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The Golden Opportunities newsletter is published three times a year and each issue is devoted to a different gift-planning topics such as wills and bequests, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance and more.

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Don’t miss a Golden Opportunity!
Student Chapter garners award

For the second year in a row, Western’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society was named Student Chapter of the Year for the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. The Western students have won the award four of the five times they have applied.

Dr. Cary Chevalier, associate professor of biology and chapter advisor, said Western’s group competed against some very large universities and some chapters with much larger memberships than Western’s. “This is a very significant achievement and a prestigious honor,” he said.

The 47-member chapter engaged in a number of professional development activities throughout the year, including several Missouri Department of Conservation workshops. They assisted the conservation department with its annual Insectorama and youth pheasant hunt. The chapter also worked with the department at the Pony Express Conservation Area and partnered with it to study the bobwhite quail habitat.

The students were very active in community service, as well. The chapter partnered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to host a 40-hour Wildlands Fire Ecology and Behavior Training course. Several students who took the course assisted the BIA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with their prescribed burn program, and three student members went out west as members of wildlands firefighting crews during the summer of 2009.

The chapter co-sponsored the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Seminar Series with Western’s biology department and the Midland Empire Audubon Society, which included 17 seminars for the community.

The students are also active volunteers at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Mo. They have continued on next page

New tradition begins at commencement ceremony

The Winter Commencement for fall graduates Dec. 18 marked a new tradition for the university. For the first time in school history, a student was the featured commencement speaker. Lindsey Jackson, a senior speech communication major, was chosen from candidates nominated for the honor by fellow students, faculty and staff. The executive board of the Student Government Association (SGA) interviewed finalists and presented a recommendation to Dr. Esther Perales, vice president for student affairs.

continued from page 2

Lindsey has been an outstanding leader on Western’s campus, serving as an SGA senator, SGA director of communications and a resident assistant, just to name a few,” Esther said. “She is an active volunteer in the community and has outstanding communication skills.”

Students were excited to have one of their own speak at commencement. Esther said, and plans are to continue the new tradition every December. Lindsey said she was honored to be the first student chosen as commencement speaker. She will graduate this month.

“We can be very proud of the hard work and commitment that our student chapter members have invested, and the respect and recognition they have clearly earned across eight states and 23 other student chapters,” Cary said.

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The students are also active volunteers at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Mo. They have continued on next page

Zumba in the Room-ba!

W hat do you get when you cross almost 500 Zumba enthusiasts with a fund-raiser for women’s athletics and the YWCa Choices program? You get Zumba in the Room-ba, lots of positive energy and a possible entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyways, that’s what Softball Coach Jen Bagley got when she coordinated the event in the Griffin Indoor Sports Complex in January. “It was a fun day,” she said. “It was easy for people to get excited about it.”

Jen coordinated a Women’s Walk as a fund-raiser for the past two years, but this year she wanted to try something different. When she decided on Zumba in the Room-ba, someone suggested they see what the Guinness record was for the largest group of Zumba-ists at one time.

When Jen checked into it, she found that there was no set record, but Guinness told her she had to have at least 250 doing the Zumba for an hour in order to get in the record book. Thirteen enthusiastic instructors agreed to lead the record-setters and 490 enthusiastic Zumba-ists showed up for the event, paying $10 each.

“It was an absolute blast,” said Ally Browning, ’08, one of the instructors. “The energy was extremely high and it was so great to see people catching on to the songs.”

Jen had to make sure she followed all the Guinness guidelines: two people counting, two timekeepers, certified instructors, one witness for every 50 persons to make sure everyone danced for the full hour, and two “upstanding members of the community to serve as witnesses” – Mayor Bill Falkner and Buchanan County President Commissioner R.T. Turner.

The Y’s Choices program was running out of funding when women’s athletics at Western partnered with it, so Jen’s fund-raisers have kept the program going. “We wanted to raise money for women athletes but also reach out to the community,” Jen said. “The partnership with the YWCA is a great fit. Our women athletes can mentor girls and help in the Choices program.”

Jen says she hasn’t heard back from Guinness yet, but she’s already planning Zumba in the Room-ba II. She noted that the indoor field was only about half full for Zumba in the Room-ba I …
Students take research overseas

Dr. Bob Bergland’s international jour- ney began at Western, and Matt returned to Seoul Arts High school, the premier arts high school in South Korea, thanks to Dr. Matt Edwards, director of keyboard studies, and the relationships he has developed more than 6,500 miles away.

Three years ago, about the same time that the university hired Huey Shi Chew as its international enrollment coordinator and started making an effort to actively recruit more international students, Matt met Wha-In, a pianist from Lawrence, Kan. Wha-In was planning to travel to South Korea to recruit piano students to colleges in the United States, and she invited Matt along. They auditioned students, most of whom were from Seoul Arts High School, the premier arts high school in South Korea, he said.

In Spring 2009, three piano students from South Korea began at Western, and three more started in the fall that year.

MATT returned to Seoul Arts High School in the fall of 2009, performing a recital and teaching some piano classes during his visit, and he hopes to return again soon. He and Dr. Nathaniel May, assistant professor of music, are attending a conference in Serbia this summer where they hope to recruit, and Matt said he would also like to travel to China, since Huey Shi has established relationships there.

Additionally, this spring, Western hosted five high school-aged students from a private music studio in South Korea for a two-week piano camp. Along with piano lessons from Matt and Wha-In, the students attended area concerts, master classes, toured the area and had 20 hours of intensive English classes. Two of those students hope to enroll at Western this fall.

“They really enjoyed it but I think they missed Korean food,” Matt said with a laugh.

Matt noted that although he recruits internationally, the music department still heavily recruits in the community and the region. “One of my huge goals is to be a recognizable and desirable place for students from the community, the region and the nation to come. The music program is on fire right now – there is so much happening.”

Scholarship in memory of English professor

“I’ve a special way to remember a special lady,” That said Jeff Stubblefield ’84. Jeff said ever since Sandra died in 2000, the family had wanted to honor her memory in some way and decided a scholarship was a good way to do it. “Long after we’re gone, we’ll have a scholarship. That means a lot to us.”

Sandra started taking night classes at Western when she and her husband, Stanley, and their children, Bob, Jeff, Diane and Steven, moved to Savannah, Mo., in 1976. “Mom was always reading a book,” Jeff said. “She was really into literature and she was an educator.”

Jeff, who graduated from high school in 1979 and spent his freshman year at Baker University, said it was “not a successful freshman year.” He said his mother took one look at his grades and insisted they enroll together in a summer biology class at Western.

“Of course, she made me sit right up front with her and we had to be ten minutes early or we were late,” Jeff said with a laugh. At the time he was a little embarrassed about it, especially when a reporter for the St. Joseph News Press wrote an article about his mother and him taking the class together.

“But it turned out to be a cool experience. I cherish it now,” Jeff said. He graduated in 1983 and Sandra earned her degree in English in 1984.

After graduating from Western, Sandra immediately launched into earning her master’s from Northwest Missouri State University and began teaching in the English department at Western.

He said the family especially wanted the scholarship to be for junior or senior nontraditional students with a 3.0 GPA because Sandra was a serious student.

The scholarship is also for English majors, and preference is given to students from Andrew, Aschion, Holt and Nadaway Counties.

“The family chose Western not only because Sandra was a graduate, but so was Jeff; his wife, Jolene ’86; his daughter, Julia Henggeler ’10; his sister, Diane Stubblefield ’85; and his niece, Karri Stubblefield ’08.”

“Western is part of our family,” Jeff said.

Students Ahmad Shah Salimieh and Melanie Schneider help paint a mural in the foyer of the Blum Union. The finished mural consists almost 200 flags of the world.

South Korean connection

Of the 36 international students enrolled at Western this semester, six are piano majors from South Korea, thanks to Dr. Matt Edwards, director of keyboard studies, and the relationships he has developed more than 6,500 miles away.

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Dodd Foundation funds to Western

Thomas Dodd was an entrepreneur and a caring person. The 1903 Iowa State University civil engineering graduate came to St. Joseph, Mo., in 1914 to start a steel fabricating plant, St. Joseph Structural Steel. In 1941, when business was booming during World War II, Thomas and his wife, Edna, took some of their profits and created the Dodd Foundation, a charitable foundation for scholarships.

Over the years, the Dodd Foundation distributed more than $1 million in scholarships, but it recently dissolved and donated its funds, approximately $175,000, to Western’s Craig School of Business (CSB). Judy West, administrator of the Dodd Foundation, said since her grandfather’s business closed in 1985, there has not been enough money to fund scholarships as they had for so many years. “It was very traumatic when it closed. The company had financed the Dodd Foundation, and now it wasn’t taking in more money. It wasn’t enough to do what we wanted to do,” she said.

Judy said she and her family explored several nonprofit organizations before they decided to donate the Foundation’s funds to Western’s CSB as a permanent, endowed fund.

Since the Dodd Foundation had been funded by a business, Judy thought it was appropriate to give the funds to a school of business, and one reason they chose the CSB was because the family liked its focus on entrepreneurship.

The family also purchased a memorial bench by Everyday Pond on campus to honor Thomas and Edna. “We’re proud of the business school; I think all of St. Joseph is proud of the business school and the university,” Judy said.

Her husband, Ed, graduated from the Junior College, and Judy returned as a Western student in high school, so she decided to enroll at Western. Her husband, Ed, graduated from the Junior College, and Judy returned as a nontraditional student to graduate in 1980.

Although the Dodd Foundation was created to fund scholarships, the gift to Western is unrestricted, meaning the CSB may use it as they see fit. However, part of the donation, approximately $22,000, must be used to fulfill the Dodd Foundation’s commitment to students who have completed their education.

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Mile-high creativity

Jeff Meyer took his creativity and talent westward last summer when he completed an internship with the creative services department at Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver, where the Broncos play.

Jeff, a theatre/cinema major, said he enjoyed a wide variety of experiences, from creating commercials and highlight reels, editing videos, running the video for stadium events, working on a web video for the Broncos, and directing the scoreboard for a lacrosse game and a Broncos practice. He also spent a week editing a one-hour television show on the Denver Broncos cheerleaders tryouts.

“Really enjoyed the atmosphere I was working in. It was a creative atmosphere and they let you take things in the direction you felt inspired to take them.” Jeff said.

Because of the experience Jeff brought to the job, his supervisor told him that he was given more responsibility than interns they had hired in the past. “They told me, ‘You raised the bar for interns.’”

Jeff, a native of St. Joseph, had already been producing an online video of his church’s weekly services and working for KQ2 television station when he was in high school, so he decided to enroll at Western so he could continue in those roles.

While in college, Jeff has worked on a lot of Western’s theatre productions and began working at the American Angus Association in St. Joseph. It was his supervisor at American Angus that connected him to personel at Invesco Field for the internship.

Jeff thought he would have to go out to Denver for an interview, but after they saw samples of his work, they hired him without meeting him in person.

“I enjoyed the standard they set,” Jeff said. “When you’re doing things for the NFL, there is an expected standard of excellence. It has to be flawless.”

Lights and Tights

In December, theatre and music students and professors transported their audience to 17th century Italy for the Lights and Tights Renaissance Feast.

The evening featured Western’s Renaissance Singers, roving actors, jugglers and other performers providing entertainment. Jim Carolus, chair of the Foundation Board, and his wife, Susan, served as Masters of the House of Medici.
CAMPUS News

Read any good books lately?
Here’s what some of our faculty members recommend:

Kelly Wittenberg, Assistant Professor Director of Theatre and Cinema

“The Soul of an Indian and Other Writings from Ohiyesa,” by Charles Alexander Eastman

I like this book a lot. Being a Native American social work professor here, I can’t tell you how much this book has helped me when things got rough (i.e., my culture vs. the dominant world culture). I find this book very informative and healing. It provides those unfamiliar with Native American culture insight into how Native Americans see the world through their culture. I find it interesting and fun to review and compare and contrast with what I know about my tribal culture.

Michael B. Ottinger, Ph.D., Professor of Physics

“Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character)” and “What Do You Care What Other People Think?: Further Adventures of a Curious Character,” both by Richard Feynman

These two books are light autobiographical books about the life and adventures of Richard Feynman, a brilliant American physicist. In these books, he discusses how he became interested in science by always trying to figure out how things worked. As a young man he worked on the Manhattan Project to help develop the first atomic bomb.

The second book is not a chronological continuation of the first, but includes parts of his life he forgot to include in the first book. One topic includes is about his wife, who was terminally ill when they married. Both books are light reading and are intended for a nonscientist audience.

Pam Clary, Instructor of Social Work

“The Hunger Games,” by Suzanne Collins

The book, the first in a trilogy, is set in what could be called a post-apocalyptic world. The Capitol (the powerful government entity) hosts The Hunger Games each year as a reminder to the other districts that they are basically powerless. The Capitol chooses one boy and one girl from each district to fight to the death.

I had a love/hate relationship with this book. The author does an excellent job depicting the thoughts and feelings of a person who is being hunted, as well as the thoughts and feelings of those who “survive.” You can relate these feelings to someone who has experienced war or some other type of trauma.

Roger Sawford ’88, Director Public Relations & Marketing

“In Autobiography of Mark Twain—Volume I” Edited by Harriet Elinor Smith, University of California Press

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) dictated his memoirs in a daily routine over several years, but before he died in 1910, he said his autobiography could not be published for 100 years. If you are a Twain fan, or just a fan of clean, honest humor, this book is a true treasure. I found myself laughing out loud if I not at the episode itself, then at the way Twain tells it. This impressive, 737-pager is only volume one of a planned three volume set. Enjoy.

Dr. Jay I. Smith
Professor, Strategic Management
Craig School of Business

Other Writings from Ohiyesa,” by Eastman

This is the autobiography of Patti Smith in New York City in the late sixties and early seventies, when she met Robert Mapplethorpe, and the two were young struggling artists. It won the 2010 National Book Award for nonfiction.

Kay Stebler, Ph.D., Director of Composition

“By Nightfall,” by Michael Cunningham

Michael Cunningham is an amazing writer, his stories are layered and fascinating, and he is the only author of late who actually increases my vocabulary, which I appreciate. The story is about a middle-aged couple who are up-ended by the much younger brother of the wife. The issues Cunningham expertly interrogates are addiction, sibling relationships, desire and mid-life questions. The writing is beautiful and the narrative is brain food.

Dr. Reza Hamzaee, Professor of Economics

“Breaking the Boundaries of Prediction” Edited by Bronwyn H. Hall

This book is about forecasting and the economics of property rights and patents, in addition to industry applications, and diffuse it. The economics of property rights and patents, in addition to industry applications, are also surveyed through literature reviews and predictions about fruitful research directions. The book is a must-read for those interested in the economics of innovation.

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Economists examine the genesis of technological change and the ways we commercialize and diffuse it. The economics of property rights and patents, in addition to industry applications, are also surveyed through literature reviews and predictions about fruitful research directions. The articles are written by economists for industry professionals, educators and anyone interested in new technologies.

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Recommmended summer reading

Michael D. Niles, M.S.W., Ph.D., Assistant Professor Tribal Member, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Gwen Tribal Name, Wiskite (Red Fox)

“Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character)” and “What Do You Care What Other People Think?: Further Adventures of a Curious Character,” both by Richard Feynman

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iGEM Gold

A team of six biology and mathematics students earned a gold medal for the fourth straight year at the international Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Jamboree, a synthetic biology competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. The jamboree featured 130 teams and more than 1,900 participants.

The Western students and faculty worked collaboratively with students and faculty from Davidson College in North Carolina to design a biological computer capable of solving a mathematical puzzle called the Knapsack Problem and to investigate foundational advances in synthetic biology. The team presented their work in the form of a Wiki page and in both oral and poster form at the iGEM Jamboree. For their project, the team earned a gold medal, a designation received by fewer than half the projects.

The team presented their work alongside teams from prestigious U.S. institutions like Cal-Berkeley, Harvard, MIT and Stanford, as well as international competitors from Tokyo, Slovenia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and Stockholm. 
Another dimension of fun

Students last semester knew their 3-D Design class would involve creating a lot of, well, three-dimensional projects, but they were surprised to learn that the course included swimming in the campus pool, boating in a pond, building shelters in the woods and golfing in the Fulkerson Center. The instructor, Neil Lawley, new to Western this year, turned the class into a great learning experience and plenty of three-dimensional fun.

“Ultimately, I teach them how to be creative problem solvers,” said Neil, assistant professor of art, sculpture and 3-D design. “My job is to challenge them so they can be successful.”

And challenged they were. One assignment involved building a personal flotation device that would have to create a model of it 10 times the actual size.

“It sounded easy at first, but it was pretty hard and time consuming,” Chad said of the class. The golf project was his favorite; “it brought out the little kid in me.”

Natasha said for the two weeks they had to work on the golf project, she’d get finished with class at 2 p.m. and work on it until 8 or 9 p.m. almost every evening. “I didn’t expect to put in this much work in the class, but I’ve had fun overall.”

Neil invited the campus community to try out the different golf holes that the four student groups had created. One with a Viking theme even included dry ice beneath a little ship. Another created tiny mall shops and an “escalator” conveyor belt. Neil said the golf project was a fun way to end the semester, and he plans to invite the campus to try them out every year.

“Some of them have to learn to manage their time and prioritize. There is a direct correlation between the time they spend in the studio and their grade.”

For the final course project, Chad Harnsford and Natasha Hatcher spent many hours outside of class creating a “Rube Goldberg” putt-putt golf hole (think mechanical parts and chain reactions) that stretched more than 20 feet and included a catapulting golf ball and a mirrored disco ball.

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“I was a lot of time, but it was worth it in the long run,” Kristen Powers said. 

“By the end, I actually enjoyed it,” Natasha said of the class.

Several students said they liked the project where they brought an ordinary object to class and then learned they had to create a model of it 10 times the actual size.

“It was a lot of time, but it was worth it in the long run,” Kristen Powers said.

“Some of them have to learn to manage their time and prioritize. There is a direct correlation between the time they spend in the studio and their grade.”

Spring Sports Complex: New homes for baseball and softball

For the first time since the Griffon baseball team took to the field in 1969, its home field is now on campus in the new, top-of-the-line Spring Sports Complex. Both the baseball and softball teams played their home games this past season on the complex, a project that broke ground in late 2009 near the Faraon St. entrance. The complex includes a baseball field and softball field, both with bleachers; a building by each field that contains a press box, restrooms and concessions; hitting cages and a parking lot.

“The fields are very fan accessible,” said Dave Williams, Western’s athletic director. “Both fields are great places to watch a game.”

The dugouts, which Dave described as “major league quality,” contain heating units on the ceilings for early spring practices and games. The baseball infield is artificial turf, the same material as the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex’s indoor football field, and the outfields are fescue grass.

“We have one of the finest fields in the MIAA and the country at our level,” Dave said.

Ever since Western first fielded their baseball team, the men have practiced and played their home games at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph, Mo. Softball came to Western in 1976, and home games were played at first at Walnut Field Park off the Stockyards Expressway and later Bluff Woods ball fields south of St. Joseph.

In 1995, the football practice field on campus was moved north of the stadium, and two softball fields were built in its place for the women’s home games. Those softball fields are now a parking lot for the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex. While the new Spring Sports Complex was being built, the softball team played its home games at Heritage Park Softball Complex in St. Joseph during the 2010 season.

The $3.5 million Spring Sports Complex was partially paid for by the Max Experience funds, a fee that students voted for in 2006. Since the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex/Chiefs Training Camp project displaced the softball field, the Spring Sports Complex was also partially funded by the state, county and city money from the Chiefs facilities project.

Welcome home, Baseball team!

Baseball’s Spring Sports Complex firsts:
• First hit and run scored - Jason Solma
• First RBI - Ian Atkinson
• First home run - Isaac Rome
• First Griffon win - Brandon Simmons, March 18 against UCM.
Griffon softball got off to a hot start by winning the season 17-5 as they entered conference play which led to a #22 ranking in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) national poll. To date, the Griffins have a .301 team batting average and have hit 33 home runs.

Leading the home run barrage is senior outfielder Toni Dance, Brisbane, Australia. Through 22 games, Toni hit 12 home runs with a batting average of .386 and with 26 RBIs. She was named the National Hitter of the Week by the NFCA.

Senior pitcher Jontelle Belger, Kansas City, Mo., opened the year with six wins and a ERA of 3.59. Freshman Jackie Bishop, Kirkville, Mo., has posted a 10-1 record while striking out 79.

Two plaques honor coach and national champions

When the Spring Sports Complex was dedicated this spring, a plaque honoring Doug Minnis, Western’s first baseball coach, was placed in the press box of the baseball field, and a plaque recognizing the 1982 national champion softball team was placed in the press box by the softball field.

Doug was hired in 1969 as the first coach of the new baseball team. He served as coach for 30 years, retiring in 1999. Doug joined Western as head baseball coach and assistant football coach after serving as assistant football, and head basketball and baseball coach at Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan. He coached at high school and college levels for a total of 45 years.

As Western’s baseball coach, Doug’s Griffins earned six NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) District 16 championships, and his 1975 team played in the NAIA World Series that was held in St. Joseph, Mo. That Griffon team finished fifth nationally. His teams made appearances in the MIAA post-season tournaments in 1991, 1995 and 1997.

In 1978, Doug was named coach of an all-star team comprised of NAIA players that toured Korea and Taiwan. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1989, the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Western Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990.

The 1982 softball team, coached by Rhesa Sumrell, advanced to the NAIA national championship in Kearney, Neb., after winning the District 16 Tournament for the first time in the team’s history.

On May 27, at the national tournament, the Griffins won four games to advance to the finals. The next day, all games were rained out. Western beat St. Francis (Ill.) 5-0 on May 29 to win the national championship.

Cheri Kempf ’85, called a “freshman phenom” by the St. Joseph News-Press, was named Tournament MVP. In the national tournament, she won four games, pitched 24 shutout innings, struck out 38 and hit .389. Rhesa was named NAIA Coach of the Year.

The team finished the regular season 24-14. Throughout the season, the team set 20 individual and team records. The 1982 softball team’s feat is Western’s first and only national championship.

2010-2011 Basketball

Men’s basketball endured the highest of highs and lowest lows this season, going 12-16 overall and 10-12 in MIAA play. The Griffins opened the year with a tough road win over 2010 NCAA Tournament Team Quincy University, 92-88, and won three of their first five MIAA contests.

Memorable MIAA wins included a 78-77 home win over then ranked #6 Fort Hays State and a Feb. 23 overtime road win at Central Missouri 95-91. That win marked 599 career wins for Head Coach Tom Smith. It was also the Griffins’ first win in Warrensburg since 2001 and only the second time the Mules had lost at home all season.

Individually, the Griffins had two players recognized by the MIAA: Forwards P’Allen Stinnett, Omaha, Neb., and T.J. Johnson, Plbgerville, Texas, were both named Honorable Mention.

Women’s basketball used the MIAA’s preseason polls as motivation for success during the 2010-2011 season. Picked 11th in the media poll, it became obvious early in the season that the Griffins would far exceed the expectations. The women finished the year 14-13 overall and 11-11 in conference play, including several impressive wins along the way.

Two of those came against nationally ranked teams, beating then #4 Washburn by a score of 60-41 in the fieldhouse in December and knocking off defending national champion and then 14th ranked Emporia State 78-71 at Western.

Individually, junior guard Jessica Koch, Kansas City, Mo., had another outstanding season as she was named Second Team All-MIAA. Third Team All-MIAA honors went to senior center Rachel Lutney, Fond Du Lac, Wis. Senior guard Lauren Nolke, Columbia, Mo., finished second all-time on the career three-point list with 204 made.

Women of the Week

The Griffins were named Women of the Week for the week of March 22 in celebration of Women of the Week. The event is sponsored by the study abroad program and recognizes one student each week.

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The “all-new” Agenstein Hall

As family members of Evan R. Agenstein joined a standing-room-only crowd, the renovated Agenstein Hall was officially dedicated and opened for classes on the first day of the spring semester this year. The approximately 60,000 sq. ft. building, which houses biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics, had been closed for about 12 months to receive its complete makeover.

Agenstein Hall, one of the first three buildings built on the present-day campus in 1969, was totally renovated as part of the university’s approximately $37 million construction and renovation project of its science and mathematics facilities. In January 2010, the new Remington Hall, which adjoins Agenstein Hall, was dedicated on the first day of the spring semester. Faculty and staff moved out of Agenstein Hall in December 2009 so its renovation could begin.

“Our students now benefit with 120,000 sq. ft. of state-of-the-art science and math facilities,” said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement and emcee at the dedication ceremony in the W.T. Kemper Lecture Hall.

Dr. Ben Caldwell, chair of the chemistry department, said while students and faculty are very excited about all the new facilities, he is most proud of the labs, especially the space for student/faculty research. Both the chemistry and biology departments have six times the amount of space dedicated to student/faculty research than they had before.

“We’re very excited about the improvements to the laboratories,” said Dr. Todd Eckdahl, chair of the biology department. “You learn science by doing science.”

Dr. Jason Baker, professor of biology who was faculty shepherd of the project since May 2010, said the most frequent comment they hear from students about Agenstein is, “I can’t believe this is the same building.”

Since most of the teaching labs and computer labs are now in Remington Hall, the original lab space in Agenstein was converted to classrooms, and there are now four large classrooms that hold 40-50 students. Enrollment in the sciences and mathematics disciplines has more than tripled since Agenstein was built, so there was a great need for more classroom space.

Agenstein has always had three large lecture halls, one on each floor, but the renovated classrooms continued on next page

“We’re very excited about the improvements to the laboratories. You learn science by doing science.”

- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, chair of the biology department

continued on next page
continued from page 15

What’s new in Agenstein Hall

- 16’ x 40’ greenhouse with greater accessibility
- Three teaching labs - Anatomy and Physiology, Geology and Physical Chemistry
- Four large classrooms
- Two new rooms for student mentoring, study and faculty/student interaction
- Cabinetry, equipment and furniture in all classrooms, labs and offices
- New electrical, plumbing, cables, lighting, paint and ceilings, and new flooring in many areas; all new fixtures in bathrooms
- A new pedestrian entrance on the east side of the building
- A parking lot on the north side
- Windows on the east side to let in more natural light

from the direct sun and allows the best entry of natural light wave-lengths for photosynthesis.

In 2002, Western received a $250,000 federal grant to work with Project Kaleidoscope/ National Science Foundation to draw up plans for the project. In May 2007, the university received $30.1 million from the state’s Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, and in October 2007, a $5 million donation for the expansion and renovation. In the Achieving Greatness capital campaign, $1 million was raised for equipment and almost $1.3 million was raised for a building endowment fund.

“ It’s been an amazing transformation. The architects, HOK and Ellison-Auxier, have been fabulous to work with, and the general contractor, Lawhon Construction, has been incredibly accommodating,” Jason said. “ A good project can turn into a great project when you have people you can work with. This has been a great project.”

What about the animal heads?

When Agenstein Hall’s renovation began, the animal heads that hung in the hallways and stairwells were the first to go. But, don’t worry, most of them will return! Several of the heads were sold, but many are being refurbished and will hang in a new 1,200 ft. glass-enclosed display along the east hallway on the second floor of Agenstein. The heads were donated to Western in the 1970s by Harold and Alma Dugdale.

Dr. Jerry Zweerink – faithful, proud and true

Dr. Jerry Zweerink began his career as a chemistry professor at Western when Agenstein Hall was only two years old. As the years passed, he noticed classroom and lab space becoming limited, and equipment and furnishings becoming older and outdated. For many years, he was working in a building that was not able to handle the increasing technological needs. So Jerry was very happy to see the structurally sound building for sciences and mathematics completely renovated, and he played a large role in the process.

Jerry said he and his chemistry colleagues were discussing what they would like to see in an addition to Agenstein Hall as far back as 2000. While Sen. Christopher Bond was working to secure a $250,000 federal grant for planning, Jerry and a colleague attended a building seminar in Pennsylvania that was conducted by Project Kaleidoscope.

“We met in a renovated building with an addition, and we met with several architects,” Jerry said. “ And we listened to find out what needed to go into building a new building.” When Western received the federal grant, Jerry was involved in writing the request for proposals and the selection process for an architect. And when the university received $30.1 million from the state for the project, he was chosen as the faculty shepherd.

“ I really enjoyed it. It was pleasant to see that faculty had their input,” Jerry said. “ Since he was planning to retire in May 2010, he was a good choice for the role. “I didn’t have a vested interest in it since I knew I was going to retire. But I would have loved to teach in those classrooms. They are gorgeous.” Jerry said when he was hired in 1971, he wanted to help improve Western’s image in the community since it had not been a four-year institution very long. He and his colleagues worked closely with area high schools and established the Chemathon that is still held every year. He also initiated using computers in chemistry classes when computers first made their way to college campuses.

Jerry also served as department chair for several years and he was the first director of the Honors Program when it began in 1988. He served in that role for six years.

“I realized that teaching at a small college allows you to re-invent yourself and enjoy that,” Jerry said.

Editor’s note: We will spotlight a “Faithful, Proud and True” person in each issue of the Western Magazine. If you would like to nominate someone for this feature, please email me at holtz@missouriwestern.edu or call 816-271-5651. Nominations will be reviewed by Alumni Services Director Colleen Kowich and me, with preference given to those who regularly and routinely “give back” to Western.
When successful entrepreneur Steve Craig said he wanted to help Craig School of Business graduates become entrepreneurs, he wasn’t thinking “sometime in the future.” It’s been a little more than two years since Steve first presented his entrepreneurial plan, and three graduates are now operating Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores.

Steve, owner of Craig Realty Group in Newport Beach, Calif., donated $5.5 million to Western in May 2008 to establish the Craig School of Business (CSB), and a few months later, he presented his ideas to Carol Roever, who was interim dean of the CSB and now coordinator of the entrepreneur program.

In an outlet center owned by Steve in Silverthorne, Colo., Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (RMCF) had recently closed. With a loan and guidance from the CSB and him, Steve wanted a CSB graduate to operate the store and eventually take ownership of it.

That’s just what happened. In 2009, the Silverthorne store was awarded to Seth Lyons ’08, who had taken Western’s Applied Entrepreneurship course and submitted his business plan. That was so successful that, in 2010, Brady Ellis ’10, opened a store in Vicksburg, Miss., and Danell Schimming ’10, began operating one in Lake Elsinore, Calif. Another graduate is scheduled to open a store this summer.

“We have the very strong advantage of Steve being able to look at sites and assess if an RMCF franchise will work,” said Dr. Phil Nitze, dean of the CSB.

Another aspect of the program, and in fact, part of the agreements between the graduates and Steve, includes a provision that graduates will offer internships to CSB students and visit campus to talk to current students and high school students. Seth, in fact, returned to campus last fall to speak to high school students at an Entrepreneurship Challenge.

“Steve Craig helps us with whatever problems or challenges arise, and he has the patience to guide rookies through the process of setting up and operating a business,” Brady said. “I can’t say enough good things about him.”

Seth ’08, and Kelsey ’08, Lyons in Silverthorne, Colo.

Carol said that in the beginning, she didn’t think three, soon to be four, graduates would be in stores by now. But she believes the product – high quality, gourmet chocolate – has contributed to the program’s success, along with the strong partnerships and relationships of everyone involved – Steve Craig, RMCF and the CSB.

She also credits the success of the program to RMCF’s willingness to be flexible. The company offers the CSB graduate discounts on the franchise fee and equipment, and when the time arrives that the new entrepreneur pays off the loan to Steve and takes over ownership of the store, RMCF will waive the transfer fee.

This spring, students interested in the entrepreneurship program enrolled in the Applied Entrepreneurship course. Three finalists were selected and will complete internships at each of the three current stores this month. They will then present their business plan to a panel that will include Steve and a representative from RMCF, and the panel will select the winner for a store that will open this summer in California.

“Steve Craig helps us with whatever problems or challenges arise, and he has the patience to guide rookies through the process of setting up and operating a business,” Brady said. “I can’t say enough good things about him.”

As instructor in the CSB, Rick Zimmer, also continues to work with the graduates as a consultant. “Faculty will assist them to help them avoid the pitfalls and help them do the best that they can do,” Steve said. That, he said, is an essential part of the program.

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“That is Steve’s provision because of his belief in the value of giving back and supporting your roots,” Carol said.

The entrepreneurship program also receives great support from the university. Christi Kifloy, executive director of the Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce, said she was surprised and impressed by the number of people from Western who attended the grand opening of the Vicksburg RMCF store – Western’s president, Dr. Robert continued on next page.
Dave Shinneman – faithful, proud & true

Dave Shinneman is a great supporter of the Craig School of Business (CSB), especially its program that offers graduates an entrepreneurial opportunity (see “Chocolate Success”), according to Carol Roever, who served as interim dean of the CSB.

She said Dave has played a large role in the success of the CSB’s unique partnership with McDonald’s restaurants throughout his career, which is made up of several business leaders from the community.

“Dave is invaluable,” Carol said. “He brings franchise experience and knowledge to our program. He is a key to our success.”

But Dave does more than just offer advice and expertise. Because he opened seven McDonald’s restaurants throughout his career, he said he knows how hard you have to work to get a business opened. He volunteered to work at all three of the CSB graduates’ Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in the days before they opened for business.

“The days leading up to the opening are really, really hard days,” Dave said. “There are a lot of things that take extra hands.”

He loves helping these kids get up and running,” said Dr. Phil Nitse, dean of the CSB.

Dave and his wife, Sonja, also hosted a reception in their home when an AACSB International accreditation team visited the CSB last fall. Dave said the reception for the accrediting team was huge, as it included several professors and students. “I believe Dave played a key role in the CSB gaining accreditation,” Carol said.

Dave was also part of a panel that judged high school teams’ presentations when Western’s Students in Free Enterprise group hosted the Entrepreneurship Challenge last fall.

“Dave has provided invaluable leadership and support for the Craig School of Business,” Carol said. “We are better because he has generously shared his experience and wisdom with us.”

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continued from page 19

Vartabedian; his wife, Dr. Laurel Vartabedian; Phil and his wife, Barbara; Dave Shinneman, chair of the CSB Advisory Council and his wife, Sonja; Carol, Rick, and Steve and four of his family members.

“That told me a lot about the school. It’s obviously a school that cares about their students and their success,” Christi said. “I thought they’d just send one person.”

She said the city is happy about a new business opening, especially a chocolate store. “People in Vicksburg are excited to see young people come in and take an entrepreneurial risk. They want to see them succeed.”

“Based on comments from others, this program will continue to grow. People like what we’re doing,” Phil said.

Dave Shinneman helps Rob Schimming ’70 prepare for the opening of Rob’s Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store in Lake Elsinore, Calif.

Dave was more than just one person for the community.

“Based on comments from others, this program will continue to grow. People like what we’re doing,” Phil said.

Dave Shinneman helps Rob Schimming ’70 prepare for the opening of Rob’s Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store in Lake Elsinore, Calif.

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Do you remember the advertising slogan, “You’ve come a long way, baby”? This slogan was used in the ’70s to promote cigarettes to young professional women, and the advertising campaign emphasized freedom and empowerment. While I am absolutely not promoting cigarette smoking, I have recently felt this slogan applies to Missouri Western.

As I end my term as president of the Alumni Association, I can’t help but reflect on how far our university and our alumni have come. Over the last several years, I’ve seen our reputation as a strong academic institution grow — both within in the greater St. Joseph community and within the state — and I’ve seen our alumni grow, both in numbers — now more than 21,000 strong — and in influence. Today, of the seven voting members of the university’s Board of Governors, six hold degrees from either the St. Joseph Junior College or Missouri Western.

I’ve also seen our alumni excel in their fields of work. From college presidents to corporate CEOs, Grammy Award winners to professional athletes, nuclear chemists to novelists, Missouri Western alumni have as many different careers as you can imagine. We achieve our dreams and create new ones. We still have a long way to go, but we have indeed come a long way, baby!

With new graduate programs and state-of-the-art living and learning spaces, our students will have opportunities we never dreamed existed. And so I ask you, what is the value of your Missouri Western degree?

Leadership, excellence… Griffons.

Diane Hook ’90 President, Alumni Association

Western Magazine                  www.missouriwestern.edu

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As I end my term as president of the Alumni Association, I can’t help but reflect on how far our university and our Alumni Calendar of Events

May 14
Spring 2011 Commencement

May 22
Junior College Reunion, 11:30 a.m., Spratt Hall, Enright Room, 214.

June 1
Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Tap Room, 1702 N. Belt Hwy.

June 18
Cardinals vs. Royals at Busch Stadium, see p. 25

June 24
MAA @ the T-Bones, see p. 25

July 6
Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Tap Room, 1702 N. Belt Hwy.

July 9
Alumni Night at the Mustangs, Phil Welch Stadium, St. Joseph, Mo., see p. 25

Aug. 3
Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Tap Room, 1702 N. Belt Hwy.

Sept. 9-10
Family Weekend

Sept. 20
Convocation on Critical Issues, 9:30 a.m., M.O. Looney arena, featuring Thomas L. Friedman, Foreign Affairs columnist for the New York Times

Oct. 7-8
Athletics Hall of Fame weekend

Oct. 12
Alumni Night at the Mustangs, St. Joseph, Mo.

Oct. 20
Alumni Awards Banquet

Oct. 21
Homecoming alumni golf outing, reunions

Oct. 22
Homecoming parade and game – Griffons vs. Truman State

Oct. 23
Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., 20th Anniversary and Celebration

Nov. 5
Griffins vs. NWMSU at Spratt Memorial Stadium and 5th Annual Football Reunion

Check out missouriwestern.edu/ alumni/events for more information on all alumni events!
Melanoma aware

Last year, Elizabeth Woolery ’07, was enjoying her job as an emergency room nurse at Heartland Health when she noticed a spot on her hip. Because she was putting in a lot of extra hours, she didn’t have the time to see a doctor. Besides, she had had suspicious moles before and they turned out to be nothing. When Elizabeth noticed the spot becoming red after a while, she just assumed the wristband on her pants was rubbing it. In March 2010, she was diagnosed with stage-three melanoma.

“I knew very little about melanoma when I was diagnosed,” she said. “Had I gotten it looked at sooner, I probably would have been okay. After her diagnosis, she found out two of her grandparents had died from melanoma, and family history is an important risk factor, too.”

Elizabeth also contacted the National Melanoma Awareness Project (spotasap.org) and helped develop a student chapter on Western’s campus, the first in the nation that is not affiliated with a medical school. The chapter now has members all while earning her degree.

As a nursing student at Western, Elizabeth had made presentations at high schools throughout the region on the benefits of folic acid when Western received a grant from the March of Dimes. So she thought the current nursing students could do something similar for melanoma awareness. She presented her idea to the Community Health Nursing class this spring, and they were immediately on board. The nursing students visited 10 schools this spring, sharing Elizabeth’s message.

Additionally, Western’s Student Nurses Association is planning a Melanoma Awareness Walk May 21.

This is Elizabeth’s message and the message she wants the student nurses to share: Don’t go to a tanning salon. Always use sun block. Wear sunglasses and a hat when you are out in the sun. Check your entire body for suspicious spots at least once a month. And if you find a mole that looks suspicious, see a doctor right away.

“I would hate to see anybody else go through this, and there’s no need to,” she said. “If you catch it early, it’s a whole new ballgame.”

Elizabeth said she had been a lifeguard for three years, and no one ever mentioned anything about wearing sun block, “I thought I should talk to lifeguarding classes.”

Elizabeth also contacted the National Melanoma Awareness Project (spotasap.org) and helped develop a student chapter on Western’s campus, the first in the nation that is not affiliated with a medical school. The chapter now has members all while earning her degree.

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She spent a lot of time on the water and in the sun growing up, and because she doesn’t sunburn easily, Elizabeth doesn’t remember ever using sun block. “There is no such thing as a healthy suntan. The damage the sun does is permanent.”

After her diagnosis, she found out two of her grandparents had died from melanoma, and family history is an important risk factor, too.

“Since March 2010, she has had three surgeries and a year of interferon treatments to prevent the cancer from returning,” that said. “Elizabeth also contacted the National Melanoma Awareness Project (spotasap.org) and helped develop a student chapter on Western’s campus, the first in the nation that is not affiliated with a medical school. The chapter now has

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Mary Fisher ’95: Go-getter, goal-setter

When I called Mary Fisher ’95, for an interview last fall, she was staying at her sister’s recovering from surgery. By the time the interview was over, I realized that the surgery was merely a small setback for Mary and it wasn’t going to keep her down for very long. In fact, nothing seems to keep Mary down for very long. It was that can-do attitude, combined with being a high-energy person, that came in handy when the mother of eight decided to return to college at age 47 after a 27-year hiatus.

Mary still had five children living at home when she decided to enroll at Western to earn a teaching degree. Children’s activities, 12 credit-hour loads some semesters, building a house and working three part-time jobs – Mary combined them all while earning her degree.

“Mary started by taking just one class – history. “I figured if I make it through that, I’ll do okay.” And she did.

Armed with confidence from the history class, Mary next took a biology class during the summer, but her confidence soon faded. “The whole family was up for hours helping me with biology. I made it through with a D, but after that I shaped up and was a B student.”

More classes followed until eight years had passed and she had earned an English degree. Her graduation from Western was extra special, she says, because her daughter, Susan Canchola ’05, graduated in the same ceremony.

Instead of teaching, Mary found she had enjoyed working in the campus library as one of her part-time jobs, so she got a job at the St. Joseph public library. She said she never thought she’d graduate from college, but once the goal was set, there was no stopping her. “One of my favorite things to do is to set goals and knock them off one at a time,” Mary said. “It’s been a great, great life.”

Alumni and friends gather for the fifth annual Mardi Gras at Boudreaux’s Louisiana Seafood and Steaks in St. Joseph.

Forget to purchase an evergreen tree to help enhance the beauty of our campus! Our goal is 100 trees, and to date, alumni and friends have donated $200 each for 79 trees. If you want to donate $200 to help reach our goal, contact 816-271-5647, send your donation to Evergreen Tree Project, MWSU Foundation, 4255 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or go to www.missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern and click on “Online Gifts.”
Howard Neville ’76: Professional artist

Not too many people can say an x-ray of their luggage has shut down an airport in a foreign country, but Howard Neville can. The 1976 art graduate was returning home from Costello, Italy, with clay representations of his latest sculpting project when operations halted at the Amsterdam airport to confirm that his work was not actually real body parts.

“It was quite an experience,” he says, but it was just one of many in his lifelong quest to pursue his passion for art. For more than 30 years, he’s been a full-time artist, he told the reporter, “a group of people knew me as a painter (people in St. Joseph), a group knew me as a sculptor, and a different group knew me as a teacher. But my kids probably knew me as unemployed.”

If you’re going to make it as an artist full time, says Howard, you have to be aggressive enough to make things happen. When he speaks in classrooms or when classes tour his studio, he tells students to be well read in English, math and the science of chemicals. “I’ve learned enough after the fact to keep me in the game,” he adds with a laugh.

There’s the business side of his career, too — bidding on projects and selling his commissioned works. Howard says of his days as a student at Westminster, “I made up my mind that I couldn’t let that happen to me.”

And for the past 30 years, it hasn’t.

Esther George ’90, (center) was the guest speaker at a networking breakfast for alumni in the Kansas City area. The networking group was started by Greg VerMulm ’89, R.D. Helt ’85, and David Slater ’82, and features a guest speaker at each quarterly event. Esther is the first vice president and COO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Howard was born in Maryville, Mo., and moved to Colorado at a young age. He attended a commercial art school in Omaha, Neb., and worked as an art therapist for awhile. He then attended college at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. A friend offered Howard and his wife a place to stay if he moved to St. Joseph and transferred to Western after one year at Northwest, so that’s what he did, earning an art education degree.

Among his many public bronze sculptures, Howard created a life-size sculpture of Glenn Miller for his birthplace museum in Clarinda, Iowa, and a one-and-a-half life-size sculpture of President Dwight Eisenhower (“Eisenhower Fishin’ the Fraser”) for Fraser, Colo. The trip to Italy was commissioned by a Catholic group who wanted a sculpture of a patron saint. Howard’s uncle was a talented artist, but didn’t work at it full time, and Howard remembers that his uncle regretted it later in his life. “I made up my mind I couldn’t let that happen to me.”

For more information or to make reservations, call 816-271-5646 or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu
1970s
ROBERT V. WALDROP ‘74, published, “President Who Did What?” The book is full of interesting trivia and facts about each U.S. president and is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

1990s
DOUGLAS KELLNER, PE ‘92, joined Thompson Dreesen & Domer of Omaha, Neb. The firm provides technical services in civil engineering, structural engineering, geological engineering and environmental engineering, and land surveying services.

EARLY SARCY ‘92, completed the 35th anniversary run of the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., in October 2010.

KERRI (ANDERSON) STEVENSON, FRP ‘98, joined Heartland Internal Medicine Consultants. She earned her master’s in nursing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and was a critical care clinical instructor at Western.

JASON RILEY ‘96, released his fourth solo CD – “Funky Folk for Funsters,” a CD of children’s folk songs that are a mix of classical, jazz, blues, new age, bluegrass, Latin, folk and funk.

BRENT BATCHELLER ‘98, earned national recognition for the development of a new database, a drawing was held for a t-shirt among all Alumnote submissions for the Spring 2011 issue. The winner was Brent Batcheller ’98. Congratulations!

Merrill’s energy work
Merrill Atwater ‘06, doesn’t spend a lot of time at home in Kansas City, Mo. Over the past 18 months, he says he has traveled about 15 states on his passport and was out of the country anywhere from five days to two weeks at a time. But he loves to travel and he loves what he does: He’s a外交官 who works in foreign policy.

Merrill Atwater ‘96, and Japheth in Costa Rica.

Merrill is president of a new business development firm for Fox Energy Corporation, and he spends a lot of his time talking to Mexican and Latin American farmers and business leaders about jatropha and its potential as a biodiesel.

Jatropha, grown in tropical climates, produces seeds that contain a high percentage of oil, and Merrill’s company is working with farmers to grow jatropha that will be used to produce biodiesel. Merrill noted that it is estimated that jatropha could produce 200 gallons of fuel per acre, compared to a soybean production of 48 gallons per acre.

“We’re ahead of the game,” Merrill said of Fox Energy. “We’re changing the concept of how biodiesel is made.”

Merrill was attending Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania when his mother moved to Kansas City, Mo., as the president and CEO of People to People International. He wanted to attend a university that was relatively close to his parents, and when he checked out Western, he not only liked the location, he also liked its size. As a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, Merrill was encouraged to become involved in other activities, so he worked on the Campus Activities Board and the student senate.

“It was a very good time,” Merrill said of his college years. “I had a very rich experience and I had some of the best people I’ve ever met teaching me.”

The history major says he learned a lot in a Latin American history class and has visited a lot of the locales they learned about. And, the course helped him understand the culture he moves in. “I wake up every day, enjoying my life.”

NEIL ALLEY ‘02, and DINELLE HIGDON ‘03, were married Nov. 13, 2010. The couple resides in Prairie Village, Kan.

MATTHEW ALSAGER ‘06, and Sarah Stroesser were married Dec. 10, 2010. The couple resides in Prairie Village, Kan.

ELIJAH HAAHR ’05, was unanimously elected to the Campus Board of Directors for the 2011-12 academic year, and the student board represents the student body to the administration, even stepping into the president’s role if needed.

David Grahl ’74 & ’80 – Remembering Western
At Western, David was active in student government, even stepping into the president’s role as a sophomore when the president didn’t return to campus in the spring semester. He was also active in the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

In student government, working with the administration helped me grow as a person,” David said. “What I learned from the fraternity was how to work with others as a team.”

David does have one memory from his college years that stands out, although he admits it’s not a very good one. In 1970, after the four students from Kent State University were killed in a demonstration, David said the student government at Western asked the administration if they could plant four trees on campus for the four students killed. But the students didn’t share their entire plan with administrators. Right after they planted the trees at a public ceremony, they chopped them down with axes to symbolize the death of the students. “That was radical for St. Joseph,” he said. “It was definitely a shock to everyone and it hit the news.”

When he graduated, he put his computer science skills to work at the American National Bank in St. Joseph, and has been in the field ever since. He now works as an IT systems analyst for UnitedHealth Group in Powell, Ohio.

JESSICA ANDERSON ’09, and Joshua Wyatt were married Sept. 18, 2010. The couple resides in Olathe, Kan.

JASON M. BISHOP ’09, and KATHERINE FARR- RELL ’10, were married Aug. 7, 2010. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

MARY (STONE) DUCKERY ’99, was the poetry winner of the Langton Hughes 2011 Creative Writing Award, co-sponsored by the Lawrence Arts Center and the Raven Book Store in Lawrence, Kan. She had two poems accepted for publication in the Pennsylvania Literary Journal, and five poems published in the Blue Island Review, a journal that features poets in the greater Kansas City area. Mary is earning a master of fine arts at the University of Kansas, studying poetry.

2010s
STACY JACK SAYTHANY ’10, and Katy Elizabeth Weir were married July 24, 2010. Keily is a student at Western, and the couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

BRIAN TURNER ’10 and Melissa Bledsoe were married May 22, 2010. Brian was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army when he graduated from Western. Melissa, currently a ROTC cadet, will graduate from Western and be commissioned in December 2011.

JENNIFER (FOSTER) GGLADBACH ’96, and her husband, Dustin, announced the birth of a daughter, Layla Ryan, born Oct. 2, 2010.

ALICIA SCHMIDGALL ’07, and Andres Gonzalez were married Sept. 24, 2010. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

TIFFANY ZIMMERMANN ’08, and CODY AUSTIN ’09, were married Nov. 27, 2010. Cody is attending dental school at A.T. Still University and Tiffany is working as a dental hygienist. The couple resides in Mesa, Ariz.

RICK MOODECK ’00, was named one of “40 under 40” by the St. Louis Business Journal. Rick is senior project manager at Clayco, Inc., and was recognized for being Clayco’s first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) - accredited professional project manager.

J.J. PALAVONOS ’00 and Stelani Benter were married Aug. 7, 2010. The couple resides in Fairway, Kan.

JENNIFER (BLAXLEY) BROWN ’01, is marketing director and closing agent for St. Joseph Title & Escrow.

The Alumnotes energy work
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In Memory ...

We honor those who have recently passed away. If you want us to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, mail to Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or e-mail holtz@missouriwestern.edu.

Vernon Dotson '73, Iowa City, Iowa, November 23, 2010.

Landis L. Downing '81, King City, Mo., Dec. 25, 2010.


Dorsey was born Oct. 1, 1933, in Mammoth, Mo. When she was five, the family moved to California. On July 9, 1951, she married Marvin Looney, an Ozark County native she had met the year before when he visited his brother in California. She graduated from Gainesville High School in 1952.

In her role as "first lady" of several college campuses, Dorsey hosted elaborate and creative dinners and also volunteered for numerous community organizations including hospitals and churches. At Missouri Western, she started the Faculty Wives organization on campus, and meetings were held in her home. Dorsey also made several banners for the annual Madrigal Feasts at Missouri Western in the early 1980s. Some of those banners were brought out of storage and used at the Lights and Tights Renaissance Feast in 2009 and 2010.

Along with her husband, she is survived by three sons and three daughters-in-law: Doug Looney and wife, Ronee, Castle Rock, Colo.; Bill Looney and wife, Sandy, Pontiac, Mo.; and Chris Looney and wife, Kate, St. Joseph; seven granddaughters and one stepgrandson; and five great-grandchildren.

Western's music and theatre departments collaborated to produce the musical, "Phantom," in March. All four performances sold out to a record 1,762 audience members. "Phantom" book by Arthur Kopit and music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, is based on the novel, "The Phantom of the Opera," by Gaston Leroux. The production was co-directed by Tee Quillin, assistant professor of theatre, and Dr. Susan Carter, associate professor of music and director of vocal studies. Rico McNeela, associate professor of music and conductor and music director of the St. Joseph Symphony, was the orchestra conductor.

The art department also created a series of ceramic masks for the phantom.

Tell us what's new!

Name __________________________________________________________  Maiden ____________________________________ Class of _________

Spouse _________________________________________________________ Class of _________

Address __________________________________________ City, State ________________________________________________Zip______________

Phone _______________________________________________________ email ________________________________________________________

What's New _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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Return to Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

Submit your news online at www.missouriwestern.edu/magazine/alumnote.asp or e-mail mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.
SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY!

Once again, Western’s biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and psychology departments joined the St. Joseph Museum and area high schools for the 11th annual Super Science Saturday. This year, for the first time, the event was held on campus in Remington Hall.