western Alumni Association Telefund

March 26 - 29 Division II Women's Elite 8 Tournament, Civic Arena, St. Joseph

April 3 Business Convocation, 11:30 a.m., MC 214-216. Speaker is Karl Eberle, vice president and general manager of Harley Davidson, Kansas City.

April 7 Senior Exhibits, Thompson Fine Arts Gallery

April 10 Eggs and Issues, 7 a.m., MC 214. John Corcoran, author of "The Teacher Who Couldn't Read."

April 10 Annual Alumni Association Board Meeting: election of officers, 5 p.m., SU Junior College Room

April 11 Symphonic Winds Concert, 7:30 p.m., Thompson Fine Arts Theater

April 22 - May 2 Senior Exhibits, Thompson Fine Arts Gallery

April 24 - 27 "Much Ado About Nothing," Thompson Fine Arts, room 106.

April 25 *Jazzy Night at the Ritz*, 6 p.m., Ramada Inn, St. Joseph

May 10 Two Spring Commencement ceremonies

Aug. 25 Fall 2003 classes begin

Oct. 10 - 12 Homecoming Reunion Weekend

For more information, call 816-271-5651 or visit our website at www.mwsc.edu.

Alum Profile

Who: *Bob Roth, class of 1973*

Degree: Business Administration/Accounting

Western memory: "I started at the junior college and then got drafted. When I got back, it was a four-year college. I remember there were no trees and it was very cold."

A part-time job in college at a local manufacturer led to a full-time job after graduation, which led to a long-term career culminating in the presidency of the company. That is the career path of Bob Roth, a 1973 graduate of Western and today the president of Hillyard Inc., a national distributor and manufacturer of cleaning products headquartered in St. Joseph.

"My education was a very good foundation for my career. I was able to take things I learned in school right to work," Bob said. "My education (at Western) has helped me better communicate with people.

It broadened my horizons to read more and pay attention to what was going on in the world around me."

Bob is a big supporter of Western athletic events. He attends many games, and his company sponsors the Hillyard Tipoff Classic each year over Thanksgiving weekend at the St. Joseph Civic Arena. His niece, Taira Roth, plays on Western's basketball and golf teams.

He is also an active volunteer at Western. Bob served as the chair of one of the College's capital campaigns, was a Foundation Board member and a former member of the Board of Regents. "I was the first graduate who was a regent. That was pretty special," he said. His wife, Susan, is the former president of the campus beautification committee.

"I try to give back to the school what it's given to me. I think the College plays a very important part in our community and should be supported as much as the citizens of the community can." ■



Bob Roth, Class of 1973

"I try to give back to the school what it's given to me. I think the College plays a very important part in our community and should be supported as much as the citizens of the community can."