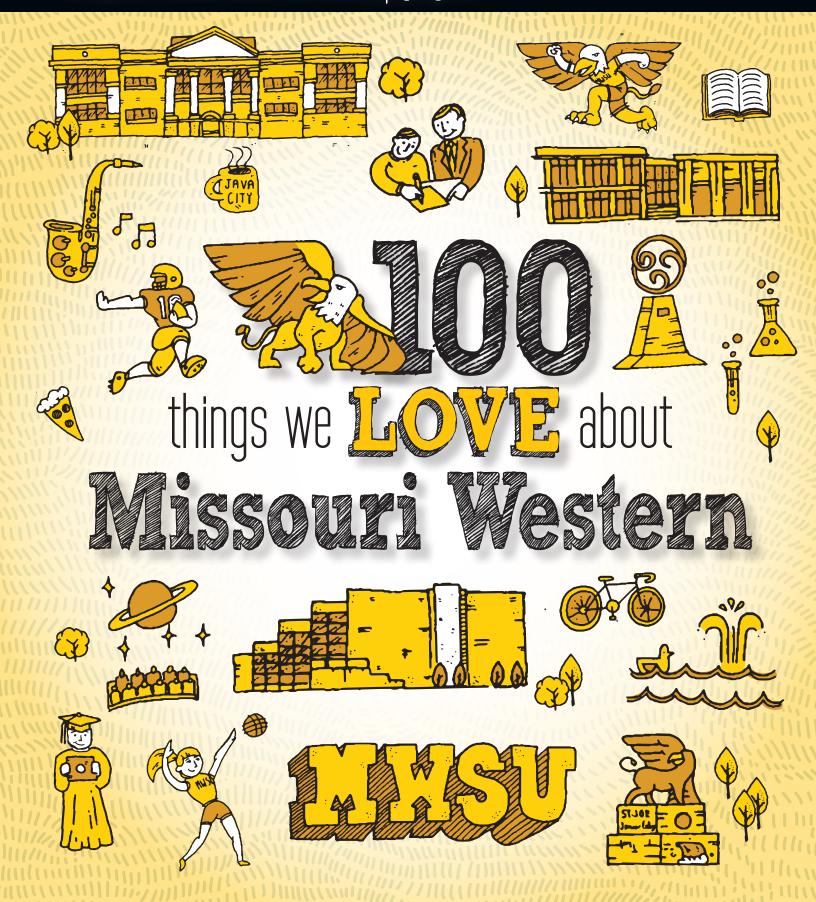
Iissouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Spring 2015







Dear Friends,

What an exciting time at Missouri Western. Our marketing slogan touts that everything is possible at Missouri Western, and that rings truer than ever as we kicked off our Centennial in January 2015.

We started our Centennial year in style that month, starting first with the announcement of the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp remaining in St. Joseph for the next three years, with two one-year options for renewal after. This was fantastic news for Missouri Western and for the St. Joseph region. The St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that 40,000 people come to Chiefs camp every summer, having an economic impact on this region of \$6.3 million annually. The camp also gives Missouri Western and St. Joseph a national platform, receiving coverage in news outlets throughout the country. The extensive media coverage of the contract renewal alone resulted in a potential viewership of 131 million in states as far flung as California, Florida, Washington and Idaho, among others, not to mention national coverage on Fox Sports and ESPN.com.

The good news continued as we held the official kickoff of Missouri Western's Centennial and Centennial Capital Campaign, a historic moment for the University. Our \$20 million initial campaign goal is record setting for Missouri Western, and our progress toward that goal has been remarkable. Thanks in part to the largest gift in Missouri Western's history, I am proud to say our campaign has already raised \$17.2 million in pledges. And we're not done yet.

In this issue, we are celebrating what we love about Missouri Western. Your passion and enthusiasm for the University is evident as we celebrate our Centennial year and the beginning of the public phase of our Centennial Capital Campaign. As Horace Mann, the father of American public education, once said, "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." As we continue creating opportunities for thousands of students from a variety of backgrounds, I think Horace Mann would be very proud of us.

Robert a. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian President

Missouri Western State University

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Cover illustrations by Ryan Sowers.

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This year, Missouri Western marks 10 years since becoming a university. Read about the long and winding road that led to the designation.

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As Missouri Western begins its second century, a Centennial Capital Campaign is underway. Read about the campaign's progress and future plans.

100 Things We Love About Missouri Western

> We asked alumni, employees and students what they love (or loved) about their 100-year-old University, and then we picked the top 100.



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

SPRING 2015 VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2

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MISSOURI WESTERN MAGAZINE

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution

New to the U: Missouri Western announces new hires

Missouri Western recently hired an associate provost of research, planning and institutional effectiveness; a director of international recruitment and global engagement; a director of

the physical plant; and a police chief.

Dr. Douglas **Davenport** began his duties as associate provost of research, planning and institutional effectiveness in January 2015. He had previously been chair of the Department of Justice Systems at Truman State University in

Kirksville, Missouri. Dr. Davenport had also served as dean of the School of Social and

Cultural Studies and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Social Science at Truman State. He chaired Truman's Higher Learning Commission Leadership Team, co-



Dr. Douglas Davenport

Ann Rahmat

chaired a Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, and led several other accreditation and assessment efforts.

Ann Rahmat was named director of international recruitment and global

> engagement and also began her duties in January.

Rahmat was senior assistant director for international recruitment in the Office of Admissions at

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, a position she had held since 2009. The number of international students at Miami increased from 348 in 2008 to

934 in 2013, with a record number of 498 undergraduate international students, including 251 first-year degree-seeking students enrolling this fall.

Jerry Gentry was named director of physical plant and began in December 2014. Gentry brings more than 10 years of experience in plant management and maintenance supervision to the role, as

well as 15 years of experience in project management. He was the facilities manager at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.

Yvonne Meyer was hired as chief of police and began her duties in February. She brings more than 20 years of emergency management

experience, including 12 years in higher education law enforcement with increasing levels of responsibility. Prior to joining Missouri Western, Meyer

> was chief of public safety at Cape Cod Community College in Massachusetts. Meyer had also served with the Parkland College Police Department for 10 years as police officer, college relations officer and police sergeant.



Jerry Gentry

Yvonne Mever

Commencement

Community member Karen Graves received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the December 2014 commencement ceremony. Graves has been an active volunteer in the community since she moved to St. Joseph in 1991, including helping to organize the first Trails West! Festival. She co-founded the Missouri Western Arts Society and served on the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors, the Outdoor Campus Committee, the search committee for the Founding Dean of the School of Fine Arts and two capital campaign advisory committees.



Campus Kudos

- Dave Tushaus, professor of legal studies, published an article in the National University of Study and Research in Law's Journal of Law and Policy. The article, "Civil Rights Liability in India and the United States: Impact on Government Policies and Procedures," was coauthored by a student Tushaus taught when he was a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India.
- The Career Development Center received the Innovative Program Honorable Mention Award from NASPA Region IV-West for its E3, Exemplary Employment Experience, initiative. NASPA is a national association for student affairs administrators in higher education.
- The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was named 2014 Student Chapter of the Year for the North Central Section of The

Wildlife Society, the sixth time the chapter has won the honor in the seven years it has been eligible.

- · Four students, Abby Sexton, Daniel Brooks, Kayla Mertz and BJ Myers, were selected to sing in the All-Collegiate Honor Choir during the 2015 Missouri Music Educators Association Conference. Two hundred singers from 31 Missouri colleges and universities were selected.
- Recipients of Missouri Western's 2015 Drum Major for Justice Awards are student Bre Watkins, community member Jeanette James and Missouri Western faculty member Dr. Pam Clary.
- Frank Thomas, retired associate professor of music, was awarded the Missouri Arts Council's Arts Education Award in February. Thomas was director of choral

activities at Missouri Western for 38 years. He is also the founder of the St. Joseph Community Chorus and serves as its director.

- The following music students placed at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition at Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas: Thomas Delgado, second and Jacob Mills, third, Music Theatre; Kaitlyn Christian, third and Donovan Jones, third, upper women and men's divisions.
- Kristen Neeley '05, assistant director of admissions-new student experience, was awarded the 2015 Outstanding Orientation, Transition and Retention Professional for Region IV of the National Orientation Directors Association.

Exceptional students: Megan Wood and Brad Douglas

Connecting with classrooms across the globe

Student Megan Wood couldn't afford hour time difference and connected to travel abroad to learn about education across the globe via Skype last May.

systems in other countries, so she did the next best thing – she brought the world to her. In the past vear, the elementary education major from Lebanon, Missouri, has developed relationships with teachers and their classes in 10 countries.

Last spring, Wood began exploring pen pal websites for teachers. Although she won't

graduate until December, she was accepted onto a site and began a relationship with a teacher in Poland who teaches English to ninth-graders. Wood recruited her mother's seventhgrade class at Joel E. Barber C-5 School in Lebanon, Missouri and the two classrooms worked around the eight-

"It took them awhile to warm up, but then someone brought up video games, and it was all good after that," Wood says with a smile. "It was a really cool experience."

Although they planned on about a 30-minute conversation, the two classes actually visited about 90 minutes. They conversed a second time last spring and continued

the conversation this past fall.

Wood believes it's been a great experience for the classes on both continents. "They (the Missouri students) realized there are people out there like them; they just speak a different language. And the foreign students get to see what it's like in the U.S. and practice the English language."

Over the summer, Wood posted a PowerPoint introducing herself on the website and asked if any teachers would be interested if she made a "Day in the Life of an American College Student" video. The response was immediate. She got affirmative replies from Poland, Indonesia, Italy, Ghana, Turkey, Spain and Brazil, so she worked with Missouri Western cinema students to create it last fall. She also received letters from students in the 10 countries and is continuing to correspond with them. She recently received a video from Russian students who appreciated the opportunity to hone their English-speaking skills.

"I just thought it would be cool to communicate with a class in another country," Wood says. "I never expected it to grow to anything like this."

She was selected to present her project at a national honors conference last month.

"Of Mice and Men" performance selected for festival

Usually, when a play is done, it's done: memorized lines are forgotten, scenery and costumes are put away, and cast and crew move on to the next production. But that wasn't the case with the Department of Theatre, Cinema and Dance production of the John Steinbeck classic "Of Mice and Men" last October.

Out of more than 200 productions considered for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region V Festival in January, "Of Mice and Men" was one of only seven productions selected, and it was the only main-stage production at the 1,100-seat Ames Center in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Once in Minnesota, adapting the

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set to the unfamiliar stage of The Ames Center took all day, leaving no time for even a brief run-through before the evening performance. In a venue holding more than twice as many people as Missouri Western's Potter Hall Theater, with no microphones to amplify the dialogue, one key focus of cast members was simply to make themselves heard.

"Every single person upped their game," said cast member Steve Catron, senior theatre and cinema major from Omaha, Nebraska. "It was like going from Triple A baseball to the major leagues in one night, and nobody missed a swing. It was astounding to see."

The reaction of the crowd was astounding, too, Catron said.

"Before the lights went out (after the last scene), you could hear the emotion," he said. "You could hear people crying, and the audience was getting to their feet. It was something I don't think any of us will forget."

That audience response validated the hard work of the cast and crew, said Dallas Henry, assistant professor of theatre and video.

"We moved an audience, and I think in the end that's why we're performers," he said. "That's why we do what we do."

Interning at the Goddard Space Flight Center

Brad Douglas

As Brad Douglas plans his career, his eves are on the sky. Since last spring, the Missouri Western student has been working as an intern at NASA's

Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The St. Joseph native is working on a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a management emphasis and has been continuing his education at Missouri Western with online courses since he started the internship.

Douglas said he found the opportunity on NASA's website and applied for the opening in March 2014. Two phone interviews and one Skype

interview later, he landed the internship and started there last May. He is part of NASA's Pathways Intern Employment Program, which Douglas hopes will lead

to a full-time position after graduation.

According to its website, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center builds spacecraft, instruments and new technology to study Earth, the sun, the solar system and the universe. Douglas says he loves working at the complex where employees are building the successor to the

Hubble telescope.

"It's cool to be in this environment. There are a lot of smart people," he said.



10 years as a university: A look back

The year 2005 is significant for Missouri Western – that was the year legislation was signed to designate Missouri Western State College as Missouri Western State University.

Missouri Western officially became a university on Aug. 28, 2005, and the new University celebrated with an unveiling of a changed entrance sign, bands, a carnival, fireworks and an ice cream social. There was even a ceremony to unveil the "U" that had replaced the "C" in the gravel MWSC sign on the hillside facing the interstate.

On Aug. 31, a formal ceremony to mark university designation was held in the Looney Complex. Former presidents Dr. M.O. Looney and Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy attended the academic convocation, and they were the first to receive honorary degrees from the now-University.

Dr. James Scanlon, president from 2000-2008, said university designation was not on his agenda when he arrived to begin his tenure, but he wasn't president very long before it became very important to him.

"We were already a university in fact, just not in name," he said at the time. "When I saw what the potential of university designation could be, I realized it was necessary."

The issue of university designation was brought before the state General Assembly several times before it became a reality, and the initiative entailed many discussions, legislative bills and hard work by many legislators, Missouri Western administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members.

Talk of university designation for Missouri Western actually dated back to the late 1980s, when local legislators brought up the issue in the General Assembly, but it quickly died out for lack of support.

In 1997, Dr. Alice Chandler, former president of State University of New



York at New Paltz, was hired as a consultant at Missouri Western, and one of her recommendations in the report was to change the name of the College to Missouri Western State University. Dr. Murphy McCarthy, who was president at the time, noted to the Board of Regents, "That is a topic that the legislature does not want to hear."

A year later, Rep. Charlie Shields filed legislation to change the "College" in Missouri Western's name to "University," but it was not supported by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Dr. Scanlon reported at the February 2002 Board of Regents meeting that several name change bills had been introduced in the state's General Assembly, and one or more of the bills could allow Missouri Western to be a university. The House approved one of the bills, and so did the Senate's Committee on Education, but the full Senate did not vote on it. Dr. Scanlon later reported at a Board of Regents meeting that the Senate was too busy focusing on the deterioration of state finances to vote on the university designation bill.

More name change bills were introduced in the 2003 legislative session, which would have allowed Missouri Western and Missouri

Southern in Joplin to become universities. One bill got as far as being considered by the full Senate, but faced opposition and didn't pass.

In 2004, for the third year in a row, a name change bill emerged in the State Legislature. That year, State Sen. Charlie Shields introduced the bill for university designation for Missouri Western. Dr. David Arnold, who was vice president for academic and student affairs, and Ryan Sevcik '04, Student Government Association president in 2002-03, testified in the Senate committee. The bill was approved by the Senate committee, but before it went to the full Senate, it became connected to proposed name changes for other higher education institutions in the state.

Although there was no opposition voiced for Missouri Western's name change, there was opposition to other institution's name changes, so the bill did not pass.

"In the 'all or nothing at all' environment that developed in the Senate regarding name changes," Dr. Scanlon told the Board of Regents at its May 2004 meeting, "nothing at all' prevailed."

When the 2004 Legislature closed with no university bill passed, Dr. Scanlon noted at the May Board of Regents meeting, "Western has the

at the road to university designation

profile of a university. In most other states, Western would long ago have been designated a university. Only the politics of Missouri and Missouri public higher education stand in the way of university designation for Western. We will continue to work with the politics to bring justice to Western and the region that it serves. Without question, university designation for Western is fundamental to the economic future of this region."

As the State Legislature prepared for its 2005 session, the Alumni Association Board of Directors passed a resolution supporting Missouri Western's efforts to obtain university designation, and the College developed a web page where alumni could express their support. When the legislators were in session, students delivered 1,600 letters to them requesting support for the designation.

The session opened with a lot of activity regarding name change bills. The Senate's committee on education held hearings on two different bills, one that addressed only Missouri Western, and one that addressed Missouri Western, Missouri Southern, Harris Stowe in St. Louis, and Southwest Missouri State in Springfield.

On Feb. 15, after 14 hours of debate, the Senate passed an omnibus bill – Senate Bill 98 – that included the name change provisions for the four institutions, and the bill moved to the House. There it passed on March 1, and Gov. Matt Blunt signed it into law March 17 in Springfield, Mo. A ceremonial signing was held on Missouri Western's campus March 19 in the Kemper Recital Hall in Spratt Hall.

Several students traveled with Beth Wheeler '77, director of External Relations, to Jefferson City, Missouri in late March, visiting offices to thank the legislators for their support.

"The signing of the bill passed by the Missouri General Assembly is the result of many years of effort by



Page 6, the gravel "C" was replaced with a "U" in 2005. Above, Gov. Matt Blunt at a ceremonial signing for university designation. Below, former presidents Dr. M.O. Looney and Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy joined Dr. James Scanlon at the academic convocation to celebrate University designation.

many individuals," Dr. Scanlon said.
"The university designation effort was
mounted by individuals in the Western
family and well beyond the Western
family."

"Dr. Scanlon's leadership in communicating Western's accom-

plishments to the State Legislature and community helped promote this change," Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dan Nicoson said in 2005. "He put a lot of pieces in place for that to happen."



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THE MAGAZINE OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY | Spring 2015

Looking to the second century: Missouri Western's master plan

A comprehensive master planning initiative is a component of Missouri Western's vision as it begins its second century, and the University received the results of that initiative from consultants Clark | Huesemann this spring.

Ann Pearce, special assistant to the president and chair of the master plan steering committee, said the 10-year plan will help guide the University's decisions regarding new construction and renovation, traffic patterns, accessibility, environmental stewardship, parking, land development, and classroom and other space utilization. The plan also addressed priorities and urgent needs.

"The consultants have been tremendous to work with," she said. "It was a very good process."

Along with consultants spending many days on campus last year, several students were given disposable cameras and asked to take photos all over campus, including their favorite spot, their least favorite spot, a great place to study, what helps them succeed, and what needs improvement.

Junior Sarah Gibler kept a camera for almost two weeks. She talked to her friends who lived on campus and posted questions on her facebook page for more student input. "I enjoy helping people, and I was excited that administrators wanted to know what I thought," she said.

For a photo of what on campus helps her succeed, Gibler gathered a few of her professors together for a group photo. "I thought a lot about that question, and finally decided it was my professors who help me succeed. That was fun."

Art education major Maggie Reil carried a camera around with her, also. Her favorite spots on campus are Potter Hall and the Blum Union, where she spends most of her time. "I had never



really thought about the questions they asked before, so I had to think about some of my answers," she said.

Results of the initiative include a design concept of the campus, a comprehensive campus analysis, and an extensive master plan report.

Throughout the process, the

Goals of the master planning initiative:

- Address basic and urgent needs
- Enhance the educational experience
- Strengthen connections to the community
- Develop a cohesive University community
- Build financial sustainability
- Create pride of place

consultants gave campus and community members several opportunities to voice their opinions, including presenting several design alternatives for feedback. An initial design, which placed all new construction in the main campus area, was approved at the December 2014 Board of Governors meeting.

"This design works best for the University and its current financial situation," said Pearce of the one selected. "It is a plan that we could possibly make happen."

Three findings of the master planning process include the need for a new stadium, more performance space for students in the arts, and additional student recreation space.

At the November 2014 Board of Governors meeting, the board approved a statement of intent to proceed with a \$5.5 million auxiliary system revenue bond issue to pay for improvements to the stadium. That project is also a

Master Plan Steering Committee

Kevin Anderson
Jeanne Daffron
Jeff Ellison AIA
Cale Fessler
Jerry Gentry
Daniel Hager
Carol Hare
Brian Harrah
Lonnie Johnson
David Liechti
Shana Meyer
Kurt McGuffin
Ann Pearce
Bruce Whitsell
Ex officio: Robert Vartabedian

focal point of the Centennial Capital Campaign (see p. 12). Several gifts have already been received for the stadium project.

Additional performance space is also a strategic focus of the Centennial Capital Campaign. As

part of the master planning process, 10 peer universities in the region were benchmarked for performance facilities, and Missouri Western was the only one to lack a large performance hall. Missouri Western also provides the lowest number of total performance seating per student than any of the other universities in the study.

The consultants compared Missouri Western with Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Missouri Southern State University, Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Pittsburg State University, Truman State University, University of Central Missouri and Washburn University.

The analysis also noted that indoor recreation courts are not available for student use for several hours per day, unlike Missouri Western's peer institutions.

To address this issue, the consultants recommended additions to the Baker Family Fitness Center and the Looney Complex. The design also includes intramural fields behind the residence

halls and a building nearby for restrooms.

In July 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon signed a land lease bill which opens up opportunities for Missouri Western to enter into long-term leases on its 723-acre campus, so the master plan report lists six areas that can potentially be developed through long-term leasing.

Pearce said the University has already received some proposals for development of some of those areas.

The report also addresses campus needs if enrollment continues to increase. Those projects include more space for dining facilities, additions to current residence halls or the addition of an eighth residence hall. Pearce said if University personnel consider building another residence hall, they will look at a range of student needs, such as family or international student housing, in addition to traditional student housing.

"The master plan identifies real needs," Pearce said. "I don't think it will be a plan that just sits on a shelf."



Super Science Saturday

More than 1,300, a record crowd, attended the 2015 Super Science Saturday, a partnership between the St. Joseph Museums and Missouri Western. The annual event, held in Remington Hall, features demonstrations and activities in the sciences, mathematics and psychology by Missouri Western academic departments and area high schools.

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THE MAGAZINE OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY | Spring 2015

Vartabedian gift provides endowment for memorial's future

The Walter Cronkite Memorial and the show "Cronkite" were the visions of Dr. Robert Vartabedian. Missouri Western's president sought to create a fitting memorial to St. Joseph's beloved native son and one of the most important and trusted voices in the country. Now, Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian have taken a step toward securing the future of that vision by creating a permanent endowment to support the memorial.

"I have been a lifelong admirer of Walter Cronkite," Dr. Vartabedian said. "Since my academic area is communication, my admiration of Mr. Cronkite has only grown over the years. I hope this gift will allow people to continue to learn from his example for years to come."

Last year, the Vartabedians made a personal financial commitment of \$144,000 to Missouri Western, and \$100,000 of this gift will be used to establish a permanent, endowed fund to support the Walter Cronkite Memorial.

In brief

- The Walter Cronkite Memorial continues to grow and evolve. Future plans include a re-creation of Cronkite's studio at CBS on the second floor of Spratt Hall overlooking the atrium, and expanded exhibits.
- · So that more of the artifacts relating to Cronkite and the events he covered can be displayed, the contents of at least one of the Memorial's display cases will be changed on a regular basis. Below is a tentative schedule of the revolving display:
 - o May-June: World War II
 - o July-August: NASA and the moon landing
 - o September-October: Presidents and political conventions
 - o November-December: The 1960s
- Plan a field trip: The Walter Cronkite Memorial can be the centerpiece of a half-day field trip for schools or other groups. The package includes a guided tour of the Memorial (with Dr. Vartabedian, by arrangement), a Cronkite-narrated program on the exploration of the moon in the Bushman Planetarium, the "Cronkite" multimedia presentation, lunch and a campus tour. Call (816) 271-4100 for more information.



"Cronkite" holds performances



--- WALTER-**CRONKITE** MEMORIAL

Three public showings of "Cronkite," a live multimedia performance about legendary journalist Walter Cronkite, were held this spring.

"Cronkite" is a one-man show adapted from an appearance by the legendary newsman on CNN's "Larry King Live" in September 2002. As he reflected on the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Cronkite also recalled other major events he covered, including World War II, the Vietnam War and

the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The 23-minute show incorporates audio, video and still photographs to bring those historic events to life.

The part of Cronkite is played by Jim Korinke, a member of the Actors' Equity Association. Korinke has been a professional actor for 42 years, having performed in more than 120 stage performances. He has also appeared in some two dozen feature films and hundreds of commercials. He was the voice of Walmart for four years.

The show was conceived and edited by Dr. Robert Vartabedian and directed by Dr. Bob Willenbrink, founding dean of the School of Fine Arts. The shows are scheduled periodically and are free and open to the public. Performances can also be arranged for tour groups and field trips by calling (816) 271-4100.





Softball and baseball

At the end of March, the softball team, coached by Jen Trotter, was ranked No. 17 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll after winning its last 12 games. It was the first time in the season the team has appeared in the top 25 poll. The team's record was 21-9 at the time.

Senior Tiffany Gillaspy was named Louisville/Slugger NFCA Division II National Player of the Week for games played over March 16-22. The

Johnston, Iowa native batted .529 and slugged 1.059 to help the Griffons win all 10 games that week. The senior infielder was 18-for-34 at the plate with four doubles, four home runs and a triple. She knocked in 15 runs, scored 12 times and did not strike out in 35 plate appearances. She was also the MIAA Hitter of the Week.

The baseball team, coached by Buzz Verduzco, was 16-9 overall record and 11-5 in the MIAA at press time.

Basketball recap

Men's basketball completed the 2014-15 season with a 71-58 win over Southwest Baptist University. The win wrapped up the team's regular season with a 12-14 overall record and an 8-11 mark in MIAA play. The men played in the first round of the MIAA tournament as the No.10 seed. The Griffon men are coached by Brett Weiberg.

The Griffon women secured a home game in the opening round of the MIAA tournament with a 78-65 win over Southwest Baptist University. The team finished the regular season with a 14-11 overall record and a 9-10 mark in MIAA play. They won their first MIAA tournament game against Lincoln University 80-56 in the fieldhouse and advanced to Kansas City to take on second-seeded Emporia State University.

The women are coached by Rob Edmisson.



Charity Golf Classic

13th annual Missouri Western **Charity Golf Classic**

June 6 - Social and Auction, St. Jo Frontier Casino

June 8 - Golf Classic, St. Joseph Country Club

All proceeds benefit the YWCA Shelter and MWSU Athletics

Gold Coat Victory Fund – help us expand the Griffon Nation

With a new Spratt Memorial Stadium on the horizon, more than ever, it's a great time to be a Griffon. Gold Coat members help the athletic programs provide a first-class experience to student athletes by contributing support for sports programs, facilities and academic success. To become a member of the Gold Coat Victory Fund, log on to gogriffons.com or call the MWSU Athletics office at (816) 271-4481.

CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

Missouri Western's Centennial
Capital Campaign kicked off in
January 2015 with a \$20 million
initial celebration goal and three
campaign goals: investment in campus
facilities, investment in Missouri
Western's endowment and investment
in academic and co-curricular
programming.

"Our centennial year offers us a unique opportunity to reflect with pride on all that the University has accomplished, and to plan with anticipation the next 100 years," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "The Centennial Capital Campaign is an important part of that planning for the future."

At press time, the campaign has raised \$17.2 million, including a \$10 million pledge for the Missouri Western Foundation's general endowment from an alumnus who lives in St. Joseph and wishes to remain anonymous.

Potter Hall and Spratt Memorial Stadium are the two of the signature facility projects of the Centennial Capital Campaign.

POTTER HALL

The University's strategic plan and campus master plan (see p. 8) identified Potter Hall renovations as a critical need for the University because of the crowded conditions and the age of the building. Renovations to Potter Hall have been identified as a funding priority at the state level for almost 20



years, and the campaign aims to address as many needs as possible.

Needs for the facility include a large performance hall, additional classroom space, larger gallery space and additional natural light studios. Additionally, the facility needs upgrades to its HVAC and other systems to ensure Potter Hall's structural integrity for years to come.

Last year, University reserves funded a circle drive, additional restrooms and a percussion room in Potter Hall.

"There is much work still to do, and Missouri Western is committed to improving the facilities for our students in the arts and for our region," said Dr. Robert Willenbrink, founding dean of the School of Fine Arts.

One of the largest components of the proposed Potter Hall renovations

is the performance hall. Currently, the Potter Hall theater seats 430 and is used for both music and theatre performances. Often, Missouri Western musical ensembles are required to hold concerts off campus because of lack of available space.

"We envision creating one of the region's leading performance centers," said Dr. Vartabedian. "This performance space will help Missouri Western recruit the best and brightest students and will serve as a resource for our region, further integrating the University with the regional arts community."

As part of the master planning process, peer universities in the region were benchmarked for

Below and right, Conceptual drawing of plans for Potter Hall renovation.





100 YEARS of TRANSFORMING LIVES

performance facilities. Missouri
Western's competitors typically provide
three performance venues on campus,
including one large facility seating of
more than 1,000, one medium venue
seating around 400 and at least one
small venue between 100-250 seats.
Missouri Western is the only university
of the 10 compared universities to lack
a large performance hall. Missouri
Western also provides the lowest
number of total performance seating
per student enrollment than any of the
benchmark universities.

Another priority of the Potter Hall project is increased gallery space. Internationally known local sculptor Brent Collins recently notified the Foundation that his lifetime of work

will be on permanent loan to Missouri Western, amplifying the need for a lobby and gallery space to accommodate his collection, creating a point of pride for the region. This space will provide an elegant reception area for University and community use.

Graphic design classroom space is also a critical need for Potter Hall, said Dr. Willenbrink. Currently, a graphic design lab is located in a hallway.

"The majority of the funds must come from private donations, so completion of these projects is contingent on securing the private funding," said Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the Foundation.

SPRATT MEMORIAL STADIUM

Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics, believes the renovation of Spratt Memorial Stadium will help create a

great fan experience, be an effective recruiting tool and put the stadium at the top of the University's athletic conference. "Everyone will benefit," he says.

Work includes new turf for the field, removing the track that currently surrounds the field, moving the visitor side bleachers closer to the field and replacing the seating on the home side.

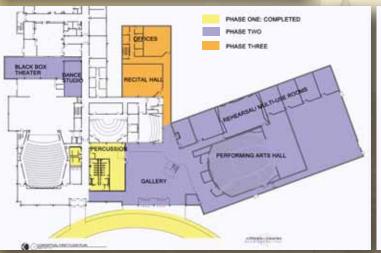
AN INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS IS AN INVESTMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

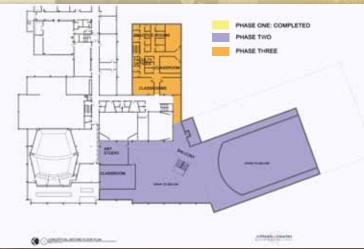
The National Endowment for the Arts released data showing that 54 percent of Americans saw a show, attended a live performance or viewed an art exhibition in 2012, accounting for \$700 billion in economic activity or 4.32 percent of the GDP. In St. Joseph, the Allied Arts Council found that in 2011-2012, the nonprofit arts were a \$10.9 million industry in St. Joseph that supports 489 full-time equivalent jobs.

McGuffin said bringing fans closer to the field and a new video board will take the Griffon fan experience to a new level.

The project also includes a three-story addition to the stadium. The first floor will feature a new concourse area with a ticket office, team store, two concession stands and larger restrooms. The new Stadium Club, which will be two to three times larger than the current space, will also be on the first floor.

The second floor will house individual suites, and McGuffin said he had verbal commitments for 12 by March 2015. All will contain both continued on pg 14





CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

indoor and outdoor seating and a serving area.

The second floor will also feature restrooms and a full kitchen, and a Hall of Fame room that will seat 175 for a meal. This room will be available for community rentals.

The third level will include a

control room for the video board, a coaches' suite and a press box.

McGuffin noted that the master planning consultants identified the renovation of the stadium as an urgent need. In November 2014, the Board of Governors approved a statement of intent to proceed with a \$5.5 million

auxiliary system revenue bond issue to pay for improvements to the stadium. McGuffin said he is hoping private donations designated for the stadium project will allow the University to pay off the bonds early.

"We've already had some great gifts," he said. "We're very proud of that."

Conceptual drawing of renovation plans for Spratt Memorial Stadium.



FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$260,000 BEQUEST

The Missouri Western State University Foundation was notified that it was the recipient of approximately \$260,000 from the estate of Dr. Algalee Pool Adams. The gift is designated for scholarships for elementary education majors. Dr. Adams was a 1939 graduate of the St. Joseph Junior College. She established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust before she passed away in 2002, and the Foundation received the funds after Dr. Adams' daughter passed away last year.

Dr. Adams earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of

Missouri-Columbia and her doctorate from Pennsylvania State University.

She held full professorial rank and tenure at St. Cloud University in Minnesota, the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, and Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She concluded her career as the dean of Firelands College of conscious of the differences between Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Adams received the Citation of Merit for Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service in Education from the College of Education Alumni Association of the University of Missouri, and received the Missouri

Western Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001.

In 2000, Dr. Pool Adams established an endowed scholarship in Missouri Western's Department of Education for elementary education majors.

"Early in my teaching career, I was creative teaching and other more traditional philosophies and methods," Dr. Adams said at the time she set up the endowed scholarship. "This awareness and concern led to the development of my professional goal to have a broad impact on the quality of teaching."

ENDOWMENT GIFT FOR CRONKITE MEMORIAL

Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian are committed to the future of the Walter Cronkite Memorial. They designated their \$100,000 gift to establish a permanent, endowed fund to support the memorial.

Last year, the Vartabedians pledged \$144,000 to create the President's Centennial Circle, and recently designated \$100,000 of that commitment for the endowment fund.

The Walter Cronkite Memorial, which opened in 2013, was the vision of Dr. Robert Vartabedian, who sought to create a fitting memorial to St. Joseph's beloved native son and one of the most important and trusted voices in the country.

"Endowment funds provide a stable, permanent source of critically needed resources," said Jerry Pickman'85, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation. "We're grateful that the Vartabedians have made this commitment to ensure that the Walter Cronkite Memorial will continue to educate and inspire."

PRESIDENT'S CENTENNIAL CIRCLE

The President's Centennial Circle was established in 2014 with a gift from Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian. The circle recognizes donors that have gifted or pledged \$100,000 or more to the University.

Algalee Adams '39† Altec Industries, Inc. Aquila, Inc. Aramark Betty Baker† Ruth Baker Dorothy Baldwin '17† Barnes & Noble Bookstore Beavers Charitable Trust Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. R. Dan and Dale Boulware David† and Shirley Bradley Wayne Chatham and Nanette Modis Chatham John and Julia Comello Charitable Trust Commerce Bank Steve Craig Dick'54 and Mignon DeShon Dodd Foundation Helene Droher† LeRoy Eaton† Ellison-Auxier Architects, Inc. W. Fairleigh Enright Charitable Fund Doug and Susan Esson Earl† and Elmyra '45 † Euler Ethel Farthing† Rod'48† and Anne Fletcher Jane and Lyman Frick

Marie Fulkerson† The Goppert Foundation Joe'42 and Anne† Gray Pete and Staci '92 Gray Gray Manufacturing Heartland Foundation Herzog Contracting Corp. Robert† and Alberta† Hesnault Hiller Family Foundation Hillyard Industries Edward Hirsch'33† Hofheimer Charitable Trust Herb '35†and Peggy† Iffert Initiative for a Competitive Inner City Kansas City Inc. Eugenet and Peggyt Juda KCP&L Kansas City Chiefs RC Kemper Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee William T. Kemper Foundation -Commerce Bank, Trustee John E. Kirschner Educational Trust Steve Koenig and Ann Condron Mike and Peggy Lane Lawns Unlimited - Zack '74 and Mary '76 Workman Leah Spratt Charitable Trust Barbara Leaverton†

MeadWestvaco Harry F. Messick Charitable Trust Kenneth† and Marian†Mitchell Heartland Health/Mosaic Life Care Nestle Purina Petcare Co. Nodaway Valley Bank Optimist Club of St. Joseph Pepsi Beverages Company Alice Phelan'45† Brent'82 and Susie Porlier Quaker Oats Company Pete Reiplinger'34† Wes and Patsy'79 Remington Louis '28† and Roberta† Riemer Simon† and Monya† Rositzky The St. Joseph Mo. Ecclesia St. Joseph News-Press Frank† and Marcelline† Smith John† and Virginia '31† Suesens Thanksgiving Fund Lloyd Thomann '35† US Bank Robert and Laurel Vartabedian John Vaselakos† Ed Vincent '39† Bob and Susan Willenbrink William Wright

+ Denotes deceased





Dare to Dream

Renowned performer Betti O. and student Thomas Delgado performed at a Centennial Arts event, "Dare to Dream." The event, held at the Paradox Theatre in downtown St. Joseph, gave attendees a sneak peek of Missouri Western's vision for Potter Hall renovation if funding is attained.

To celebrate our centennial, we asked alumni, employees and students what they love about their 100 year-old university.



The St. Joseph Junior College formed a basketball team in

1916, and the institution has never been without a team since. Until football began in 1970, Homecoming was always held around a basketball game.

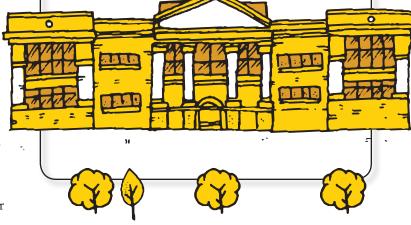


Nos. 3 & 4

The outdoor basketball court behind the residence halls get lots of use, and it was recently resurfaced. When the weather turns cold, the Looney Complex courts are great for intramurals or a pick-up game.

No.2 The Concrete Campus

The building at 10th and Edmond Streets, where the St. Joseph Junior College resided from 1933-1969, was affectionately known as the Concrete Campus by students. The Junior College created a lot of great memories for students and laid an outstanding foundation for Missouri Western today.





"My favorite thing about Missouri Western is the beautiful campus. I absolutely love lacing up my tennis shoes and walking around campus after work. As I walk, I reflect on how the campus has grown from when I was a student. From the fountain in front of Eder Hall, to the gorgeous walking trails, I always leave campus thinking how proud I am to call MWSU my home."

- Kristen Neeley '05 Assistant Director of Student Programs



Always popular with school groups

and students since it opened in 1969, the planetarium was transformed into a stateof-the-art immersive theater in 2011. It's now more popular than ever.



Our six large outdoor sculptures add to the campus beauty and ambience.

The Phi Sigs shot off the cannon at football games in the 1980s, and now it's back! It was also shot off at the May 2014 Commencement Ceremony in Spratt Memorial Stadium.

Caring Colleagues

"I have been here many years, and I love the closeness felt among the co-workers – the loyalty and caring attitude, and the willingness to give when needed."

- Wonda Berry '84 Recreation Services Director

No.16 Center for Multicultural Education

Students love all the activities planned by the Center for Multicultural Education, including events for Martin Luther King Jr. Week, American Indian History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Unity Vigils.

It's nice to walk across campus and hear one of the 111 songs that are programmed into the Glenn E. Marion Clock Tower. It's also nice to be driving north of campus and see the clock tower from several blocks away.



When you walk under the clock tower, be sure to walk around the seal. Legend has it if a student steps on the seal, they won't graduate. Often, new graduates make it a point to walk under the clock tower one last time so they can walk on the seal!



Lots of sidewalks make it an easy walk (or bike ride) to anywhere on campus.





Commencement day. Rain, snow or

sunshine, it's always a great day!

No. 20

Community Service

Serving the community is a commitment that our students and employees take seriously, volunteering in the community more than 120,000 hours yearly.

No. 2'

Computer Labs

In every academic building.
And free printing!

No.

Cronkite Memorial

The 5,000 sq. ft. nod to St. Joseph's native son opened in 2013, and it's impressive. Check it out!



No, we don't love a crime scene. CSI stands for Center for Student Involvement, a great resource center that assists student organizations with graphic design, buttons, copying, marketing, meeting space and more.

No. 24 Disc Golf

Here's an online review of Missouri Western's great 18-hole disc golf course: Good variety with a mix of slope and hazards. Large gully to the right of 1-5 is a disc eater.



Eder Fountain

The fountain south of Eder Hall makes a nice first impression as visitors come onto campus from the main entrance. Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority holds a float-a-thon in the fountain each year as a fundraiser for its national charity.



No.26 Entrepreneurs

Not many universities offer students the opportunity to become entrepreneurs upon graduation. Our unique entrepreneurship program makes us proud!



No.27 Our Faculty

Yes, it's clichéd, but time and again, students tell us how much their professors care, and how they go out of their way to make sure students succeed. Students also say how much they appreciate the accessibility of their professors.

"Our teachers in Criminal Justice were always available for questions, during and after classes! In general my experience was great, and I have fond memories of the years I went to MWSU. I love my alma mater!" - Lilia White '12

"I loved the one-on-one attention I received from all my professors. I was able to meet with them during their office hours. I also developed professional relationships with some of my professors, and used them as references for job interviews after I graduated." - Joe Byer'11

No. 28 Family Day

Family Day has been a longstanding tradition because students love to welcome their parents and siblings to campus for a fun-filled day that ends with a Griffon football game. In 2015, Family Day will be combined with a Founders' Day celebration as part of Missouri Western's Centennial celebration.



It's hard to find a time when there is not someone fishing at Everyday Pond, which brings us to,

Nos. 30-38



We love our nine ponds on campus!

hidden in the 200 acres of wooded area, but three are in the main campus area and sport pretty fountains.

No. 39

Fitness Center

The Fitness Center features lots of great equipment and no membership cost for students and employees. The building has been expanded and renovated twice in its 21 year-old life. It's a great facility!

{No.40} Foam, Foam, Foam

For the past few years, students have kicked off the new school year with a foam party. It is so much fun, it earned a place on the list of things they love about Missouri Western!

No. 41 Footlights

The talent show at the St. Joseph Junior College was a popular attraction for more than three decades. Costumes and elaborate sets were always part of the fun. In fact, all of Missouri Western's arts programs have provided entertainment for the campus and community throughout our entire 100 years.



No. 42 Forensics

Missouri Western forensics students qualified for national tournaments almost every year that the program was on campus until the early 2000s. A debate and forensics program returned in 2013.







Freshman Move-in Day

Never mind that the outside temperature is always hovering around at least 90 degrees; the brand new students are always excited.



No. 44 Friends for Life

It's true. Everyone says it.

Frog Hop Ballroom

The Frog Hop Ballroom opened on Pickett Road in St. Joseph in 1928, and featured big-name bands and acts for more than 50 years. The ballroom was a popular spot for St. Joseph Junior College students. The Frog Hop Ballroom had several owners and locations before it closed in 1978.



The Gospel Extravaganza was a wonderful event where Gospel groups from all over the region performed at Missouri Western. The event was held annually for almost two decades.



weeks out of the year, and students enjoy it the other 49!

Griffon Indoor Sports Complex A full-size indoor football field, oak lockers, hydrotherapy pools, and great strength and conditioning equipment – what's not to like? The Kansas City Chiefs use the facility three

Homecoming



It's a big and wonderful tradition of the fall semester. With royalty, parades, games, bonfires and football, it's a great time for both students and alumni. Centennial Homecoming Week 2015 is Oct. 12-17.

Greeks Greek life is thriving at

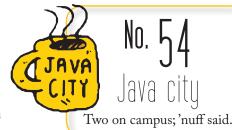
Missouri Western! "For me it was sorority. I'm an Alpha Gamma Delta, and I loved everything we did. It was such a blast and I learned so much." - Tona Williams '00

Internships

For a lot of students, internships lead to full-time jobs. (Read about an alumnus whose internship as a student led to a great career on p. 30, and read about a student who is currently experiencing an amazing internship on p. 5.)

International Student Services

Not only do students love the increasing internationalization of campus, but they say the International Student Services office helps international students adjust to Missouri Western college life when they are so far from home.



How cool is a mascot that is not only rare, but has a wonderful, symbolic meaning behind it? The Griffon was chosen in the 1917-18 academic year because the mythical creature is a guardian of treasure, and education was considered a precious treasure.

The University has the original doodles of a Griffon, drawn by Norman Knight '18. The 1918 yearbook is also full of signed drawings of the Griffon by Knight.

No. 58 Kansas City Chiefs

We all love getting up close and personal with the Kansas City Chiefs at their summer training camp on campus. In 2015, the Chiefs signed a contract to return to campus for

Junior College Reunion

Every spring, every year, always a great time.

No. 56 Junior College Room Mural

It's busy and colorful, and it shows the wonderful history of the St. Joseph Junior College in the Junior College Room in the Blum Union. There are several iterations of the Griffon in the mural and photos of faculty members who taught at the Junior College.



We love the new gathering space by the Blum Union, especially the phone chargers and outlets.

Kelley Commons

three more years.



No. 59 Lots of Land With approximately 250-300 acres currently in use, the University has lots of room to grow. A master planning initiative was completed this past spring to look at ideas for usage for all 723 acres (see p. 8).

What a deal for students - free admission to home games for them and their families a free concession item at home games and two free road trips to away games.

No. 61 Max's Mart

It's late. You're hungry. You don't feel like leaving campus. You don't have to! The Max's Mart convenience store in the residential commons building is open until 1 a.m. and has incredible stonebaked pizza.

On the last day of classes, a midnight breakfast is held each semester to kick off finals week. Students are up that late studying anyway, right?

No. 65

The New Sidewalk

Who knew the residence halls were so close to the Conservation Department building? We know now, thanks to the sidewalk that was built in 2014 to connect them. It's now an easy, short walk between the two!



Mr. MWSC/MWSU

The contests have been held since 1998 as a fundraiser for Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority's charity, complete with swimwear, formal wear and talent competitions. Guaranteed fun and lots of laughs.



The Mystics have been known by several names over the years - Griffonettes, Glitter Girls, Griffettes, Golden Griffon Girls and Golden Girls, to name a few. Whatever their name, they have always been a great addition to the marching band and pep band at athletic events.

No.66 Original Softball Fields

The softball fields opened on campus in 1995 where Lot I is today (southwest of the stadium).



"I know you will hear this a thousand times, but it's the people! The students, the faculty, the staff everyone who has a part of making MWSU a really fine place. Each individual does his or her part to ensure that everyone is given a chance to become something that maybe he or she did not think was possible. That is what a true university is all about; caring people helping other people become better and those people then doing the same."

- Tom Schneider '64

POD

Provisions on Demand – that's the Popplewell Deli now. It's super convenient and offers lots of choices.

No. 69 Potato Cannons

Yes, the Department of Chemistry's Chemathon for high school students has featured potato cannon competitions, along with a host of other games, chemical reactions and experiments in its 37-year history.



Back in the early days of the St. Joseph Junior College, students annually held Prowl Day, a chance to skip school and enjoy the now-gone amusement park at Lake Contrary.

Residence Halls

They are a cozy home-away-fromhome on campus. And every room has a bathroom, making your friends at other schools jealous.

No. 71 Quality of Education

When asked what they love about Missouri Western, this is what students responded. Yes, the education is high quality and will get you where you want to go – everything is possible!

Don't own a racquet but want to play on the racquetball courts in the Looney Complex? No problem, equipment can be checked out.

We love the city that Missouri Western calls home. Not only do students and

employees enjoy all the amenities of St. Joseph, they also enjoy the strong community support.

Remington Hall Labs

To the delight of students and faculty alike, Remington Hall and its state-of-the-art labs opened in 2010.

{No. 7 Senior Day}

Toward the end of the season in every sport, seniors on the team are recognized for their leadership. The teams love it, the coaches love it, the seniors love it, their parents love it and the fans love it.

Nos.77-86 10 Sports Teams

We love our Griffon athletes! Missouri Western offers 10 sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, football, men's and women's golf, women's soccer, softball, and tennis and volleyball.

No.87 Spratt Memorial Stadium

A lot of great memories have been made in Spratt Memorial Stadium. It is currently undergoing a complete renovation, which promises to offer an even more awesome game-day experience for Griffon fans.

Spring Concert

Every year since 2004, the Western Activities Council has sponsored a big-name spring concert in the St. Joseph Civic Arena, and the 2015 concert featured Ludacris. Blake Shelton's concert in 2009, which included a surprise performance by Miranda Lambert, drew the largest crowd to date -2,730.

Synthetic Biology Research

This impressive, cutting-edge research has given Missouri Western recognition across the globe and earned more than \$2 million in national grants.

No.93 Science Kermis

The definition of kermis is a carnival or fair, and the St. Joseph Junior College held

Missouri

Science Kermises to show off its science programs for many years. We loved it because they were well attended by the community, and because "science kermis" is just fun to say.

No. 89 Spring Sports Complex

When the beautiful playing fields for softball and baseball opened up on the north campus in 2011, the baseball team came home for the first time in its history.

They are the first students that visitors meet when they come to tour campus, and the Ambassadors always make a great first impression.

No. 91 Study Abroad

With the numerous exchange agreements with international universities and a diversity of travel opportunities, studying abroad has never been easier.

Missouri Western has more than three miles of trails that allow you to enjoy nature while you exercise. Or, you can take the 1.1-mile sidewalk that goes all around the campus on Downs Drive.

Trees, Trees & More Trees

Our hundreds of trees are a major component of our beautiful campus. Just ask any alum who attended in the 1970s about the barren campus. Credit for the massive effort to plant the trees and create the beautiful landscaping goes to Glenn Marion, former professor. The clock tower was named in his memory.

No.96 University Designation

Missouri Western officially became a university in 2005. One of the benefits of the designation was the opportunity to offer graduate programs, which are thriving. (See article about the path to university designation on p. 6)

A 10-foot bronze tribute to our beloved mascot stands on a granite pedestal on the east



Yes, Missouri Western holds a multi-week Voice contest just like the television show, and the winner receives \$1,000.

NO. 33 The Way We Welcome Returning Students

"I love the way we welcome returning students! The Western Institute works with people who are working toward degree completion. It's one thing to look at the numbers, but it's another to see people improving their lives – and giving more to the community – through furthering their education. These people are an inspiration!"

- Tammy Glise '79, Administrative Coordinator, Western Institute

100 The Wildlife Society

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society rocks! It was named Student Chapter of the Year for the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society six times, including 2014, and International Chapter of the Year in 2011 and 2013. The group's advisor, Dr. Cary Chevalier was named International Advisor of the Year in 2013.



Did you ever wonder ...?

Did you ever wonder who the buildings on campus are named after? Wonder no more!

Spratt Memorial Stadium

stadium in 1979.

The stadium is named in memory

of Elliott C. Spratt, brother of Leah

Spratt. His bequest to the College

helped fund the construction of the

Looney Complex (HPER Building)
Dr. M.O. Looney was Missouri
Western's president from 1967-1983.
The building was named in his honor shortly before he left in 1983.

Wilson Hall (ET Building)

Truman Wilson was state representative for two years and in the State Senate from 1970-1990. In 1977, Sen. Wilson played a large role in the passage of a bill where the state would now fund the first two years in addition to the junior and senior years it was already funding.

Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science Potter Hall and Technology Center

The building was named in honor of Christopher S. "Kit" Bond, who assisted in procuring some of the center's funding when he was United States Senator.

Potter Hall (FA Center)

Thompson E. Potter served as president of both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. He died suddenly in 1968 and the building was named in his memory in 1969.

Popplewell Hall (A Building)

Frank S. Popplewell was a long-time beloved social sciences professor and department chair.

Eder Hall (SS/C Building)

Fred Eder served on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents.

Baker Family Fitness Center _____

Remington Hall

it was given.

The hall is named in honor of

donated \$5 million toward the

Remington Hall construction

project. It was the largest gift in

Missouri Western's history when

Wes and Patsy Remington, who

The fitness center is named after the Cecil and Ruth, and Jack and Betty Baker families because of their longtime support of Missouri Western students and Athletics.

Agenstein Hall (SM Building)

Evan R. Agenstein was a long-time science professor and department chair. He also served as president of the Board of Trustees.

Beshears Hall

The 200s Hall was renamed in 1997 in honor of Kelsy B. Beshears, an advocate for civil rights in St. Joseph and the state.

Logan Hall

The 100s hall was renamed in 1997 in honor of the John Sublett Logan Family. The Logans had five children: John Sublett, Col. John Byrne, Mary Louise, Thomas and Sheridan. Col. John Byrne helped found the Alumni Association Awards Banquet, and Sheridan Logan served as a member of the Foundation Board. Sheridan and Thomas established the John Sublett Logan Business Fellowship Program at Missouri Western.

Juda Hall

The 400s Hall was renamed in 1997 for Peggy Juda and her late husband, Eugene. The couple was honored for their devotion to nontraditional students.

Leaverton Hall

The Leaverton family supported Missouri Western for many years, and helped fund the College's adult literacy program, Pass the Power.

Vaselakos Hall

The hall is named for John and Betty Vaselakos. John was a charter member of Gold Coat Club, he served on the campaign for the lighting of Spratt Memorial Stadium and was a member of the Foundation Board.

Blum Union (SU)

Nelle Blum was dean of the St. Joseph Junior College from 1931 to 1957. She remained in St. Joseph until she died in 1991 at the age of 101.

Scanlon Hall (Living/Learning Center)

Dr. James J. Scanlon was Missouri Western's president from 2001-2008. The naming was announced at his retirement dinner.

Spratt Hall (MC Building)

Spratt Hall is named in honor of Leah Spratt '21, who had been a great supporter of the College. Also, the Leah Spratt Wing in Remington Hall is named in her memory.

Fulkerson Center

The Fulkerson Center was named for Marie Fulkerson and her late husband, Lyman. Marie funded a large portion of the cost of the Fulkerson Center.

Hearnes Center (LRC)

Murphy Hall (JGM Academic Center)

Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy was

president from 1983-2000. The

at the time she announced her

retirement.

building was under construction

Gov. Warren Hearnes was the governor of Missouri from 1965-1973, and his support helped Missouri Western become a four-year college.

From the Alumni Association President

Greetings, Griffs,

To be appointed to the Alumni Association Board is a great honor. I have no words to describe the privilege it is to lead a group consisting of 25,000 Griffons during our centennial year. This is our opportunity to shine and make a real difference, not only for our University and the City of St. Joseph, but for us as graduates of a school I'm proud to

call my alma mater.

Diane Holtz did an outstanding job of preparing a commemorative centennial edition of the Missouri Western Magazine that came out in February. If you set it aside to read at a later time, I suggest that time is now. The magazine



David Slater '82

is loaded with pictures and stories that will make you smile and reminisce no matter when you attended our University. While chances are pretty strong that I won't be around for the next centennial, I would hope that I play a part in its success.

The Centennial Capital Campaign is not only underway, but it is out of the gate like a rocket. One donor anonymously pledged \$10 million. Let me tell vou two

things: one, that person is not me; and two, their money will make an impact for the next 100 years. Mine will too. While it won't be one of the larger contributions, it will be part of what continues to make our University special.

Times are tough, so maybe you can't donate at this time. There are other

ways to help. When I screen resumes for positions at my job, one that reads "MWSU" will always be forwarded to the hiring manager. If I get a resume that could use some help, a personal call is in order. The best thing we can do as alums is to make sure our graduates get their careers started.

When you get Director of Alumni Relations Colleen Kowich's Griff Gab on Fridays, look for an opportunity to get back to campus or attend an alumni event. And if you don't like coming alone, find a former classmate and invite them.

Thanks for all you do.

David Slater '82 President, Alumni Association Parent of two Griffon grads All of us Faithful, Proud and True

Griffs on the Bayou

The St. Joseph Alumni Chapter hosted the ninth annual Griffs on the Bayou at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks in February. Left, Phyllis '56 and Byron '55 Myers; below, Alicia Saunders '88 and Annette Weeks '87.







"My favorite professor was Dr. Richard Porr '67. He was absolutely THE BEST at teaching algebra - THE BEST! Dr. Porr is kind-hearted empathetic and is a truly gifted instructor. Victoria Sample '98 Faithful, proud and true: Dr. Frances Flanagan '35

It is totally appropriate that Dr. Frances Flanagan '35 is featured as "faithful, proud and true" in a magazine issue during Missouri Western's centennial year. She was born the same year as the St. Joseph Junior College opened and has been an advocate for the Junior College and Missouri Western ever since she first walked through the doors of the Junior College as a student.

Besides being an alumna, Dr. Flanagan was a faculty member at the St. Joseph Junior College and Missouri Western, serving for six years as department chair.

She retired in 1980, and in 1982, Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western's president, asked the professor emerita of English to research and write Missouri Western's history, covering 1915 to 1983. She was given just nine months to complete the task, and she

said she put in many long hours to have the book ready for publication in time.

As part of Missouri Western's centennial, Dr. Flanagan's book will be reformatted and available online.

After Dr. Flanagan earned her associate degree from the Junior College, she began teaching elementary students in the St. Joseph School District. She earned her bachelor's degree from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kansas, and her master's and doctorate from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. She joined the faculty of the St. Joseph Junior College in 1963.

As Missouri Western celebrates its centennial year, we want to extend our best wishes to Dr. Flanagan for a happy centennial year, too, and we thank her for being faithful, proud and true to Missouri Western.

Coming Events

May 9 | Spring Commencement, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m, Looney Complex.

May 23 Alumni Day at the K, Royals vs. Cardinals.

May 30 | Missouri Western Night at the Mustangs.

June 18 | Grammy-award-winning singer/ songwriter Melissa Manchester, Missouri Theater, 7 p.m. Purchase tickets from \$12 to \$45 at missouriwestern.edu/centennial-arts. All proceeds go to the Centennial Capital Campaign.

June 19-27 Western Playhouse presents. "Into the Woods." Potter Hall Theater.

July 10-18 Western Playhouse presents, "Fantasticks," Kemper Recital Hall, Spratt Hall 101.

July 12 Junior College Reunion; includes a showing of "Fantasticks."

July 25 | Centennial Black and Gold Gala

Sept. 15 R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues featuring Tom Ridge, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., Looney Complex.

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

For more alumni events information. go to missouriwestern.edu/alumni.

Correction: In the "File of Firsts" article in the Winter 2015 issue, the first president of the Foundation was incorrectly identified. The first president in 1969 was Benton M. Calkins Jr.



Leslie Burris '11 helps with strawberry dipping at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in St. Joseph at the Mama Griffs' family event this spring.



Help Missouri Western celebrate its 100 years!

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



Merchandise

The Barnes and Noble Bookstore on campus is selling special Centennial apparel and other merchandise throughout the Centennial year.

Website

Check out Missouri Western's centennial website at missouriwestern.edu/centennial. There's plenty of history to read about and video vignettes of alumni and friends. You are also invited to share your memories or tell us about your favorite professor.

Centennial Video

As part of Missouri Western's centennial, a video is being created and will be online on the centennial website when it is completed. Be sure to check out the celebration of our history.

Don't miss the upcoming centennial festivities - a

Centennial Arts Series event featuring Melissa Manchester will be June 18 (see p. 27), the Black and Gold Gala will be held July 25, and Missouri Western's Founders' Day Celebration will be Sept. 26.

Centennial fun facts

- The basement of the Blum Student Union housed a student center known as the Rathskeller in the 1970s and an activity center for students in the 1990s. The basement has also been used for conferences and conference staff offices over the years, but it is currently not in use.
- In the 1930s, St. Joseph Junior College students sent photos of female students to Rudy Vallee and Bing Crosby, asking them to judge the Griffon Annual Beauty Queen Contest. Vallee, who judged two years, and Crosby, who judged one, sent their choices back to the Junior College to help determine the winner.
- In 1958, the Missouri Legislature considered making the Junior College a two-year branch of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, but the idea was voted down. Then, in 1963, Gov. John Dalton vetoed a bill that would establish the Junior College as a branch of the University of Missouri.
- When Leaverton Hall was built in 1991, a construction delay caused 80 students to live at the Pony Express Motel for six weeks.
- The Junior College Room in the Blum Union was once an open space with a mezzanine around it on the second floor. When the building was built, the first floor lounge was open up to the second floor.
- There have only been five library directors over Missouri Western's 100 years: Jean Trowbridge, Willie Washington, Dena Clark, Helen Wigersma and Julia Schneider '67.



A reception in January 2015 for employees and retirees kicked off Missouri Western's centennial year

1970s

Robert Roth '73 was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in January, Roth. a former member of the Board of Regents and a member of the Missouri Western Athletics Hall of Fame, is chair of the board of Hillyard in St. Joseph, Missouri. Roth helped launch the Missouri Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986 and served as its president for 10 years. He was also the initial president of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

Greg Kastner '78 was named 2014 Coach of the Year by St. Joseph Sports, Inc. Kastner is the baseball coach and athletic director at Bishop LeBlond High School in St. Joseph, Missouri. In 2014, LeBlond's baseball team won the sectional title and he was also named Class 2 MSHSAA All-State All Star head coach.

1980s

Larry Adams '80 is pastor of the United Methodist Churches of Weeping Water and Nehawka, Nebraska.

David Jackson '83 retired as a captain from the Independence, Missouri Police Department after 30 years of service.

Wayne Cavender '86 was named dean of the college at Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. He had previously been serving as an instructor and assistant to the president.

Roddy Barnes '88 performed at Paradox Theatre in St. Joseph, Missouri in December 2014. Barnes, a pianist, has performed all over the world, and his compositions have been performed by national artists.

1990s

Amy (Gray) Boswell '93 is the Life Enrichment Director at Talmage Terrace Lanier Gardens Retirement Community in Athens, Georgia. She is in charge of activities and programs.

Lana K. Nanneman '96 was promoted to Human Resources Manager at Altec Industries, Inc., St. Joseph, Missouri.

Jennifer Huffman '99 graduated with a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2014. She began a new job in 2015 with the State Historical Society of Missouri as a manuscript specialist at its

ALUMNOTES

Kansas City Research Center. She continues to work at the U.S. 8th Circuit Library in Kansas City, Missouri, as well.

2000s

Brad Nurski '01 was named the 2014 Missouri Golf Association Player of the Year last fall. He finished as a runner-up in both the Missouri Stroke Play Championship and the Payne Stewart Invitational and made it to the round of 32 at the Missouri Amateur. He also qualified for the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship. Nurski was a member of Missouri's entry into the U.S. State Team Championship in Indiana, and the team finished fourth out of 52 teams. He also earned one of three qualifying spots, with partner Skip Berkmeyer, to play in the USGA Four-Ball Championship at the Olympic Club in San Francisco this month.

Lauren (Stehle) '04 and Jacob '08 Kelly announce the birth of a daughter, Grace Joan, born July 28, 2013.



Nicholas Sloop '05/'08 and Kate Peterson Sloop announce the birth of their first child, Aspen Linnea Sloop, born Nov. 13, 2014.

2010s

Colbie Prothero '13 and Kyle Hines were married Sept. 6, 2014. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Sean Barker '14 is a marketing analyst at AgriLabs in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Joseph Bridgman '14 and Rebecca Weeks were married June 14, 2014.



"My favorite professor was Gordon Monk - I was a social work major. He was witty and filled in our class discussions with reallife experiences."

- Amelia (Olvera) Bravo '75

New email policy for alumni

Missouri Western's email account entitlement policy has changed, and Missouri Western alumni who received a degree and who had email addresses while in college will now have access to these emails reinstated.

If you received a degree from Missouri Western and had an email address while you were in college, you can find information on how to access your Missouri Western email account by visiting missouriwestern.edu/its/networkemailaccount-information-pending.

If you attended Missouri Western and had an email address, but did not graduate, you are still entitled to an email address but will only be able to communicate with other Missouri Western accounts in the 'missouriwestern.edu' domain. For information on how to access this account, please visit missouriwestern.edu/its/ networkemail-account-information-

In addition to email, you will also be able to access most Google apps, including Google Drive.

Additionally, all emails sent from your Missouri Western email account will contain the following disclaimer:

Any views or opinions presented in this electronic communication are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Missouri Western State University. The University accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damages incurred, or suffered, resulting, or arising, from the use of this communication and/or its attachments.

Alumni Profile: Nick Saccaro '01

at Missouri Western, he completed an internship at Second Harvest Food Bank in St. Joseph, Missouri. That internship led him into a career in the food service field, and he never left. Today he is the president of Qwest Food Management Services in the Chicago area, a 650-employee company that provides food service to private and public schools.

From his first campus visit, the Hamilton, Missouri native said he knew the Missouri Western professors cared.

"I didn't feel that way about other colleges I visited," Saccaro says. "It's hard for me to imagine that a student would find a more accessible campus community than Missouri Western."

Also, he noted that his business professors always made time for students after class to talk about how the lessons from class applied to the business world.

"I was glad my business professors had real world experience, and hadn't spent their whole lives in a classroom," said Saccaro, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management.

Saccaro played golf for Missouri Western throughout his college career, and says some of his best memories were on the golf course. As president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Saccaro valued the opportunities he had to work with people campuswide, especially Missouri Western's president, Dr. James Scanlon.

The three-sport high school athlete said he still appreciates the opportunity he had to compete at the college level. "Not everyone gets to do that."

After graduation, he worked for Citizen's Bank and Trust in Chillicothe, Missouri. Then, just two years out of college, he was named executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank, where he served for three years. Saccaro took over the reins of Second Harvest's

When Nick Saccaro '01 was a student sister organization in Colorado Springs, Colorado for two years before entering the profit sector of food service. He began his presidency at Qwest in June 2014.

> Working for the nonprofit food banks, he says, taught him "how awesome the responsibility is to treat employees with dignity and respect, and to be a good family place to work."

He saw a lot of families in St. Joseph and Colorado Springs who worked very hard at their jobs but still had to rely on the food banks to help feed their

"Now I have the opportunity to shape the culture of an organization so the employees feel that their work is a place that treats them with dignity and gives them a decent wage. No matter who the employee is, they should be treated with respect."

Saccaro's usually out of the house by 6 a.m. each morning so he can get in a workout before heading to the office, and a lot of time during the day is spent in the schools that Qwest serves, "making sure the relationship with clients is in a good spot."

Back home around 6:30 or 7 p.m., he enjoys spending time with his wife, Kimberly, and young son, Quinn. "None of the stuff I did all day matters to him," Saccaro says of his son. "I have to turn it off and be present for him."

Prior to joining Qwest, he was vice president for Creative Dining Services, a job that found him on the road and away from home most evenings, so he really appreciates his current schedule.



In his free time, he still likes to golf, and there was a set of clubs under the Christmas tree last year for his son.

"Every time I go back to Missouri Western and every time I pick up the magazine, I am proud of what Missouri Western has become," Saccaro said. "Every year it gets better and better."



"Deny Staggs was one of my theatre and video production professors during my college career. I contribute my success in college to his eagerness to get the full potential out of each student he taught, including me. His directing was impeccable and he was not afraid to provide constructive criticism."

- Brandon Hylton '06

Alumni Profile: Hon. Danielle Douglas '96

Danielle Douglas '96 took a career aptitude test in high school and got "lawyer" or "judge." She didn't think those careers were achievable, so she decided to study to become a paralegal.

But her professors at Missouri Western had other plans. They encouraged her to pursue not only a bachelor's degree, but to go on to law school, and last year, Douglas was appointed judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa. Today, she tries mostly criminal cases for a county with a population of more than 1 million.

Originally from Redwood City, California, Douglas came to Missouri Western with her husband, who was recruited to play football, and their two-year-old daughter. Although it was the first time she had left California, she said college was a good experience.

"It was smaller and more nurturing," she says of Missouri Western. "I would have been lost in the shuffle at a larger school."

Douglas had attended a community college in California, so she started taking legal studies courses at Missouri Western to continue toward her goal of becoming a paralegal. But she says her professors gave her the confidence to set higher career goals.

Every professor was hands-on and made sure students succeeded, Douglas said. She came in with a GPA of 2.5 and raised it to a 3.8 by the time she graduated. "The professors actually pulled me aside and said, 'We're not going to let you get away with this. We know you can do better."

One of those professors was Jill Miller 73, professor emerita of criminal justice. "She had a reputation as being a tough instructor, and I appreciated that," Douglas said.

Miller was a good role model, Douglas said, as was Joanne Katz, professor of legal studies, who taught the first class Douglas took at Missouri Western.

She says Katz became a mentor for her and was the first person to encourage her to consider law school. "I always wanted to do well in her classes so I could show her she wasn't wrong about me."

After graduating from Missouri Western with a criminal justice/legal studies degree, Douglas kept in touch with Katz throughout law school at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, and throughout her career as deputy district attorney for the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office and assistant district attorney for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

Last fall, Douglas invited Katz to be one of the speakers at her judicial investiture ceremony in January 2015.

"She was one of the main reasons I applied to law school," Douglas says of Katz. "I always wanted to, but I didn't have the confidence. But knowing her made me think I could do it. She had a



Hon. Danielle Douglas '96 and Joanne Katz, professor of legal studies.

profound effect on my life and career."

"I think this reflects what Missouri Western does best," Katz said. "You cannot underestimate the power of relationships between professors and students."

Douglas said, as a judge, she enjoys the "mental gymnastics" of dealing with complex issues. She also said her criminal justice courses prepared her well. "Having that criminal justice knowledge made me a better prosecutor and judge."

The mother of three daughters said being a judge is sometimes like being a parent. "You should always do the right thing and you can't rule on emotions. It is my job to ensure that there is justice."

Douglas explained that a courtroom is an opportunity for litigants to have their say, and her job is "a balance between keeping in control of the courtroom and letting people have their say."

"She is the American dream," Katz said. "If you are bright enough, if you work hard enough, you really can accomplish anything."

"I am where I am today because of Missouri Western," Douglas said.



"My favorite professors were Dr. Irvin Parmenter and Dr. John Tapia; they cared about each student in the speech/communication

- Dr. James E. Sanders '84

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THE MAGAZINE OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY | Spring 2015

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In Memory

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

Fritz "Sonny" Hirter III '68, Kansas City, Missouri, Sept. 24, 2014.

Phillip M. Chunn '78, St. Joseph, Missouri, Dec. 22, 2014.

Samuel L. Good '71, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 15, 2015.

Nadyne Justin, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 4, 2015. Justin was an administrative assistant in the Department of Music and retired in 2007.

David Killen '76, Kansas City, Missouri, Jan. 18, 2015.

Wayne H. Krause Jr., St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 27, 2015. Krause was working as a mechanic at Missouri Western when he passed away.

Don Lillie, associate professor of theatre and chair of the Department of Theatre, Cinema and Dance, passed away Feb. 26, 2015. Lillie had been teaching at Missouri Western since 1990. This past fall, he directed "Pirates of Penzance."

Patricia Rhoades '02, Gallatin, Missouri, Nov. 12, 2014.

Patrick R. Schiesl '88, Overland Park, Kansas. Dec. 22, 2014.

Loren W. Schneider, Gower, Missouri, Jan. 2, 2015. Schneider served on the Missouri Western Junior College Board of Trustees from 1965-1972 and the Missouri Western College Board of Regents 1966-1972.

Andy Schultz '76, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 23, 2015. Schultz was Missouri Western's first athletic equipment manager.

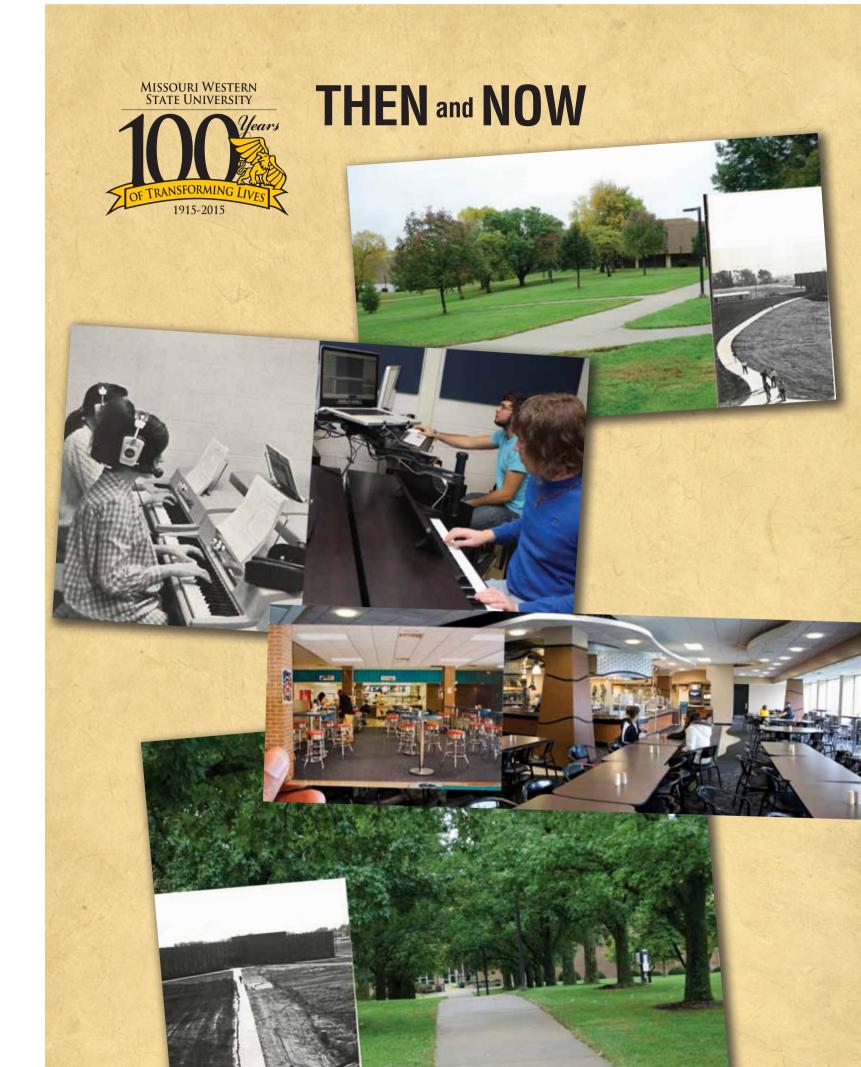
Robert "Clay" Vaught '93, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 1, 2015.

Virginia "Jenna Kay" (Walgreen) Winger '77, St. Joseph, Missouri, Dec. 1, 2014.

Tell us what's new!

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Spouse		Class of	Alum's Birthday	
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