

Missouri Western

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends • Spring 2007

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The Missouri Western Magazine
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Western Magazine

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

President's Perspective

Dear Friends,

As we wind down Western's second year as a university, we continue our legacy of providing quality education to students from our region, our state, and beyond our borders. We are building connections with area businesses, our alumni, and others within and beyond our region in order to provide our students with learning opportunities which apply what they learn in the classroom to real



Dr. James Scanlon visits with high school students at the MidCity Excellence Center in St. Joseph, Mo.

life experiences. We are building a university that will serve the individual good of students and the common good of the larger community and region as few other universities in the nation have done.

As you will read, we, at Western, are creating the prototype of the new American regional university. The new American regional university is characterized

by applied learning and applied research and service. It does not separate itself from its community but rather serves the needs of its students, its community and its region. Our students are engaged in internships, faculty-student related research projects, study abroad programs and other applied experiences. By the time our students graduate, more than 80% of them will participate in at least one significant applied learning experience.

In addition to applied learning, we are engaged in applied research and service. Western currently has partnerships with 60 organizations focused on workforce and economic development. Fourteen of our academic departments as well as our Western Institute are engaged in regional applied research. And our students, faculty, and staff provided more than 81,000 hours of community service within the last year – 29,000 hours from our student body alone!

We can all celebrate Western's emergence as a model for other regional universities in its service to students, our region, and beyond.

James J. Scanlon
President

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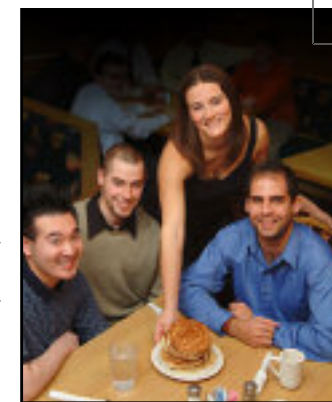
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On the cover:

We had lots of fun taking our cover photo at Country Kitchen in St. Joseph. Read about the students on page 2.
Photo: Portraits by Long.



Features

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Six biology and math students competed with schools such as MIT, Harvard, and CalTech, and came home with four awards in an international competition. Read about their research, "The Pancake Problem."

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Western has made changes to some of its programs to meet the needs of this latest generation of students.

14 On the Brink of Innovation

Graduate programs are being developed, a \$2.5 million business and technology incubator is under construction, students are engaged and involved; read about how Western is quickly becoming a prototype of the new American regional university.



campus news

Students shine at international competition

They earn 1st place for presentation

Pancakes, bacteria and DNA all came together for “the most prestigious presentation accomplishment math and science students have ever had at Western,” according to Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology. He and Dr. Jeff Poet, assistant professor of mathematics, led a team of six Western students and a high school student in an international research competition sponsored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) last fall. The team came home with four awards, including a first place in Best Oral Presentation.

Western was one of 32 teams that presented their research at the International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Jamboree, an initiative out of MIT to expand the relatively new field of synthetic biology. Western was only one of three institutions in the competition that are primarily undergraduate, and the only institution from the Midwest.

“I was intimidated going in. Teams from Princeton, Harvard, MIT and Tokyo were there,” said team member Kelly Malloy of Brookfield, Mo. “But as the day went on and we heard other student presentations, I realized we had something good.”

“It shows that a little team from Missouri can compete with the big schools, and it shows we get a good education here,” said team member Eric Jessen, also from Brookfield.

The research project, in collaboration with Davidson College in North Carolina, involved the use of the bacterium *E. Coli* and “The Pancake Problem” - how many flips does it take to get an out-of-order stack of pancakes in order?

Within an *E. Coli* cell, pieces of DNA were the “pancakes,” and enzymes were the “spatula.” The team constructed DNA “pancakes” with some of the pieces in an incorrect order and attempted to flip pieces of DNA with the enzyme until the correct order was obtained.

The team showed that one “pancake” could be flipped and will continue efforts to flip more.

“I was really pleased. At the outset, I didn’t expect we’d be able to ‘flip a pancake,’” said Todd. “But even if

nothing had worked, it still would have been a success in terms of the research experience the students had.”

Kelly said the project, which they began working on in June, helped him learn how to troubleshoot and overcome obstacles. “We had to use a lot of resources and test over and over again.”

At the competition, the collaborative team of Western and Davidson won second place in both Best Poster and Best Cooperation and Collaboration, and third place in Best Conquest of Adversity.

“We were in the company of the world’s leading experts on synthetic biology,” said team member Marian Broderick, of Wichita, Kan. “It was the most educational, but fun trip I’ve ever been on.”

Other team members included Adam Douglas Brown, St. Joseph; Trevor Butner, Savannah, Mo.; Brad Ogden, Missouri Valley, Iowa; and Central High School’s Lane Heard. ■

“I was really pleased. At the outset, I didn’t expect we’d be able to ‘flip a pancake.’”

Dr. Todd Eckdahl,
professor of biology

Members of the iGEM team work on “The Pancake Problem.”



Outstanding employees recognized

Seventeen employees have been recognized recently for their extraordinary work at Western in 2006.

Outstanding Staff Employees

Amy Bennett, recruiting specialist, human resources; Mary Dean, administrative coordinator, admissions; Dan Eckhoff ’91, bursar, business office; Deana Elder, financial aid default coordinator; Kathy Joe ’93, accountant; Dennis Johnson ’73, public safety officer; Kendy Jones ’95, director, campus printing and design services; Rhonda Rund ’89, director for the center of community arts, Western Institute; Tara Stoll ’00, video communications producer, instructional media center; and Tom Williamson, assistant to the chair, business department.

This award program recognizes and rewards exemplary performance based both on their responsibilities and on their specific contributions to the mission, goals and values of the university. ■

Distinguished Professors

Dr. Robert Bergland, associate professor of English, journalism; Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology; Dr. Monica Nandan, associate professor of social work and gerontology coordinator; and Dr. Mike Smith, professor of education.

To be considered for this award, Western looks specifically at teaching, scholarship and service.

Outstanding Administrators

Mark Mabe ’78, information technology services director; Dr. K. Eugene Eulinger Jr., registrar; and Mark Linder, director of athletics.

This award recognizes and rewards exemplary performance based both on completing annual goals and on specific contributions to the mission, goals and values of the university. ■

Law enforcement cadet receives Silver Star

Jeremy Stagner, a graduate of the Law Enforcement Academy, received the third highest award in the military at the seventh annual Law Enforcement Awards Banquet last fall. He received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with Combat Distinguishing Service). Stagner served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. ■

13th annual Night at the Ritz “Rush to Western Gold”



**Friday April 27
St. Joseph Country Club
\$35 per person**

Call 816-271-4582 to sponsor a table or to make a reservation. All proceeds support nontraditional student scholarships.

campus news



Campus KUDOS

- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology, and colleagues from the Genome Consortium for Active Teaching were awarded a \$307,654 grant from the National Science Foundation for three summer workshops. He also received the National Biology Honor Society Yokley Faculty Service Award.
- Dr. Brenda Blessing received the 2006 Award of Distinction from The Ohio State University Physical Activities and Educational Services Alumni Society.
- Students Lyn Oshel and John Waller co-authored a paper with Russ Phillips, instructor of psychology, and Larry Perlmutter of the Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine and Science.
- The Small Business Institute team of Ben Hultquist, Seham Almuttar, Amber Leach and Anisha Merrill developed a foster parent marketing and recruitment plan for the St. Joseph office of the Mo. Dept. of Social Services that was adopted statewide. SBI director is Dr. Todd Mick, associate professor of marketing.
- Cadets and cadre members of the ROTC program participated in a four-day staff ride to the Battle of Little Big Horn to learn about leadership, tactics, terrain, communications and psychological factors of the battle.



University plaza almost complete

Western's new University Plaza, a gift from the John B. and Julia Comello Charitable Trust in recognition of the James B. Kelley family, is almost complete. The Plaza, located near the Nelle Blum Union, features a bronze Griffon on a 10' black granite base, a water feature, flags and a large, decorative block retaining wall.

New sculpture graces Western's campus

"Beyond 2010," Western's newest sculpture, was created by Jim Estes, professor of art.

Just east of Thompson E. Potter Hall, a black metal monolith reaches up to the sky. Its crossbars at the top are arranged at interesting angles, and a smaller piece rests at its side. That is "Beyond 2010," a new contemporary sculpture that now graces the campus, thanks to the work of Jim Estes, professor of art.

"I hope the structure is a visually pleasing work for our campus," said Jim. "I don't have a hidden message in it, but if it makes people curious, that's good. Hopefully people will enjoy its beauty."

Jim, who has taught at Western for 35 years and has created works for over 130 shows all over the country, said he had never created an outdoor sculpture before. When he received the Distinguished

Professor Award in 2004 and was given \$1,000 for professional development, his proposal was to design and build the sculpture.

He had to learn all about MIG welding and figure out the logistics of purchasing materials for a large sculpture, making sure the 600-pound structure would balance on a concrete base. There was no room to stand it up until the work of art was completed.

Jim said he learned a lot about sculpting large pieces, and he hopes to create more. He is already working on the design for a much larger second piece for the campus.

He said he chose a contemporary design because he believes Western is looking ahead, changing and growing. "I wanted the spirit of a forward-looking institution to be reflected in that." ■

"I wanted the spirit of a forward-looking institution to be reflected in (the sculpture)."

Jim Estes, professor of art



\$900,000 gift from former business professor

A former professor's generosity is good news for upperclassmen at Western.

The MWSU Foundation was recently informed that it will receive more than \$900,000 from the estate of Marian and Kenneth Mitchell. The gift is to be used to establish an endowed scholarship for at least "B" average students entering their senior year at Western.

Marian, who passed away April 10, 2006, was a professor emerita of business who taught statistics and accounting at Western from 1968-1979. Kenneth worked for the Farmers Home Administration. He died in 1996.

was. "She would want someone to show their mettle and earn the scholarship."

Marian was Sharon Kosek's '77, supervising teacher when Sharon studied business education at Western, and they remained friends until Marian's death.

"She was an outstanding educator," said Sharon. "She helped prepare students so well for the classroom."

"She thoroughly enjoyed teaching there," Sharon said of Marian's years at Western. "I think the highlight of her life was teaching and interacting with students. She left a great impact on many students."

Lucretia Hawley, who taught with Marian in the business department for many years, said she misses her good friend.

She said Marian loved teaching and was always helping and encouraging students.

Lucretia noted that Marian was very interested in Western long after she retired.

Jerry Pickman '85, director of development, agreed. "Marian



Kenneth & Marian Mitchell

"I think the highlight of her life was teaching and interacting with students. She left a great impact on many students."

- Sharon Kosek, former student of Marian Mitchell

was very supportive of Western," he said. "She told me she cherished her time spent here as a faculty member, and she enjoyed serving as a mentor to younger teachers."

In 1998, Marian, who was a native of Mound City, Mo., also established a charitable remainder trust to fund Western scholarships.

"We truly appreciate Marian's generosity to Western. Many, many students will benefit from her gift for years to come," said Jerry. ■



Jennifer VanVickle, Marian's niece, said she was not surprised that the estate will benefit the university. "Marian was the first person in her family to get a college education; she really valued education. She was also very generous."

Jennifer said establishing the scholarship for upperclassmen was in keeping with who Marian

To contribute to the
Marian Mitchell Memorial Scholarship fund
contact the MWSU Foundation at 816-271-5647,
or go online to www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation.



campus news

Dick Rochambeau: In Memoriam

Western and the community lost a great friend last fall when Richard "Dick" Rochambeau Jr. died suddenly Nov. 21.

Dick, who attended the Junior College, was the treasurer of the Foundation Board of Directors. He had served on the board since 1998.

He was very active in his church and the community, serving as a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, a 60-year member of the Masonic Bodies, nobles of the Moila Temple and on the board of the Pony Express Museum. He was also a trustee of the Leah Spratt Charitable Trust.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce '47, three children, Richard III '78, Rene Rochambeau-McCrary '04, and Rhonda Rochambeau and their spouses; and four grandchildren. ■



Richard A. Rochambeau Jr.

Steve Forbes draws large crowds at Convocation events

Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief of Forbes Magazine and CEO of Forbes, Inc., was interesting, informative and entertaining when he spoke at the annual Convocation on Critical Issues in October.

Mr. Forbes' presentation, "The Role of Government in a Global Economy," drew an audience of more than 2,200, and he often had the audience laughing, nodding their heads in agreement, and even learning about economics along the way.

Forbes, only the second Convocation speaker out of 13 to draw almost 500 at the Convocation dinner held the evening before (Colin Powell was the first), received standing ovations before and after his talk at both the dinner and the Convocation.

It was also a record-breaking year for sponsorships. The event



secured 34 sponsors totalling \$31,500. The Foundation also received a special gift from Wes and Patsy Remington to help underwrite the speaker fees.

"I thought it was really good," SGA President Natalie Bailey said of Forbes' talk at the Convocation. "He knew how to tailor it for people who don't know a lot about economics, and it was funny."

Forbes also met with several business and journalism students in a short question-and-answer session Oct. 2. ■

Faculty serve as mentors to resident assistants

Students who live on campus may be surprised to see familiar faces in the residence halls - their professors. Last fall, Western inaugurated a faculty mentoring program. Twelve faculty members are currently paired with resident assistants, helping them with program planning and joining in activities with students.

"This is an opportunity to enhance a student's educational experience beyond the classroom," said Michael Speros, director of housing.

Deborah Becker, instructor of computer science, who is paired with RA Jennifer Shaffer, from Blue Springs, Mo., said she signed on as a faculty mentor because she wanted to meet more students and get more involved on campus. She and Jennifer meet or email to plan activities.

"I like having someone help plan the programs, and I like that more faculty members are involved," said Jennifer. ■

Student co-produces promotional video

A pilot program for at-risk youth, a partnership with a Los Angeles filmmaker, a documentary and invaluable experience for a student were all part of a project undertaken by Western's communication studies/theatre department last summer.

Brandon Hylton, a theatre/video major who graduated in December, worked with Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre, to produce a 15-minute video that promotes a pilot program for at-risk girls.

"It was a great summer," said Brandon, from Smithville, Mo. "It was a good chance for me to learn a lot about video production."

The pilot program is the brainchild of Tara Veneruso, a Los Angeles filmmaker. She plans to

coordinate a month-long program next summer in both Kansas City and St. Joseph, where 15 middle school girls from each city will have the opportunity for hands-on

The pilot program is the brainchild of Tara Veneruso, a Los Angeles filmmaker. She plans to coordinate a month-long program next summer in both Kansas City and St. Joseph, where 15 middle school girls from each city will have the opportunity for hands-on learning about filmmaking from industry professionals.

learning about filmmaking from industry professionals. Tara plans to expand the program nationwide if it is successful in this area.

Western will also work with her this summer to produce a documentary about the program.

Deny said the students gained a lot from the experience. "They learned how rewarding collaboration can be, and they gained an understanding that if you

have the passion and desire to do something, you can do it."

They also learned how much time it takes to put together a quality production, he said.

Brandon, who was co-producer, said a real bonus to the project was when he had the opportunity to work with Tara and a film crew when they were in St. Joseph last June. The main purpose of her visit was to work on details for the pilot program, but while here, Tara directed a television commercial for Western and conducted a workshop for the students. ■

Annual Fund 2007: Believe. Belong. Become.

The 2007 Annual Fund kicked off last month with the theme, "Believe. Belong. Become."

"We want to remind alumni to believe in the education they received, to feel a sense of belonging in the Western family, and to encourage them to become ardent supporters of the university," said Jerry Pickman, director of development.

Gifts to the Annual Fund provide scholarships, enhance academic programs, fund research projects and sponsor activities and events. Gifts can be designated for a particular purpose or given unrestricted.

Alumni have the opportunity to donate online, in response to a mailing, or through the phonathon.

"We'd love to see our alumni take the lead in supporting Western," said Jerry. "Exceptional alumni support is something all great universities have in common."

For more information, contact Jerry at 816-271-5648 or pickman@missouriwestern.edu. ■

Believe. Belong. **Become.**
Annual Fund 2007

**Don't miss the
2nd annual
Foundation
Appreciation
Dinner!**

**Tuesday, April 10
6:30 p.m.
Fulkerson Center**

**To make a
reservation, call
816-271-5646**



Western welcomes the Millennial Generation

When Tyson Schank '04, was a student VIP giving tours to high school students six years ago, his advisors always told him, "Choosing a college is a student decision."

But today, Tyson is the communication and web coordinator for the admissions office, and he said parents are much more involved in the college selection process than ever before.

"Now we address the entire family. There are still students

who make their own decisions, but they are the exception today," he said.

Rodema Gnuschke '74, said when she was a student, her parents' first time on campus was probably for her commencement. But Rodema, who works in the Western library, said that her freshman daughter, Tammy, stops by for short visits nearly every day, and they often eat lunch together.

Welcome to the world of the Millennial Generation - children born between 1982 and 2005 - where their parents - often called helicopters (they hover) or bulldozers (they remove obstacles in their children's way) - are very involved in not only the decision of their children's college choice, but in their everyday lives as college students. Today, about 14 million Millennials are attending college.

"The families do a lot together; they are very close," said Dr. Paul Shang, Western's dean of student development. "They have a desire to remain close, so the parental relationships continue through college."

Rodema and Don '73, said for their own children - Aaron '06; Tara, who is in

medical school and will earn her degree here when she completes her first year of medical school; and Tammy - they helped gather information on scholarships and helped fill out applications. Rodema also attended the registration with Tammy.

"I think it's nice that parents take more interest in their children's education," said Rodema.

With Millennials in mind, Western has been working to create opportunities for more interaction between the university and parents.

In 2005, the university initiated a two-day registration/orientation for incoming students that included an overnight stay in the residence halls for both students and their parents.

"We've developed the process so parents can be a part of it," said Paul. "Parents can experience residential life and cafeteria food and also get a lot more information."

Both admissions and student development also communicate more with parents of prospective students than they have in the past, and student development is working to revitalize the Parents Council.

Paul plans to set up days where parents can visit campus, learn about Western's programs and meet administrators.

Tyson developed a new presentation for parents during registration/orientation days last summer while students were



Students Torrence Jones, Kristin Parker and Seth Logston help at a Habitat for Humanity home as part of Western's Big Event, a semi-annual service day for students and employees.

Cont'd from previous page

meeting with advisors to choose their classes.

He explained federal privacy laws, which parents find frustrating because they are prevented from accessing student records. Tyson also gently encouraged parents to let their college-aged children make some of their own decisions.

But after his presentation, one mother admitted to him that while he was talking, she was on a cell phone with her daughter, helping her choose her courses.

While the Gnuschkes fit the Millennial mold in many ways, they agreed that there should be limits on parental involvement.

"I like that fact that parents come to the registration and help sign up, but after awhile, I think they need to back away," said Tammy.

"You do need to give them their independence," agreed Rodema.

But for now, she hopes Tammy's frequent visits and their lunches together don't stop anytime soon. ■



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.



Writer draws largest Eggs & Issues crowd ever

Donna Gehrke-White, Pulitzer-prize winning features writer for The Miami Herald, spoke at an Eggs and Issues last fall about what she learned when she interviewed 50

Muslim women for her book, "The Face Behind the Veil: The Extraordinary Lives of Muslim Women in America." The audience of almost 200 was the largest in the history of the speaker series.

Donna's presentation was filled with stories of the lives of women escaping from political turmoil in their homelands, adapting to life in the United States and becoming quite successful.

"Islam stresses education," she reiterated throughout her presentation. "They have made amazing progress."

Donna noted that the population of Muslims is rapidly growing in the United States, and Muslim women in America are not like the Middle Eastern Muslim women portrayed in the media.

"These women are fascinating. We (the United States) are never going to be the same." ■

Donna's presentation was filled with stories of the lives of women escaping from political turmoil in their homelands, adapting to life in the United States and becoming quite successful.



The Gnuschkes - Rodema '74, Don '73 and Tammy, Western freshman.



Amateur anthropologists uncover surprises

Stefanie Clifford knew nothing about Muslims. Tonya Russell said she had a lot of ideas about Muslims, but it was all negative. Zack Craft grew up in a small town in rural Missouri around no Muslims, and he wanted to learn if all the stereotypes he had heard attributed to them were true.

So the three students signed on to research the Islam religion in adjunct instructor Terry Carlson's anthropology class, but their learning extended well beyond the classroom and the library. They, along with Terry, spent a day in Kansas City, Mo., last fall immersed in the Islamic culture.

"It was more than a field trip," said Terry. "We were trying to discover certain anthropological concepts that we study." One other group from the anthropology class spent a day with the Amish in Jamesport, Mo., and another spent a day with the Kickapoo Tribe in Horton, Kan.

Armed with notebooks and cameras, the students visited the Jerusalem Bakery for a lunch of Mediterranean fare, and checked out the grocery items at Olive Café. They also visited the Islamic Center of Greater Kansas City, which includes a mosque and school; observed a prayer service and visited classrooms.

Western students Stefanie Clifford, Tonya Russell and Zack Craft visit with students at the Islamic Center of Greater Kansas City.



Tonya Russell and Stefanie Clifford don head covering before entering the mosque.

All three students agreed that the best part was visiting the school. They met with seventh-graders and a high school literature class. The three Western students enjoyed it so much they were planning a return trip.

Yes, the Muslim students told them, they play sports and they go to the mall to hang out with friends. No, they don't mind wearing head covering, said the girls.

"I loved the kids speaking their mind," said Tonya. "This is different from everything I've heard."

"They're just regular kids; that's what surprised me," said Stefanie. "I had the perception that they were uptight, but they were relaxed. They're different than what I thought of them before."

But the Muslim students had questions, too. Zack endured some good-natured ribbing about his earrings, since Muslim men are forbidden to wear them.

And at the end of the school day, the high school girls swarmed Stefanie and Tonya, pressing them for information about dating and their experiences.

"I loved the firsthand experience," said Zack. "I was surprised at how open and honest they were."

"Everything I thought I knew about Muslims was wrong," said Tonya. ■

KC Northland site moves

Western's Kansas City Northland site relocated recently, and it has generated a lot of interest. In August, the site was moved to the Tuileries Plaza at I-29 and NW 64th St, next to the Bonefish Grill.

Dr. Chris Shove, dean of the Western Institute, noted that there was a significant jump in the number of visits to the Northland website since the move. "It's having a huge impact," he said.

The Northland site offers a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and a legal assistant certificate, along with art courses and business seminars.

The specialized legal assistant certificate program focuses on the technical and legal specialty courses for a career as a legal assistant (paralegal), and Western's is the only public Missouri university legal assistant program with ABA approval.

The education program is designed for students who have earned their associate's degree and want to earn a bachelor's degree. The elementary education program is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

For more information, contact the Western Institute at 816-271-4100, toll free at 866-U-WIN-GOLD, or visit the website at www.wi.missouriwestern.edu. ■

Phonathon 2006 wrap up



The 2006 Phonathon callers. Thanks for your support of the Phonathon!

Last November, when alumni answered their phones during the election season, many were pleasantly surprised that it was their alma mater calling for the 2006 Phonathon.

Western's 24-day Phonathon wrapped up the week after the election, and Tara Johnson, development officer and Phonathon coordinator, called it a success. She said almost 300 alumni who

had not donated the previous year made a pledge, the 22 callers enjoyed visiting with alumni, and \$25,000 was raised.

"We are very appreciative of those who contributed to the Phonathon," said Tara. "The Phonathon is an important tool for the university, as it provides direct contact for those alumni who are unable to visit campus." ■



Join Western's donor honor societies -

The Clock Tower Society

or

Western League for Excellence

Check out www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation or call 816-271-5647 for more information.

THANK YOU!

Calendar of Events

March 11-18	Spring break; no classes.
March 27	Eggs and Issues, 7 a.m., Fulkerson Center. "Graying America: Golden Opportunities in Silver Industries," Drs. Shiva and Monica Nandan. Call 816-271-5646.
April 10	Foundation Appreciation Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Fulkerson Center.
April 10-15	"Crimes of the Heart," 8 p.m. April 10-14, 2 p.m. April 15; Thompson E. Potter Hall Black Box Theater. Directed by student Christiana Hansen.
April 15	Junior College Reunion Brunch, Fulkerson Center.
April 24	Eggs and Issues, 7 a.m., Fulkerson Center. "How to Conduct Business in India," Dr. Ramesh Kumar. Call 816-271-5646.
April 27	"Rush to Western Gold," 13th annual Night at the Ritz. St. Joseph Country Club. Call 816-271-4582.
April 28	Alumni event in Columbia, Mo., 1-4 p.m., TK Brothers Grill and Games.
May 8-16	Ireland international cultural experience, call 816-271-4100 for details.
May 9-24	Intersession classes.
May 12	Spring Commencement ceremonies, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., M.O. Looney Complex arena. Reception for graduates and families, TBD.
May 17	Alumni event in St. Joseph, Mo., TBD.
May 19-28	London international cultural experience, call 816-271-4100 for details.
May 20-21	Johnson Controls/Missouri Western Celebrity Golf Classic, St. Joseph Country Club. Call 816-271-5926 for more information.
June 4	Summer classes begin.
June 9	Alumni event in St. Louis, TBD.
June 13-21	Russia international cultural experience. Call 816-271-4100 for details.
July 4	Independence Day; campus closed.
Aug. 22-25	Griffon Edge orientation program for new students.
Aug. 27	Fall semester begins.
Sept. 3	Labor Day; campus closed.

For sports schedules go to www.gogriffons.com or call 816-271-4481.
For alumni events, go to www.griffonalumni.org or call 816-271-5665.

Griffon Sports

In memory of Coach Hicklin

Robin "Rob" Lee Hicklin, head football coach from 1974 to 1985, died Sept. 1, 2006 in Joplin, Mo.

Rob was Western's winningest football coach at the time of his death, and he was named to Western's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Rob was Western's second football coach. He led the Griffons to three bowl game wins and national prominence. His overall record was 65-55-5.

He is survived by his wife, Maryln; son, Robin; daughters, Tracie Skaggs '83, Shelly Perez '84, and LeeAnn Haliburton; one brother, six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Rob was a football coach and teacher in Lexington, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., and Belton, Mo., high schools. He was defensive coordinator at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, before coming to Western in 1974. After Western, he was head coach at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, elementary principal in Caruthersville, Mo. and middle school principal in Charleston, Mo.

A Rob Hicklin Western Football Memorial Scholarship has been created. For more information, call 816-271-5647. ■

Become a Gold Coat member!
Gold Coat Fund Drive
during the month of May
Call 816-271-4481
for more information.

Griffon Football - a season to remember

The football team had its best season under head coach Jerry Partridge '86, in 2006. The Griffons finished the season at 9-3 overall, tying the school record for wins in a season. The team also qualified for the NCAA Division II national championship playoffs for the first time in school history. (They lost to Midwestern State University in the opening round.)

Western went undefeated at home 5-0 on the new field turf at Spratt Memorial Stadium, and was ranked as high as No.11 in the American Football Coaches Association Top-25 poll. The Griffons had three Wilson/MIAA Player-of-the-Week honorees: Jeremiah White, Jamie Hanson, and Dustin Strickler (named twice).

The Griffons were also well represented on the All-MIAA Football Team, coming away with six first-team selections: Jamie Hanson, J.R. Graham, John Matthew Fisher, Michael Cobbins, Roger Allen, and Jarrett Brooks. As a team the Griffons were rewarded with 17 total selections. ■

GRADUATING CHAMPIONS

Football player named Academic All-America

Leon Douglas, physical education major, was named to the "ESPN the Magazine" First-Team Academic All-America in the College Division as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Leon is a four-year letter-winner for the football team and recorded 47 tackles for the Griffons this season. He moved to the defensive line just weeks prior

to the season opener due to an injury and posted 6.5 sacks.

For his career, Leon recorded 148 tackles: 21.5 tackles behind the line of scrimmage and 10.5 sacks in 40 games.

He is a member of the Athletic Director's Honor Roll, the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll, and co-president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. ■

Two new coaches

Western had two new coaches heading into the 2006-2007 academic year. The women's soccer team was led by former University of Central Missouri assistant coach Jeff Hansen and the women's tennis team is being led by Ron Selkirk, who has been a part of the St. Joseph Tennis and Swim Club since 1980. ■



campus news



Patsy Smith named associate director of athletics

Patsy Smith '95, formerly the department's assistant athletic director, has been named associate director of athletics. She has been assistant athletic director since 2002.

Patsy began her athletic administration career as the business manager in 1998. She has been senior woman administrator and assistant to the athletic director for finance. Patsy was also assistant coach and head coach for the women's tennis program. ■

As we went to press, the women's basketball team's record was 24-1!

Griffon outside hitter Hallie Delagardelle prepares to serve in a volleyball match last fall.



feature

On the brink of innovation

The first graduate program begins

this fall, a \$2.5 million science and technology incubator is under construction, and students are engaged and involved; Western is a developing prototype of the new American regional university.

First graduate program begins in fall 2007

Western will offer its first graduate program this fall. The master of applied science degree with three options has been approved by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs, has been named interim graduate dean, and the graduate office is located in Frank Popplewell Hall, 214.

The master of applied science degree will offer three options - chemistry, human factors and usability testing, and information technology management (ITM).

The chemistry option is designed for chemists seeking career advancement, recent science graduates, persons re-entering the workforce looking to refine professional and technical skills, and science teachers seeking career advancement. This degree could be especially beneficial for product managers, product developers and others in the life sciences.

The focus of the ITM option is to prepare individuals to be managers of an IT department in an organization. This option provides students with an extensive background in network security, network administration and integration of heterogeneous information technology resources.

The human factors option stresses research methodology, systems analysis/design, environmental effects on behavior and the measurement of human behavior and performance in actual environments. This program targets those with undergraduate degrees in computer science, business, engineering or psychology.

Senior Megan Davis, second from left, assists students from Gallatin High School who are interested in health-related careers. Western's first graduate program, a master of applied science degree, begins this fall.

Dr. Joseph Bragin, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs, said Western's master's programs are unique throughout the state. They are known as Professional Master's Degrees, and their emphasis is on applied learning.

In traditional master's programs, he explained, the focus is on advanced disciplinary knowledge. Western's programs will provide that in addition to "cross-training" in business fundamentals, project management and communications. Individual programs of study may include an internship component as well.

He said the degree will provide a wide variety of career options not typically provided by traditional graduate programs.

"We feel that this fulfills our unique statewide mission of applied learning," Dr. Bragin said, referring to the directive of the State Legislature for Western to emphasize applied learning as part of its identity when it was designated a university in 2005. He noted that all graduate programs at Western will have an applied learning component.

For more information, call the graduate office at 816-271-4364 or visit the web site at www.missouri-western.edu/graduate.



Western: a new American regional university

Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, has been referring to Western recently as a new American regional university. We asked him to explain this concept, and what it means to students, the community and the region.

What is a new American regional university?

The new American regional university reclaims the notion of bringing together private good and public good. It is not inner-directed but outer-directed. This approach also focuses on the application of the university's resources for the good of the student and the good of the people that it serves in the community, region, state and nation.

What distinguishes Western as a prototype of the new American regional university?

Our long-standing commitment and tradition of serving more than just the good of the student but also the public good distinguishes Western as a prototype of the new American regional university.

When we were developing Western's strategic plan five years ago, it became evident that serving beyond the campus was already an element in our culture. Applying the resources of the university to the larger community and region is something that characterizes us and that should be made a signature for Western. Not very many regional universities in this country have fully embraced this concept. At Western we expect our students to be connected to the community and the region from the moment they enter Western - whether through community service or through application of what they are learning in the classroom to real world situations in internships or research applied to regional needs.

Explain what you mean when you say applied learning and applied research?

Applied learning is the kind of learning that takes the theory of the classroom and connects it to the world beyond the classroom in practical ways that serve the development of the student as a learner, but also ultimately as a worker, as a professional, as someone who is building a career. All of that helps the student learn in a way that is much more meaningful and powerful



Freshman Jarod Powell helps his little friend Gabe with an art project at St. Patrick Elementary School in St. Joseph, Mo. Community service is an important component of Western's mission.

than if you wait to apply the theory learned after you graduate. Some 80 percent of last year's graduates had at least one significant applied learning experience prior to graduation.

Applied research is in fact an applied learning experience. It is research clearly connected to problem solving needs in the region. The research projects that students and faculty engage in with the community helps the student to learn. We have about 14 academic departments involved in applied research. In many of those instances, it is both students and faculty involved in these activities. It is all part of Western's tradition of combining theory with practice for the good of individual students and the good of the larger community and region.

How does being a new American regional university benefit the students at Western?

Students' learning is connected to the real world in its application. Through internships, for example, students have direct experience in business and industry that prepares them for their first jobs and careers after graduation. Often enough these internships turn into offers for positions of employment at graduation.

Students have the opportunities to be involved in applied research which again helps them understand how the theory of the classroom relates to solving real world problems, whether they are business problems, industrial problems, government problems, or social problems. We help them to understand that they have an obligation to more than themselves through service activities, learning activities and through the modeling of productive behavior that employees provide at work and in their communities.

continued on next page

feature

How does this benefit the region?

This approach takes the resources that are here at Western and by design connects those resources to the variety of needs in our region. Much of the good we do takes place beyond our campus in the region, enlarging the influence for good of the university.

How did university designation enable us to better meet this vision?

University designation for Western is an affirmation of our quality. The legislation that gave us university designation gave us a statewide mission in applied learning. Our sense of mission was already focused on the applied, and so it affirmed and gave credibility well beyond the campus to the value of our mission in applied learning.

What can we expect to see from Western in the next few years?

We will see graduates ever better prepared to build their work lives and careers, and to serve the greater good in their communities. We can also expect expanded connections with industry, business and government through additional internships, increasing faculty-student research, and expanding services to the region. I think there will be more partnerships that bring together the resources we have and the resources in the region. We will have a heightened profile in our region, state and nation.

How can alumni and friends of the university help achieve this vision?

Alumni and friends can connect themselves to what we are and what we are becoming in many ways. Alumni, for example, could help us find excellent internship opportunities for our students. They can look to us for the applied research or service connection that will help them in their workplace as well as their communities. They can help by spreading the word about the commitment that we have to excellent education and service through applied learning and applied research.

To do that, we encourage them to learn more about us, by reading our magazines and publications, by being part of alumni activities, by keeping connected to Western and to one another. Their financial support, of course, has significant value, but of even greater value is their continuing involvement with Western. ■

Western's commitment: engaging students

Engage (en-gaj') v. 1. To involve oneself or become occupied; to participate. 2. To draw into. 3. To attract and hold the attention of.

That's what Western students are invited to do - become engaged in activities and organizations on campus. And that has become easier in the past year with the development of the Center for Student Engagement and its new space on the second floor of the Nelle Blum Union.

Stan Sweeney, director of student engagement, said that when he was hired in late 2004, his charge was to develop a student activities center and pull all student organizations together. The name was chosen after much forethought; "engage," students said, reflects a deeper involvement and commitment, and a fuller experience.

The center, which is open to any recognized campus organization, provides resources, such as a copier and fax, a button maker, and art supplies; and meeting and lounge areas. Two students have also been hired part-time to assist student organizations with graphic design and web page design. "We want them (student organizations) to feel like they have a place on campus."

Stan explained that studies have shown that students who are involved in their campus statistically graduate at a higher rate than those who are not involved. And, those students involved have a higher satisfaction rate.

Since he began as director, Stan also instituted a registration process and training sessions each fall for all student organizations and their advisors.

Currently there are approximately 70 recognized student organizations, ranging from Greek, to academic, to ethnic, to hobbies, to service groups.

"When students get involved in student organizations, it helps them grow and develop as individuals. It gets them out of their comfort zone," said Stan. "There's a lot of learning that occurs outside the classroom." ■

Students Vern Wheeler, David Williams and Amy Prawitz enjoy the lounge area in the new Student Engagement Center on campus.

Spring 2007

feature

University receives \$2.5 million grant for incubator**Facility to stimulate economic growth in region**

The architects' rendition of the science and technology incubator. Western received a \$2.5 million grant to build the incubator on campus. Construction will begin this spring.

The dream of a science and technology incubator on Western's campus is quickly becoming a reality. This past November, Western received notification from Sen. Kit Bond's office that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded Western a \$2.5 million grant to construct an innovation incubator on the west side of campus, west of Interstate 29. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring and be completed by late 2007.

"Building this incubator will spur economic development in the region. As a developing prototype of the new American regional university, Western is an active partner in the economic growth of the region," said Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president.

Building this incubator will spur economic development in the region. As a developing prototype of the new American regional university, Western is an active partner in the economic growth of the region.

Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president



The incubator will provide custom-outfitted space, as well as access to technical and business advice and operating support services for entrepreneurs in the early stages of commercial development. Dr. Chris Shove, dean and executive director of the Western Institute, noted that it will help high-technology firms that pay high wages to locate here. "It's a very exciting new component for the economic development of St. Joseph."

The facility is planned to be a two-story, 25,000 square foot building. Initially only the first floor, 12,500 feet, will be completed. It will contain a conference room, a wet laboratory, operation offices, and tenant spaces. The second floor will remain in reserve for more firms and research.

The incubator, which will be operated by the Western Institute, is designed to accommodate up to 15 firms of a few persons each. Its flexible plan will accommodate a few large firms requiring larger spaces.

The planning for this project began in July 2004, and much of the analysis and planning for the incubator was done by Western students from biology and business.

Western has received two grants previously from the EDA regarding the incubator project. In 2005, Western received a \$20,000 grant to fund a feasibility study for the incubator, and a \$75,000 grant in June 2006 to conduct architecture and engineering analysis for it. Ellison-Auxier, teamed with HOK of St. Louis, are the architects for the project. ■

Spring 2007

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Colleen A. Kowich
Director of Alumni Services

Meet the new Director of Alumni Services!

Colleen Kowich joined Western as the director of alumni services last fall.

Colleen, originally from Mount Clemens, Mich., a suburb of Detroit, earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Adrian College, Michigan, and a master's degree in college student personnel services from Virginia Tech.

She served as alumni volunteer coordinator at Adrian College from 1997-1999 and most recently as director of alumni relations at Saint Leo University, Fla.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Alumni Association Board of Directors to create new opportunities for alumni involvement," said Colleen. "Western is at an exciting time in its history! I hope that our alumni will join us as our Association continues to grow."

Colleen is a member of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club of St. Joseph, and serves on the Greater Kansas City Chi Omega Alumnae Board of Directors. ■

From the Alumni Association President

Why are you involved? That's a question I've been asked many times. I'm involved because Western is a great institution, and I wouldn't be where I am today without the education I received. I'm also involved because it's fun! I've met people of all ages and from all walks of life who share with me one common bond: We all attended college at the same place. While the name has changed over the years, our spirit remains the same.

Why do you stay involved?

First, for our students. What we do as a group and what we achieve as individuals helps our students. We show them that their dreams are not too big. Many of our alumni were once students who dreamed big and succeeded, and our current students need to see this. Second, for the university. The more alumni are actively involved, the greater recognition and prestige Western will gain, and our legacy will grow.

How can I get involved? The Alumni Association is working to expand alumni opportunities. There are many things you can do right now to show your pride and become involved:

- Attend an event
- Join a regional event committee
- Become a member of the alumni online community
- Become a member of the Western League for Excellence



Jason M. Horn '95
President, Alumni Association

- Wear Western logo clothing
- Organize or attend a reunion activity
- Serve as a Griffon career volunteer
- Work with students on a service project
- Order Griffon address labels
- Purchase a Western license plate (Missouri residents only)
- Attend an athletic event

Want to learn more? Contact Colleen Kowich in the Alumni Services Office at 816-271-5650 or e-mail Colleen@griffonalumni.org. You can also e-mail me at AlumniPresident@griffonalumni.org.

Jason M. Horn
Jason M. Horn '95
President, Alumni Association



University Diploma

Order a University diploma online at www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni, or request an order form from the Alumni Services Office, 816-271-5646. Cost is \$20 - diploma only, \$30 - diploma + padded folder; \$3.85 s&h.



Approximately 250 alumni, family and friends turned out for "Alumni Family Night at the Drive In" at the Horseshoe Lake Drive In east of St. Joseph, Mo. in September.



Alumni grill lots of burgers and hot dogs at the tailgate party prior to the Western football game against Washburn University in Topeka last fall. The Alumni Association and athletics hosted tailgaters at Maryville and Topeka.

Dave Lau '89, and brothers Scott '78, Bruce, Mike '84, and Brian Graham tailgate before a Griffon home game. They said they try to tailgate at least one game each year. Their brother, Andy '81, is also an alumnus.



We want your photos!

We are now accepting baby and wedding photos for Alumnnotes!

Please follow these guidelines:

- We welcome digital photos, but they must be a minimum of at least 2 megapixels or 300 dpi, and saved as a jpg. For best results, use the largest setting on your digital camera. Email to the address below.
 - Prints must be good quality and on matte paper; please note if you want them returned.
- Mail to: Diane Holtz, MWSU, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.**
- Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that your photo will be published.

Questions?

Call 816-271-5651 or email holtz@missouriwestern.edu. ■



ALUMNI BENEFITS NOTE

Beginning July 1, 2007, the Alumni Association will launch a new benefit program. These new benefits will replace all existing alumni programs, including the alumni perks program. Watch for more details in June.

2006 Distinguished Service Awards

Four alumni and one faculty member honored

Four outstanding alumni and a well respected professor were honored at the Alumni Association Awards Banquet Homecoming weekend. Just like last year, the award recipients fought rainy, cold weather for the parade, tailgate lunch and game on Saturday.

Dr. Clarence Garder Class of 1940

After graduating from the St. Joseph Junior College, Clarence earned a bachelor's degree from Baker University, three graduate degrees from Columbia University in New York, and a doctorate from the University of Kansas.

Clarence was a member of the Robert Shaw Collegiate Chorale. He also directed the International House Choir in New York City and the Armed Forces Choir in Shanghai after World War II.

Clarence was a professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. He served as chair of the music department for 10 years.

Clarence said he was happy to visit St. Joseph and have a chance to visit with friends from his junior college days.

Julia Schneider Class of 1967

Julia is a familiar face on Western's campus. She has worked at the Western library since 1971, serving as director since 1991.

After Junior College, she earned a bachelor of arts degree in English and library science from Northwest Missouri State University and a master's in library science from University of Missouri - Columbia. She is a very active volunteer in the community and the state.

"I remember most of my instructors well. My best experience was taking the breadth of classes offered ... all taught by knowledgeable, caring individuals."

Dr. Dennis Atkins Class of 1977

Dennis, who earned a master's and a doctorate in business administration from California Pacific University, has had a successful career with American Family Insurance since he graduated from Western with a BSBA in marketing.

In 2005, on Western's campus, Dennis logged his 50,000th mile while running a marathon around Downs Drive. In four marathons, he has raised almost \$60,000 for the Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living.

"Western faculty and students impacted my life in such a way that I knew I could succeed no matter what obstacles I might have to overcome, and they helped me gain the necessary confidence to proceed with my professional career."

Dr. John Mullican Class of 1987

John has been an associate professor of biology at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan. since 1999.

After he earned a bachelor of science in biology from Western, John earned his doctorate degree with an emphasis in molecular biology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and served as a post-doctoral research fellow there as well.

As a faculty member, he has published frequently, and has helped secure a number of grants for Washburn, including a grant for a DNA Sequencer.

"As a biology professor, I continue to try to emulate the great faculty members who so exemplify what is best about Missouri Western: a well trained, excellent and caring faculty."

Dr. Richard Crumley Professor Emeritus of Biology

Richard joined Western's staff in 1967, retired in 2000, but returned to teach for two semesters last year. He served as biology department chair for nine years and was instrumental in establishing many of the programs of study.

He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Pittsburg State University, his master's from Emporia State University, and doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado.



2006 Distinguished Service Award recipients: Dr. Richard Crumley, Julia Schneider, Dr. Dennis Atkins, Dr. John Mullican, and seated, Dr. Clarence Garder.

Many former students and fellow faculty members wrote recommendation letters for Richard's nomination, describing him as a mentor, an outstanding teacher, a role model, a friend, a great thinker, a good man, a leader, patient, fair, consistent, dedicated and encouraging, enthusiastic, revered and feared, excellent, and one in a million.

"I've been privileged to have a vocation that I loved. I looked forward to going to work every day those 34 years," said Richard.

Nominations of alumni or faculty members may be submitted year round online at www.missouriwestern.edu, follow the links to "Alumni Recognition;" or you may obtain an application from the Alumni Services Office, Spratt 108. A letter stating why you believe the person deserves the award must accompany the application. The criteria is also online or available in the Alumni Services Office. The deadline is May 1 each year. ■



Past Distinguished Service Award recipients. Also, seated in the front row is Tammy Gnuschke, one of the Alumni Family Scholarship recipients.

Congratulations, Alumni Association scholarship recipients!

The Alumni Association awarded \$22,000 to 23 students for 2006-2007: 15 Alumni Association scholarships and eight Alumni Family scholarships.

The **Family scholarship**, now in its sixth year, is given to incoming freshmen whose parent is a Western alumnus/alumna. They must have a 3.0 GPA out of high school, demonstrate financial need and be involved in at least four extra-curricular activities throughout their high school career. This year's recipients are:

- Kelsey Breckenridge, daughter of John Breckenridge '76.
- Tammy Gnuschke, daughter of Rodema '74, and Don '73, Gnuschke.
- Katherine Hangartner, daughter of Connie Hangartner '73.
- Mallory Hutchcraft, daughter of Preston Hutchcraft '88.
- Jesse Jennings, daughter of Robert Jennings '83.
- Lacey Modlin, daughter of Joelle (McClure) Modlin '89.
- Keri Seitz, daughter of Jeanette Seitz '93.
- Zachary Slater, son of Jill Christine Vollin '83.

The **Alumni Association scholarships** are based on merit, requiring a minimum 3.5 GPA, or a combination of merit and need, requiring a minimum 3.0 GPA. Preference is given to students who have completed at least one semester.

Recipients include:

- Stacy Blankenship, junior, physical therapy assistant.
- Amber Buzzard, sophomore, nursing.
- Alicia Falter, senior, social work.
- Ashleigh Hampton, sophomore, elementary education.
- Dustin Limback, sophomore, English.
- Megan McManus, junior, elementary education.
- Kristina Nelson, senior, medical technology.
- Miranda Patti, sophomore, biology.
- Laura Rutten, sophomore, physical education.
- Jennifer Smith, junior, nursing.
- Kathryn Strasser, junior, English, secondary education.
- Sarah Watkins, sophomore, physical education.
- Wesley-Aaron Whitney, sophomore, criminal justice.
- Carrie Woods, junior, business.
- Wendy Worley, sophomore, biology.

Students may apply for the scholarships by March 1 each year through the financial aid web page. ■



Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology and department chair, Rob Baker '01, and Laura Wells '01, visit at the tailgate lunch before the Homecoming game. The biology department held a reunion weekend to coincide with Homecoming, and alumni who graduated 20 years ago to the present returned for a social on Friday, the parade, the tailgate lunch and game. The department hopes to make it an annual event.

**Attention,
Snowbirds!**

If you winter away from home,
let us know your winter address!
We want to include you in all
regional event mailings!

feature

My Favorite space on campus!

We recently asked some student leaders to tell us about their favorite space on campus, and we received a variety of answers!

The business department's new advisory center

Steven Blakely, president, Inter-Greek Council

My favorite spot on campus is the business department office. I sit in there and speak with Peggy Leland (academic administrative assistant) before and after my classes and tell her how the week is going. She fills me in on how she's doing, too.

The Griffon News Office

Lauren Epps, Griffon News editor

In the office we have a refrigerator that is stocked full of goodies and food for those late nights of newspaper design. We also have a futon for anyone who has had a long day and needs a comfy, quiet place to sleep. My staff and I come in on Sundays to do the bulk of the design of the newspaper and we usually bring food and make a little party out of it with music and laughter. I also use the office as a nice, quiet place to study for my other classes.

Spratt Memorial Stadium

Alicia Falter, president, Griffon Habitat

Hearing the crowd cheer, smelling the aroma of the concession stand food, and watching the Griffon football team makes Spratt Stadium my favorite place on campus. I love going there because I see Missouri Western students, faculty and staff, along with the community and alumni, come together to watch the Griffons. Going to the football games allows me to show my school spirit and makes me proud to be a student here.

(Alicia is such a devoted fan she even showed up for the rainy, cold Homecoming game!)

The trail by the Baker Family Fitness Center

Ella Howser, Griffon Yearbook editor

Ever since I was a freshman, I have been walking/running on that trail. It was always a place I could go to sort through everything that was going on in my life at the time. Sometimes I would bring friends to visit the trail, but most of the time it was a place where I could get away and just focus on myself, relax and think important decisions through. Not only was this a safe haven, it was also a way for me to find time to exercise. I don't like to be cooped up in a building for hours just exercising; I would rather be outside in the fresh air.

