

# Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Winter 2016





# Fall semester happenings





## | PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE |

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this, the University is wrapping up its yearlong Centennial celebration, and what a great year it has been! I hope many of you had the opportunity to join us on campus for one of our Centennial events. This issue of the magazine contains a recap of our Centennial year, including a photo of our new Centennial sculpture on the cover. "The Next 100 Years ..." now greets visitors as they come onto campus from our main entrance on Mitchell Ave.

Our five-year Centennial Capital Campaign kicked off in January 2015. We are grateful for our wonderful benefactors and are pleased with our progress to date. If you have not contributed or pledged to the campaign, we hope you will consider it, because there is more we hope to accomplish. An update on our Centennial Capital Campaign is on p. 14.

In November, we also dedicated Phase III of the Walter Cronkite Memorial in Spratt Hall. A replica of Cronkite's CBS Evening News broadcast newsroom opened, along with the premiere showing of our second live, multimedia production, "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons." Since it opened in 2013, the Memorial has brought visitors from across the country and internationally, so we are excited to expand on an already great tourist destination.

We were honored to host special guests at the dedication ceremony: Leslie Moonves, president and CEO of CBS Corporation; Dr. Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center for American History; and U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt. An article about the making of "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons" and the dedication event is on p. 12.

Our Graduate School has added a relatively new graduate student population to our campus, including several international students. Last fall, we began our ninth year of offering graduate programs. Our Graduate School enrollment is more than 200 and growing, and we will continue to offer master's programs that contribute to the workforce development in the region. An article about that starts on p. 6.

As we begin our next 100 years, Missouri Western remains committed to continuing to transform the lives of our students, alumni, faculty and staff and community members. Our mission of offering a high quality, affordable education and opportunities outside the classroom will continue into our second century. We appreciate your continued support of the University as we embark on the next 100 years.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Vartabedian  
President  
Missouri Western State University

Dr. Vartabedian with Gov. Tom Ridge, the 2015 Convocation on Critical Issues speaker.



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**| ON THE COVER |** The University's newest sculpture, "The Next 100 Years ..." was commissioned for the Centennial. Photo by Jeni Swope.

*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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With numerous opportunities, Missouri Western alumni and local entrepreneurs are finding great success.



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# University receives \$4.8 million in capital funding

Gov. Jay Nixon visited campus in August to announce \$4.8 million for Missouri Western for improvements and renovations made possible through Building Affordability, an initiative proposed by the Governor in collaboration with public colleges and universities and passed in the General Assembly in the 2015 session.

At Missouri Western, the funded improvements will include remodeling projects in Popplewell Hall, Wilson Hall, the Hearn Center library, Eder Hall, Potter Hall and the Looney Complex.

Work will include replacing entryways, flooring, and drop ceilings and renovating restrooms with ADA accessible stalls and fixtures. In addition, the initiative will allow the University to install new fiber-optic cable to support faster internet connection speeds, upgrade to digital HVAC controls, and replace old air-cooled rooftop chillers.

The renovations began last summer and will be completed by early 2018. ■

Gov. Jay Nixon announces \$4.8 million in funding for Missouri Western.



## Campus Kudos

- **Dr. Elise Hepworth**, associate professor of music and director of choral studies, was named artistic director of the St. Joseph Community Chorus, the largest all-volunteer performing organization in northwest Missouri. She received a bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University, a master's in music education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and a Doctorate of Arts from the University of Mississippi.
- **Kay-lynne Taylor** received the 2015 Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators Award for Excellence in Innovation for her student-employer training initiative on campus.
- **Dr. Todd Eckdahl**, professor of biology; **Dr. Jeff Poet**, professor of mathematics; and Davidson College colleagues Dr. Malcolm

Campbell and Dr. Laurie Heyer; answered questions online about their PLOS ONE publication on metabolic engineering as part of PLOS Science Wednesday on Reddit, an entertainment, social networking, and news website where registered community members can submit content. The event resulted in over 1,000 additional views of the publication. PLOS ONE is a peer-reviewed open-access scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science (PLOS).

- Two members of the debate team, **Mike Smith** and **Chris Miles**, both juniors from Independence, Missouri, finished eighth overall and advanced to the quarterfinals of the nationally competitive Golden Gate Invitational Parliamentary Debate tournament at the University of California-Berkeley in October.

- Students **Jeni Swope**, **Lionel Attawia** and **Katelyn Canon '15** were awarded First Place Best TV Promo/PSA in the national Pinnacle College Media Awards this past fall for their video, "It's On Us." The video was part of a campaign to promote student awareness and activism against sexual assault.

Universities across the country participated by making viral videos. Swope and Canon created the video for their advanced video journalism class. Attawia wrote the script. It was featured on the student-run magazine show Griffon Update and on the Missouri Western website.

They received the award at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Association Fall National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas. Swope was also one of several Missouri Western students who presented at the convention. ■



# New to the University - Welcome!



Brandt Shields was named director of external relations in August 2015. He had been the entertainment

and events supervisor at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri.

Shields earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and a Master of Business Administration degree from Missouri State University.

As director of external relations, Shields will serve on the president's cabinet and will be responsible for building and sustaining strong relationships with local, state and federal decision-makers to advance the University's strategic goals. Shields replaced Ann Pearce, who retired as special assistant to the president.



Jomel Nichols was named director of public relations and marketing and began her duties last August.

Nichols was previously an account manager at SJC Marketing in St. Joseph. There, she was responsible for strategic marketing planning and execution for all areas of marketing, including brand strategy, online presence, content, engagement marketing and social media, as well as more traditional marketing channels. Prior to that, she was marketing manager at Nichols Actuarial Consulting in Savannah, Missouri; account manager at Trozzolo Creative in Kansas City, Missouri; and marketing manager at Commerce Bancshares, also in Kansas City.



Jason Edgar was named director of speech and debate, beginning in fall 2015. Also an instructor in the

Department of Communication and Journalism, he holds the first full-time position in the debate program since it was re-started in 2013.

Edgar had been speech instructor and director of forensics at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri since 2009, establishing the first debate program in the college's history and serving as president of the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities in 2014-15.

Edgar has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Missouri Southern State University and a Master of Arts in Communication from the University of Arkansas. ■

## Incubator tenant sells; forms new company

Antibiotic technology developed by a tenant of the Innovation Stockyard in the Kit Bond Science and Technology Incubator was purchased by a newly formed pharmaceutical company. Sopharmia, Inc., founded by Larry Sutton, MD, PhD, announced the closing of a \$3.3 million Series A venture capital financing round and the formation of Gladius Pharmaceuticals Inc. based in Montreal. Sopharmia's antibiotic technology is now wholly

owned by Gladius Pharmaceuticals.

Sopharmia's team, which did a large portion of its work at the campus's Innovation Stockyard, pioneered dual mechanism small molecule antibiotics that combine antibiotic functionality with activity against one of the main causes of antibiotic resistance.

Although Sopharmia, Inc. "graduated" from the Innovation Stockyard, Dr. Sutton and his team are orchestrating Gladius Pharmaceuticals'

North American research and development operations from their new company Sopharmbique LLC that will also be housed in the Innovation Stockyard.

"This financing enables us to accelerate the advancement of our lead compound," said Dr. Sutton. "Innovation Stockyard has helped us through good times and bad. We're pleased to continue this relationship with them." ■



# Making connections and making a difference

Every year but one for the past 13, Dr. Maureen Raffensperger, director of the physical therapist assistant (PTA) program, has traveled half a world away to utilize her physical therapy skills and quietly make a difference in India.

After finding out about Good Shepherd Hospital in Puttur, Andhra Pradesh through a church in St. Joseph, Dr. Raffensperger first traveled there in 2008 with Kelly Kloepping '07 and set up a physical therapy clinic. Every time she has gone since, she has taken along students or alumni of the PTA program to work in that clinic.

Last year, she traveled with two alumni, Crystal Coakley '15 and Sam Goodroad, who graduated from the PTA program in 2012 and with a biology degree in 2015. Also in their group was Jeremy Burleson, clinic manager and prosthetist at Hanger Clinic in St. Joseph. It was the second trip for Coakley, who had gone as a student in 2014.

Goodroad, who plans to continue his education to become a prosthetist, saw patients at the clinic but also helped Burleson measure and create prosthetics.



Above, Crystal Coakley '15 examines a patient; below, Sam Goodroad '12/'15 at an Indian orphanage.

The original plan, Goodroad said, was to make the prosthetics while they were in India. But the country's unstable electricity and lack of quality equipment proved a challenge. The group ended up making casts and producing the prosthetics back in the United States.

Dr. Raffensperger said India's lack of facilities and equipment is always a challenge that forces you to be creative, but that makes for a great learning experience for the travelers.

Another benefit for those who go, she said, is that they see patients with problems that are extremely rare in the United States. "They also gain a firsthand knowledge of Indian culture and learn a lot about themselves and how they handle stress."

Coakley said she also learned how to explain things in a way that her patients could understand. Since she was speaking to them through a translator, she had to make her explanations very clear, she said.

This trip, working with those who needed prosthetics was fulfilling, Coakley said, because in India, amputees are ostracized. "Just the fact that we touched them and treated them like normal human beings made a difference," she said.

Dr. Raffensperger said she keeps in touch with those who run the clinic several times throughout the year and they feel like family. "I have learned a lot from them professionally, and I am much more open minded now."

"The trip was a blessing," Goodroad said. "You think you're going to help people in need, but they made a big impression on me and helped me. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming."

He and Coakley both said they would like to return to India with Dr. Raffensperger. And it's a pretty safe bet that Dr. Raffensperger will return again, continuing to make connections and a difference. ■





# Missouri Western Graduate School grows



Nine years after Missouri Western's first graduate classes began with two master's degree programs, one graduate certificate program and an enrollment of 41, the Graduate School continues to grow in both enrollment and offerings. This past fall, enrollment was 219 with 16 master's programs and five graduate certificate programs.

When Missouri Western became a university in 2005 with the capability of offering graduate degrees, Dr. Ben Caldwell was one of the first to develop a master's degree program while he was chair of the Department of Chemistry. That program, a Master of Applied Science with a Chemistry option, was one of two programs in 2007 when the Graduate School opened. Today, Dr. Caldwell is dean of the Graduate School, and has been since 2012.



The first graduate degrees offered were Professional Master's Degrees with an emphasis on applied learning, providing advanced disciplinary knowledge like traditional master's programs, but also training in business fundamentals, project management and communications. Most of the programs, Dr. Caldwell said, also have an applied learning focus and include a capstone experience.

In response to recent input from students, the Master of Applied Science with an information technology management option, one of the first programs offered in 2007, will be phased out and replaced with the option of information technology assurance administration. Dr. Caldwell said students wanted more information technology-specific courses rather than the business courses that were included in the original program.

The Master of Science in Nursing Health Care Leadership began in 2013, and a nurse educator option for a master's degree or graduate certificate was added a year later. This semester, a nurse educator option cohort began at Liberty Hospital, with Missouri Western professors teaching at the hospital.

Other recent additions to the Graduate School include a Master of Applied Science, Industrial Life Science and Masters in Information Management, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (see article on next page). Both started in 2014.

The industrial life science degree is in response to area businesses' needs. The degree, which provides advanced training in biology and chemistry while developing workplace skills, reflects St. Joseph's position as part of the Animal Health Corridor, the single largest concentration of animal health businesses in the world.



Dr. Caldwell noted that Missouri Western's graduate programs are designed with the students in mind. Since many of the graduate students are working full time while earning their degrees, most classes are offered in the evening, and many of the programs offer online classes.

One effect of the expanding Graduate School enrollment, Dr. Caldwell said, has been the increase in graduate assistants. Along with GAs in several academic departments across campus, nine graduate assistants are involved in seven sports, thanks to the master of applied science with an option in sport and fitness management. GAs are also working in Admissions, Registrar's and International Student Services offices.

In the nine years since the Graduate School opened, Dr. Caldwell said the goals for the Graduate School have not changed – it is still committed to offering a high quality education to help students advance in their careers and continuing to develop programs that meet workforce needs. ■

## Graduate class serves community

While graduate degree programs offer many benefits to the student, one graduate-level class is helping nonprofit organizations throughout the community. Dr. Michael Charlton, associate professor of English, created a grant proposal writing class, and students are writing proposals for nonprofit organizations and obtaining grants for them.

The class, Proposal and Grant Writing, is part of the coursework for the Master of Applied Arts' two

concentrations, Written Communications in Writing Studies and Written Communications in Technical Communication.

"The students are finding real-world funders and writing real grant proposals," Dr. Charlton said. "It gives them an extra job skill, and they get the experience of working with a client with actual demands."

In addition to writing a grant proposal, the students are required to make a presentation to the class, and the audience has the opportunity to critique it, Dr. Charlton said.

Some students have written proposals for their employers, while others have worked with nonprofits in the community and the region. Several students have applied for federal grants,

which involves a rigorous process and stringent proposal guidelines, Dr. Charlton said. Since the class was offered for the fifth time last fall, Dr. Charlton said community nonprofits are now approaching him for student assistance.

The most successful proposal that was funded was a \$162,500 federal grant for exterior renovations on the Patee House Museum in St. Joseph, written by student Ahmad Safi and Patee House personnel. Other proposals that have been funded include a grant to erect statues at the Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and a grant to expand the Second Harvest Community Food Bank's Backpack Buddies into communities outside of St. Joseph. ■



## Unique graduate program sees rapid growth

Enrollment in the Masters in Information Management program with a concentration in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), offered in the Craig School of Business and coordinated by Dr. Peggy Lane, has grown substantially since it began in fall 2014 with seven students. Just one year later, fall 2015 enrollment in the program was 30.

Dr. Lane believes the program has grown so quickly because it is unique, noting that there is no other master's program in the United States that focuses on Enterprise Resource Planning.

Enterprise Resource Planning, which first came about more than 20 years ago, is a strategic information system that integrates all areas of a business. Dr. Lane said Missouri Western's program prepares students to work in an ERP environment and gain an understanding

of business processes as well as project management and business analytics. Students in the program utilize SAP software, which is the no. 1 ERP software. She said students can apply the knowledge of SAP to any ERP environment, as the skills are easily transferrable.

"Business isn't about siloes anymore," she said. "Companies are realizing that information systems are beneficial and strategic."

In today's business environment, Dr. Lane said, managers also need to be able to make decisions quickly, and they need to have a lot of information readily available to them. Enterprise Resource Planning manages the data for them so they can make better decisions more quickly. She noted that several local businesses utilize SAP as their ERP system.

"Data is flowing up, down and across in today's work environment," Dr. Lane said. "Businesses don't make decisions the same way they used to. ERP enables managers to access timely information."

An added benefit of the master's program at Missouri Western is that students in the program have the opportunity to take the SAP TERP10 certification exam as part of the program. That course and certification exam will be offered on campus for the first time in May.

Dr. Lane noted that students may enroll in the program in both the spring and fall semesters.

"We look forward to continued growth of the program in St. Joseph and are exploring opportunities to move beyond this geographic region," she said.

For more information, contact Dr. Lane at [plane3@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:plane3@missouriwestern.edu). ■



# Ironman on campus

Two years ago, Dr. Bob Bergland, professor of journalism, decided to take up biking so he could compete in triathlons. He had run track and cross country in high school and college, even running in four marathons while in graduate school, and had often swum when he had a running injury. So the running and swimming weren't new to him; only the bike riding was.

**"Crossing the finish line is just the best feeling."**

Dr. Bob Bergland, professor of journalism and an Ironman

His first bike ride, six miles, was really tough. "I thought to myself, 'how do those ironmen do this?'" he said with a laugh. "The thought of spending all that time on a bike, I thought, 'no way.' But it's amazing what your body can do when you build up and train."

And build up and train he did. Just two years after that painful bike ride, Dr. Bergland became an Ironman, swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running a marathon, all in less than 14 hours.

"Crossing the finish line is just the best feeling," he said. "So many things beyond your control can go wrong that day, but everything went right."

Dr. Bergland's road to the Ironman triathlon is a story of mental perseverance, physical training, and New Year's resolutions.

On New Year's Day 2013, with the Ironman goal in the back of his mind, Dr. Bergland resolved to take up bicycling and compete in triathlons. After that first six-mile ride, he kept riding and went on to complete an Olympic distance triathlon, which is a 0.9 mile swim, a 24.8 mile bike ride and a 10K run. But near the end of 2013, he struggled with a 35-mile bike ride and Dr. Bergland decided to ramp up his



Dr. Bob Bergland

next New Year's resolution.

On New Year's Day 2014, he resolved to complete a half-Ironman sometime that year, which meant a 1.2 mile swim, 56 miles on the bike, and a 13.1-mile run. He completed two.

Then, in October of that year, he completed a 100-mile bike ride. He injured his foot, but still made his 2015

New Year's Day resolution: become an Ironman. He signed up to compete in an Ironman race in August 2015.

"I wanted a weight loss plan where I could lose 25 pounds and eat whatever I wanted, and it worked," Dr. Bergland said with a laugh.

In June 2015, he biked 200 miles across the state as a "confidence builder."

Two months later, he and his wife, Tammy, traveled to Waconia, Minnesota and he became an Ironman.

To be able to call yourself an Ironman, Dr. Bergland said, you have to finish the course in 17 hours or less. His personal target time was 14 hours, and he came in a little under that.

"At no point did I seriously think about quitting, and that surprised me," he said.

At age 47, Dr. Bergland figured the training and the race for the Ironman would never get easier, but he's not counting out another Ironman race down the road. Maybe as he approaches a milestone birthday, perhaps. But as for a 2016 resolution, it will just be more triathlons.

"I won't ever touch the running times of my youth, but triathlons give me new best times," he says. "It's nice to feel like an athlete at age 47." ■

## | Midday Melodies |

The Department of Music provided monthly "Midday Melodies" in the Blum Union Food Court and in Kelley Commons throughout the fall semester. Pictured is the Faculty Brass Quintet that performed in November.



# Spratt Memorial Stadium update



The renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium is on schedule and looking great, according to Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics. The three-story building and concourse should be completed in early April, with the large video scoreboard completed in May.

McGuffin noted that the weather in the fall allowed the contractors, E.L. Crawford Construction, Inc., to complete a lot of the outdoor work and then work inside once winter arrived. "It's going to be beautiful and a very nice stadium."

The new field turf, removal of the track and moving the field closer to the stands were all finished in time for football and soccer last fall. McGuffin said fans have told him how much they

enjoy being closer to the field.

"It's been a positive experience for fans. Moving the field closer lets everybody be a part of the game and action." He said when he was on the field on gameday it was definitely louder.

Fans also enjoyed watching the progress of the building throughout the football and soccer seasons. Because there were no lights on the field throughout the season, some games and matches had to be rescheduled to make sure they were over before dark.

McGuffin said he appreciated how the Gold Coat fans have supported the program this year, even though the Stadium Club, one of the perks of Gold Coat membership at a certain level, was



a tent set up on the northwest corner of the stadium.

"They know in the future it is going to be so much better," he said. "It will be worth the displacement."

Along with new restrooms, concourse area, press box and a larger Stadium Club, new features of the building under construction include a Hall of Fame room with a kitchen area, and suites. ■

## Spratt Memorial Stadium History

Spratt Memorial Stadium was completed in 1979 and named in memory of avid Griffon supporter Elliott "Bub" Spratt. Total cost of construction was \$850,000.

The first football game was played on the field Sept. 8, 1979, a 44-0 victory over Dana College. Lights were added six years later, and the Griffons won the first night game over University of Missouri-Rolla 24-15 on Sept. 4, 1985. Griffon soccer played its first match at Spratt on Sept. 3, 2006, a 3-2 win over Concordia-St. Paul.

The stadium's natural grass field was

replaced by ProGrass synthetic field turf in 2006. The visitors' grandstand was remodeled and expanded in 2009, increasing the seating capacity to 7,200.

The largest crowd for a football game at Spratt Stadium was 10,129 when the Griffons took on Northwest Missouri State University on Oct. 3, 2009. Griffon football hosted its first NCAA Division II playoff game at Spratt against Northwest Missouri State on Nov. 19, 2011, and celebrated its first home playoff victory with a 57-55 triple overtime win over Minnesota-Duluth on Nov. 17, 2012.

In addition to Griffon football and soccer, Spratt Stadium hosts the St. Joseph High School Football Jamboree and the Department of Music's annual Tournament of Champions High School Marching Band Competition. It was previously home to the Missouri State High School Eight-Man Football Championship Game. It hosted Spring Commencement ceremonies in 1979, 1980 and 1981, and again in May 2014.

The field was named Craig Field in honor of Steven L. Craig in August 2015. ■



# Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2015

## *Beverly, Collier and Walker honored*

The induction ceremony for the 2015 Athletics Hall of Fame class was held in October with a reception and induction ceremony, and the annual Hall of Fame game and ring ceremony.

**Amy Beverly '06**, softball, 2003-06, was named first-team All-MIAA in 2004 and 2005, second-team All-American in 2004 and 2005, and first-team All-Region in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Beverly holds University career records for hits (263), total bases (436), doubles (58), putouts (1,639) and double plays turned (42), and she sits in the top five of several other career statistics. She also holds single-season marks for games played and started (68 in 2005), hits (93 in 2005), RBIs (67 in 2005) and doubles (24 in 2005).

Twice named to the MIAA Commissioner's Honor Roll, Beverly

was the Missouri Western Female Athlete of the Year in 2006. She helped the program to its first-ever NCAA Regional berth in 2005 and led the team to its second regional appearance in 2006.

Playing basketball just two seasons for the Griffons, **Nicole (Lindsey) Collier '03** led the 2001-02 team in field goal percentage (.592). Averaging 18.7 points per game, she was named second-team All-MIAA and a finalist for the KODAK/WBCA All-America Team. In 2002-03, Collier led the team in points, rebounds, field goal percentage and blocks. Her 272 rebounds that season were the second most in school history, as well as her 8.8 per game average.

She set a single-game record with 19 rebounds in a game and was named first-team All-MIAA, second-team Daktronics/All South Central Region

and again a finalist for the KODAK/WBCA All-America Team.

The 2001-02 team won both the MIAA regular season and postseason championships and climbed to No. 1 in the country before falling in the NCAA South Central Regional. The 2002-03 team also spent part of the season ranked No. 1 and advanced to the South Central Regional.

Collier is currently head women's basketball coach at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

A standout football linebacker, no Griffon since 1989 has amassed more total tackles (416) than **Eric "Ebo" Walker '03** who played 1999-2002. His 204 solo tackles are also a post-1988 record.

Walker was twice named first-team All-MIAA (2001 and 2002). In 2002, he was named first-team AP Little All-American. He led the Griffons in tackles in 2000, 2001 and 2002, totaling no less than 108 tackles in any of those three seasons.

Walker was instrumental in building the Griffon football program into one of the most successful in the nation. He was a part of four winning squads that totaled 29 wins, including two eight-win seasons (2000 and 2001). The 2000 team went 8-1 in the MIAA and qualified Missouri Western for its first postseason game since 1979. That team is one of only two (the other was the 2012 team) to have just one loss in MIAA play. ■



The 2015 Athletics Hall of Fame class includes Eric "Ebo" Walker '03, Nicole Collier '03 and Amy Beverly '06.

# Fall sports wrap-up

Griffon **volleyball** had a great season, ending with a 21-9 regular season record and 12-6 in the MIAA. The team, coached by Marian Carbin '07, made its first postseason appearance since 2013 and was the fifth seed in the MIAA tournament.

The 20-win season gave the Griffons two back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 1997 and 1998.

In October, two athletes received MIAA Athlete of the Week honors: Jessie Thorup was named Hitter of the Week and Jordan Chohon was named Co-Specialist of the Week. Thorup averaged 4.54 kills per set over three wins with a .261 hitting percentage, and averaged 2.77 digs per set and had seven block assists. Chohon finished the 3-0 week with 140 assists, averaging 10.77 per set. The senior setter also had nine kills, four service aces, 47 digs and six blocks. Thorup and Chohon were also named to the All-MIAA First Team.

The **soccer** team, coached by Chad Edwards, had a winning season for the first time in the program's history, 9-8-1. The team also broke or tied 17 team and individual records.

For the second straight year and second time in the team's history, the women qualified for the MIAA postseason tournament and were seeded sixth. They lost to Northeastern State, 1-0, the team's 10th 1-0 match of the season. In fact, the Griffon defense allowed more

than one goal just once in more than 18 games.

In October, Sarah Lyle was named MIAA Goalkeeper of the Week, totaling 11 saves over two matches. She was also named to the All-MIAA second-team, and Sydney Andrews and Bridget Blessie were named to the third team. Taylor Gant, Ashlyn Powers and Drew Mantlo were honorable mentions.

Coach Jerry Partridge's Griffon **football** team finished the season 6-5, marking 11 consecutive winning regular seasons. In the last game against Missouri Southern on Nov. 14, the team scored 63 points to the Lions' 21, defeating Missouri Southern in Spratt Memorial Stadium for the first time since 2007.

On Nov. 7, the Griffons rushed for 387 yards and got career-high games from two running backs in a 34-17 win at Nebraska-Kearney. Raphael Spencer rushed 31 times for a career-high 251 yards with two touchdowns. The senior also moved over 1,000 rush yards on the season for the third year in a row. Spencer ended the regular season with 4,234 career rushing yards. Josh Caldwell rushed 19 times for 153 yards and two touchdowns, also a career-high.

The team averaged more than 4,500 fans at its home games, including an attendance of 6,966 against Northwest Missouri State on Oct. 31.



A total of 18 Griffons were named All-MIAA, including Travis Anderson and Michael Jordan on the first team. Jordan was a unanimous choice.

In its final round of **women's golf** for the fall season, Missouri Western finished in second place at the Lindenwood Fall Invitational with a score of 628 in the two-round event. The Griffons had three individuals finish in the top five of the tournament: Celine Lim, third; Shi Qing Ong, fourth; and Madison Romjue, fifth. Three of the team's tournament scores this fall ended up being school records, including the now-school record of 298 that was set at the UCO/RCB Bank Classic on Oct. 6.

The **men's golf** team finished the final round of the TVA Credit Union Invitational with a final score of 948 over the two-day tournament in Killen, Alabama. The Griffons were led by Jakob Rudosky with a score of 233 in three rounds of golf. Ryan Hand finished the tournament firing a 234. Also, Hand finished fourth at the MWSU Holiday Inn Express Classic in October.

The golfers are coached by Greg Dillon. ■





# WALTER CRONKITE

## The making of “Harry & Walter: Missouri’s Native Sons”

Although Harry Truman and Walter Cronkite were a generation apart in age, their paths crossed many times, and there were many similarities between the two men. That, said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president, is the premise of the University’s newest live, multimedia production that was created as part of the Walter Cronkite Memorial on campus. The premiere was held at the Phase III dedication ceremony in November.

Dr. Vartabedian wrote and directed the show.

“As I read the research, it became very apparent to me that President Truman and Walter Cronkite led very interesting parallel lives,” said Dr. Vartabedian. “And I wanted to chronicle those parallels.”

Besides both being from the Show Me State, they were two of the most influential figures in the 20th century, he said. They also both enjoyed long and happy marriages, both were known for their integrity and truthfulness, and civil rights was very important to them.

The first time they appeared together was when Cronkite conducted a live television broadcast from the White House in May 1952, when Truman was president. All those parallels,

intersections and more are featured in the production, drawing on Cronkite broadcasts and Truman’s letters and speeches.

Dr. Vartabedian noted that several Missouri Western employees spent countless hours on the production. Ryan Menley, Athletics, was responsible for the musical score. Tara Stoll ’00 and Jake Kelly ’08, of the Instructional Media Center, gathered images for the production, and they, along with Dr. Gordon Mapley, dean and executive director of the Western Institute, and Instructional Technology Director Cori Criger ’97 ensured that they received the needed permission and/or rights on copyrighted images. Kelly worked closely with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri.

“The most time-consuming part was the research,” Stoll said of the creation of the new show. “It was a lot of work, but it was fun. I enjoyed learning more about Harry Truman.”

During the live performances, Stoll and Kelly control the images and lighting as the show progresses, so they are involved in every performance.

“It’s theatre in its highest form,” said Dr. Bob Willenbrink, founding dean of the School of Fine Arts, and stage manager and associate director of the performance. “It’s completely collaborative and every part has to work together.”

*continued on next page*

Left, the actors rehearse “Harry & Walter: Missouri’s Native Sons;” right, Tara Stoll ’00 and Jake Kelly ’08 work the multimedia images, lighting and sound for the live performance.





# MEMORIAL NEWS

## Phase III dedicated

Approximately 300 gathered to help dedicate Phase III of the Walter Cronkite Memorial on campus last November.

Phase III includes the re-creation of the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite newsroom and a second live production, "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons." The newsroom from the late 1960s to early 1970s features replicas, as well as actual artifacts, from the CBS news studio. Visitors have the opportunity to sit at a replica of Cronkite's desk and take a photo of themselves presenting the evening news. The studio is located on the second floor of Spratt Hall and overlooks the Memorial.

The premiere of "Harry & Walter" was also part of the dedication ceremony. The 25-minute performance was held in the Kemper Recital Hall next to the Memorial. "Harry

& Walter" offers a glimpse into the personal and professional lives of two of Missouri's most influential native sons.

Special guests at the dedication ceremony included U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt; Leslie Moonves, president and CEO of CBS Corporation; and Dr. Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas-Austin. ■



Leslie Moonves, president and CEO of CBS Corporation, speaks at the dedication ceremony of Phase III of the Walter Cronkite Memorial.

## WCM visitors

Left, U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt visited the Memorial last summer and returned in the fall for the Phase III dedication ceremony. Right, Dr. David Natharius, professor emeritus of Communication and Humanities, California State University-Fresno and adjunct professor, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, Phoenix; and Dr. Mary-Lou Galician, lead professor, Cronkite/ASU Online, at the Cronkite School at ASU; toured the Memorial with Dr. Robert Vartabedian last summer.



## The making of "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons" continued

The actors and crew spent the entire week prior to the premiere rehearsing.

"Cronkite," the live, multimedia show that premiered in 2014, features Jim Korinke from Kansas City, Missouri as Cronkite, and Korinke again portrays the news anchor in "Harry & Walter." Truman is played by Ken Remmert, who is also from Kansas City. Both are equity actors.

The University received three grants to help cover the cost of the development of the new show: \$1,500 each from the

Buchanan County Commissioners and the St. Joseph City Council, and \$1,200 from the Missouri Arts Council.

Dr. Vartabedian noted that the script was sent to members of Cronkite's family and shared with the Truman Presidential Library, and he received positive feedback from both.

"It's a great idea and a great complement to 'Cronkite,'" Dr. Willenbrink said of "Harry & Walter." "Showing the two together creates an entire evening of entertainment." ■



# CENTENNIAL CAPITAL

## Campaign close to initial celebration goal

As the end of the first year of Missouri Western's Centennial Capital Campaign approached, the University was very close to its initial celebration goal of \$20 million. At press time, the Missouri Western State University Foundation was still optimistic that this goal would likely be met or exceeded by Dec. 31.

"Almost one year after the campaign kickoff, we are very excited to be so close to our initial goal, and we appreciate all the supporters who helped us reach this milestone," said Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation.

"We see the initial celebration goal as a springboard for the next four years of the five-year campaign. Many needs still remain that will require support from donors," Pickman said.

A recent pledge of up to \$1 million helped the campaign come close to its initial goal.

The Foundation was notified by Jeremiah Krug Reeves, a native of St. Joseph and descendant of the Krug family, that up to \$1 million has been pledged to establish a Walter Cronkite Post-Graduate Fellowship.

"Reeves spent several years with CBS in Chicago and believes strongly

in the journalistic integrity embodied by Walter Cronkite," Pickman said. "He also believes strongly in Missouri Western."

Pickman said it is Reeves' desire to create opportunities for exceptional graduates of Missouri Western to work side-by-side with those who shape the news and are at the center of the events that determine the future of our country. The details of the Cronkite fellowship are still being worked out.

"His generosity will open many doors for our graduates," Pickman said.

Some of the larger pledges since the campaign kicked off in January 2015 include a \$10 million pledge from an alumnus in St. Joseph who wished to remain anonymous, a \$1.5 million pledge from Mosaic Life Care to establish an endowed professorship in population health, \$1.1 million from Steve Craig for the Spratt Stadium video scoreboard, and two pledges of approximately \$500,000 from Wayne '90 and Nanette Chatham and Bill Wright.

Pickman noted that the renovation of Spratt Stadium is underway and will



Jeremiah Reeves, Jerry Reeves and Kimberly Schutte '87 enjoy the Phase III dedication reception for the Walter Cronkite Memorial.

be completed this spring (see p.9), and a building committee is prioritizing the needs in Potter Hall. Some of those include classroom and graphic design space, new performance space and updated studios.

"The campaign hopes to address as many of the facility needs in Potter Hall as possible," he said. "The work will help us recruit the best and brightest students and serve as one of the region's leading fine and performing arts centers."

To support the Centennial Capital Campaign, call Kim Weddle, director of development, at (816) 271-5648 or email [weddle@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:weddle@missouriwestern.edu). ■

## Victory Plaza bricks for sale

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

Contact the Missouri Western State University Foundation at (816) 271-5648 for more information or to purchase a brick.

Brick gift certificates are also available. ■





# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

## Fricks establish scholarship

"We've watched the University grow and mature, and become a strong regional presence. It's been such a major part of our lives and we are proud of it."

That, says Dr. Jane Frick, professor emerita of English, is why she and her husband, Lyman, recently established the Jane and Lyman Frick English Scholarship at Missouri Western. With an outright gift and a pledge with a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, the gift will total approximately \$200,000.

"A Charitable Remainder Unitrust is a good estate planning tool," Lyman said. "And it is good for a nonprofit organization."

Jane retired from Missouri Western in 2012 after 40 years of service. Lyman served as president of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors and as an adjunct professor during his long career in the banking industry.

Jane was the director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project for 13 years and is still involved in the program, which means she works closely with teachers throughout the region. That was why she wanted the scholarship to give preference to English Language Arts teachers who are returning to Missouri Western to earn a master's degree. Undergraduate students pursuing a certification to become secondary English Language Arts teachers are also eligible for the scholarship.

"Teachers work so hard and are paid so little," Jane said. "We wanted to help teachers who are struggling financially

but want to pursue their passion and earn a master's degree."

"The cost of education is so high, but a scholarship makes it available to a broader array of folks," Lyman said. "At Missouri Western, you get so much more bang for your buck." ■



Dr. Jane and Lyman Frick

## Keener gift honors former professor

A \$50,000 pledge from the Robert W. and Barbara J. Keener Foundation has established the endowed Professor Edgar Little Memorial Chemistry Scholarship.

Robert Keener, a native of St. Joseph, graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College in 1955. He said, as a student, Little "took him under his wing" and influenced his decision to seek a career in petroleum engineering. He resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The scholarship is for full-time junior or seniors who have declared a chemistry major.

Edgar Little joined the St. Joseph Junior College staff as a chemistry instructor in the 1940s. He served as head of the chemistry department and also served as dean of men before being promoted to dean of the Junior College, the top administrative position, in 1963. He was promoted when Dean Marion Gibbins took a two-year leave of absence to work on an education project in the Somali Republic. Little retired in 1965 when Gibbins returned. However, Little came out of retirement in 1967 to serve as interim chief administrator when Dr. Milburn Blanton, Junior College president, left. Little stayed

on until Dr. M.O. Looney began his presidency.

Department of Chemistry personnel recently established a scholarship in honor of Dr. Len Archer, long-time chair and faculty member who retired last year. When Dr. Gerald Zweerink retired in 2010, a scholarship was established in his honor, also. The department is currently asking for gifts to help both scholarships reach the endowment level of \$10,000. For more information, contact Kim Weddle, director of development, (816) 271-5648. ■



# Missouri Western celebrates its Centennial Composition

The commissioned Centennial composition was performed for the first time at the Alumni Association Awards Banquet in October. The piece, "We Are the Movers and Shakers," was performed by the Concert Chorale, directed by Dr. Elise Hepworth; and accompanied by the Symphonic Winds, directed by Jeff Hinton.

The piece's composer is Roger Zare, and lyrics are by Arthur O'Shaughnessy.

O'Shaughnessy was a 19th century British poet. The words are from his poem, "Ode," from "Music and Moonlight," published in 1847. O'Shaughnessy is most remembered for this poem, and it has been set to music several times.

Zare earned a DMA ('12) from the University of Michigan. He holds

**"We Are the Movers and Shakers"**

**We are the music makers**

**And we are the dreamers of dreams**

**Wandering by lone sea breakers**

**And sitting by desolate streams**

**World losers and world forsakers**

**On whom the pale moon gleams**

**Yet we are the movers and shakers**

**Of the world forever, it seems.**

degrees from the Peabody Conservatory (MM '09) and the University of Southern California (BM '07). He has been praised for his "enviable grasp of orchestration" (New York Times) and for

writing music with "formal clarity and an alluringly mercurial surface."

He has written for a wide variety of ensembles, from solo instruments to full orchestra. Often inspired by science, mathematics, literature and mythology, his colorfully descriptive and energetic works have been performed in five continents by such ensembles as the American Composers Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Youth Symphony. An award winning composer, Zare has received the ASCAP Nissim Prize, three BMI Student Composer Awards, an ASCAP Morton Gould award, a New York Youth Symphony First Music Commission and many other honors. ■

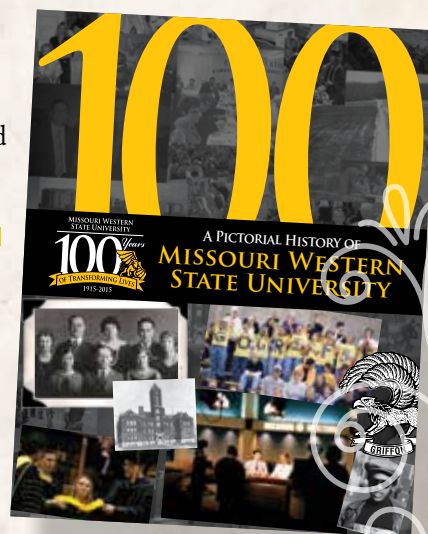


Jeff Hinton, director of Symphonic Winds, and Dr. Elise Hepworth, director of the Concert Chorale, are pictured with Roger Zare, center, who is the composer of "We Are the Movers and Shakers," Missouri Western's commissioned Centennial piece. Right, the Symphonic Winds and the Concert Chorale perform the Centennial piece.

## Pictorial History Book

Extra complimentary copies of the pictorial history book are available in Spratt 108. The book was published in the Centennial year and distributed with the Fall 2015 issue of the Missouri Western Magazine.

If you want a copy of the book mailed to you, please send \$2 for shipping for up to three copies to Diane Holtz, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. ■





# Centennial with style

MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY



Top, students enjoy their Centennial ball. Bottom, an earth harp and violin performance was part of the Centennial Capital Campaign kickoff in January 2015.



## Centennial Sculpture Unveiled

The commissioned Centennial sculpture was officially unveiled on October 12. The sculpture, “The Next 100 Years ...,” stands south of Eder Hall near the University’s main entrance. Constructed from stainless steel, it is 12 feet tall and weighs approximately 600 pounds. The base is made of tinted cast concrete and is 4 feet tall. It is 6 feet by 10 feet at the base.

Beth Nybeck, the sculptor, lives and works in the Crossroads Arts District located in Kansas City, Missouri. Her sculptures can be found in several states. ■



Dr. Mark Laney and Dan Boulware speak at the Centennial Capital Campaign kickoff. They, along with their wives, Mary Margaret Laney and Dale Boulware, serve as campaign co-chairs.

### MWSU Employees celebrate 100 years

Employees gathered in the Looney Complex in August for a group photo as part of the University’s yearlong Centennial celebration.







## Founders' Day

The Founders' Day celebration for Missouri Western and the community brought hundreds to campus on Sept. 26. The day included free carnival games and inflatables. Two live bands, Maria the Mexican and Soca Jukebox, also entertained the crowd. And tailgaters filled the parking lot before the 2 p.m. football game.

The Office of Admissions also hosted a visit day for prospective students, and almost 500 high school students attended. ■



## Glenn E. Marion Clock Tower rededication

In September, the Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower was rededicated, and items were added to a time capsule.

As part of the Centennial celebration, the clock tower received new gold trim, so a dedication ceremony was held for students on Sept. 21. At the ceremony, those in attendance signed the 2015 Centennial edition of the Griffon Yearbook, and student organizations placed items in the Centennial time capsule. Also, letters were placed in the capsule from Dr. Robert Vartabedian,

Missouri Western president; Ida Haefner, Student Government Association president; and Lionel Attawia, student governor on the Board of Governors.

The time capsule was sealed at the December commencement ceremony and will be reopened in 2065. ■





*Missouri Western celebrates its Centennial with style*

## Black and Gold Gala

The Fulkerson Center on campus was transformed into a black and gold extravaganza for Missouri Western's Centennial event in July. Approximately 150 attended the black-tie optional event. The gala included a reception, dinner, dancing and a premiere showing of the University's centennial video. Missouri Rep. Delus Johnson read a proclamation from Gov. Jay Nixon proclaiming July 25 as Missouri Western State University Centennial Day.

Emcees for the event were Bridget Blevins and Mike Bracciano from KQ2 TV. Special guests who were recognized at the gala were Dr. Frances Flanagan '35 and Dr. M.O. Looney.

Dr. Frances Flanagan taught English at both the Junior College and Missouri Western, serving for six years as department chair. In 1983, Dr. Flanagan authored Missouri Western's history book, covering 1915 to 1983.

Dr. Looney served as president of Missouri Western from 1967 to 1983, guiding the transformation of Missouri Western into a four-year college and overseeing the construction of the new campus and the first 11 buildings.

Dr. James Scanlon, president from 2001-2008, and Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy, president from 1983-2000, were also remembered at the gala. Dr. Scanlon was unable to attend the event, and Dr. Murphy McCarthy passed away in 2013. ■



Celebrating Missouri Western's Centennial at the Black and Gold Gala are (top, left) Dave and Sandy Liechti, and Nancy and Steve Briggs; (top right) Dr. Chris and Kate Looney, and former president Dr. M.O. Looney. Bottom, left, KQ2 personalities Bridget Blevins and Mike Bracciano served as emcees at the Black and Gold Gala; and bottom, right, the St. Joseph Big Band provided dance music for the evening.



# DepARTment of creativity



On a warm, sunny day last October, hundreds of high school students filled hallways and classrooms in Potter Hall for the annual Department of Art's Visual Art Day. For the fourth year in a row, more than 900 students from throughout the region spent the day on campus, exhibiting their creations and crafting beautiful works of art under the guidance of Missouri Western art professors and students.

The day was a perfect opportunity for the Department of Art to showcase what they do best – provide a foundation of knowledge and skills so that graduates can become professional artists, teachers, graphic designers, art historians and more.

The high school students also had the opportunity to check out the department's facilities, including painting, ceramic, photography, sculpture and printmaking studios, computer labs for graphic design and digital animation, a foundry, and an art gallery.

Pete Hriso, associate professor of art and department chair, said the studios and labs see a lot of use.

"Art is an applied field; you're always learning and discovering techniques, and you have to practice those techniques to master them," he said. "It's very much about doing, so students spend a lot of time producing."

But Hriso said that hard work pays off for students when they graduate, as Missouri Western art alumni have high placement rates. Those who have earned

art education degrees can be found teaching in schools throughout the state and beyond, and the graphic design program has a long history of placing students nationwide. Kansas City is one of the top advertising cities in the nation, Hriso said, so many alumni don't have to go very far to find a great job in their field. Many alumni are also able to earn a living as professional artists.

"There are a lot of opportunities for art students," Hriso said. "It's a competitive field, but if you have drive, talent and ability, there are opportunities out there."

Every year, the department hosts international artists who exhibit in the gallery and conduct workshops for art students. There are also study away trips to New York to visit museums and galleries, and art faculty members have taken students to Belgium, Italy, Russia and France in past years.

The department has 10 full-time professors and approximately 50 art majors who continually garner recognition for their works, earn awards and are selected for exhibitions and competitions nationally and internationally.

Hriso joined the department in 2008 and was tasked with developing an undergraduate degree in digital animation and to recruit for the new graduate degree in digital animation. He noted that there are only three or four institutions in the state with digital animation degrees, and enrollment in



## Kudos

Taylor King '15 had his poster series, "Je Suis Charlie," accepted into the National Student Show and Conference 11, sponsored by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications. King was one of only 20 students nationwide accepted into the Poster Category of the Exhibition. Only one other Missouri student was accepted into the show.





Approximately 900 high school students converged on campus for the Department of Art's Visual Art Day last October.

both the department's undergraduate and graduate programs continues to grow.

Art has been part of Missouri Western's curriculum since the University's earliest beginnings as St. Joseph Junior College. When Missouri Western became a four-year college and moved to its present campus in 1969, Potter Hall was under construction. When the building was completed in 1971, the Department of Art moved in.

Space was at a premium almost from the start, but a two-story addition on the northeast corner of Potter Hall in 1986 gave the department some growing room. The new space contained offices, studios for sculpture, ceramics, photography, painting and lithography, and an art gallery.

Prior to the addition, ceramics classes had been held in a farmhouse on the east side of campus, off 50th St. Spring rains could always be counted on to bring leaking walls, a muddy road leading up to the house and an occasional snake inside, so the new

space was welcomed with much excitement from both students and faculty members.

Hriso said today, space in Potter Hall is again at a premium. He noted that the number of art majors has doubled over the past 20 years, and more classrooms, computer labs and larger studios are needed. Potter Hall has been listed as one of the priorities in the Centennial Capital Campaign, and extra space is in the plans.

"It's all about accommodating our students," Hriso said.

Gov. Nixon's recent Building Affordability initiative earmarked \$4.8 million for Missouri Western, and some of those funds will be used to upgrade Potter Hall, especially its infrastructure and heating and cooling systems.

But for now, Department of Art students will use the space they have to create, paint, throw, draw, design and sculpt as they work toward their bachelor's and master's degrees. ■



An entry from Missouri Western was one of four pieces of canoe-themed art that was installed in Ann Arbor, Michigan last summer. The Missouri Western entry, "Turbine," won a public vote to be part of the Canoe Imagine Art installation. The entry was designed by students Heather Lafromboise, center; Jake Proffit, right; Neil Lawley, assistant professor of art and director of sculpture, left; and construction professional Dustin Lafromboise, not pictured.





# Patrick Larsen '15: Mad potter

**W**hen Patrick Larsen '15 graduated from Missouri Western last May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art, he fulfilled a long-time ambition of his and opened up Mad Potter Studio, a working ceramics studio in Weston, Missouri.

Larsen, a native of Weston, enrolled at Missouri Western in 2011 with no college credits, but with a solid goal: "to put a degree behind 30 years of carving and sculpting to propel me into a life as an artist."

He considers himself a hands-on person, so he thrived in the studio classes.

"I liked most of my professors, but a few that really stand out are David Harris in ceramics, Eric Fuson in 2D design and drawing, Teresa Harris in graphic design and Kathy Liao in printmaking," Larsen said. "They present themselves as genuine people

with an enormous knowledge base and a passion for teaching."

He did enjoy two non-art classes, he said, chemistry and geology.

"I found that they both applied directly to ceramics. I was already using chemicals and elements that I learned about in chemistry and geology, so it was interesting to learn how the elements naturally occur and to understand the reactions I was observing by mixing chemicals and elements and introducing to the temperatures of the kiln."

For three years, Larsen volunteered to demonstrate his skill with a potter's wheel at the MWSU Foundation's appreciation reception, and he was a big hit with attendees.

His studio opened in May 2015, and so far, he said business has been good. Although he is not on Main St. in Weston, his studio is close by and can

be seen from the main thoroughfare.

"I am a bit of an entrepreneur and enjoy working for myself," Larsen said. "I enjoy being an active participant in creation." ■



Patrick Larsen '15

**D**epartment of Art faculty members, students and alumni are recognized nationally and internationally for their work. The following are some of their accomplishments in the past year:

- At the ADDY Awards, the world's largest advertising competition with over 50,000 entries annually, **Jeremy Todd '13**, from Design Ranch, won a Gold Addy for Best of Show; **Brandon Todd '06**, from Bic Media, won two Gold Addys for Tre Point Agency; **Katie Roebling Pearson '11**, with Salva O'Renicks, won two Gold Addys and one Silver Addy; and **Dana Rudolph '11**, with Hallmark, won a Gold Addy.
- **Jeremy Todd '13** also had his work published in HOW magazine, an award-winning design periodical. His poster series for the Unicorn Theatre was also displayed on the HOW website and in *Communication Arts*, the largest international trade journal of visual communications.
- **Debra Potter '13** placed first in the Off the Table National Ceramics Exhibition.
- **Dana Rudolph '11** had her restaurant identity system selected to be included in the blog, "Best Design Option."
- Student **Shaina Mixon**'s poster design was selected from over 60 entries to advertise the international soundSCAPE Festival in Italy.
- **Mark Bush Jr.**, a sculpture student, was accepted into four juried exhibitions. His sculpture, "Scribble," was the only sculpture selected to be displayed in front of the Brookings, South Dakota Art Council for one year in a national competition.
- Associate professor of art and department chair **Pete Hriso**'s film, "Argentina," was selected to be part of the film screening of the 3rd International Motion Festival in Nicosia, Cyprus. Seventy-four films were selected from more than 583 entries from 48 countries.
- **Teresa Harris**, associate professor of art, had two mixed-media pieces accepted into the 30th Annual International Exhibition at the Meadows Gallery in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Tyler. The university also purchased one of her pieces for its permanent collection. Another one of her works was accepted into an exhibit at the Shirt Factory Gallery in Glen Falls, New York.
- **Kathy Liao**, associate professor of art, exhibited at the 28th Annual McNeese Works on Paper Exhibition at McNeese State University in Louisiana. ■



# Entrepreneur opportunities abound

## CSB entrepreneur buys local business

With the assistance of the Craig School of Business's Center for Entrepreneurship at Missouri Western, Justin Myers '14, became an entrepreneur, at the same time ensuring that a longtime local business will remain open.

Myers enrolled in the Applied Entrepreneurship course last spring with the hope of being awarded a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory or Aspen Leaf Yogurt store through Missouri Western's entrepreneurship program.

"It was the best helping hand I've ever had. Annette helped me know which steps to take and introduced me to the connections I needed."

Justin Myers '14

He was not selected to receive a store, but Myers wasn't ready to give up his entrepreneurial dream. He met with Annette Weeks '87, director of the CSB's Center for Entrepreneurship. She knew that Peter and Elizabeth Kamstra were interested in selling their St. Joseph Benjamin Moore paint store, and she was able to connect them with Myers.

The Center and its advisory council offered resources and assistance to Myers, and in early October, financing was arranged to purchase the store. Myers renamed the store Heartland Paint.

"It was the best helping hand I've ever had," Myers said of the Center's assistance. "Annette helped me know which steps to take and introduced me to the connections I needed."



Justin Myers '14 with Annette Weeks '87 at the grand opening of Myers' store, Heartland Paint.

Weeks said one of the Center's focuses is trying to keep longtime local businesses from closing, so she was more than willing to work with Myers. The Benjamin Moore store opened in St. Joseph in 1956 by owner Bill Schaller.

The Center for Entrepreneurship offers help to both new and existing business owners so they can be successful. The Center also helps business owners with succession plans if they are interested in retiring or selling their businesses. Weeks noted that all of the Center's services are free and strictly confidential.

"I am very happy for Justin, and I know he will be successful with

Heartland Paint," Weeks said. "That is exactly the mission of the Center for Entrepreneurship."

Myers said, in a way, he has come full circle. Growing up in Grain Valley, Missouri, his father was a self-employed contractor, and the young Myers spent a lot of summers with a paintbrush in hand. Now he owns a business that sells paint and painting supplies.

"I feel very good. I am looking forward to getting out in the community to network and see how I can offer my services to the community," Myers said. "I hope to eventually give back by helping other small businesses." ■



## Entrepreneur opportunities abound

# Beyond the chocolate factory

It's gone beyond chocolate. It's even gone beyond yogurt. It's gone beyond one store and it's gone on to new opportunities.

What is it? It's Missouri Western's unique entrepreneurship program. Several of the Craig School of Business alumni who were awarded stores in the program since it began in 2009 are taking their successful first stores and expanding into new businesses and franchises all over the country. It's expanded from chocolate and yogurt to sandwiches, burritos, flip flops, pizza, pretzels and pasta.

It all started when Seth Lyons '08 was awarded the first Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in the program, which was a partnership between the Craig School of Business, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Steven Craig.

Today, Lyons and the alumni who followed in his entrepreneurial footsteps are flourishing, and many have bought second franchises or are considering a second business.

In 2013, Lyons and his wife, Kelsey '08, opened a second franchise, Which Wich? Superior Sandwiches, next door to their Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store in Silverthorne, Colorado. Then,

in 2014, they sold the RMCF store to Caleb Mackey, a participant in the program.

Leslie (Oberg) Burris '11, who was awarded a store in Williamsburg, Iowa in 2011, sold that store the next year to Isaac Collins '11, another program participant. Collins recently purchased a Yogurtini in the Country Club Plaza area in Kansas City, Missouri in addition to his Iowa store. When Burris sold to Collins,



Erik '11 and Vanessa Garcia

she and her now-husband, James, bought the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Aspen Leaf Yogurt (also owned by RMCF) stores in St. Joseph. In 2015, they opened a Flip Flop Shops franchise, and a second franchise, Blaze Pizza, will open in 2016, both in California. Ernest Chamblee '11, who was one of the participants in the program in 2015, is operating the St. Joseph stores.

Burris' pizza restaurant will be in the new Outlets of San Clemente, a high-end outlet mall which was built by Craig. That mall is also home to



Isaac Collins '11 in his new Yogurtini store in Kansas City.

Robert '10 and Danelle (Ruppert) '10 Schimming's Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store and a new franchise for them, USwirl Yogurt. They had been operating an RMCF store in Lake Elsinore, California that Rob was awarded in 2010.

And there is more expansion. Allie (Humphrey) '11 and Matt '08 Canaday opened a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in a new mall in Lehi, Utah in 2012, and recently purchased a new Auntie Anne's pretzel franchise in the same mall.

*Continued on next page*



Craig School of Business entrepreneurs take the stage at the annual entrepreneur dinner on campus.



# Class assists local entrepreneurs

A collaboration between Dr. Hillary Mellema, assistant professor of business; and Annette Weeks '87, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship; led to innovative ideas, new events, print and radio ads, and compelling videos for several area entrepreneurs.

Students in Dr. Mellema's Advertising and Promotion class spent the fall semester working with nine business owners to help them spread the word about their businesses.

Working in pairs, students were required to collaborate with the businesses they were assigned and create three promotional materials, one of which was a video.

"We helped businesses come up with an integrated marketing communication plan," said Pauline Ford, senior marketing major who worked with Spectacular Settings. "We learned about different strategies in class first, and then we used what we learned."

Dr. Mellema said students selected from a long list of promotional ideas to help their businesses. One group planned an event for a business, and another compiled a year's worth of social media posts.

Logan Myers, a junior marketing major, and his partner worked with Wholesale Tire. "The class helped a lot. We tried to do the most we could with the resources the business had, and the class showed us how."

"It was great to apply what we learned to the real world and have someone oversee our work," Ford said. "You really get into it when you are working with a real, and not hypothetical, client."

Several students in the class said they enjoyed the process and believe it will boost their resume. "We can show how business improved, so we have something to back up our knowledge,"

said Kamille Paden, who worked with Performance Plus Rehabilitation Center.

"They really got engaged with the businesses and the community," Dr. Mellema said of her students. "That excites me more than anything."

At the end of the semester, the student pairs were required to give a presentation of their work to classmates and a panel of judges.

Dr. Mellema, who joined Missouri Western last August, said the University's emphasis on applied learning was one of the reasons she accepted the position.

"For the students to engage in applied learning in the community while learning the material in class, that's the best I can do as their teacher," Dr. Mellema said. "It's so good for them to *do* what they are learning." ■

## Beyond the chocolate factory continued

Instead of purchasing a second franchise, Brady '10 and TyAnn (Williamson) '10 Ellis purchased a locally owned restaurant near their Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in Vicksburg, Mississippi – Billy's Italian Restaurant.

"That was Steve's (Craig) plan when the program first started," said Pam Klaus, director of franchise programs at Missouri Western. "He never intended for the participants to be owners of their original stores all their lives. He just wanted to offer them a good start and a good opportunity."

She said several alumni owners who have not yet purchased a second business are exploring their possibilities.

Erik Garcia '11, who was awarded an Aspen Leaf Yogurt in Farmington, New Mexico in 2013, has been very successful in his business, with outstanding sales every quarter. He and his wife, Vanessa, are considering selling and purchasing a different business.

Scott Lassen '10, who purchased a Fresca's Mexican Grill from Craig in the 2013 competition, made several changes to the restaurant in Woodburn, Oregon and has also been hugely successful, Klaus said. He recently sold the restaurant to Mindy Schimming '14, who was in the 2015 competition.

Klaus believes one of the reasons for the program's success is that the owners help each other out whenever they can,

and they also support the students in the Applied Entrepreneurship class each spring. She said during spring break, the current owners host those in the class at their stores, giving them an idea of what it takes to be successful.

The owners in the program truly feel like they are a family, she said, and three owners really are family – Robert '10, Tim '12 and Mindy '14 Schimming are siblings who have all participated in the program and been awarded stores. Rob was awarded a store in 2010 and Tim was awarded a store in 2012, both in California.

"These graduates have been given a great opportunity, and they have all taken that opportunity, worked hard and found great success," Klaus said. ■



## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow  
Griffon Family,

Greetings from the Missouri Western Alumni Board! When we wrapped up Homecoming weekend, I found myself in awe of the amazing alumni that are working around the corner, across the state, throughout the nation and even around the world. It was an honor to recognize a handful of those alumni during the Alumni Awards Banquet. The latest group of award recipients represented entrepreneurs, members of our armed forces and professors, just to name a few (see p.28). They also represented you. Please know that you are amazing, too, because you are a Griffon.



Angie Springs '02

In addition to a great Alumni Awards Banquet, I want to thank the community for coming out to support the Homecoming parade. It was great to see so many people come out to enjoy such a beautiful day. As a Mama Griff, it was equally exciting to come back to campus and enjoy Arts, Beats, and Treats with my oldest son. He had a great time on campus along with about

100 other future Griffs making Griffon snack mix and taking pictures in the photo booth. Do you have a future Griff in your life? I invite you to bring them to one of our kid-friendly events!

As we closed the first half of a new school year, I want to encourage you to think about ways that you can give back to Missouri Western. Perhaps you would be interested in mentoring a student or

would like to share your story about how Missouri Western has shaped your life. Or maybe you would be interested in more information on how to become a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. Or, you may want get involved with or even start a networking group in your community for fellow alumni. And if you haven't had the chance to make a financial gift to the University, I encourage you to please do so. I want to give everyone the opportunity to get involved in whatever way fits into your life no matter where you are – because no matter where you are in life, we all have one thing in common. We are Griffs.

*Angie Springs*  
Angie Springs '02

President, Alumni Association  
Raising Future Griffs  
Griffon Strong

## Coming Events

**Feb. 9** | Alumni Mardi Gras party, 5:30 p.m., location TBA

**Feb. 13** | Jazz Fest, Fulkerson Center

**Feb. 19-21, 25-27** | "The Marriage of Figaro," Potter Hall Theater.  
Feb. 21 is Alumni Day;  
call for advance discount tickets.

**Feb. 27** | Electronic Music Midwest  
Mini Festival, Spratt Hall

**March 12** | Alumni Choral Reunion performance, 4 p.m.  
Registration and rehearsals 9 a.m. in Potter Hall.

**March 28-April 1** | Craig School of Business Center for  
Entrepreneurship's Entrepreneur Week



**April 8-10, 14-16** | "Godspell,"  
Potter Hall Theater

**April 22** | Missouri Western Ambassadors'  
Picasso's Night at the Ritz reception,  
6 p.m., Remington Hall Atrium

**April 23** | eXtreme Percussion, 7:30 p.m., Potter Hall Theater

**April 24** | Symphonic Winds Spring Concert,  
3 p.m., Potter Hall Theater

**April 26** | Concert Band and Chamber Ensembles Concert,  
7:30 p.m., Potter Hall Theater

**April 28** | Spring Choral Department Concert, Potter Hall Theater

**May 2** | Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., Potter Hall Theater

**May 7** | Commencement

**For more information about alumni events, go to [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni) or call (816) 271-5646.**

**For theatre tickets, go to [mwsutix.com](http://mwsutix.com) or (816) 271-4452.**

**For music events, go to [missouriwestern.edu/music/calendars](http://missouriwestern.edu/music/calendars) or call (816) 271-4420.**

# Stacey Weidemann '13: Peace Corps volunteer

More than 5,400 miles from home, Stacey Weidemann '13 is fulfilling a long-time dream of serving in the Peace Corps. Since May 2014, she has been working in a school in Leskovik, a small community in southeastern Albania, using her English and French degrees from Missouri Western to make a difference. She made a two-year commitment and will serve in Albania until May 2016.

Weidemann said her primary assignment is to work in the school with the English teacher, but that has become just a small part of what she actually does. She also tutors in English and facilitates several after-school clubs such as Outdoor Ambassadors, where they discuss environmental issues and enjoy outdoor activities. She is also the advisor for GLOW, Girls Leading Our World, a group that focuses on empowering young women to take on leadership roles in their community.

"I have the opportunity to work with such great people here. It's been amazing," she said.

Weidemann recently worked with another teacher to find funding to update the school library and on another project proposal to renovate the school bathrooms. Along with the renovation, she said they are working on getting

a water deposit so there will be clean, running water throughout the school day.

"Access to clean water is such an important thing that a lot of us tend to take for granted," Weidemann said. "I certainly did. But after living with a water schedule for two years, I think

I'll always appreciate having ready access."

The native of Rolla, Missouri said she had been considering joining the Peace Corps since she was in high school.

"I've always enjoyed traveling and volunteer work; Peace

Corps service was an obvious choice. It's a lot of work, but I get to spend two years living somewhere unexpected."

Her typical school day begins at 8 a.m. and goes until 1 p.m. After lunch, Weidemann meets with students for either tutoring or clubs for an hour or two. A few times a week, she said, she'll meet friends for coffee or tea.

The main evening activity in Albania, at least during the warmer months, is called a *xhiro*, a long, leisurely stroll up and down the main street of town. "It's a really nice way to end the day."

"There's nothing else I'd rather be doing, although it can be very frustrating at times," she said. "I live in a small, isolated community where I am the only American for hours in any direction. But Albanians are the most hospitable people I have ever met." ■



Stacey Weidemann '13 in Albania at a GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) camp she organized.

# Alumni Association strategizes

The Alumni Association Board of Directors recently approved a five-year strategic plan. Some of the initiatives include alumni-led webinars or video chats; re-organization of alumni groups into regionally based chapters and networks; support of locally planned events and campus events; and a new policy and procedure guide including updating alumni board member responsibilities and term limits.

Additionally, at its summer 2015 retreat, the Board approved the following changes to the by-laws of the association:

- An amendment limiting the number of consecutive terms a member can serve
- A resignation/removal amendment
- An amendment allowing the Board of Directors to approve "Lifetime Status" on the Board for those current members who have served 12 or more consecutive years

"Our goal was to create opportunities for alumni to engage with the University and with one another," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni relations. "We wanted to identify programs that address the needs of alumni both on a personal and professional level, as well as ways to keep alumni informed about what is happening at Missouri Western. The Board members and I are excited about our new direction." ■

The Alumni Association Board of Directors announces the formation of a new network: The Black Alumni Network. Chaired by Dr. James Sanders '85, the Black Alumni Network seeks to engage alumni and students through social, educational and professional programs. All alumni and students are welcome to participate. For more information on this or any of the alumni chapters and networks, contact Colleen Kowich, Director of Alumni Relations, at [mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu).



# Alumni Association Awards

More than 150 gathered to see nine honored at the 33rd annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet on Oct. 16 in the Fulkerson Center.

## ***Distinguished Alumni Award*** **Dr. Kenneth Rosenauer '74**

Dr. Kenneth Rosenauer spent almost his entire teaching career at Missouri Western, beginning in 1979 and retiring in 2013. For many of those years, the professor of English also served as the advisor for the student newspaper, Griffon News. In 2003, he was inducted into the John A. Boyd Hall of Fame of the College Media Association for his years of service as Griffon News advisor.

Dr. Rosenauer is currently serving his fourth term on the Savannah R-III School Board, is a part-time minister and has been president of the Apple Blossom Parade since 2000.

## ***Distinguished Alumni Award*** **Hon. Larry Stobbs '74**

Larry Stobbs graduated with a criminal justice degree and was a member of the Missouri Highway Patrol for 31 years. He retired as supervising sergeant of the Division of Drug and Crime Control.

Stobbs is one of Missouri Western's most ardent supporters and an avid volunteer in the community. He is a 40-year-plus member of the East Hills Optimist Club, and has been a Boy Scout board member, a Chamber of Commerce board member, president of the Allied Arts Council and a member of the Southside Progressive Association. Stobbs served as the Mayor of St. Joseph from 1994-2002.



Matt Lillie '04, Larry Stobbs '74, Scott Graham '78, Dr. Kenneth Rosenauer '74 and Col. Andrew Halter '86 at the Alumni Awards Banquet.

## ***Distinguished Alumni Award*** **Scott Graham '78**

Scott Graham graduated with an agriculture economics degree from Missouri Western. He earned an MBA and worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb for 25 years, including several years as a district manager for the company. Graham earned the company's top award in 2010.

He has been a member of the Gold Coat board for more than 15 years, is a member of the Missouri Western Athletic Hall of Fame, a committee he currently chairs. Graham also serves his community as a high school football official, and has been a basketball coach, referee and board member for a basketball program for youth.

## ***Distinguished Alumni Award*** **Col. Andrew Halter '86**

Col. Andrew Halter was recently named the Air National Guard Advisor to the Director of Logistics, Installations and Security at Headquarters Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. He had been serving as Maintenance Group Commander at the 139th Airlift Wing, Missouri Air National Guard in St. Joseph. Col. Halter has been a member of the Air National Guard for 35 years and has served on all seven continents.

He earned a data processing degree from Missouri Western and a master's degree in aviation safety from the University of Central Missouri. He graduated from Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

**Correction:** *Two Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were inadvertently left off the list in the Fall 2015 issue: Paul Rhoads '89 and Bill Snyder '59. We apologize for the error.*

# Banquet 2015



Seth '08 and Kelsey '08 Lyons, Hon. Bill Falkner and Hon. Elijah Haahr '05, award recipients at the Alumni Awards Banquet.

## ***Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University*** **Hon. Bill Falkner**

Hon. Bill Falkner is currently serving his second term as mayor of St. Joseph, and is an avid supporter of Missouri Western. Since he was elected, Falkner has worked closely with Missouri Western on the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp, workforce development and more. He has become one of the University's greatest promoters.

Falkner served one term on the City Council before running for mayor. As the city's leader, he has developed great working relationships and partnerships with county and state elected officials, and businesses and organizations throughout the community.

## ***GOLD Award – Graduate of the Last Decade*** **Hon. Elijah Haahr '05**

Hon. Elijah Haahr is a State Representative for Missouri's 134th District in Springfield, elected to his first two-year term in 2012.

He graduated with a government/public affairs degree in 2005 and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri School of Law. Haahr is an attorney with Aaron Sachs and Associates.

Haahr has been named one of 417 Magazine's 20 Under 30, the Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under Forty, the 2012 Springfield Jaycee of the Year, and Ozarks Technical Community College Distinguished Alumnus.

## ***GOLD Award – Graduate of the Last Decade*** **Seth '08 and Kelsey '08 Lyons**

In 2009, Seth Lyons, a 2008 graduate, was the first alumnus to be awarded a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store as part of Missouri Western's entrepreneurship and partnership between the University, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Steve Craig. He and Kelsey, also a 2008 graduate, moved to Silverthorne, Colorado to open the store. Their success and willingness to mentor business owners in the program have greatly contributed to the growth and success of the program.

The Lyons paid off their store in less than three years. They opened a second franchise, Which Wich? Superior Sandwiches, in 2013.

## ***Distinguished Faculty Award (Posthumous)*** **Don Lillie**

Don Lillie was an associate professor of theatre at Missouri Western when he passed away in February 2015. As word spread of his passing, theatre students, both past and present, gathered in the Potter Hall Theater, where Lillie had lovingly served the University for 25 years.

He was a graduate of Moorhead State University and served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. At Missouri Western, Lillie taught all areas of theatre, including stagecraft, stage combat and historical fencing.

In 2009, Lillie wrote a play, "Marlowe," which was performed not only on campus, but in London and in Shakespeare's hometown, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Lillie's son, Matt '04, accepted the award. ■



## 1930s

**Dr. Frances Flanagan '35** recently published "Art Along the Way," a book of photographs from her world travels. The book is available for purchase for \$40 at ArtCetera in downtown St. Joseph or in Spratt Hall 108. To order the book and have it mailed to you, send a check made out to Dr. Flanagan to MWSU, Spratt 108.

## 1970s

**Robert Meyer '74** retired after 37 years with the San Diego Unified School District. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Harbison Canyon, California. Meyer earned an M.A. in Education from Alliant International University in San Diego.

**Lt. Col. Gregory A. Quirin (Ret.) '76** began working with the Special Education program at North Kansas City High School.

**Walter Wilson '76** was appointed a committee member of the Saint Louis Sports Hall of Fame. The 2015 Hall of Fame Enshrinement event was held in September, along with a celebrity golf tournament.

## 1980s

**Dr. Steven T. Petty '86** is the chief economist with Florida Taxwatch, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit taxpayer research institute and government watchdog.

**Karl Ploeger '86** joined Swanson Russell in Omaha, Nebraska as an account director. He will manage agriculture accounts and new business development.

**Karen Sue White '86** is the CEO and executive director of the St. Joseph Family YMCA. She had been serving as CEO of the YMCA in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is the first female CEO in the St. Joseph YMCA's history.

## 1990s

**Lt. Col. Grace Link '92** is the director of staff for the 2,300-member Missouri Air National Guard. The position includes the title of assistant adjutant general and involves day-to-day organization, recruitment and training.



inventory specialist.

**Lorena (Ridpath) Lewis '96** moved back to St. Joseph, Missouri after being away for 22 years. She is currently working at Tyson as an MRO

**Rodney Potter '96** joined Progressive Community Services as assistant executive director.



Huntsville, Alabama.

**Lt. Col. Darius (Marc) Highsmith '97** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army and is stationed at Redstone Arsenal in



show called STEM in 30.

**Martin Kelsey '99** works at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where he hosts a middle school science

## 2000s

**Tony Barmann '00** joined SJC Marketing in St. Joseph, Missouri as a graphic designer.

**Jenny Cathcart '00** joined Colman Insurance Services in St. Joseph, Missouri as an account executive.



Erin, Kendel and the late Faith Lucille.

**Winter (Berry) Houser '01** and her husband, John, announce the birth of a daughter, Gabriel (Gabbi) Essie, born Aug. 4, 2015. Siblings are John Jr., Riley,

## In Memory

We remember 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).

**Carrie Lynn (Ramsey) Barnard '07**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Aug. 11, 2014.

**Jeannie (Haggard) Baxter '09**, Waynesville, Missouri, Oct. 4, 2015.

**Tod Harry Berger '61**, Dunwoody, Georgia, April 21, 2015.

**Verda Chipp '81**, Temple, Texas, Oct. 17, 2014.

**Georgia "Anne" (Manda) Cleaveland '71**, Denison, Texas, Nov. 16, 2014.

**Dr. Elwyn K. DeVore '40**, Maryville, Missouri, Sept. 13, 2014.

**Pansy L. Dinwiddie '40**, Butler, Pennsylvania, Aug. 27, 2015.

**Karin M. (Swanson) Dunbar '61**, Kansas City, Missouri, July 29, 2015.

**Shirley Maxine (Brown) Klein '50**, Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 25, 2014.

**Dr. Susan C. (Walter) Lau '55**, North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, May 11, 2015.

**Jean A. (Reiss) Mitchell '08**, Gower, Missouri, Sept. 11, 2015.

**John W. Newhart '41**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Aug. 31, 2015. Newhart was a member of Missouri Western's Board of Trustees from 1965 to 1972.

**Barbara A. Ozenberger '61**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 31, 2014.

**Joseph F. Peshek '75**, Bella Vista, Arkansas, Feb. 23, 2015.

**Linda M. (Sadler) Redman '89**, Arkansas City, Kansas, July 26, 2015.

**Dolores E. (Acord) Reeder '72**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Aug. 16, 2014.

**Jacob E. Rostock '75**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 18, 2015.

**Lynette D. (Miller) Steltenpohl '88**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Aug. 12, 2014.

**Randall Lee Stevenson '72**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Aug. 28, 2015.

**Thomas N. Thornton '77**, Marietta, Georgia, Sept. 27, 2015.

**Robert C. Thuman '74**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Nov. 14, 2014.

**Madeleine C. Verssue '48**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 11, 2014.

# Chris Kerford '14: Ready for some football

When Chris Kerford '14 was a student, he realized early on that if he wanted a great job after he graduated, he needed to get some experience first. Kerford decided the best way to do that was through an internship. But he didn't stop with just one internship one semester. He served as an intern in Missouri Western's Athletics Department for three years, and then went on to complete internships with both the Kansas City Chiefs and the Houston Texans.



Chris Kerford '14

Photo credit – Jared Truettner, Houston Texans

And it indeed paid off. Kerford landed a full-time job as marketing events coordinator with the Houston Texans last year.

"I have my dream job. There's nothing else I'd rather be doing right now," Kerford said. "I'm working for a great group of people, personally and professionally."

The native of St. Joseph and Central High School football player enrolled at Missouri Western knowing he wanted a sports-related career, so he chose recreation sport management as his major. He credits his professors for preparing him well for his current position.

"They were very practical. They helped me understand the prep work that goes into making something successful."

Brett Esely '01, associate director of athletics for external relations, said Kerford worked as an intern for him for no pay, and rarely for class credit, because he just wanted the experience.

Over the three years he served as an intern, Kerford said he helped out with "a little bit of everything," gaining more responsibility each year. "Anything they needed, I did."

In addition to game-day duties, he assisted with both the women's

basketball Elite 8 tournaments and the national softball championship that were held in St. Joseph. But it was his assistance at the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp on campus that led to his NFL career.

Dr. Rick Hardy, former assistant professor of recreation who coordinated student workers at the Chiefs camp, introduced Kerford to Chiefs personnel, and he was able to land an internship with the team the spring semester of his senior year. That, Kerford says, gave him the confidence and experience he needed to start applying for a job with other NFL teams. He was offered a position with both the Carolina Panthers and the Texans, and Kerford decided to move to Texas.

As the marketing events coordinator, he helps prepare for the team's training camp and home games, manages more than a dozen events for fan clubs, and plans outreach trips and draft parties throughout the year. On gameday, Kerford is an on-field producer, and he says his experience with the Griffons really comes in handy in that role.

"Brett and Missouri Western were a big help to me; that's the reason I am here," Kerford said. "Working with Athletics really got me where I am today." ■

## Alumnotes continued

### Dr. Jasmine (Steele) Briedwell '03

was named Missouri National Distinguished Principal of the Year in 2015. She is principal at Lake Contrary Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri. Dr. Briedwell received the award at the National Association of Elementary School Principals event in Washington, D.C. in October.

**Rachel (Riggert) Graves '03** is the development officer at Missouri Western State University.



### LaShaundra Randolph '03

was a 2015 honoree at the Women Honoring Women in the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Kansas City

Community who are "Keepers of the Flame: Displaying Courage, Passion and Power." The event was sponsored by UMKC's Division of Diversity and Inclusion and was hosted by The Central Exchange in downtown Kansas City. The event also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Women of Color Leadership Conference at UMKC.



### Kristen Robinson '07

and James Bennett were married June 19, 2015 in Laguna Beach, California.

## 2010s

**Molly Smith '11** participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Belize. Smith, a business systems analyst at Mutual of Omaha in Bellevue, Nebraska, is earning her master's degree in Miami University's Global Field Program. ■



# Tracy Lindley '04: The voice

Tracy (Johnson) Lindley '04 began her voiceover business the same month Missouri Western started looking for voiceover talent for its centennial video. It was a perfect match. When the video was released online a year later, it was Lindley who shared Missouri Western's 100-year history with its viewers.

Lindley, who graduated with a speech communications degree, public relations and marketing emphasis, had worked for Diane Holtz, the writer and co-producer of the centennial video, in the Office of Public Relations and Marketing when she was a student, and she and Holtz had kept in touch.

Holtz said she found out about Lindley's voiceover business just when she started looking for a narrator for the video in July 2014. Several people on campus listened to Lindley's demos and decided she would be great for the narration.

"I was so happy to do it for my alma mater," Lindley said. "And they were a great group to work with."

"We thought it was appropriate to have a graduate as the voiceover talent for our centennial video, and she did a fantastic job," Holtz said.

Lindley, a St. Joseph native, arrived on campus unsure of a major, but a communications class introduced her to the public relations field.

"I think people and how they communicate are fascinating," she said. "I found out I could major in that and I said, 'Sign me up.'"

Her voiceover career actually began as part of an internship at St. Joseph Cablevision (now Suddenlink) when she was a student. She said they would occasionally need a voice for a television commercial, and Lindley quickly realized that she enjoyed it and was pretty good at it.

After she graduated, she worked for five years for Progressive Insurance as a claims representative, and her

contact at the cable company continued to call her for her voiceover talent. When her third child was born in 2013, Lindley decided she didn't have time to come to the studio for voiceovers anymore. Her contact suggested that she think about recording voiceovers from her home.

"I just started researching, learning about successful people in the field and learning everything I could about voiceovers," Lindley said. In 2014, she took a training course through Edge Studio, an online voiceover education and production studio out of New York City, and launched her business.

Today Tracy Lindley Voiceovers operates out of a state-of-the-art studio in her home. Along with her alma mater's centennial video, she has recorded many commercials, a documentary and a children's book. Last summer, she created a radio spot for Focus on the Family, a national organization out of Colorado; and a commercial for a company in Minneapolis.

Along with ongoing research, marketing her voiceover business is essential, Lindley said, and she is thankful that she learned how to do that at Missouri Western.

Lindley, now a mother of four, said she gets lots of voiceover practice by reading to her children.

"I love what I do as a mom, and I love the voiceover talent," she said. "And I'm so happy that it works for me to do both." ■



Tracy Lindley '04 in her voiceover business' sound studio.

## Yearbooks: extras and missing

Are you missing your yearbook from your college years? We have Griffon Yearbooks from several previous years now available! Contact Dawn Baker, [dbaker@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:dbaker@missouriwestern.edu) or (816) 271-4490. 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 2015 Centennial edition of the yearbook for \$10.

However, Missouri Western's yearbook office and the Office of Public Relations and Marketing are missing some yearbooks that we would love to have. If you have any old yearbooks you want to donate, email Diane Holtz at [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu) or call (816) 271-5651. Here are the yearbooks we are missing:

**1921-1931, 1934, 1938, 1942-1947,  
1949, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1961,  
1963, 1965 and 1966.**

We would also like to have old Central High School Wakitans from 1916-1920 because the yearbooks for the first five years of the St. Joseph Junior College were combined with those yearbooks. If you have any of these editions or know of someone who might, please contact Holtz at [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu) or (816) 271-5651.



# Homecoming 2015

Hundreds of students, alumni and community members celebrated Missouri Western's Homecoming 2015, "Century Long Griffon Strong," in October. Along with student events all week, the fun included the annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet (see p. 28); a parade downtown; the post-parade family event, Arts, Beats and Treats; and tailgating galore.

The Washburn University Ichabods beat the Griffons 21-7 in the Homecoming game. ■







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by Patrick Larson '15

