Classes go subterranean  page 14
A Griffon’s tale  page 16
President’s Perspective

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Missouri Western State College is a rapidly emerging institution of higher education poised, with the approval of the Legislature and the Governor, to become Missouri Western State University. Western already has the profile of an excellent American regional university. Western is focused on applied learning and applied research and seeks "university" designation in order to become a stronger partner in the economic and social development of our region of Missouri. Through our alumni, in fact, Western already has a significant impact well beyond our region.

Since the 1960s, most states in the nation have changed their public four-year colleges to universities. All but one of the states that border Missouri have done the same. Why? Because their expanded mission strengthens the economic and social development potential of the state in the new knowledge-based economy.

Today, Western’s economic impact alone on the larger community is conservatively estimated to be about $150 million per year. University status will increase this impact substantially during the next few decades. Here are some examples:

• As a university, Western will be better positioned to work with others to expand local industry and attract new businesses to the region, especially in areas like the life sciences, health care, and technology-based manufacturing.

• As a university, Western will be better situated to meet the workforce and applied research needs of the region through selected programs designed in partnership with business, industry, government, the professions, and other universities.

• As a university, Western will be better able to attract federal government grants, foundation dollars, and outside contracts to support collaborative activities with business, industry, government, the professions, and the schools.

• As a university, Western will be in a better position to raise private funds to support students with scholarships, faculty with professional development, and programs and services that help individuals and the region.

• As a university, Western will be well positioned to attract new students, continuing to increase its total enrollment and its positive economic and educational impact on our region and well beyond our region through graduates.

• As a university, Western will be well situated to work as an equal partner with other universities in Missouri and beyond Missouri to serve the needs of our region.

Making Western “Missouri Western State University” is the right thing to do based on the merits of our case and the potential it promises for our students, our region, and our state. We are asking the General Assembly and the Governor to approve university status for Western based on those merits.

Yours sincerely,

James J. Scanlon
President
The 3 Rs for 2005: Renovating, rejuvenating & remodeling

Construction noises are common sounds these days, as several projects are underway as part of a campus-wide effort to improve student spaces.

The largest project underway is the 400-bed residence hall, slated for completion this fall. The hall will feature semi-suite double and single rooms, and lounges, study areas and kitchenettes on every floor. Students will have the opportunities to live and study together as part of Western’s learning communities initiative.

The residence halls’ commons building was completed last fall, and is being used for student gatherings and staff offices. The commons also offers a convenience store, coffee shop and 24-hour service desk.

All the existing residence halls received electrical and ventilation upgrades, also.

The Student Government Association is completing an approximately $85,000 project in the lounge on the first floor of the Nelle Blum Student Union that included removing the brick walls, covering the pillars, new carpeting, new furniture and lighting.

“We wanted to give students a place to congregate that was comfortable and inviting,” said student Sylvester Brandon, one of the coordinators of the project.

New wall treatments, carpeting, and new furniture are planned renovations for the library’s main floor, also.

“As we grow, we need to make sure our spaces meet the demands for our students to live, study and attend classes,” said Ron Olinger, vice president for financial planning and administration. “We need to continually adapt to students’ needs.”

New dean of student development hired

Dr. Paul Shang was hired as Western’s new dean of student development and began his duties in January.

“I am very excited and honored. Throughout my interview, people reiterated that Western is a very special place. I believe them, and I am thrilled to join them,” said Paul.

He was formerly the director of student and enrollment services at Penn State Worthington Scranton of Dunmore, Penn., and had served as director of student affairs there. Paul has also held director positions in student affairs divisions at Colorado State University and the University of Iowa.

Foreign studies opportunities expand for students

Dr. Tim Holian, associate professor of German at Missouri Western State College, said that often, as he and his students are heading to the airport to return home from a two- or three-week travel/study abroad trip, a student will say, “I wish we weren’t leaving. I was just beginning to feel comfortable.”

Now, he said students have the opportunity to extend their visits and enjoy a greater cultural immersion, because Tim, along with Dr. Susan Hennessy, associate professor of French, have established student exchange programs with French and German universities.

“We want them to use all the skills they have acquired in the classroom,” Tim said. “It’s an exciting opportunity for anyone who has an interest in a foreign language and really wants to use it.”

Agenstein building update

Administrators are hopeful that the Missouri Legislature will approve funding during this session for the Evan R. Agenstein Science and Math Building’s addition and renovation project.

It is the third priority on the Coordinating Board for Higher Education’s capital projects list, and hopefully it will be funded if a general higher education building package passes in the Missouri Legislature.

In 2002, the college received a $250,000 federal grant through the work of Sen. Christopher Bond, and the funds were used to design and plan the project. The Agenstein building was one of the first on campus in 1969.

Two Western students, Melina Paden and Aylesi Bobo, spent their spring 2004 semester studying at the Universite d’Angers in Angers, France, and a student from that university is currently attending Western. This fall, a student from the Otto-Friedrich-Universität in Bamberg will attend Western, and a student from Western will begin studying at that university in the spring of 2006.

“My experience in France was the best thing I have ever done in my life, and I learned a lot about myself,” said Melina, a senior French major from St. Joseph. “I also learned French so well I can now speak it without thinking about it, and I can understand the language so much better.”

Melina believes the extended stay offered a lot more benefits compared to a shorter visit, and she would definitely recommend a semester-long program.

“I tell others if they really want to learn a foreign language, they have to study abroad,” said Melina. “I learned things I could never have learned in a classroom.”

The rock and plant display under the stairs will be removed as part of the library renovation.

The residence halls’ Commons Building was completed last fall. It includes a coffee bar, shown above, a 24-hour service desk and a convenience store.
Western Institute embarks on research projects

One of the first projects of the Western Institute’s new geospatial lab is putting St. Joseph on the map. Literally. Executive Director Dr. Christopher Shove said the lab is involved in a joint project with the city of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce and a number of private businesses to create a database of industrial sites and buildings in the region. The information will be available on the Internet to be used by businesses around the world who are interested in moving to the region.

“When companies are looking to locate somewhere, they want to keep it secret,” said Christopher, who was the director of the Center for Geographic Information Science and Applied Geographics at the University of Toledo, Ohio before joining Western. “This is a way they can do that. They can get the very detailed information they need to buy a site in St. Joseph.”

“New technologies are allowing businesses, conservation groups and local governments to have information they desperately need but never had before.”

Western Institute faculty and students will be involved in projects.

In fact, the biology department has received three grants in the past two years for Geographic Information Systems software. (p. 5). “It is critical for students to have this knowledge of geospatial data. It’s a powerful tool for research in many different disciplines,” Christopher said.

Woodward speaks at Convocation on Critical Issues

One of the most prolific nonfiction writers in America spoke at Western’s 2004 Convocation on Critical Issues in September. Bob Woodward, assistant managing editor of the Washington Post, told an audience of over 3,200 of his experiences in writing his bestseller, “Plan of Attack,” about President George Bush and the war in Iraq.

He noted that he spent over a year writing the book, and his interview with the president was three- and a-half hours, a record for an interview with a sitting president.

Bob is the recipient of almost every major American journalism award. He and Carl Bernstein won a Pulitzer for their work in uncovering the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

Biology Department receives $135,000 grant for GIS software

Four out of every five job announcements for positions within conservation or natural resource management are requiring some literacy in geospatial analysis,” said Dr. Cary Chevalier, associate professor of biology.

And now, a $135,000 grant for the biology department will help students continue to gain that knowledge and experience at Western.

The department received the grant last fall for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The software grant, the third from ESRI in two years, will enhance the software and equipment that Western received from the two previous ESRI grants.

Giving Western students this experience makes them nationally competitive in the job market when they graduate, said Cary, the principal investigator of the grant.

He noted that, in recent years, there has been a marked increase in the expectations of natural resource agencies and businesses for graduates in these fields to have GIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) experience.

“Our data suggests that over 95 percent of our students in this (conservation and wildlife management) program get jobs within a year.”

The software, which includes licenses for a 25-seat lab, is primarily used for geospatial analysis classes and projects by students and faculty in the biology department.

“We now have four of the most powerful and heavily used (software) extensions and a mobile GIS,” said Cary.

3rd Annual International Guitar Festival

May 25-29

Join guitarists from all over the world for classes, concerts and career development seminars. $5,000 in prize money and gifts. For festival details, go to www.mwsc.edu/guitarfestival or call 816-271-4420.

Dr. Cary Chevalier assists students Ivoree Groce and James Sperber with a mobile GPS unit.

Dr. Cary Chevalier

He noted that the system has multidisciplinary functions, and is available for any courses interested in geospatial analysis classes. “I can’t think of a professional discipline that could not use GPS and GIS for one task or another.”

Cary has been offering three-day workshops in mapping grade GPS for three years, and has offered 17 workshops in the past two years to meet the increasing demand. More will be offered this summer.
**Western student poised for music career**

“Nothing gives you more energy than when you’re performing on stage. Sometimes I step off the stage and say, ‘this is why I do this.’” Those are the words of Kelli Pyle, a sophomore who is becoming well known nationally as a rhythm and blues singer. Since she began pursuing a music career in earnest, Kelli, a native of St. Joseph, has performed on MTV and at an after-concert party for rhythm and blues singer Usher in Florida, and is working on her second CD of original songs. “I love music. I can’t see myself doing anything but performing.” She is a member of Western’s Concert Chorale, and also sings with Western’s Steel Drum Band.

Since she began working on her CD, Kelli has been balancing a full course load at Western and the homework that goes with it, recording and practicing. She says sometimes it’s tough to balance it all, “but I wouldn’t trade my schedule for anything. I figure if I’m going to do this as a career I’m going to do it right.”

Kelli’s first public performance was a talent show at the age of 12, and she said she was so terrified she could hardly sing. “I didn’t win, but I didn’t give up.” And where does she see herself in five years? “I hope I am a successful musician. Nothing would be a better job.” But for now, she is focusing on her college classes, her CD, and making her place in the music industry. “My main goal is to enjoy the journey every step of the way.”

---

**Students host International film festival**

The student group Communication Connection hosted an international film festival that featured comedy, documentary, and dramatic award-winning films from all over the world. Forty films were selected from over 175 submitted. “We brought filmmakers to Missouri Western and St. Joseph to expose our students to independent filmmakers and to films they won’t see in most theatres,” said Deny Staigts, assistant professor of theatre and Communication Connection advisor.

Along with film showings throughout the two-and-a-half day event, filmmakers also held classes for participants.

---

**Western adds women’s soccer**

The department of athletics is adding women’s soccer to its sports lineup, bringing the total number of Western’s intercollegiate athletic programs to 10.

The team will begin play this August as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), and will compete with eight schools in the MIAA conference. Eighteen matches have been scheduled.

Western will play its home matches at the Riverside Soccer Complex, home to the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association.

Mark Linder, director of athletics, said a national search for a coach is underway.

The addition of women’s soccer puts Western in compliance with NCAA legislation that requires Division II institutions to sponsor a minimum of 10 intercollegiate athletic programs prior to August 1, 2005.

With the addition of women’s soccer, Western now has six women’s sports: volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, golf, soccer; and four men’s sports: football, basketball, baseball and golf.

---

**Fall sports recap**

The Griffons celebrated 35 years of intercollegiate football at their Oct. 23 game. Western ended the season 5-6, and 4-5 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

They picked up wins against Benedictine, Truman State, University of Missouri-Rolla and Southwest Baptist, but the highlight of the season came in a 49-44 shootout win at Central Missouri State.

The Griffon volleyball team went 13-15 in 2004 and 3-13 in the MIAA. One highlight of the season was during the final regular season match as Western knocked off nationally ranked Rockhurst University 3-1 at home.

The young volleyball team will return the bulk of its players for next season, as outside hitter Shelly Chiles was the lone senior in 2004.

---

**Fun golf events planned**

Don’t miss the fun when Western hosts two golf outings this summer, both to be held at the Fairview Golf Course in St. Joseph.

The third annual First Horizon Celebrity Golf Classic will be held June 2-3. Norm Stewart, Fred Patek and Jeff Montgomery are some of the celebrities that are slated to play. The Gold Coat Club will hold its annual summer golf outing on July 30. All are welcome to play with Griffon athletic alumni and current Western boosters at this great event.

For more information, call 816-271-4481.

---

**Western adds women’s soccer**

The department of athletics is adding women’s soccer to its sports lineup, bringing the total number of Western’s intercollegiate athletic programs to 10.

The team will begin play this August as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), and will compete with eight schools in the MIAA conference. Eighteen matches have been scheduled.

Western will play its home matches at the Riverside Soccer Complex, home to the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association.

Mark Linder, director of athletics, said a national search for a coach is underway.

The addition of women’s soccer puts Western in compliance with NCAA legislation that requires Division II institutions to sponsor a minimum of 10 intercollegiate athletic programs prior to August 1, 2005.

With the addition of women’s soccer, Western now has six women’s sports: volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, golf, soccer; and four men’s sports: football, basketball, baseball and golf.

---

**Fall sports recap**

The Griffons celebrated 35 years of intercollegiate football at their Oct. 23 game. Western ended the season 5-6, and 4-5 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

They picked up wins against Benedictine, Truman State, University of Missouri-Rolla and Southwest Baptist, but the highlight of the season came in a 49-44 shootout win at Central Missouri State.

The Griffon volleyball team went 13-15 in 2004 and 3-13 in the MIAA. One highlight of the season was during the final regular season match as Western knocked off nationally ranked Rockhurst University 3-1 at home.

The young volleyball team will return the bulk of its players for next season, as outside hitter Shelly Chiles was the lone senior in 2004.

---

**Fun golf events planned**

Don’t miss the fun when Western hosts two golf outings this summer, both to be held at the Fairview Golf Course in St. Joseph.

The third annual First Horizon Celebrity Golf Classic will be held June 2-3. Norm Stewart, Fred Patek and Jeff Montgomery are some of the celebrities that are slated to play. The Gold Coat Club will hold its annual summer golf outing on July 30. All are welcome to play with Griffon athletic alumni and current Western boosters at this great event.

For more information, call 816-271-4481.

---

**Western adds women’s soccer**

The department of athletics is adding women’s soccer to its sports lineup, bringing the total number of Western’s intercollegiate athletic programs to 10.

The team will begin play this August as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), and will compete with eight schools in the MIAA conference. Eighteen matches have been scheduled.

Western will play its home matches at the Riverside Soccer Complex, home to the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association.

Mark Linder, director of athletics, said a national search for a coach is underway.

The addition of women’s soccer puts Western in compliance with NCAA legislation that requires Division II institutions to sponsor a minimum of 10 intercollegiate athletic programs prior to August 1, 2005.

With the addition of women’s soccer, Western now has six women’s sports: volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, golf, soccer; and four men’s sports: football, basketball, baseball and golf.

---

**Fall sports recap**

The Griffons celebrated 35 years of intercollegiate football at their Oct. 23 game. Western ended the season 5-6, and 4-5 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

They picked up wins against Benedictine, Truman State, University of Missouri-Rolla and Southwest Baptist, but the highlight of the season came in a 49-44 shootout win at Central Missouri State.

The Griffon volleyball team went 13-15 in 2004 and 3-13 in the MIAA. One highlight of the season was during the final regular season match as Western knocked off nationally ranked Rockhurst University 3-1 at home.

The young volleyball team will return the bulk of its players for next season, as outside hitter Shelly Chiles was the lone senior in 2004.

---

**Fun golf events planned**

Don’t miss the fun when Western hosts two golf outings this summer, both to be held at the Fairview Golf Course in St. Joseph.

The third annual First Horizon Celebrity Golf Classic will be held June 2-3. Norm Stewart, Fred Patek and Jeff Montgomery are some of the celebrities that are slated to play. The Gold Coat Club will hold its annual summer golf outing on July 30. All are welcome to play with Griffon athletic alumni and current Western boosters at this great event.

For more information, call 816-271-4481.
Whether I’m hiking in a pasture filled with spring wildflowers at home in California, or trekking in Patagonia, I always think of Leo, and I am grateful for the love of nature that he nurtured in me.”

Those are the words of Dr. Margaret King, ’73, speaking about Dr. Leo Galloway, professor emeritus of biology. She is one of several alumni who reminisced recently about how Leo had affected their lives.

“Leo influenced my life in a big way. He introduced me to the wonders of plants and animals and to the world around me, and that was when ‘ecology’ was a word that was just entering common usage.”

Margaret said Leo also fostered her appreciation of white water rafting, as she was his partner on two biology club canoeing trips as a student. She has since rafted twice on class five rapids on the Bio Bio River in Chile.

Kim Bowmaster, ’80, said that Leo has had a lifelong influence on her, also. She is planning to ride her bicycle across Missouri next year to celebrate her 50th birthday, and she gives Leo credit for the motivation of the trip. “If he can do it, I can too,” she said, referring to Leo’s cross country bicycle trip in 1979.

**Dr. Galloway is one of those special teachers who not only love their job, but love to pass that love along to others.”**

**Bill Bangerter, ’76**

**Biology professor inspired many**

She said she also bird watches and photographs flowers, an interest she developed from Leo’s upper level botany class when he invited students along on hiking and birding treks. She can still remember how he would pull over alongside the road to point out an unusual plant.

Leo’s great teaching skill and his patience are what many alumni remember. Melissa Feldhaus, ’75, said, as a business major, biology “wasn’t her thing,” but Leo made the class and labs interesting and fun.

Bill Bangerter, ’76, of St. Joseph, was a student in one of Leo’s general biology classes. Bill said he kept putting off the course until he was almost ready to graduate, and ended up taking a night class with Leo. “I was totally petrified of the course, but he made the class both educational and enjoyable,” Bill said. “He was one of the best instructors I ever had, and is a shining example of what an educator should be. Dr. Galloway is one of those special teachers who not only love their job, but love to pass that love along to others.”

Kim, who is an eighth-grade science teacher in Nevada, Mo., agreed, and said she tries to model Leo in the classroom. “He was so interested in plants and birds that he would draw you in, and I really try to make my interest infectious for my students.”

Leo, who began teaching at Western in 1972 and retired in 1980, said he still misses the classroom. “I had good rapport with the students. I enjoyed them all,” said Leo. “I love Missouri Western. I’m really proud of the college, and think it is outstanding.”

Although he does very little bird watching and bicycle riding anymore (he logged over 135,000 miles!), he remains active and said he loves doing research in his home library when people ask him questions about flora.

Last year, an 11-page work of his was published in “Flora of North America,” a 12-volume reference for botanists. His section in the book covers 19 species of the flower Abronia, which he has researched for over 30 years. Appropriately, Western’s herbarium bears Leo’s name.

Considering all of Leo’s accomplishments in the field of botany, in research or on his bicycle, he said he is most proud of his relationships with his students.

“I feel like I’ve inspired several students, and those are my greatest accomplishments,” Leo said.

“When I was young, I assumed that life would be full of wonderful people,” said Margaret. “Of course, I have since learned that wonderful people like Leo Galloway are rare treasures. I am so lucky to know him.”

Alumni: A call to action! Help Western attain university status!

Western already has the profile of a university, according to Director of External Relations Beth Wheeler. She is more optimistic than she has ever been that this may be the year the Missouri Legislature votes to give Western university status.


Missouri alumni are encouraged to contact their legislators during this legislative session to show their support for university status.

They may go to Western’s home page at www.mwsc.edu/alumni, and follow the links to a site that has letter forms, talking points, and a link to find out who their legislators are.

Alumni are also invited to join Western staff and students at a lobby day in Jefferson City, Mo. on April 13. Details are available at the alumni website.

Beth said there are many advantages to Western gaining university status:

• A university could attract more businesses to the community, and encourage more students to pursue an education after high school.

• A university tends to attract more grants, which would benefit both students and the region.

• University status adds value to an alumnus’ degree.

She noted that if Western becomes a university and offers graduate degrees, they would most likely be in the fields of health sciences, life sciences and engineering technology, which are not offered in the region.

For more information about the lobby day, or to get on a legislative update listserv, contact Beth at wheelerb@mwsc.edu or 816-271-5887.
Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell ‘00

**Alum Profile**

Who: Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell, class of 2000

Degree: BS in communication studies

Western memory: Shortly before graduation, we gathered at (Professor of Speech Dr.) Diane Gorcyca’s house, and I had just gotten word that I was accepted into the graduate program at KU. For all of us it was the culmination of hard work, and I was happy to be able to share my news with one of the most involved professors and my peers.

“Standing up all night studying – tiring. Working 40 hours a week to pay bills – necessary. Not understanding something right away – frustrating. Your degree from Western – priceless.” That was Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell’s version of a popular television commercial when she was the featured speaker at Western’s commencement ceremonies last spring.

“Missouri Western prepared me well,” she said. “It wasn’t until I graduated that I realized the value of being a graduate of an institution like Missouri Western.”

Dr. Santa Cruze Bell, ‘00, went to work at a radio station after graduating from her high school in St. Louis, and waited four years before enrolling at Western as a freshman.

But once she started college, she just couldn’t stop with a bachelor’s degree. In 2004, only four years after crossing the stage as a graduate at Western, she earned a doctorate in communication studies and is now a faculty member in the communication department at Boston College.

In her commencement address, she shared with the audience the tremendous support she received from faculty, staff, friends, and especially her husband, in reaching her academic goals.

“I owe a lot of people. I can’t repay what I owe unless I do things for other people.” She told the new graduates, that they, too, needed to perform work of service to repay the good things people had done for them.

“Be willing to pay it forward through your commitment as a citizen scholar. I owe a debt to Missouri Western that is more than I could ever pay back, so instead I pay it forward.”

As a student at Western, she became the coordinator of the newly created America Reads program, where college students tutor elementary school students to improve their reading skills.

She said the position was very fulfilling because a lot of her responsibilities were “trial by fire,” including writing two grants for the program. She said she has continued the “trial by fire” philosophy with her students.

In retrospect, she realizes how Western prepared her well for her academic and professional future, but she didn’t appreciate it at the time. “The professors really crafted the experience for us. Looking back now the rigor in that program is definitely needed and appreciated.”

**Potter family donates piano to Western**

Music students who practice on the beautifully restored grand piano in the fine arts center should thank the children of Thompson E. Potter, the building’s namesake: Reynolds Potter, Thompson Potter Jr., Robert Potter and Susan Potter Johnson.

Reynolds said his mother, Barbara Potter Fox, died in January 2004, and the family decided the college would be a good home for the piano that had been in the Potter home for 40 years. The family had the piano restored and tuned.

The fine arts center was named in honor of Thompson, who died in 1968. He was a member of the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents, and worked to establish Western as a four-year college.

“My father had a lot to do with getting Missouri Western going and that is a big understatement,” said Reynolds.

His mother, Barbara, was a nurse at Western for several years. She later married Dr. Gerald Fox, who is deceased.

The family also donated funds for the Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Fox nursing scholarship to be awarded to a student this fall.

“Show your Western pride when you drive! A $25 donation to the college allows you to purchase a special Western license plate. All you need is a verification letter from us. Call 816-271-5651 for details.”

“New Clock Tower Society honors donors”

“I will be the generosity of many alumni and friends that will assure Western’s continued progress and high standards of excellence,” said Dan Nicolson, executive director of the Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement, when he announced the establishment of The Clock Tower Society, an honorary society of Western donors.

Membership in the Society is extended to all who have made or will make an estate or deferred gift commitment, such as a bequest, charitable life income plan, charitable lead trust, life insurance, remainder interest in property, or other individual estate plans.

“We are well aware that the college’s future depends in part on the partnership with its benefactors,” said Dan. “We welcome this opportunity to honor those who have invested in the future of Western.”

Members will receive a certificate and will be listed in the Foundation’s Annual Report. For more information, call 816-271-5647.
Family establishes endowed scholarship

The establishment of the Gina Welsh Compton Memorial Scholarship for nontraditional students is a story of family love, hard work and honoring the memory of a beloved sister, daughter and mother.

Gina Welsh Compton, ’82, died in 1999 at the age of 46. “Gina was an incredible individual. Her death created a tremendous void in our family,” said her sister, Kathy Welsch.

In 2002, Gina’s family contacted Western to establish an endowed scholarship in her honor.

“Gina valued education as we all did,” said Kathy, who coordinated the funding of the scholarship. “She went back as an endowed scholarship to Western for Excellence, a society to honor those who donate unrestricted funds of $100 or more to the Foundation.”

“Contributions to the League are unrestricted, which means they are not designated for a specific purpose, but will help provide funds for the Foundation’s projects in support of the work of the college,” said Director of Development Jerry Pickman.

Membership levels of the League are designated as follows: Founder’s Circle - $5,000 or more each year; Regent’s Circle - $1,000 to $4,999; President’s Circle - $500 to $999; Cabinet’s Circle - $250 to $499; and the Dean’s Circle - $100 - $249.

League members will receive special correspondence from the college president and the vice president for institutional advancement, and will be listed in the Foundation’s Annual Report.

“We appreciate our donors and their support of Western,” said Jerry. “The League is our way to recognize and honor their steadfast generosity.”

Foundation creates Western League for Excellence

The Foundation invites all alumni and friends to become members of the Western League for Excellence, a society to honor those who donate unrestricted funds of $100 or more to the Foundation.

Contributions to the League are unrestricted, which means they are not designated for a specific purpose, but will help provide funds for the Foundation’s projects in support of the work of the college,” said Director of Development Jerry Pickman.

Membership levels of the League are designated as follows: Founder’s Circle - $5,000 or more each year; Regent’s Circle - $1,000 to $4,999; President’s Circle - $500 to $999; Cabinet’s Circle - $250 to $499; and the Dean’s Circle - $100 - $249.

League members will receive special correspondence from the college president and the vice president for institutional advancement, and will be listed in the Foundation’s Annual Report.

“We appreciate our donors and their support of Western,” said Jerry. “The League is our way to recognize and honor their steadfast generosity.”

Foundation marks 35th anniversary

In 2004, as Western marked the 35th anniversary of its campus and the establishment of a four-year institution, the Foundation, too, marked its 35th anniversary.

“I remember thinking, ‘We’ve got a ways to go, but it’s a good start,’” said Lee Schuster, one of the founding members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

“The Foundation was then, and always has been, a bridge between the college and community.”

Throughout its 35 years, the Foundation’s purpose has been to encourage gifts that are in turn used to further the mission of Western.

For example, last year, the Foundation distributed over $227,000 in scholarships. It also funded student, staff and faculty travel to conferences and workshops; speakers on campus, including Bob Woodward at the Convocation on Critical Issues; and a variety of programs to enhance students’ academic experience at Western.

“Strong colleges and universities have a rich heritage of community backing and alumni supporting their alma mater,” said Dan Nicolson, executive director of the Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement. “The Foundation seeks to develop these traditions for the benefit of Western and its students.”

New board members and officers elected

The Foundation elected two new board members last fall: J. Stephen Hamilton and Al L. Purcell. Both were elected for six-year terms as directors at large.

Stephen is the regional president for UMB Bank and president of UMB Bank in St. Joseph. Al is president of Purcell Consulting, a business he started after a long career with Xerox Corporation. His last position with Xerox was CEO.

The new board members replace Geraldine Lawhon and Robert Thedinger. Both Geraldine and Robert had served on the board for two six-year terms, which is the maximum under the term limitation rules.

The Western Foundation Board also elected its officers to new terms in the same office. The continuing officers are: Stan Hall, president; Emil Sechter, vice president; Dick Rochambeau, treasurer; and George Richmond, secretary.

Donate to the Foundation online! Go to www.mwsc.edu/foundation and click on “Giving to the Foundation” to get to the secure website.
The small group stealthily entered the cave at dusk, settled on a spot about 15 feet from the entrance, extinguished their lights and quietly waited. As soon as it was completely dark outside, over 15,000 bats flew past the cave visitors into the night.

Welcome to Western’s cave exploring class with Dr. David Ashley, professor of biology.

“It was a rush for the students,” David said of the bats. “I love to research, but it’s much more fun when you have students to share it with.”

David has been taking students on caving expeditions throughout Missouri since he began teaching a beginning cave exploration class at Western 13 years ago.

When he first started teaching the class, many students dropped out after learning that they wouldn’t be exploring those nice Missouri show caves with sidewalks and light bulbs throughout. But now, most students know that signing up for David’s caving class means getting dirty and cold, crawling through tight spaces, possibly sleeping overnight in a cave, and enjoying a learning experience not offered on a lot of college campuses.

Along with the beginning classes, he also takes students in his upper level biology classes on caving trips several times throughout the semester, where they conduct research for federal and state agencies. In one research project, he and his students helped get a cavesnail listed as an endangered species by conducting a systematic count of it over six years for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The learning environment in caving classes is unique,” said Shannon Brewer, ’01, who enjoyed several caving trips with David. “I believe any student would walk away from these experiences a better student.”

Shannon, now a first-year doctoral student at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Missouri - Columbia, said her cave research experiences led her to pursue a doctorate degree. “The experiences that I had left impressions in my mind that will influence my research for years to come.”

David and his students conduct research and monitor cave habitats in Tumbling Creek Cave in the Ozark area three or four times a year. The Western crews have studied crickets, crayfish, snails, salamanders, bats and flatworms, to name a few. “If it’s alive and in the cave, I make them (the students) count it,” David said.

In fact, a blind, one-quarter-inch invertebrate with no pigment found only in Tumbling Creek Cave bears David’s name - Brackenridgia ashleyi. He was recently honored with the naming because of his efforts to monitor the ecosystem of that cave.

Aaron Bunker, a senior biology major from St. Joseph, said his caving experiences have helped him appreciate the “wonders of nature.” He even spent one summer conducting tours, managing cave restoration and maintenance projects, and conducting a crayfish population study for David at Onondaga Cave State Park in the Ozarks.

“These classes have definitely supplemented my college experience in memorable ways,” Aaron said.

David said only a handful of cave ecology courses are taught throughout the country, and very few of those offer students the intense research and hands-on opportunities that Western students receive.

David said even if other colleges offer caving opportunities, “they are not taught by one of the best cave biologists/teachers in the midwest.”

“After our first caving stop, Dr. Ashley wanted to take us to another cave to explore. Unfortunately, when it snows, all the wilderness roads look basically the same.

We spent a very long 45 minutes in the bed of his pickup driving around in the 35-degree weather in our gear, which was wet from exploring the other cave.

When I got out of the truck my clothes were frozen stiff. Ice actually cracked off my suit. It’s funny now looking back on it but at the time that was the coldest I have ever been.”

Kyle Chilcoat, ’97

“One of the caves had a vertical entrance that you had to go down to get into the cave. My buddy, over six foot tall, had no problem getting into the cave, but getting out became a problem.

Dr. Ashley figured out that the only way my buddy could climb out was to use himself (Dr. Ashley) as a ladder. However, my buddy had to do some jumping to get a grip on something to pull himself out.

The rest of the evening, Dr. Ashley walked and acted as if he’d been beaten up by an unruly mob.”

Aaron Bunker, senior


**A Griffon’s tale**

Of all the legacies of the St. Joseph Junior College, the Griffon mascot is probably the most appreciated and enduring. It has taken on several forms over the years, from ferocious to majestic to fun and childish, but the mascot and all it symbolizes has been beloved by Western students since it was created 88 years ago.

Last fall, yet another adaptation of the Griffon in costume emerged on the football field, replacing the four-year old Lil’ Griff. The new mascot is similar to Sam the Griffon, with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.

“Our goal was to give our students a mascot who could get into the stands and interact with them,” said Mark Linder, director of athletics. Sam first appeared at athletic events in 1988. Although several versions of a costumed Griffon had been gracing Homecoming parades for several years prior to that, a look back at yearbooks shows that this was the first year the college had a costumed mascot at athletic events.

In 1995, Sam got an extreme makeover. According to the yearbook that year, the new Griffon “emerged less amusing and more ferocious,” and was renamed Sampson.

Sam’s, or Sampson’s, last year was 1999, and the next year he was replaced by an inflatable Lil’ Griff, a new mascot geared for young fans. “Lil’ Griff was intended to get the little kids more involved,” said Dave Lau, director of development and special events for the athletics department. But as evidenced on this magazine’s cover, little children love the new mascot, too. Perhaps Western’s mascot has endured so well and been so revered because of its rich symbolism.

“After enrolling at Missouri Western, I learned that the Griffon was a mythological creature that made nests of gold, which made them vigilant guardians of their valuables,” said Melissa Boswell, ’01. “That led me to believe that the Griffon guarded the school and was a champion for the students.”

“To me, the mascot means the pride of the campus,” said Bob Cochran, ’80. He said the Griffon was a symbol of students soaring ahead with the eagles.

In a letter to Western in 1970, Norman Knight, ’17, the creator of the original Griffon mascot, wrote, “I can’t remember exactly how I decided on the Griffon. I think it was accidental. Somewhere I read that the Griffon was considered a symbol of wisdom and a guardian of buried treasure. It occurred to me that an education could be considered as a sort of buried treasure that one must dig for by dint of hard study.”

Norman also included in the letter some loose leaf pages of the doodles and drawings that led to the design. The original drawings. Copies of them hang in the Nelle Blum Student Union Junior College Room, along with a mural painted by Al Kost, ’92, that includes several depictions of the Griffon mascot over the years.

The look of the Griffon took on more sophisticated forms in 1984, when the minutes of a Student Government Association meeting revealed that someone recommended that the Griffon mascot be changed to “Pony Expressman.” Fortunately, the recommendation was never acted upon, and the idea has not been brought up since.

It stayed to rest until 1984, when the minutes of a Student Government Association meeting revealed that someone recommended that the Griffon mascot be changed to “Pony Expressman.” Fortunately, the recommendation was never acted upon, and the idea has not been brought up since.

It stayed to rest until 1984, when the minutes of a Student Government Association meeting revealed that someone recommended that the Griffon mascot be changed to “Pony Expressman.” Fortunately, the recommendation was never acted upon, and the idea has not been brought up since.
so many people, as it has touched my life greatly in just the short time that I have been here. During my time here at Western, I have discovered gold.
I have discovered Junior College alumni who are very proud of the foundation that they laid for Missouri Western State College, and I have discovered dedicated, thoughtful alumni who know that Western is a great place to get an educational life experience. I have also discovered friends of the college who give of themselves to further a student’s education, through internship opportunities, monetary donations and university status support. Alumni now have an exciting new opportunity to share their Western experience as mentors to students. Beginning in the fall, alumni and students will be matched up by the Alumni Services Office and the Career Development Office.
Alumni who are interested in participating can contact me or go to our website at www.mwsc.edu/alumni for more information. This is a great chance for you to help current students discover gold!

**From the Alumni Association President**

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What an exciting year it has been for the Western Alumni Board. We have been working very hard on significant improvements to our Association, and you will be seeing the Alumni Association become more visible in the years to come.
Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts put forth by the numerous volunteers involved in this process. There are unlimited benefits from volunteering, including the opportunity to meet a wide variety of very interesting people and network, a chance to show off your skills and talents, and a break from your regular routine. With the Alumni Association’s dedicated effort to become more involved and visible, we would like to ask you to join us, as there are many opportunities for you to be involved!

When I speak of volunteerism, I can’t help but think of a longtime member of our Alumni Association Board of Directors. Mary Ann Fenner recently was forced to resign from our board due to health issues and her move to another community. She has been a very active volunteer for Western since the formation of the Alumni Association 35 years ago. Mary Ann, we thank you for your time and dedication to Western and wish you all the best.

I hope that all of you will choose to be involved and support your alma mater. We welcome your involvement, ideas and enthusiasm for our black and gold!

Kristine L. Smith, ’88 • President, Alumni Board
Gold Rush ’04! Homecoming Highlights

Alumni Association honors Distinguished Alumni and Faculty

A credit union CEO, two teachers and a fine arts supervisor are the recipients of the 2004 Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards: Dan Kampen, ’81, Sean Nash, ’91, Thomas Schneider, ’64, and Dr. Nannette Wolford, ’73.

The five were honored at the Alumni Association’s annual Homecoming banquet, they rode in the parade Saturday morning and were recognized at the football game that afternoon.

Dan Kampen, ’81
Several people have probably helped raised money for good causes, but many would have trouble matching the success of Dan. Last year, he raised $82,000 for needy children in Ukraine, and traveled there to personally deliver medical and school supplies.

He has also served several community organizations. Since 1997, Dan, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, has served as president and chief executive officer of U.S. Central, the nation’s only wholesale corporate credit union.

“Missouri Western provided me with an education that prepared me for a career in the world of business,” Dan said. “In every class, I was encouraged to think, to apply myself and to strive for success.”

Sean Nash, ’91
On his first day as a student at Western, Sean joined the college biology club, and he has been a lover of science ever since. He has been a high school and middle school science teacher since he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in chemistry, and he has taught at Benton High School in St. Joseph since 1994.

“Sean is widely regarded as one of the finest science teachers in our area,” said Robert Sigrist, who nominated him. Sean single-handedly developed a marine biology course where students cap off a year in the classroom with a week in the Bahamas studying a marine environment.

“I have applied the lessons I learned at Western every single day of my career,” he said. “I teach the way I was taught.”

Thomas Schneider, ’64
If you enjoy the arts in St. Joseph, you can thank Thomas for his role in promoting and advancing them. Thomas retired as a supervisor of fine arts for the St. Joseph School District in 2003, but continues to serve in that role part time. He is also an adjunct instructor at Western.

After attending the Junior College, Thomas earned a bachelor of music education and a master of music in choral conducting.

“He is sincere and dedicated to the advancement of arts in our schools,” said Peggy Iffert, who nominated him.

He serves on several policy-making groups at the state and national levels, and was one of the founding members of an advisory committee for a program sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

“I have been successful because people like the professors at the Junior College believed in me and my abilities,” he said.

Dr. Nannette Wolford, ’73
Nannette has taught physical education to students ranging from kindergarten to college. She graduated with a bachelor of science in health and physical education, and is currently an associate professor at Western, where she has been teaching since 1985.

Nannette has served on a number of campus, local, state, regional and national committees, and she has given presentations throughout the United States and in Japan. “The professors I had were so professional and caring,” Nannette said. “I learned course work that really helped me become a successful physical educator.”

Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history

According to Dr. Daniel Trifan, one of Steven’s colleagues, Steven is one of the most active advisors in the department, and he willingly makes himself available for students at times most convenient to them.

One of his former students said she appreciated Steven’s high level of expectations for his students, and credited him with helping her reach her academic and professional goals. He has taught at Western since 1982.

“Steven never turns down a request to assist students or faculty,” said Larry Andrews, professor of criminal justice, who nominated him.

As part of the nomination process for the faculty award, Steven, who reads graduates’ names at the commencement ceremonies, was asked about his best experience as a faculty member at Western.

He replied, “My best experience is easy to describe. It is looking in the eyes of the students as they hand me their name cards as they graduate. They have succeeded. We have succeeded. It is pure joy!”

The 2004 Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award winners are Thomas Schneider, ’94, Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history, Dr. Nannette Wolford, ’73, Sean Nash, ’91, and Dan Kampen, ’81.

A moon bounce was one of the attractions at the Homecoming tailgate lunch.

A skydiver from Falcon Skydiving Team lands at Spratt Memorial Stadium prior to the Homecoming football game last October.
Alumni Association reorganizes

A reorganization plan for the Alumni Association was unanimously approved at the Board of Directors’ meeting in January.

In general, the reorganization means that the Association take a more active role in mobilizing alumni volunteers, and planning and conducting activities for alumni locally, regionally and nationally.

“We want alumni to be a more significant force in the progress of Western,” said Kristine Smith, ’88, president of the Association. “The goal of the reorganization is to see more alumni engaged and involved in Western-related activities.”

As part of the plan, the Association will no longer be a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and will not engage in fund-raising activities as it has in the past. The Association will continue to be supported and directed by the Alumni Services Office.

The Association, however, will continue to award student scholarships each year, and select the recipients for those scholarships.

The current assets of the Association will be used to establish an endowment for the scholarships, and they will be funded additionally through the college.

Annual fund donors will be provided a check-off option that directs five percent of their gift to a fund for Alumni scholarships.

The Association will also continue to select the Distinguished Service Award recipients each year.

As part of the reorganization, the college will provide funding for the Association to host social activities and events for alumni. Volunteers will work with the Alumni Services office to plan events.

The reorganization, which has been in the works for several months, was crafted by a committee consisting of Association Board members, Director of Alumni Services Julie Fiedler, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dan Nicson.

William Culver, ’52, writes that he is a former practicing attorney, former Missouri assistant attorney general and presently an artist living in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

Ronald Bezona, ’60, taught and coached high school students in St. Joseph and Valdosta, Ga., and received several honors as a teacher. He has taught part-time at two colleges for seven years. Ron and his wife, Patricia, live in Valdosta, Ga.

Dr. Jerry Chambers, ’67, joined Ameresco, Inc., the largest energy services company in North America. He resides in Washington, Mo.

Peggy McElduff, ’71, retired as principal of St. Francis Xavier School in St. Joseph.

Dr. Rick Stubbs, ’73, joined the general surgery department at Texas County Memorial Hospital. He resides in Houston, Mo.

Jim Canty, ’75, owns Canty Management Services, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in ethics and compliance. He resides in Windermere, Fla.

“I owe much of my success to the learning tools and skills I gained at MWSC.”

Harold D. Stewart, ’75, teaches science and math at the Riverbend Treatment Center in St. Joseph. He has coached several high school sports teams throughout his career, and has been active in the Optimist Club for 35 years. He is currently the West Missouri District Optimist Governor.

Jay Hearshman, ’79, retired to Phoenix after 18 years with American Century Investments in Kansas City, Mo.

Corky Marquart, ’84, was elected senior vice president in the commercial division of Commerce Bank in St. Joseph.

William, ’86, and Mary Lynn, ’87, Wille write that William is offensive football coordinator and assistant track coach with Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kan., and Mary Lynn is a social worker with the Nevada Regional Medical Center, Nevada, Mo.

Shellie Bowman, ’87, is the senior admissions coordinator at the Meninger Clinic in Houston.

Jay Meyers, ’88, earned National Board Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. He is a science teacher at Central High School in St. Joseph.


Rick Silvey, ’88, won the Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan.

Glenda Kelly, ’89, received the YWCA’s Women of Excellence honor for 2004.


Mary Beth Erickson, ’90, earned professional designation as a certified elections/registrar administrator in Platte County, Mo.

Cammie Nichols, ’92, graduated from UMKC School of Dentistry and is working as a registered dental hygienist.


Shelli (Bock) Mills, ’94, and her husband Kevin own and operate Cooper Automotive Service. They reside in Kansas City, Mo., with their three children, Dakota, Jessica and Alexandra.

Teresa Stubb, ’94, is senior director of marketing for ProxyMed, Inc., an electronic healthcare transaction company in Atlanta, Ga.

Brent, ’95, Fraizer and his wife, Brandi, announce the birth of a daughter, Antonia Josephine Fraizer, born Nov. 13, 2003.

Angie (Buis) Couchman, ’96, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of a daughter, Erynn Danielle, born Nov. 20, 2004. She joins with their three children, Dakota, Jessica and Alexandra.

Want to host or organize an alumni event in your area? Contact Julie at 816-271-5650 or fiedler@mwsc.edu.

A whole lotta shakin’

Several alumni in the Des Moines, Iowa area “got lost in the 50s” at a gathering at Stella’s Blue Sky Diner in Urbandale last October, and Stella’s signature shakes were a hit, as usual. For the brave of the group (which included Julie Fiedler, director of Alumni Services), the waitess poured the shake from about three feet up in the air.

Alumnotes

Mary Beth Erickson, ’90, earned professional designation as a certified elections/registration administrator in Platte County, Mo.

Cammie Nichols, ’92, graduated from UMKC School of Dentistry and is working as a registered dental hygienist.


Sheilli (Bock) Mills, ’94, and her husband Kevin own and operate Cooper Automotive Service. They reside in Kansas City, Mo., with their three children, Dakota, Jessica and Alexandra.

Teresa Stubb, ’94, is senior director of marketing for ProxyMed, Inc., an electronic healthcare transaction company in Atlanta, Ga.

Brent, ’95, Fraizer and his wife, Brandi, announce the birth of a daughter, Antonia Josephine Fraizer, born Nov. 13, 2003.

Angie (Buis) Couchman, ’96, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of a daughter, Erynn Danielle, born Nov. 20, 2004. She joins with their three children, Dakota, Jessica and Alexandra.

Want to host or organize an alumni event in your area? Contact Julie at 816-271-5650 or fiedler@mwsc.edu.


The book takes a new approach to investment services, explaining a new alternative to commissions and transaction fees in the investment industry. The book is available at Amazon.com.
Robert Knutter, '98, married Mindy Sims May 1, 2004. He is employed at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Mo.


Chris, '00, and Anne (Jackson) Daniels, '99, received the 2004 Employee Relations Award at the Higginsville Habilitation Center, where she is a physical therapy assistant.

Kimberly (Komer) Kaplan, '99, joined US Bank - Plaza Branch in Kansas City as the sales and service manager.

Mary Schmitz, '99, received her doctorate of pharmacy from UMKC. She is spending her residency at the Cox Health Center in Springfield, Mo.

Mike Skubic, '99, was named vice president of the Moberly, Mo. branch of Citizens Bank & Trust.

Alumni news & events


Lindsay Jones, '02, married Craig Sinclair, '01, joined Clayton Paper and Distribution of St. Joseph as an account manager.


Josh Barnes, '02, married Lindsay Jones, '02, July 10, 2004. The couple resides in Liberty, Mo.


Mark Lynn, '02, is attending Lindenwood University working on a master of arts in teaching and a master's in business administration/management information systems. He resides in St. Louis.

Susan (Hardy) Schmitz, '02, marched in the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. as the auxiliary director for the Clark Co., Mo., Marching Indians.

Kasey Waterman, '02, married Camilla Butrum June 19, 2004. Kasey is a physical education/health teacher and quarterbacks' coach at North Kansas City High School.

Brooke Whitford, '02, earned a master's degree in elementary curriculum instruction from Webster University. She teaches third grade in the Lee's Summit School District.


Jenn Crosson, '03, married Joe Damiano Nov. 29, 2003. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.


Daniele (Jones) Robinson, '03, and William Robinson were married Nov. 27, 2004. She and her husband have a daughter, Samiya. They reside in Kansas City, Mo.


Jill Spencer, '03, is a paralegal for Evans & Kuhlman, LLC. She resides in Independence, Mo.


Michael Ireland, '04, is an assistant vice president at Commerce Bank in Columbia, Mo.

Randi (Bestick) Pickerel, '04, is an R&D specialist at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica in St. Joseph.

Tell us what's new! or update online at www.mwsc.edu/alumni

Return to: Western Alumni Office, MC 106, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507

Robert Knutter, ’98, married Mindy Sims May 1, 2004. He is employed at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Mo.


Chris Riley, ’01, is an account executive for the insurance firm of Tilton, Thomas & Morgan in St. Joseph.

Craig Sinclair, ’01, joined Clayton Paper and Distribution of St. Joseph as an account manager.


Josh Barnes, ’02, married Lindsay Jones, ’02, July 10, 2004. The couple resides in Liberty, Mo.


Mark Lynn, ’02, is attending Lindenwood University working on a master of arts in teaching and a master’s in business administration/management information systems. He resides in St. Louis.

Susan (Hardy) Schmitz, ’02, marched in the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. as the auxiliary director for the Clark Co., Mo., Marching Indians.


Brooke Whitford, ’02, earned a master’s degree in elementary curriculum instruction from Webster University. She teaches third grade in the Lee’s Summit School District.


Jenn Crosson, ’03, married Joe Damiano Nov. 29, 2003. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.


Daniele (Jones) Robinson, ’03, and William Robinson were married Nov. 27, 2004. She and her husband have a daughter, Samiya. They reside in Kansas City, Mo.


Jill Spencer, ’03, is a paralegal for Evans & Kuhlman, LLC. She resides in Independence, Mo.


Michael Ireland, ’04, is an assistant vice president at Commerce Bank in Columbia, Mo.

Randi (Bestick) Pickerel, ’04, is an R&D specialist at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica in St. Joseph.

Tell us what’s new! or update online at www.mwsc.edu/alumni

Return to: Western Alumni Office, MC 106, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507
The following is a list of those who donated to the Western Alumni Association between July 1 and December 31, 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chelle Adkins</td>
<td>Stephen Bodenhausen</td>
<td>Peggy Bloss</td>
<td>Joanne Flowers</td>
<td>Gladise Hausman</td>
<td>Donald Manville</td>
<td>Theresa Powell</td>
<td>Pamala Davis</td>
<td>Michael Walker</td>
<td>Steven Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Agee</td>
<td>Connie Boender</td>
<td>Angela Boguske</td>
<td>Jennifer Foster</td>
<td>Sheryl Huszman</td>
<td>Steven Marsh</td>
<td>Pamela Power</td>
<td>Barbara Davis</td>
<td>Kevin Wall</td>
<td>Susan Agee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Altmann</td>
<td>Timothy Boender</td>
<td>Angela Bokay</td>
<td>Billie Francis</td>
<td>Caroline Jones</td>
<td>Carol Marsh</td>
<td>Power Preacher</td>
<td>Elizabeth Davis</td>
<td>Carolyn Wallace</td>
<td>Tim Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Alexander</td>
<td>Tiege Bednord</td>
<td>Dennis Bonwell</td>
<td>Bob Francis</td>
<td>Carol Mitchell</td>
<td>David Marshall</td>
<td>Zachary Ramsay</td>
<td>Sjoerd Scholten</td>
<td>Jerez Wallace</td>
<td>Tracey Watkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristine Alley</td>
<td>Tony Bedover</td>
<td>Tina Bonwell</td>
<td>Joe Fredman</td>
<td>Debra Martin</td>
<td>Steven Marshall</td>
<td>Zachary Ramsay</td>
<td>Stephanie Siler</td>
<td>Arthur Warner</td>
<td>Sheryl Webber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Alley</td>
<td>Laura Bowen</td>
<td>Laura Bowen</td>
<td>Leslie Gaines</td>
<td>David Martin</td>
<td>David Marshall</td>
<td>Zachary Ramsay</td>
<td>Steve Shackle</td>
<td>David Weldon</td>
<td>Sherri Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickie Blevitt</td>
<td>Jon Bowes</td>
<td>Jane Bowser</td>
<td>Linda Gaines</td>
<td>Debra Martin</td>
<td>David Marshall</td>
<td>Zachary Ramsay</td>
<td>Charlene Skeleton</td>
<td>Ashley Webley</td>
<td>Linda Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Blevitt</td>
<td>Rex Boyer</td>
<td>Richard Curtis</td>
<td>Emily Gardner</td>
<td>Marjorie Gentet</td>
<td>Rebecca Kovac</td>
<td>Martha Altenburg</td>
<td>Robert Sillman</td>
<td>Letitia Webb</td>
<td>Linda Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Anderson</td>
<td>Don Draper</td>
<td>Richard Curtis</td>
<td>Robert Geissert</td>
<td>Carol Gentry</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Anderson</td>
<td>Martha Drayer</td>
<td>Jeanne Draven</td>
<td>Marjorie Gentet</td>
<td>Carol Gentry</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Anderson</td>
<td>Barry Brady</td>
<td>Cheryl Daniels</td>
<td>Carol Gentry</td>
<td>Robert Geissert</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loita Anderson</td>
<td>Barbara Davis</td>
<td>Barbadian Davis</td>
<td>Richard Gilmore</td>
<td>Robert Geissert</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Anderson</td>
<td>Pamala Davis</td>
<td>Pamala Davis</td>
<td>Nickie Glasbrenner</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kevin Kersn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Andreussen</td>
<td>Tabitha Davis</td>
<td>Pamela Davis</td>
<td>Karen Glauer</td>
<td>Jeffrey Holland</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Andreussen</td>
<td>Kennan Brockett</td>
<td>Kennan Brockett</td>
<td>Gerald Grin</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Andrews</td>
<td>Maria Brockett</td>
<td>Maria Brockett</td>
<td>Norma Goodell</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Andrews</td>
<td>Philip Dean</td>
<td>Philip Dean</td>
<td>Jeanie Grail</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Ashley</td>
<td>Heidi Downer</td>
<td>Heidi Downer</td>
<td>Anne Gray</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Assel</td>
<td>Angela Downey</td>
<td>Angela Downey</td>
<td>Joseph Gray</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Bannnon</td>
<td>Lawrence Ellis</td>
<td>Lawrence Ellis</td>
<td>Catherine Grimsinger</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Bealer</td>
<td>Dana Estes</td>
<td>Dana Estes</td>
<td>Shirley Gudenkauf</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Beam</td>
<td>Joel Euler</td>
<td>Joel Euler</td>
<td>Nancy Guinn</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Beauchamp</td>
<td>Lynn Euler</td>
<td>Lynn Euler</td>
<td>Sylvia Haggard</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Beauchamp</td>
<td>Lindsey Evans</td>
<td>Lindsey Evans</td>
<td>Linda Evans</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Beaumont</td>
<td>Craig Ewing</td>
<td>Craig Ewing</td>
<td>Heanie Hanahbury</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tod Berger</td>
<td>Susan Felling</td>
<td>Susan Felling</td>
<td>Betsy Harness</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vickie Berger</td>
<td>Mary Ann Fener</td>
<td>Mary Ann Fener</td>
<td>Larry Harness</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Bish</td>
<td>Julie Fiedler</td>
<td>Julie Fiedler</td>
<td>Carol Harrell</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Bledsoe</td>
<td>Joyce Finch</td>
<td>Joyce Finch</td>
<td>Steven Hartley</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Blessing</td>
<td>Susan Cook</td>
<td>Susan Cook</td>
<td>James Jones</td>
<td>Kimberly Rhode</td>
<td>Jeffrey Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Jeffery Wilson</td>
<td>Lian Westfall</td>
<td>Mary Westfall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honor Roll of Donors

- All names listed are correct.
- If you have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed a name, please bring it to our attention by calling the

Thank you.
It’s all about learning to be a good leader. Whether it’s a field training exercise, a weightlifting competition, a 26-mile march, or exercising at 6 a.m. three days a week, the Reserve Officer Training Corps’ (ROTC) overriding purpose is to train future officers for the United States Army.

Since the program became part of the curriculum at Western in 1971, ROTC has trained hundreds of cadets to be officers in the Army. Those students who complete the program graduate with a military science minor and a commission to serve as a second lieutenant in the Army.

An ROTC poster promising “Fun in the Sun” convinced Bret McElhinney, ‘82, to join the program as a student, and he said he has never regretted his decision.

Today, he has come “full circle,” as he is now a lieutenant colonel in the Army and chair of the military science program at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

“I am proud to say I am an alum of MWSC and that I did discover gold in the rolling hills of Western Missouri,” said Bret. “That gold has given me the opportunity to serve my country as an officer in the U.S. Army.”

Twice a month, ROTC students from three other area colleges join Western for a lab. Freshmen and sophomores, although not contracted in the program, may enroll in military science classes and participate in activities, also.

For more information, call 816-271-5651 or visit our website at www.mwsc.edu/news.html
Western Numbers

- 9 Ponds on campus
- 10 Treadmills in the Baker Fitness Center
- 111 Songs programmed into the Clock Tower
- 115 Height, in feet, of the Spratt Stadium Lights
- 430 Seats in the Potter Fine Arts Theater
- 600 Trees planted since 1969
- 744 Acres of campus
- 1,100 Meals served daily in the cafeteria
- 3,370 Seats in the Looney Arena
- 5,105 Fall 2004 enrollment
- 6,000 Seats in Spratt Memorial Stadium
- 11,616 Distance, in feet, of walking trail
- 170,000 Gallons of water in the pool
- 202,000 Volumes in the library
- $4 million Value of IMC electronic equipment
- $139 million Western’s economic impact on the region