

THE MAGAZINE OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

# MW\$U



**SUMMER 2021**

**3 Hello, President Kennedy!**



# Help us **look** as good as we **sound**



**Golden Griffons have marched millions of miles in uniforms purchased in 2005.**

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SUMMER 2021

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

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Missouri Western State University  
is an equal opportunity institution.

## president's PERSPECTIVE

Dear Friends,

As you may recall, I was pleased to report in the last issue of the magazine that we were able to finish out the fall 2020 semester strong and in person. Once again, I am pleased to report that we were able to finish the spring semester in the same manner. Despite the many challenges we have faced, our Griffon community has worked tirelessly to provide our students with the high-quality education and collegiate experiences they expect from Missouri Western, and I am most appreciative of everyone's efforts.

As of this publication, we plan to return to normal capacity in classrooms, laboratories and other campus spaces. This will allow us to convert many classes from hybrid/blended to 100% in person. It will also allow us to move many larger classes back into regular classrooms, freeing up many of the campus meeting rooms for other events.

Importantly, however, we will continue to follow science, best practices and the latest recommendations from local, state and national health authorities in regard to the pandemic. Our COVID-19 Response Team and members of our Physical Plant continue working diligently to ensure



Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

a safe and healthy environment for our campus community. We believe that it will be possible to provide our students with an engaging, fulfilling and safe in-person, on-campus experience this fall.

There is much excitement in the air as we eagerly look forward to the return of our cherished campus traditions. The Division of Student Affairs and other departments are collaborating creatively to plan a full range of activities that can be held safely either in person or in a more engaging way virtually. Hundreds of events are currently planned, including many of our annual events which had to be put on hold throughout 2020.

One of those traditional events that we are planning for is Homecoming. I invite you to join us on campus for Homecoming Week (Oct. 10-16), which culminates in our Homecoming football game against Northeastern State at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 in our beautiful Spratt Stadium. It's sure to be an exciting time!

Finally, I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support for Missouri Western. Your support of MWSU communicates to our students, our faculty and our staff that our efforts have value, that you are invested in our success and that you believe in our educational enterprise. And you're telegraphing to the community that MWSU is integral to the success of our city, our county, our region, to our state and to our nation. Those are incredibly powerful messages which I deeply appreciate.

All my very best,

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy  
President  
Missouri Western State University



# HELLO

# PRESIDENT KENNEDY!



**AFTER** serving as Missouri Western's interim president since July 2020, Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy was officially named Missouri Western's sixth president in February 2021.

From the moment she first stepped on campus to interview for Missouri Western's vice provost position in 2019, she knew it was a very special place.

"What I believe higher education should be all about is embodied at Missouri Western, and I knew immediately that I wanted to become a part of this institution and the Griffon family." Everyone she encountered, both on and off campus, was so warm and welcoming. "They say things happen for a reason," she added, and to Dr. Kennedy, Missouri Western has always felt like where she was meant to be. The University's history of welcoming students of all backgrounds was one of the attractions. "All any of us need is an opportunity, and that's what we provide at Missouri Western – the opportunity to achieve one's goals and aspirations," Kennedy said.

Once in the role of vice provost, she shifted into high gear immediately. She focused on further implementation of Missouri Western's strategic plan, including strengthening student success, creating new partnerships and expanding applied learning. Approximately six months after starting at Missouri Western, she was named interim president, and a little more than seven months later, the Missouri Western Board of Governors voted unanimously to name

Kennedy Missouri Western's sixth president. It's been non-stop "go" ever since.

A university presidency wasn't on her list of career goals when she graduated from Ruskin High School in Kansas City. Like many teenagers, Kennedy wasn't sure what she wanted to do after graduation. Even though she and her sister were both enrolled in a local college, she wasn't completely convinced that she had made the right decision. Meanwhile, her immediate family had moved to Ohio, as her father had taken a new position there. At that point, a little homesick and unsure of her future, she decided to move to Ohio to be with her family. She began school and started working on her undergraduate degree.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Akron (UA), she was accepted into a Master's-to-Ph.D. program at the same university. From there, she earned her Master of Arts in Psychology, Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and Doctorate in Psychology, Applied Cognitive Learning.

Kennedy's graduate work launched her academic career as she was hired by UA as an assistant professor of social sciences with a primary responsibility to oversee the university's death and dying courses. She spent 17 years teaching undergraduate students across a variety of majors and participated heavily in UA's Institute for Life-span Development and Gerontology. Kennedy also worked as a bereavement

*Continued on next page*





Dr. Kennedy meets with Missouri governor Mike Parson on campus.

specialist for a local hospice agency, providing grief education workshops and engaging in various hospice programming.

Beyond being a professor, Kennedy also held a variety of positions at the University of Akron, which allowed her to develop solid administration skills in diverse academic settings. She served as a department chair, associate dean, dean of two colleges (College of Applied Science and Technology; College of Health Professions) as well as on many committees and task forces, including service in the faculty senate as an executive committee member. Further, Kennedy also served in UA's American Association of University Professors Akron Chapter, first as a member of the negotiation team for two collective bargaining agreements and then as the Chapter's grievance officer for a little over three years. She believes her broad experiences have provided her invaluable perspectives from both a faculty member as well as from an administrator viewpoint. "While my background may not be unique, it has given me a rich history and unique skill set to do this job," she stated.

Kennedy's personal life experiences, coupled with the firm belief in the importance of lifelong learning, have created her passion for her work today. "I absolutely believe in the transformative impact that education, particularly higher education, can have for an individual, his/her family, and our community as a whole. I've experienced it in my own life; I've witnessed it in my students' lives, and I've seen the positive reverberations in many communities."

According to Kennedy, Missouri Western's relentless commitment to student success and the institution's dedication to enriching and empowering our students is yet another hallmark of distinction. With this in mind, it's clear why her goals of enriching the relationships between the University and community are front-and-center in her work.

The opportunity to join Missouri Western was incredibly enticing to Kennedy. Also, after being away from her family for so many years in Ohio, she wanted to get back to the Kansas City area to be closer to her loved ones and friends still in the region. She was attracted to Missouri Western's position of vice provost because there was a "complete overlap" with academic programs she had worked with previously. Additionally, Missouri Western's applied learning mission, abundance of opportunities for hands-on learning, and, "just the complete commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators to support student success," were

definitely institutional qualities she could connect with.

Although Kennedy's time at Missouri Western has been marked by uncertainty, she is ready to look to the future. Kennedy believes that we have many positive areas to be very excited about at Missouri Western. "We're launching new programs, expanding applied learning, connecting with our community, enhancing our campus grounds, returning to some of our campus traditions that we had to cancel last year. With our students returning back in person this fall,

there is just "so much energy building. I'm very eager to see what the next year will bring."

"Truly, the sky's the limit for what we can do and where we will go at Missouri Western," she said. And with Dr. Kennedy in the lead, we intend to soar. ■

### In her own words **TO ALUMNI**

**"I appreciate your continued engagement with the University. You are the best role models for our current students, who look to you, our alumni and graduates who have gone on to do so many impressive things. When I spoke at the Alumni Board Retreat in person, I had the opportunity to meet everyone and to hear about their Missouri Western stories and to learn why Missouri Western is so precious to them. It's so important to me that our alumni know how much they are appreciated and how important their work is to us."**

## Provost retires; interim replacement named

Dr. Doug Davenport, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at Missouri Western State University, retired June 30, 2021.

"During a time of transition and unprecedented challenge, Doug has provided outstanding leadership," said Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, Missouri Western's president. "Not only is he part of the team that has found creative solutions to the challenges we faced, he has overseen many of the strategic initiatives that will help lead Missouri Western into the future."

Davenport came to Missouri Western in 2015 as associate provost for research, planning and institutional effectiveness. He became interim provost in July 2018, and was named to the post on a permanent basis a year later.

"I knew from the moment I interviewed here that Missouri Western was the place for me, and

that has absolutely proven to be the case," Davenport said.

As Missouri Western's top academic official, Davenport led Missouri Western's pivot away from face-to-face learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has led the planning efforts for the University to return to a more traditional on-campus environment this fall.

In his associate provost role, Davenport oversaw Missouri Western's accreditation efforts, including the reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2017. He also led the team that developed Missouri Western's strategic plan, "Pathways to Excellence."

Davenport earned a Bachelor of Arts from Central Bible College (now Evangel University), a Master of Public Administration and doctorate in Political Science from Texas Tech University.



Dr. Marc Manganaro

### Welcome, Marc Manganaro

Dr. Marc Manganaro has been appointed interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Manganaro has more than 25 years of experience in higher education administration. Most recently, he completed a 16-month appointment as interim provost at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He served for five years as provost and vice president for academic affairs and one year as special advisor to the president at Loyola University New Orleans. He has also held administrative and faculty positions at Gonzaga University and Rutgers University-New Brunswick and served as a consultant on academic program initiatives at Balamand University in Lebanon.

Manganaro earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a Master of Arts in English from San Francisco University and a doctorate in English from the University of North Carolina.

He started his duties at Missouri Western on June 21. ■



Dr. Doug Davenport



## Two Governors appointed to Board

On Feb. 25, 2021, Bob Wollenman '72 and Lisa Norton were sworn in to six-year terms as Missouri Western Board of Governors members. Both are eager to serve the University and use their experience to continue to advance Missouri Western, as they are both St. Joseph residents with deep-rooted connections to the University.

Wollenman graduated from Missouri Western with a marketing degree. He and his wife, Connie '72, own Deluxe Truck Stop in St. Joseph, are community leaders and are staunch advocates for the University. "We [Missouri Western] play a key role in serving those that might not otherwise have an opportunity for a college education," he



Bob Wollenman '72

said, noting nontraditional and first-generation students – like himself – are near and dear to them.

"Our education and interaction with others while we were students helped formulate who we are. Connie and I both enjoy serving the MWSU community and are extremely committed to various organizations at the University," he said.

In 2017, Wollenman was named Entrepreneur of the Year by Missouri Western's Center for Entrepreneurship.

Norton, president of BioZyme, Inc., also has strong ties to the University. She takes on this role with an additional sense of pride and obligation. The first woman chairperson of the Board of Governors,



Lisa Norton

Barbara Sprong, was Norton's mother, her first employer, and the woman she unequivocally counts as her hero. Sprong believed in service to the community, and instilled that sense of duty and commitment in her children. "Serving

as a Governor is an honor for me and a job I take very seriously," Norton said.

Norton is also a former professor at Missouri Western, which gives her a comprehensive view of the University and student interaction. Norton hopes to continue to build greater connections between the University and community. "I have always felt like the University was a gem that few who live in northwest Missouri truly understand as such," she said. ■

## Harris named dean of Science and Health

Dr. Crystal Harris has been named dean of the College of Science and Health. She has served as interim dean since the college was created one year ago.

"Dr. Harris has served Missouri Western with distinction for more than 20 years," said Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, Missouri Western's president. "Most recently, in addition to her duties as interim dean, Dr. Harris has provided invaluable leadership



Dr. Crystal Harris

as coordinator of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She deserves much of the credit for helping our campus successfully navigate through unprecedented challenges."

Harris came to Missouri Western in 1999, beginning as a nursing faculty member.

In 2013, she became coordinator of Missouri Western's RN-to-BSN program. In the summer of 2016, she began serving as interim

director of the Department of Nursing and Allied Health, then became associate dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. As interim dean, she helped establish two new undergraduate programs: cybersecurity and respiratory therapy.

Prior to coming to Missouri Western, Harris worked in the St. Luke's Health System for 13 years, starting as a nurse and finishing as director of St. Luke's Northland Home Care and Wright Memorial Home Care. ■

## Foundation hires new interim senior executive director

Jean Ahwesh has joined the Missouri Western Foundation team. She began her position as interim senior executive director of the Missouri Western Foundation July 6.

Ahwesh has 30 years of experience in philanthropy, including leadership positions at West Virginia University's Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, Louisiana State University's Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation, the Keystone Foundation, Operation Smile,

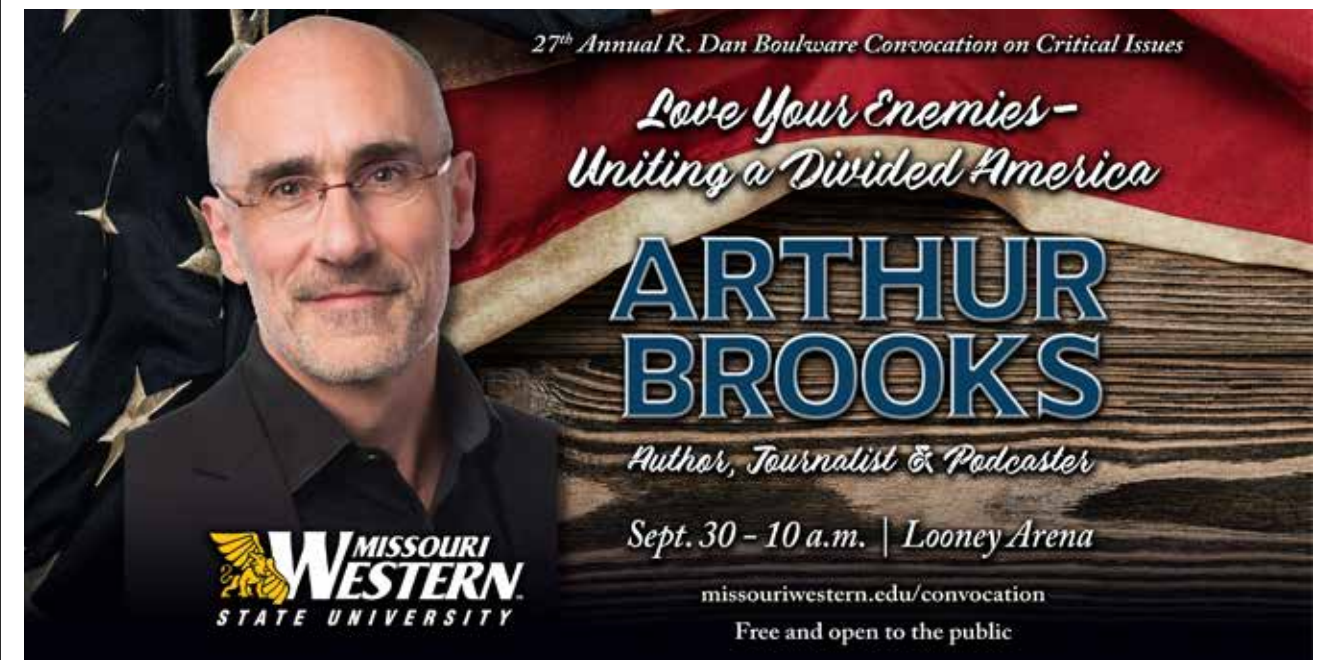
Fairmont State University Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital Foundation.

Ahwesh has a Master of Business Administration in Marketing and Management from Waynesburg University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Welfare from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She is also a graduate



Jean Ahwesh

of the Executive Course in Technology Commercialization from the Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Ahwesh will provide staff with outstanding leadership as the search for a permanent leader commences. ■



### Previous Convocation speakers include:

1993 Arthur Schlesinger Jr.  
1994 Jeane Kirkpatrick  
1995 Cancelled (Colin Powell)  
1996 David McCullough  
1997 Colin Powell  
1998 Bill Bradley  
1999 Jerry Linenger  
2000 Patricia Schroeder  
2001 Daniel Schorr

2002 Joseph Nye  
2003 David Gergen  
2004 Bob Woodward  
2005 J. C. Watts  
2006 Steve Forbes  
2007 Sam Donaldson  
2008 James Carville & Mary Matalin  
2009 Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
2010 Newt Gingrich

2011 Thomas Friedman  
2012 T. Boone Pickens  
2013 Doris Kearns Goodwin  
2014 Douglas Brinkley  
2015 Tom Ridge  
2016 Cokie Roberts  
2017 Martin Luther King III  
2018 Chris Wallace  
2019 Jon Meacham  
2020 Cancelled



# Campus Kudos

Biology major **Esther Par** has won the prestigious Stan Hudson Research Grant Award from the Missouri Native Plant Society for her research on the evolutionary diversification of the temperate North American false foxgloves plants with endangered prairie native species which she is conducting with Biology Assistant Professor **Dr. Tilo Roy**.

Associate Professor of Biology **Dr. Csengele Barta** has been awarded the 2021 Primarily Undergraduate Institutions Award of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Associate Professor of Biology **Dr. Julie Jedlicka** conducted research at Spring Mountain Vineyard in St. Helena, California concerning the impact of bluebirds as pest control. Her research can be seen in a video on YouTube: [griff.vn/bluebirds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=griff.vn/bluebirds).

Seniors **Heather Sadler**, RHIT, HCS-D and **Kimberly West**, RHIT, were awarded two \$300 student scholarships at the Missouri Health Information Management Association Annual Business Meeting for their work in Missouri Western's Health Information Management program.

Associate Professor of Geography **Dr. Dawn Drake** released the second edition of her book, "A Profile of the Farm Machinery Industry: The Power to Help Farmers Feed the World," from Business Expert Press.

Members of Missouri Western's Lambda Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society won second place in the collaborative research team competition at the Alpha Chi National Convention for their project, "Sterilization and the State: The Impact and Modern Remnants of the Eugenics Movement." Members include **Hannah Berry**, economics and English; **Julia Stolfus**, social work; **Jordan Holkesvik**, history education, **Matthew Bobela**, music education; and **MacKenzie Grantham**, biology/health sciences; mentored by **Dr. Angela Haas**, history.

**Madeline Rislow**, assistant professor of art, and **Dr. Pam Clary**, associate professor of social work, won the Spring Advisor Shout-Out Awards from the Student Success and Academic Advising Center.

The Xi Omega Chapter of the International Honor Society for Education, Kappa Delta Pi, initiated three new members, **Melissa Berger '21**, elementary education; **Tori Brock**, early childhood education and **Tanner Merwin**, history education; and honored outstanding graduates **Kennedy Chavez '20**, early childhood education; **Victoria Vaughn '21**, elementary education and **Emily Zawodney-Walkup '21**, secondary/K-12 education.

Seven students graduated in May with American Chemical Society Certification of their chemistry degrees: **Leo Derr**, **Matthew Edlin**, **Kindall Henning**, **Emily Holland**, **Christopher Holcomb**, **Jacob Koonce** and **Amanda Scoular**.

The following students won Chemistry Department awards for the spring 2021 semester: **Leo Derr**, Edgar C. Little Outstanding Chemistry Graduate Award; **Cameron Hal**, William Rosalee Medical Technology Award; **Jessie Wright** and **Kendall Henning**, Department of Chemistry Student Service Award; **Munaa Mbarak** and **Marlen Munoz-Franco**, Len Archer Chemistry Graduate Student Award; **Nelson Maxey**, Zweerink Physical Chemistry Scholarship Award; **Kyle Roller**, American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry; **Bowyn Ziebarth**, American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry; **Kindall Henning**, American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry; **Jacob Koonce**, American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry, and **Catherine Cates**, Missouri Western State University Award for Excellence in Biochemistry.

The Missouri Western Model Arab League Delegation consisting of students **Max Miller**, **Darby Hay**, **Jordan Miller**, **Tate McCoy** and **Sara Mosley**, were named Outstanding Delegation in Political Affairs at the 2021 Great Plains Model Arab League virtual meeting.

The Department of Social Sciences and Humanities recognized two students for academic success in political science: **Max Miller** was recognized as the Outstanding Senior in Political Science and **Dillon Schreckler** was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate in Political Science.

The Nu Eta Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international honor society in geography, welcomed three new members, **Konner Larkin**, **Tanner Merwin** and **Bailee Romaker**. Romaker was also given the Excellence in Geography award.

Wildlife conservation and management major **Alyka Zahnd** was awarded the prestigious American Society of Plant Biologists Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award for 2021.

The History Department has awarded **Kendra Carman**, **Adrian Dodson** and **Jordan Holkesvik** the James R. Jordan History Honors Award; has awarded **Shannon Evans**, **Tycen Gray**, **Jordan Holkesvik**, **Tanner Merwin** and **Josian Schmedding** the Scholastic Key Award for excellent GPAs, and has initiated **Shannon Evans** and **Brian Salsberry** into the historians' honor society, Phi Alpha Theta.

**Pam Klaus '03**, director of the Craig School of Business Center for Franchise Development, has been awarded the Missouri Business Education Association's Northwest District University Educator of the Year.

## University sees funding increase from State of Missouri

After several years of flat or decreasing funding, the 2021 Legislative Session that concluded in May brought some good financial news to Missouri Western State University.

Lawmakers approved a 3.7 percent increase in core funding to Missouri's public universities. For Missouri Western, that will mean an additional \$823,123 for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2021.

The good news didn't stop there. House Bill 3, the appropriations bill for higher education, also included funding for the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development's GEER Excels initiative, which uses federal COVID-19 relief money to fund projects that will allow public institutions to continue to provide educational services to students, support the ongoing functionality of the institution and drive progress toward recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19, either in terms of meeting specific workforce needs or removing barriers to student success. For Missouri Western, GEER Excels will provide more than \$440,000 to help launch the University's new bachelor's degree program in respiratory therapy.

**Dr. Teddi Deka** was honored for nine years of service as honors director at the spring 2021 Honors Medal Ceremony.

**Raechel Tittor '21** was awarded the Directors Award for her service as a student employee in the honors office at the spring 2021 Honors Medal Ceremony.

**Dr. Gary Clapp**, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and director of the Kit Bond Science and Technology Incubator, was credited with two U.S. patents (10,729,673 and 10,993,927) for the synthesis and pharmaceutical applications of taxane particles.

Biology faculty **Dr. Tilo Roy** was the plenary speaker at the 38th Symposium and Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematic Biologists of the Philippines.

**Sally Gibson**, library director, was elected as the vice president/president-elect of the MOBIUS Board of Directors.

**Austin Holmes**, **Elaina Jones** and **Dana Eplett** submitted artwork that was accepted into the National Undergraduate Juried Exhibition at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph. ■

Missouri Western also received a total of more than \$3 million in capital improvement funding from House Bill 12. The total includes \$644,000 for improvements to Scanlon Hall, the residence hall that houses incoming freshmen and serves as the summer home of the Kansas City Chiefs during its annual training camp. HB12 also included \$2.5 million for general capital improvements on Missouri Western's campus.

"Our local and area legislative delegation always fights hard on Missouri Western's behalf, and we are extremely grateful for the additional funding that we will receive in the coming fiscal year," said Steve Johnston, director of external affairs.

One other development that may affect Missouri Western's finances in the future: public institutions of higher education will be permitted to exceed the limitation on tuition increases currently established by the Higher Education Student Funding Act (HESFA) starting July 1, 2022. Since 2008, HESFA has limited tuition increases to no more than the change in the consumer price index for the preceding year. ■



## Program additions support workforce needs

Missouri Western is adding several new programs to meet student demand and the workforce needs of northwest Missouri.

A new master's degree beginning this fall will address the region's teacher shortage. Students who successfully complete the Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary (M.A.T.) will be certified to teach a secondary school subject in Missouri.

"The Master of Arts in Teaching provides a great opportunity for college graduates who might be looking to make a career change to enter the field of education," said Dr. Susan Bashinski, interim dean of the

Graduate School at Missouri Western. "Graduates of our program will earn initial State of Missouri teacher licensure in secondary school subject areas along with their master's degree."

The Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary program is designed for college graduates with degrees in a secondary school curriculum area. It equips students to be effective teachers, professionally prepared to educate a diverse student population.

Graduates can be certified to teach grades 9 through 12 in biology, business, chemistry, English, health, mathematics, social studies and speech and

theatre, or grades K through 12 in art, music-instrumental, music-vocal, physical education and Spanish.

For more information, visit [missouriwestern.edu/education/mat](http://missouriwestern.edu/education/mat), email [graduate@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:graduate@missouriwestern.edu) or call the Graduate School at (816) 271-4394.

Missouri Western has also received approval for two new bachelor's degree programs with growing workforce demand – Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy and Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity – and a certificate in Early Childhood Education. ■

## A Dream Come True: '21 graduate wins business competition

Hayden Glaubius '21 first heard about Missouri Western's Center for Franchise Development while a student at Central High School in St. Joseph. This spring, after competing in the franchise competition and graduating from the Craig School of Business, he was awarded an Auntie Anne's pretzel franchise.

"It was always in the back of my head, and I was working towards it, and now seven years later, here we are today," he said.

"Think about a kid that says, 'I'm going to play major league baseball' when he's 12," said Seth Lyons '08, one of the judges and winner of the first franchise competition in 2009. "He's our major league baseball player. It's pretty cool."

Glaubius, a management major, was one of 14 students in a senior-level applied business

ownership class this spring that prepared business plans for the store. Two finalists presented them to a panel of judges that included Steven L. Craig and other business leaders, as well as representatives from Auntie Anne's and alumni franchise winners.

The franchise awarded to Glaubius is the 32nd store to be awarded through the program. Alumni currently own 51 stores across the country, employing more than 600 people and generating annual sales of approximately \$29 million. ■



Steve Craig, Pam Klaus '03, director of the Craig School of Business Center for Franchise Development, and Hayden Glaubius '21 are pictured after the award announcement.

## Spring 2021 athletics recap

An unprecedented spring, 2021 saw the full-swing return of Missouri Western Athletics as a whole, which brought forth a handful of historic firsts.

Griffon men's and women's **basketball** maneuvered their way through uncharted waters of weekly COVID-19 testing, shutdowns and quarantines and managed to play every game on their 2020-21 schedules, which laid the foundation for the spring sports seasons to be played as normal.

But along the path to "normal," Griffon men's basketball brought back the "special," fighting their way to the program's first NCAA tournament appearance in a decade. Guided by first-year head coach Will Martin, the Griffons also found themselves nationally ranked for the first time in nearly two decades.

Spring 2021 saw every Griffon sport return to play in some capacity – including the traditional fall sports of soccer and volleyball, whose seasons were cancelled by the pandemic in 2020.

Jazmine Servance sprints by an opponent on Craig Field at Spratt Memorial Stadium. The freshman was one of five Griffons named All-Great Lakes Valley Conference in the women's lacrosse team's inaugural season.



Hanna Williams prepares to run the 400-meter at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Allendale, Mich. Williams finished eighth in the race to become Missouri Western's first-ever NCAA First Team Women's Track and Field All-American.

This spring also saw the unveiling of **women's lacrosse**, making Missouri Western the first public institution in the state to field a team. Griffon LAX made its historic debut on Feb. 26, defeating Culver-Stockton 17-0 at Spratt Stadium. The Griffons, led by first-year head coach Rachel Benzing, posted a 5-8 record in their inaugural season.

**Track and Field** added to its brief four-year history. Junior Hanna Williams became the

program's first-ever female All-American with an eighth-place finish in the 400-meter dash at the NCAA DII Nationals.

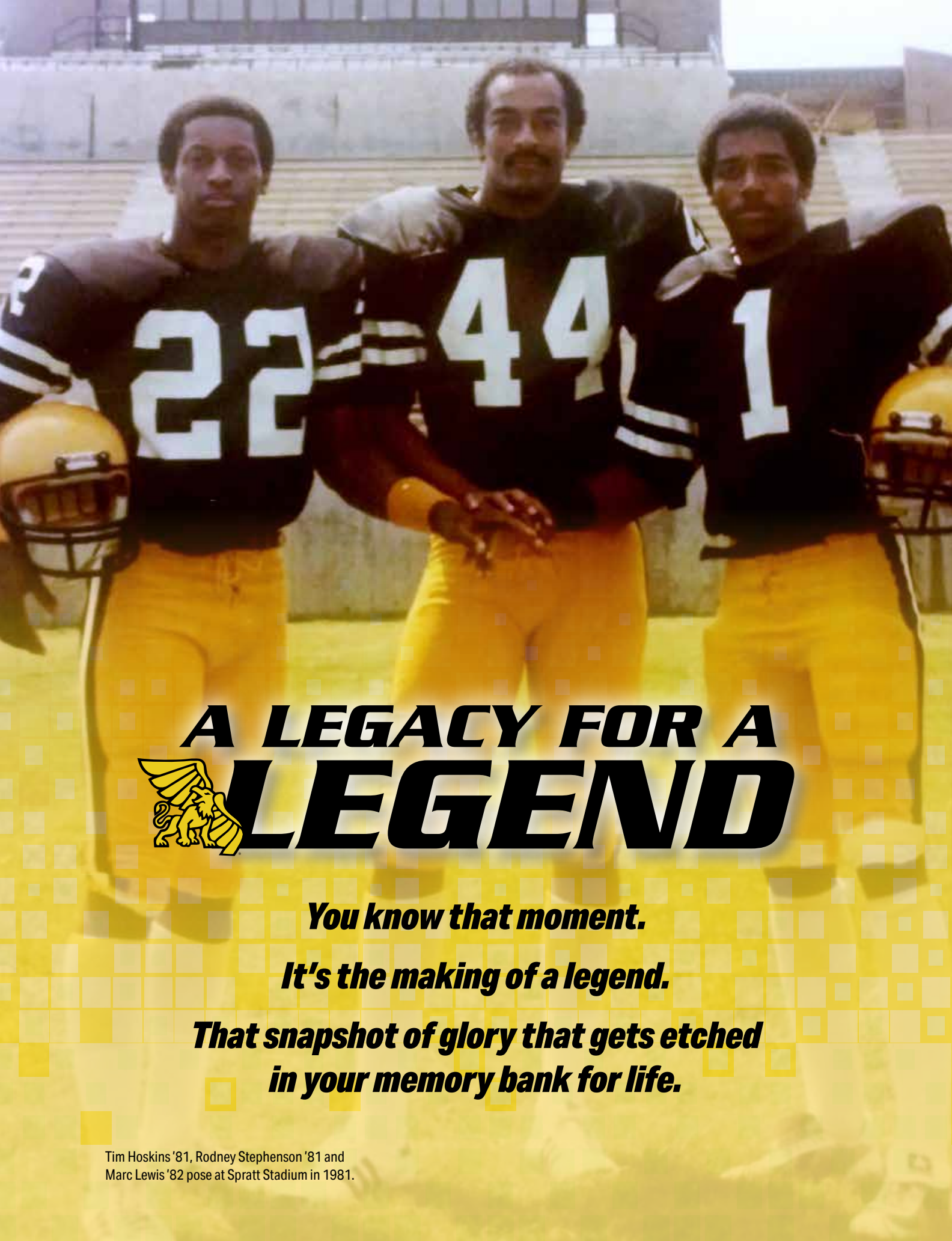
Griffon **Golf** relied on tradition to return to prominence in 2021, with the men's team returning to the NCAA tournament, and freshman Allycia Gan advancing to the national championship round on the women's side.

Despite all of the challenges and obstacles of this unpredictable school year, Missouri Western student-athletes maintained their success in the classroom. The spring semester saw a department-wide 3.22 cumulative grade point average, which is the highest cumulative GPA in Missouri Western Athletics' history.

Fall 2021 is on schedule to return to a normal routine, with Griffon football making its return in September, and Kansas City Chiefs training camp having returned to Missouri Western this summer. ■

– Contributed by Ryan Menley





# **A LEGACY FOR A LEGEND**

***You know that moment.***

***It's the making of a legend.***

***That snapshot of glory that gets etched  
in your memory bank for life.***

Tim Hoskins '81, Rodney Stephenson '81 and  
Marc Lewis '82 pose at Spratt Stadium in 1981.

**I**t's the buzzer beater from half-court, the 23-foot putt for eagle on the 18th hole, or for Parkville native and Missouri Western graduate, Capt. Keith Hoskins '88, it was being in the Spratt Stadium stands watching his brother, Tim, six years his elder, make "the impossible catch."

"The Griffons were needing a big play," Keith recalled. "We had possession, but the stands were strangely silent. The ball was snapped for a post route and Tim was in the end zone running full speed in one direction," he explained, drawing the route in the air with his finger. "The quarterback zips a 30-yard pass, but the ball is behind him. Then, somehow, Tim stops, leaps backwards, twisting in the air, completely defying the laws of physics, to catch the football. And the crowd just erupted!" Keith beamed. "Walking out of the stadium, I remember people still in awe and asking, 'How did he catch that?'"

This was a moment engrained in Keith's memory when remembering his brother, Timothy L. Hoskins '81. Sadly, Tim passed away on Jan. 21, 2021 after a long decline in health. Certainly a legendary play by the wide receiver inducted into the Griffon Hall of Fame in 1990, but according to Keith, Tim's legacy goes much deeper.

"I learned so much about life and football from Tim. Yes, Tim was an amazing athlete, but Tim truly valued education," Keith explained. "When he was put in the role of team captain, I remember him telling me stories about the responsibility, setting the example and of being a role model. I watched his transformation ... His maturity and confidence sky-rocketed."

That transformation impressed Keith so much that when it came time, he too would choose to seek his degree and play football for Missouri Western. "Tim loved Missouri Western. He built a



Tim Hoskins '81

brotherhood there. I wanted that, too!" So when Tim's head coach, Rob Hicklin, offered Keith a full-ride scholarship, he said, "Where do I sign?"

Keith chuckled and added, "Frankly, I wanted to be better than him."

Keith radiated as he shared other memories of growing up with Tim. He smiled sheepishly as he told of how Tim taught him how to play G.I. Joe at age 7 and how much Tim loved music. "We would dress up and play in our imaginary band. It was the old stuff – Elvis Presley, The Beatles. We would always be playing air guitar or air drums to that music," Keith shared.

The lasting imprint that those memories of Tim and their shared appreciation for Missouri Western is what inspired Keith to initiate an endowed memorial scholarship in Tim's name.

"Tim and I both had a tremendous opportunity from Missouri Western in receiving both academic and athletic scholarships. They provided us with the resources, the skill set and the education to get out of college debt free so we could go out and do something with our lives," Keith said.

Tim completed his Bachelor of Science in Business in 1981 and spent his career in social work, dedicated to the betterment of families and society. He worked for Boys Town USA in Omaha, Nebraska, then later worked at Full Employment Council of Kansas City.

"Tim always loved helping others. He was so loving, caring, giving and a great listener. He was always a sounding board for me," Keith explained.

Keith graduated in 1988 with an electrical engineering technology degree. Directly after, Keith joined the U.S. Navy, completed Aviation Officer Candidate School and was designated a naval aviator in 1992, joining the elite team of demonstration pilot "Blue Angels" in 1999. He went on to earn a master's degree in national resource strategy and policy from

*Continued on next page*



Dr. James E. Sanders '84

“Tim, you were my first big time player that I got to come to MWSC. Watching you play was out of this world. I know you will be making big time catches in Heaven. Your days as a Griff will always be remembered. Praying for you and your family.”



Rodney Stephenson '81, Connie Hoskins, Marc Lewis '82, and Tim Hoskins.

Marc Lewis '82

“Tim, thank you for being a friend, we had some good times in college that I will never forget. I'm so happy we were able to reconnect after all these years. God speed my friend, I'm sure you will be catching touchdowns in Heaven.”

Continued from page 13

the Industrial College of Armed Forces in 2012 and became commander of NAS Pensacola in March 2013. He spent 27 years serving our country. Keith currently lives in Pensacola, Florida and is the executive vice president of branch operations for the Navy Federal Credit Union.

“I've always wanted to get to a place in my life where I have the resources to give back to Missouri Western. With my brother's passing, there was a clear opportunity to turn something bad into something good ... to help future MWSU students in the same way that we had been helped. So now [in this scholarship] Tim's legacy ... Tim's name and the Hoskins name can live on forever in his spirit of helping others,” Keith said proudly.

“I believe it's important that we all remember where we came from and give back,” he said. Keith went on to say that he gives back to his parents in many ways, but explained that when it comes to institutions that have helped to shape lives, “you can't just pick up the phone and say 'I love you. Thank you, College!' No, at the end of the day, it's a business. It takes resources. It takes people truly remembering and giving back.”

But is “legend” synonymous with “legacy?” By all accounts, Tim is a football legend at Missouri Western. Forty years later, multiple football records still bear his name. But the reception yards and touchdown records pale in comparison to the legacy, the emotional imprint, he left on the people whose lives he touched.

“Legacy doesn't mean all the glitz, the glory, or all of the accolades that go with the term ‘legacy’ in American culture. No, there are many ‘legacies’ out there – people that made a difference in their families or simply for people they've just met,” Keith said. “Legacy is touching the lives of people in a way that forever changes people's lives.” Tim's legacy lives on in Keith. It lives on in the lives of the kids he worked with at Boys Town. It lives on in all those he played football with. It lives on here at Missouri Western, and because of Keith, Tim's legacy will continue to be known to future generations of students at Missouri Western.

For more information on how to contribute to the Tim Hoskins Memorial Scholarship, please contact the Missouri Western University Advancement department at (816) 271-5670. ■

– Contributed by Chrissy McGan

## Griffons in the (Production) House

As the state's designated Applied Learning University, Missouri Western is uniquely positioned to offer opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. These hands-on experiences enable students to grow, explore and ultimately grasp how the knowledge they learned in the classroom works outside the walls.

One such opportunity emerging from Potter Hall, but available to students of all disciplines, is Griffon Production House (GPH). Originating from conversations between students and cinema professor Thomas Brecheisen, GPH encourages students to hone their craft in cinematic arts, learn how to work with others toward a common goal and see how pieces of the big picture fit together.

Students from any major can participate, with opportunities ranging from production and camera operation to editing and special effects. With a variety of projects, students can find an opportunity that sparks their cinematic passion.

GPH is truly a student-led applied learning opportunity with three affiliates: GPH Live!, Griffon University and Fauxtoreality.

GPH Live! films and produces video of live performances on campus and in the community. Recently, to help overcome the restriction on live audiences, more than a dozen Missouri Western students from cinema, music and art worked in collaboration with A/V students from Central High School in St. Joseph on two video productions of Central's musical, “The Addams Family.”

“This was a sweet moment because we helped these wonderful students ... share their hard work and talent with their family and friends who couldn't see them live,” Brecheisen said. “It's one of my most cherished experiences, and I'm very proud of our students' service to our community.”

The possibility for collaboration with Missouri Western's research students is impressive, too. Through another affiliate, Griffon University, students produce videos of Missouri Western research in short, easy-to-digest formats that can be easily consumed in today's fast-paced, digital world.

These productions rely heavily on greenscreen, motion graphics and visual effects. Post-production visual effects are the essence of the third affiliate –

Fauxtoreality. “Visual effects [VFX] aren't just spaceships and aliens,” Brecheisen said. “VFX artists are the only artists who don't want you to see their work. It should be invisible to the audience to increase their suspension of belief.”

“It's a lot of fun,” Brecheisen added. “Students are learning these new techniques, and that makes our BAA unique across the country. We've infused [VFX] in our program so the students can start using it.” The unparalleled

opportunities provided to students through this program prepare them to enter the fast-paced career field upon graduation by keeping them up to date with industry standards.

Ultimately, these students are using the techniques they are learning in the classroom. And these experiences afford a great advantage when starting their careers.

“I don't want them to be job-ready when they graduate. Because of GPH, students will be job-ready before they graduate,” Brecheisen says. When going for a job interview, he says he doesn't want them to hear “you're hired,” but rather, “Where have you been all my life!?”

Although still in its infancy, GPH is certainly a house we're glad to have on our block! ■

– Contributed by Patti Long





# Griffons Deliver at 30,000 Feet

Flying from Kansas City to Honolulu takes a little over eight hours. Changing someone's life forever takes mere minutes.



Missouri Western alumnae Lani Bamfield '15 and Mimi Ho '18 recently helped change the life of Raymond Mounga – in fact, they actually helped his life begin. The two registered nurses are St. Joseph natives, Missouri Western graduates and NICU nurses at North Kansas City Hospital.

While delivering babies is nothing new to either Bamfield or Ho, the circumstances surrounding Baby Raymond's arrival into this world were a far cry from the normal for either of these Griffons. The two friends were on a birthday trip/celebration to Hawaii.

"I decided to do travel nursing, so we wanted to do a trip for my birthday," Ho said.

Since they had all been vaccinated, Bamfield, Ho and two friends were headed to Hawaii (three of them were all NICU nurses at North Kansas City Hospital). Part of the way into the flight, the nurses had just woken up from a nap when they heard an announcement that someone needed help.



Lani Bamfield '15, Mimi Ho '18, Amanda Beeding along with mom, Lavi Mounga and baby Raymond.

"Her sister-in-law yelling for help was the original announcement," Bamfield said. She was talking about

Lavi Mounga, who was also on a family trip to Hawaii, and her family was about to get bigger. Neither nurse hesitated when they heard the call from behind them on the large Delta jet that held nearly 300 passengers. Bamfield took off and Ho was just seconds behind her.

"When her sister-in-law started screaming, she [Mounga] was crowning, and by the time I got back there – maybe 30 seconds later – she [Mounga] was holding him already," Bamfield said.

Mounga actually gave birth in the tiny confines of the Delta lavatory. A standard lavatory measures roughly 40" by 24 ½" by 77" – definitely not the size of a typical delivery room. The delivery was not only a shock to the passengers – it was also a shock to Mounga. When she boarded the plane for Hawaii, she

had no idea she was even pregnant! One out of every 400 pregnancies are cryptic, where the mother is not aware of the fact that she is pregnant.



Baby Raymond

The "team" attending to Mounga and her 29-week preemie included Bamfield and Ho, their fellow NICU nurse Amanda Beeding, physician assistant Lindsey Maughan, and Dr. Dale Glenn, a family medicine doctor from Hawaii. It was a minute-by-minute situation where the entire team carefully tended to and watched over mom and baby throughout the remainder of the flight.

Much like MacGyver on the TV show or the team behind the ill-fated Apollo 13 flight, the team had to be creative and fashioned life-saving equipment out of what could be found on the plane. Shoelaces were used to tie and cut through the umbilical cord, bottled water was microwaved to make a baby warmer and an Apple Watch worked well to measure the baby's heart rate.

"I think we did the best we could with what we had, and I am thankful for the team that was there," Ho said. "I think we were definitely saying silent prayers throughout the entire flight because those babies can flip a switch just like that."

Baby Raymond spent some time on the floor of the aircraft just feet from where Mounga had delivered him. Once he was stable enough, the team transferred him to mom's regular seat for some skin-to-skin love. But everyone knew they would be much happier when mom and baby were safely delivered to the waiting hospital in Hawaii.

"For the baby, at his age and size, to go as long as he did without really any respiratory support was a big deal," Bamfield said. "We were just kind of watching him the whole way and hoping for the best."

When the pilot sent a flight attendant back to ask if he needed to speed up, the response was a resounding "YES!" He landed in Hawaii 45 minutes earlier than expected. Mounga and Baby Raymond were escorted off the plane first to much applause from the rest of the passengers and were immediately transported to Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children. The team were able to visit Mounga and Baby Raymond at the hospital and exchanged numbers. Mounga texts them updates regularly.

Both nurses agree that they definitely owe their professors and the program at Missouri Western a lot of credit –

Stephanie Stewart '97, Dr. Christi Campbell and Dr. Heather Kendall – to name just a few. They felt incredibly prepared when they went out in the nursing world, and they still remember what they learned from their instructors at Missouri Western.

They are confident in what they do because they do it for a living, and they received the best training from Missouri Western's nursing program. But both agree they would much rather do it in a delivery room than on an airplane. ■

– Contributed by Alicia Otto '20

**Both nurses agree that they definitely owe their professors and the program at Missouri Western a lot of credit – Stephanie Stewart '97, Dr. Christi Campbell and Dr. Heather Kendall – to name just a few.**



# Missouri Western serving with purpose

Service has always been a part of Missouri Western. The seal itself lists service as one of the University's key values, and now students can receive up to three credits by serving 40 hours per credit and completing an academic assessment.

Officially formed in January 2019 under the direction of Dr. Melody Smith '87, the Center for Service was introduced to the students and the community in fall 2020, after beta testing in the spring and summer. There was a need for creative ways to serve the community as COVID-19

played a large factor in limiting volunteering opportunities as well as changing the on-campus environment to remote learning and availability of students to serve. Students could choose from several opportunities and activities that had been pre-selected by the Center. In addition, students could choose their own service activity – from St. Joseph or their own community at home – as long as it fell in line with service to the community.

Kim Sigrist '93, the Center's current director, was approached by Missouri Western's president, Dr. Kennedy, to lead the department. Kennedy was aware of Sigrist's long-time involvement with the University and in the community. Sigrist and Kennedy, with backing from the Board of Governors, knew this program needed to continue to be a priority and wanted to see the Center succeed despite the challenge with COVID-19.

The first chance to connect with students in person and through social media was Random Acts of Kindness week in February 2021. Opportunities included bringing to light the current service efforts on campus and offering stations to complete small service activities such as writing thank-you notes and painting kindness rocks.

Several pop-up opportunities in Blum Union had also been well received by students throughout the semester. These were additional chances to reach students who wouldn't otherwise go and look for service opportunities on their own.



Kim Sigrist '93, director of the Center for Service, collects donations for the Campus Cupboard.

Erica Dunn '21 was one of the first students to beta test the program by signing up and completing three service credits. "I really enjoy and value community service, and earning school credits seems like a win-win situation," Dunn said. She focused her service on children and spent the majority of her service hours through Mosaic Life Care Foundation's emPowerU program. "I learned that I have a really intense passion for serving and working for others. When I started serving, I was less sure about what I wanted my career to look like. As I went on, I really began to understand that I wanted my career to look like serving and filling a need."

So where does the Center for Service go from here? "As opportunities are starting to open up more, finding additional partnerships in the community, continuing to build relationships with our students and to educate them about what the Center for Service does and the opportunities that are out there in the community" is where Sigrist wants to direct her focus.

The Center for Service has also created a G.I.V.E. (Griffons in Volunteer Efforts) team to create internal partnerships and show Missouri Western as a whole the impact that is made within the community.

There will always be a need to serve the community. There is also a need to educate new generations about what opportunities are out there in the community and to encourage students to serve after graduation.

Smith emotionally reflects about the department a year after her retirement: "It gives me great joy to know that's my alma mater, that's where I worked, that's where I was privileged to develop a program with collaboration and input from many, many smart people. [The Center for Service] will continue to grow ... to focus on Missouri Western's value of service." ■

– Contributed by Jennifer Stover

*This article has been edited for print publication. For more details about the Center and its service projects so far, see the full article at [missouriwestern.edu/magazine](http://missouriwestern.edu/magazine).*

# From the Alumni Association President

Fellow Alumni,

It's a great day to be a Griffon! Missouri Western State University remains an institution committed to student success while fostering a spirit of excellence. As an extension of the institution and valued partner, the Alumni Association allows us to maintain lifelong friendships and establish professional connections among members of multiple generations. In collaboration with our beloved alma mater, we will achieve our goals as we strive to engage, evolve and elevate during this vital season of the 51-year existence of the Alumni Association.

During our spring retreat, members of the Alumni Board were able to speak with students participating in our new esports program. The Griffon Esports Arena is amazing and has state of the art technology! Students reported that they were excited and spent numerous hours in the Blum Student Union joining the fun associated with competitive gaming. In addition, we also visited the Campus Cupboard. This is an outstanding resource within the division of Student Affairs that provides canned goods and other nonperishable items. Many alumni and local businesses provided monetary donations during the pandemic to assist those in need.

How have you considered becoming engaged with the Alumni Association? As a Missouri Western State University community member, we want to ensure that you remain engaged at a comfortable level. There are numerous opportunities for you to volunteer and attend events in your local area or on campus. The annual Alumni Awards Banquet will be



Lai-Monté Hunter '99

held on Oct. 15 and we hope to see you there! Walking across campus and throughout the buildings is complete nostalgia. Although the ability to revisit the past is present, the visual signs of the future are quite impressive. Each year, we work together to create new memories while reflecting on our past experiences, which helped us become who we are today.

We must evolve! As such, the Alumni Board is working to establish a virtual professional development program that will be open to all alumni. Your attendance will allow you to expand your network while sharpening your skills for the workplace. In addition, we will integrate opportunities for

you to insert your voice as we make every effort to achieve our annual measurable outcomes.

With your assistance, the Alumni Association will elevate Missouri Western State University and expand our reach across the country to potential undergraduate and graduate students who will in the future refer to themselves as Griffons. As we enter into this next phase of our history, we look forward to the fellowship and lots of fun. Please remember to share your fantastic news with us by completing an alumni note with the Alumni Relations Office, and know that there is much excitement to represent an institution committed to transforming lives!

Yours in service,

Lai-Monté Hunter '99  
Alumni Association President

## Missouri Western State University Alumni Association Mission

*In the spirit of educational advancement, the Association strives to be the central link between MWSU and its alumni. The Association will promote and foster a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship between alumni, MWSU, its students and the community to support the goals, traditions and mission of MWSU. (Missouri Western State University is a student-centered learning community preparing individuals for lives of excellence through applied learning.)*



# Leading by example

When Lai-Monté Hunter '99 was considering college, there was a myth that African American men could not attain a four-year degree. As a first-generation college student, achieving that four-year degree became his immediate goal.

While he was pursuing his degree, he felt that this was only about his journey and goals. "Later, I learned that it was not just for me," Hunter said. "It changed the trajectory of my family." That family included his mom, dad and three brothers, among many others, who are proud of his accomplishments. Unfortunately, neither of his parents are here to witness his latest accomplishment. And what is his latest accomplishment?

On April 17, 2021, Hunter was unanimously voted the first African American president of the Missouri Western State University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"I am a vessel – I am the first but not the last," Hunter said of his appointment.

He has been afforded the opportunity to affect change. It's

beyond being first – it's about how he's been positioned to help organizations do something different, to be willing to accept something different. Being an African American leader is a culture shift from what we are used to seeing. He was voted in by his peers because he has demonstrated that he is down for the cause.

But being the first in a position is only the focus temporarily. Quickly, the focus switches to showing up in a way that has never been done before and making sure the organization understands your perspective. "We then open the door for someone else to do it after us," Hunter said. "We need to see ourselves, so we have an understanding that you value diversity, and we also are thinking about, 'Hey, I have to do a good job,' and give myself the grace to do the job."

Doing the job started early for Hunter. He spent all four years at Missouri Western serving in one capacity or another.

He spent four years on SGA, three years as a senator and, in his fourth year, he became the first treasurer for SGA.

(Apparently, he is a trailblazer!)

Missouri Western has been full of firsts for Hunter. It is also where he had his first job in higher education. In 2004-2005, he was hired as a first-year instructor, and his office



Lai-Monté Hunter '99

was located near Karl Bell '92, the director of multicultural education, who happened to be the most influential person during Hunter's undergraduate years. When Bell was an admissions counselor during Hunter's undergraduate years, it wasn't just about the work – it was about the students being successful.

Hunter also joined Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity, during his time as a Missouri Western student –

something he had dreamed of since his sophomore year of high school. Upon joining, Hunter received his shingle, or certificate, of initiation. Bell focused

on what he called achieving your "second shingle," or college degree. Showing mentorship, interest and investing in all of the students, Bell set an example that Hunter models to this day.

To get where he is today, Hunter had to take that first, albeit scary, step away from home.

His mother was sitting on the bed crying as he was packing for college. It was so monumental for him because he did not get it at the time. Now, he thinks about that each time he looks into the face of a parent.

When his mom cried as he packed, he thought, "You knew I was going to college; why are you crying?" He gets it now. Hearing his mother's voice on the phone, when he heard the memorable double ring of an outside call, that was the motivation to know that he could do it.

"We are an extension of the students' family and it really means something to me," Hunter said.

Because of the path that Hunter has blazed, his younger brother and several nephews have all followed in his footsteps and received degrees. That is how overcoming the myth that African American men cannot attain a four-year degree changed the trajectory of his family's lives.

He was the first but he certainly is not the last. ■

– Contributed by Alicia Otto '20



Left: Karl Bell '92 and Hunter present a check to the MWSU Foundation for the Karl Bell Scholarship.

Top Left: Hunter with Engoma Fataki '20, SGA president, in 2019. Lower Left: Hunter with Dr. Vartabedian, former MWSU president, in 2015. Top & Lower Right: 1999 yearbook photos



## The MWSU Alumni Board welcomes two new members

### JAKE CUNNING

Jake Cunning '16 is a human capital senior consultant for Deloitte Consulting in Atlanta. Supporting clients within the consumer and life sciences industries, he works closely to develop strategies to assess, manage and activate organizational and behavioral changes aimed at shifting the organizational culture.

Cunning also serves as the chief of staff for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) business development team at Deloitte where he is responsible for the initial design and approach to addressing the emerging DEI needs of clients.

Prior to joining Deloitte, Cunning was the talent, learning and organizational development specialist at Boehringer Ingelheim, USA.

Cunning, a native of St. Joseph, received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Management from Missouri Western's Craig School of Business.

As a student, Cunning worked in the President's Office and says he loved his experience at Missouri Western. As an alumnus, he was a member of the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Network that planned Legacy Day during Homecoming week in 2018 – helping raise more than \$10,000 and becoming the youngest member of the Clock Tower Society, which honors donors who have made Missouri Western a beneficiary of their estate and financial planning.



In 2019, Cunning was awarded the Alumni Association's Great Griffon Award for the Craig School of Business and Technology.

He is excited to be part of the Alumni Board and hopes to use his knowledge and talents to help connect alumni back to the University.

### JORDAN SHADWICK

Jordan (Martinosky) Shadwick '09 is an account manager at SJC Marketing in St. Joseph. She works to create and implement strategies while utilizing marketing tactics to generate leads and achieve goals to improve outcomes for her clients.

Prior to joining the SJC Marketing team, Shadwick was a talent services event coordinator at Mosaic Life Care.

Originally from Nebraska City, Nebraska, Shadwick graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies – Public Relations.



She resides in St. Joseph with her husband, Shawn, and her daughter, Evelyn, who will be a sophomore at Bishop LeBlond High School in the fall. Shadwick is an active member of the worship team at Grace Evangelical Church and enjoys participating in community theatre productions with Robidoux Resident Theatre.

As a student, she participated in the Golden Griffon Marching Band Color Guard, the Mystics Dance Team, was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity and participated in theatrical productions.

As a proud Missouri Western graduate, Shadwick sees the value of Missouri Western as a pillar of the community. She would like to see Missouri Western fully embraced by the community and hopes that, as a member of the Alumni Board, she can be a positive influence on past graduates to see continued growth at Missouri Western. ■

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Missouri Western State University

**Homecoming & Family Weekend 2021**

**October 15 -17**




*2021 Foundation Donor Appreciation Reception*

**Thank you to our generous donors whose gifts help support our students - both traditional and nontraditional - and we appreciate each and every one of you!**



# Congratulations Alumni Award Recipients



Teresa Fankhauser '79

## **Distinguished Alum – Teresa Fankhauser '79**

Teresa Fankhauser graduated from Missouri Western with a Bachelor of Science in Education – Speech/Theatre.

Fankhauser joined the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council in 2005 and currently serves as the executive director. She works with local arts agencies, Missouri Western, the City of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph School District to foster the arts in St. Joseph. Her position includes working with local, state and national organizations and agencies to affect positive changes for the arts.

Currently she is vice chair of the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District and serves on the board of the Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies.

Prior to joining the Allied Arts Council, she served as managing director of the Performing Arts Association of St. Joseph and co-owned the Ice House Theatre with husband Erich Uhlhorn.



Stephanie Stewart '97

## **Distinguished Faculty – Stephanie Stewart '97**

Stephanie Stewart has been a registered nurse since 1997, having graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Missouri Western. Stephanie has worked in many areas of nursing, from medical-surgical to gerontological nursing.

After taking an opportunity to teach in a licensed practical nursing program, Stewart knew that nursing education was where her heart was most happy. She began teaching in Missouri Western's prelicensure baccalaureate program in August 2013.

Stewart is currently pursuing her doctorate and will complete all requirements in May 2022.

She is a co-founder of the Freudenthal Center for Parkinson's Disease, a nonprofit organization that offers free programs to those diagnosed with PD.



Tom Richmond

## **Iffert Award – Tom Richmond**

Giving back comes easy for Tom Richmond; it's in his DNA. The first recipient of this award was his father, Dr. George Richmond, in 2007.

A lifelong community advocate, Richmond serves, or has served, on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Western State University Foundation, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trustees for the Mosaic Life Care Foundation, the United Way Volunteer Center Advisory Committee and has taken part in many other community involvement endeavors including Specialty Industries, Grace Evangelical Church, Mosaic Quality Committee, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce (Economic Development), Sunrise Optimist Club, Valley Community Food Kitchen, United Way of Greater St. Joseph and Young Life.

He currently serves as the budget committee chair on the Missouri Western State University Foundation Board and is a member of the Western League for Excellence and the Arts Society.

Richmond has worked at Altec Industries since 1981 and is manager of Altec Parts Distribution. He and his wife Judy have four children and 12 grandchildren.



Krystal Graham '13

## **Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) – Krystal (Potter) Graham '13**

Krystal Graham earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology – Health Sciences. She has since used her education in both the animal and human health regulatory industries – working for Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health and PATH, a global nonprofit accelerating health equity in low- and middle-income countries.

During her time at Boehringer Ingelheim, Graham worked on the international regulatory affairs team, learning the regulatory requirements for Japan, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and other emerging markets for animal health biologics.

Now at PATH, Graham has shifted to human health and is currently a regulatory affairs officer where she provides expert guidance throughout all phases of planning and subsequent clinical trials to gain World Health Organization Prequalification to address some of the most serious global health crises in low- and middle-income countries.

She and her husband, Patrick, have two children and are located in the greater Seattle area.



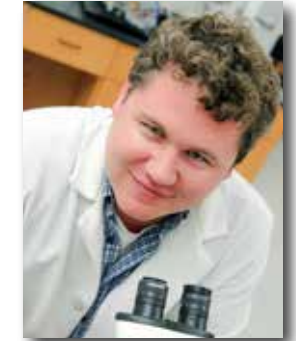
Susan Campbell '01

## **Great Griffon – Business and Professional Studies – Susan Campbell '01**

Susan J. Campbell is the head of SJC Marketing, a full-service marketing, communications and content company. A graduate with a core focus on marketing, Campbell brings more than 20 years in marketing, leadership and professional communications to her team.

In addition to her role with SJC Marketing, Campbell is also active in the local community, serving on a number of boards and committees for local organizations, including the Missouri Western State University Foundation Board, the Craig School of Business Advisory Council, Rotary International and the St. Joseph Library Foundation Board. Campbell entered the Strategic Communication program with the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 2018, earning her master's in 2020.

A St. Louis native, Campbell now lives in Faucett, Missouri, while her husband maintains the family farm. She is the mother of two children, one a college graduate, and one currently pursuing her business degree.



Gary Baumann '09/'12

## **Great Griffon – College of Science & Health – Gary Baumann '09/'12**

Gary Baumann earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and his Master of Applied Science in Chemistry, both from Missouri Western.

He serves as group leader for QA Investigations at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. In 2021, he published his first science fiction book, "Convergence." Baumann serves Missouri Western and the St. Joseph community through his volunteer efforts.

Upon graduation, Baumann began working at BioZyme, a St. Joseph-area livestock nutrition and animal microbiology company. He continued to teach at Missouri Western for a few years where he could share his passion for science with students. In 2019, Baumann joined QA at Boehringer Ingelheim. In March 2021, he transitioned to his current role as group leader, Quality and Compliance, Deviations.

In April 2021, he celebrated his 12th wedding anniversary with his wife, Emily (also a chemistry department graduate). They welcomed their son, Bridger Arcturus, into the world in August 2020.

*Continued on next page*



# Congratulations Alumni Award Recipients

Continued from page 25



Dan Ramming '97

## Great Griffon – College of Liberal Arts – Dan Ramming '97

Daniel Ramming has a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and is currently an art teacher and yearbook advisor at Central High School in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Ramming has taught art and special education in various educational settings. He has taken on additional duties as an advisor for different clubs and activities as needed.

He has been involved with Downtown St. Joseph redevelopment for more than two decades, including as a board member and vice president of the Downtown Association.

Ramming was on the Trails West! Steering Committee for several years, and has been involved in other Allied Arts Council events. He donated his sculpture, "Reaching Skyward," to be a permanent part of Sculpture Walk.

Ramming has long been involved in the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the greater St. Joseph area. He was instrumental in creating a Missouri Western scholarship to help LGBTQ+ families afford a better education. He is currently the president of the Midland Empire Equality Coalition, which organizes the St. Joe Pride Festival.



Derek Coats '02

## Great Griffon – College of Liberal Arts – Derek Coats '02

Derek Coats received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Missouri Western.

Coats currently serves as deputy chief of staff to United States Sen. Roy Blunt, where he has worked for 10 years. In that role, he oversees many aspects of the day-to-day operations of the senator's offices throughout the state and works closely with the chief of staff on the senator's major projects and strategic initiatives. Prior to Sen. Blunt, Coats held various positions in the offices of United States Sen. Christopher S. (Kit) Bond, which were made possible because of an internship during his last semester at Missouri Western.

He and his wife, Kellie Ann, reside in Columbia with their son, Carter.



Liam Nevin '21

## International Student of the Year – Liam Nevin '21

Liam Nevin is from Brisbane, Australia and came to Missouri Western in the fall of 2019.

He was heavily involved with the international community on campus, offering rides to the airport or store and helping with emotional support. He was also involved with the Missouri Western men's soccer club team, and served as a player and coach in 2019 and 2021. In spring 2021, Nevin served as a volunteer assistant coach with the Missouri Western women's soccer team who finished second in their conference.

He will return to Missouri Western in fall 2021 to begin an MBA program and serve as the graduate assistant for the Missouri Western women's soccer team.



Mackenzie O'Neill '21

## Graduating Senior of the Year – Mackenzie O'Neill '21

A St. Louis native, Mackenzie O'Neill was steadfast in the pursuit of her nursing degree, all while balancing a collegiate soccer career and representing her fellow athletes on the national stage. She was chair of the NCAA DII Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) E-Board and vice chair

and member of the Division II Legislation Committee.

She served as a tutor for five nursing courses through the Center for Academic Support and was named Golden Griffon SAAC volunteer of the year in 2018-19.



Isaiah Colbert '21

## Clifford Hughes '55 Award – Isaiah Colbert '21

Born and raised by his parents, Victor and Debra, in Kansas City, Missouri, Isaiah

Colbert graduated in the spring.

Majoring in business management and minoring in entrepreneurship, Colbert was all about being involved. He was named a two-time all-conference football player, along with being a two-time team captain. He was also a recipient of the Chris Faros Memorial Scholarship.

He served as president of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, as well as peer mentoring during his time with Missouri Western – all while running his own DJ business, Swig the DJ, founded in spring 2019. ■

## AlumNotes

### 1970s

**Gregory Quinn '76** has recently accepted the position of assistant instructor – special education (functional skills) in the North Kansas City School District.

### 1980s

**Daniel Williams '87** retired in 2019 after 44 years in the computer industry, the last 24 of which he spent as the Director of Sales Operations at Hitachi.

### 2000s



**Aurora Kerns '06/'09/'16** and her husband, Rick, announce the birth of their first grandson,

Ayden Raphael Peck. Ayden was born to their daughter, Andrea '15, and husband Austin Peck on April 9, 2021 and weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz.



**Gary F. Baumann II '09/'12** and his wife, **Emily Baumann '10**, announce the

birth of their son, Bridger Arcturus Baumann. Bridger was born on Aug. 24, 2020 and weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz.

### 2010s



**Isaac Collins '11** and his wife, Rachel, announce the birth of their first child, Sage Emery Collins.

Sage was born on May 12, 2021.

### Jiliana (Newcamp) Lanning '19

is serving as the assistant vice president retail manager for Wells Bank. ■

### HOW CAN I NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN ALUMNI AWARD?

1. Go to [griff.vn/awards](http://griff.vn/awards) and review the criteria for each award.
2. Identify a fellow alum that fits the criteria for their respective award.
3. Download and complete the fillable PDF nomination form.
4. Submit your completed nomination form prior to the deadline.
5. Attend the Awards Banquet to support all the winners!!



# In Memoriam

We remember those who have passed away. If you want to include someone in this listing, please call (816) 271-5676, mail the information to MWSU Magazine, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or email [magazine@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:magazine@missouriwestern.edu).

**Jerry Anderson**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 16, 2021.  
Jerry was a professor of piano from 1972-2007. He started the local chapter of the professional fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda – Eta Mu during his career. He also established Noontime Concerts at First Presbyterian Church to showcase musicians from the university and area, which continued for 20 years until he retired from the church.

**Mary Ann Bailey '47**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 23, 2021

**Margie Beggs '71**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 5, 2021

**Zane R. Brickley**, Cosby, Missouri, April 30, 2021.  
Zane served on the Missouri Western Engineering and Technology Advisory board.

**Hilda Buckles '75**, Bolivar, Missouri, Jan. 15, 2021

**Larry Buckles**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 18, 2021.  
Larry retired from the print shop at Missouri Western State University in 2006.

**Randy Butt '79**, Warrensburg, Missouri, April 26, 2021

**Richard E. Cates '84**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 15, 2021

**Linda Chavez '17**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 25, 2021

**Ellen Church '43**, Nevada, Iowa, Jan. 26, 2021

**Ervin Cook '74**, Columbus, Ohio, January 2021

**Leon Davis '06**, Imperial, Missouri, February 2021

**Lu Durham**, Dearborn, Missouri, May 24, 2021.  
Lu directed the first theater production at the MWSC Potter Fine Arts Center.

**Louann Erickson '80**, DeKalb, Missouri, April 5, 2021

**Jeffrey Thomas Fisher '02**, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 3, 2021

**LeRoy Goucan '49**, Lee's Summit, Missouri, April 28, 2021

**Constance (Connie) Grover '88**, Kansas City, Missouri, April 2, 2021

**Deborah Hall '03**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 4, 2021

**Kateryna Hasiak '78**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 23, 2021

**David Hecker '75**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 23, 2021

**Hamilton Henderson '66**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 2, 2021

**Ralph Hill '54**, Navarre, Florida, Jan. 26, 2021

**Melinda Kastner '80**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 21, 2021

**Marion Keck '60**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 29, 2021

**Helen Irene Koch '84**, Country Club, Missouri, April 14, 2021

**Barbara Krueger '87**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 13, 2021

**Vernelle Linch '38**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 17, 2021

**Richard (Dick) Lionberger '76**, Savannah, Missouri, April 28, 2021

**Martin Marks '84**, Bigelow, Missouri, April 4, 2021

**Joe Mazur '58**, St. Joseph, Missouri, March 6, 2021

**Sarah McBrayer '90**, Port Charlotte, Florida, May 29, 2021

**Doug Miller '81**, Valparaiso, Indiana, Feb. 8, 2021

**Lesla Myer '02**, Kansas City, Missouri, May 27, 2021

**Tamarra Nold '76**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 19, 2021

**David Pickett '80**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 3, 2021

**Roxanna Rich '00**, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 8, 2021

**Jack Rose '72**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 26, 2021

**Cheryl Snodgrass '70**, Lathrop, Missouri, Feb. 20, 2021

**Larry Sonner '56**, Johnston, Iowa, Nov. 27, 2020

**Loah Stallard**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Dec. 26, 2020.  
Loah's name was incorrectly spelled in the Winter 2021 edition of the magazine.

**Jane Urquhart '41**, Overland Park, Kansas, Nov. 28, 2020

**Deborah Wallen '93**, Blue Springs, Missouri, Jan. 18, 2021

**Terry Wilson '00**, Ontario, Oregon, March 24, 2021

**Michael Wysling '96**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 21, 2021 ■

## Legacy Cords

For the first time, at the May 2021 Commencement, the Missouri Western Alumni Association gifted legacy students with a specific cord to wear at graduation.

This Legacy Cord recognizes the connection they share with their family members who graduated before them. Students with Missouri Western graduates in their family history (parents, step-parents, or grandparents) are considered legacies. Undergraduate and graduate students were eligible.

Allison Hildebrand '21 is one of the first graduates to receive our new legacy cord. Allison received her bachelor's degree in speech communication in May 2021.

"I would say being a legacy means MWSU is doing its job correctly," Allison said. "It gave my mother the tools and education she needed to help me get to graduation, and I couldn't have done it without her."

Allison's mother, Rita Hildebrand '11, agrees that it is cool. "It is such an accomplishment for both of us," added Rita, who graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Education.

When your legacy Griffon is ready to graduate, have them go to [missouriwestern.edu/alumni/legacy-cords](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni/legacy-cords) and register for their legacy cord. ■



Above: Allison at her May 2021 Commencement.  
Below: Jack (father), Allison, Rita and Matt (brother) at Rita's December 2011 Commencement.



# Looking back – texting lingo

Did u txt ur bffl w/lingo back in 2011? Missouri Western students did, and “... it started infesting student assignments ...” an article from the 2011 Griffon

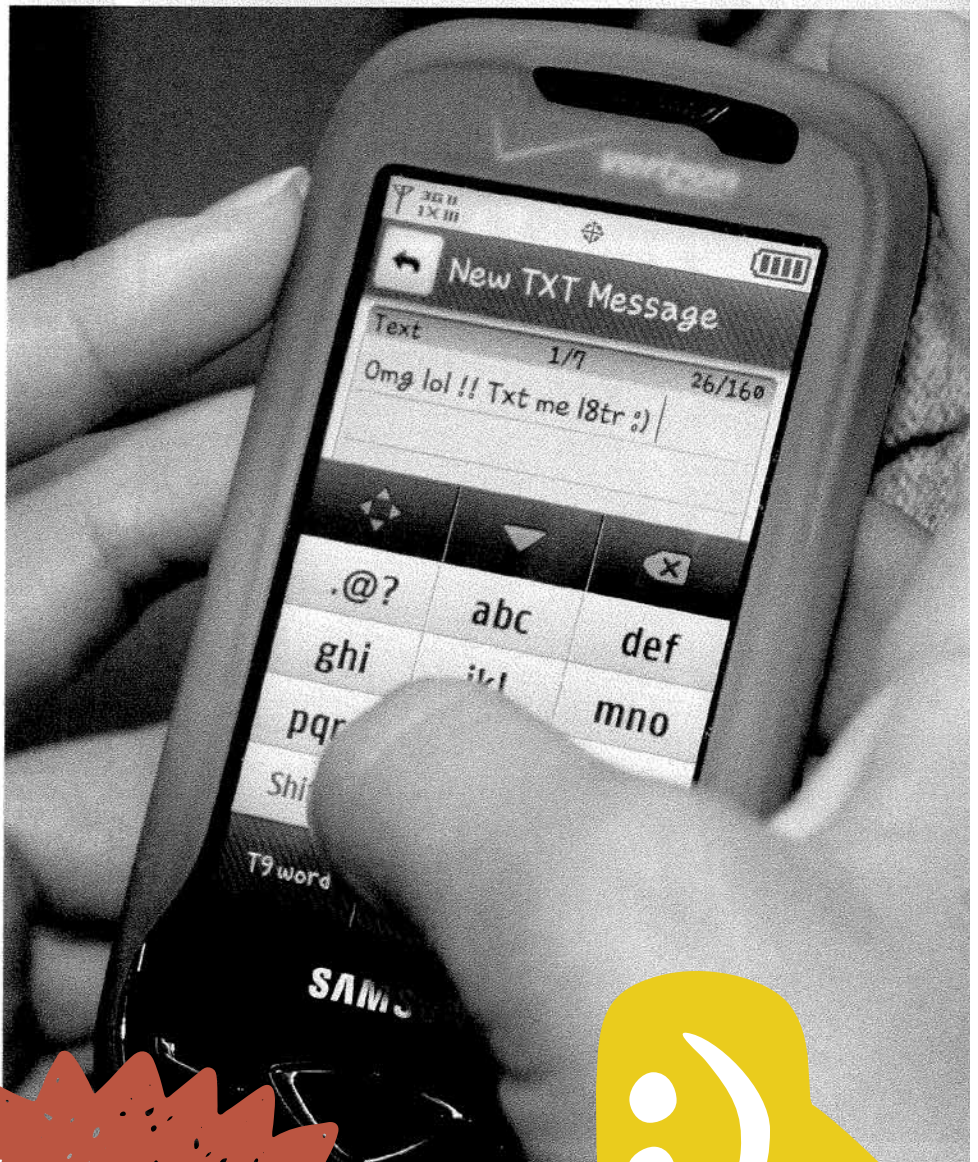
Yearbook claims. “Getting papers done faster by using language shortcuts was the favorite ...” side effect of

this lingo, it added. While we’re not sure if shortcuts are still finding their way into formal essays, we’re sure the students have embraced an entirely new list of common texting lingo, and that they would srsly rofl at the lingo used only a decade ago! ■

ROFL

## Here is Some Common Texting Lingo

<3 = love  
2day = today  
2 = to  
+ = for  
b4 = before  
bc = because  
bffl = best friend for life  
brb = be right back  
g2g = got to go  
h8r = hater  
jk = just kidding  
l8r = later  
lol = laugh out loud  
omg = oh my gosh  
r = are  
rofl = roll on floor laughing  
srsly = seriously  
tmrw = tomorrow  
ttyl = talk to you later  
u = you  
w/ = with  
w/o = without



BFF

OMG

GR8

LOL

