

# Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Fall 2015



St. Joseph Junior College 1915

MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

100 *Years*  
  
OF TRANSFORMING LIVES  
1915-2015





# THEN and NOW



## | PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE |



Dear Friends,

Founders' Day, which we will hold Sept. 26, is a pivotal piece of our yearlong Centennial celebration. In September of 1915, the drive of the St. Joseph Chamber and the St. Joseph School District created the St. Joseph Junior College in just a few weeks' time. Those few visionary weeks have forever changed the landscape of St. Joseph, Missouri.

What started with 35 students has grown to nearly 6,000 students and more than 28,000 alumni. Our dedication to transforming the workforce in our region has continued to grow over the past century.

The Buchanan County Degree Attainment Initiative combines college coursework with high-impact apprenticeships and mentoring programs with local businesses in high-demand industries. The training enhances students' ability to contribute to their employers and to the economy. Since the initiative began, numbers have steadily increased. Some of our first graduates from this program have been promoted within their companies, adding to the productivity of their employers while enhancing their own financial security.

Service to our region is one of the six University values that are central to Missouri Western. It is instilled in the hearts of our students and employees, who combined give more than 120,000 hours of community service yearly. Hundreds of incoming students experience this culture of giving firsthand through the Griffon Edge orientation program's Day of Service. This fall, the Day of Service focused on helping revitalize Downtown St. Joseph, making a tangible and lasting difference on this important part of our city.

Our most significant and lasting impacts are through the lives and careers of our alumni. A significant percentage of our alumni remain in the region to live and work, and to make a lasting impact in their own communities. This issue of Missouri Western magazine highlights not just the strides that Missouri Western alumni have made in the business community, but in transforming lives through their work with our regional nonprofits.

We are proud of our 100-year history, and the impact of our graduates continues to grow throughout the city, region, nation and world. I think our founders would be proud of the progress we have made, and the amazing alumni that call Missouri Western home.

Sincerely,

*Robert A. Vartabedian*

Robert A. Vartabedian  
President  
Missouri Western State University



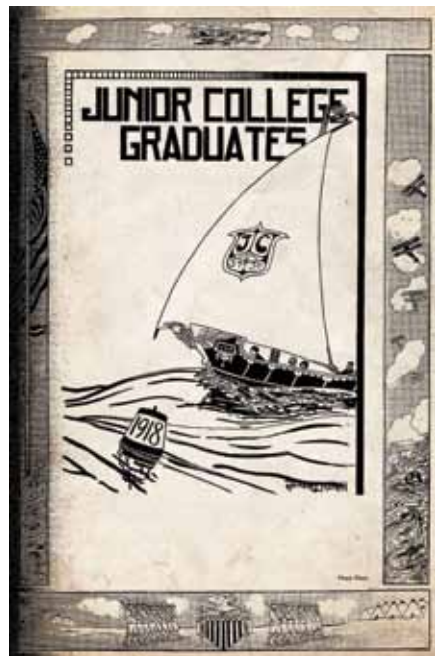
| ON THE COVER | The first location of the St. Joseph Junior College, Central High School.

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The Missouri Western Magazine is a publication of the University Advancement Office for alumni and friends of Missouri Western State University and its predecessor institutions.

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

# Convocation on Critical Issues Sept. 15

Tom Ridge, former governor of Pennsylvania and the first secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will be the featured speaker at the 22nd R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues at 10 a.m. Sept. 15. The Convocation in the Looney Complex is free and open to the public. His topic is “ISIS: The Growing Threat of Global Terrorism.” “There are few issues more critical than security and terrorism, and few people better equipped to speak to those issues than Tom Ridge,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president. “His long career of public service culminated in working to establish the Department of Homeland Security, so he is intimately familiar both with the practical nature of the threat that terrorism poses and the political forces that can impact our response to that threat. I’m really

looking forward to hearing what he has to say.”

In addition to the Convocation, Ridge will be the guest of honor at the annual Convocation Luncheon at noon Sept. 15 in the Fulkerson Center. Call (816) 271-5646 for reservations and cost information.

Ridge is currently president and CEO of Ridge Global. As the company’s chief executive, he leads a team of international experts who helps businesses and governments address a range of needs throughout their organizations, including risk management, global trade security, emergency preparedness and response, strategic growth, infrastructure protection, technology integration,



Tom Ridge

crisis management and other issues that encompass a diverse portfolio. He also serves as a partner at Ridge-Schmidt Cyber, a cybersecurity firm, founded with former White House Cybersecurity Advisor Howard A. Schmidt.

Ridge became the first secretary of the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security, the 15th cabinet department, in 2003.

In that role, Ridge worked with more than 180,000 employees from a combined 22 agencies to create an agency that facilitated the flow of people and goods, instituted layered security at air, land and seaports, developed a unified national response and recovery plan, protected critical infrastructure, integrated new technology and improved information sharing worldwide. He served as secretary until 2005. ■

## CSB assists entrepreneurs

“We get to make a difference in the community, in families and in people’s lives.”

That, Annette Weeks says, is why she enjoys her position as director of the Craig School of Business’s Center for Entrepreneurship at Missouri Western. From July 2014 to July 2015, Weeks has assisted 90 entrepreneurs working to start a business and 58 existing businesses in the area, and adds about 10 new clients every month.

“There’s a strong need in the area,” Weeks said. “Business owners feel isolated and are seeking support.”

Weeks works with both new and existing owners one on one, and there is no charge for the service.

With startups, the center will help with a business plan and help them

avoid common mistakes, and help them figure their projected income to cover expenses. “It’s a fine balance between being practical but keeping the enthusiasm,” she says.

Many existing business owners do not have business training, so she often helps that group with marketing strategies and financials. Often a Missouri Western class will assist a business with a marketing plan, for example, or a faculty member will offer their expertise.

“It’s tremendous for the students; they are helping a real business with a real problem,” she said. “I love that we are able to connect the community with the students and the campus.” ■

## | Commencement |

Esther George '80, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, receives an honorary doctorate at the spring commencement. She spoke at both the 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. ceremonies, along with student speakers Julie Buescher '15, a recreation sport management graduate from Shawnee Mission, Kansas; and Kendra Greer '15, a speech communication graduate from Independence, Missouri.



## Missouri Western is first university to offer bachelor's degree in population health management

According to Dr. Mark Laney, president and CEO of Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, population health is the new direction in healthcare today, and this fall, Missouri Western began offering the first bachelor's degree in population health management in the country.

In early 2015, Mosaic Life Care pledged \$1.5 million as part of the Centennial Capital Campaign to endow a professorship in the field of population health. Missouri Western received approval from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education for the program, and a search for the new faculty position began this fall. The gift is the first endowed professorship in Missouri Western history.

Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, dean of Professional Studies, explained that population health represents a shift in healthcare focus from individuals' health issues to the health of the population. "It steps beyond the individual-level focus of traditional clinical and preventive medicine by addressing a broad range of factors that impact health of entire populations."

She said the population health focus has three aims: improving the health of the population, enhancing the experiences of patient care and reducing costs. "There is a need for a holistic approach in order to move the population to a healthier lifestyle."

Coursework includes biology, sociology, psychology, medical terminology, epidemiology, healthcare policy, ethics, analytics, communication and business. Students may select between four concentrations: computer information systems, general business, health informatics and human health. They will also be required to complete an internship as part of the degree program.

Dr. O'Connor said careers in the field include work in hospitals, insurance companies, or government and health care technology settings. Dr. Laney noted that Mosaic Life Care already has employees working in the population health field, and they hope to hire more.

"Population health is the future of healthcare," Dr. Laney said. "There is a real need for individuals who have an understanding of it."

Dr. Laney said Mosaic Life Care will also provide adjunct instructors who have experience in the population health management field for the program.

Dr. Stephanie Corder, associate professor of nursing and chair of the Department of Nursing and Allied Health, said the degree offers another option for Missouri Western students who want to work in the health care field.

The Mosaic Life Care president and CEO noted that the intensive

focus on population health management came about as a result of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The Act addressed population health issues such as expanding insurance coverage, improving the quality of care delivered, enhancing prevention and health promotion measures within the health care delivery system, incentivizing providers to take responsibility for population health outcomes and expanding primary health care training. The Act also created a national council to promote community and population-based activities.

"Mosaic and Missouri Western have been partners in the work of educating tomorrow's health caregivers for many years," Dr. Laney said. "I'm pleased that we have strengthened that partnership. This is a wonderful collaboration."

"There are a lot of exciting possibilities," Dr. Corder said. "We're really on the cusp of something huge." ■

## Accelerated chemistry degree offered

Missouri Western is offering its first accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program this fall in the Department of Chemistry. The program will provide students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry/ Natural Science/Chemical Business and a Master of Applied Science in Chemistry in five years instead of six.

"This provides graduates the opportunity to enter into the regional life sciences workforce, not only a year earlier, but with a master's," said Dr. Mike Ducey, professor of chemistry and department chair. "That, in turn, increases the earning potential for graduates."

In the program, students will take four years of undergraduate courses, with the last year a transitional year. That year, students will take both undergraduate and graduate courses. The graduate courses will apply as electives for the undergraduate degree. Once the students complete their fourth year, nine graduate credits will apply toward their master's degree.

Students will be required to apply for the accelerated program their sophomore year.

Dr. Ducey noted that other academic departments on campus are developing similar accelerated programs, as well. ■

## Chinese delegation visits campus

A delegation of four administrators from Jiaxing University in China visited campus last spring to discuss ways to strengthen and expand the exchange partnership between the two universities.

They toured campus and met administrators, faculty and staff, including Dr. Jeanne Daffron '74, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. The group also gave a presentation about Jiaxing University and answered questions from the audience. About 30 people attended the presentation.

Dr. Mei Zhang, assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, visited Jiaxing University in June 2013. As a result of her visit, Missouri Western and Jiaxing University signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2013.



Missouri Western's Dr. Mei Zhang (left) and Dr. Jeanne Daffron '74 (second from right) meet with a delegation from Jiaxing University on campus.

The first two students from Jiaxing University – Bingxin Song and Siyu Guo – came to study at Missouri Western in August 2014. The junior

mathematics majors both made the President's List in the fall and spring semesters of the 2014-15 academic year with 4.0 GPAs. ■

## Chemists host regional meeting on campus

Missouri Western will host up to 1,000 students and faculty members for the annual American Chemical Society Midwest regional meeting for the Kansas City section in October.

Dr. Mike Ducey, professor of chemistry and department chair, noted that 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the meeting, and the Kansas City section planned and hosted the first one, also.

The gathering is for both undergraduate and graduate students, and two student groups, the ACS student affiliate (Alchemist Club) and the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Club, have been planning activities geared especially for undergraduate students.

Alex Luke, a senior biochemistry major, served as president of one club and vice president of the other last year. Under his guidance, the group

was awarded a \$2,800 grant from the ACS to provide resources for the undergraduate students at the meeting.

Activities on Oct. 21-24 will include a career panel, a resume-writing workshop and a networking event. The students are also planning a poster session for undergraduates to help them prepare for presenting their research posters at the ACS national meeting.

True chemistry scholars will appreciate that the ACS meeting falls over a special date for chemists – Mole

Day. A mole in chemical terms is a unit of measurement ( $10^{23}$ ), and it is celebrated on Oct. 23. Luke says the networking reception will mark the day.

Luke says it has been fun planning the activities for the meeting, and he is looking forward to the event.

"I hope the students gain valuable knowledge and resources to succeed in their careers. We are the next generation of scientists who will be the ones making major contributions in science in the future." ■



"My favorite part about Homecoming revolves around my involvement with Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Pairing up with other fraternities and sororities to compete against other pairs was always a highlight of the weeks leading up to Homecoming and the actual week itself."

- David Wyble '09



# Campus Kudos

- **Dr. Teddi Deka**, professor of psychology and honors program director at Missouri Western State University, is Missouri Western's recipient of the 2015 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. She has taught at Missouri Western for 18 years.
- **Dr. Regan Dodd**, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation, was appointed Missouri Western's faculty athletics representative for the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). She succeeded **Dr. Brenda Blessing**, who had served in that role since 2000.
- Senior graphic design major **Taylor King** had a series of posters accepted to the National Student Show and Conference 11 sponsored by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications. King was just one of 20 students nationwide accepted into the Poster category of the competition.
- A sculpture design, "Turbine," by students **Heather Lafromboise** and **Jake Proffit** and Assistant Professor of Art **Neil Lawley** won the public vote to be one of four pieces to be installed as part of the Canoe Art Imagine Art installation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Construction professional **Dustin Lafromboise** was also part of the team.
- The following students received awards at the Missouri College Media Association: **Christina Wade**, Personality Sketch, first place; **Hardy Ho**, Sports Design, first and second place; and **John Ellis**, Sports Photography, second place.
- Three alumni were selected to own and operate their own businesses in June as part of the University's unique entrepreneurship program: **Ross Theesen '15**, **Ernest Chamblee '11** and **Mindy Schimming '14**. These three join 16 other stores in 11 states. Several of the program's alumni have gone on to a second franchise opportunity, with more expected to open this fall.
- **Dr. David McMahan**, associate professor of speech communications, published his third book, "Internet Communication." McMahan was also

selected as the President of Central States Communication Association.

- **Dr. David McIntire**, assistant professor of music, was named recipient of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Spotlight Award. He and **Andrew Lee**, who was also recognized, formed Irritable Hedgehog Music in 2010 and have released 11 physical albums.
- Student **Jeni Swope** received a Gold Circle Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at New York University for her photo that appeared in the 2014 Griffon Yearbook.
- **Pete Hriso**, associate professor of art, had three short animations selected for the 3rd International Motion Festival 2015 film festival.
- The University of Texas at Tyler purchased "Portrait: Attribute, Bird," a piece of art by **Teresa Harris**, associate professor of art, for its permanent collection. The work had been accepted into the 30th Annual International Exhibition at the Meadows Gallery at the university.
- Fountain City Brass Band, founded by **Dr. Lee Harrelson**, associate professor of music, received the North American Brass Band Championship title at the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was the band's fifth championship title.
- "Scribble," a sculpture by student **Mark Bush Jr.** was the only sculpture selected in a national competition to be displayed in front of the Brookings Art Council in Brookings, South Dakota, for one year.
- Students won the following awards at the Technology Professionals National Collegiate Conference: **Greg Williams**, first place, Enterprise Systems; and **Danyel Becker**, first place, Professional Banner. ■



## | Ping Pong Showdown |

Dr. Krikor Partamian plays in the championship match at the second annual Dr. Krikor Partamian Ping Pong Showdown to benefit the International Student Program. The event was held in April.

# Students open food pantry on campus

A new student group opened a food pantry on campus for students this month. Rotaract, a club for adults ages 18-30 that meets to exchange ideas, plan activities and projects, and socialize, will hold a ribbon cutting later this month for the pantry.

The group began planning activities in fall 2014 and became a recognized student group in the spring. Dr. Elise Hepworth, associate professor of music, is the group's advisor, and the local Rotary International clubs in the community are sponsors.

Dr. Hepworth, who started her second year at Missouri Western this fall, said she was involved with a

Rotaract group where she previously taught, and that group had started a food pantry on campus that was successful.

"I work closely with students and I see a lot of them just scraping by," she said. "There are food programs available for students in the local school district, but we sometimes don't think about college students. So I suggested a pantry to the group and they were thrilled."

Last spring, Staff Association members donated canned goods and money at their gathering, and Second



Harvest Community Food Bank in St. Joseph is on board to support the project, as well. Dr. Hepworth said the Greek social organizations will also be holding food drives for the pantry.

The pantry, which will provide non-perishable food items, paper products and detergent, will be open for two hours two days a week, and students may visit once a month and fill two large bags.

Other Rotaract activities include visiting care facilities in the community, offering daycare services to churches, conducting trash pickups and reading to children at Headstart. ■

## | Western Playhouse |

The Western Playhouse summer theatre presented two musicals, "Into the Woods" and "The Fantasticks," in June and July. Pictured are two scenes from "Into the Woods."



# New name, same mission

The Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences, a public/private cooperative effort to enhance workforce and economic development in the Midwest region, has renamed itself Innovation Stockyard.

Innovation Stockyard specializes in animal health, but can provide support services for any idea. The team can help test and develop the idea and assist with a business plan, marketing, grant writing, product distribution, securing capital and more. Innovation Stockyard operates the Kit Bond Science and Technology Incubator on campus. The 25,000-square-foot incubator includes office space and a community laboratory space for all clients, complete with science officer and laboratory manager.

Current tenants of the Bond Incubator include the United States Animal Health Association, Method Genetics, New Functional Polymers and Sopharmia. ■



## Scholars, journalists enter “Cronkite” in Pulitzer Prize competition

A group of distinguished scholars and journalists entered “Cronkite,” a live multimedia performance about legendary journalist Walter Cronkite, in the competition for a 2015 Pulitzer Prize.

“Cronkite” was entered in the competition by Dr. George Diestel, professor emeritus at California State University, Fresno. Co-nominating “Cronkite” were several other drama and journalism professionals, including Walter “Chip” Cronkite III, filmmaker and son of Walter Cronkite, and Dr. Craig Smith, director of the Center for First Amendment Studies at California State University, Long Beach, who worked with Cronkite for several years. Here are some highlights from their remarks about the show:

*“...you honored my father’s entire career with the memorial, but with your Pulitzer-nominated drama you focused on that one post-9/11 moment that distilled his faith in the strength of America’s democracy.”* – Chip Cronkite

*“I was lucky enough to work for and with Walter Cronkite on conventions, election nights, and inaugural coverages. Mr. Korinke gestures just as I remember Mr. Cronkite gesturing. The voice is not only uncannily like Mr. Cronkite’s, it catches his humility and empathy for others.”* – Dr. Craig Smith

*“‘Cronkite’ will be an ongoing dramatic experience of rare acting excellence, dazzling creativity, incredible technical fusion, and of ethical significance for all who attend one of its performances.”* – Dr. George Diestel



— WALTER —  
**CRONKITE**  
MEMORIAL

“Cronkite” was adapted from an appearance by Walter Cronkite on CNN’s “Larry King Live” in September 2002. The 24-minute show evokes memories of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and other major events Cronkite covered, including World War II, the Vietnam War and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The show incorporates audio, video and still photographs to bring those historic events to life. The part of Cronkite is played by Jim Korinke, a member of the Actors’ Equity Association. ■

### Coming Soon!

- A new exhibit in the Walter Cronkite Memorial, a replica of Walter Cronkite’s CBS broadcast studio, will open in November. The studio is located on the second floor of Spratt Hall in a room overlooking the Memorial.
- A second live, multimedia production will premiere in November, also. “Harry and Walter: Missouri’s Native Sons,” based on President Harry Truman and Walter Cronkite, spotlights two famous Missourians while exploring the historic times in which they lived. ■



Actor Jim Korinke performs in “Cronkite”

Visit [www.waltercronkite memorial.org](http://www.waltercronkite memorial.org).

## Spring sports’ great seasons

The **softball team** ended its 2015 season at the NCAA Division II Central Regional Tournament for the eighth time in 11 years. The team had a 36-21 record overall and 17-10 in the MIAA.

Senior infielder Tiffany Gillaspay was a standout for the Griffons this season. She was named a third-team All-American at second base by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and received an honorable mention on the Daktronics/Division II CCA All-America Softball Team. It makes three All-American honors in Gillaspay’s career; she was named third-team Daktronics All-American in 2014.

She was also named first-team Daktronics All-Central Region for the second time in her career, and first-team



All-MIAA, MIAA Hitter of the Week, National Player of the Week and a top-25 finalist for the National Player of the Year award. Gillaspay was also softball’s Athlete of the Year.

The **baseball team** finished its season with an impressive 29-21 record, 22-14 in the MIAA. The team, coached by Buzz Verduzco, will have to fill the void of nine seniors for the 2016 season.

Shortstop Cody Childs was named first-team Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District and earned All-MIAA honors. This season, the senior from Troutdale, Oregon hit .331 with 17 doubles, three triples, four home runs and 42 RBIs. Childs played in 48 games this season, 47 of them starts, and had a 3.82 GPA at the time of his nomination.

Senior outfielder Ryan Degner was named second team All-Region by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. The Hillsboro, Oregon native batted .361 with 16 doubles, 12 home runs and 43 RBIs this season and was named Griffon baseball’s student athlete of the year. ■

### Sports briefs

- Twenty-six spring sport student athletes were named to the **MIAA Academic Honor Roll**, with three picking up Scholar Athlete Awards: Cody Childs, baseball; Madison Romjue, golf; and Morgan Rathmann, softball.
- The St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated the economic impact of the March 2015 MWSU/Apple Market Softball Classic at **\$250,740**. An estimated 2,500 people attended the three-day event. Fifteen schools, eight from the MIAA and seven from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, competed at the Heritage Park Softball Complex and Missouri Western’s Spring Sports Complex. ■





## Spratt Memorial Stadium renovation underway

On April 27, 2015, the Board of Governors awarded a contract to E.L. Crawford Construction of St. Joseph to renovate Spratt Memorial Stadium for \$6,995,108, and work began on the project as soon as the groundbreaking ceremony ended on May 6.

The bids from three construction companies that were opened on April 2 were significantly higher than anticipated, leading Missouri Western and architect Jeff Ellison to work with the low bidder, E.L. Crawford, to make cost-saving adjustments to the project. Changes included reducing the size of the club level and press box, changing the type of air conditioning unit for the suite level, changing light choices, changing from vinyl wall coverings to paint, reducing the amount of brick facade in various areas, and other minor adjustments.

The adjustments reduced the cost by 15.6 percent from E.L. Crawford's original base bid of \$8.288 million.

"These adjustments did not substantially change the project and did not sacrifice quality or fan experience," said Dr. Cale Fessler, vice president for financial planning and administration.

Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin said phase I of the project was scheduled for completion in time for the football and soccer 2015 seasons. The work included removing the track that had surrounded the field and moving the seating closer to the field. The turf was replaced with AstroTurf, and the field was also widened. The bleachers and chairback seats were removed and renovated, and approximately 350 more chairback seats were added.

The current scoreboard will be used for the 2015 season, but a new video board is included in future plans, although it is not in the bid (see p. 27). A temporary press box will be set up for the fall sports season since the new one is included in phase II.

The second phase also includes a new concourse area, suites and a new Stadium Club. A Hall of Fame room that seats 225 for a sit-down meal will also be built, and the public will have the opportunity to rent the space for events.

"The whole area will be a great showcase," McGuffin said. "A lot of people come through the stadium for Missouri Western athletics and for the (Kansas City) Chiefs camp. This is an important piece that we needed." ■



The renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium began in May. The project was far enough along that the stadium is being used for the fall football and soccer seasons.



## Athletes honored at annual banquet

Senior football player Scott Groner was named Male Athlete of the Year and senior volleyball player Erica Rottinghaus was named Female Athlete of the Year at the Missouri Western/St. Joseph News-Press 16th annual Student-Athlete Honors Banquet in April.

Groner and Rottinghaus also were recipients of the Tom Smith Career Achievement Award, introduced at last year's banquet to honor an outstanding career-long contributor and named

after the school's Hall of Fame men's basketball coach. Joining them as a Smith Award recipient was softball's senior second baseman Tiffany Gillaspay.

Senior soccer forward A.J. Powers claimed the James J. McMillen Award, given to the graduating athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average, and women's basketball senior forward Alex Saxen won the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Volunteer of the Year Award. ■



Erica Rottinghaus and Scott Groner

## Athletics Hall of Fame 2015

The Missouri Western Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2015 will be inducted and recognized on Hall of Fame Weekend Oct. 9 and 10. This year's honorees include Amy Beverly '06, who played softball from 2003-06; Nicole Lindsey Collier '03, who played

basketball 2001-03; and Eric "E-Bo" Walker, who played football 1999-2000.

The induction ceremony will be held on Oct. 9. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Walter Cronkite Memorial in Spratt Hall, followed by dinner in the Fulkerson Center at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person or \$300 for a table of

six. Make your reservation by calling Griffon Athletics at (816) 271-4481.

The Hall of Fame game will be at 1 p.m. Oct. 10 in Spratt Memorial Stadium, when the Griffons take on Fort Hays State. A ring ceremony for the Hall of Fame class will be held at halftime. ■

## Fall sports preview

The 46th year of Griffon **football** will feature six home games, and for the first time in a number of years, no night games at Spratt Memorial Stadium. Renovations to the stadium that began in May of this year have left the stadium without lights for the 2015 season.

For the fourth consecutive season, Missouri Western opened with the University of Central Missouri on Sept. 4.

The home opener will be Sept. 12 against University of Central Oklahoma. Family Day will be combined with a Centennial celebration of Founders' Day on Sept. 26, when the Griffons host Lindenwood University. The Hall of Fame game will be Oct. 10 against Fort Hays State, and Homecoming will be Oct. 17 against Washburn University.

The Griffons return a host of experienced players in 2015, including most of the starters on both sides of the ball. After a 7-4 record in 2014, Jerry Partridge '86 is 139-71 in 18 seasons as the Griffons' head coach.

Eleven members of the current **volleyball** team, coached by Marian Carbin '07, spent eight days in Greece in May. They played four matches against Greek club teams and had an opportunity to take in some sights.

"We hope that the matches we played gave our young players some experience, and gave all our players some exposure to the international volleyball scene," Carbin said. The trip was also an opportunity to further cement the chemistry of the team going into next fall, she said.

The volleyball season kicked off Sept. 4 against Saginaw Valley State University, and the first home match is Sept. 18 against Henderson State University. The team had a 22-8 record last season.

This past spring, Griffon **soccer** Head Coach Chad Edwards signed seven student athletes for the 2015 team. Edwards became the program's all-time wins leader in 2014 during a season that saw more than 20 team and individual records broken. The team finished 9-9-1, the most wins in school history, and qualified for the postseason for the first time.

The team lost just a few seniors and is looking for another great season in 2015.

For ticket information or fall sports schedules, visit [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com) or call the athletics office at (816) 271-4481. ■



# The founding of Missouri Western State University

In 1915, an opportunity for higher education for St. Joseph citizens became available when the predecessor to Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph Junior College, opened its doors.

That same year, St. Joseph, Missouri could boast of having two hospitals, St. Joseph's Hospital on 10th Street, and Noyes Hospital, which had just opened at 24th and Frederick Ave. The city, with a population of approximately 77,000, was also home to State Lunatic Asylum No. 2, which was called "the most important public charity in Buchanan County and one of the most important in the entire west." The Home for Little Wanderers (later the Noyes Home) was 21 years old in 1915, and the Social Welfare Board free clinic was just two years old. There were seven parks, a YMCA, a YWCA, Lyceum and Orpheum theaters and the Tootle Opera House.

Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, professor emerita of English, researched circumstances behind the founding of the Junior College for her book,

"Missouri Western State College: A History 1915-1983."

She noted that the idea for a Junior College may have been around for awhile, but didn't gain serious traction until an Aug. 6, 1915 joint meeting between the school board and the Commerce Club in St. Joseph, now the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. At that meeting, the Commerce Club brought up the idea of a two-year junior college which would be an extension of the high school.

The school board agreed that it would be a good idea and something that they would look into in the future, but impossible at the time with the funds that were currently available.

However, by the Aug. 23 school board meeting, the minutes read, "By unanimous vote a committee was ordered appointed to confer with the Commerce Club and others to see if some method can be found to finance the junior college plan for the coming year and report back to the board."

"All the business had to take place in a coffee shop or on a street corner,"

Dr. Flanagan said with a laugh. "This was August and it opened in mid-September. No bond drive, no hunt for teachers (they all came from Central High School), no worry, no bother, there it was."

At its Sept. 4 meeting, the school board voted that the "Junior College Course outlined by the special committee be established in Central High School, and the arrangement of details be left to the committee, subject to approval of proper authorities of the State University (University of Missouri-Columbia) and that requirements for entrance to the course be the same as those for the State University." Tuition was set at \$40 per year for St. Joseph residents and \$60 for non-residents.

By Sept. 9, a committee had come up with plans for the curriculum, with courses including English literature, composition and rhetoric, Cicero's Essays on Friendship and Old Age, European history, French, inorganic chemistry, trigonometry, college algebra, and education courses and electives.

Classes began on Sept. 20 with 35 students. The city's new Junior College was just the second junior college in the state (Kansas City had one at the time) and the eighth in the nation.

Interestingly, the Junior College came about with no guidance or approval from the state. It wasn't until 12 years later, in 1927, that a state law was passed permitting the startup of a junior college in a public school district with a fully accredited high school "on the approval of and subject to the supervision of the state superintendent of schools."

The first top administrator of the Junior College was Frank C. Touton, who was the principal of Central High School at the time.

Dr. Flanagan said it is important to remember that the Junior College was started because of the interest and encouragement from the community, and the institution has continued to respond to the needs of the community throughout its entire history.

*Excerpts and information for this article are from "Missouri Western State College: A History 1915-1983," by Dr. Frances Flanagan.* ■

## From the 1917 yearbook:

### The Faculty

One of the most excellent features of the Junior College is the helpful and co-operative, as well as entirely competent faculty. Merle C. Prunty, principal of the school, is at the head. Other instructors are: Miss Calla Varner, W.H. Livers, C. Miller, Miss Blanche Sutherland, Miss Elizabeth Bentley, Lloyd E. Thatcher, Miss Etta Knowles, Francis Walters, Miss Mary Neeley and Miss Zoe Ferguson.

### College Studies

The first term a limited number of subjects were taught, but the following term and the next year found many studies well established. A good variety of subjects enable the students to fill their requirements for higher colleges. The following curriculum can be obtained at the Junior College: Latin, Greek, French; college algebra, analytics, calculus, trigonometry, narration and description, exposition, English masterpieces and American literature; English, Western Europe and American history; physics, zoology and chemistry; sociology, history of education and psychology.

## Fun Fact:

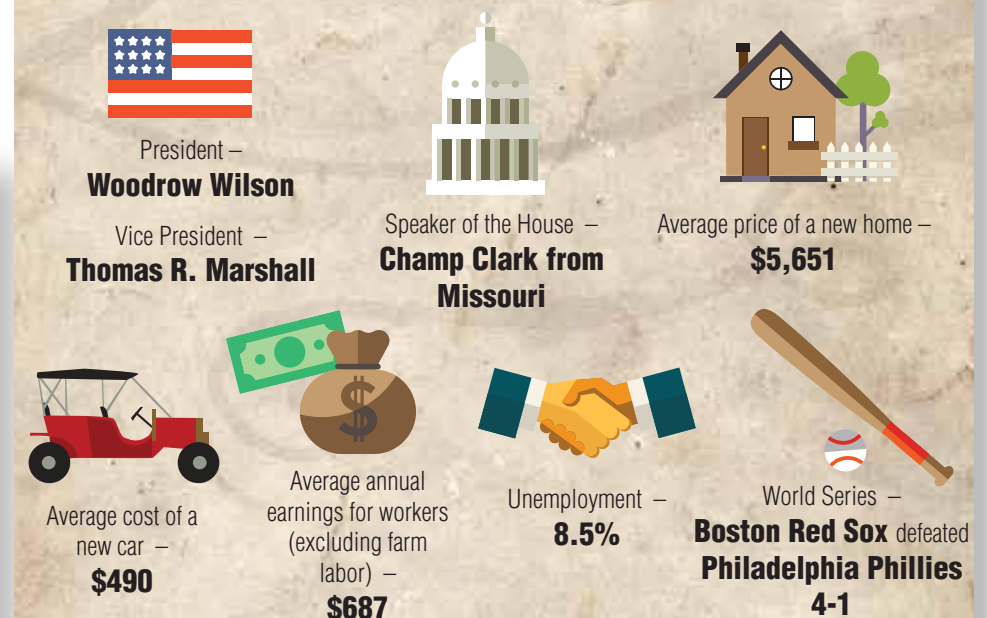
The president of the Commerce Club at the time of the Junior College founding was William E. Spratt, who had served as St. Joseph's mayor. He is the father of Missouri Western benefactors Elliott C. Spratt and Leah Spratt.

## School Board members 1915-1916

Orestes Mitchell, President  
Samuel Motter  
John E. Dolman  
Dr. F. P. Cronkite (Walter Cronkite's grandfather)  
W. P. Fulkerson  
Frank E. Vancil

The St. Joseph Junior College opened its doors on Sept. 20, 1915.

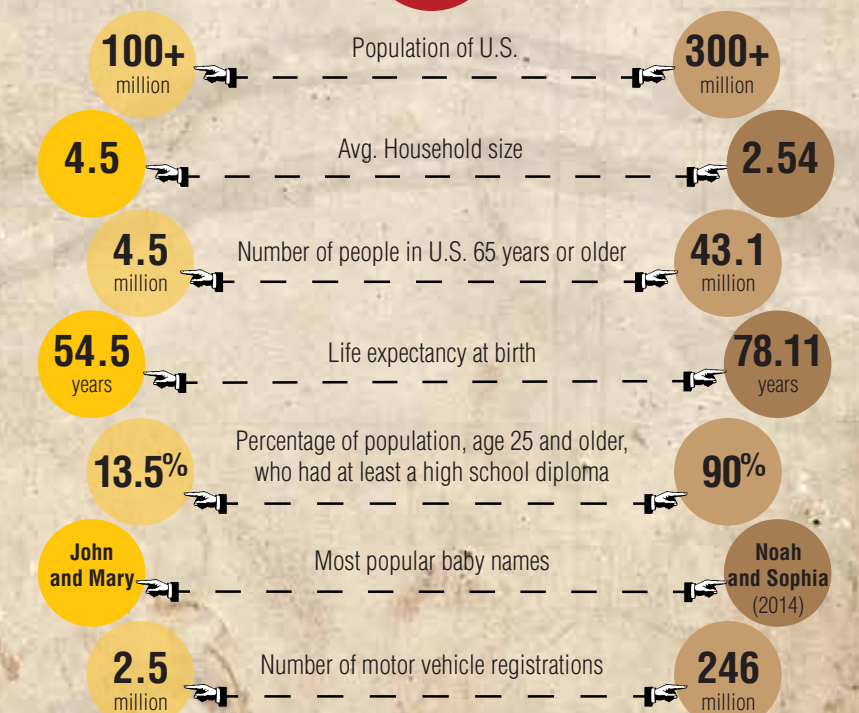
## What was life like 100 years ago?



1915

vs.

2015





## 1915 Notable Events

**January** —While working as a cook at New York's Sloan Hospital under an assumed name, "Typhoid Mary" infects 25 people, and is placed in quarantine for life.

**Jan. 12** —The U.S. House of Representatives rejects a proposal to give women the right to vote.

**Jan. 26** —Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado established.

**Feb. 12** —Cornerstone laid for Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Feb. 18** —Germany begins a blockade of Britain.

**March 19** —Pluto photographed for the first time (although unknown at the time).

**May 7** —SS Lusitania sunk by German submarine; 1,198 lives lost.

**June 10** —The Girl Scouts Organization is founded.

**Aug. 5 - Aug. 23** —Hurricane Two of the 1915 Atlantic hurricane season over Galveston and New Orleans leaves 275 dead.

**Sept. 20** —St. Joseph Junior College opens.

**Oct. 12** —Ford Motor Company under Henry Ford manufactures its one millionth Model T automobile.

**Dec. 16** —Albert Einstein publishes "General Theory of Relativity."

**Dec. 25** —WWI: British and German forces declare an unofficial Christmas truce, get out of the trenches and have a free-for-all kick-around football game in no-man's land.

## New in 1915

- Aspirin in tablet form
- Gas masks
- Long distance phone line from New York to San Francisco
- Mechanical pencil
- Milk carton
- Neon tube advertising sign
- Processed cheese
- Pyrex glass
- Raggedy Ann
- The round Quaker Oats package
- Skeet shooting
- U. S. Coast Guard

## Centennial Notes

### New on the Centennial Website - [missouriwestern.edu/centennial](http://missouriwestern.edu/centennial)

- Missouri Western's first history book, "Missouri Western State College: A History 1915-1983," by Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, is now available online. A PDF and Kindle version can be found on the history page of Missouri Western's website and on the centennial website.
- Check out the Centennial video that was created especially for Missouri Western's 100th anniversary. The video tells the great story of our history through photos and interviews. ■

### Students celebrate Missouri Western's centennial

Lionel Attawia, the student representative on the Board of Governors, thinks Missouri Western's centennial year is a great time to be a Griffon. He is chairing the Student Centennial Committee that is planning centennial activities for students throughout the year.

The students kicked off their Centennial celebration in January with a successful Centennial Ball, and they are currently gathering materials for a time capsule. Attawia said all students are encouraged to make suggestions of what should be in the time capsule.

The capsule will be sealed at the December commencement ceremony

and then placed on display in the Blum Union. Future students will open it in 2065.

The committee, made up of students Charles Flemmons, Jessie Walters, Rachael Jackson, Deir Montiel and Addie Wilkwosky; and advised by Isaiah Collier and Colleen Kowich, has also made plans for students to celebrate Founders' Day with the community this month (see next page).

"It's a really unique opportunity for students," Attawia said. "We have a chance to be a part of something that happens once every 100 years. I am excited to be here at this moment in Missouri Western's history." ■



MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# FOUNDERS' and FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
1915-2015



**FREE**  
LOCAL BANDS  
CARNIVAL GAMES AND INFLATABLES  
PLANETARIUM SHOWS

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Mega Tailgate, Carnival Games, Inflatables and Bands – Soca Jukebox and Maria the Mexican – Lot H  
Bring your own tailgate, or food will be available for purchase.

**12-2 p.m.** Planetarium Shows in Remington Hall at noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

**2 p.m.** Griffon Football vs. Lindenwood University at Spratt Memorial Stadium

For more information about Family Day visit [missouriwestern.edu/csi](http://missouriwestern.edu/csi) or call (816) 271-4150.

For more information about Founders' Day visit [missouriwestern.edu/centennial](http://missouriwestern.edu/centennial) or call (816) 271-5646.



# Amazing alumni: 100 years of transforming lives

At first glance, Missouri Western's centennial theme, "100 Years of Transforming Lives," seems to refer to how the University has transformed students' lives. But on the other side of the commencement stage, more than 28,000 alumni have earned degrees from the St. Joseph Junior College and Missouri Western, and have gone on to transform lives in their communities.

"We are very proud of our alumni; they are the University's greatest asset," said Colleen Kowich, director of Alumni Relations. "The greater the success of our alumni, the greater the value of all degrees from Missouri Western."

The impact of alumni on the St. Joseph community since 1915 has been enormous. Eight alumnae currently serve in top positions at nonprofit organizations in St. Joseph (see p. 19), and alumni have served the community as mayors, doctors and nurses, police officers and police chiefs, lawyers, teachers and school administrators, artists and musicians, small business owners, bank presidents and state legislators, to name just a few.

Early Junior College alumni Andrew Ziph '26 and Donald Folks '48 are examples of those who succeeded locally. Ziph was general manager for Walker Mfg. & Sales Corp. and Folks was vice president of American National Bank. Junior College alumni Merritt Blanchard and William Wessel were vice president at St. Joseph Stock Yards Bank, and vice president of Fletcher, Wessel and Enright, respectively.

In 1965, all three Buchanan County circuit judges were Junior College graduates: William H. Kimberlin, Fred E. Schoenlaub '49 and Frank D. Connett Jr. '42. Today, two of the present-day judges are alumni – Don Judah '72 and Dan Kellogg '82.

William W. Bloom '33 was president of Midwest Federal Savings and Loan Association in St. Joseph in the 1970s,

**"Every day a Griffon pays it forward, here in the United States and across the globe."**



Bottom left, Andrew Ziph '26

and currently, Ralph Schank '82 serves as president of that bank's successor, Farmers State Bank.

Today, more than 5,900 alumni call St. Joseph home.

Kowich noted that Missouri Western alumni not only excel in their careers, but they volunteer many hours of community service. "From service clubs to PTAs, to organizing fundraisers, to serving as volunteer coaches, our alumni can be found giving back to their communities," she said.

Throughout the University's 100-year history, Junior College and Missouri Western alumni have also been impacting communities beyond St. Joseph. As early as 1922, Norman Knight '18, the creator of the Griffon, was employed in government work in Washington, D.C. Erma Young '24 was the women's editor of the Kansas City Star, and she traveled to Asia for the newspaper. Robert Edson '26 was national director of disaster relief for the American Red Cross, also in Washington, D.C.

Lt. Gen. Keith Compton '35 was deputy chief of staff for operations and plans for the United States Air Force. He became famous for his World War II exploits, according to an article in the St. Joseph News-Press. Esther Louise Brown '38 earned her doctorate and taught at the University of Illinois-Urbana. Dr. Joe Friedman '39, a podiatrist, acted on Broadway and won an Emmy for his work on a documentary.

Demarquis Wyatt '39 was director of the office of programs for NASA and was headquartered in Washington, D.C., and Harold Dubach '40 was deputy director of the National Oceanographic Data Center in Washington, D.C. He was also co-author of "Questions About the Oceans," published by the U.S. Navy in 1969, and he patented an instrument



Top right, Lt. Gen. Keith Compton '35



Adri Steckling '53



"We attended St. Joseph Junior College from 1959 through 1962. Our best memory of the College at that time was lunch each day at the Grotto. That was generally a hot dog, potato chips and a Coke while playing cards or studying."

- Barbara J. (Pennington) '62 and Floyd N. '62 Anderson

to record sea temperatures during hurricanes.

Several company presidents have called Missouri Western their alma mater, including William Wyeth III '48, the Wyeth Co.; Forrest Werner '33, Werner Shoe Co.; and Barent Springsted '27, American Electric Co.; all in St. Joseph. Monte Pendleton '49 was president of an electronics firm in Dallas. Mark McDonald '73 served as president and vice president of several companies in the chemical field and Blaine Yarrington '37 was president of American Oil Co., a subsidiary of Standard Oil Co.

Current alumni presidents include Al Landes, Herzog Contracting Corp. in St. Joseph; and Nick Saccaro '01, Quest Food Management Services in Chicago.

*Continued on pg. 18*

## Attention, WWII Vets!

During the Junior College Reunion in July, a member of the Class of '43 told us the story of how he was drafted into military service before receiving his diploma. Dean Nelle Blum, he said, made sure he and his classmates earned the required 60 hours to graduate, but they shipped out before graduation.

So we began to wonder ... how many other World War II veterans were drafted before their commencement ceremonies?

If you are, or know of a St. Joseph Junior College graduate who did not receive his diploma due to the World War II draft, please contact Colleen Kowich, director of Alumni Relations, at (816) 271-5650 or e-mail ckowich@missouriwestern.edu. Missouri Western plans to recognize these individuals during the commencement ceremony on December 19, 2015. ■



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Richard Durst '71 and Dr. Bernie Patterson '73 graduated from Missouri Western and went on to head universities, Durst at Baldwin Wallace University and Patterson at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Tom Norsworthy '75 and Brent Porlier '82 are successful business owners. Cheri Kempf '85 is the owner of Club K, a training facility for women's fastpitch softball. She is also a color analyst on ESPN and Fox Sports, and commissioner of the National Professional Fastpitch.

Other alums who succeeded in a sports-related career are Bill Snyder '59, head football coach at Kansas State University, Paul Rhoads '89, head football coach at Iowa State University, and George Hayward '75, who has been an NFL official for 16 years. Several Griffon athletes over the years have played professional sports, as well.

Adri Steckling '53 and Stanley Harrison '55 both found success in New York City. Steckling owned a fashion house and designed several collections, and Harrison owned an acting studio.

Esther George '80 and Charles Bruffy '81 found success in Kansas City. George is president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and Bruffy has won Grammys for his work



Far right,  
Charles  
Bruffy '81

with the Kansas City and Phoenix chorales, and Kansas City Symphony.

"Missouri Western has been committed to transforming the lives of its students for the past 100 years. Alumni in turn, reflect that commitment as they work to transform the lives of those around them," Kowich said. "Every day a Griffon pays it forward, here in the United States and across the globe."

*Some information in this article was obtained from the St. Joseph News-Press, April 4, 1965.* ■



Bottom row, middle, Nic Saccaro '01

## History of the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association was created in 1970, and the first officers of the Board of Directors included John Biehl '57, president; George Fenner '35, vice president; Marilyn Maxwell '45, secretary; and Jean Andrews Evans '37, treasurer.

Members the first year were Mary Cadwell Brooks '27, Dennis Christgen '62, David Colboch '61, Emma Lee Ficklin '27, Donald D. Folks '48, David Fry '70, Arbie F. German '62, Mercedes Lake Gibson '27, Raymond Gibson '30, Frances Willman Grote '44, George Hammer '70, Dr. George Hopkins

'46, Virginia Miller Lacy '28, Milton Litvak '38, Edwin McDonald '26, Victor Modeer '27, Maude Wickam Nold '26, Edna Swafford Pumphrey '33, Leah Spratt '21, Nellie Utz '20, William Wessel Jr. '50, Barbara Wise '60, Herbert Woodbury '29, Margaret Young '29, and Radiance Zollinger '25. Sam Sharp, an employee of Missouri Western, was the executive director.

Wilbur McDonald '31, a surgeon in St. Joseph, was the first alumnus to become a Life member of the Alumni Association. ■



"During my four years at Missouri Western I had many excellent professors. However, Dr. Jonathan Euchner, professor of political science, stands out from the rest as my favorite instructor. Deeply knowledgeable, entertaining, passionate (about politics), and memorable are all words that I believe describe Jon. I will always remember the many classes I had the pleasure of being apart as one of his students and how he made the study of politics both enjoyable and eye-opening. For any student that will take even one government course at Missouri Western, do yourself a favor and take a class with Dr. Euchner! You will be glad you did."

- Brandon Hylton '06

# Alumnae lead in the community

Eight Missouri Western graduates currently serve as directors of nonprofit organizations in St. Joseph. They have devoted their careers to making a difference in the community: Jean Brown '73, YWCA; Teresa Fankhauser '79, Allied Arts Council; Robin Hammond '93, St. Joseph Youth Alliance; Linda Judah '82/'94, Social Welfare Board; Brandy Meeks '07, St. Joseph Pregnancy Resource Clinic; Angie Springs '02, American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri; Kylee Strough '03, United Way of Greater St. Joseph; and Shannen White '06, Hillcrest Transitional Housing.



## Jean Brown '73

A high school social studies teacher suggested to Jean Brown that she consider the social work field for a career, but at the time, Brown says, she didn't even know what social workers did.

The first in her family to go to college, she was offered several scholarships at many universities, but the St. Joseph native decided to stay close to home and attend Missouri Western.

"The best part of Missouri Western for me was that I was part of a community."

Brown took her high school teacher's advice and earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Missouri Western in

just three years and a master's in social work from West Virginia University. She has served in the social work field ever since, working for Family Guidance Center in St. Joseph for 22 years and as executive director of the YWCA in St. Joseph since 1995.

"It's challenging with lots of variety," Brown says of her job. "If you're in a leadership position in a nonprofit, you do what has to be done."

Under Brown's leadership, the YWCA began the JUMP program for pregnant teens and expanded its victim services, opening Bliss Manor Transitional Housing in 2011. She also began the Women of Excellence luncheons, which host more than 1,000 guests each year.

She earned the Distinguished Alumni Award from Missouri Western in 1989.

Her childhood may have been a foreshadowing of a nonprofit career as an adult; for several years she organized a neighborhood carnival to raise money for muscular dystrophy research.

"I would promote it with a parade through Hyde Park to attract people to the carnival. I was raising money, promoting activities and organizing people, and I do a lot of that today," she says with a laugh.

Brown says she has thoroughly enjoyed her long career in the nonprofit sector and the social work field. "We really have an opportunity to make an impact, not only on individual lives, but in the entire community."

## What is your theme song?

"Hall of Fame" is the theme song for the Youth Alliance. It sends a message to young people that they can be anything they want to be." Robin Hammond

"Danny Gokey's 'There's Hope in Front of Me.'" Brandy Meeks

"Do Something." Shannen White



## Teresa Fankhauser '79

It shouldn't be surprising to anyone that Teresa Fankhauser loves her job as director of the umbrella organization for 14 arts agencies in St. Joseph, the Allied Arts Council. She started taking dance lessons at age 3 and piano lessons at age 5, and she was involved in theatre throughout high school and college.

"Arts were always a part of my life, and I fell in love with it at an early age. Now I get to live the dream and support the arts every day," Fankhauser says.

She said she enjoyed her college experience at Missouri Western, where she earned a degree in speech/communication. "My college education taught me how to be a teacher and so much more. It gave me the confidence to open my own business and gave me the background to succeed."

After graduating, the St. Joseph native taught high school for eight years, was a financial planner, and owned the Ice House Theater in St. Joseph for 11 years with her husband, Erich Uhlhorn. She was executive director of St. Joseph's Performing Arts Association for two years, and became executive director of the Allied Arts Council in 2005.

The Council, founded in 1963, has as its mission organizing, fund-raising, advocating, educating and servicing the local arts community. It provides

Continued on pg. 20



## Alumnae lead in the community

educational programs, art exhibits and summer youth arts programs and operates the annual Trails West!® arts festival. The Council also coordinated the inaugural sculpture walk that was in downtown St. Joseph last year.

"I enjoy seeing the arts reach so many people," Fankhauser says. "The arts make a community, and it's very exciting to be a part of it."



### Robin Hammond '93

When Robin Hammond was in high school, she took an aptitude test that said she wasn't really college material. Today, Hammond, who earned both a bachelor's and master's degree, is the executive director of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance.

Her nonprofit career path began while she was in college, when she started working part-time for Progressive Community Services. She worked full-time for the organization for four years after she graduated before joining Youth Alliance.

"I was offered the position (at Youth Alliance) and I turned it down. They called me back and said, 'Are you sure?' I thought that was a sign from God that I was supposed to take it. Nobody calls you back after you turn them down," she said with a laugh.

That was in 1996. In 2001, Hammond took on the lead role.

The organization works with community partners to prevent teen substance abuse, help create quality early childhood education opportunities and help teens find ways to serve their

### What advice would you give to young women who are in college now?

"A man is not a plan. Develop your skills so you can take care of yourself." Jean Brown (She prefaced this by saying she has been happily married to a wonderful man for 42 years!)

"Don't let anything get in your way of finishing your college degree, and if you are an arts student, take an accounting or management class." Teresa Fankhauser

"Don't sell yourself short, and don't worry if you don't have any idea where you're headed. God has a plan." Robin Hammond

"Find something you are passionate about, and then soak up all the experience you can in that field." Brandy Meeks

community while learning new job skills.

"It's not about the money," she says of her career choice. "It's about being given the opportunity to impact the life of someone in a big way. It's a great way to give someone a chance."

When she started college, she had planned to get an associate's degree so she would only have to go two years. One of her professors, Sharon Downey, convinced her to earn a bachelor's degree, and the student who wasn't supposed to be college material kept on going.

"I am very appreciative. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for Missouri Western," said Hammond, who served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. "Missouri Western gives every student a chance to succeed, and that is the Youth Alliance's guiding principle."

### Linda Judah '82/'94

Linda Judah has been executive director of the Social Welfare Board in St. Joseph since 2006.

"It's my mission, it doesn't feel like a job to me," she says. "It's a cause that drives me to do more."

Judah earned a criminal justice degree in 1982 and worked in that field for several years before returning to Missouri Western to earn a nursing degree. After graduating with that degree in 1994, she spent several years as a school nurse in the St. Joseph School District before taking over the

helm of the Social Welfare Board.

After she earned a Master of Science in Nursing in 2004, Judah served as an adjunct nursing professor for Missouri Western, and in 2007, accompanied nursing students on a medical mission trip to Honduras. She received the Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

The Social Welfare Board, established in St. Joseph in 1913, provides medical and dental care to residents of Buchanan County, and a recent brochure noted that it averaged 106 patients per day. The Social Welfare Board recently completed a remodel of their offices and clinic facilities, including an expansion of the dental clinic.

"Working in the social service sector enables a person to see the real needs of people. It is more of a social justice calling for me," Judah says. "At the end of the day, I know we've helped a lot of people."



### Brandy Meeks '07

Brandy Meeks said when she graduated from Missouri Western with a psychology degree in 2007, her challenge wasn't finding a job, it was trying to decide which job offer to accept.

"I had three offers before I even crossed the stage at graduation, and I was nine months pregnant," she said. "It was because my resumé was loaded with experience from class projects and practicum requirements."

As a college student, she had the opportunity to work closely with United Cerebral Palsy and United Way's Success by Six. "That made me decide that I wanted to invest my talent into making a difference in the lives of others every day."

In 2013, she was hired to lead the St. Joseph Pregnancy Resource Clinic, which specializes in helping women with unplanned pregnancies, serving 13 counties in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

"I love the faith-based principles of this organization, and I enjoy bringing hope to mothers, fathers and their

### What is at the top of your bucket list?

"Experience Machu Picchu." Linda Judah

"Visiting Australia. I have had a pen pal from there since second grade and we have never met." Angie Springs

babies," Meeks said. "I like that I am making a real, measurable difference."

Meeks currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and co-founded with Angie Springs '02 the Mama Griffs network for alumni and their families.

"I stay involved with Missouri Western because their vision for their students' futures is a priority. I want to give back to the university that gave me so much."



### Angie Springs '02

Angie Springs started her career working at a couple for-profit companies before deciding that her heart was in nonprofit work. She went to work for the American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri in St. Joseph, then United Way of Greater St. Joseph, and then back to the Red Cross in the top position in June 2013.

"I was raised to help others, and now I get paid to do that," she says. "In nonprofits, everyone has a passion. You are impacting people's lives and making their lives better."

The Doniphan County, Kansas native completed her associate degree at Highland Community College before transferring to Missouri Western to earn a degree in speech communication. "Dr. (Marilyn) Hunt was wonderful. She is one of my go-to people for advice."

Springs has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since

2008, and is currently serving as its president. She was the co-founder of the Mama Griffs network with Brandy Meeks '07.

Like her colleagues in other nonprofits, she says there is "no typical day. All it takes is one call from the Fire Department to change your day. You have to be flexible."

As executive director, she oversees seven employees, and, in any given year, 500 to 700 volunteers.

Last year, she was one of three Red Cross employees who received the 2014 President's Challenge Award in Washington, D.C. because her office came in second in the nation in establishing new blood drives.

"People always tell us, 'Now I know things will be okay; the Red Cross is here.' Everyone has a story of how we helped them and it keeps you going."



### Kylee Strough '03

"It's good to go to bed every night knowing we played a role in connecting people who care with people who need help."

That is how Kylee Strough sums up her position as president of United Way of St. Joseph, a position she has held since 2010. She joined United Way in 2005. "I feel blessed to be chosen as an employee."

Before deciding on attending Missouri Western, she visited a larger school and saw a lecture hall with more

*Continued on pg. 22*



## Alumnae lead in the community

### Last book you read?

"'The Best Yes.' It's a self-improvement book about only saying yes to things that you can give your best to. I highly recommend it." Angie Springs

students in it than were in her entire high school, and she decided that wasn't for her.

After she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing, she went to work for her uncle's business. In 2004, he encouraged her to volunteer to coordinate a benefit dinner for United Way. When there was an opening the next year for a campaign director, United Way asked Strough to apply.

"It's a challenge every day, but an invigorating challenge," she says of the job. The only consistency day to day is emails and meetings, with the topics changing daily."

In 2014, the United Way surpassed its campaign goal and raised more than \$3.1 million for its 19 partner agencies.

Strough said she became involved at Missouri Western when she served on the Board of Governors, including serving three one-year terms as chair. She received the GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award from the Alumni Association in 2011. Also, this past spring, she was selected as one of the Kansas City Ingram's Magazine 40 under Forty, which recognizes accomplished young business leaders in the region.

"In the beginning, I didn't really know that I wanted to work for a nonprofit organization," Strough says. "I just knew that I wanted to be in a position to help people and make lives easier."



### Shannen White '06

Although she was always an active community volunteer, Shannen White had never planned on a career in the nonprofit field. She worked for the St. Joseph Association of Realtors and then at American Family Insurance's corporate office in St. Joseph after she graduated with a criminal justice degree in 2006.

But participating in the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Joseph class in 2013 made her question her career path, because the program included visiting local social services agencies.

"I remember going home and saying I wanted to be involved in an agency that gets people out of a situation and gets them self-sufficient," she says. "I felt that God was leading me."

Later, she remembers praying, "Lord, I don't know what you are doing. Tell me what I need to do."

### What is something about you that would surprise people?

"I designed and made my own wedding gown." Jean Brown

"I'm really more introverted than people think." Teresa Fankhauser

"Thanks to yoga, I can stand on my head. I even surprised myself that I could do that." Linda Judah

"I love to watch college basketball. The TV comes on during March Madness." Kylee Strough (And, in case you were wondering, her favorite team is the University of North Carolina Tarheels.)

"I used to race three-wheelers and I won every race. I was a bit of a tomboy." Shannen White

The next day, a friend from her church called and asked her to consider applying for the local director position at Hillcrest Transitional Housing. The organization, which began in 1976 and has locations in the Kansas City metro area, expanded into St. Joseph in 2011 and had decided that they needed a local director.

"My friend said she couldn't stop thinking about me," White says. "I had never heard of Hillcrest, but when she described it, I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, I knew this was where the Lord wanted me to be."


White became the director in April 2014.


Hillcrest offers homeless families, singles and youth a disciplined educational program within a caring, supportive environment. Its primary objective is to move clients from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days by addressing the total life situation of the homeless families they serve.


"Looking back, I can see how my life was orchestrated to lead me to this," White says. When she had been married a short time, she and her husband lost their home and moved in with her parents for more than a year. "I understand what our clients go through. My parents were our 'Hillcrest.'"

"I have a true calling for this. I like to do as much as I can to help others." ■


## Alumni Numbers


 **28,000 total Alumni, living and deceased – St. Joseph Junior College, Missouri Western Junior College, Missouri Western College, Missouri Western State College and Missouri Western State University**

 **5,927 currently in St. Joseph**

 **10,411 in St. Joseph region (40-mile radius of St. Joseph)**

 **14,750 in St. Joseph/Kansas City area (60-mile radius)**

 **17,099 in Missouri**

 **142 alumni employees at Missouri Western**

 **Alumni live on six continents**



"I graduated and went to Colorado State for my master's, and I was hired as housing director at Missouri Western in 1976. It's a beautiful thing to come back to your alma mater. My last job when I left in 1989 was director of alumni affairs and auxiliary programs.

My wife and I lived on campus, and my daughter was the youngest person to ever live on campus. She was born in January 1976, and we lived there until 1981.

I remember when Glenn Marion was planting little bitty trees and flowers. When I look at all the trees now, it gives me chills.

Marvin Looney (president, 1967-1983) was an amazing man and a great leader. He was very approachable and down-to-earth. Dr. Looney would hold faculty parties at his house on campus. It was a beautiful house and had a nice patio.

Janet Murphy (president, 1983-2000) took Missouri Western to the next level, especially with fund-raising. She was a great leader and a strong woman."

- Joe Vigilanturo '75

## Alumni Across the United States






# Centennial Notables

Missouri Western’s Centennial year is a perfect time to recognize our amazing alumni. The following is a list of those who have received the Distinguished Alumni Award since the award began in 1983. To be eligible for the award, there must be a time difference of at least 10 years between college graduation and the nomination. The criteria for consideration includes professional achievement and distinction; service to the community, state or nation; humanitarian contribution to society in general; and possession of those qualities that elicit pride from others who attended the same educational institution. Only living alumni are eligible.

## Distinguished Alumni Award 1983-2014

Algalee Adams ’39	Deam Hunter Ferris ’32	Daniel Kellogg ’82
Darrel Ashlock ’75	Frances M. Flanagan ’35	Glenda Kelly ’89
Dennis Atkins ’77	Roderick Fletcher ’48	Cheri Kempf ’85
Ron Auxier ’73	Joe Friedman ’39	Steven Koenig ’86
Karen Baker ’61	Craig Fuchs ’84	Sharon Kosek ’77
Michael Baltezor ’72	Clarence Garder ’40	Albert Kost ’32
Thomas Baumann ’34	Esther George ’80	Louise Lacy ’19
John P. Beihl ’57	Helen Gettys ’51	Al Landes ’74
John A. Birch ’72	Herschel Goldberg ’31	Charles Larson ’88
Donna Jean Boyer ’64	William H. Gondring ’56	Jacqueline Lewin ’66
Jean Paden Brown ’73	Joseph Gray ’42	Alvin M. Liberman ’36
Eric Bruder ’93	Edward Haffey ’62	Milton Litvak ’38
Charles Bruffy ’81	James R. Hayes ’71	Rebecca Mackoy ’76
Charlie Burri ’55	George Hayward ’74	Christel E. Marquardt ’70
Jerry Chambers ’67	Jeffrey Hillelson ’39	Michael Mastio ’95
Dirck Clark ’85	Edward M. Hirsch ’33	W. Dale Maudlin ’71
Dan Colgan ’66	Forrest Hoff ’58	LeRoy Maxwell ’72
James F. Conant ’71	Keith Hoskins ’88	Mark McDonald ’73
Frank D. Connett Jr. ’42	Herbert C. Iffert ’35	Wilbur McDonald ’31
Patrick Conway ’73	Matthew James ’78	William McMurray ’70
Stephen Cotter ’78	Jack Jeffers ’82	Joella Mehrhof ’75
Robert Couldry ’71	Linda Judah ’82 & ’94	Donald Michel ’40
Jeanne Daffron ’75	Weldon Judah ’72	Jill Miller ’73
Chris Danford ’78	Thomas Kalin ’55	Hugh Miner ’40
Dan Danford ’78	Dan Kampen ’81	David H. Morton ’42
Richard DeShon ’54	Robert W. Keener ’55	John Mullican ’87
Robert E. Douglas ’37		
R. Gregory Downing ’76		
Jerome Downs ’39		
John E. Downs ’35		
C. Neil Dubach ’48		
Richard Durst ’72		
Isador Farber ’36		
Mary Jane Fields ’47		



MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

100 Years  
OF TRANSFORMING LIVES  
1915-2015

“So many great memories at MWSU came from my experiences with Alpha Sigma Alpha. I enjoyed living in the inaugural “Greek Village.” I made so many connections and wonderful friendships through opportunities with Greek Life. I am so glad to have contributed to the Greek, MWSU and St. Joseph community!”


- Morgan Lindgren ’13

Byron Myers ’55  
Sean Nash ’91  
Thomas Norsworthy ’75  
Diane Oliver ’76  
Mike Pankau ’84  
Mark Pankau ’73  
Bertha Ann Parker ’72  
Bernie Patterson ’73  
Steven Perry ’83  
Molly Pierce ’77  
Brent Porlier ’82  
Tegwin Pulley ’63  
Edna Swafford Pumphrey ’32  
Pamela Quiroz ’83  
Sally Radmacher ’81  
Patricia Waris Rashid ’53  
Charles K. Richmond ’40  
George Roth ’39  
Robert Roth ’73  
Alexandra E. Santa Cruz ’73  
Harry J. Sauer Jr. ’54  
Rob Schaaf ’79  
Julia Schneider ’67  
Thomas Schneider ’64  
Dwight Scroggins ’76  
Robert L. Simpson ’51  
Richard Sipe ’61  
Melody Smith ’87  
Leah Spratt ’21  
John S. Stanley ’76  
Ernest Steinman ’42  
Bob Vecchione ’75  
Jeanne Webb ’71  
Maude Wickam Nold ’26  
Harriet Hutchinson Wingo ’36  
Joyce Winston ’73  
Nannette Wolford ’73  
Mary Claudia Wolters ’82  
Blaine Yarrington ’37  
William E. Zimmerman ’74

# Honorary Doctorate

The following is a listing of those who have been honored with honorary doctorates from Missouri Western since the first one was awarded in 1977:

John Ashcroft	Paul J. Kofmehl
Michael Baltezor ’72	M.O. Looney
Kay Barnes	James Mathewson
Kenneth Blanchard	Janet McCarthy
R. Dan Boulware	Charles J. McClain
Charles Bruffy ’81	Mark McDonald ’73
Jean Carnahan	Rebecca McDowell Cook
Steven L. Craig	Michael Mills
Pat Danner	Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon
William True Davis Jr.	Gary Nodler
John Downs ’35	John Jordan “Buck” O’Neal
William F. Enright Jr.	C. Wesley and Patsy L. ’79 Remington
Joseph Friedman ’39	M. Carol Roever
Steve Gaw	Martin Rucker
Esther George ’80	Nicholas Saccaro ’01
Karen Graves	Charles Shields
Sam Graves	Dr. Kala M. Stroup
Joseph L. Gray ’42	Stephanie van Reigersberg
Thomas S. Haggai	Quentin Wilson
Sidney Johnson	Roger Wilson
Glenda Kelly ’89	Shirley Wyeth Bradley



MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

100 Years  
OF TRANSFORMING LIVES  
1915-2015

“After graduating from South Holt R-1 High School in Oregon, Missouri, I chose Missouri Western College because it was a brand new school. I was a commuter student that first year (1970) riding/driving down from Oregon in all kinds of weather with my friend Carol Meng Schuman.

My second year I decided to find a place to live in St. Joe and ended up renting a basement apartment in the south end. I had my ’65 VW Bug to get back and forth to campus, but even living closer to school, the winter weather could be challenging. One time I took the city bus, a first for this rural kid in the big city, and met a guy who’d eventually become a close friend, Greg Bumphrey. He moved in with me in that basement apartment where many fond memories took place.

I value the education I received from Missouri Western. After graduating with my degree in secondary education with an emphasis in history/social studies, I eventually moved to southern California. This is my last year of teaching in the San Diego Unified School District after doing so for 37 years!

I like visiting the campus when I make it home and am impressed with its growth from the three or four buildings in which I had classes. Who could ever forget the student union that sat on the east side of the sidewalk between the library and the Science and Mathematics Building?

Some of the most fun times of my life took place at Missouri Western and St. Joseph. There was a group of us who made runs to Kansas and the bars in Wathena! I also joined Delta Chi Fraternity, but I don’t believe that group is represented on campus any longer.”

- Bob Meyer ’74



# INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE: CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Missouri Western's Centennial Capital Campaign continues to be successful and is very close to reaching its \$20 million initial celebration goal, according to Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for University Advancement and Executive Director of the MWSU Foundation.

"Since Missouri Western's earliest beginning as St. Joseph Junior College, the community has supported it," Pickman said. "And again, we have

## POTTER HALL FUND-RAISING CONTINUES

A Centennial Arts series has been a part of Missouri Western's centennial celebration in an effort to raise funds to address several needs in Potter Hall.

"Dare to Dream" was held at the Paradox Theatre in downtown St. Joseph in March, and a Melissa Manchester concert was held in June at the Missouri Theater.

The vision for Potter Hall includes a new performance hall, lobby and gallery space to showcase the artwork of internationally known sculptor Brent Collins, graphic design labs, additional studios space, a new black box theater and upgrades to the hall's infrastructure.

Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for University Advancement and Executive Director of the MWSU Foundation, noted that the project will proceed as funds are raised. ■



100 YEARS of TRANSFORMING LIVES

great community support for this campaign as they share our vision for the future."

The renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium is well underway (see p. 10). In August, the largest gift to Athletics was announced (see article on the next

page), and funds continue to be raised for the Potter Hall project.

"We truly appreciate the generosity of our donors," Pickman said. "They have made Missouri Western the great university that it is today."

The MWSU Foundation hopes to reach the initial celebration goal of \$20 million before the end of 2015, Pickman said. ■

### Melissa Manchester Concert

Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid (second from left) and spouse, Tammy (third from right), joined Melissa Manchester, Missouri Western benefactor Steve Craig, and Bob and Laurene Volkel at a backstage reception following Manchester's concert at the Missouri Theater in June. All proceeds from the concert benefited the Centennial Capital Campaign.



Drs. Laurel and Robert Vartabedian join Melissa Manchester, left, and Susan Holder, who performed with Manchester, backstage at the Missouri Theater after Manchester's benefit concert in June.



## MISSOURI WESTERN RECEIVES LARGEST INDIVIDUAL GIFT IN ATHLETICS HISTORY FROM STEVE CRAIG

Steve Craig, founder and CEO of the Craig Realty Group and benefactor of the Craig School of Business, pledged to give Spratt Memorial Stadium a high-definition LED video scoreboard. The board, which will be larger than the screens at many Division I stadiums, is the largest individual gift in the history of Missouri Western Athletics. In recognition of the gift, the playing surface will now be known as Craig Field at Spratt Memorial Stadium.

"Once again, Steve Craig has made a transformational gift to Missouri Western," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "Thousands of people visit the Spratt Stadium complex every year, and Steve's gift will create an atmosphere that will be second to none."

The video board will stand at the south end of the stadium, near the Baker Family Fitness Center. At a little more than 65 feet wide and 38 feet tall, or approximately 2,500 square feet, it is

believed that the video display will be the largest in NCAA Division II. It will be larger in area than the boards at the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas.

The brick structure built to house the scoreboard will be approximately 72 feet tall, with storage rooms inside, static signs and displays, and a rooftop fireworks launch pad. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the Spring Commencement Ceremony in May 2016.

"I hope people take a look at what's going on at Missouri Western and support the things that will allow the university to compete on the national level," Craig said.

Craig will contribute \$1.1 million of the estimated \$2.6 million project. Private donors have pledged the rest of the cost through the Missouri

Western State University Foundation's Centennial Capital Campaign.

Craig has now donated a total of \$8.9 million to Missouri Western, but his contributions are not just financial. He has worked countless hours in conceiving and executing Missouri Western's applied entrepreneurship program, which gives graduating seniors and alumni the chance to own and operate their own business. He is currently serving as honorary co-chair of the Centennial Capital Campaign, and helped organize a benefit concert by Grammy-winning artist Melissa Manchester to raise money for Missouri Western's arts program in June.

"Naming the new playing surface 'Craig Field at Spratt Memorial Stadium' is a fitting tribute to someone who has been so generous with both his financial resources and his time," said

Jerry Pickman, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation. ■

## BECOME A PART OF THE VICTORY PLAZA

University supporters are invited to purchase a brick that will be a part of the Victory Plaza between the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex and Spratt Memorial Stadium.

Two sizes of brick are available: a 4" x 8" brick that can hold one to three lines of text for \$150; and an 8" x 8" brick that can hold up to six lines of text for \$250.

"The plaza gives supporters the opportunity to be a tangible part of Spratt Stadium, and a great way to memorialize or honor a special person in your life," said Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the MWSU Foundation. ■



Benefactor Steve Craig poses by the Spratt Memorial Stadium field named in his honor. Craig pledged more than \$1 million to help fund an LED video board for the stadium.



## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Griffon Family,

It is an exciting time to be a member of one of the greatest families around! Missouri Western – whether you remember it as a Junior College, College or University – should hold a special place in all of our hearts. When I was first approached

about getting involved with the Alumni Association in 2003, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. It was not because I didn't have anything else to do but because I was taught to give back.

While at Missouri Western, I not only obtained an education; I also gained an extension of my family. A family that helped guide me through hard classes, long nights, and lots of happy moments along the way. Because of that "family," I was empowered to obtain a career in a field that I love and now feel that it is my turn to give back the University that taught me so much. It is also an opportunity to re-connect with my Western family ... while engaging my husband and children in University activities. After all, I am excited to be raising the next generation of Griffons.

As we look towards the future, we should all be excited about the upcoming



Angie Springs '02

changes happening on campus. I invite you all to stop by campus and check it out – you will be amazed! I also encourage you to attend a sporting event, take in a day at Chiefs Training Camp, or just take a stroll around campus. I promise you that it will feel much different now than the days when you were racing to class.

Last, I would like to ask that you consider investing in our University. Our Missouri Western Family before us invested in what we remember when we were there. And we all want better for the next generation, right? Please consider making a financial contribution to the Centennial Campaign. If we all give something, it will leave a legacy for those to come.

And as Dr. Vartabedian always ends his speech at commencement, whenever you are asked where you went to school, proudly tell them that you are a Griffon.

Best Regards,

*Angie Springs*

Angie Springs '02  
President, Alumni Association  
Raising future Griffons  
Griffon Strong

## Coming Events

**Sept. 15** | R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues featuring Tom Ridge, first secretary of Homeland Security. 10 a.m., Looney Complex. Free.

**Sept. 21** | Glenn Marion Memorial Clock Tower Re-dedication

**Sept. 25-27** | TKE Reunion. Main event and awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Sept. 26. Contact Taylor Crouse '01 for more information: (816) 294-2537 or taylorcrouse78@gmail.com.

**Sept. 26** | Founders' Day and Family Day (see p.15)

**Oct. 9-11, 15-17** | "Cabaret," Potter Hall Theater, mwsutix.com.

**Oct. 11** | Junior College Day, Remington Hall atrium, 11 a.m. See next page.

Centennial Sculpture Unveiling, 1 p.m., south of Eder Hall. Reception to follow.

"Cabaret," 2 p.m. Discount for sculpture unveiling attendees.

**Oct. 16-17** | Homecoming Activities, see next page.

**For more alumni events information, go to [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni).**

## | Centennial Black and Gold Gala |

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president; David Liechti and Dirck Clark '85, members of the Board of Governors; and audience members recognize Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, professor emerita of English and author of Missouri Western's history book; and Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western's president 1967-1983; at the Centennial Black and Gold Gala on July 25.



## Sunday, October 11

### Junior College Day

Spratt Hall  
11 a.m. Reception, 11:30 p.m. Lunch,  
Cost: \$15 per person  
1 p.m. Centennial Commissioned  
Art Unveiling

## Friday, October 16

### Alumni Golf Tournament

10 a.m. Shotgun start,  
Fairview Golf Club  
Cost: \$45 per person or \$180 for a  
team of four. Price includes greens  
fees, cart and a boxed lunch.

### 33rd Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

Fulkerson Center  
5:45 p.m. Reception that includes  
the debut of the commissioned  
Centennial musical composition.  
6:15 p.m. Dinner and Program  
Cost: \$30 per person

### 2015 Award Recipients

*Distinguished Alumni:* Dr. Kenneth Rosenauer '74, Professor Emeritus, Missouri Western State University; Larry Stobbs '74, former Mayor, City of St. Joseph; Scott Graham '78, retired executive, Bristol-Myers Squibb; Col. Andrew Halter '86, Maintenance Group Commander, 139th Airlift Wing Missouri Air National Guard

*GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade):*

Rep. Elijah Haahr '05, Missouri State Representative 134th District; Seth '08 and Kelsey '08 Lyons, first Missouri Western Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchisees

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

Hon. William Falkner, Mayor, City of St. Joseph

*Distinguished Faculty:* Don Lillie (Posthumous), Professor, Cinema Theatre & Dance

### Arts, Beats and Treats

10:30 a.m., Remington Hall  
Join us for this free, fun event for the entire family as we celebrate Missouri Western's Centennial! Help us decorate a giant cake, make a birthday card for Missouri Western, and enjoy crafts and activities, a planetarium show, That Balloon Dude, Casey's Creatures, photo booth, and more.

### School of Fine Arts Reunion and Alumni Art Exhibit

10:30 a.m., Potter Hall, Free

### Black and Gold Renewal Tailgate

11 a.m., Lot H, Free

### Football Game -

Griffons vs. Washburn University Ichabods 2 p.m., Spratt Memorial Stadium  
Tickets available at the gate or on [www.gogriffons.com](http://www.gogriffons.com).

Join us on the field for the Parade of Alumni, a brand new tradition to commemorate our Centennial year. Pick up your school flag from a volunteer in the stadium and join the parade. Families welcome! ■

## Saturday, October 17

### Homecoming Parade

9:30 a.m., Downtown St. Joseph  
Meet us in the Red Cross parking lot at 12th and Faraon at 9 a.m. if you would like to walk with the alumni float this year. All alumni and their families are welcome to walk in the parade with the Alumni Association Board of Directors.





## 1980s

**Trish Cryer Loeblein '81 and Walt Loeblein '83** retired as high school teachers. They had also been supporting students and staff with technology. They noted that the “terrific teachers in the chemistry department inspired us to be teachers.” The couple resides in Colorado.

**Dirck Clark '85**, formerly chief strategy officer for Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, Missouri, was named president of MPact Health, a multi-state collaborative network between Mercy, University of Missouri Health Care and Mosaic Life Care. Clark served as board chair of the Missouri Western Board of Governors twice and as board chair of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

**Cathy (Malone) Echterling '87** was named 2014 REALTOR Salesperson of the Year by the St. Joseph Regional Association of REALTORS. She is an agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Stein & Summers Real Estate.

**Steve Ridpath '87**, a certified public accountant, self-published a book of 47 poems, “A Walk Through Life: Poems of Virtue.” The book contains photos taken by Ridpath, as well.

## 1990s

**Brian '93 Mills** has been a certified hand therapist at the University of Kansas Hospital Sports Medicine and Performance Center for the past 15 years. This season, he is working with the Kansas City Chiefs, focusing on wrist injuries, so he attended the Chiefs Summer Training Camp on campus.

## 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).

**Mary K. Dale**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 6, 2015. Dale was retired from Missouri Western.

**Geraldine G. Lazarus '40**, Coral Gables, Florida, April 11, 2015.

**Gregory Scott Lewis '81**, Aurora, Missouri, March 20, 2015.

## 2000s

**Jennifer (Sandvoss) Wessler '00** is senior graphic designer-public affairs at Washington University in St. Louis.



**Nic Sikora '03** and his wife, Andrea, announce the birth of a daughter, Rosalin Louise, born Jan. 14, 2015. She joins three older brothers, Alvin, Griffin and Franklin.



**Jason '01 and Brooke (Atha)'05 Bell** announce the birth of a daughter, Atley Rose, born Jan. 19, 2015. She joins a sister, Jasey Lené. Jason is a police officer at Missouri Western.

**Stephanie (Watkins) Paasch '01** is assistant vice president, business development officer for the St. Louis market of Providence Bank.

**Drew Phillips '02** was honored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Heartland in St. Louis. Phillips is associate campus minister at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, North Carolina and former chaplain at the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Illinois.



**Melody Grier-Shaw '04** and her husband, Sydney, announce the birth of a daughter, Melana Emeline Shaw, born March 22, 2015.

**Shanna (Carl) Heard '05** is a senior office support assistant for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.



**Amelia (Urich) '07 and Frank '07 Schachtsiek** announce the birth of a son, Evan Frank, born May 4, 2015.



**Barbara (Meyer) Spencer '08** and her husband, Clint, announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Sue, born April 7, 2015. She joined a brother, C.J., and sister, Frankie.

**Sarah Watkins '09** married Matthew Henderson in 2010. In November 2012, a son was born, and in February 2014, they welcomed a daughter.

**Chaz Hoskins '09** self-published a young adult book, “Shadows of a Mystical Frontier: Trials of Lightning and Fire.” It is the first volume in a series. A link to the Facebook page is [facebook.com/MysticalFrontier?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/MysticalFrontier?fref=ts).



**Jenna (Hudson) Stevens '09** and her husband, Brent, announce the birth of a daughter, Madelyn Grace, born Feb. 15, 2015.

## 2010s

**Emily (Boller) '10 and Lee '10 Murdock** announce the birth of a son, Finnegan Lee, born May 11, 2014.

**Brian Turner '10** is director, Patient Administration Division at the Lyster Army Health Clinic, Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He earned an MBA from Oklahoma State University in 2014.

**Amanda (Johnson) '12 and Travis '13 Hart** work for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Amanda is an immigration services officer and Travis is a management and program analyst. ■

### Missing your yearbook?

Are you missing your yearbook from your college years? Griffon Yearbooks for previous years are now available! Contact James Carviou, yearbook advisor, at [jcarviou@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:jcarviou@missouriwestern.edu) or call (816) 271-4312. You may pick up an old yearbook for \$5 or have one mailed to you for \$10. Alumni can also purchase a copy of the Centennial edition of the yearbook for \$10.

## Faithful, Proud and True: Our retirees

Thirty-one employees retired from Missouri Western last year, and with them went a combined 734.5 years of service.

Four faculty members retired with 181 years of service between them. Dr. Tom Rachow, professor of biology, and Dr. Len Archer, professor of chemistry, began teaching at Missouri Western College in downtown St. Joseph in 1968, Dr. Rachow in the summer and Dr. Archer in the fall. “I never got tired of teaching. I love listening to students’ questions,” Dr. Rachow said.

Dr. Matt Gilmour, professor of music, joined the faculty the next year. Dr. Elizabeth Latosi Sawin, professor of English, taught at Missouri Western for 41 years.

“I will always remember the challenge and the joy of leading students to an appreciation of the power of stories, drama and poetry in their lives and to a recognition and expansion of their own ability to write in more than one way. My teaching philosophy could be summed up in three words: ‘Make it matter,’” Dr. Latosi-Sawin said. “I also cherish all the faculty collaboration in our Outdoor Semester and in the workshops of our Writing Across the Curriculum program.”

Along with Drs. Archer, Gilmour, Latosi-Sawin and Rachow, 10 more

retiring employees completed 25 years of service or more.

Below is the list of retirees for 2014-2015 with their departments and years of service. Congratulations, and thank you for being, faithful, proud and true to Missouri Western!

Len Archer, Department of Chemistry, 47  
David Ashley, Department of Biology, 32  
Angie Beck, Student Health Services, 9  
Kit Blake, Department of Education, 13  
Brenda Blessing, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 28  
Mary Buckler, Physical Plant, 29  
Brenda Cazel, Purchasing Department, 5.5  
Corla Dawson, Center for Academic Support, 18.5  
Doug Eicher, Department of Education, 9.5  
Peggy Ellis, Western Institute, 18.5  
Lou Fowler, Craig School of Business, 24  
Matt Gilmour, Department of Music, 46  
Steven Greiert, Department of History and Geography and Department of Philosophy and Religion, 33

Stephanie Heater, Recreation Services, 15  
Cindy Heider, Academic Affairs, 14.5  
Bobby Holaday, Physical Plant, 9  
Linda Jeschke, Physical Plant, 32  
Lonnie Johnson, Physical Plant, 24.5  
Jon Kelley, University Police, 24  
Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin, Department of English and Modern Languages, 41  
Carolyn Long, Information Technology Services, 25  
Ruby Mayes, Information Technology Services, 33  
Mark Mikkelsen, Department of Philosophy and Religion, 27  
Marian Morin, Department of Communication and Journalism, 17  
Ann Pearce, Office of the President, 4  
Rose Ann Pearl, Office of Registrar, 35  
Thomas Rachow, Department of Biology, 47  
William Roach, Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics, 9  
Allison Sauls, Department of Art, 22  
Gaylan Wood, Financial Planning and Administration, 8  
Susan Wright, Office of Admissions, 34.5 ■

## In memory of Lauren Scanlon

Lauren K. Scanlon, of Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina, passed away June 26, 2015 at Crystal Coast Hospice House.

Lauren is survived by her husband, James, who was Missouri Western's president from 2001-2008; son, Blake, and daughter-in-law, Ellen Ault Scanlon, of San Francisco; and grandson William Lucas Scanlon.

In an interview when she was at Missouri Western, Lauren said as a university president's wife, she liked to stay in the background and

play a supportive role. “I'm here to make Jim's life easier,” she said. “His job is a very demanding job. I think I provide balance to that.”

At the time he retired, Dr. Jim Scanlon said, “Lauren is an extraordinary person. She is perpetually encouraging and optimistic, and her enthusiasm for what we're about here has been inspiring to me.”

In July, Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian established the President's Legacy Scholarship with a \$5,000 gift. The scholarship is in

memory of Dorsey Looney, wife of Dr. M.O. Looney, president from 1967-1983; and Lauren Scanlon. It will be for nontraditional students, and recipients will be selected by the Missouri Western Ambassadors Scholarship Committee.

Carlos and Carol Moya donated \$2,000 to the scholarship fund in hopes that at least \$10,000 will be raised so that the scholarship can be endowed. ■



# DID YOU EVER WONDER ...?

Did you ever wonder how some of the rooms and/or structures on campus were named or how they came about? Hopefully the information below will provide the answers.

**Who is Bushman of Bushman Planetarium?** In 1996, the Joseph R. and Bess Bushman estate donated more than 400 acres of farmland, including three houses, to Missouri Western. Of that amount, \$250,000 from the proceeds of the sale was used to renovate and update the planetarium, and it was named the Bushman Planetarium at that time.

## Who is Kelley in the Kelley Commons?

Kelley Commons is named for the James and Jean Kelley family, who donated the funds for the popular student gathering space. Three children of the family are alums – Jeanie Grahl '72, Molly Pierce '77 and Chris Kelly '86. Grahl's daughter, Kelley Meirose, is a 1999 graduate, and Chris' daughter, Kealey Mathieson, is a current student. Another gift from the family funded the Griffon Plaza, which was dedicated in 2007.

## Who are the Enright Rooms named for?

Spratt Hall rooms 214-216 are named the Enright Community Rooms in honor of William Fairleigh Enright Jr. Enright was the chair of the board of the American National Bank in St. Joseph, Missouri. He served on the Board of Trustees from 1965-75 and the Board of Regents from 1966-76 and was the first president of the Board of Regents. Enright was also the recipient of Missouri Western's first honorary doctorate in 1977.

## Who is Hoff in the Hoff Conference Rooms?

The Forrest Hoff Conference Rooms were named in honor of Forrest Hoff '58, dean of students, when he retired in 2000. Hoff had been with Missouri Western since 1970, and he became dean of students in 1971 when the position was created. At the request of the Student Government Association, two rooms that were part of the Blum Student Union addition in 2000, room 218 and 219, were named in his honor.

## Who are the Kempers?

W.T. Kemper Hall, located on the third floor of Agenstein Hall, and the Kemper Room in the Fulkerson Center are named in honor of William T. Kemper. The W.T. Kemper Foundation helped fund the renovation of Agenstein Hall and the building of the Fulkerson Center. Kemper was born in 1866 in Gallatin, Missouri and is the patriarch of the family that developed Commerce Bancshares, United Missouri Bank, Kemper Grain Company and Kemper Loan and Investment Company.

The Kemper Recital Hall, inside Spratt Hall, is named in honor Crosby Jr. and Bebe Kemper. Crosby Jr. is the grandson of William T. Kemper.

## How were the Mead/Rochambeau Rooms in Fulkerson named?

The Fulkerson Center opened in 2005 and was funded totally with private donations. The Mead Room is formally known as the MeadWestvaco Room, thanks to a gift from the MeadWestvaco Foundation. The Rochambeau Room is named in memory of Richard Austin Rochambeau Sr. The gift was from the Leah Spratt Charitable Trust.

## Who is Joe Friedman in the Joe Friedman Alumni Room in Fulkerson?

Dr. Joseph Friedman '39 had a podiatry practice in St. Joseph for several years before he became a professional actor. His gift provided funds for the Fulkerson Center, and the items in the display case in the Alumni Room are mementoes from his successful acting career. The room is in honor of Friedman and his wife, Gladys, and his cousin, Joseph J. Droher. Droher also graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College.

## Why are there two greenhouses on campus?

When the Agenstein Science and Math Building, now Agenstein Hall, was built in 1969, a greenhouse was built on the rooftop. The greenhouse remained in use until the hall was renovated in 2010, and a state-of-the-art greenhouse was built adjacent to Agenstein.

The Campus Beautification Committee worked hard to beautify the campus for its 25th anniversary celebration in 1995, and committee members continued to plant flowers all across campus for many years after the anniversary. In 1998, the College decided to build a greenhouse on campus property west of Interstate 29 and south of Mitchell Ave. so Missouri Western could grow its own flowers and provide additional courses in horticulture. It was funded by the Missouri Western Foundation.

In January 1999, the Board of Regents approved a recommendation to name that greenhouse in honor of Susan Roth, who was chair of the Campus Beautification Committee.

## Who is Steven L. Craig in the Steven L. Craig School of Business?

The Craig School of Business is named for Steve Craig, whose gift to the University established the School. Craig, from Newport Beach, California and owner and president of Craig Realty Group, donated \$5.5 million in 2008. As an entrepreneur who grew up near Savannah, Missouri, Craig wanted to emphasize an entrepreneurial focus for the School of Business. By 2013, the total value of Craig's gift to Missouri Western was \$7,738,589.20. ■

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## THEN and NOW





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