

# Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Commemorative Centennial Issue Winter 2015

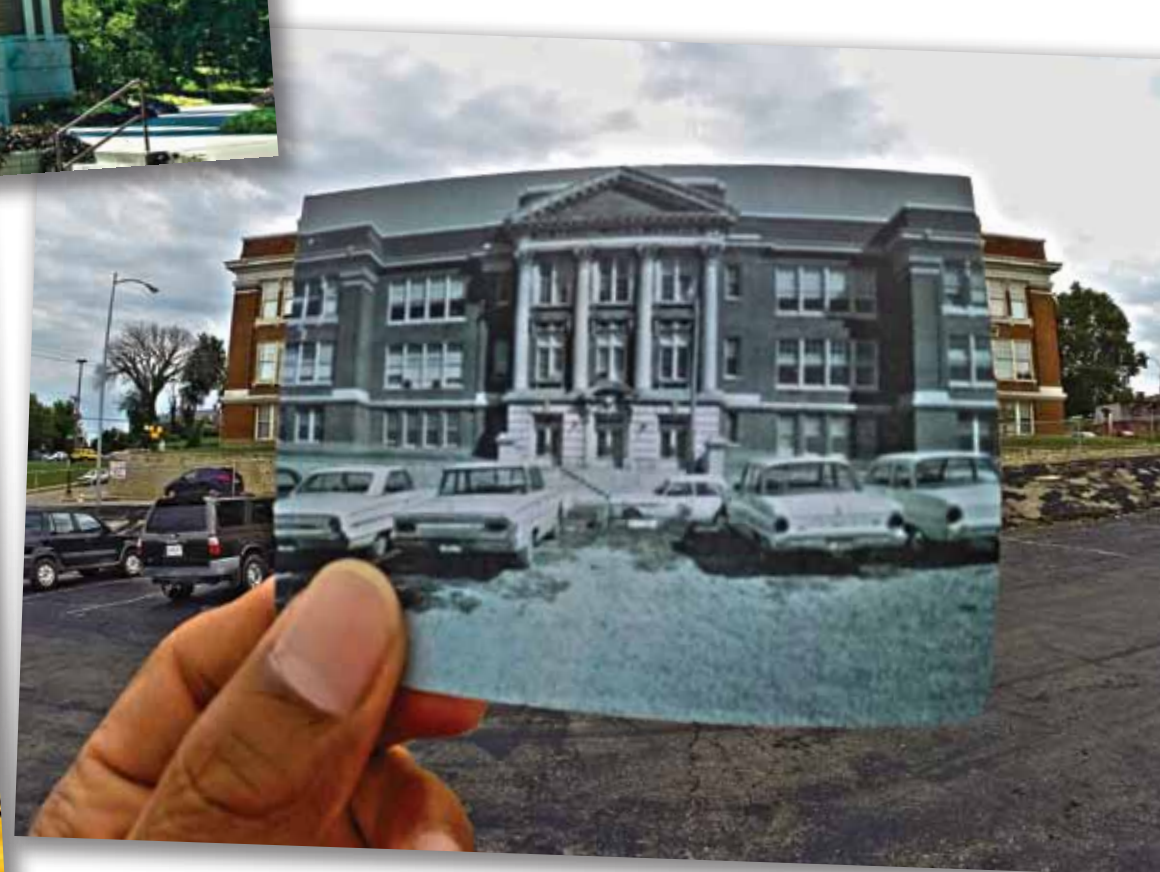


CELEBRATING THE PAST,  
*preparing for  
the future*

MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY



# THEN and NOW



Dear friends,

Transforming lives is more than a tagline. It's how Missouri Western has operated since its founding 100 years ago. It's 25,000 graduates who have changed their own lives, and the lives of their families, through a Missouri Western education.

This transformation is evident on the day of commencement. You can see it in our graduates' faces, and in the faces of their family members and loved ones who have come to cheer them on with pride.

Our students come from all around the world, from all different backgrounds. No matter the circumstances, we remain committed to providing opportunity for all students. Our promise to students is this: If you work hard enough and rise to the occasion, you can get a high quality, affordable education, and your life will be transformed. That has been our commitment for 100 years, and it has never wavered.

The University's evolution is truly remarkable. Our roots began as a Junior College, born out of the passion of St. Joseph's community leaders in 1915. Now, we celebrate our thriving,

master's-level University with nearly 6,000 students from all over the United States and around the world.

As we kick off our Centennial year, we have two opportunities: commemorating our vibrant and rich history, and preparing for what's sure to be a spectacular future.

In this issue of Missouri Western magazine, you will have the opportunity to read about the University's history. You will also learn about our vision for the future. Our master planning efforts are ensuring that the University has the facilities we need to continue growing and serving. The Centennial Capital Campaign is leading this charge. We must continue to grow, to better serve our students and to deepen our impact on the region. The Centennial Capital Campaign is crucial as we lay the groundwork to continue transforming lives for generations to come. With your help, we will continue to evolve and thrive.

There's never been a more exciting time to be a Griffon. I hope you join us as we celebrate our wonderful heritage, and begin our next 100 years of transforming lives.

*Robert A. Vartabedian*

Robert A. Vartabedian  
President,  
Missouri Western State University

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**EDITOR**  
Diane Holtz

**DESIGN EDITOR**  
Kendy Jones '94

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING**  
Mallory Murray

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS**  
Colleen Kowich

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Randy Edmonds  
Gilbert Imbiri '14  
Athletics Media Relations

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**MISSOURI WESTERN MAGAZINE**  
4525 Downs Drive, Spratt Hall 108  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-271-5651  
holtz@missouriwestern.edu  
missouriwestern.edu/magazine

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# 100 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

The St. Joseph Junior College was a transformational force right from the start, and St. Joseph's higher education institution continued transforming for the next 100 years.

## TRANSFORMING STUDENTS

The transformations began in 1915 when the St. Joseph School District created a junior college in Central High School so high school graduates could attend college in their hometown for the first two years.

Many Junior College alumni have related over the years that they would not have gone on to college had it not been for the St. Joseph Junior College close by.

Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, professor emerita of English, was grateful that the St. Joseph Junior College was close to her hometown of Easton, Mo. so she could attend college. It was the middle of the Great Depression, and not many women were going to college, she said. There were 102 students in her class.

Along with giving traditional students an opportunity for higher education, the lives of many nontraditional students, those over the age of 25, have been transformed by Missouri Western. In the fall of 1989, nontraditional students at Missouri Western numbered 39 percent of the student population, and even today, approximately a quarter of the students

are considered nontraditional.

Missouri Western has always had a diverse student population throughout its history, which offers a great learning opportunity for students. In 1971, the International Student Club was small and made up mostly of students from Iran. Today, there are 129

international students from 34 countries on campus.

Additionally, Missouri Western's open admission policy has always given students the opportunity to earn a degree if they are willing to work hard for it.

"I will be forever indebted to Missouri Western for giving me a chance," said Dr. Bernie Patterson '73, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "I didn't give them much to show that I would succeed. They helped make that happen."

As an outgrowth of the college's open admission policy, Access Plus was created by Missouri Western in the late 1990s. The program's goals were to improve retention and graduation rates, and it transformed the lives of thousands of students.

The College received \$2.2 million from the state to launch the nationally recognized program, and over the four-



year program, the money funded 28 new faculty members, 22 staff positions, technology support, telecommunications equipment and several new initiatives. Many of those initiatives and positions still exist to this day, and improving retention and graduation rates are still priority goals.

"I believe we have an obligation to do more than merely accept tuition and fees from students, wish them well and stand back," President Dr. Janet Murphy told faculty and staff in 1996 when she introduced Access Plus.

The University's unique entrepreneurship program that was created in 2009 has also transformed not only the lives of the students and alumni involved in the program, but has created employment opportunities and improved the communities where the franchises are located. Today, 18 alumni have been

continued on next page





## 100 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

campus and become a four-year institution, the community again stepped up in its support of bond issues, first to form a Junior College district, and then to fund the first buildings on the new campus. Community members also passed a bond issue to fund Eder Hall, and they have been generous supporters of every one of Missouri Western's capital campaigns.

It was a partnership with the College and the Missouri Department of Conservation that brought the MDC's Northwest Missouri

of their advisor, Orrel Andrews. The Science Club lent its support to the museum for many years thereafter, including publishing and writing the museum's national newsletter and starting an endowment fund for the museum in 1945.

That Children's Museum was the start of the St. Joseph Museums, which continue to partner with the University. Missouri Western students serve internships at the museum and faculty and staff serve on its board.

Additionally, the 1945 yearbook reports the creation of a Junior College Red Cross chapter, the only college unit in the Pony Express District of the American Red Cross. The group performed several hours of community service, including preparing Christmas gifts and wreaths for a veterans' hospital.

Since the advent of social sororities and fraternities in the 1960s, St. Joseph has benefited from the



awarded stores in 13 states, and the program is continually expanding.

"This program has definitely transformed my life," said LaTricia Adkins '11, owner of a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Fresno, Calif. "If it was not for this program, I would not be where I am and I would have never been given these opportunities. I am very grateful and appreciative."

## TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

Throughout its 100 years, the University and community have enjoyed a rich partnership.

Community leaders were involved in the St. Joseph Junior College from its founding. In fact, it was the St. Joseph Commerce Club (now St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce) that provided the impetus behind creating a Junior College in St. Joseph.

When it was time to expand the

headquarters to campus in 1992, the first partnership of its kind in the state. That partnership has grown and further developed over the years with outstanding benefits for both partners, and the Missouri Western students gain the most.

Today, departments across campus engage in partnerships with businesses and organizations across the community, such as the St. Joseph School District and Mosaic Life Care.

Along with partnerships, community service has also been one of the cornerstones of Missouri Western's mission, even from its earliest days.

In 1927, the Junior College's Natural Science Club founded the St. Joseph Children's Museum under the direction



## 100 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

Greek students' commitment to volunteering in the community and raising funds for charities.

Don Willis, former director of student engagement, said that whenever an organization in the community asked for volunteers, he knew he could always count on the sororities and fraternities to help. That tradition continues today with the University's 10 Greek social organizations.

When the summer of 1993 brought record rainfall amounts and record flooding throughout the Midwest, Missouri Western again stepped up to support the area in its time of need.

On July 23, Elwood, Kan., was evacuated, and the campus became the temporary home for the Missouri Air National Guard. Missouri Western's parking lots were used for vehicles and equipment, and Air Guard and Missouri Army National Guard members stayed in residence halls. Additionally, the American Red Cross set up a shelter in the lobby of Potter Hall, and 30 evacuees from Elwood were housed there for five nights.

The Instructional Media Center also aired Federal Emergency Management Agency broadcasts to television stations and to more than a million homes on a special channel set up during the flood.

The community service tradition continued into the next decade, too. In 2001, the Unity Services Office (now the Center for Multicultural Education) initiated The Big Event, a day of service for students that was held two times a year.

Also, in an effort to stress the importance of community service to students right from the start of their college careers, the Griffon Edge new student orientation program added a service component in 2003. On the last day of the orientation that year, hundreds of Missouri Western students spread throughout the community volunteering for several nonprofit organizations, and that is still a part of Griffon Edge today.

In August 2005, students and the Missouri Western community stepped up after Hurricane Katrina. When student Brad Landrum '10 mentioned to his

professor, Jim Grechus, that 32 members of his family who were displaced by Katrina and coming to St. Joseph, Grechus mobilized the collection of 16 bags of clothing for Landrum's family, and the Missouri Western State University Foundation donated free evening meals in the cafeteria for family members.

In 2007, Missouri Western participated in the television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The University provided full tuition and room and board scholarships for the family of nine children, and more than 200 students and employees volunteered at the home over spring break.

Those are just a few examples of Missouri Western's volunteerism in the community. Today, students and employees log approximately 120,000 hours of volunteer service to the community each year, and Missouri Western has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for six years in a row. It is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and community engagement.

"Missouri Western is a jewel in the community. We're blessed to have it," said St. Joseph resident Gordon Robaska in a 2011 interview. "I think it is one of the main focal points of the community."

Today, the great relationship with the community continues. With 550 employees and almost 6,000 students, Missouri Western has an estimated \$190 million yearly economic impact on the region.

## TRANSFORMING THE WORKFORCE

Throughout its wonderful history, Missouri Western never lost sight of its mission of transforming lives by preparing students for careers. The University has always worked closely with the region's businesses and industries to provide alumni who were ready to compete in the workforce.

A News-Press/Gazette article about the Junior College noted that many people returned to college in the 1930s seeking higher education as a key to occupational success. "At no time did the college better prove its worth to society," the article said, "than in that period when students could remain at home and obtain a good education."

In 1941, the Junior College created a civilian pilot program in an effort to fill the need for pilots in WWII.

Marion Gibbins, who was dean of instruction when the college became a four-year institution, said during his tenure of 1957-63 and 1965-72, courses

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Missouri Western once offered an automotive technology program to address workforce needs.



# 1915-2015 OUR HISTORY



■ **1915** – St. Joseph Junior College opens on Sept. 20 in Central High School, 13th and Olive.



■ **1958** – The Missouri Legislature nixes plan for the Junior College to be a two-year branch of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.



■ **1968** – Conditions that were set out in the four-year bill that was signed in 1965 are deemed met, and Missouri Western officially becomes a four-year college Oct. 22.

Missouri Western becomes a national model for its teacher education program.

The Continuing Education program begins.

A marching band performs for the first time at football games.

■ **1972** – Nelle Blum College Center, now Blum Student Union, is dedicated.

■ **1973** – The yearbook and newspaper begin using the name, "Missouri Western State College."



The Rathskeller student gathering space opens in the basement of the College Center.

■ **1976** – Fred Eder Student Services/Classroom (SS/C) Building, now Eder Hall, opens.

■ **1977** – Legislation passes so that the college now receives state funding for all four years.

■ **1979** – Spratt Memorial Stadium is built, and spring Commencement is held there.

The college's fight song, "Fight On, Griffons," is adopted.

■ **1980** – An addition to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building is completed.

■ **1981** – The president's home on campus is destroyed by fire.

■ **1982** – Softball team wins national championship.

The college adopts an Alma Mater.

■ **1983** – Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy becomes president.

■ **1985** – First Honors Convocations are held.



■ **1917-1918** – The Griffon, half lion and half eagle, is adopted as the symbol of the college.

■ **1925** – The Junior College moves to its own building at 14th and Olive.

■ **1927** – The college graduates 80.

■ **1931** – Nelle Blum becomes dean while continuing to teach.

■ **1933** – The Junior College moves into the former Robidoux School, 10th and Edmond.

■ **1940** – A civilian pilot training program begins because of WWII.

■ **1941** – Summer school classes are added.

■ **1942** – The Griffon News reports that 75 percent of the male students are enlisted in the Army or Navy Reserve.

■ **1945** – Enrollment numbers explode as veterans return to school.

■ **1947** – A Griffon News editorial suggests expanding to a four-year college.



■ **1964** – Twenty-nine instructors are teaching 55 subjects.

■ **1965** – The Missouri Western Junior College District is approved by voters, and the college's name is changed to Missouri Western Junior College.

Gov. Warren Hearnes signs a bill to fund a four-year college in St. Joseph.

Milburn W. Blanton is named Missouri Western's president.



■ **1966** – Although the bond issue passed to fund four new buildings on a Frederick Blvd. campus, the Board of Trustees later votes to purchase 390 acres east of Interstate 29 for the campus.

■ **1967** – Dr. M.O. Looney begins his term as president.

Missouri Western Junior College is renamed Missouri Western College.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus is held.



■ **1969** – The college opens in the fall as a four-year institution with 2,536 students and three buildings: the Evan R. Agenstein Science and Math (SM) Building, the Warren E. Hearnes Learning Resource Center (LRC) and the Frank Popplewell Administration (A) Building.



■ **1970** – The Engineering Technology (ET) Building, now Wilson Hall, opens.



The first Commencement ceremony for the four-year institution is held for 45 graduates.

■ **1971** – The Dr. Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Center (FA), now Potter Hall, and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building (HPER), now Looney Complex, are completed.



The college adds 354 acres, bringing the total campus size to 744 acres.

The first residence hall, the 100s (now Logan Hall), opens in the spring.



# 1915-2015 OUR HISTORY

- 1986 – New wing opens in Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Center.

- 1987 – The bonds that financed the construction of the first campus buildings are paid off.

- 1988 – Yolanda King speaks on campus.

Honors program begins with 45 students and Dr. Gerald Zweerink as its first director.

Missouri Western joins the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II.

- 1989 – A daycare center opens on campus.

- 1990 – Hearnese Learning Resource Center addition opens.

Chatauqua Lecture Series begins.

- 1991 – The fourth residence hall opens – Leaverton Hall.

The Undergraduate Summer Research Institute begins.

- 1992 – Missouri Department of Conservation opens on campus.

The College receives the largest gift in its history – \$1.6 million.

Enrollment tops 5,000.

- 1993 – Campus becomes temporary home for the Air National Guard during the summer flood.

- 1994 – Fitness Center opens.

- 1995 – The Law Enforcement Academy opens.

Vaselakos Hall residence hall opens.

- 1996 – Griffon Edge, a more extensive orientation program, begins.

- 1997 – Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom (MC) Building, now called Spratt Hall, opens.

Access Plus program begins.

Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower now graces campus.

- 1998 – A commencement ceremony is added in December.

- 1999 – Initiative to equip every classroom with state-of-the-art presentation equipment begins.

- 2000 – Janet Gorman Murphy Academic Center (JGM), now Murphy Hall, opens.

Nelle Blum Student Union addition is completed.

- 2001 – Eder Student Services/Classroom Building reopens after renovation.

James J. Scanlon becomes president.

- 2002 – A second Commencement ceremony is added in the spring.

- 2004 – The Commons Building opens by the residence hall complex.

Missouri Western opens a location in North Kansas City.

- 2005 – The Fulkerson Center, a banquet and conference facility, opens.



designated and becomes Missouri Western State University on Aug. 28.

Living/Learning Center, now Scanlon Hall, residence hall opens.

- 2007 – Missouri Western participates in “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” television show.

The University Plaza is dedicated.

The University begins offering graduate programs.

Missouri Western receives the largest gift in its history – \$5 million.

The University opens a downtown location.

- 2008 – Missouri Western receives a record-breaking gift – \$5.5 million.

Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Science and Technology Center opens.

Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian becomes president.

- 2009 – The University holds its first hooding ceremony for master’s degrees.

- 2010 – Remington Hall opens.

The Craig School of Business gains accreditation.

The Griffon Indoor Sports Complex opens.

Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp is held on campus for the first time.

Enrollment tops 6,000

The University becomes an All-Steinway campus.

- 2005 – Missouri Western earns university designation and becomes Missouri Western State University on Aug. 28.



- 2011 – The renovated Agenstein Hall opens.

Bushman Planetarium opens as an immersive theater.

Spring Sports Complex opens.

Griffon Hall residence hall opens.

- 2012 – Greek living quarters open on campus.

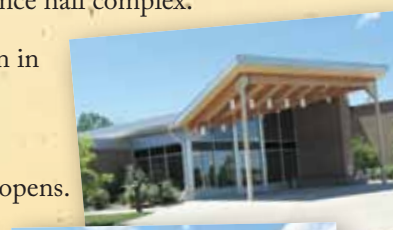
- 2013 – The Walter Cronkite Memorial is dedicated in Spratt Hall atrium.

- 2014 – Kelley Commons, a new gathering space for students, is dedicated.

Spring Commencement is held in Spratt Memorial Stadium.

The University receives a \$10 million pledge from an anonymous donor. It is the largest gift in Missouri Western’s history.

International enrollment for fall 2014 is 129, a growth of 60 percent from 2013.



# THE FILE OF FIRSTS

When a university celebrates 100 years, there's bound to be a lot of "firsts." Here's a look back at some of the most notable, interesting and fun #1s in Missouri Western's first century.



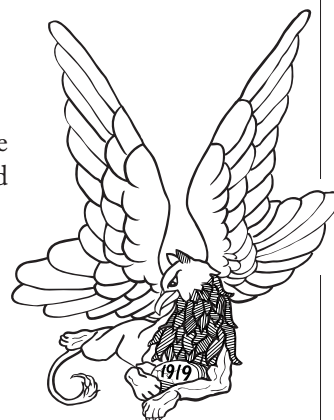
## 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

September 20, 1915 was the first day of school for the St. Joseph Junior College. It was housed in Central High School, which was located at 13th and Olive Streets. There were 35 students in the first class and eight faculty members. Tuition was \$40 per year for residents of St. Joseph and \$60 per year for non-residents.



## 1ST COMMENCEMENT ST. JOSEPH JUNIOR COLLEGE

The first commencement for the St. Joseph Junior College was held in 1917, and eight women and two men received diplomas. The class included twin women, Bonnie and Donnie Cottoral.



## 1ST SPORTS

Men's basketball was the first organized sport and got its start in the 1916-17 school year with a team for each class. The first football season began in 1922 and lasted just three seasons. The Junior College attempted to start a football team in 1916, but had to disband because they lost several players; most likely they left to fight in WWI. Its first season at the four-year college was 1970.

Griffon baseball, which played its first game in the spring of 1970, played on campus for the first time in 2011 in the new Spring Sports Complex.

Men's and women's golf was first played in 1969.

Officially, intercollegiate women's basketball, volleyball and tennis all began in the 1975-76 academic year. Softball also started that year, and the team played its first game on campus in 1995.

Women's soccer began in 2005.



## 1ST STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The first Griffon Yearbook was published in 1921 for the 1920-21 school year. Prior to that, the Junior College shared a yearbook with Central High School. Jessie Lee Myers '21, was the first editor-in-chief, and it was dedicated to Lt. Water Louis Pinger and Cecil Meyers, who "sacrificed their lives in the recent war."

The first issue of the college newspaper, called the Spectator, was published in December 1924. The editor-in-chief was Mildred Windish, and the paper came out monthly. Six years later, the paper changed its name to Griffon News. By then, it was published two times a month. It became a weekly paper in 1974.

## 1ST ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

The first president of the student body was Luther Rockhold, in 1924-25. He served for two years. The Missouri Western Foundation was founded in 1969, and Thomas Reck was its first president, serving a one-year term in 1970. The Gold Coat Club, which supported athletics, was created in 1970 and its first president was Bill Beasley.

The Missouri Western Alumni Association was formed in 1969, and John P. Biehl '57 was named its first president.



## 1ST FEMALE PRESIDENT

Calla Varner was the first to be called President of the St. Joseph Junior College. She had been teaching at the Junior College when she was named vice principal in 1923. She became principal in 1924 and president in 1926. Varner was recognized by students in the earliest years of the Junior College as one of its greatest driving forces.

When Varner left, Nelle Blum was dean of the Junior College and no one held the title of president again until 1965.

When Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy was hired in 1983, she was the first female president of a four-year higher education institution in Missouri.

In the 30th anniversary booklet that was published at the time of her retirement, she related that Dr. Francis Kessler, political science faculty member and a member of the presidential search committee, drove her to the Kansas City International Airport after her campus visit and interview. "He stated that he enjoyed meeting me, but it would be the last time he would see me since he didn't believe the board would select a woman. We had a friendly bet of \$5. I still have Dr. Kessler's check," she said in the article.



## 1ST GREEKS

The 1927 Griffon Yearbook contains a photo of 20 women who were members of the first social sorority for the St. Joseph Junior College, Omega Tau. The text below the photo reads, "One of the most notable events of J.C.'s most notable year was the invasion of the Greeks – a decided departure for this institution."

The first official social fraternity on campus was Delta Nu, which organized in 1966 and later became affiliated with Lambda Chi Alpha.

In 2012, the first Greek living quarters were established on campus when nine suites in Juda Hall were reserved for fraternities and sororities.





Clifford Hughes '55

### 1ST BLACK STUDENTS

When the Supreme Court handed down the historic Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka on May 17, 1954, the St. Joseph Junior College may have been the first in the country to enroll blacks in a previously white institution in a formerly segregated state. When the summer session began on June 5, five black students were enrolled, who had all been teachers at the recently closed Bartlett High School in St. Joseph.

In 1955, Clifford Hughes is presumed to be the first black graduate of the St. Joseph Junior College, according to "Missouri Western State College, A History: 1915-1983."

Willie Washington, a Junior College librarian, was the first black professional staff employee hired, and Herman Pitter was the first black faculty member at the Junior College.

Vince Singleton '74 believes he is the first black football player to graduate from Missouri Western. He transferred to Missouri Western from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College in Miami, Okla. to play for the Griffons.

"They had just completed one dorm with guys on one side and girls on the other," said Singleton, who played defensive end. "But they didn't have a field. We played at Noyes Field."

His studies were interrupted when he was admitted to the hospital and had to withdraw from school. "I knew I had to graduate from college,

but people didn't really believe that I would," he says. "That was my force to finish. More than anything in the world, I wanted to graduate."

When he finally walked across the stage, Singleton had to mail his diploma to his father before he'd believe his son was really a college graduate.

Singleton has lived in Maine for more than a quarter century. In 2006, he got a degree in performing arts from the University of Maine in Augusta, and he plays bass in a band.

"I love what Missouri Western did for me," he says. "It strengthened me to be able to handle any obstacle or adversity that confronted me."



Michelle Figg '03 and Stan Pearson II '02

### HOMEcoming 1STs

The Junior College's first Homecoming parade was held in downtown St. Joseph in 1954. The 1955 yearbook noted, "Junior College had its first Homecoming Parade this year, which made people realize that there is more than just a building up here on the hill."

In 1969, the parade started at East Hills Shopping Center and proceeded downtown, instead of being held downtown only.

In 1998, the Homecoming parade was held on campus for the first time. Floats lined up in the American Family parking lot across from the

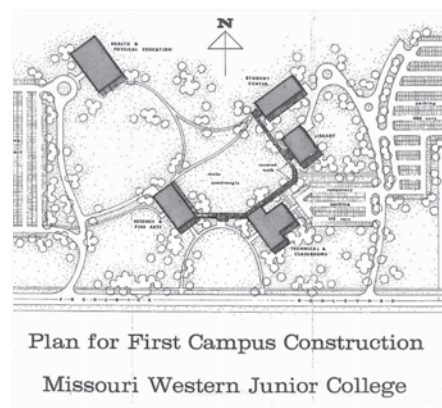
campus on Mitchell Ave. and went clockwise around Downs Drive. Although there were a few traffic problems, the parade was deemed a success.

In 1999, the campus was disrupted with the construction of Murphy Hall (JGM Academic Center) and the addition to the Blum Student Union, so the parade went back to downtown St. Joseph. The following year, Faraon St. past the north entrance of campus was being repaired, so the parade couldn't be held on campus that year, either. It continued to be held downtown every year after that, and the 1998 Homecoming parade became the one and only parade held on campus.

Stan Pearson II '02 holds the honor of being the very first Homecoming King, crowned in 2001.

### 1ST STEP TO A FOUR-YEAR

The first tangible step that led to the creation of the four-year college came about in 1961 when legislation passed that provided for the establishment of Junior College districts by a vote of the people in those areas. Such a district was a prerequisite for a four-year college for St. Joseph.



### 1ST FOUR-YEAR SITE

The first selected location for Missouri Western's four-year campus was on Frederick Blvd. In 1965, a bill passed in the State Legislature, giving the college the option to purchase 130 acres immediately north of

the St. Joseph State Hospital across Frederick Blvd. A bond issue had passed to purchase the site and build four buildings, but later the present site east of I-29 was selected when it was determined that 130 acres was not large enough.

In 1967, the Missouri Governor passed a bill which authorized conveyance of 135 acres to the Missouri Western Junior College District. The acreage was part of the state hospital's dairy farm, and the cost was \$27,000. Additionally, 255 acres was purchased from area farmers for a total of 390 acres and a cost of \$357,200.



### 1ST TO ENROLL FOR YEAR THREE

Liz Dotson didn't realize she held the distinction of being the first student to enroll when Missouri Western became a four-year college until she read about herself in the newspaper. She had attended the St. Joseph Junior College for two years when she registered for her junior year on the main campus.

"Maybe I knew at the time that I was the first, but I can't remember. All I remember was three buildings, a trailer for the student union, and that



it was the coldest place on earth," she says with a laugh. "We went to classes all over the downtown so it was nice to be all together on the new campus."

To earn school money, Dotson said she baby-sat for the three sons of Dorsey and Dr. M.O. Looney, the college president.

She and her husband, Deane '74, moved to Florida in 1987 and Liz worked for many years as a speech technician. Although "she always wanted to," she never earned her bachelor's degree.

"When we come back to visit, we love to come out to campus. It's beautiful."

### 1ST BUILDINGS

When Missouri Western moved to its new campus in 1969, three buildings were ready for classes: the Evan R. Agenstein Science and Math Building, the Warren E. Hearnese Learning Resource Center and the Frank Popplewell Administration Building.



### 1ST COMMENCEMENT MISSOURI WESTERN

The first commencement ceremony on the new campus was held on a stage south of the Hearnese Learning Resource Center. It was held in the spring of 1970 for 45 graduates, and U.S. Sen. Stuart Symington delivered the commencement address. Thunderclouds loomed throughout the ceremony, but the rain held off until after the event.



### 1ST FOOTBALL CAPTAINS

Chris Faros '73 and Zack Workman '74 were selected as the first football captains at Missouri Western.

Faros played Griffon football for three years before beginning his coaching career in 1974 at Colorado State University. In 1983, when Faros was the offensive coordinator for the Memphis State Tigers, he was killed in a plane crash in Tennessee. He was 31 years old.

Workman and Faros' other teammates established a scholarship in his memory to be awarded to a senior football player. In 2002, a pavilion was built west of Spratt Memorial Stadium and in 2005, the name was changed to the Chris Faros Pavilion.

After graduation, Workman became a teacher and coach for eight years before he opened Lawns Unlimited, Inc. in Cameron, Mo. He has served as a Gold Coat board member for 22 years and as president for more than a decade.

### 1ST RESIDENCE HALL

The 100s Hall (Logan Hall) was the first dormitory to be built on the new campus, and construction began in 1970. The original plan was to build four halls with a common area in the center. The 100s, 200s (Beshears) and 400s (Juda) halls were completed but a 300s Hall was never built due to lack of funds.



### 1ST FOUR-YEAR GRADUATE WITH ALL MISSOURI WESTERN CREDITS

Robert Willoughby '70 knew that he was on a fast track to earn his bachelor's degree, but he was surprised to learn that he was the first person to earn a bachelor's degree with all the credits from Missouri Western.

It was during his first semester at the Missouri Western Junior College in 1967 that he heard there was going to be a new campus and the addition of junior and senior years. "I was glad I could now stay in my hometown and get a four-year degree. That was very appealing."

He took a lot of summer classes and earned enough credits to graduate by the end of the summer of 1970. When he participated in the commencement ceremony in 1971, he was recognized as the first to earn a bachelor's degree with all credits from Missouri Western.

"Months later, someone told me I was in the newspaper." He still has a copy of the article.

Armed with a bachelor's degree in history, Willoughby later earned a master's degree and has spent his entire career teaching. Today he is a history professor and department chair at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

### 1ST ROTC GRAD

The first person to graduate from the military science program at Missouri Western and earn a commission in the U.S. Army was Harold McKee '73, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement. When the program

began in 1971, classes were held in a building on the west side of I-29, and 24 students enrolled in the first class.

### 1STs FOR YOUTH

Four programs for youth began several years ago and continue to this day: Lifetime Sports Academy, 1973; Chemathon, 1977; Tournament of Champions (high school bands), 1986; and the History Bowl, 1987.

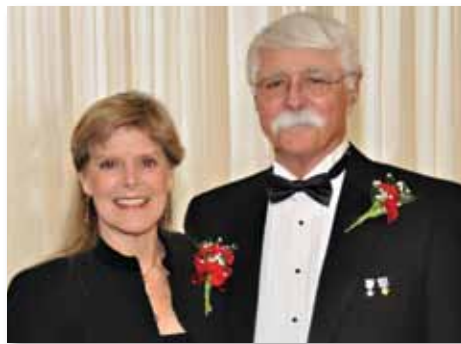
In the first History Bowl, Savannah High School, coached by Bill Luce, won first place by defeating Central High School, coached by Kathy Northup, in an exciting match.

Fourteen schools competed in the first Chemathon and Dr. Clifton Melone from Kansas State University was the keynote speaker. The Chemathon was named by two high school seniors, Cathy Hague (now Wayman) and Mary Pat Mahoney (now Hewitt). By its 10th year, 41 high schools were competing.



### 1ST FEMALE SIGNER

Thanks to Title IX, women's intercollegiate sports officially began in 1975. That year, Sara Nolte became the first woman to sign a letter of intent to play basketball. The player from Ruskin High School in Kansas City, Mo. signed a letter of intent for women's athletics at Missouri Western, making her the first woman to obtain an athletic scholarship.



### 1ST FEMALE ROTC GRAD

Rebecca Mackoy '75 & '76 was very aware that she was breaking new ground when she enrolled in the ROTC program at Missouri Western. The program was actively recruiting women for a military science degree and a commission into the U.S. Army.

She had taken some military science courses while she was earning her first degree in computer science, so it only took her a year to become the first woman to graduate from the College's ROTC program.

Mackoy said there was only one other woman in the program with her, and the director always wanted to show them off in an effort to recruit more women. The two were always part of the honor guard at every home football game, and when Family Day came around, the women were the ones rappelling off the Popplewell Administration Building. Women in the ROTC program were supposed to keep their hair pinned up, but she said they were allowed to wear their hair down so people would know there were women in the program.

"The professors weren't sure what to do with us, and the other cadets didn't know how to treat us. Some hit on us, some were suspicious and some accepted us," she says with a laugh.

Mackoy left Missouri Western and began her three-year commitment to the Army. She remained in the military her entire career and retired as a colonel in 2003. She now works for an Army contractor and lives in Washington, D.C.

She knew that she was breaking new ground in her early years in the military, too. "They went through a lot of growing pains, but things changed rapidly when they started getting more and more women."

"It's hard for young ladies today to have any clue about what we went through," she says. "A lot is taken for granted now."

### 1ST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Missouri Western did not join an athletic conference until it was 61 years old. In 1976, under the guidance of Athletic Director Charlie Burri, Missouri Western became a founding member of the Central States Intercollegiate Conference (CSIC). The conference contained eight schools: Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State College of Pittsburg, Kearney State, Missouri Southern, Missouri Western, Washburn and Wayne State.



### 1ST STADIUM GAME

The first football game was played in Spratt Memorial Stadium in 1979. Prior to that, home games were played on Central High School's Noyes Field. In 1985, the stadium received lights, and fireworks followed the first night game.



### 1ST BUILDING ADDITION

The first building to receive an addition was the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building (HPER), now Looney Complex. The addition, completed in 1980, included the arena, classroom and office space, and equipment. Construction on the original structure had begun with limited funding in 1969 with the idea that an addition would be necessary shortly.



### 1ST STUDENT REGENT

In 1984, Gov. John Ashcroft signed a law to allow a student representative on the boards of higher education institutions in the state, and Robert J. Claassen II, a St. Joseph native, became the first student to serve on Missouri Western's Board of Regents. The student regent could attend all meetings and participate in discussions, but was not allowed to vote or sit in on closed executive sessions. Gov. Ashcroft appointed Claassen for a one-year term that expired in January 1986, but

subsequent student regents were appointed for two-year terms.

"It was an interesting year," Claassen says of his time on the Board. "I gained a totally different perspective of the management of the College, and it allowed me to bring the Board the student perspective. It gave them (Board members) the ability to have a different insight into students."

Claassen wasn't on campus very long when he became involved in student leadership. As a freshman, he was elected to fill a senator's position on the Student Government Association, and he stayed involved in the SGA throughout his college career.

He graduated with a chemistry degree in 1987, earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Missouri and spent two years at North Carolina State University in post-doctorate work. He has worked at ExxonMobil since 1995 and is currently the Finishing and Compounding Process Technology Manager in Texas.

"I am very proud of my degree from Missouri Western. The great education has served me well and helped me in my career."

### 1ST ON TV

The first televised class, Introduction to Data Processing, was held in 1985.





### 1ST EGGS AND ISSUES

In the fall of 1988, the Missouri Western Foundation began hosting Eggs and Issues for campus and community members, and the program continues today. The first one was held in the Blum Student Union and was attended by 20 people: 10 students, five community members and five faculty members. The topic of discussion was about students working while attending college “The Changing Patterns of the Work Ethic.” It was sponsored by United Missouri Bank NW. Dr. James McCarthy, executive vice president, served as moderator.

In the beginning, Eggs and Issues breakfasts were held for small, invited groups of students, faculty and community members several times each semester. In the early 2000s, the format changed to where Eggs and Issues featured a guest speaker rather than a debate or panel discussion, and it was open to the campus and community. It has been held both off- and on-campus over the years, and as little as two and as many as eight per year have been offered. Two things about the program have not changed – a free breakfast is still served to all who attend, and it still begins at 7 a.m.

### 1ST ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS

In 1990, the Department of Athletics created an Athletics Hall of Fame and inducted three members at a banquet at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph – Larry “Gator” Rivers, Jeff Brown and Tom O’Brien.

Since it was the first Department of Athletics Hall of Fame induction, athletes, coaches and trainers who had been inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame in prior years were automatically inducted into the Missouri Western Athletic Department’s Hall of Fame. That included Doug Minnis, baseball coach; Rhesa Sumrell, softball, basketball and volleyball coach, and coordinator of women’s athletics; and Gary Hazelrigg, head athletic trainer.

Additionally, six players and a coach had been inducted into Missouri Western’s Football Hall of Fame, and these were also folded into the department’s new Hall of Fame: Coach Harold Cagle, and players Zack Workman ’74, Chris Faros ’73, Dave Hedrick ’75, Bob Heimbaugh ’76, George Blakley and Tim Hoskins.

Long-time Athletic Director Charlie Burri had been named a charter member by President Dr. Janet Murphy when he retired in 1984, and he was the emcee at the induction ceremony. Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western’s president from 1967-1983, gave the keynote address at the 1990 ceremony and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for meritorious service.

### 1ST ALUMNUS ON BOARD OF REGENTS

Robert Roth ’73 was the first alumnus to serve on the Missouri Western Board of Regents. He served 1992-1998. Roth was president of Hillyard, Inc.



### 1ST FACULTY CHAIR

The first Faculty Chair at Missouri Western was for Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin and her Writing Across the Curriculum program, which had been established in 1984. In 1990, Leah Spratt donated \$200,000 to establish the faculty chair.

The program was developed to improve student writing skills, regardless of their major or discipline. Through workshops, guest speakers, book discussion groups, on-campus conferences and individual consultations, Dr. Latosi-Sawin strived to help faculty reconsider their teaching methods in an effort to improve student writing and critical thinking.

Dr. Latosi-Sawin organized the first ever off-campus retreat for faculty; hosted the only formal faculty debate about instructional techniques; published Critical Literacy, a nationally distributed newsletter, for two years; and conducted the first critical thinking assessment of graduating seniors. Additionally, Writing Across the Curriculum developed guidelines for writing-intensive courses in Liberal Arts and Sciences and conducted several research projects and surveys.

The program became well known when faculty members published and presented papers about it at many national conferences.

Dr. Latosi-Sawin directed the program until it ended in 2000.



### 1ST R. DAN BOULWARE CONVOCAION ON CRITICAL ISSUES

In an interview after she retired, President Emerita Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy said convocations were a tradition on many campuses, and she wanted Missouri Western to establish that tradition to provide an enriching experience for students.

Although several convocations featuring guest speakers had been held off and on over the years at the St. Joseph Junior College and Missouri Western, Dr. Murphy is credited with establishing the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues.

The College’s first R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues in 1993 featured Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author and historian. His topic was “The Disuniting of America,” and it drew approximately 3,000 to the M.O. Looney arena.

In an interview after she retired, Dr. Murphy recalled that, right before the procession into the M. O. Looney Complex arena, Schlesinger turned to her, surprised, and said, “There are 2,000 to 3,000 people in there!”

“I turned to him and said, ‘Well, I didn’t know how many would come.’”

### 1ST STUDENT ATHLETE BANQUET

The first banquet to honor student athletes was held in 2000, co-sponsored by the St. Joseph News-Press. Nikki Glasgo, women’s tennis,

and Rick Moeckel, football, were named Student-Athletes of the Year. Bill Grigsby, “Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs,” was the guest speaker for the audience of more than 300. A special valor award was given to Jeff Holland, a football player and 1985 graduate who had been shot in the line of duty as an Omaha, Neb., police officer.

### 1ST GRADUATE PROGRAMS

University designation in 2005 allowed Missouri Western to offer graduate programs.

Two master’s degrees were offered for the first time in the fall of 2007 – a Master of Applied Science with a Chemistry option and a Master of Applied Science with an Information Technology Management option. The first hooding ceremony for master’s degrees was held at the spring 2009 commencement for 12 graduates.



### 1ST ENTREPRENEUR

Seth Lyons ’08 was the first alumnus to win a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store in the Craig School of Business’s entrepreneur competition that began in 2009. Seth and his wife, Kelsey ’08, paid off their store in Silverthorne, Colo. in a little over two years. In 2013, the Lyons opened a second franchise, a WhichWich? Superior Sandwiches, next to their Rocky Mountain store.

In 2014, they sold the RMCF store to Caleb Mackey, one of the winners in the May competition.

“Steve Craig deserves all the credit,” Seth Lyons says of the unique entrepreneurship program. “If it wasn’t for his vision, it would not have happened. I’m just proud to be a part of it.”



### 1ST CHIEFS CAMP

Missouri Western welcomed the Kansas City Chiefs and more than 60,000 fans to the first summer training camp on campus in 2010. A new Griffon Indoor Sports Complex with an indoor football field opened in time for the NFL team’s camp in July of that year. The Chiefs were contracted to hold their summer camp in St. Joseph for five years, and in Missouri for 10.

### 1ST INTERACTIVE MEMORIAL

The Walter Cronkite Memorial opened in the Spratt Hall Atrium in 2013. It is the first extensive and permanent memorial of its kind in the U.S. to honor Walter Cronkite, who was born in St. Joseph, Mo. in 1916. Another first was the production of “Cronkite,” a live, multimedia presentation featuring a professional actor that became available to memorial visitors in 2014. ■

# DID YOU EVER WONDER ...?

Did you ever look at a building, room or campus landmark and wonder who it was named after? Did you ever wonder how some of the things on campus came to be? Wonder no more!

## Who was Eddie of Eddie's Bridge?



The bridge at the bottom of the hill as you come in from Faraon St. is named "Eddie's Bridge" in honor of Edward Hirsch, a Junior College alumnus and active community member. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Alumni Association.

## Why Missouri Western and not Western Missouri?

In 1965, voters had passed a bond issue to form a junior college district, and the junior college was no longer supported by St. Joseph only. So a naming committee was formed to determine a name for the new junior college district. Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, professor of English at both the junior college and Missouri Western was on the naming committee. She recalls that someone on the committee suggested "Missouri Western," everyone liked it, and the rest is history.

## Why a clock tower? And who is Glenn Marion?

In 1996, Norman Marion approached Dr. James McCarthy, executive vice president, to talk about a campus clock tower, which Norman said was a long-time dream of his late father's, Glenn E. Marion. Dr. McCarthy liked the idea, because he had wanted a clock tower or some type of campus icon for a long time. Norman Marion pledged \$50,000 to kick off the fundraising drive for a tower.

The clock tower was placed in the center of campus where a fountain had been. It was named in memory of Glenn Marion.

Glenn Marion began teaching engineering at the St. Joseph Junior College in 1944 and served as department chair. As soon as Missouri Western moved to its new campus in 1969, he



developed landscaping plans for the campus and worked tirelessly for many years, planning and planting.

He retired from full-time teaching in 1974, but continued to work on the campus' landscaping until 1983. In 1991, he told the St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette that he had planted 400 trees and shrubs on campus.

The Glenn E. Marion Clock Tower was completed in 1997.

## There's a Challenger Memorial on campus?

Yes! Missouri Western created a memorial to the seven crew members who lost their lives in the Challenger space shuttle explosion on Jan. 28, 1986, including Christa McAuliffe, the first civilian aboard a space shuttle.

Russell Schank '88, an electronics engineering major, had followed the space shuttle program closely and wanted to plant seven evergreen trees on campus as a memorial to the crew. He was afraid the trees' significance would be lost over the years without a marker, so Schank came up with the idea of placing a bench near it.

The Electronic Engineering and Technology Society, a student group to which Schank belonged, raised the money needed to plant the seven evergreen trees, and the Missouri Western Foundation agreed to fund a granite bench. The trees, in a semi-circle around the bench, are located near Wilson Hall. A dedication ceremony was held in the fall of 1986.

The engraving on the bench includes the names of the seven killed and a quotation from their eulogy that was given by President Ronald Reagan.

## Are Spratt Hall and Spratt Memorial Stadium named for the same person?

No, Spratt Hall is named for Leah Spratt, and the stadium is named in memory of her brother, Elliot C. "Bub" Spratt.

Elliot Spratt was an avid volunteer and an outstanding advocate for St. Joseph. He held many positions at Hillyard Companies, including executive vice president of Hillyard Sales Company East. Spratt had been comptroller for St. Joseph when the city purchased land for the parks and boulevard system, the public golf course, the airport and the civic center in the 1920s.

When he passed away in 1976, part of his estate was bequeathed to Missouri Western, and the funds were used to build the stadium in 1979. ■

MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY



## BOOKS

Missouri Western is printing two books as part of its Centennial



Dr. Francis Flanagan '35 and Diane Holtz

year. First, a pictorial history book with beautiful spreads of photos throughout our history will be included with the Fall 2015 Missouri Western Magazine and

will be available for purchase in the University bookstore.

The second book is a sequel to "Missouri Western State College: A History 1915-1983," the University's original history book that was written by Dr. Frances Flanagan and printed in 1983. In early 2016, a book that covers Missouri Western's history from 1983 through 2015 will be printed.

Diane Holtz, editor of this magazine, is conducting the research and writing the book. It will have a limited print edition, but will be available online.

Dr. Flanagan's book will be available online, as well.

## MERCHANDISE

The Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus will be selling special Centennial apparel throughout the Centennial year. The Office of Public Relations and Marketing recently discovered drawings made in 1918 of the Griffon by its



## HERE'S THE INFORMATION YOU'LL NEED TO HELP MISSOURI WESTERN CELEBRATE ITS 100 YEARS!

creator, Norman Knight '18, and that design will be among several available on apparel.

Other vendors who sell Missouri Western merchandise will be given the opportunity to offer special Centennial apparel, as well.



## WEBSITE

Take a trip down memory lane and visit Missouri Western's centennial website at missouriwestern.edu/centennial. It is full of great photos, a timeline, video vignettes, a calendar of events, memories and favorite professors. You also have the opportunity to submit your favorite memory or professor on the website. Video vignettes will be added throughout the year.

## NOTABLES

As part of Missouri Western's 2015 Centennial celebration, the University is compiling a list of notable individuals – alumni, students, faculty, staff and community

members – who have positively impacted the development of Missouri Western from its days as St. Joseph Junior College to the University that it is today. They may be living or deceased, and there is no set number of Notables. We will list Notables selected in the future issues and recognize them during Founders' Day festivities.

## ARTS

Artists across the country were invited to submit ideas for a new Centennial outdoor sculpture for campus. The piece will be unveiled in 2015.

The University is also commissioning a Centennial song.

The student theatre productions in fall 2015 will also reflect Missouri Western's history, either by repeating productions from years past or choosing productions with a historical focus.

## CENTENNIAL EVENTS

### Black and Gold Gala July 25, 2015

A dinner and dance will be held on campus to celebrate Missouri Western's history and to recognize those who have played a part in its success.

### Founders Day Sept. 26, 2015

Join us for a community celebration of Missouri Western's Centennial with bands, a carnival and football game.

See [missouriwestern.edu/centennial](http://missouriwestern.edu/centennial) for all the details of ways to celebrate the centennial. ■

# PREPARING *for the* FUTURE

## MISSOURI WESTERN'S VISION



100 YEARS of TRANSFORMING LIVES

Missouri Western's Centennial year offers a unique opportunity to reflect with pride on all that the University has accomplished, and to plan with anticipation for the next 100 years. Several initiatives are in place to launch a vision for the next century, including a Centennial Capital Campaign, a master plan and an energy audit.

### CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Missouri Western's Centennial Capital Campaign, which kicked off in January 2015, is the centerpiece of the University's vision for the next 100 years.

"As we celebrate the University's Centennial this year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years and the nearly 25,000 students who have benefited from earning a Missouri Western education," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western president. "But we also have the opportunity to plan and build support for the next 100 years. Our mission compels

us to continue transforming lives."

Dr. Mark Laney agreed. "For 100 years, Missouri Western has earned our trust. Now it is time for us to invest in them because they deserve it," he said. "As the university goes, so goes the community." Laney is one of the campaign co-chairs with his wife, Mary Margaret, and Dan and Dale Boulware.

The five-year campaign focuses on three areas: investment in facilities, investment in endowments and investment in academic and co-curricular programming. A \$20 million initial celebration goal has been set, and

more than \$16.5 million was raised in the silent phase of the campaign.

Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation, noted that the campaign is a comprehensive, donor-centered effort, and the University will always honor donor-designated gifts. Donors may also leave their gifts undesignated.

"Crucial to the University's success in the next 100 years is the continued growth of facilities, academic programs and the continued development of a remarkable student experience," Pickman said. "And community support is vital to this mission."

"We have one thing in common, we all love this community and this university," Dan Boulware said. "We are all Griffons."

#### GOAL 1: Investment in Campus Facilities: Spratt Memorial Stadium and Potter Hall

The University's strategic plan and the master plan identified renovations to **Spratt Memorial Stadium** as a priority need for Missouri Western. Funded by private donations and bonding, renovations will begin this spring and

are scheduled for completion in fall 2015.

In November 2014, the Board of Governors approved a statement of intent to proceed with a \$5.5 million auxiliary system revenue bond issue to pay for improvements to the stadium.

The Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, home of the Kansas City Chiefs Summer Training Camp, has strengthened the University's ability to engage the community and region in numerous athletic, wellness and health initiatives while providing an unparalleled experience and serving as a key recruitment tool. Yet, the home side of Spratt Stadium and the concourse area have not received improvements for many years.

Areas in the stadium are not accessible to people with disabilities, and due to increased fan support, the ticket office, restrooms and concession areas are overcrowded. Increased Gold Coat Club membership has also created a need for more premium seats and suites.

"Missouri Western athletes are recognized both regionally and nationally, and its facilities must reflect the University's commitment to competitive and exceptional athletic teams," said Kurt McGuffin, director of Athletics.

Work began on the renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium in the spring.



Plans are for construction of a new concourse, which includes an expanded concessions area, additional restrooms, a team store to sell merchandise, a ticket office, and a Hall of Fame room and reception area. The renovations also include the construction of up to 14 corporate suites, elevator and accessibility improvements, a new media area, more chair-back seating and an upgraded scoreboard/video board.

"The renovated stadium will provide modern and improved facilities that will contribute tremendously to the overall fan experience," McGuffin said. "Both athletes and fans will benefit from the improvements."

Renovations to **Potter Hall**, which houses the Department of Music; Department of Theatre, Cinema and Dance; and the Department of Art; has been recognized as a critical need in the University's strategic plan and master plan, and the renovations and expansion of the building have been listed as a priority for Missouri Western at the state level for nearly 20 years.

Graduates in the arts are employed throughout the region in the fields of graphic design, advertising, media, broadcasting, cinema, museum curation and more. Since 2007, enrollment in arts programs has grown 62 percent,

and at the same time, attendance has grown at the University's theatre productions, art exhibits and musical performances.

As part of the Centennial Capital Campaign, an approximately 13,000 square-foot state-of-the-art performance hall with seating for 500+ is proposed, along with a foyer and reception area, and an outdoor sculpture garden.

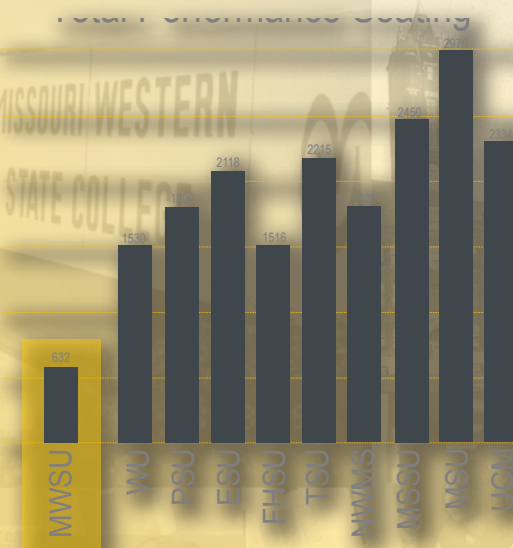
Last year, reserve funds were used to renovate restrooms and office space in Potter Hall, add a circle drive on the west side the building, and build a percussion room.

#### GOAL 2: Investment in Missouri Western's Endowment

Missouri Western's Foundation provides needed funding for scholarships and innovative programs, and increasing its endowment ensures permanent resources for those needs. This goal will fund scholarships, program and general operations of the Foundation, and the University has already received several gifts for its endowment. See "Growing our Endowment" on p. 23.

continued on next page

The master plan consultants' university comparison chart for total performance seats per student.



PREPARING *for the* FUTURE

### CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## Highlights

#### ■ Pledges at press time:

- 1 for \$10 million, largest gift in Missouri Western's history
- 1 for \$1.5 million
- 1 for \$1 million+
- 3 for \$500,000 - \$999,999
- 2 for \$250,000 - \$499,999
- 8 for \$100,000 - \$249,999
- 8 for \$25,000 - \$99,999

#### ■ Missouri Western employees have pledged almost \$500,000, and the president's cabinet has 100 percent participation

#### ■ \$16.5 million raised at press time

#### ■ Missouri Western's largest privately funded campaign



Dr. Mark and Mary Margaret Laney



Dan and Dale Boulware

“Supporting this campaign will help the Foundation fund even more scholarships and enhance students’ educational experience,” Pickman said. “It is endowment funds that will generate sustaining support for the next 100 years and beyond.”

### GOAL 3: Investment in Academic and Co-curricular Programming

According to Pickman, this focus of the campaign will support programs, equipment and emerging needs. These needs are met with donations to the University’s Annual Fund. Pickman said he hopes donors will continue to

support the Annual Fund and consider an additional gift to the campaign.

“Our donor support has always been phenomenal,” he said. “We truly understand that the support we receive from our alumni, our friends and the community is vitally important to our future, and we greatly appreciate it.”

“I believe we are at a critical juncture in our history, and I am excited to plan for our future,” Dr. Vartabedian said. “Since our founding in 1915 as the St. Joseph Junior College to our evolution as a modern, vibrant campus that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, our commitment to improve and transform the lives of students has never changed.” ■

## MOSAIC LIFE CARE ENDOWS PROFESSORSHIP IN FIELD OF POPULATION HEALTH

A Centennial Capital Campaign leadership gift of \$1.5 million from Mosaic Life Care will endow a professorship in the field of population health. The Mosaic Professorship for Population Health is the first endowed professorship in Missouri Western’s history.

“We are extremely grateful for Mosaic’s generous gift which will enable us to recruit and retain a highly qualified faculty member in this growing field,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president. “In turn, we envision tremendous strides in population health outcomes for our region and beyond. I believe this gift has the potential to

produce truly pioneering work and be a ‘game-changer’ for Missouri Western.”

Population health is an approach to health that steps beyond the individual-level focus of traditional clinical and preventive medicine by addressing a broad range of factors that impact health on a population level.

“The health-care industry is changing rapidly. There is a growing need for health-care professionals who are prepared to manage various aspects of population health,” said Dr. Mark Laney, president and CEO of Mosaic Life Care and co-chair of the Centennial Capital Campaign. “Mosaic and Missouri Western have

been partners in the work of educating tomorrow’s health caregivers. I’m pleased that we have strengthened that partnership.”

Missouri Western’s proposal to create a Bachelor of Science in Population Health Management will be considered by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in early 2015. Coursework would include biology, sociology, psychology, medical terminology, epidemiology, healthcare policy, ethics, analytics, communication and business. If approved, it will be the first undergraduate degree program in population health in Missouri. ■



Roy Tewell, and Nanette and Wayne Chatham.

## GROWING OUR ENDOWMENT

The following is a sampling of pledges to the Missouri Western State University Foundation for Missouri Western’s endowment:

**An alumnus who lives in St. Joseph** and wishes to remain anonymous has pledged \$10 million to the Foundation. The gift is the largest in Missouri Western’s history.

**Wayne Chatham ’90 and his wife, Nanette**, recently notified the Foundation that it would be the beneficiary of 10 percent of their estate, which is estimated to be a \$500,000 gift. Wayne is senior vice president for Ceridian Stored Value Systems, Inc. (SVS), a company which offers consumer loyalty solutions and retail gift, branded prepaid, prepaid debit, merchandise return, and promotional cards.

Wayne, recruited by Gary Filbert to play basketball for Missouri Western, fondly remembers his days as a Griffon.

“Gary ran a tight ship; he stressed punctuality and a strong work ethic.”

Roy Tewell was the assistant coach when Wayne played. “Missouri Western develops people,” he said. “Here is a successful man who has done very well, and now he is giving back to Missouri Western.”

Wayne, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management, has almost three decades of experience in the electronic payment field. He joined SVS in 1987.

“I flaunt my Missouri Western degree,” Wayne said. “I’m proud of it.”

Wayne and Nanette and their two children live in Kansas City, Mo.

**Bill Wright** notified the Foundation that it would be a beneficiary of almost \$500,000 from his estate for a scholarship fund for students in the arts programs.

“I was impressed by everyone I met in the arts programs. There is incredible potential for the arts at Missouri Western,” Wright said. “Faculty members are excellent and incredibly talented; they are world class people.”

With Dr. Laurel Vartabedian and Karen Graves, Wright helped found the Missouri Western Arts Society in 2011 to help raise money for the arts programs, and he headed the Arts Society Council for two years. Additionally, he has helped fund student trips to the Kansas City Lyric Opera and the Kansas City Repertory Theater.

Wright graduated from the University of Kansas’s architecture program and began his career as an architect for a large firm in Houston, traveling all over the world managing projects. He then worked for University of Houston and later Rutgers University, managing their building projects. He developed and operated the New Brunswick Cultural Center in New Brunswick, N.J., and served as executive director of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts at Michigan State University.

**Ralph ’77 and Norma Hiller** pledged \$200,000 to Missouri Western for scholarships for nontraditional students.

The Hillers, who live in California, have supported Missouri Western scholarships for nontraditional students for several years through the Hiller Family Foundation. The family recently dissolved the Foundation and notified the Missouri Western State University Foundation that it would receive \$200,000 for an endowed scholarship fund.

With a pledge of \$200,000, **Dr. Jane and Lyman Frick** established the Jane and Lyman Frick English Scholarship. Dr. Jane Frick is a professor emerita of English and the former director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project.

“We are so grateful to our generous donors for their support. Their gifts are essential to the growth and success of Missouri Western and its students,” said Jerry Pickman ’85, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Foundation. ■

continued on next page

## NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT NAMED

Kim Weddle '00 was named director of development and began her duties in January. She was previously the executive administrative associate to the president.

"As an alumna, I know first-hand the power of Missouri Western to transform lives," Weddle said. "I also know the important role private support plays in enhancing Missouri Western's impact on students and the region, and I look forward to working with the campus and the community to grow that support."

Prior to working in the president's office, Weddle worked nine years as executive administrative associate for university advancement, after two years



Kim Weddle '00,  
director of development

as a development associate and two years as a development specialist. She received an Outstanding Employee Award in 2009.

"When we began our search to fill this position, we described our ideal candidate as one with fundraising experience, a passion for Missouri Western, knowledge of the local community and a warm personality that easily builds strong relationships," said Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation.

"Kim embodies all of those traits, and I couldn't be more pleased to bring her on board." ■

## PRESIDENT'S CENTENNIAL CIRCLE

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, and his wife, Dr. Laurel Vartabedian, made a personal financial commitment of \$144,000 to inaugurate a new donor recognition program, the President's Centennial Circle. The circle, which began last spring, recognizes donors with a lifetime history of giving \$100,000 or more to the University, and two deans joined the circle in the past year.

Dr. Robert Willenbrink, founding dean of the School of Fine Arts, and his wife, Susie, pledged \$100,000 to express their deep commitment to the University's arts programs and students.

"I believe the capital campaign is important to the future of Missouri Western and to our region," Dr. Willenbrink said.

Recently, Dr. Mike Lane, dean of the Craig School of Business, and his wife, Dr. Peggy Lane, pledged \$100,000, as well. Dr. Peggy Lane is a professor of information systems and director of the Masters of Information Management Program at Missouri Western.

"As public support for higher education continues to decline, individuals must step up to provide support to mitigate the increasing cost to the students and their families. We are pleased to be able to help in a small way," the Lanes said. "As first-generation college graduates ourselves, we understand the importance of education opportunities. We believe in the mission of Missouri Western and want to contribute in a small way to the ongoing success of transforming lives." ■

## UNIVERSITY NAMED IN ARTIST'S BEQUEST

Brent Collins, internationally known "mathematically driven" sculptor, notified the Missouri Western State University Foundation that he intends to gift his entire artist's estate to the University. A permanent loan agreement was recently signed, and the collection will be housed on campus.

"This is a monumental gift to the University," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, when the gift was announced. "We sincerely appreciate his generosity."

Collins currently has two works on the Missouri Western campus. He was the creator of the work in the Remington Hall atrium, "Evolving Trefoil," and the sculpture on the lawn of Remington Hall, "Music of the Spheres."

His work has been displayed all over the world, including the University of Michigan, H&R Block Headquarters, the American Association for the Advancement of Science headquarters in Washington, D.C. and the UNESCO World Conference on Science in Budapest, Hungary.

"My work communicates the beauty of mathematics in clarified visual form," Collins says. ■

Brent Collins announces his gift to Missouri Western.



## COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Missouri Western began a comprehensive master planning initiative in the summer of 2014, and a full report is scheduled to be available this spring.

Ann Pearce, chair of the master planning steering committee, said the plan will establish a framework for physical growth over the next 10 years and will help guide the University's decisions regarding new construction and renovation, traffic patterns, accessibility, environmental stewardship, parking, land development, and classroom and other space utilization.

In July 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon signed a long-term land lease bill which opens up opportunities for Missouri Western

to enter into long-term leases on its 723-acre campus. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Ken Wilson '89, of Smithville, Mo. Missouri Western can now explore the option of leasing some of its land long-term, Pearce said.

The architectural firm Clark-Huesemann of Lawrence, Kan. was selected for development of the master plan.

Several Clark-Huesemann employees, including architects, engineers, landscapers and consultants, visited the campus as part of the project. They met with the campus community three times last fall, both for employee input and to share the preliminary results of the plan. The Board of Governors approved an initial master plan design at its December meeting.

The initial report identified the need for additional performance space, which is one of the focuses of the Centennial Capital Campaign. As part of the master planning process, 10 peer universities in the region were benchmarked for performance facilities, and Missouri Western was the only one to lack a large performance hall. Missouri Western also provides the lowest number of total performance seating per student enrollment than any of the other universities in the study.

The initiative also identified a priority need of renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium, also a focus of the Centennial Capital Campaign, and more recreational space for all students. ■

## ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A complement to the master planning initiative is a comprehensive energy conservation program that was implemented this past fall.

In June 2014, the Board of Governors accepted a proposal from Schneider Electric of Lenexa, Kan. to provide an energy conservation program. Schneider analyzed campus energy usage and designed, installed, maintained, monitored and arranged the financing of a comprehensive energy conservation program.

"Missouri Western has dealt with rising utility and operational costs for many years," said Dr. Cale Fessler, vice president for financial planning and administration. "This audit helps us be good stewards of our fiscal and environmental resources."

Schneider, a global specialist in energy management, will save Missouri Western nearly \$400,000 in energy costs annually over 15 years. The University anticipates an additional \$400,000 in utility incentives to offset campus-wide upgrades across its building, lighting, water and mechanical systems.

The initiative will span 27 facilities and incorporate a variety of energy-efficiency upgrades to enhance classroom and building comfort, while reducing energy consumption through lighting retrofits and occupancy controls, water fixture retrofits and modifications, mechanical upgrades and more. ■

## Campaign Volunteers

### Honorary Chair

Steven L. Craig, Hon. '09

### Campaign Co-chairs

Dan, Hon. '12 and Dale Boulware  
Dr. Mark and Mary Margaret Laney

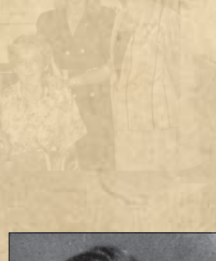
### Members

Eric Bruder '93  
Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75  
Pat Dillon  
Dr. Cale Fessler  
Karen Graves, Hon. '14  
Kurt McGuffin  
Michael Meierhoffer  
Shana Meyer  
Mallory Murray  
Dr. Krikor Partamian  
Roy Tewell  
Dr. Robert Willenbrink  
Zack Workman '74



100 YEARS of TRANSFORMING LIVES

Join us in our efforts to help Missouri Western succeed in its second century. To contribute to the campaign or find out about commemorative or naming opportunities, call (816) 271-5647 or visit [www.missouriwestern.edu/campaign](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/campaign).



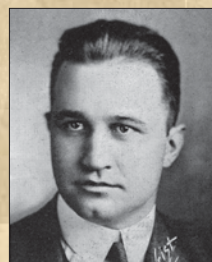
JOHN W. THORMAN



FRANK TOUTON



MERLE PRUNTY



O.S. WOOD



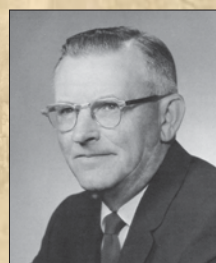
G.R. DEATHERAGE



DAVID W. HOPKINS



NELLE BLUM



EDGAR C. LITTLE



MILBURN BLANTON



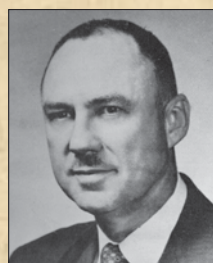
MARVIN O. LOONEY



CALLA VARNER



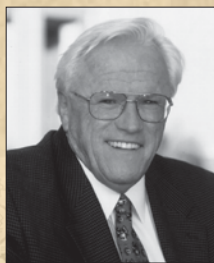
L.M. HAINES



MARION E. GIBBINS



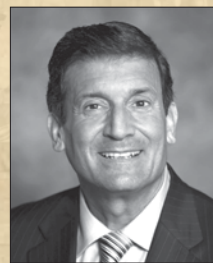
JANET GORMAN MURPHY



JAMES MCCARTHY



JAMES J. SCANLON



ROBERT A. VARTABEDIAN



# Our

As Missouri Western celebrates its Centennial, it is important to recognize those whose commitment to the University has allowed it to continue its mission of transforming lives and to flourish. Below is a look back at those who led the St. Joseph Junior College and Missouri Western throughout its 100 years.

Little information besides their names and photos in the yearbooks can be found about the first two principals of the St. Joseph Junior College, Frank Touton, 1915-16, and Merle Prunty, 1916-18. Both were principals of Central High School, thus making them the top administrator at the St. Joseph Junior College.

Even when the Junior College moved to its own building in 1925, Central's principal was still in charge, since the Junior College just moved next door.

John W. Thorman led the Junior College from 1918-1920. He was then promoted to superintendent of the St. Joseph School District. The 1924 Central High School yearbook, the Wakitan, calls him capable, talented and universally popular.

Capt. Oscar S. Wood, principal from 1920-23, was the Jr. ROTC Commandant for the high school.

G.R. Deatherage became principal of Central High School and the Junior College in 1923 and served for just one year. The 1924 Wakitan said he was "a booster of school subjects, athletics and activities. He has the support and friendship of all students."

According to several Junior College yearbooks, Calla Varner, the top administrator from 1924-33, was vital to the success of the

# leaders: 1915-2015

St. Joseph Junior College. An early yearbook noted, "It is rare that one person steps forward in an entirely new venture and maintains excellent control, thus rendering great aid and impetus to an embryonic movement. Yet Miss Calla Varner has stood forth to all college students as one who recognized a conscientious duty and more than successfully fulfilled it."

While Varner was president of the Junior College, David W. Hopkins served as dean from 1925-28 and L.M. Haines served from 1928-31.

Nelle Blum was named dean in 1931. When the Junior College moved several blocks away from Central High School to 10th and Edmond Streets in 1933, she became the top administrator and served until 1957.

Professor Emeritus Frank Popplewell wrote this about Blum: "As teacher and administrator, Nelle Blum was beloved and respected by a generation of students and teachers. During a period of great crises in our history, Blum and a handful of others conducted the college and provided the youth of the day with an education which won the praise of Missouri and Kansas universities and the applause of all who came to learn."

Marion Gibbins, a Junior College alumna, became dean in 1957. In 1963, he took a leave of absence to work on an education project in the Somali Republic. In 1967, he became dean of instruction under the new president, Dr. Milburn Blanton. Gibbins remained until 1972. The 1959 yearbook notes that "his durable patience, his complete understanding and his wonderful sense of humor are the traits which bring to mind Dean Gibbins. He has left an impression that will never be erased on the hearts of all Junior College students."

When Gibbins went on leave in 1963, he was replaced by Edgar Little, who retired two years later. During those years, Little worked tirelessly to promote the idea of the four-year institution and an expanded Junior College district to the community.

Dr. Milburn Blanton was hired as president of Missouri Western Junior College in 1965 and served 20 months.

He was hired shortly after the vote to establish the Missouri Western Junior College district, and was president when the turmoil of changing the location of the college from what was voted on came about. The college also faced accreditation issues during his tenure. He resigned in 1967.

Little came out of retirement to serve as interim chief administrator until Dr. M.O. Looney, who had experience in the development of a college, was named president in 1967.

By the time he left 16 years later, Dr. Looney had transformed the two-year Junior College to a four-year college and secured full funding from the state. He had overseen the move from the downtown campus at 10th and Edmond to land east of Interstate 29, and he was responsible for the construction of 11 campus buildings, including three residence halls, and Spratt Memorial Stadium.

Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy was hired as president in 1983. During her presidency, six new buildings were constructed, including two residence halls. The Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower was also built during her term.

Under her guidance, every classroom became technologically "smart" with up-to-date presentation technology; three buildings received additions; one was remodeled and the Missouri Department of Conservation Northwest Missouri headquarters was built on campus. Several programs were also introduced during Dr. Murphy's tenure, including Honors, Writing Across the Curriculum and Access Plus, which received national recognition and awards.

Dr. Murphy retired in 2000 and Dr. James McCarthy, who was executive vice president, was named interim president until Dr. James J. Scanlon was named president in 2001. During his tenure, Dr. Scanlon oversaw the construction of a new residence hall, a residential commons building, a science and technology incubator, and a banquet and conference facility. The cafeteria and several student spaces were also remodeled and refurbished. He initiated five-year strategic plans in 2002 and 2007, with strong emphases on applied learning, community service and academic quality.

Missouri Western was designated a university by the state and began offering graduate programs under Dr. Scanlon.

When Dr. Scanlon retired in 2008, Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian became president and remains in that position today. Dr. Vartabedian has overseen the construction of an academic building, a residence hall, a spring sports complex and an indoor sports complex. Additionally, an academic building was renovated and the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp came to campus. He also established the School of Fine Arts and began Western Playhouse, a summer theatre program.

In 2013, the Walter Cronkite Memorial was dedicated in Spratt Hall to honor St. Joseph-born Walter Cronkite. The Memorial received the Missouri Division of Tourism's Spotlight Award in 2014. ■

# Alumni Association honors six

The Alumni Association honored six at its 32nd annual banquet Homecoming weekend: Dr. Carlos and Mrs. Carol Moya, John Fabsits '04, Bob Vecchione '75, Capt. Keith Hoskins '88 and Dr. Susie Hennessy.



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

## DR. CARLOS AND CAROL MOYA

The Moyas moved to St. Joseph in 1980 and have been avid Missouri Western supporters and great community volunteers since then.

Carol Moya served on Missouri Western's Board of Regents and Board of Governors, and she served two terms on the Foundation Board of Directors. She was vice president of that Board for two years. Both have volunteered on Missouri Western's capital campaigns.

"We try to help as much as we can. Education has always been very important to us. An educated workforce is very important," Carlos Moya said.

Along with volunteering for Missouri Western, they have been active volunteers and board members for a number of community organizations.



**GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award**

## JOHN FABSTIT '04

A native of St. Louis, John Fabsits '04 graduated with a bachelor's degree in speech communications with a public relations emphasis. He is currently the Assistant Scout Executive/Chief Operations Officer for the Boy Scouts of America Great Rivers Region, which includes 33 counties in central and northeast Missouri, 300 individual packs and troops, and 10,000 youth and adults.

Fabsits lives in Columbia, Mo. and is very involved in volunteer organizations, including the board of the Young Professionals Group and the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation state board. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and continues to help out on the association's Mid-Missouri Chapter. He also works with the TKE fraternity both locally at University of Missouri-Columbia and nationally.



**Distinguished Alumni Award**

## BOB VECCHIONE '75

Bob Vecchione '75, a Chicago native, followed his cousin to Missouri Western to play baseball, and he played for three years.

For several years, he had a successful sales career, but had always wanted to work with athletics. While working for National Car Rental, the company became a corporate partner with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and that was the beginning of Bob's career evolution.

Bob joined the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics in 1992 and was named its Executive Director in 2011. The professional association serves more than 6,500 college athletics administrators at more than 1,600 institutions throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico.



**Distinguished Alumni Award**

## CAPT. KEITH HOSKINS '88

Capt. Keith Hoskins '88, from Parkville, Mo., came to Missouri Western to play football and graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He was commissioned into the U.S. Navy in 1989 after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School and was designated a naval aviator in 1992. He was a member of the Blue Angels, the Navy's prestigious flight demonstration squadron, for three years.

In 2013, he became the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. In that role, he oversees approximately 23,000 military and civilian personnel and 1,500 buildings and structures.

Capt. Hoskins has completed several flying combat missions in operations across the globe throughout his naval career. He earned a master's degree in national resource strategy and policy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



**Distinguished Faculty Award**

## DR. SUSIE HENNESSY

Dr. Susie Hennessy began teaching French at Missouri Western in 1997 and is a full professor. She became the Coordinator of Foreign Languages for the department in 2000 and became chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages in 2014.

She also serves as chair of the annual Foreign Language Day, which brings high school students from across the region to campus for a day of foreign language immersion. Dr. Hennessy received the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académique* (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms) from French Ministry of National Education.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Romance Languages from The Colorado College and a Ph.D. in French Literature from the University of Colorado. ■

## The history of the Alumni Association Awards

In October 1983, in conjunction with Homecoming, the Alumni Association held its first awards banquet at the St. Joseph Country Club, and it has been held every year since.

The first Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were Dr. Alvin M. Liberman '36, president of Haskins Laboratories and professor of linguistics at Yale University; Christel E. Marquardt '70, a partner in the law firm of Cosgrove, Webb and Oman, Topeka, Kan.; W. Dale Maudlin '71, president of First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., St. Joseph; David H. Morton '42, senior partner in the law firm of Morton, Reed and Counts, St. Joseph; and Blaine J. Yarrington '37, retired vice president of Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

The first Distinguished Faculty Award recipient was Francis Kessler, political science professor.

Col. John Byrne Logan pioneered the idea for the awards program and served as chair of the first awards committee.

The Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University was created in 2007, and the GOLD Award, Graduate of the Last Decade, was added in 2010.

Since 1983, 223 have been honored by the Alumni Association. ■



One of my favorite memories of my time at Missouri Western took place at Griffon Edge. I met my future husband on the first day of orientation. When we were in one of the first presentations of the day I introduced myself and told him my name was Autumn. He said, "Autumn, that's my favorite holiday!" and the rest was history.

- Autumn Sands '13

# Missouri Western holds first White Coat ceremony for nursing students

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges and Nursing announced that Missouri Western's Department of Nursing and Allied Health was one of 100 schools to be selected to receive funding support to pilot White Coat Ceremonies, which are designed to instill a commitment to providing compassionate care among future health professionals. The ceremony was held Oct. 9, one week before the nursing students began their clinicals.

Though White Coat Ceremonies have been an important rite of passage at medical schools for more than 20 years, the new collaboration between APGF and AACN marks the first time a coordinated effort has been developed to offer similar events at schools of nursing.

"The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing are sending a clear message to new nursing students that compassionate care must be a hallmark of their clinical practice," Dr. Evelyn Brooks, professor of nursing, said at the ceremony.

The 50 students, who will graduate in Spring 2016, received a white coat, a lapel pin and a small lamp. The Gold Foundation provided the lapel pin with its logo – a stethoscope in the shape of a heart, surrounded by the words "Humanism" and "Excellence." The white coat symbolizes professionalism in health care, and the lamp is often symbolic for nursing care and the warmth, goodwill, and reliability noted with this care regardless of time and place. The lamp is often associated with Florence Nightingale who was referred to as the "lady with the lamp" during the 1800s.

Dr. Gretchen Quenstedt-Moe and student Tucker Wynes at the Department of Nursing and Allied Health's first White Coat Ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, students recited a Nursing Student Pledge of Commitment that they had written.

"The goal is to improve healing and healthcare outcomes by restoring the balance between high tech and

high touch," Dr. Brooks said. "That is characterized by a respectful and compassionate relationship between nurses, as well as all other members of the healthcare team and their patients." ■

## The history of the nursing program

The nursing program began in 1971, when it admitted 15 students into an associate degree program. Missouri Western developed a curriculum for a four-year degree and submitted it to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in 1981.

The request was not approved. The reasons given were because of poor economic conditions in the state and that there were already two nursing programs in the area – Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville offered a four-year nursing program and Missouri Methodist Hospital in St. Joseph offered a hospital-based diploma program.

The bachelor's degree proposal was resubmitted in 1984. This time, the Coordinating Board requested that Missouri Western work with Northwest Missouri State University because of the program duplication. In 1985, the two

institutions agreed that Northwest would eliminate its four-year nursing program and one would be developed at Missouri Western.

In turn, Missouri Western agreed to drop some of its agriculture programs in exchange for the four-year nursing program. Additionally, Missouri Methodist Hospital agreed to not accept new students into its program, and the last diploma class graduated in May 1987.

The Coordinating Board accepted the agreements and gave its approval for a four-year nursing degree at Missouri Western in February 1986. The first 20 students were accepted into the program that fall.

Missouri Western offered both associate and bachelor's degree programs in nursing until the associate degree program graduated its last class in May 1989. ■



# University exceeds performance funding goals

Missouri Western met and exceeded all five targets set by the Missouri Department of Higher Education in its performance funding model. The results mean that Missouri Western will receive 100 percent of any new funds appropriated by the legislature during fiscal year 2016.

"Our students, faculty and staff share a commitment to excellence that is reflected in these results," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "During our centennial year in 2015, we will be talking a lot about the role Missouri Western has played in transforming lives, and I'm pleased that these

objective measures demonstrate that transformative power."

Missouri Western's performance measures are: freshman to sophomore retention rate; six-year cohort graduation rates; improvements in assessments of general education; percent of total education and general expenditures expended on the core mission; and the number of students each year who have participated in research, projects or creative activities that have resulted in a peer-reviewed publication, presentation, performance, exhibit or external award. Four of the five measures improved from the previous year, and all were above the benchmark rates.

Fiscal year 2016 will be the third year that colleges and universities receive new funding according to their performance on five measures. Four of the measures are common to all institutions and one is selected by individual institutions to reflect its mission.

"We met these benchmarks because we have faculty and staff dedicated to serving their students, the university and the region, and because we have students who are dedicated to getting the most out of the opportunities a Missouri Western education offers," Dr. Vartabedian said. ■

## Campus Kudos

- The **Beta Gamma Sigma** chapter at Missouri Western qualified as a Premier Chapter for the 2013-2014 academic year by Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc. Faye Smith, professor of business, is the chapter advisor. Beta Gamma Sigma is an honor society recognizing business excellence.
- **Maj. Julie Baldwin**, associate professor of nursing, won the ATI Nursing Education Nurse's Touch Award. She was just one of four in the nation to receive the award. The award is given to those who "excel at integrating professional and interpersonal skills into the education of their students."
- **Dr. Britton Johnson**, assistant professor of physical education, recently published a textbook, "Plato's Physical Education: A guide to teaching physical education at all levels and in all environments."
- **Amy Kotwani**, director of International Student Services, received a New Professional Rising Star Award from a national organization of student affairs professionals in higher education. The award is presented to one new professional in each of the 10 states in the region who has been in the profession for less than three years and has made a significant contribution to his or her campus.
- **Shana Meyer**, vice president for student affairs, was named Director-elect to the Board of Directors of NASPA, the leading organization for professionals in higher education student affairs. Meyer will be Director of the Professional Standards Division when she begins her two-year term on the Board of Directors in March.
- **Dr. David McIntire**, assistant professor of music, and student **Aaron Crawford** were selected to perform original compositions at the 14th annual Electronic Music Midwest Festival at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. The two were among 45 selected to perform out of more than 200 submissions. ■



My favorite memory is every day sitting and watching Spratt Stadium being built with Head Football Coach Rob Hicklin, and the 1979 dedication day at Spratt Stadium.

- Dr. James E. Sanders '84

# Dr. Kay Siebler: To China and back

When Dr. Kay Siebler, professor of English, realized she had the chance to teach English at a Chinese university for a year, she just couldn't pass up the opportunity. Siebler was the first Missouri Western professor to participate in a 2012 exchange agreement with Xidian University in China, and she taught English there for the 2013-14 academic year.

"The cultural experience was amazing," she said. "It was really difficult to leave."

In one of her last blog entries before she left China, Dr. Siebler wrote, "I will miss the feeling of walking around in an exciting and interesting culture so different from my own. Every day I step outside into a new adventure; every moment I look around I see something new, interesting, puzzling or flabbergasting. I will miss struggling to figure out a way to say what I want to say in a way people can understand, a linguistic puzzle of tones and words. I will miss the sounds, smells, and people that this corner of the world has generously offered to me as a home for the past year."

Dr. Siebler said the first noticeable difference between the U.S. and China are the crowds and the lack of quiet. Another big difference was in her classroom. "Chinese students revere their teachers. They really honor and respect them, and it was a real ego boost. And they were acutely interested in everything I said about American culture."

She had weekly lunches with the female students in her class, which consisted of about 20 men and only three or four women. "I loved that time, and I really miss those women."

She also missed unlimited Internet access. Since the Chinese government

limits what is online, including blogs and Facebook, a Google search yields about 10 results, Dr. Siebler said. It was also difficult to make international calls because no home phones have the capability of calling internationally.

Dr. Siebler did know one person at the Chinese university when she arrived – Tiantian Zou, a Xidian University professor who taught Chinese at Missouri Western during the 2011-12 academic year as a Fulbright scholar. Toward the end of her stay in the U.S., Zou initiated the exchange agreement between the two universities.

Last year, as part of that agreement, two Xidian students attended Missouri Western, and for the current academic year, Dana Andrews, instructor of English, is teaching in China.

Dr. Siebler knows Andrews will have a great time, and she hopes other

Missouri Western professors will take advantage of the opportunity.

"Everyone should take the opportunity to do this, pack up your life, cram everything you can't live without into two suitcases, update your passport, and go live someplace else for a year. Forget worrying about whether you can afford it. Forget worrying about how scary you think it might be. Forget telling yourself your life is too complicated to do something like this.

You will reach and grow and learn in ways that are unfathomable to you – in ways that are unavailable to you in your own culture, in the comfort of the familiar. Traveling as a tourist to a country is not the same as living there. Living there means making friends, struggling through setting up house and learning a community, and calling that new, foreign, complicated, frustrating, beautiful place home." ■



Dr. Kay Seibler's son, Zephaniah, with friends he made while in China for a year.

# KC Chiefs and Missouri Western extend contract

In January 2015, the Board of Governors approved a contract amendment that will keep the summer training camp of the Kansas City Chiefs in St. Joseph for three more years, through 2017. The contract also includes two additional extension terms of one year each at the option of both the Chiefs and Missouri Western.

"We are thrilled to be the 'Summer Training Camp Home of the Kansas City Chiefs' for the next three years," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "As a campus, we have benefited from the increased exposure of the training camp and from physical improvements like the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex that would not have been possible without the support

of the Chiefs. The St. Joseph region has also benefited from the thousands of fans who have visited training camp during the last five years."

"From a football perspective, continuing to hold camp at Missouri Western State University makes sense for us," Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid said. "The school and the community take great care of us, the people are phenomenal and it provides our team the resources and facilities necessary to build momentum towards the season. We are excited to be back."

Dr. Vartabedian credited a five-way partnership between Missouri Western, the Chiefs, the City of St. Joseph, Buchanan County and the State of Missouri for bringing the Chiefs to St.

Joseph initially, and for bringing them back for at least three more years.

Under the contract extension, Missouri Western will design and install improvements to the practice fields used by the Chiefs, acquire and use certain equipment to maintain the fields, and reimburse the Chiefs for some expenses related to preparing and maintaining the practice fields. The extension will also freeze the Chiefs' food costs at 2014 levels for the next three years and provide additional residence hall space and additional security. Other conditions of the original 2009 contract remain the same.

The Kansas City Chiefs have held training camp at Missouri Western every year since 2010. ■

# Center for Entrepreneurship names director

Annette Weeks '87 was named director of the Craig School of Business's Center for Entrepreneurship and a ribbon cutting was held for the center in the fall.

Weeks, a northwest Missouri native, spent the last seven years as the enterprise facilitator for Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation, a nonprofit organization that offers free business coaching for clients wishing to

start a business or those who need help with an existing business.

Prior to that, she was co-owner and general manager of Jesse James Antique Mall in St. Joseph. She also helped start a home décor shop, The Rusty Chandelier, and a convenience store, Jesse's Last Stop.

The Center for Entrepreneurship trains, mentors and supports entrepreneurs, providing one-on-one business coaching in starting, operating

and growing businesses. Among other services, the Center helps entrepreneurs create a business plan and secure financing to start their business, and to create a strategic plan and integrated marketing plan to help their business grow. Faculty and students in the Craig School of Business will serve as a resource for the Center's clients. All services are free of charge and confidential.

Weeks earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in math from Missouri Western.

"It brings me great pleasure to assist clients in making their dreams a reality – to start with a concept that they may have been thinking about for a long time and put it in to a plan for success," Weeks said. "The joy on their faces at a grand opening celebration is gratifying."

To contact the Center for Entrepreneurship, call (816) 271-4283 or email Weeks at [aweeks@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:aweeks@missouriwestern.edu). ■



# 100 years of athletics – by the decades

## 1910s

The Junior College was just one year old when it started a men's basketball program, and there has been a team every year since. An attempt to field a football team was made in 1916, but it was not to be.

Sometime in the 1917-18 school year, the Griffon was adopted as the college mascot.

## 1920s

A women's sports club, the first of many over the years, formed teams in basketball, swimming, tennis and roller skating. In 1922, a second attempt was made to field a football team; this time they played for three seasons.

In 1927, the Junior College won the men's basketball state championship.

## 1930s

Throughout the 1930s, the Junior College hosted three and sometimes four men's sports teams, including basketball, track, tennis and golf.

## 1940s

For the first time, women joined the cheerleading squad in the 1940s. Men had been cheering at the Junior College since the 1920s.

Due to the men serving in WWII, there were barely enough males

to make a basketball team, but they managed to do so by pulling in players who had never played.

## 1950s

In the 1950s, the basketball team tied for second in the state Junior College tournament, and the team played in the national regional tournament two other years.

The basketball Homecoming became a bigger deal than decades past in the 1950s, with the addition of a parade and themes. Queens had been a part of Homecoming since the Junior College's earliest days.

## 1960s

John Chavez '62 was a track and field standout for the Junior College, winning two individual national championships in the sport.

Charlie Burri '55 was hired as athletic director in 1966. In 1969, he hired Harold Cagle as football coach and Doug Minnis as baseball coach to begin those programs at the four-year institution. Minnis coached for 30 years.

The basketball team won the conference championship in 1965 and 1968.

## 1970s

Baseball began in the spring of 1970 and football arrived that fall. For the first time, Homecoming was centered around football instead of basketball.

There were five men's sports in the 1970s: baseball, basketball, football, golf and tennis.

Throughout the University's history, women had always played on a variety of sports teams, but it wasn't until 1975 that women's intercollegiate sports became official. The first women's sports were basketball and volleyball in the fall of 1975, and tennis and softball in the spring of 1976. Bonnie Greene coached tennis and Rhesa Sumrell coached the other three.

The women's basketball team earned second place in the state tournament its first season. Volleyball won the state tournament its second season, followed by several appearances in regional and national postseason tournaments in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1975, the baseball team played in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) World Series at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph, Mo. The football team played in its first Mineral Water Bowl, beating Graceland College 44-0.

The 1973-74 men's basketball team was the first basketball team from Missouri Western to qualify for a national tournament and the team was in the district playoffs three other years. Additionally, basketball player Larry "Gator" Rivers '73 went on to play for the Harlem Globetrotters.

Missouri Western also joined the NAIA in the 1970s and became a

founding member of the Central States Intercollegiate Conference.

At the end of the decade, Spratt Memorial Stadium was built. The football team had been playing at Noyes Field by Central High School in St. Joseph prior to the new stadium.

Since the 1970s, Missouri Western has had many athletes play professionally in baseball, football, basketball, golf and softball.

## 1980s

In 1982, the softball team won a national championship. The team returned to the national tournament the next four years. Cheri Kempf '85 racked up several honors, including All-American, and broke many school records as both a softball and basketball player throughout her college career.

Men's basketball player Arthur Cooks '87 broke many records throughout his career and still holds several school records today.

Women's basketball saw some stellar seasons in the 1980s, as well, winning conference and district championships.

The men's basketball team advanced to the NAIA tournament in 1984. Additionally, the men's golf team played in the national tournament three years and the women's tennis team advanced to the NAIA tournament in 1985 and 1987.

In 1985, Spratt Memorial Stadium received lights.

Missouri Western joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II in 1988 and the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Conference (now Mid-America), in 1989. Tom Smith, who remained men's basketball coach until 2013, was hired in 1989.

## 1990s

Both the men's and women's basketball teams saw great success in the 1990s. The women earned a spot in the Elite 8 national tournament two years in a row, and were conference champions for several years. The men were the conference regular season and postseason champions in 1990, the first year Missouri Western joined the MIAA Conference. They had several great seasons in the 1990s, including a school-record 26 wins in 1994-95 and three conference championships.

The men's golf team was ranked 13th nationally in 1995-96 and the women's tennis team advanced to the NCAA tournament in 1998.

The softball team played on campus for the first time in 1995, and football coach Jerry Partridge '86 was hired in 1997.

## 2000s

The decade of the 2000s saw the addition of two new sports – women's golf in 2002 and women's soccer in 2005.

The football team advanced to the DII postseason tournament for the first time in 2006, and in 2009, the softball team had a 32-game winning streak. The women's basketball

team won the conference championship in 2002.

Men's basketball won the conference regular-season title in 2002, and the 2003 team won the conference postseason tournament. Women's basketball won the MIAA championship in both the regular season and postseason in 2002.

Golfer Brice Garnett '06 was named NCAA Division II All-American three times and was Missouri Western's first-ever MIAA Player of the Year.

## 2010s

The 2010, 2011 and 2012 seasons were standout seasons for the football team. The team played in the DII postseason tournament all three years, advancing to the quarterfinals in 2012. Additionally, the football team broke more than 40 team and individual records in 2012.

In 2010, the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex opened in time for the Kansas City Chiefs to hold their summer training camp on campus. The next year, the baseball team played on campus for the first time when the Spring Sports Complex opened.

In 2013, the baseball team won the conference championship and had a record 40 wins, and Natalie Bird qualified for the NCAA tournament, a first for women's golf. In 2014, the softball team was named conference champion and the baseball team advanced to the conference championship game. ■



# Fall sports wrap

## All fall sports teams had winning seasons

The **volleyball** team posted a 22-8 overall record, producing the most wins since 1998. It's 16-6 conference record also marked the most conference wins in school history. Outside hitters Erica Rottinghaus and Jesse Thorup led the team in kills with 396 and 394 respectively, and Rottinghaus capped her senior season with American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American honors.

The Griffons are led by second-year head coach Marian Carbin '07.

It was a season to remember for the decade-old **soccer** program. The Griffons set or tied 13 team records during their 9-9-1 campaign, including most wins in a season and most shutouts in a season. The team made the conference postseason tournament for the first time in school history, and saw its

season end in a 1-0 double overtime loss at Fort Hays.

Defense told the story of 2014, with the Griffons allowing less than one goal per game. Sophomore goalkeeper Sarah Lyle recorded eight shutouts, and fourth-year head soccer coach Chad Edwards also became the program's all-time wins leader in 2014. The Griffons graduate just four seniors.

It was also another successful season for the **football** team, finishing 7-4. Defensively, the Griffons set two impressive marks: 179 total points allowed

is second all-time to the 1993 team (162). The Griffons shut out opponents twice in a season for only the third time in program history.

Fourteen players were recognized with all-conference honors, including junior running back Raphael Spencer, named to the All-MIAA first team after rushing for 1,126 yards and seven touchdowns. Junior cornerback Michael Jordan recorded four interceptions and earned first-team All-American honors by the American Football Coaches Association. ■



The Griffon soccer team had a stellar season in 2014.

## Patsy Smith retires

Patsy Smith '95, who came to Missouri Western as a student athlete 25 years ago, retired June 30, 2014 as senior associate director of athletics and senior woman administrator.

Smith played tennis as a nontraditional student and took on coaching responsibilities as a student in 1994. She led the team to their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 1998, and that same year became the first business manager for Griffon Athletics. Since then, she has served in the department as compliance and academics, director of finance, assistant athletic director and her most recent role. ■

**For sports schedules and information about Griffon Athletics, check out [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com)**

## Canady named new tennis coach

Last fall, Missouri Western hired Chris Canady, its first full-time women's tennis coach. Canady had served as director of high performance for Upper St. Clair Tennis Development in Pittsburgh, and had played and coached at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Griffon tennis begins its spring season Feb. 27. ■

# WALTER CRONKITE MEMORIAL NEWS



Accepting the Spotlight Award for Missouri Western is Tara Stoll '00, video communications producer; Ann Pearce, special assistant to the president; Jake Kelly '08, instructional design, web and applications programming manager; Kim Weddle '00, director of development; Dr. Bob Vartabedian, president; Katie Steele Danner, director, Missouri Division of Tourism; Sara Hunt '12, marketing coordinator; Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for university advancement; Marci Bennett, St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau; Eric Fuson '88, artist-in-residence.

## Memorial receives tourism award

Last October, the Walter Cronkite Memorial received the Missouri Division of Tourism's Spotlight Award at the 2014 Missouri Governor's Conference on Tourism. The Spotlight Award highlights significant contributions in promoting and "spotlighting" tourism in Missouri. It is presented to an individual, business or organization that is not normally considered to be part of the tourism industry. Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, accepted the award.

The memorial was also named a "Midwest Treasure" in the November/December 2014 issue of AAA Midwest Traveler.

## Preserving the legacy

Missouri Western is committed to preserving the legacy of Cronkite. To that goal, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, taught a one-credit class, Walter Cronkite's Enduring Legacy, last fall.

Also, the 21st annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues featured Cronkite biographer and prolific historian Dr. Douglas Brinkley. Additionally, Dr. Brinkley was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Walter Cronkite Conference on Media Ethics and Integrity that was held on campus.



— WALTER —  
**CRONKITE**  
MEMORIAL

Phase III, which will include a replica of the CBS Evening News Studio; a display case dedicated to Cronkite's affinity for the U.S. space program; a video playback unit of Walter Cronkite's famous February 27, 1968 "Report from Vietnam" televised editorial comment that changed the course of the Vietnam War; video footage which includes Walter (Chip) Cronkite III's touching eulogy delivered at his father's funeral in 2009 and touch screens to provide visitor information.

## Cronkite family loans more memorabilia

Walter Cronkite's family has loaned Missouri Western more than 100 artifacts from his life and career, including cartoons and caricatures featuring Cronkite and signed by the artists, several awards and honors, a medallion presented to him by Dwight D. Eisenhower on the 20th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, signed photographs from astronauts and politicians, and many more items. The new items will be on display in the memorial. ■

## On to Phase III

With Phase II of the memorial complete (see Fall 2014 Missouri Western Magazine), planning has begun for

continued from pg. 5

were added in agribusiness, management, machine shop, drafting and electronics so that graduates could quickly obtain a job upon graduation.

Missouri Western was at the forefront of teacher education when it began offering a four-year degree in 1969. That year, its classroom experience for students studying education was a national model for teacher education programs. Additionally, the creation of a four-year nursing degree in 1986 was a response to the area's need for nurses with bachelor's degrees.

Missouri Western has kept abreast of technological advancements and its students' need to learn new technology, as well. In 1993, a television studio opened for student use in the Hearnes Center, and in October 1994, the first program, "Western Weekly," debuted in the new studio. The shows were directed, reported, anchored, recorded and edited entirely by students. In 2012, approximately \$200,000 worth of state-of-the-art equipment was purchased for the cinema program so students in that program would be ready to step into their careers as soon as they graduated.

Applied learning, which includes internships or faculty and student collaborative research, has always been at the forefront of the University's curriculum to ensure that students were prepared for their careers. In 2005, when Missouri Western gained university status, the state legislature also named it the statewide institution of applied learning. Today, 98 percent of Missouri Western students complete at least one applied learning experience prior to graduation.

When Missouri Western began to develop graduate programs, regional workforce needs were prominent in the discussion, and the graduate programs today include at least one applied learning component where students gain experience in the field before they graduate.

## TRANSFORMING SOCIETY

The University has also been a transformational force in society since its founding. When it opened in 1915, the concept of a two-year college was relatively new, and the St. Joseph Junior College was just the second Junior College in Missouri and the eighth in the nation to open its doors.

Also, many of its students have been the first in their families to attend and graduate from college. Those degrees have brought many families out of poverty because of the enhanced career opportunities with a college degree. That in turn has improved the lives of families, communities, the region, the state and beyond.

In June 1954, just 19 days after the historic Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, five teachers from the recently closed Bartlett High School quite possibly may have been the first black students in the country to enroll in a previously white institution in a formerly segregated state.

The Junior College was ahead of its time when it promoted Calla Varner to principal of Central High School and head of the St. Joseph Junior College in the 1920s, and promoted Nelle Blum to the Junior College's highest administrative position 1931. Blum held that position until 1957. Also, When Dr. Janet Murphy was hired as president in 1983, Missouri Western became the first four-year higher education institution in the state to hire a female college president.

Today, when approximately 25,000 claim the institution as their alma mater and alumni are succeeding in careers around the world, the transformations continue. In the fall of 2014, the University welcomed its 100th class of 1,068 freshmen to begin the next century of transforming lives.

"Missouri Western doesn't just enhance lives; it transforms them," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "As we celebrate our Centennial, we celebrate our rich history and look back with much pride. But we also anticipate our future and we are looking forward to our next 100 years of transforming lives." ■



Nelle Blum, Dean, 1931-1957

## Go Shout Love!

Most people have probably never heard of Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Renal Agenesis, Child Interstitial Lung Disease or 9p23Deletion 16q Trisomy. But behind every one of these long-named, hard-to-pronounce diseases is a little Isaiah, Lennon, Paisley or Silas, all with a story. And behind every one of them is a family that feels isolated, alone and overwhelmed with medical expenses.

Enter Kristin Estok and Tiffany Austin '08, two former Missouri Western students who had never met when they were students and now live hundreds of miles apart. The two, connected by mutual friends, social media and a willingness to reach out and help others, have made it their mission to share these children's stories and help their families not feel so alone. With that in mind, they founded Go Shout Love and started a website, goshoutlove.com, last spring.

Every month, they feature a different child and raise money for their families. Each child inspires a specially designed t-shirt and other merchandise for sale, such as bracelets or blankets, that Go Shout Love sells online. Austin handles the emails and the financials from Lake Ozark, Mo., and Estok handles the merchandise from Pittsburgh.

"We try to make it fun for people to purchase, and we try to make it things they would like," Austin says. "It goes to a good cause."

So far, they have raised approximately \$5,000 for every family and have shipped merchandise all over the country. The families they have helped have been from all over the country, as well.

It all started when Estok, who had recently had a son, heard about a family whose baby was born with a rare disease. She shared the family's story on her personal blog and was inundated with messages from people who wanted to help. Estok organized an Instagram auction and raised a good sum of money.

Austin, who had never met Estok but knew of her when they were both at Missouri Western through mutual friends, contacted Estok to see if she could help. The two finally met in St. Joseph, Mo. last August at a gathering of one of the families they helped.

It was an instant connection. In fact, their sons, Elliott and Eli, are only three weeks apart in age and have the same hair color and eye color.

Both say they love getting to know the families of the children they help, and are happy that the families are also connecting with each another. "It's a lonely world for these families. It's heartbreaking," Austin says.

Austin and her husband, Cody '09, graduated with biology degrees from Missouri Western. Both continued their education; she is a dental hygienist and he is a dentist. Estok attended Missouri Western for two years and went on to graduate with a psychology degree from

Trinity Christian College in the Chicago area and earn a master's in pastoral counseling.

Austin and Estok hope their organization can grow and they can raise money for even more families. "We have a million ideas," Austin says.

Estok agrees. "I want Go Shout Love to become a movement. If we can encourage others to 'go shout love' on someone, then we've done our jobs." ■

## Coming Events

**February 13-15, 19-21** | "Three Days of Rain," Potter Hall Theater.

**February 16** | Future Griffs at the Chocolate Factory, 4 p.m., Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, St. Joseph.

**February 24** | Griffs on the Bayou Mardi Gras Celebration, 5-8 p.m., Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks, St. Joseph.

**April 2-4, 10-12** | "Urinetown, the Musical," Potter Hall Theater.

**April TBA** | Griffs Uncorked, Stonehaus Winery, Lee's Summit, Mo.

**May 1** | MWSU Ambassadors' Centennial Garden Night at the Ritz, 6-8 p.m. Remington Hall Atrium. Call (816) 271-5651 for more information.

**For more alumni events information, go to [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni). For theater tickets or information, go to [mwsutix.com](http://mwsutix.com) or call (816) 271-4552.**



Being part of the very first, four-year graduating class of then Missouri Western College, the winter of 1969-70 proved to be an awakening. Trudging from class to class across the frozen tundra atop the knoll was just another challenge for us freshmen.

But the biggest memory had to be working with TKE brothers to place the large letters M W C on the bank that overlooks Interstate 29. We branded our new college identity with that logo. It continues to be the beacon of a great and growing University. Go Griffs!

- Mark Pankau '73

Distinguished Alumni Class of 1992

## 1980s

**Richard Cobb '84** retired from teaching. He taught chemistry, biology and general science classes at Stewartville (Mo.) High School for 29 years.

## 2000s

**Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell '00** is special assistant to the president for strategic and diversity initiatives at Eureka College in Eureka, Ill.

**Scott Sollars '00** was promoted to Senior Portfolio Manager/Vice President at The Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank.

**Jason West '00** was promoted to the Air National Guard and will be commissioned as a 1st Lt. West is a clinical professor at the

University of Tulsa and is the state director for the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

**LaShaundra Randolph '03** received the 2014 Markley Award from the National Association for Campus Activities Central Region. The award is one of the association's highest honors, recognizing an individual regarded as a positive role model for students, professional staff and associates, in addition to the involvement in and contributions to the central region in the field of student activities.



**Candice (Day) Quarles '05** and her husband, Jeremiah, announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Nicole, born Aug. 19, 2014.

**Michael O'Neal '06** married Kyleigh Hein on April 26, 2014. The couple resides in Bethany, Mo.

## 2010s

**Jessica (Galczynski) Clark '10** and her husband, Eric, announce the birth of a son, Cooper Paul, born Aug. 19, 2014.

**Joel Hane '11** joined Tieman, Spencer, Holaday & Hicks of St. Joseph, Mo. as an associate attorney. He graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia, Mo. in 2014.

**Sally Hawks '12** was honored among 99 St. Louis-area educators to receive an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Hawks earned a Master of Applied Science in Assessment, Autism Spectrum Disorders from Missouri Western.

## In Memory

We honor those who have passed away. If you want to include someone in this listing, please call (816) 271-5651, mail the information to Diane Holtz, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or email [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu).

**John P. Adams '47**, St. Joseph, Mo., July 4, 2014.

**John P. Allen '72**, St. Joseph, Mo., July 24, 2014.

**Laura L. (Singer) Bonham '65**, St. Joseph, Mo., July 28, 2014.

**Patrick M. Byrne '77**, St. Joseph, Mo., July 31, 2014.

**Patricia Donaher**, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 4, 2014. Donaher was a professor of English and had been teaching at Missouri Western since 1995.

**Dr. Ethel Hester-Shrout**, Lee's Summit, Mo., Nov. 9, 2014. Dr. Hester-Shrout taught business at Missouri Western from 1966-87. She also served as chair of the Department of Business and Economics.

**James J. Hoffman**, Weston, Mo., June 23, 2014. Hoffman was retired from Missouri Western Office of Admissions.

**Barbara (Seeber) Huelse '52**, Lee's Summit, Mo., June 30, 2014.

**Norma J. Lindensmith Gallagher**, St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 29, 2014. Gallagher retired after 25 years as a secretary to Missouri Western presidents Dr. M.O. Looney and Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy.

**Clarence J. Powers '41**, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 6, 2014.

**Harold W. Ruch '49**, Olathe, Kan., Aug. 1, 2014.

**Beulah Winger '40**, St. Joseph, Mo., June 24, 2014.

**Marilyn F. (Holt) Yarrington '37**, Arlington Heights, Ill., May 28, 2014.



My favorite memory was moving to St. Joseph in August of 1969 for my father to accept his first position since gaining his doctorate in the elementary education department. It began a legacy that included his successful career, my attending classes at MWSC and eventually my oldest son graduating from there. MWSU has been an important part of our family's life and we are proud to be a part of the University.

- Tom Richmond,  
Missouri Western State University Foundation Board member



## THEN and NOW

First class, September 1915





# MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY 1915-2015

WELCOME TO  
MISSOURI  
WESTERN  
COLLEGE  
HOME OF THE  
RIFONS  
AND DRINK CARTELL

THE COLLEGE CENTER

GRIFONS  
13

JAMES M'CARTHY OF

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE COLLEGE  
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

WES

STARS

STARS

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STARS