



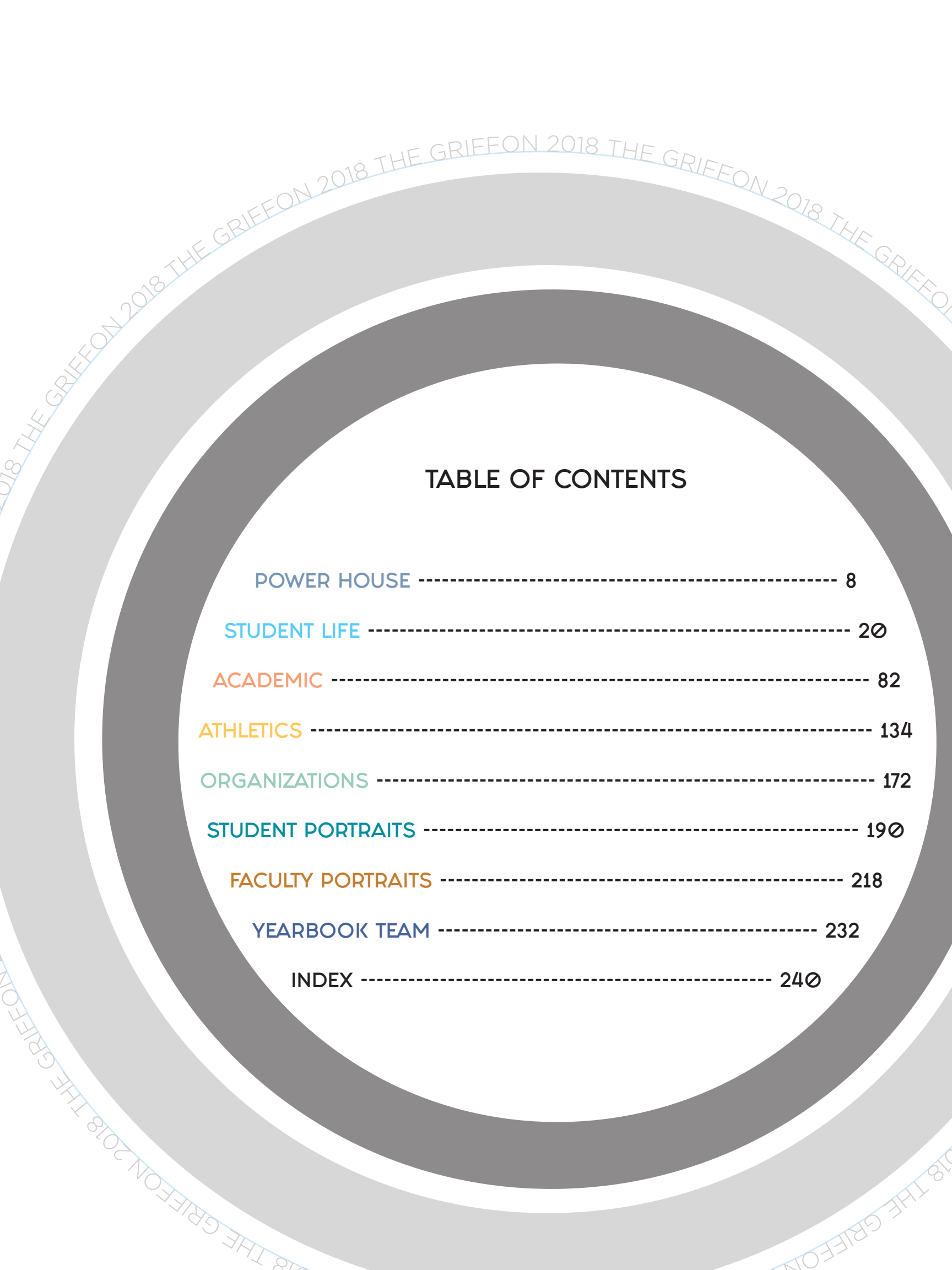
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*"More and more people are discovering  
why it is great to be a Griffon"*

-President Vartabedian

# LETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Griffons,*

It is my pleasure to introduce your 2017-2018 Griffon Yearbook. The Griffon Yearbook continues to be a major point of pride and an important component in documenting the rich history of Missouri Western. As I reflect on my tenth year as your President here, I continue to be proud of the outstanding students, faculty and staff that create the community that is Missouri Western State University. This isn't to say that we don't have tough times on our campus; however, your resiliency and ingenuity help us find ways to overcome state budget restrictions and thrive as Missouri's Applied Learning Institution.

More and more people are discovering why it is great to be a Griffon. The fall semester of 2017 brought an impressive crop of new Griffons into the family. In fact, our freshman class, the Class of Freedom, was over 16% larger than the previous fall. We are sure that these new students will become integral members of our campus community and make their mark for many years to come.

Our athletic programs are off to a rousing start in the fall semester. In their first ever competition, our Women's Cross Country team conquered the day and took home first place, and our Men's team placed third. Our Soccer team had a banner year, and Griffon Football began a new era under new head coach, Matt Williamson.

The R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues brought the esteemed Martin Luther King III to our campus in an event that will be remembered as one of the top convocations in our history. Mr. King's speech on "Embracing the Ideals of Freedom, Justice and Equality" is a timely message. Mr. King's call, and the call of his father, for the nonviolent resolution of conflict and the coming together of humankind, is vital to the ongoing dialogue in our country.

As Missouri Western continues to grow into our University designation, we began two new graduate degree programs, including a Master of Business Administration degree. This program meets a pressing community need and was built in partnership with St. Joseph area businesses. New Griffon MBAs will be the leaders of the future for our region and beyond.

On a final note, I want to thank you for choosing to be a Missouri Western Griffon. We are proud that you chose us, and are thrilled to celebrate your successes in the Griffon Yearbook. Please enjoy.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Vartabedian  
President





PHOTO CREDIT: MACKENZIE BOOS

**SPOT-ON:** (adjective)  
exactly correct, British slang:  
well done, perfect or right on

**T**he theme of this book was created by our head designer after she thought about her experience as a Western student. She described it as the “place to be, like a pin-point for Google maps.”

What an important pin-point we are. Our yearbook staff used this inspiration to highlight the achievements of power house faculty, the unique skills of students and the efforts of the individuals who make our campus wonderful.

We wanted to show that Western is the place to be and the Griffons are spot-on with all that we do.

We recognize this can be a struggle at times, especially when our world is in such turmoil and the future is so uncertain. We wanted to show that, in such a time, we can come together to celebrate the little things - the important things.

Our experiences in this crucial moment in life should be enjoyed, so one day we can look back to see the impact we had and the friends we made.

Remember: we are spot-on and exactly correct the way we are.

*The Griffon Editors*

# SOARING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY DIANE HOLTZ

## First of all, what is a Griffon, and why are you our mascot?

That's an easy one. In 1917, the students decided the college needed a mascot. One of them, Norman Knight, created me. He said the Griffon, a cross between a lion and an eagle, was a mythological guardian of treasure, and education was a precious treasure that you had to work hard to obtain. I guess all the students thought that was pretty cool.

## What inspires you?

I have to say that seeing the thousands of students over the years working hard to earn that precious treasure is what continues to inspire me and keep me going.

## What do you think has been the biggest and best change for Missouri Western?

I think it was when we became a four-year college and moved out to our present campus. We were a junior college scattered in several buildings downtown, and now we have a 723-acre beautiful campus. That's pretty awesome, and I'm glad I was there to see it and have been able to watch it continue to grow.

## And you're based on a mythological creature?

Yeah, I know, that kind of caused an existential crisis for me. Do I exist? Am I real? I decided

that, yes, I do; yes, I am; and my purpose is to spread Missouri Western spirit and inspire students to work hard for their education.

## Why Max? Are you named after someone?

Yes, but it's complicated. In 2005, I was named after Max Grooms, an avid supporter of Missouri Western Athletics. But in the 1990s, I was called Sam, and then that changed to Sampson a few years later.

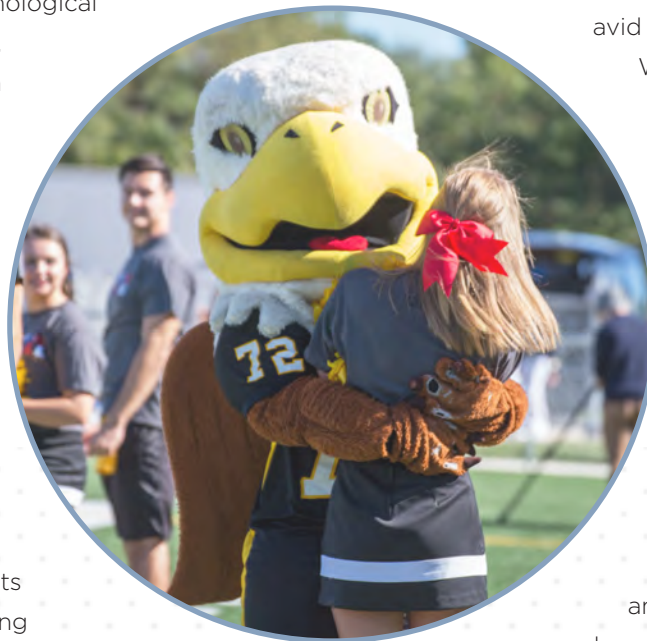
## How do you fill your days?

Well, I'm really busy going to Missouri Western athletic events. Throw in parades and pizza parties in elementary schools, and I don't have much spare time.

When I do, I like to hang out in the bookstore, looking at myself on shirts and stuff.

## What is the most challenging part of being a mascot?

That's an easy one; getting mauled by kids. Don't get me wrong, I love kids, but boy, do they love me, too. Maybe it would help if I wasn't such a fun guy, but, hey, that's just me.



*Above: Max celebrates with Rachel Allen after the Griffons score a touchdown. Max partners with the cheer squad every game to keep the energy level high. Opposite: Max dances around to keep the crowd going during a football game. Max was created as Western's mascot in 1917. To see early drawings of him stop by the yearbook archive room in Murphy 207. Photo credit: Jeni Swope*







# THE 'GOLD' IN WESTERN GOLD

BY MACKENZIE BOOS

Western's History and Geography Department has their own "mother hen" who takes care of everybody with a go-getter attitude.

Noël Cross, administrative assistant of the department of history and geography, has been with Western for 26 years. Cross loves her job because of co-workers, students and the staff.

"I have unbelievable colleagues to work with," Cross said. "They appreciate me and what I do and they tell me that. I really like coming to work, I love my job and knowing that you are needed or wanted is priceless."

Many students rely on her to help them be successful. Senior Evan Banks said Cross makes his life easier by being persistent and helping to keep him on task.

"She is the fairy godmother of the department. She says 'Bippity Boppity Boo' and our lives get better," Banks said. "She just cares and has no problem trying to tackle any issue that a student or faculty member has."

Aside from helping students, she helps other administrative assistants and staff understand rules and policies at Western.

Dr. Jim Okapal, chair of the department of philosophy and religion, and history and geography said he would be lost without Cross's help.

"She is always making sure I am doing my job," Dr. Okapal said. "I wouldn't be as successful as I am as chair if it wasn't for her help navigating the ins and outs of Western."

Being such a diverse department, Cross covers all areas by keeping Google calendars up-to-date and

sending emails to students and faculty to remind them of events.

"The administrative assistants in general are really good at making sure we keep up with the various things we need to do," Okapal said. "She will tell me what she thinks and she is worried that I will be bothered by it. She has never said anything out of line, but she has often had to tell me truths that I don't want to hear. She does it with compassion, empathy, seriousness and professionalism."

Banks recognizes how critical Cross role is in the department.

"I know that she is crucial to Dr. Okapal's life as the chair, and probably every other faculty member there," Banks said. "I think without Noël; the department would fall apart. She is a lovely person and it's just her disposition. I hope she knows she is an integral part in the lives of students and faculty."

Many students and faculty are very appreciative of how much she does for them.

"If I had to tell her something, I would say a heartfelt thank you," Banks said. "She goes out of her way and above and beyond for people. She puts herself out there to take stress off of others and has no qualm about taking that burden and lightening the load of others."

Cross loves what she does and said she never gets up and thinks that she doesn't want to come into work today.

"I am proud of what I do and who I am and the level of commitment that I have for the university," Cross said. "I am a believer in Missouri Western and I love working here."



Many students send Noël Cross thank you's and flowers. "She is like the fairy godmother of the department and she says 'bippity, boppity boo' and our lives get better," senior Evan Banks said. Cross said she is proud of what she does and the level of her commitment to Western. Photo credit: Mackenzie Boos

"THANK YOU FOR ALL THE **A-M-A-Z-I-N-G** WORK YOU DO ON BEHALF OF THE HPG DEPT. THEY'D BE IN A WORLD OF HURT WITHOUT YOU."

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR **THOUGHTFULNESS AND GENEROSITY**. BIG HUGS."

"I AM **GRATEFUL** FOR ALL THE WAYS YOU SUPPORT AND HELP ME."

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR **FRIENDSHIP** AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS. YOU ARE TRULY AN **AMAZING WOMAN** AND BOSS. I'M SO BLESSED TO KNOW YOU."

"THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. THANK YOU, ALSO, FOR YOUR **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS."

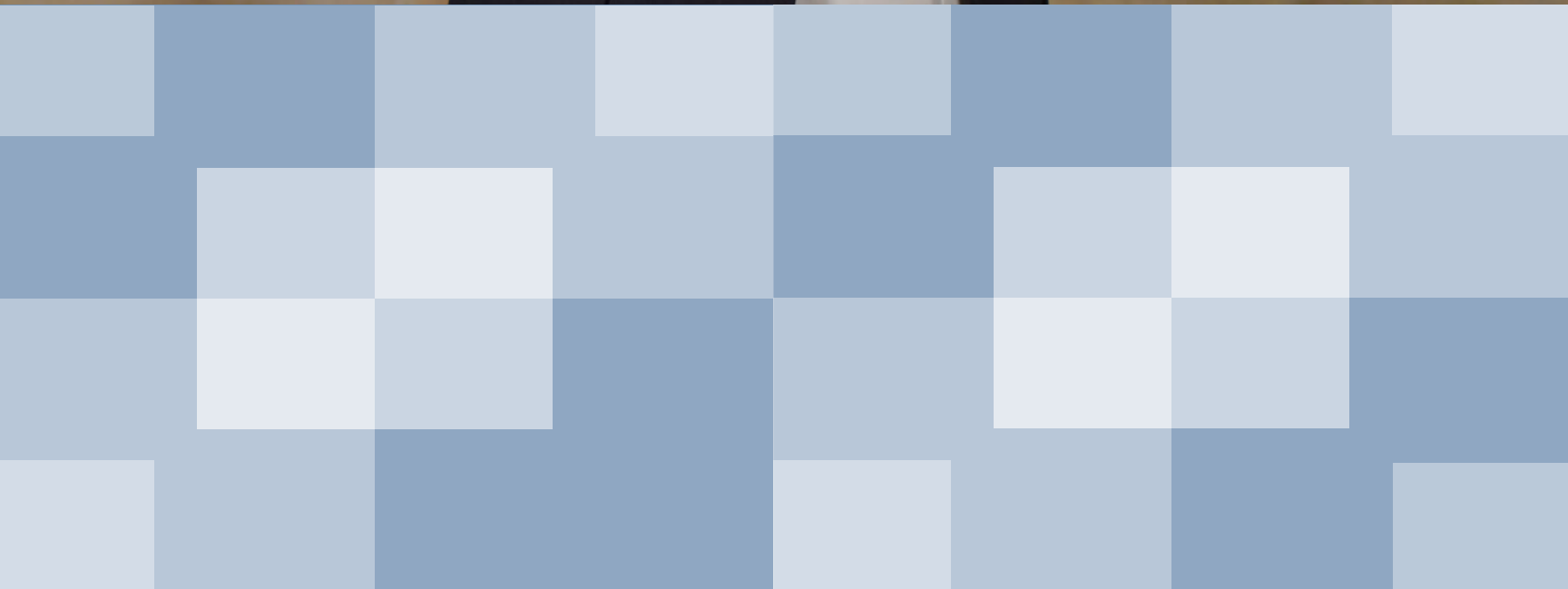
"THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP THIS YEAR AND FOR BEING SUCH A **LOVELY PERSON!** I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO TO HELP MAKE THIS AN **ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT** TO WORK IN."

"YOU ARE CERTAINLY THE **'GOLD'** IN WESTERN GOLD."

"YOU ARE **AWESOME**. THAT'S IT!"

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ





**D**r. Jeff Poet, professor of mathematics, brings a dynamic approach to his teachings each semester.

Poet approaches his students with a unique perspective and realizes every student learns differently. He said at times he just walks in the classroom and wings it.

“I get paid to play mind games with my students,” Poet said. “I don’t just teach the material; I teach the people in front of me.”

In January 2018 during Western’s annual awards banquet Poet was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award.

Poet was pleasantly surprised to receive the award as he was the first math professor to do so at Western.

Dr. Jennifer Hegeman, chair of the department of computer science, math and physics said Poet has a special energy with his students.

“He has some magical way to present math because of his strong understanding of math,” Hegeman said. “It is certainly a talent that comes naturally to him.”

In addition to teaching, Poet has been actively conducting research with synthetic biology students, alongside biology professor Dr. Todd Eckdahl. The first year together they brought home a significant first place win from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Teach

the Teachers competition where they beat out their Harvard competitors who placed second.

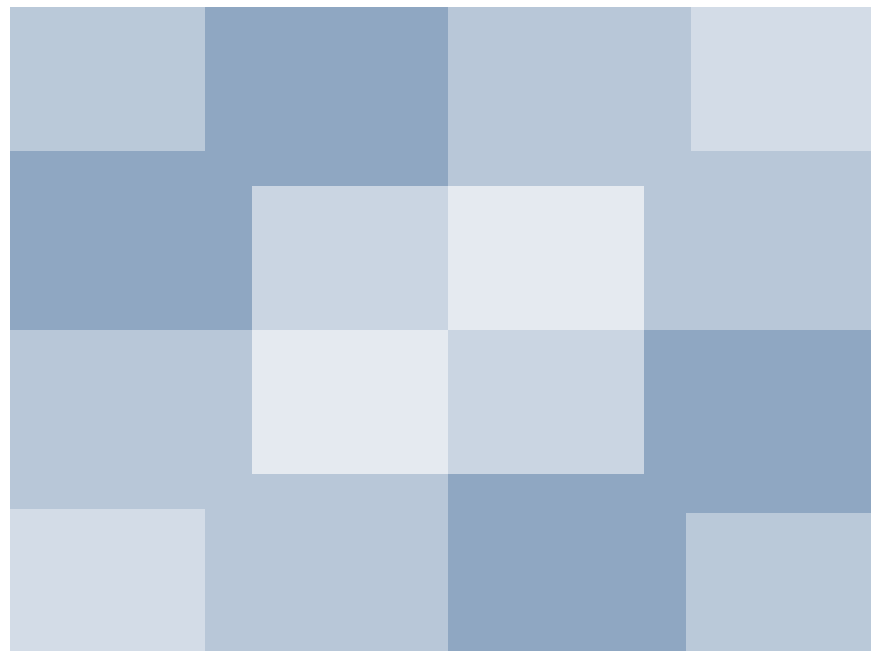
Eckdahl said he noticed that Poet was engaged in his field, and the two collaborated from there. Poet is able to understand biology as a non-biologist, and Eckdahl said it takes a special type of individual to form that understanding.

“As a mathematician, Poet comes up with ideas that I cannot as a biologist and this is definitely not a two-way street because I cannot think like him,” Eckdahl said. “He models this behavior with his students, thinking in a multi-disciplinary way.”

Poet knew as a child he would become a teacher. His teachings has made an impact on his students. Former students contact him to let him equalarly know he was a great influence.

Poet will continue to make a difference in the lives of others through teaching here at Western. His teachings have made an impact on his students. Former students contact him to let him equalarly know he was a great influence.

*Jeff Poet receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award. Poet has earned three degrees in Mathematics: Ph.D. in Mathematics (1998, University of Wyoming), M.S. in Mathematics (1991, Kansas State University), B.A. in Mathematics (1990, Ottawa University). Photo credit: Public Relations Department*

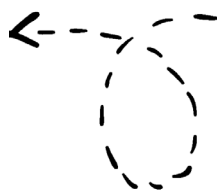


# STEAMING UP JAVA

BY NICOLE BILBY

*When you enter Blum there's an immediate warm coffee aroma that draws you to the only person who can make your day better - Pam Dameron, Western's charming and friendly Java City barista.*

*Photo Credit Bethany Vorseggern & Maggie Sharp*



**How many years have you worked on Missouri Western campus?**

12 years in the Library's Java City, but 17 years in total.

**What's your favorite drink to make?**

Javalanches, I really like to make them all and I want to make them perfect.

**What's your favorite drink?**

Regular brewed coffee with milk.

**What's a pet peeve of yours?**

When people order a drink that they've had somewhere else, but they don't really know what it is. They come up with these freak-ichiniannos (Pam-ism).

**What's your favorite tv show?**

Game of Thrones, The Big Bang Theory, or The British Baking Show.

**What values are most important to you?**

Work ethic, my family and taking care of them.

**What's an unknown fact about you, that you're willing to share?**

That I have really long hair. I haven't cut my hair since I got married and that was 30 years ago.

**How do you feel about working Blum compared to the Library?**

I miss the library, but this is really nice. The view is nice and I can make more noise than usual.

**What has been the most noteworthy experience for you at Western?**

A lot of the time kids will ask me to get involved and they'll ask me to do something like judge a contest or do interviews.

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?**

I wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall sometimes or to be invisible. That would be good.

**What's your favorite decade that you've lived through?**

Right now is great. I mean with my kids it was fun in the '80s and '90s when they were little, but it's a new kind of a fun now.

**What topic are you most knowledgeable on?**

I'm really good at British history from about the 1400s to the 1500s. It's just my favorite time in history and I'll read anything I can get my hands on. During the time period with Queen Elizabeth and Henry VIII, I'll read anything about it so I'm pretty knowledgeable on it.

**What was your first job?**

My very first job I was 14 and I worked in a nursing home in the kitchen. It was run by German nuns and they had this dumbwaiter. We could get inside of the dumbwaiter and go up the floors. We weren't supposed to, but it was so much fun. It was cooking in a nursing home. I made .86 cents an hour.

**If you weren't an all-star barista, what would you be?**

If I could turn back time, I would probably love to go into a nursing profession or something like that.

**If you drop a hot cup of coffee what would be the first word to come out of your mouth?**

A curse word you know, but I really try to say sugar.

**What's your favorite aspect of this job?**

I love seeing the kids I know day-to-day and then year-to-year and seeing how some of them change and grow up so much. It's pretty amazing. And then they leave and I wonder about them.

**What's your favorite thing about Western or St. Joe?**

I love Missouri Western. The campus is beautiful and every year there's something new. The people are great.

**What's the bravest or stupidest thing you've ever done?**

Well, I jumped off of a rock cliff in a park down in south Missouri that was about 20 feet tall. That's probably the craziest thing I ever did.

**What's the most daring thing that you've done that you're willing to share?**

When I was much younger, I drove very fast. That's about the most daring thing. I would ride motorcycles and drive fast. But that's a long time ago.

**How would you describe Western students using only three words?**

Lots of fun.

**How would you describe coffee using only three words?**

Gift from the Gods. I don't know, I've always loved it. It's a little more than three words.

**What advice do you have for the students that you serve?**

Don't give up. The wheel will turn. Things will change. Just stick it out.



# LEADING THE WAY

BY DIANAH HIDZIR



Looking around the Western campus, the famous plaza with the golden Griffon statue, the Spratt Stadium with a 2,500 square-foot displaying the largest scoreboard in the MIAA division and a grand ballroom called the Fulkerson center can all be seen.

None of these landmarks would have existed if it weren't for the dedication of Jerry Pickman, the Vice President of University Advancement and the Executive Director of the Missouri Western Foundation.

Drawing from these two important positions on campus, Pickman serves on behalf of the President's Cabinet providing reports of the operations of the university advancement division. This includes four key departments that are essential for the university to hold its title: public relations and marketing, the institute's development and fundraising, alumni relations and campus printing and design.

He is also the main personnel that supports the mission of the university itself, taking care of the separation between the private and

public dollars for the development of Western. Pickman works with eight other committees that are responsible for dealing with donor relations and running the investments and distributions of the funds received by Western.

One milestone that emphasizes his career is managing the institute's assets that started at \$4,000 then making it grow to over \$50 million in the last year. This, of course, involves a lot of strategy and commitment.

"The list of tasks that I take care of from day-to-day differs from each other very much," Pickman said. "We talk about several various projects in all the meetings that I attend, and the people that I work with have definitely become a great addition to what I do."

Executive Administrative Associate of University Advancement Jenny Sherlock reiterated what it's like to be operating such an important role on campus with Pickman.

"Jerry has a wonderful personality and easily gets along with everyone," Sherlock said.



Opposite: Pickman speaks at the Missouri Western Foundation Reception in the Spring. Photo credit: Bethany VonSeggern. Right: Pickman with Martin Luther King III. King was recruited by Pickman to speak at the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues in the Fall of 2017. Photo credit: Diane Holtz



“He has built many strong relationships with donors and community members which have been very beneficial to the university and foundation.”

As a 1985 graduate of Western, Pickman decided to return 14 years ago because he believes in the mission of the university. His passion for the school, its programs and goals is not only seen in his successes, but the way he interacts with his faculty.

“He is a wonderful person to work for,” Sherlock said. “He keeps his employees at the forefront of his obligations and is always thinking of ways to improve the work environment.”

As a person who is absolutely adored on campus, Pickman never misses a chance to say a few words to inspire the Griffon nation. He says that the best way for growing students to carry their lives in college is to be themselves.

“Enjoy life and take risks,” Pickman said. “You don’t want to have regrets. If you have

opportunities come your way, take them and always be a lifelong learner. Cherish your relationships, because that’s what life is really all about.”

## LOVE OF A SON

*“I have always looked up to my father, in every regard. He is a compassionate, caring person who always puts others first. He has a sense of humor that can light up any room he walks into. I have yet to meet someone who doesn't love to be around him. I wouldn't be half the man I am today without him. He's an extremely hard-worker and has a strong work ethic. I could not be more proud to be his son.”*

*Nathan Pickman '13  
Digital Media Manager  
at Benedictine College*



# PATH OF TOTALITY

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN

The temperature cools, the light shifts the shadows and the bright glow from the sun slowly turns the sky to darkness.

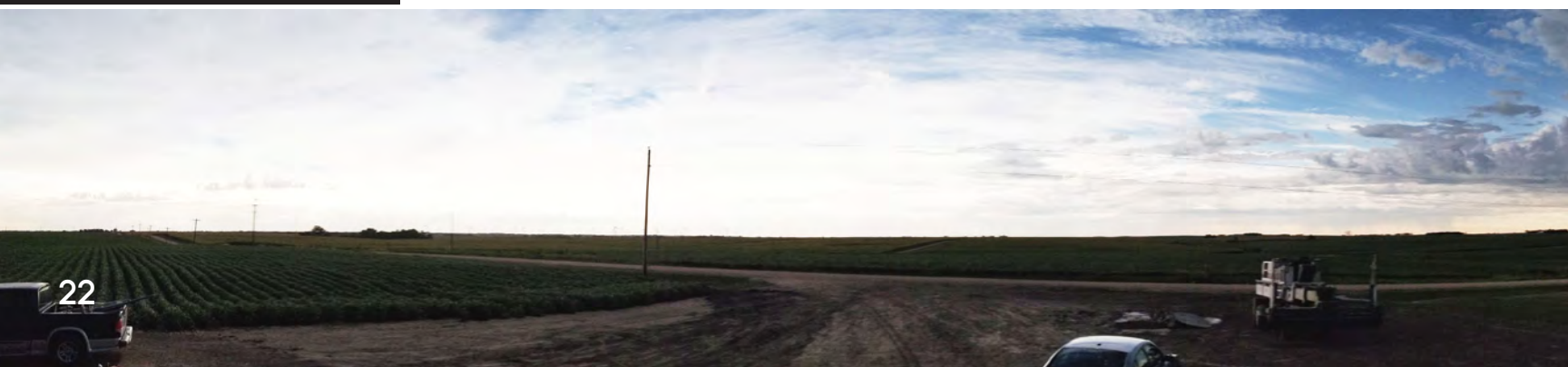
Aug. 21, 2017 marked the unique day that “The Great American Eclipse” created memories for a lifetime. While most have experienced an eclipse, this one was different because it created a full path-way of totality which could be seen from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Luckily for locals, St. Joseph was in the direct pathway making Western a prime location to view this phenomenon. However, due to unforeseen weather and cloudy skies the eclipse was difficult to see, but it did not stop some locals from enjoying the event.

Marissa Steimel, events and new student program coordinator who lives on campus, watched the eclipse from the Clock Tower with her two sisters and mom. Despite her slight disappointment about the clouds, Steimel said her family had a wonderful time trying to see the eclipse through the clouds.

“The moment the sky darkened and it became twilight in the middle of the day-was surreal,” Steimel said. “We were all amazed in that moment. We just couldn’t stop looking up at the sky and marveling at the change in the atmosphere.”

Weeks prior to the eclipse Western started hosting a variety of activities to mark this rare opportunity. Some events included: “Totality,” a show about the different types of eclipses showed at the Bushman Planetarium; SOLAR, an exhibition of solar-themed artwork at the Potter Hall Art Gallery; Talk with Experts at the Potter Hall Theater; and Eclipse! a musical revue with solar or lunar themed music woven into stories.







Counterclockwise from top left: Western sets up a camera to live stream the totality of the eclipse; Speakers for the eclipse event: Michael Bakich, senior editor of Astronomy magazine; Brian Busby, chief meteorologist at KMBC-TV in Kansas City; Derrick Pitts, chief astronomer at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia; and Mike Reynolds, professor of astronomy at Florida State College at Jacksonville; Max the Griffon is ready for the eclipse; Marisa Steimel, Libby Steimel and Priscilla Steimel (sitting) watching the eclipse from the Clock Tower. Photo credit: Sourced. Bottom: Landscape view from the farm. Photo credit: Lance Lawton







Clockwise from top left: Fight on Griffons. Western's incoming freshman compete to see who is the loudest and proudest at the Griffon Edge Student Convocation. Griffon Edge is a unique experience for new students to get involved with campus life; Students gather at the clock tower for a ceremony where campus leaders, including President Vartebedian, light candles to conclude Griffon Edge festivities. This new tradition started with the class of 2021 and will continue with each class for years to come.; Students help mend and paint a fence for a local organization in need. As part of their Griffon Edge experience, Western students branched out in the St. Joseph community to assist local churches and nonprofits with projects. Photo Credit: Diane Holtz

# STARTING THE JOURNEY

BY ALEX RICHARDSON

Another year, another class of freshmen who got the opportunity to take on Griffon Edge.

The class of 2021 got the privilege of becoming a strong foundation for future classes to come. From record-setting numbers to new traditions, there were many new surprises in store for the class.

Griffon Edge is a program that allows first-year students to get a real sense of what being a Griffon is like. Students were shown the ropes, given tips and advice and given an overall head start advantage to classes. This is a great opportunity for the new students to make friends and connections before the school year commences.

One of the greatest changes that took place at last year's program was a change in management. Griffon Edge is directed predominantly by Western's Events and New Student Coordinator, Marissa Steimel. With such little time to plan such a big program, Steimel looks to other offices and student organizations around campus for help and support.

Steimel said she worked with faculty, athletics, maintenance and other staff departments to set up crews for the campus wide event.

"I would not be able to make Griffon Edge happen if we didn't have the entire university behind us on it," Steimel said.

Aside from campus faculty, help was also called upon the nearly 60 Griffon Edge mentors. Each mentor was given a specific group of students to lead throughout the

week and further on into the school year if needed. One Griffon Edge mentor was the Student Government Association President, Kyle Fuson.

This year was Fuson's second year of being a mentor for the program and had only positive thoughts about the work that went into this year's outcome.

"I had an awesome time being able to work with them [the students] at a more personal level, give them my advice and help them in their endeavours as a student," Fuson said.

One of the most exciting events from Griffon Edge this year was the candlelight ceremony. During the ceremony Dr. Robert Vartabedian spoke under the clock tower before lighting the flame of academic freedom. Students lit their candles and passed it on to symbolize the start of their journey at Western.

Bayley Pickering, a freshman who attended Griffon Edge, said she was grateful for the friends that she made through Griffon Edge.

"I've made some really good friends that I've been able to see across campus," Pickering said. "I even share some of the same classes with them and it's just nice to have people in your class that you know."

In the midst of all the madness and chaos, there was a total of 885 students who attended Griffon Edge and were prepared to start the school year. Together, the class of 2021 is ready to take on their first year of college and carry on the traditions they were a part of starting.



# LEGEND OF GRIFFON HOLLOW

## HOMECOMING TAILGATE

BY LANCE LAWTON



With the smell of burgers and hot dogs filling the chilly October air, Western students and fans began their homecoming tailgate activities.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the parking lot outside of Spratt Stadium was filled with cars, grills and Western fans from on and off campus. The Alumni Association, Phi Delta Theta and numerous other tailgaters offered both school spirit, food and drinks to others who partook in the tailgating festivities.

Friends and Western students, Baily Solen and Kasey McFall, came to the parking lot to enjoy a little tailgating fun, despite the cold weather.

“Oh, it doesn’t bother us,” Solen said. “We’re just here to eat some brats and drink with some other friends of ours. We love tailgating here.”

After an eventful game, Western lost to Washburn, 34-24.

Above: Baily Solen and Kasey McFall spend time outside Spratt Stadium playing games and enjoying barbecue provided in the pre-game activities. Left: Phi Delta Theta's float for the Homecoming Parade. Right: Solen and McFall play a game of corn hole before the Homecoming game. Photo credit: Lance Lawton







## LOOK INTO MY EYES

BY MARIA SELBY

**H**ypnotist Steve Meade put students in a daze with a tropical trip of a lifetime during his hypnotist show during this homecoming week.

Meade, who has hypnotized over 25,000 people, took the audience to the hot sandy beach of an exotic island, and for people under the hypnosis, the trip felt a little more real than normal, with one student taking off their shirt to be more comfortable.

Meade also held a dance competition for the male volunteers on the beach, getting them more involved with the audience by suggesting they needed to impress them.

The participants had just as much fun as the audience during the show and by the time it was over, everyone questioned if what they saw really just happened.



Above: Hypnotist Steve Meade captivates the audience's attention by controlling the minds of students on stage. Left: Meade convinces students to express a variety sounds such as laughter, squeals and crying. Right: Three participants believe they are in a beauty pageant and stand center stage getting audience applause. Photo credit: Maria Selby

## PEP RALLY

BY BETHANY VONSEGGER

Students filed into Looney in groups as they complemented one another about costume choice. Monsters, zombies and pirates were just a few of the costume designs among Students.

The sound of laughter and music filled the sports complex as attendees waited to be entertained by Homecoming activities. Once the festivities began, sororities and fraternities performed haunted themed dances. One dance included the infamous Sanderson Sisters from "Hocus Pocus" who lip-synced "I Put a Spell On You."

After performances the Homecoming royalty court was announced then king and queen were crowned by Western advisors. The rally was a great event to bring the university together to highlight school pride and the spooky antics of the week.



Above: Courtney Kippeling is crowned by Sandy Lewandowski at the 2018 Homecoming Pep Rally. Left: The Sanderson Sisters strike a spell on the audience during their performance. Right: Western Royalty enjoys having the spotlight after being crowned at the rally. Photo credit: Ali Fowler



## MONSTER BASH

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ

Fulkerson Hall was a haunting sight to see upon entering the Monster Bash.

Lights were dim, music was blaring through the hall and howling laughter filled the room. It's the Monster Mash, groups of wildly dressed college students were dancing to this song.

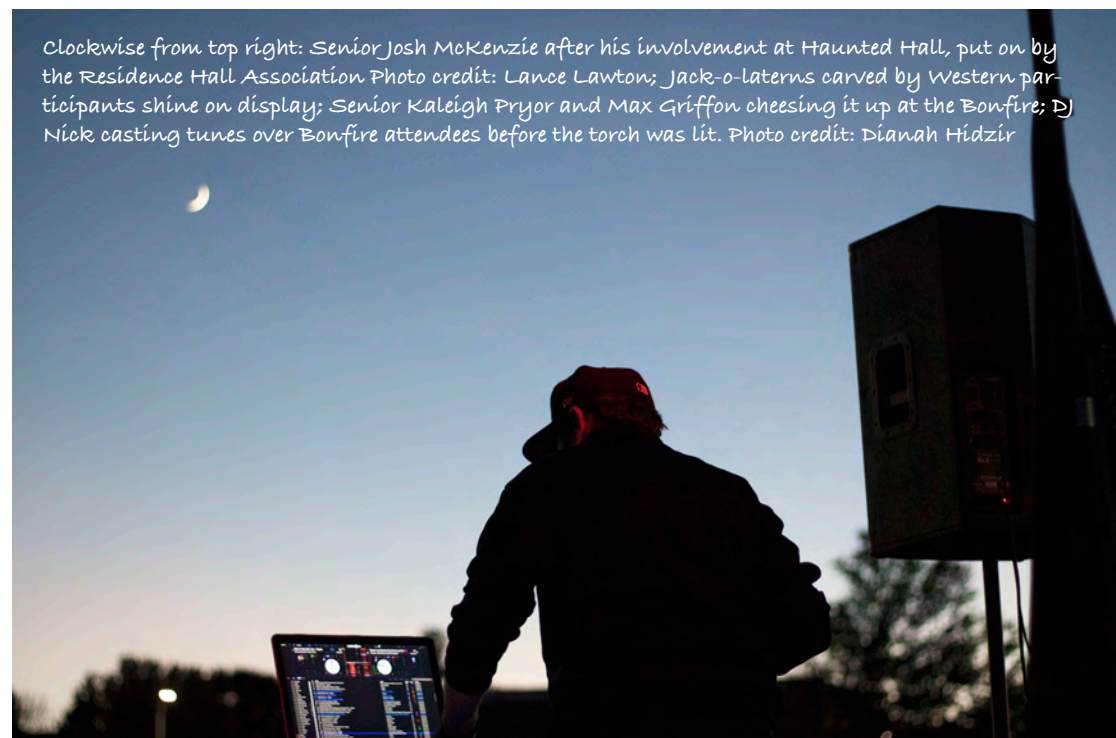
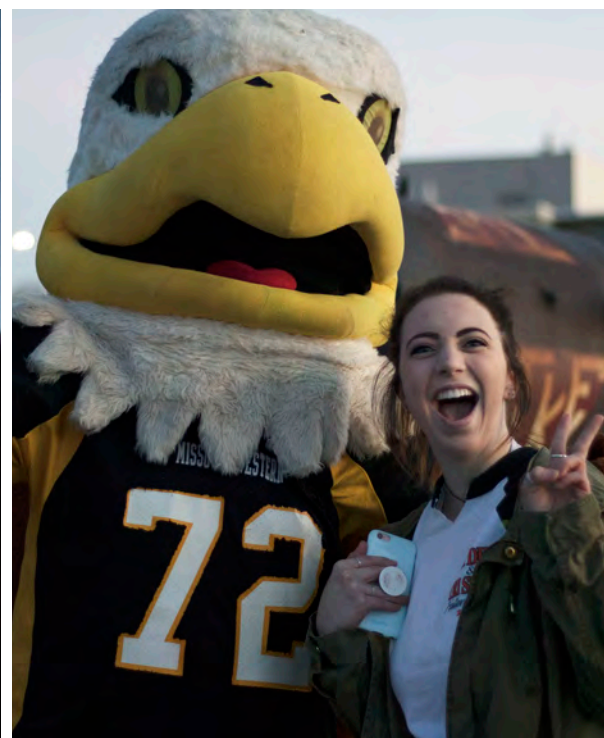
It was a graveyard smash. The event, beheld an eerie sight, with the Sanderson sisters lurking in front of a flashing camera to capture their new found youth.

The DJ, a black, glowing mouse, bobbed his jumbo-sized head as he dropped the bass. Zombie cheerleaders took over the dance floor with their killer moves and bloody bodies.

Ending the evening, students caught on in a flash and their way out, the Monster Mash.



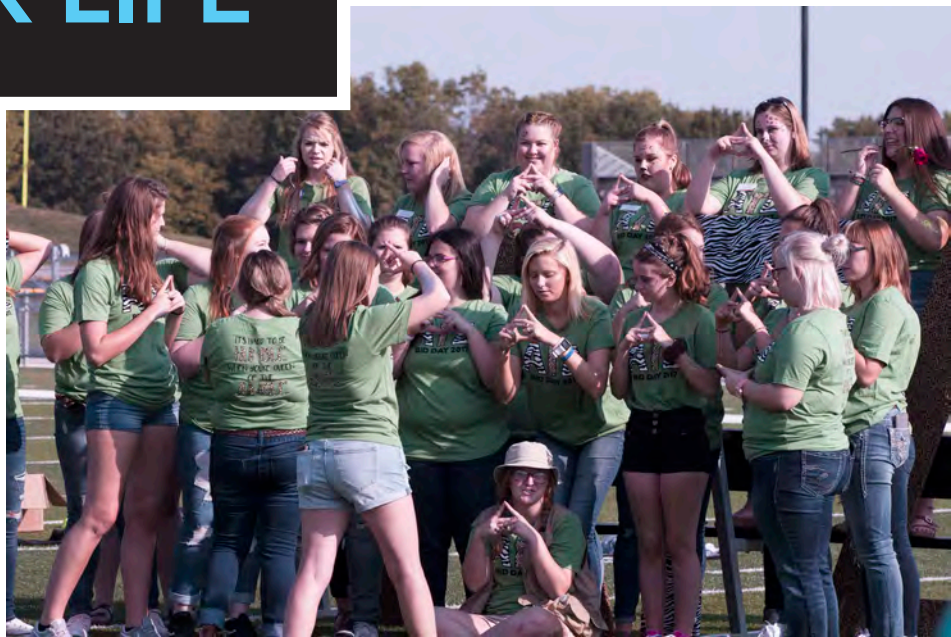
Clockwise from top right: Senior Josh McKenzie after his involvement at Haunted Hall, put on by the Residence Hall Association Photo credit: Lance Lawton; Jack-o-lanterns carved by Western participants shine on display; Senior Kaleigh Pryor and Max Griffon cheesing it up at the Bonfire; DJ Nick casting tunes over Bonfire attendees before the torch was lit. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir







# GREEK LIFE



Clockwise from top left: Fraternity member grills burgers during the annual Float-A-Thon out front of Eder Hall; Tri Sigma sisters bond together to create a memorable moment by the clocktower; Members of Alpha Gamma Delta learn their sorority sign during Bid Day 2017; Sororities take over the north fountain to soak up the sun during the annual Float-A-Thon; Annie Allgaier and Mackenzie Herrman strike the always iconic "sorority girl" pose after being selected into their sorority. Photo credit: Myleigh Lanham, Alex Richardson and Public Relations & Marketing Department.



## 5K FOR ALS

BY JACOB ROBERTSON

For the second straight year, Phi Delta Theta at Missouri Western hosted our “Phi Delta Theta 5K for ALS” to benefit those suffering from ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

Phi Delta Theta supports ALS which is our national philanthropy because of MLB Hall of Famer and Phi Delt Alumni Lou Gehrig.

Although Phi Delt at Western hosts numerous events each year in support of ALS, our flagship event is this 5K. Supported by a dozen local and regional sponsors, the Phi Delt 5K for ALS raised over \$3,000 in 2017, up from \$2,500 in its inaugural year.

This past year we had 70 race participants who ran a 3.1 mile (5K) route through the beautiful and spacious Western campus. We feel the event is not only a great way to raise money and awareness for this horrible disease, but also

a great way to showcase the awesome campus we call home. We had runners from all over come to run, several driving up from the Kansas City area.

We are excited to have the great support from our sponsors the past two years and are looking forward to many of them staying on board for the 2018 event, which we expect to be larger than the previous two years.

The brothers have a wonderful time planning and setting up the event. This is not only a great way for Phi Delta Theta members to give back to the community, but it also provides great leadership, organizational and planning skills to most involved.

We are more thrilled with how large and anticipated this event has become and look forward to its continued growth in the future.

*Phi Delta Theta fraternity at the 2017 annual 5K for ALS run. The fraternity receives incredible support not only from the university, but the community. Photo credit: Sourced.*



## POETRY SLAM

BY MARIA SELBY

Alpha Phi Alpha hosted the first Raise Her Up Poetry Slam which was dedicated to women and judged as a friendly competition.

Women attending the show were greeted, given a yellow rose and were read powerful thoughtful poems throughout the event.

Zoie Reynolds, a freshman at Western, was one of the first readers of the night. She has been in many poetry competitions and has had experience performing with an audience. The piece she wrote was dedicated to her mother.

"I always get nervous no matter how many times I perform, but this is a happy poem so I am a little more relaxed," Reynolds said. "I wanted to do a poem about my mom because we are very close. I just want her to feel really appreciated."

Among Reynolds, there were five other poets whose works ranged from relationships, to "thank you" and powerful self-worth poems.

Elijah Todd, a judge of the slam, said various factors would be considered while judging. Judges look at posture, eye contact, enthusiasm and crowd interaction.

Lauren Murphy came to support her roommate who took part in the event, and was blown away by the performances.

"You can feel the emotion as they [poets] read their work; instead of just reading them ourselves," Murphy said.

As the pieces were read, the audience "snapped" at parts that they particularly enjoyed, which had led to deafening praise for the works.

With a great turnout of guests and amazing pieces of poetry, the Raise Her Up Poetry Slam aims to be a fantastic recurring event on campus.





## LITTLE FINDS BIG

BY NATALIE KOVAC

**B**ig Little is a bond between two sisters, where a best friend coincides as a mentor.

Bigs guide their littles into leadership positions that the sorority holds and encourages them to be involved and to always do their best.

A Big will always offer support, setting up new members for a successful future and an awesome experience in Tri Sigma. This bond is long -lasting and strong.

Bid Day is an important day to celebrate and welcome new members. In Tri Sigma this is the beginning of the betterment of our young members and their futures through our mission statement: to establish among its members a perpetual bond of friendship, to develop in them strong character and to impress upon them high standards of conduct.

Left to right: Sophomore Andrea Gordon celebrates women's power in her piece, "Power" an energetic piece that moves the audience to snap with feeling; Eugenia Wallace, junior, performs her poem, "Ambiance of a Woman's Mouth" which expresses the importance of women's voices and their role in the lives of others. Photo credit Bethany VonSeggern; Current page, left to right: Little Carla Smith (right) with Big Hannah Mackaben; Mackenzie Reddington and Meg Lewis showing off the "touch a sister" sign during a celebratory night; Noelia Dípeitrio and Mackenzie Herman at a recruitment party night. Photo credit: Sourced



# INTERNATIONAL FAIR

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ

Loud music blared throughout the Fulkerson Center as students came together to create a special evening at the 2017 International Fair.

Twenty-nine countries were represented the day of the international fair; each country's flag was standing tall on the stage. To the left, international students from Spain were telling stories of their country and on the right, international students from India were dancing to Bollywood music.

Ann Rahmat, director of international student services at Western, has been involved with the international fair for three years. Rahmat assists the students by preparing them to present their country and said the international fair is an open door for conversation from the international students.

"We want to expose American students to a world outside of St. Joseph and add value to their education," Rahmat said. "International students are the experts to get to know about the other cultures which develops students attending Western."

Oganya Agbaji, a junior at Western studying psychology, is from Nigeria. Nigeria is in Southwest Africa with a warm climate all year. Agbaji said the weather in Missouri is quite different from her home country.

"I can walk out my door every day and be surprised by the weather here in Missouri," Agbaji said. "It's good to be here at Western though; it's really a family out here with the strong sense of community on campus."







Walking from country to country at the international fair, one constantly learned new facts. Buddha is from Nepal, Japan is an island and in Spain futbol is the sport of the country. The world is full of many cultures and students were able to embrace many of them at the fair.

Fumi Cheever, Assistant Director of international Student Services at Western, said all of the countries have much to offer. The international students make up two percent of Western's student body. The international fair allows many students to learn and welcome the international students which in turn will help Western grow.

"Western has a manageable number of international students which allows me to grow personally with the students," Cheever said. "The university is open to



new ideas, flexible to moving forward and I have support from other departments."

Students walked away full of delicious food, full of knowledge and most importantly, full of new ways to integrate with international students.

*Opposite page: Western students celebrate at the end of the annual International Fair. The fair was an opportunity for international students to educate students, faculty and community members about their country of origin. Left: International student Oganya Abaji wears traditional Nigerian clothing. Nigeria was one of 29 countries represented by Western students. Below: Malaysian student, Dianah Hidzir, gathers her diverse group of friends for a classic group selfie. Hidzir, a senior studying public relations, is a natural at bringing the crowd together. The 2017 International Fair offered a unique way for students to learn about other countries. Photo credit: Bethany Vonseggern*

# Q&A

## A BEAUTIFUL NOTE

YESEUL HWANG BY MACKENZIE BOOS

### Why did you decide on Western?

There is a connection between a music company in South Korea and here, so I auditioned two times in Korea. I then got a scholarship, so I could afford it.

### What are you interested in that most people aren't?

Salsa dance.

### What is your favorite thing about campus?

Kemper Hall. I had two recitals in there and it was pretty cool. It is modern and pretty.

### Who is a person you look up to?

Rico McNeela (conductor and music director of the St. Joseph symphony, also teaches violin and viola at Western). He pushes me a lot to do better and he has really encouraged me a lot.

### Who is your favorite teacher on campus?

Dr. Chelsey Hamm (music theory teacher and assistant professor of music theory). She is really organized so I like that a lot.

### What is the best thing about where you're from?

I miss riding bicycles. We have a sidewalk and road for our highway and we don't have that here which is pretty bad.

### What is the worst song you've ever heard?

Korean pop songs, they've put English and Korean together so it doesn't work very well.

### What is your favorite day of the year & why?

Christmas. In Korea, we have snow, but I never got a white Christmas at home and now I do.

### What is the best compliment you've ever received?

That I look like a goddess. My nickname on campus was Asian Goddess.

### Who inspires you?

Yo-Yo Ma, the famous cellist. He made me come to the United States.

### Who are the three most significant members in your life?

My whole family, my boyfriend and my best friend Seoyeon.

### What is the title of the current chapter of your life?

*Bright side.* Because I came from the dark side, I go through a lot of adversity and language barriers, as well as financial problems. It's challenging as an international student.

### What gives your life meaning?

As a Christian, we are a good example for people. Whenever they see me, I want them to see a good Christian.

### What has been your greatest achievement?

Audition for graduate school.

### What is your youngest/favorite childhood memory?

Holding my grandfather's hands and walking to the hill. After that, I lost him so that's a good memory.





Clockwise:  
 Yeseul Hwang  
 plays the cello in the fine  
 arts department-wide recital.  
 She was inspired by Yo-Yo Ma  
 as a kid and he was the reason she  
 came to the United States; Hwang  
 represents South Korea during the  
 International Fair over the years.  
 Photo credit: Mackenzie  
 Boos and Bethany  
 Vonseggern





# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

BY CHASE MERWIN

Light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and fellowship over religion.

Such were the common themes of the Diwali Festival of Lights, which has just seen its third year of celebration at Western. Hosted by the International Student Services (ISS), the popular Hindu celebration, held on Friday, Oct. 20, featured singing performances, dazzling dance demonstrations, authentic Indian cuisine and the festival of lights.

Ann Rahmat, director of the ISS, said the intention of the Festival of Lights is to educate those who have not heard of Diwali.

"The program that we have is an opportunity for American students who have not had a chance to engage with other cultures to be aware of what's going on," Rahmat said. "To be there and be present with the people who celebrate."

Diwali is commonly misunderstood as a Hindu holiday. Lead organizer of the event, Sanhith Chinta, said that it is actually meant for those of other faiths as well.

"All religions celebrate the festival," Chinta said. "In India, even Muslims participate in Diwali. It's not just about Hinduism."

Ashma Rayamajhi, a student organizer, said that the way Diwali is celebrated is what truly matters.



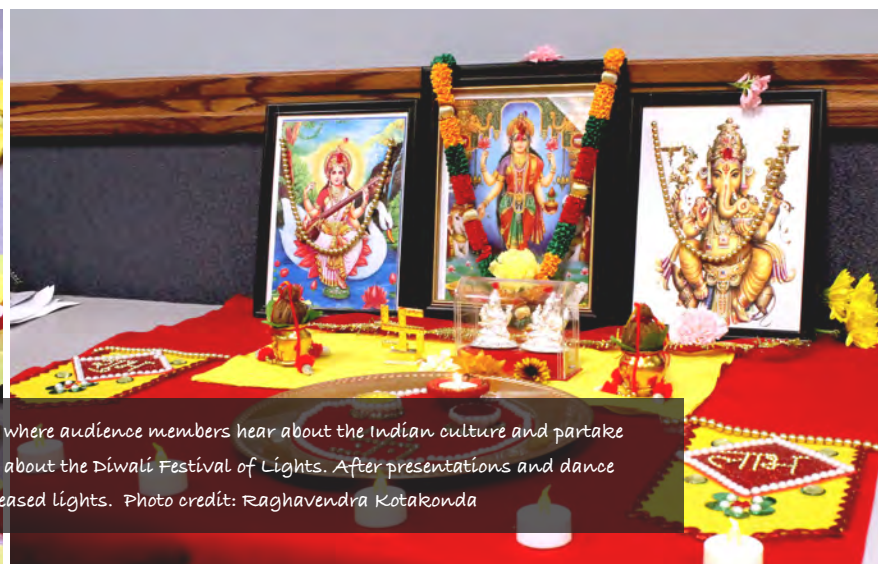
"It's about togetherness, it's all about how we celebrate it. Just be a part of it and just enjoy the moment."

The festival was vibrant and energetic. The night included a dinner as well as song and dance performances to immerse event-attendees in the Diwali experience.

The highlight of the celebration was the festival of lights. Square lanterns were released into Western's south pond as event-goers traced the night sky with sparklers, commemorating the light of Diwali.

The Diwali Festival of Lights demonstrated that fellowship and togetherness trumps religious affiliation. Two people do not have to be both Christians, both Muslims, or both Hindus to get along and celebrate happiness and light.

Every person has different sources of happiness in their life. Diwali is meant to bring them out.



Top: Students present at the annual Diwali Festival of Lights event where audience members hear about the Indian culture and partake in festival rituals. Bottom: Artifacts displayed to educate attendees about the Diwali Festival of Lights. After presentations and dance performances, the celebration continued outdoors where students released lights. Photo credit: Raghavendra Kotakonda



# SAUDI ARABIA DAY

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ

The Saudi student club celebrated Saudi National Day on Sept. 25, 2017.

The entire main room of Blum Union displayed Saudi Arabia all the way around. Poster boards full of Saudi information such as the kingdom's innovations and foreign involvements were included as well as beautiful golden-brown dates, robust smelling Arabic coffee and Arabic food.

Mohammed Alqarni, president of the Saudi student club, said he hopes to share the culture of his country with the students on campus.

"We hope they get to know about our culture, our country and speak with other students from Saudi Arabia," Alqarni said.

Miranda Durr, a Baptist student union member, said she has a lot of Saudi friends from previously attending Western. However, that did not stop her from gaining new knowledge while attending the event.

"I learned that Saudi Arabia is building the Jeddah Tower which is really cool," Durr said. "Also, learning my name in the Arabic alphabet was definitely a lot of fun."

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established on Sept. 23, 1932, by King Abdul-Aziz, who

brought many regions together to unite as one kingdom.

Saudi Arabia has been taking the initiative as a country to become more innovative and eventually open their borders to welcome guests from other countries to view their breath-taking world. Politically, Saudi Arabia has stood with the United States recently to help the country recover from Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

Dr. Robert Bergland, a Western professor and faculty advisor of Saudi student club, said this will help students be aware of other cultures and educate themselves about Saudi Arabia.

"They may misinterpret who the Saudi students are," Bergland said. "The main advantage of this event is to bring awareness of the great diversity we have on campus of different students."

The Saudi National Day Celebration taught many students that Saudi Arabia is growing creatively in their mind-set and one day soon will be ready for exploration of new guests.

*Left: Raghavendra Kotakonda, Mohammed Alqarni and Suhil Almazroua at Saudi National Day on Sept. 25. Right: Alqarni gives an appreciation present to advisor Dr. Robert Bergland. Photo credit: Adeen Alsaawi*



# MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

BY LANCE LAWTON

**O**n Oct. 9, Spratt Hall was filled with the smells and sounds of traditional Chinese culture, thanks to the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The Mid-Autumn Chinese Festival is a time for students and faculty to celebrate harvest time and the gatherings of families. This is the second largest festival in China, after the Chinese New Year.

For anyone who is not familiar with Chinese culture and traditions, this was a good opportunity for both students and the public to learn more about the festival that honors thankfulness and peace. Another name for the event is the Moon Festival, since the moon is at its roundest and brightest this time of year.

Dr. Stacia Bensyl, chair of the English department, said that the festival is perfect for people who might not ever be able to travel across the world to visit China.

"If you're originally from northwest Missouri or almost anywhere in the Midwest, you may not get the chance to travel to China," Bensyl said. "The root of the word university is 'universal', so we are basically a small universe here on campus and that's what

we're trying to do: experience more of the world without having to leave home."

The festival began with a short play performed by students. They acted out the legend of mid-autumn and how the festival became a true Chinese tradition.

Two students in the play, Sky Blue Lux and Lauren Brunner, were excited and anxious practicing for the festival.

"Everyone was nervous about the play, especially Lauren, so I decided to volunteer both of us for the play," Lux said. "It was a fun experience."

After the ceremony concluded, everyone had the chance to participate in Chinese activities, including fan painting and calligraphy writing.

Austin Edwards, a senior art major, was pleased to see that Western holds a variety of cultural activities for the students.

"We have such a diverse campus," Edwards said. "A lot of people don't know a lot about China, so this festival was an opportunity to learn more about the culture."

*Students dance to commemorate the celebration at the Mid-Autumn Festival. This dance shares the importance of worshipping the moon in China during the harvest. Photo credit: lindsay gomez*





# HOLI FESTIVAL

BY MAGGIE SHARP

**T**he Holi festival of colors at Western did not disappoint.

Holi is an Indian festival on the day of the first full moon in March, celebrating the triumph of good over evil and a thankfulness for a good harvest. The purpose of the colored paint is to celebrate this and bring color to everyone's lives.

Srinitha Mandadi is a graduate student at Western who works in the International Student Services (ISS) office. Mandadi worked on getting the funds and permission to have the festival.

"The best part for me was playing with the Holi, having the games and of course the food," Mandadi said.

The atmosphere was unlike any other. Western students had the chance to experience Indian food, music and throwing all sorts of colored paints.

Between 80-100 students showed up to participate and many more stopped by just to see what was going on.

As soon as students received the go ahead the air was so filled with colored dust it was impossible to see through. Participants tossed paint in the air, flung handfuls at their friends, drew on their faces and found every possible way to spread it across the campus lawn.

Freshman Mikayla Bertels arrived at the very end of the festival, missing the colors and games, but still managed to get completely pink and blue.

"We always did color runs in highschool but nothing like this," Bertels said. "This was way better and I didn't even get to do it."

The Holi festival was a chance for many students to learn about the Indian culture as well as participate in an engaging and enjoyable event. Thanks to the ISS, this is the third year Western students have gotten to experience a Holi festival on campus.

*Cody and Haley Lee celebrate Holi by throwing colored powder at each other. This was their first festival as a married couple. Photo credit: Ali Fowler.*



# DESIGNER'S TOP PICKS: INTERNATIONAL CUISINE



**NAME: VAN N TRAN**  
**COUNTRY: VIETNAM**

## CRISPY VIETNAMESE PANCAKES (BANH XEO)



### INGREDIENTS

- 300 g (1 2/3 cups) rice flour
- 125 ml coconut cream
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 spring onion, thinly sliced, plus extra, to serve
- vegetable oil, to cook
- 1 cup coriander leaves, plus extra, to serve
- 1 cup shiso leaves (see Note), plus extra, to serve
- 1 cup Vietnamese mint leaves, plus extra, to serve
- 2 red bird's-eye chillies, thinly sliced, plus extra, to serve
- 2 carrots, thinly shredded
- 160 g (2 cups) beans sprouts, trimmed
- 24 cooked prawns, cleaned, peeled with tails intact
- chilli jam (see Note) and iceberg lettuce leaves (optional), to serve

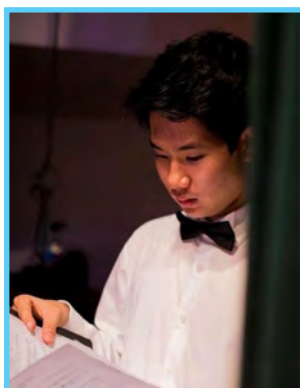
### INSTRUCTIONS

Resting time 1 hour

Combine rice flour, coconut cream, turmeric, spring onion and 1 teaspoon salt in a bowl with 500 ml (2 cups) water. Stir until a smooth batter forms. Cover and set aside to rest for 1 hour.

Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Brush with vegetable oil then add 1/2 cup batter, swirling pan to form a thin pancake. Cook for 3 minutes or until cooked through, scatter one half of pancake with one-eighth of the herbs, chillies, carrot, bean sprouts and 3 prawns. Flip pancake in half to cover filling and cook for a further 30 seconds to warm through, then remove with a spatula and place on a serving plate. Repeat with remaining batter and filling ingredients.

Serve with chilli jam, extra herbs, chilli, spring onion and lettuce, if desired.



**NAME: KEVIN YANG**  
**COUNTRY: MYANMAR**

## BURMA: GOLDEN EGG CURRY



### INGREDIENTS

- 5 duck eggs (or large chicken eggs)
- 6 tablespoons peanut oil
- 3 shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 onions, finely diced
- teaspoon turmeric
- teaspoon smoked paprika
- 3 thai chilis, thinly sliced (optional)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 piece ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 tomatoes, puréed in food processor
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce (optional)
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon tamarind concentrate
- bunch cilantro, chopped
- Salt

### INSTRUCTIONS

Place the duck eggs in a pot, cover them with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat. As soon as the water boils, remove the pot from the heat and let stand 12 minutes. Remove the eggs from the pot and peel them under cold water.

Heat the oil in a pan over medium/high heat. Add the shallots and fry for about 6 to 8 minutes or until light brown. Transfer them to a plate lined with paper towel and sprinkle with salt.

Add the duck eggs into the hot oil, then lower the heat. Fry them for 4 minutes, regularly turning them to brown them all around. Take them out of the pan and transfer them to a plate.

Add the onions, turmeric, paprika, chili, garlic and ginger to the pan and fry for a 5 minutes, then stir in the puréed tomatoes, tamarind concentrate, fish sauce and brown sugar. Simmer for 10 minutes to reduce.

Cut the eggs in half and carefully place them back into the pan. Pour some of the mixture over the eggs, making sure that they are coated generously and simmer for another 2 minutes.

Finish by sprinkling the fried shallots and roughly chopped cilantro on top of the eggs.



# LIKE, COMMENT

BY MARIA SELBY

# AND SUBSCRIBE

“Welcome back to my channel!” is a well-known phrase used by YouTubers before they share their stories to viewers.

Paige Griffee, Tanner Kerns and Gabriel Barton are currently full-time students, as well as YouTubers. These students take time out of their busy class and work schedules to provide fun and creative content for an ever-growing fan-base.

Barton has been posting videos on his channel for over four years and believes YouTube is a great way for opportunities for channels like his to share ideas, thoughts and just about anything else they want to.

“There are a lot of opportunities that exist in online media that people don’t realize,” Barton said.

On many professional YouTube channels, sets and teams are created to ensure the success of the channel.

Kerns, Griffee and Barton use their channels as a creative outlet to help people escape the stressors of everyday life through their videos.

Kerns has been uploading videos for over three years and shows no signs of discontinuing his very unique channel.

“Everyone can do similar videos: storytime, vlogs and guru, but it’s the people that make it interesting,” Kerns said. “I like making people laugh, it [YouTube] is a place

where people go to leave reality. If I could do that for even a few people, then I did my job.”

Griffee started uploading videos at the beginning of 2017, but already has uploaded many different kinds of videos including vegan-friendly cooking videos, makeup tutorials and collaborations with other YouTubers. Griffee makes creative, friendly





cooking videos. She doesn't eat dairy, gluten or eggs for health reasons and wanted to share the various options she could eat.

"I thought of how I can turn this into a positive experience," Griffiee said. "I started making videos to see if it would help me since there's a community out there."

YouTubers must make time to set-up shoots, record, edit and upload every one of their videos.

Kerns is a part-time student and is employed full-time. He said editing a video is a job within itself, it could take up to three hours of editing for a 30-minute video. Barton has three different jobs on top of being a student and the work can easily pile up.

The time that it takes to make these videos is greatly appreciated by fans. Many comments and "likes" follow their uploads,

and with a combined total of about 100,000 views, we can only hope they continue to update their channels.

So go check them out. Like, comment and subscribe.

*Left: Paige Griffiee, a junior music technology major, films a 'Get Ready With Me' video for her channel. Paige originally started her channel because she wanted to share tips and recipes for living a vegan lifestyle. Above: Gabriel Barton, a film major, and Tanner Kerns, a speech communication major, work together to film and edit lifestyle videos which they upload to their channels every week. Gabriel and Tanner started working together since 2016 when they learned they lived in the same apartment complex. Photo credit: Alex Richardson*



# CHANGING LIVES

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ & MAGGIE SHARP



Vice President of Student Affairs at Missouri Western, Shana Meyer, paved the way in her career path to end up where she is today: successful.

Meyer directs three areas on campus which include health and wellness, student development and student services. She has been in the vice president position at Western since April 2013.

Meyer is just the second vice president of student affairs that the university has had. The program began in 2010 and Meyer saw the opportunity to develop the program.

"I really saw Missouri Western as a place that could be up and coming," Meyer said. "This was a 20 year career path that led me to this advancement in my personal career at Missouri Western."

Isaiah Collier, assistant dean of student development at Western, works directly with Meyer in the department, as she is his direct supervisor. With weekly one-on-one meetings to discuss events, Collier is motivated by Meyer to perform better.

"It lights a fire underneath me, even when I think about leaving after 12-15 hour work days, I still see Shana's car here," Collier said. "She has taught me so much about the field professionally and is always the supervisor to respond to every email."

Meyer made the best decision she could for her father this past summer and selflessly donated her kidney to him. Even with a constant work schedule, Meyer pushed herself to fulfill all of those responsibilities and had tremendous support doing so from Missouri Western staff.

"Dr. Vartabedian was always so kind, asking about my father's health and my staff was amazing," Meyer said. "I get nothing but love and support from Missouri Western."

Jessica Frogge, administrative coordinator for the student government association at Western, works with Meyer directly in student affairs.

Meyer has plenty of knowledge in the field and Frogge knows she can go to Meyer for anything.

"If there is one thing I love about Shana, especially as a supervisor, she lets you know when you're doing a good job; she doesn't let what you do go unnoticed," Frogge said.

Meyer will continue to show us there is nothing she can't accomplish as she improves Western's students' lives through her dedication to student affairs.

*Meyer with her father post surgery after she donated one of her kidneys to him. Opposite: Marash uses a connection-oriented approach when conducting counseling and is committed to the well-being of Western students. Photo credit: Sourced.*

**F**or the past 14 years, Dr. Vincenza Marash has worked in the Western counseling department as a diversity and women's counselor.

Marash has three master's in Social Work, Developmental Psychology and Liberal Studies as well as a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology.

Marash participates in a diversity task force on campus whose objective is to be responsive to diversity issues. The group develops ideas and concepts to make sure all students feel comfortable and at home.

For Marash it isn't about her being the one to heal her clients, but rather helping them heal themselves and work towards change and self-acceptance. She approaches her work with the idea that each of her clients is an expert of their own lives and she is merely there to try and improve where they are currently.

"I feel like my role is to be a facilitator to create a safe space where my clients can hear themselves think, speak their truths, feel understood and work towards constructive life change," Marash said.

According to Counseling Center Director Dave Brown, Marash brings a special aspect to their work, not only by being the only female counselor, but by bringing her knowledge of social work into the mix.

"She genuinely cares for students and she brings a lot of that to her work," Brown said.

Kathy Lau, administrative assistant for Western's counseling department said that Marash brings a special feel to the workplace while still being professional.

"She is very professional, very caring towards her clients and very concerned," Lau said. "She's very good at thinking of others."

For her clients and coworkers, Marash has found a balance between professional and caring to make work a pleasant place for everyone.





# HOUSE OF MY FATHER

BY BRAD MCCLINTICK

This spring break, myself and 13 other students along with the Baptist Student Union (BSU) campus missionary were given the opportunity to go to Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala to serve at an orphanage called Casa de Mi Padre (House of My Father).

I debated going on this trip for a few weeks, mainly because of my lack of money. But, after talking with some good friends, I decided to go. I figured my half-way decent Spanish-speaking would be helpful, and it was a unique opportunity to serve God and serve an amazing community who lives to serve others.

Leading up to the trip was very exciting as we heard more from the missionaries about what was going on there. The missionary who gave the idea for a group of us to come is a good friend of Paul Damery, BSU campus missionary, and he attended Western only a few years ago.

We arrived to the orphanage Monday night to a group of about 18 kids singing the song, "My Father's House." If you grew up going to Sunday school, you likely know this song. After they finished their song and dance, they came and gave each one of us a hug.

My favorite part of the whole trip was spending time with them. We played games, celebrated birthdays, played soccer and had a lock-in with them and other kids from the city at the end of the week. We also

were able to spend time helping the staff cook meals and clean-up, which was a huge blessing to us.

Throughout the semester, I heard both of the missionaries from the orphanage talk about the stories of many of the kids before they came to the orphanage. Getting to know the kids, and listen to what they have been through was heartbreaking. However, it was absolutely amazing considering where they are now.

Many came to the orphanage carrying heavy physical and emotional baggage. Many had been abused for most of their lives, going through situations that most people I know back home have never been through. They were so broken at one point, but now are so full of love for each other and for God.

The missionaries were intentional to tell them about the love God has for them. Specifically, many of the kids found hope in Jesus, who heals and gives grace to all who acknowledge Him.

It strongly impacted me to see how drastically their lives were changed. Although they had been through so much, they spread joy, despite having every reason to be bitter.

They showed me, and reminded me, that whether I'm in Guatemala or St. Joseph, true joy is found in knowing Jesus.





Sarah Williams, after church service, with a girl she had grown close to throughout the week. It was really bitter sweet for Williams to leave Elda. Right: The streets of Antigua, Guatemala are being lined with fresh flowers in honor of Semana Santa, Holy Week, in the Catholic religion. Guatemala is predominantly Catholic, so people from all over the country, as well as other Latin American regions, came to Antigua for this celebration. Opposite: Sarah Williams drinks her morning coffee atop the roof of the girl's house for the week. Photo credit: Sourced







# BATTLING THE BLAZE

BY MARIAM HESS

Imagine you are working a summer job as a college student.

What are you doing? Retail work? Food service?

Then imagine that you are really working for the Horton Bureau of Indian Affairs, being paid by the federal government to fight fires in Wyoming and New Mexico. That's how Isaac Whitman, Western student, spent the summer of 2017.

Whitman was the newest member of the Kansas fire team from Western. As a sophomore honors student majoring in wildlife conservation and management, Whitman said that he discovered the job through the Western Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

"It was related to my major and gave me great experience, but it wasn't required or anything like that," Whitman said.

"Really the two biggest reasons I did it was to get marketable experience and it paid extremely well."

The fire crew was on call the entire summer. They were required to drop everything and go as soon as they were called.

The purpose of Whitman's team was to exclusively fight wildfires on the ground, and they were only called when there was an active fire or a fire imminent. The Kansas fire team would meet in Horton to assemble their gear and rental trucks. From there, they would drive and go to the site of the wildfire and stay for the span of their deployment, or "roll," which would last for 14 days.

Brad Thomas, a fellow student from Western, said that the experience is worth more than just a hefty check and



experience in their fields of study.

“The best part about this job is traveling the country and working alongside the crew,” Thomas said. “You become brothers out there. The gratitude from the public after you have been working on a fire is a great feeling.”

The crew worked two fires where they had to stop fires, clear brush along roads, clear out flammable materials and work in already burned areas to ensure there were no “hot spots” close to the perimeter. Whitman said he and his crew typically worked 14-16 hour days, with sometimes less than seven hours of sleep.

However, the experience was more than worth the hiccups along the way.

Blake Koelling, another Western student, said the experience was beneficial for him as well.

“The best thing is knowing the work you are doing out there could save homes and lives,” Koelling said. “It makes you work that much harder at what you’re doing.”

All three men hope to go back next summer to work against the fires. The experience has more than prepared them for their future careers, as well as for their continuing studies at Western.

Below:  
Whitman (middle)  
and two of the Denver guys  
(Alex Paez (left) & Mike Aragon  
(right) at the Bonita Fire. Left: The  
entire hand crew on the last day at  
the Keystone Fire in Wyoming  
(Isaac Whitman is in the back  
row, fifth from the left)  
Photo credit: Sourced





# LOVE. ENCOURAGE.



BY CHASE MERWIN

Life and legacy, a celebration of African American culture encompassed Western as Black History Month was observed during the month of February.

A variety of events was hosted honoring the contributions of African American culture in society. Events included a presentation by renowned black poet Porsha Olayiwola, a blood drive, a Valentine's Day event called "Black Love", a soul food lunch and a "Black Heritage Dinner" to close out the celebrations.

Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, was the CME's celebration of black love which emphasized the importance of not only affection between people of color but brotherhood, sisterhood and friendship.

Attendees at the black love event discussed both the positives and the negatives underlying black love. Some expressed

that blacks do not love each other enough, others said that they don't love each other properly, and more shared their personal beliefs of what black love entails.

Sigma Kappa chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. President Tra Qualls spoke about the power of black love through an original poem, expressing ideas which could apply to all.

"Black love is appreciative of roots and backgrounds," Qualls said. "Black love is genuine. Black love created life on this planet."

Black History Month ended elegantly with a black heritage dinner hosted by the Black Student Union. The event was an opportunity for Western's African-American students to converse and enjoy performances by students in the Black Student Union.

# LOOKING BACK ON BL

# INSPIRE. CELEBRATE.



It was also an opportunity to receive encouraging words from Western alum, Kimberly Warren. Her energetic speech stressed the importance of making ends meet for a smooth graduation and of preparing oneself to be the most marketable person one can be.

“College is more than a grade,” Warren said. “I am rarely asked how my grades were in college because people are going to want to know how you are going to perform with my team when you walk into that office on Monday morning.”

Warren left students with inspiration by highlighting that African-Americans have only just begun to provide the world with their talents, skills and passion.

“We are still having a lot of ‘firsts,’” Warren said. “You’d think by now we would have had a first person of color in every field,

but we’re still looking for you and we’re still looking for a cure for cancer.”

Black History Month was not only a celebration of African-Americans at large. The focus was undoubtedly Western students. It was a month of recognition and preparation for those students who will one day help shape the future of our community, state, nation and world.

Left to right: Tra Qualls and Alexis Williams participate in the CME’s Valentine’s Day discussion; Jada Thomas-Taylor and Ceondra Blake happily involve themselves in the celebration of black love; Elijah Todd, Jonathan Julien and Tra Qualls show their swagger. The three were very vocal and animated supporters of love amongst African American people; Western students Denitra Like, Maigin Arrington and Nah’Ryan Reed-Crawford attend the CME’s Valentine’s Day event “Black Love”. Photo credit: Chase Merwin

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Momma said, "Pray for Ferguson."  
This was way before the verdict hit.  
I asked her why. She sighed and said, "Things are going to get really bad."  
I can't say this was a genius prediction.  
We all knew justice wouldn't show its face but all we could do was keep wishing.  
Wishing outside was a safe place our kids can live in.  
Police pretend to protect us from perpetrators but are really burying black boys bodies by the billion.  
I stole Starburst once from Seven Eleven.  
I guess 5 o should send me to heaven because to some that is an excuse to kill a child.  
I reach in my pocket to get my wallet I guess that's your cue to take your shot.  
Me and my cousins play with nerf guns outside.  
Someone call the cops, these kids need to die.  
I walk to the park with a hood on my head.  
Where's neighborhood watch?  
This kid needs to be dead.  
The system sells stereotypes when they need to be put to bed  
because my GPA is high and no one in my family is a crackhead.  
I've always wanted to time travel but not back to the 1800s.  
Now it seems slavery is back and it makes me wonder... if it ever went away.  
The 13th amendment said slavery has ended EXCEPT  
as punishment for a crime a person has been duly convicted.  
African Americans make up 13% of this country's population yet 40% of the jail's.  
There are more of us in cells than there were picking cotton in the fields.  
Mind, body, spirit.  
They trap you however they can.  
Penitentiary, projects, grave.  
They trap you wherever they can.  
We can journey through the underground railroad but young man first you gotta pull up your pants.  
This generation needs to take the light we have to shine  
instead of throw shade because nights are taking over days  
And our rights are fading away.  
Our sisters are losing brothers.  
Our brothers are losing brothers.  
Our mothers are losing their minds because each day is a struggle for their sons to stay alive.  
The last 3 letters in Ferguson is son.  
Which is something Lesley McSpadden had until a Ferguson policeman snatched him away  
August 9th, 2014.  
I walked outside and there's no sun rays in Missouri.  
I can taste the tear gas, hear the gunshots, smell the fires, feel the pain from the weight on our shoulders,  
and see a broken Ferguson from Kansas City.  
It's not because I'm close but more because I know there are thousands of Fergusons in this country.  
Black folks are good kids in this mad city trying to find the microphone that will save our life.  
This "free" country is trying to enslave us again.  
Even when the president was black, America was still ran by the white man.  
I don't think all Caucasians are the same but America is ran by KKKs and Columbuses that X out Kings.  
And then wonder why there is rioting instead of people protesting quietly.  
All I know is, closed mouths don't get fed.  
I don't like the riots and I don't approve of violence but will not sit in silence.  
Homicides are turning into a genocide because apparently in America,  
A white man killing a black boy is not a crime.

*Zoie Reynolds*

## THE TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION

BY DIANAH HIDZIR

Dark, mysterious and cryptic.

**W**ho would have known that such an environment can change a person's perspective about current news? Well, that is exactly what the Tunnel of Oppression was all about.

The usually-bright lit room in Blum Union was then filled with nothing but true facts from all over the world regarding all the possible isms imaginable. Facts, data and policies on classism, sexism, heterosexism, immigration, bullying, ageism, religious oppression, trans-oppression, racism and human trafficking were written in huge fonts on large colored paper and hung up on drapes that created an illusion of a tunnel, which enabled guests to walk through.

There were also scenes that were acted out by volunteers, depicting what it's like to be kidnapped as a child, bullied as a young girl, being held through immigration and being oppressed as a transgender.

It was overwhelming at first, but after the walk through, I definitely knew that something should be done for all the injustice around the globe.







# WORKING AGAINST VIOLENCE

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN AND NICOLE BILBY

**E**mpowerment, enlightenment, equality and violence prevention were the common themes of Women's History Month (WHM).

Events hosted by Western included: lectures, films, a self-defense seminar, a roundtable of responses to sexual violence and an online violence and cyber-safety session.

Professor of English Dr. Kay Siebler said she always learns something new about 'herstory' and the effect it has on society when she attends these WHM events. She believes the collective knowledge of marginalized perspectives is inadequate and herstory is rich, but it's through these events that Western can help facilitate the conversation to understanding.

Herstory emphasizes the role of women in history and explains history as told from the point of view of a woman. The importance of herstory was prominent through discussions of the #metoo movement and sexual violence.

"I found the panel on the #MeToo and sexual assault to be particularly important for our community," Siebler said. "We have to learn to be better about sexual communication and understanding consent -- and the only way to do that is talk about it and listen to perspectives of women."

Dr. Marianne Kunkel, assistant professor of

English and faculty adviser for Canvas, said the #metoo open mic night gave a safe platform for a diverse variety of attendees to perform their creative work such as poems they had written or found online.

Another event that took place was a self-defense workshop hosted by the Center for Multicultural Education (CME) and the National Guard. Attendees were shown techniques to become more aware of their everyday surroundings and protect themselves.

Latoya Fitzpatrick, director of the CME, said the real life situations presented during the demonstration hit home for attendees.

"I think that it was really helpful for them [instructors] to point out this happens to men and women and this happens quickly so you have to really be aware of your surroundings," Fitzpatrick said.

While WHM events prove to be a great source of outreach for Western, Siebler wishes more people took advantage of the programming.

"Sometimes men may not think there is anything they can learn from attending WHM programming, but that is simply not true...If for no other reason, men should attend to better understand the herstory of their mothers, sisters, grandmothers, sweethearts," Siebler said.

Crash on alien couch after we had all been  
She told me the roommate was 'cool.' She  
told me to just get over it."

## WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?

BY MAGGIE SHARP

One of the many programs on campus for Western's Sexual Assault Awareness month was the "What Were You Wearing" exhibit.

The inspiration for the installation started back in 2013 with the poem "What I Was Wearing" by Dr. Mary Simmerling. This display, which brought in over a hundred viewers this year, is one that many colleges exhibit.

Western worked with the local YWCA to show a variety of different outfits that people were wearing when they were sexually assaulted. The outfits ranged from prom dresses, sundresses, swimsuits to cargo shorts, childrens pajamas and a t-shirt with jeans.

Adam McGowan, Title IX Coordinator for Western, said the purpose of this exhibit was to discuss what student victims were wearing during their assault. This helps to debunk the idea that clothes provoked assault and instead keep the focus and blame on the assailant rather than the victim.

"There was definitely a good community response outside of campus," McGowan said. "It was a powerful display. It got people talking, increased conversation and awareness and maybe got people

to look back on how they've talked about sexual assault survivors."

YWCA advocate Carrie Turner attended and helped organize the event. She said the purpose of the installation is to disempower the common idea that sexual assault is provoked by provocative outfits and to give support to victims.

"Sexual assault can happen to anyone, in any shape or size," Turner said. "We want people to know you are not alone, you are believed, and we can help you transition from victim to survivor."

Freshman Allie Reinkemeyer attended the exhibit and left with a clear understanding of this emotional topic.

"It really shows that 'she was asking for it' is the worst mentality you could have," Reinkemeyer said. "No one asks for it."

What Were You Wearing is an idea of wanting to show that what a victim was wearing did not have any effect on whether or not the assault took place. This exhibit additionally showed survivors that they were not alone, gave them the courage to speak up and spread awareness about sexual assault.



#METOO



ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY: AMANDA FRANCIS



## IT BEGAN WITH TWO WORDS

**T**he #metoo movement began, for me, by posting those two words on my Facebook feed; with this simple and brave act, I acknowledged that I, too, have been the subject of sexual violence—more than once.

In this movement started by activist Tarana Burke, the Internet held up a mirror to its users of all the ways that too many women (and some men) have been sexually mistreated, silenced and shamed.

#NoMore is in our future; by joining our voices we have created a community in which victims feel safe speaking up, and we have revealed how large a problem violence against women is. This movement has given me the courage and focus to help those in abusive relationships, to work harder to dismantle rape culture and to teach my two-year-old son to respect and listen to women.

Ultimately, it's not enough that all of those hurt by sexual violence bear witness with the words #MeToo; we must speak out and act in ways that make clear to those who hurt others (intentionally or not) that their actions are unacceptable.

*Dr. Marianne Kunkel*

## A VOICE FOR VICTIMS

**T**he #metoo movement, to me, is meant to give a voice to victims. When I was in high school I was sexually assaulted on school grounds...The boy was suspended for a week and I was institutionalized for months from the trauma. There are too many victims out there feeling they can't rise up because they won't be supported, but this movement gives the voiceless a voice.

I have been in abusive relationships...I am no longer a victim and this movement lets others know it is OK to rise up and not be the victim anymore. It is empowering to know that you stand with others who have been through similar scenarios or situations. Feminism does not just have to be about women or gender. It is about all people no matter the race, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference or transgender coming together wanting equality in all aspects of life.

Culturally, the #metoo movement is a phenomenon and it will keep allowing women of other cultures to stand up and have a voice even if it goes against what they have always known. The #metoo movement is the future.

*Chastity*



# THE MOVEMENT

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN

**F**eminism, as defined, advocates for gender equality. It is a movement that began a century ago and has maintained its position on the forefront of societal concern.

Through political, economic and social movements the fight for women's rights has evolved as mainstream consciousness moves forward. There has also been a regression which has left many with a mound of confusion of what it means to be a feminist. Is it the war against patriarchy? Is it about a woman's right to choose what she wants to do with her body? Is it the fight for equal pay? Is it being critical of other women who don't fit the mold?

Now, I don't claim to be an expert on feminism, but I do know what it means to me and see the extreme importance of the movement, especially in today's world.

As a woman in today's society I find that we are still fighting for our rights to our bodies, our beliefs and our voice. All of which is not limited to women and affects every marginalized group. My civil rights are being questioned and potentially taken from me. Now, political aspects of this movement aside, there is a lot to be said about the growth society has made to support women.

Feminism isn't just about the right to choose, to vote or to receive equal pay. It's about supporting women in their successes and path to be leaders of their communities. It's also about breaking the stigma that women can only succeed if they've done something wrong or immoral to get where they are and that being assertive is a horrible quality.

As a woman I've been faced with many societal pressures, I've felt emotionally conflicted about not wanting certain things and I've blamed myself for



ART WORK BY ALLYSEN OWENS



being a victim. The shame and confusion that is associated with each is difficult to navigate through, but what I've learned is that a voice is better than none. To understand that others have been where you have been is helpful, but for me it's being a voice to tell others I've been there.

This movement has allowed me and many others to openly support each other and make the conscious decision to stop shaming or blaming women for their decisions. Stop shaming us for our choice to be a stay at home mom or a career woman; our choice to be monogamous or polyamorous; our choice to have multiple sexual partners or none.

This movement isn't just about breaking the double standard between men and women or the archaic view of what was once feminism. It's about realizing who we are is okay and we shouldn't need to protest about the lack of gender equality or march for our civil rights. Being overlooked and marginalized is no longer an option because what we do today impacts tomorrow.

It's a time to rise up to say enough is enough. It's a time to rise up to say no means no. It's time to rise up to say I don't need to prove myself for your validation. It's a time to rise up to make a difference, speak up and join the movement.



# PEACEFUL PROTEST

BY ALI FOWLER

Acts of student protest have been a common occurrence this year as teenagers and young adults organize nationwide marches to protest gun violence in the U.S..

The 2018 'March for Our Lives' was not the first example of students practicing their first amendment rights to protest violence. That story goes back to a young girl in Iowa who decided to wear a black armband to school one day. She wore the armband as a symbol of mourning and to protest during the Vietnam War.

Students, faculty and community members gathered in Kemper Recital Hall to hear Mary Beth Tinker's story.

While her little world was fairly normal, Tinker grew up when the world was in a turbulent time. The Civil Right Movement was in full force and Lyndon B. Johnson was sending troops to fight in Vietnam. She spent her childhood watching men, women and children speak out against the violence and hate in the world.

"We were watching more and more news of the Vietnam War," Tinker said. "On the news we didn't see love and forgiveness. We kids saw war. War. War."

It was movements such as the Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963 and the Mississippi Freedom Summer that inspired Tinker to protest the war by wearing the black armband that would force her into a long journey to justice.

Tinker was a normal 13 year-old when she decided, along with some of her peers, to wear a black armband to school on December 16, 1965, despite the fact that,

two days prior, the school board passed a policy that prohibited armbands at school.

Tinker was a shy student who was unsure about participating in the protest. It was the support of her classmates and the advice of her father that gave her the courage to speak up for a cause about which she was passionate.

"I thought I would try to be brave," Tinker said. "I remember my dad always said, 'you have to stand up for you conscience.'"

Five students were suspended, including Tinker and her brother John. To their surprise, their small act of protest caused a stir in their community. Tinker's family received hate mail and death threats while their home was vandalized with red paint.

The American Civil Liberties Union took the students' to the Supreme Court. Four years after Tinker's suspension, in 1969, the Court ruled in a landmark decision that students in public schools have First Amendment rights.

Tinker's efforts paved the way for student rights. It is because of her bravery, that high school students such as Emma Gonzales and Cameron Kasky from Parkland, Florida, can use their voices to organize nationwide marches against gun violence.

Tinker now travels all over the U.S. to help students understand their First Amendment rights.

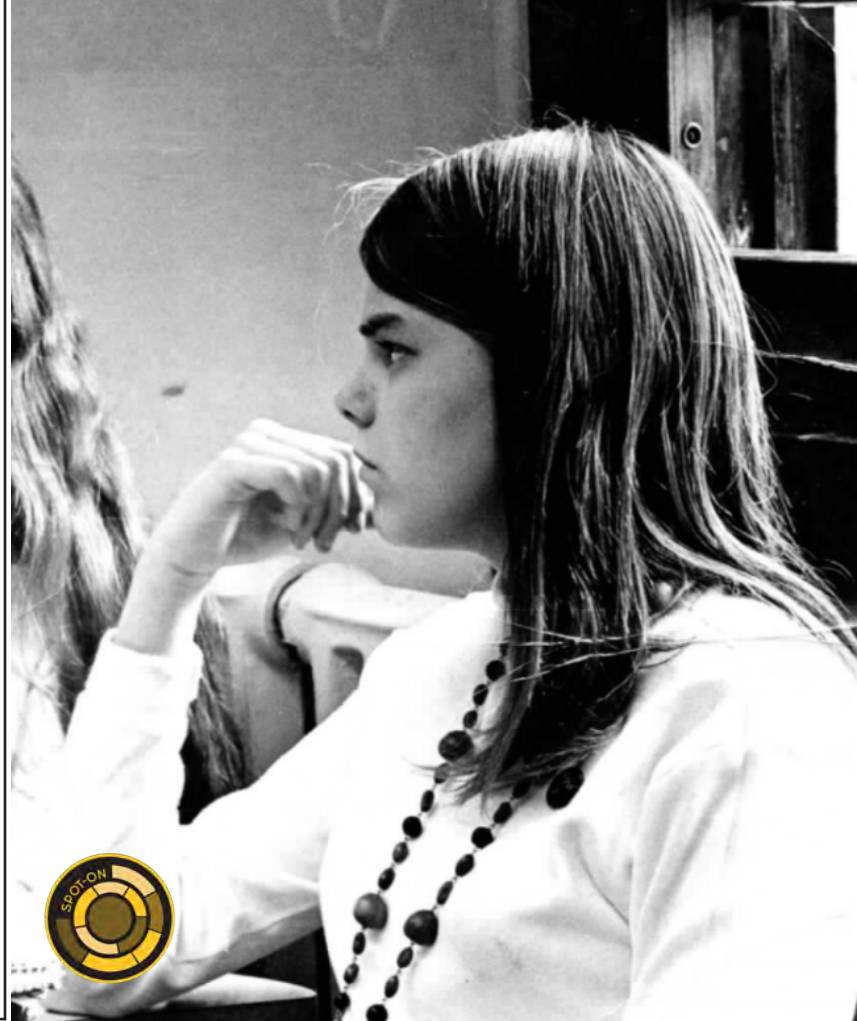
"Because of the case, I've been able to spend a lot of time encouraging kids to stand up for themselves and for a better, more just and peaceful world," Tinker said.

Mary Beth Tinker  
in 11<sup>th</sup> grade class  
University City, Mo.  
High School  
~~Mar~~ Feb 26, 1969

Please return to  
1336 Midland Dr  
U. City, Mo  
63130

20.0  
160/4  
1717

YOUTH APR 20/69  
P. 23 (21)



Mary Beth Tinker as a teenager made a silent statement by wearing a black armband in protest of the war. Her mother sat by her side (right page) at a Des Moines, Iowa school board meeting after Tinker was suspended at the age of 13 for wearing this band to school. Photo credit: Sourced by Mary Beth Tinker and Dave Penny/Des Moines Register-File at edweek.org





## MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

BY CHASE MERWIN

The Valentine's Day tragedy in Parkland, Florida, seems to have been the final straw for millions of Americans nationwide, especially students.

All across the country, America's youth have taken on leadership roles in organizing, planning and executing local movements to convince politicians of "common sense gun reform." They took on the 'March for Our Lives', the master movement created by those Parkland students who, having experienced the tragedy, decided enough was enough.

Locals in St. Joseph were no less inspired. Organizations from not only the community but also the university were equally involved in giving students an exclusive voice for gun control. These organizations included Moms Demand Action, the Buchanan County United Democrat Club and student organization Women of the Future.

Dr. Melinda Kovacs, professor at Western and faculty advisor for Women of the Future, said that while many organizations sponsored St. Joseph's 'March for Our

Lives', it was really about the students' voices.

"One of our most important areas of emphasis was that 'March for Our Lives' was a student movement, a student event and student moment in American politics," Kovacs said. "Once the local march happened, nobody from any of these groups spoke."

Dr. Marianne Kunkel, assistant professor of creative writing and publishing, was an active participant in the movement. She said that teachers' involvement with students in the 'March for Our Lives' was imperative because students should not have to worry about their lives on top of course work and other responsibilities.

"I feel for my students who, with everything they're trying to tackle, have to worry about their safety on campus," Kunkel said.

Kunkel also said that she found inspiration in the uprising of students for the 'March for Our Lives'.



Courtney Butcher, Rose Cadden, Sarah Blachar and John Jenoo are four of many who took action and voiced their concerns at the March For Our Lives event held in St. Joe. Many local residents and Western students made signs and marched in hopes legislators and the community heard their concern. Opposite: Miranda Poulson and Anne Davies-Speer, despite age, stand side by side in their fight to make a difference. Photo credit: Chandrae Traxler



"I find their ability to speak very articulately back to politicians so inspiring," Kunkel said. "They make me feel like I haven't done enough with my life."

Dr. Cynthia Jeney, associate professor of English, was another faculty member involved in the 'March for Our Lives.' She said that the importance of student-teacher involvement was especially important in colleges, as many college students are parents.

"We're together in this; it's all of us," Jeney said. "I teach in a university and usually it's only a matter of two or three years between when I have a student in one of my upper-division courses and that person is a professional and a parent."

Joseph Kellogg, a student advocate and participant of 'March for Our Lives', said that the problem of gun violence can no longer be overlooked.

"The Parkland students lived through the school shooting but then all of us know

what it's like to have that fear," Kellogg said. "People can't ignore the problem anymore."

Kellogg said the movement has demonstrated that young people do care about the politics and future of the world they've grown up in, despite popular misconceptions.

"I'm very interested in politics - that's what I want to do," Kellogg said. "I want to help make a difference, and it's shown me that it's possible. A lot of times people dismiss our generation as lazy or apathetic but this movement stands in direct contrast."

The 'March for Our Lives' garnered much support, from students to teachers and everyone in between. Students' voices are finally being heard, and the movement, while preceded by a horrible tragedy, was a rousing call to millions of Americans nationwide. While nothing has been changed yet, it may be safe to assume that it is just over the horizon.





# HERE TO HELP

TREVOR BROWN BY MACKENZIE BOOS



MWSU P.D. (24 HOURS)  
**816.271.4438**

CRIME INFORMATION (24 HOURS)  
**816.271.5600**

**How long have you been working here?**

I have been a Western police officer for 18 years.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

The opportunities to help people and build connections with faculty, staff and students.

**What is your favorite thing about Western?**

My personal favorite thing about Western is the way our campus community works together and embraces each other.

**What are your duties besides parking tickets?**

MWSU officers are primarily responsible for all criminal reports, criminal investigations and the enforcement of federal and state law, city ordinances and university rules and regulations. Parking tickets are a portion of the duties when time allows, but the majority of the parking citations are issued by student interns working for the Parking and Security office.

**What do you think students should know about the police department?**

In my opinion, faculty, staff and students may not realize that the MWSU Police Department (PD) is a state recognized Law Enforcement agency. As such, all MWSU police officers are real police officers and could work at any other Law Enforcement agency in Missouri.

**Are police always stationed on campus?**

Yes, MWSU Police Department has a staffing of full time officers that are working 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

**If someone feels nervous or anxious, is someone always on call or can walk someone to their car?**

Yes, Parking and Security services will typically handle this unless they do not have anyone working, then a police officer will respond to provide the same service.



**What are some new advances that campus police are doing?**

Law Enforcement, especially campus law enforcement, is always willing to try new tactics or best practice operations to provide the best protection. The newest resource available to MWSU PD that has been a great tool in criminal investigations has been the addition of several security cameras being installed in numerous campus buildings.

**What advice do you have for students to keep them more safe?**

To be aware of their surroundings and always try to stay in groups. If you see something out of the ordinary or that looks suspicious, report it immediately.

**What is the most reported crime on campus?**

The highest reported crime on campus is larceny-theft or the stealing of people's belongings.

**Who receives training on sexual violence, and what are their obligations?**

All MWSU police officers have received basic sexual assault training and are capable of responding to these types of reports/calls. MWSU PD routinely completes additional training that becomes available or conducts training within the department.

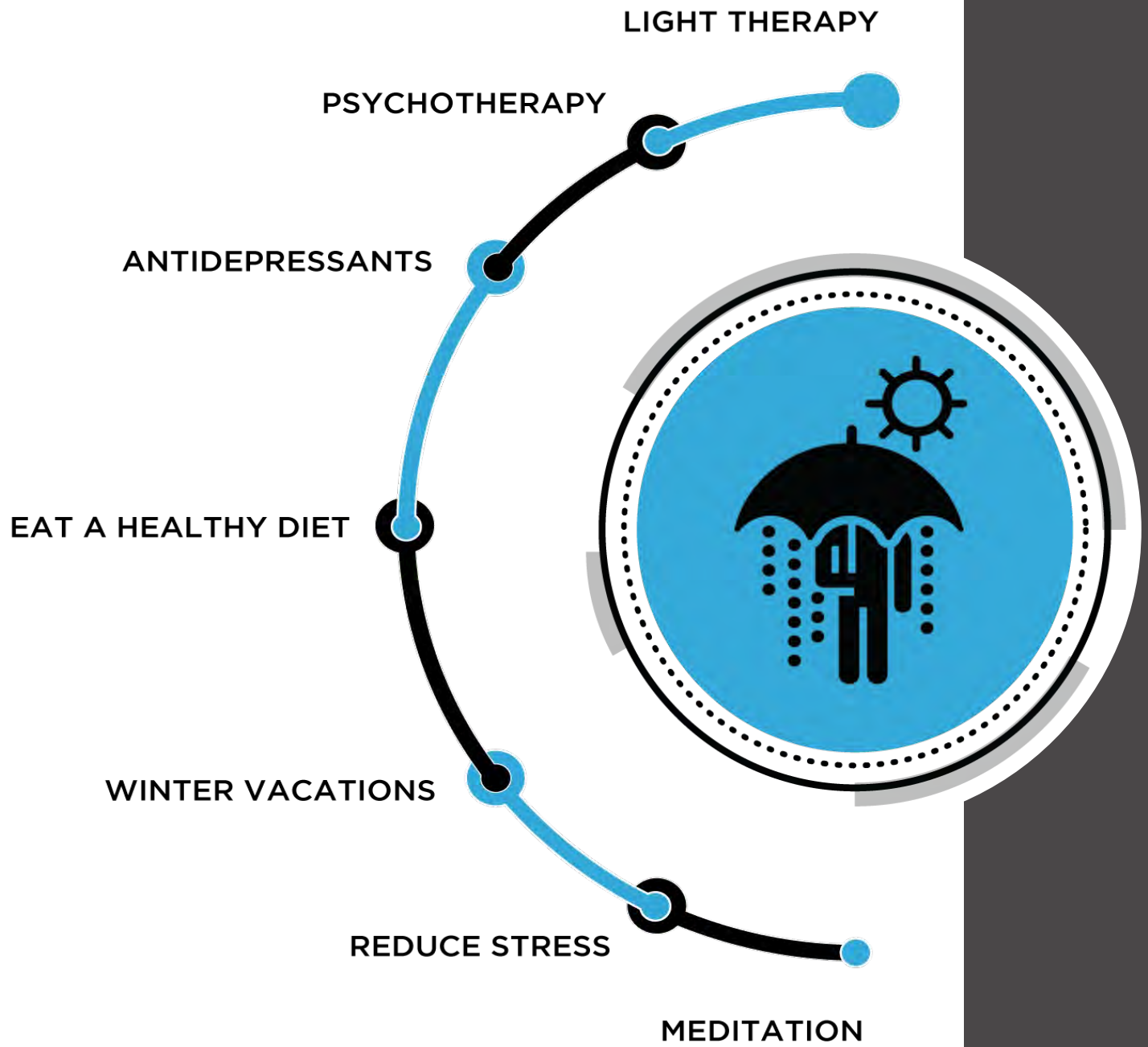
**Who is the first responders when there is an emergency?**

MWSU being the primary law enforcement agency for campus would be the first responders to an emergency on campus. Depending on the emergency and what that emergency would require, we maintain a close working relationship with the Missouri Highway Patrol, Buchanan County Sheriff's Department, St. Joseph Police Department, St. Joseph Fire and Buchanan County EMS.



# SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

BY LANCE LAWTON



**W**inter can be a fun and joyous time for a lot of people in our country.

However, some may not agree with the previous statement. Although it is a small percentage, there are plenty of people out there who are diagnosed with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is a type of depression that can be found in different populations throughout the country and the world. This disorder is similar to regular depression, but with a twist. SAD affects people once every year, whether that may be late fall/winter or even during the beginning of summer.

Dr. Jon Mandracchia, a Western psychology professor, doesn't specialize in SAD knowledge, but still provides plenty of information about the disorder.

"People will figure out if they have seasonal affective disorder after they have experienced it for two years," Mandracchia said. "I think it's connected to what we call 'cabin fever' when we're shut in for a while - we don't have as much social life as we should. People need to just get up and get active."

Mandracchia believes that both depression and seasonal depression share common symptoms.

"A lot of the symptoms are not that different than what you would think of with regular depression," Mandracchia said. "You have feelings of hopelessness and feeling bad, but what differentiates

from depression and SAD is could be becoming lethargic, eating a lot and gaining weight."

Since Mandracchia is not considered a SAD expert, Director of Counseling Harold "Dave" Brown volunteered to give his perspective on the disorder.

"The higher populations who are diagnosed with seasonal depression tend to be in areas where there is less sunlight during the day," Brown said. "Some believe this is why when winter rolls around, a ton of people travel south."

Brown says that there are a couple of ways to help tone down the effects and symptoms if someone is struggling with SAD.

"There are special lighting tools and SAD equipment that you can buy pretty cheap online," Brown said. "All of this special equipment that's available for those in need has shown to actually provide some benefits."

Both Brown and Mandracchia say that the first place they would send people suffering from SAD is to the Counseling Center, located in Eder Hall 203.

"The first thing to do is to recognize that this (SAD) is a problem and it's real and to go find help immediately," Brown said. "Once you recognize it, you can start to come up with a plan to begin confronting and correcting the problem."



# MAKING AN IMPACT

BY DIANAH HIDZIR AND BETHANY VONSEGGERN

The passion to introduce change and bring justice to the Western campus is a natural progression for senior Alexis Williams.

Williams' involvement with Western activities goes above and beyond the average student. She is a psychology major with a concentration in organizational leadership and a minor in business. As if her studies don't keep her busy enough, Williams is a resident assistant in Leaverton Hall, a program assistant at the CME and president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

She was certain that she did not start school with the intention to be as active as she is now. But with the urge to bring change on campus and create an environment to eliminate race-based discrimination, she knew that there was something that she had to do.

After the society went inactive for a few academic years, Williams succeeded to

bring back NAACP on campus as soon as she was invited by a friend to kick off the effort.

"My friend, Eric Toliver and I brought up the whole idea to an SGA meeting one day," Williams said. "They voted to pass it, and so NAACP was brought back to Western the following year. By the progress of the club so far, we knew that that change was much needed."

Williams has also led several Black Lives Matter movements, both on and off campus. She has organized numerous events that relate to African-American history at Western and has recited the famous poem 'What If I Was a Black Woman' in public venues since the age of seven.

Upholding the dignity of African-American students on campus has become part of who Williams is as an individual. Even after graduating college, she hopes that new students will continue to appreciate and flourish in relations to her contributions to the school.





Left: Williams was the main organizer for Alpha Kappa Psi's Fifth Annual Cupcake Run, and is always happy and confident in representing the business fraternity on campus. Right: In the spring of 2017, Williams was the first junior to be honored with the Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Award. Her passion to introduce change and bring justice to the Missouri Western campus began long before that. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir



## Q&A

### What inspires you?

Definitely family...My mom didn't go to college so I definitely strive to do everything for my mom and dad. I think no matter what, I strive to be the best I can be even if I'm not good at something, like school related...as long as I try my best - that's what my parents have always instilled in me. You may not be good at it but try your best to do something.

### What does your typical day look like?

Oh wow, well today is Wednesday (laughing)...so my typical day is from 8 to midnight. (During this time Williams works two jobs, goes to class and participates in campus events).

### When do you sleep?

(Laughing) I know that's what people say. I think I've tried to stay busy... I struggled with depression my first year, so me getting involved really, really

helped. So, I mean sleep doesn't really bother me but I think being involved really pushes me to do the best that I can.

### You just won a trip to go anywhere in the world. Where would you go and who do you take?

(Without skipping a beat) Dubai. That is like my number one place in life I want to go with my mom and dad of course.

### What's the most ridiculous thing you've done?

I don't know...I like to think I make wise choices...Umm, probably not go to class. There's been days, I think everyone has done this, you want to sleep-in for an hour so you just skip the whole day.

### Best song ever?

Probably Beyonce's 'I Was Here'. It is my favorite motivation song that I listen to, like, five times a day.





## ROBERT BREMER - FRESHMAN/WILDLIFE & CONVERSATION

**What is your favorite spot on-, or off-, campus?** My favorite spot on-campus would be the Missouri Department of Conservation Northwest Regional Office. I find that building really cool.

**What is the first thing you do when you leave campus?** I get in my car and hit the interstate. Actually, I just drive home and say hi to my folks and kind of hang out with them for a while.

**What is the best part of being a student at Missouri Western?** I would say the sense of doing something with my life, kind of being more than just a bum on the street. Actually doing something that is going to benefit the state of Missouri, I guess... benefit the world.

## HAYLEY WOODBURY- FRESHMAN/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**What is your favorite thing to do?** I would say at the beginning of the year when they had all the fairs and everything, like the taco truck out in front of the dorms. That was really fun and you really got to meet different people.

**What do you do in your free time?** I usually study. I am on the track and field team and that takes a lot of my time.

**What advice do you have for other students?** Study. When I was in high school, I didn't have to study, it was easy to click on. Now, I'm just like, man I have to sit down and write this down to understand it.



## MAYANGO MOYALLAH - SENIOR/MANAGEMENT

**What is your best class?** I enjoy all of my management classes.

**What do you do in your free time?** I tweet and read some books, sometimes I play soccer too.

**What do you wish you had more time to do?** I wish I had less time to work and spend more time on campus, and be full time student next semester.

**What is the best part of being a student at Western?** Being a student at Western makes you come across a lot of people and because I'm from Philly you don't get that there. People are friendly here and students are friendly too, a very friendly environment

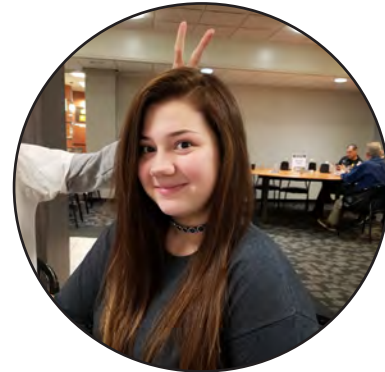
### BRITTIANY WILLIAMSON - FRESHMAN/ MATHEMATICS

**What is your favorite spot on-, or off-, campus?** I like the small rooms in the library. Off campus, Pluto because it's the farthest from campus.

**What is your best class?** Approaches to literature: folktales and adaptations with Mike Cadden.

**What is the first thing you do when you leave campus?** Give directions to my driver. I don't have a car.

**What do you wish you had more time to do?** Be me.



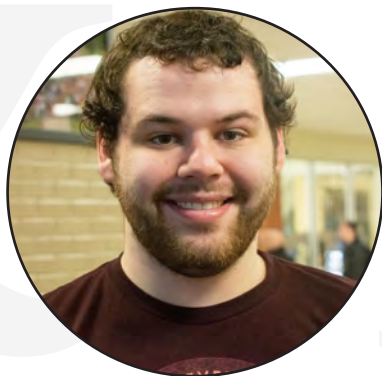
### GENTRY CLINE - SOPHMORE/PUBLIC RELATIONS

**What is your favorite spot on-, or off-, campus?** Probably my band room, where we have band practice. I just go there to play music and it's cool.

**What is your best class?** I really like our public relations class we just got out of because I like our teacher. It's Dr. Bond. I did take a psychology class two semesters ago with Dr. Henry, and I loved that class.

**What do you wish you had more time to do?** I wish I had more time to play tennis because I love tennis so much.

**What advice do you have for other students?** Well, to do their homework, because I didn't do my homework in high school and then I got to college and that was a reality check! You usually have to do it and you have to do it on-time. It's very important that you get it done when it's supposed to be done and how it's supposed to be done.



### PAM WILLIAMSON - WESTERN DINING

**What is your favorite part of working on campus?** Students. I just love them and I think they are my own. I treat them like they're mine and they respond well to that.

**What do you do in your spare time?** I like to read. My favorite book is The Stand by Stephen King.

**What is your favorite thing you've seen students do?** Help out another student if they do not have enough flex money to buy their lunch. You know they just step right up and help them.

**What do you do when you aren't on campus?** Well I catch up on my house work. I crochet and read.





# FASHION FORWARD

BY BRITTANY PRICE

The saying goes 'Anything is possible,' but they forgot to mention the most important part; 'Anything is possible with the right outfit.'

Western students Breanna Baker, Marissa Miller and Taylor Guess figured it out, and have been working hard as individual fashion entrepreneurs.

Baker began hand-making bracelets and selling them on social media to raise money for an Ethiopian Missions trip. She had always been involved with helping out with missions but never had the opportunity to go.

"If you're ever thinking about starting something of your own, never let the fact that you're in school or that you're young limit you," Baker said.

Baker has a goal to raise \$3,000 to go on



the trip in May 2018. She said if she gets extra money, she would like to donate the money and offer supplies for other people who are able to go.

Baker said as long as you put a lot of work into your passion and be creative, it can be successful.

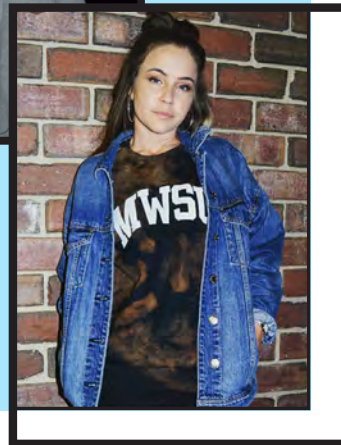
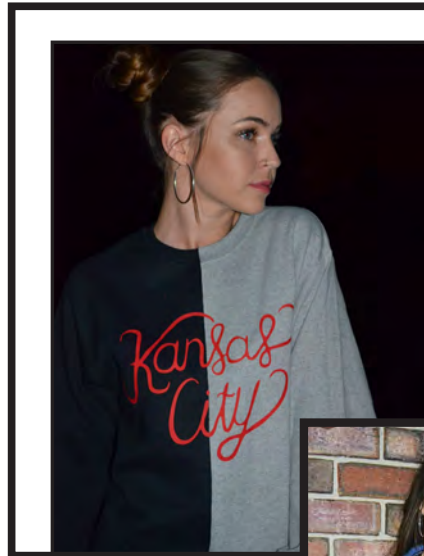
Miller is another Western student who has successfully exceeded in her own handmade fashion masterpieces. In May 2017, Miller began hand making jewelry, screen printing her own t-shirts and buying vintage denim to creatively distress, cut and alter it in a new and unique way.

"My business has actually been really crazy," Miller said. "It started with friends and family, and now I am constantly mailing

Bottom of opposite page: Brianna Baker displays her chic style. Her classmates consider her one of the most “put together” students they know. Photo credit sourced by Baker.

Top of opposite page: Marissa Miller makes vintage inspired t’s and jewelry that her customers adore. Photo credit: Jill Oswald.

Above: Taylor Guess takes school spirit to a new level of style by adding fringe and matching with the best denim. Photo credit: Sourced by Guess.



people in Warrensburg, Lawrence and pretty much to the Midwest area.”

After finishing her college career, Miller has goals of advancing her online store and growing her business.

Guess started sewing and creating her own clothes in 2015. She has always been into fashion and when she could not find something to wear, she would just make it herself.

Guess began her business through social media sites, but soon enough created her own website with so much success.

“For my first goal with the first product I dropped, I wanted to sell twenty,” Guess said. “I did within about ten hours of dropping it.”

Guess hopes to open a mobile boutique in the future. She would like to go wherever, whenever to sell her collections.

Baker, Miller and Guess are all Western students who have broken the barrier to fashion success. They have not only successfully whipped up their own businesses, but they encourage anyone with similar ideas to follow their creativity and work towards it.

“All it takes is one person to push you through and say ‘Hey, you can figure it out, it just takes time,’” Miller said.

Never underestimate the power of your ideas, and a great outfit. Anything is possible with the right outfit and some hard work.





Left: Lindsay Gomez with daughters Lili, 4, and Alejandra 12. Gomez, is dedicated to working hard in all areas of her life to show her daughters that they too can achieve their dreams. Expecting her third child in the fall of 2018, Gomez continues to power on to success. Below: Katherine Moore takes time between studying and classes to feed her newborn son, Everitt. Moore is a determined to strive for success and is thankful for the support from family and teachers both. Photo credit: Bethany vonseggern & Adeb Alsaawi



# SUPER MOMS

BY LINDSAY GOMEZ & BRITTANY PRICE

We wake up with the notion to rule the world even if it may be our own world. We wake up, feed the kids, get ready, drop off the children, maybe fit in some time to eat and make it on time for our first class each day. It gets better over time though, we set our schedules and make the adjustments to make it possible.

As student-moms we get to know ourselves a little better than the rest of the students who are not parents attending Western. Every day our children have helped us learn who we want to be, not only for ourselves or for them but what we want to be for the world around us. This is the privilege of being a student-mom.

-Lindsay Gomez



## WE'VE ALL MET A SUPERHERO.

**A** mother can be an example of a superhero.

There are numerous mothers that attend Western full-time while also being a mom.

Kelsea Hall, a senior at Western studying public relations, is a mom of two children and one on the way. Her greatest challenge every day is to just keep going.

“Sometimes being a mom is an inconvenience at times,” Hall said. “But my kids are being exposed to the college environment, especially my oldest, and that is something that is very important to me.”

Lindsay Gomez has attended Missouri Western since 2010, but had to take a few breaks because of her personal life including her daughter’s birth. However, she did not let that stop her from coming back to finish her degree. She said she did not want becoming a mother to stop her from accomplishing things and meeting her professional needs.

“The best part about being a mom in college is knowing that I’m doing it, and I’m doing it well,” Gomez said. “I’m pushing myself to do this every semester, every day and accomplishing it.”

Katherine Moore is a junior, and a mom to a newborn baby, Everitt Knight. Moore’s



*Kelsea Hall dropping her son, Tanner off for school before she heads to campus for a full day of classes. Hall juggles work, a full-time school schedule and caring for her family while making it look so easy. Hall just gave birth to a baby girl in March 2017. Photo credit: Sourced*

mother is attending classes with her to help take care of the baby while in class since she is breastfeeding.

“It has been really challenging carrying all of his stuff with me from each class,” Moore said. “My classmates and professors have all been supportive of my decision to bring Everitt to class.”

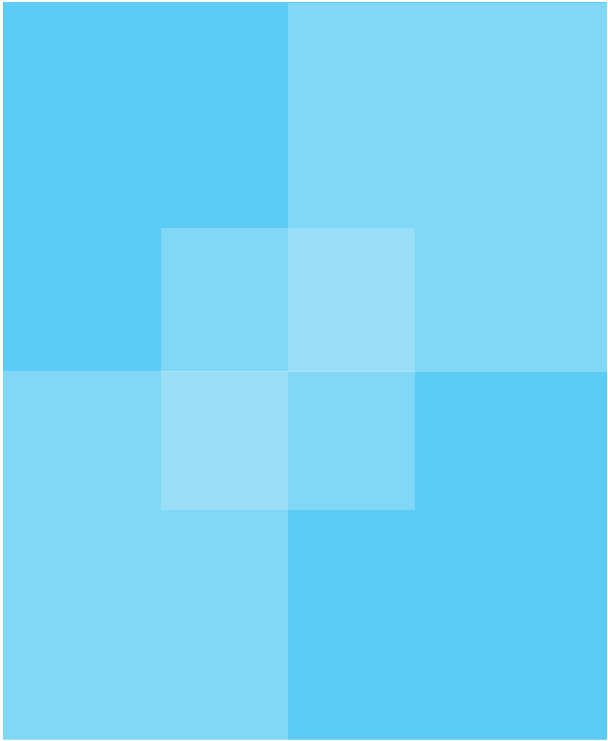
Mothers are superheroes because they sacrifice themselves and their time for their children and their families. Mothers don’t have superpowers or super fame, but they have something better than that: mothers have endless love and dedication in all they do.

Which makes mothers better than any superhero in the movies.





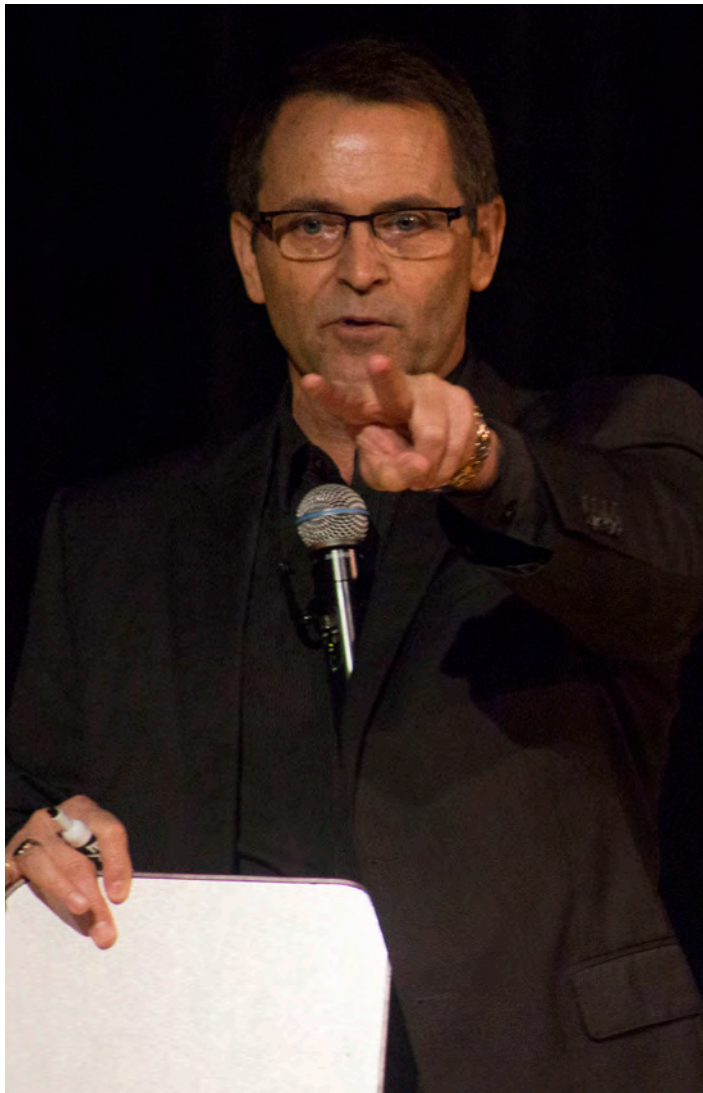
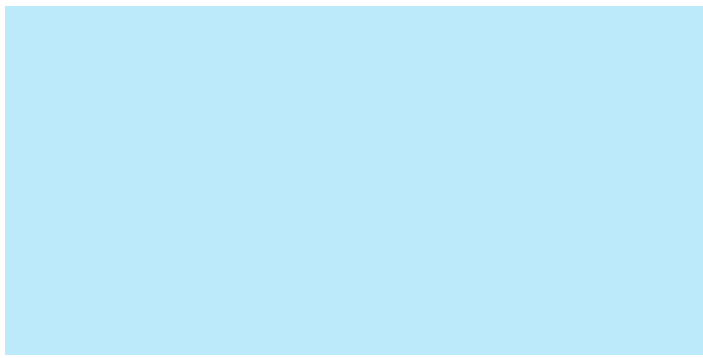
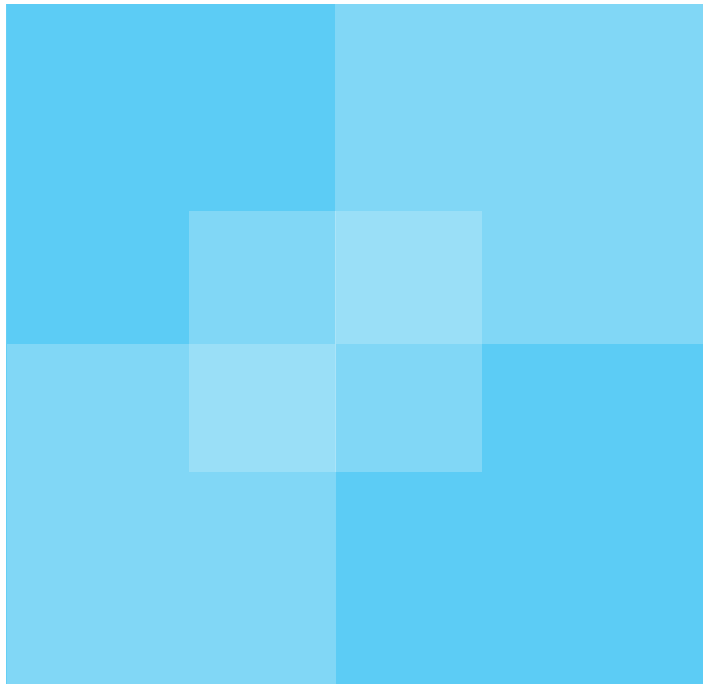
## TAKING THE STAGE



Top: "The Voice" star Angie Kelihauer charmed students Feb. 8 when she performed in Spratt. She asked for song suggestions and showed off her incredible voice through popular down-to-earth country songs, as well as some of her own. Her charisma rubbed off on attendees, making the atmosphere relaxed and jovial yet incredibly exciting. Photo credit: Chase Merwin.

Middle: Actor, writer, producer and now stand-up comedian, Marlon Wayans performs for Western. Wayans met fans during a meet and greet before taking stage in his new endeavor as a stand-up comedian. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir.

Bottom: Tessa Evason blindly reads the minds of audience members. With only seconds to do so, she was able to identify names, items, and personal information about randomly selected individuals. Photo credit: Chase Merwin



Top: Trasean Stepney host WAC's Western's Got Talent. Stepney's high energy set the tone of the event providing an enjoyable experience for attendees. Middle: Nah'Ryan Reed-Crawford sings "Killing Me Softly" by Lauryn Hill. "The song is definitely a crowd-catcher and inspiring to a lot of people who may or may not be fans," Reed-Crawford said. Bottom: Mentalist Jeff Evason actively engages with the audience by interviewing people regarding the accuracy of his partner and wife, Tessa Evason. Evason acted as a conduit between the audience and Tessa throughout the show. Photo credit: Chase Merwin



# HIDDEN GEMS

BY MACKENZIE BOOS



**Name:** Mokaska

**What:** Artisan-roasted coffee

**Where:** 617 Felix Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

Mokaska's coffees are specialty brewed coffees from different countries like Costa Rica. Instead of making large batches of low-grade coffee, they make small batches of Grade-A coffee. Mokaska was a coffee company in the early 1800s.

**Name:** Café Pony Espresso

**What:** Organic/Vegan drinks, meals and desserts

**Where:** 114 S. 8th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

Café Pony Espresso has a variety of organic and vegan menu items. However, that is not all they have. They also sell local artists jewelry, paintings and pottery.







**Name:** Longboards

**What:** Wraps & Bowls

**Where:** 106 S. 7th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

Longboards loves the surf lifestyle and island mindset. They have salad bowls, hot noodle bowls, the O.G. (organic group) menu, cool style wraps, grilled style wraps, Hawaiian sliders, grilled flat wraps and a menu for your little one.

**Name:** Brioche Cafe

**What:** French Bakery

**Where:** 114 N. 7th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

Brioche is a French bakery created by Chef Vincent Daunay over 10 years ago. They use fresh, natural and local ingredients when it's possible. They serve baked goods, traditional breads, custom cakes and even a gluten free menu. They serve crepes, breakfast, salads and sandwiches.

Photo credit: Mackenzie Boos







King appeared before a large audience at Missouri Western as the featured speaker for the 24th R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Sept. 12. King spoke to the community and college regarding equality and injustices in society. Photo credit: Adeebe Alswaai

## FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN AND JULIE BARBER

**C**ivil rights activist,. Global humanitarian. Political leader.

Martin Luther King III, the oldest son of the late Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, spoke at the 24th R. Dan Boulware Convocation about his path to carrying on his father's legacy by embracing the ideals of freedom, justice and equality.

King boldly highlighted the current unrest of America as seen through police violence and hate crimes. He spoke about intolerance and social neglect, but also patriotism and hope.

"I believe that the overwhelming majority of Americans really do embrace the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality," King said. "...the human spirit has a desire to make a difference and help, that's how I know America really is great."

Evan Hart, assistant professor of American history specializing in African American history and women in the

civil rights movement, felt that King did a remarkable job relating his father's message to the 21st Century.

"Talking about how there is a way to make a difference, even when it feels that the challenges are insurmountable," Hart said. "That if you do think big picture; if you do think long-term and you do think about what you can do as an individual - those are things that can help inspire students who often feel that it's nearly impossible for them to really make a difference in the world, when in fact, that is the only thing that does make a difference in the world, is individuals speaking up and speaking out."

King also spoke about how nonviolence is not passiveness and pleaded with the crowd to resist violence because it's the best way to end hate crimes and intolerance.

"Please don't go there, especially if you want to be a credible adversary for freedom, justice and equality," King said.



Martin Luther King III (center) with students at the Convocation breakfast. King spoke with this select group of students about his work in the community and answered questions about leadership, racial issues and his father's legacy. Photo credit: Diane Holtz



King mentioned how media coverage gives more credit to violence than it deserves which only amplifies the effect of the crime, such as violent acts of the white supremacy groups in Charlottesville. He is often asked what his father would have thought about today's police violence against people of color, and "[doubts] that he would've been surprised that more than half a century later it's still a major problem."

King believes that improving police recruitment, law enforcement training, and introducing racial sensitivity training can help prevent police brutality. He also believes that more diversity within law enforcement could be a solution.

Co-chair for the convocation ceremony, Diane Holtz, had the distinct pleasure to spend time with King throughout his visit to Western. Holtz claimed that King was thoughtful with every answer and stayed on message, and he even took extra time to engage with students along the way.

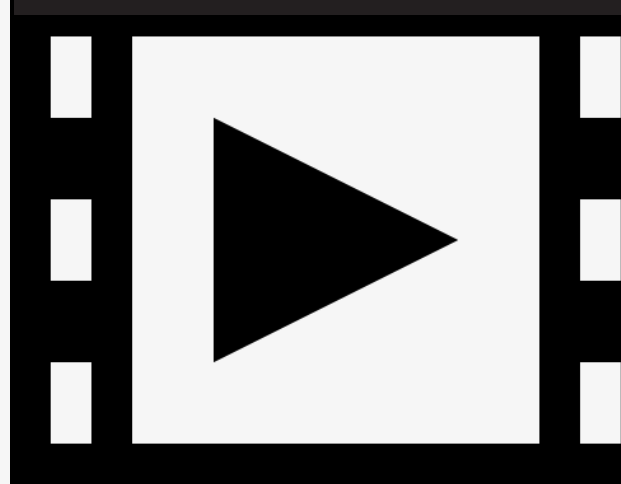
"I think he was one of the best speakers we've ever had. He really hit on all cylinders. I think he was just absolutely what a speaker on a campus should be, what a convocation on critical issues should be," Holtz said.

King's speech was broadcasted live across campus to students and community members. Although his topics of discussion may have been raw and difficult for some to hear King addressed the audience with passion and grace. He closed his speech discussing the building blocks of a dream, how all must believe in the dream to help make it a reality and how everyone must dare to dream.

King's overarching message left the audience with one impactful question that should be asked. How does this serve the cause of freedom injustice and equality?



# GRIFFON FILM



BY MAGGIE SHARP

The Western Theatre and Cinema program offers a wonderful approach to being behind the scenes of a movie.

The majority of classes offer hands-on experience to show students the ways they can become the producers and directors they aspire to be. Director, producers and cinematographers all get to assist in the theatre productions working behind the scenes to gain experience.

Throughout the year, cinema students get to work on films in class and on their own and work with a group to produce films over the course of the semester. Students in the film program get to write, cast and direct their films during class. After their work is completed, they attempt to get their films into the Griffon Film Festival at the end of the year.

The film program has two film festivals, the 48-hour film festival in the fall which gives students 48 hours to write and film their pieces and the much more highly selective Griffon Film Festival in the spring. Both festivals showcase student work from the current school year.

The 48-hour film festival is very self-contained and a good way to focus

creativity and the Griffon Film Festival goes through a much more selective process and has a panel of judges to screen the films.

Robert Hanson, cinema professor, said it is a challenging program and there is no A for effort.

“It’s heavier than most other disciplines; they [students] are expected to work on films over the weekends,” Hanson said.

Hanson teaches a three-hour studio class on motion picture lighting. It’s a prime example of how students really get hands-on experience setting up lights, studying contrast ratios, taking care of equipment and learning how to apply these aspects to their shot.

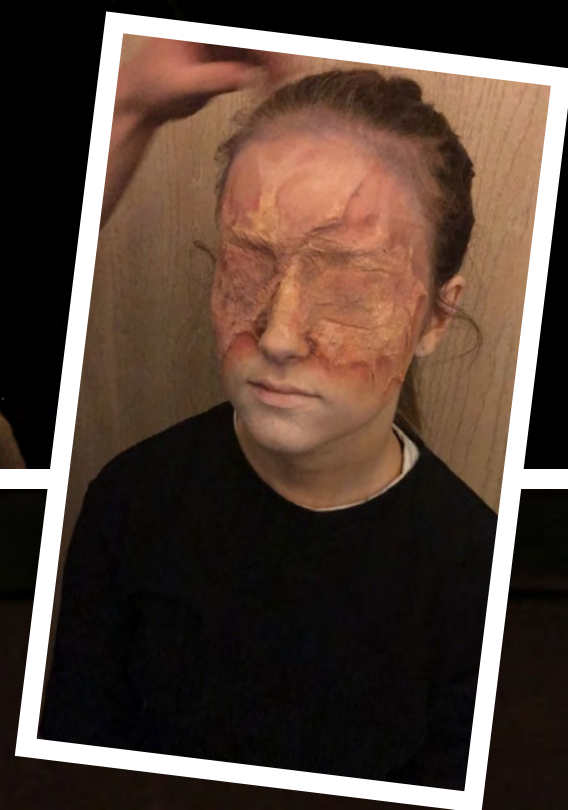
Although the class is difficult, Wil Abeling, cinema major, said he enjoys Hanson’s class.

“Hanson is the kind of teacher you respect, but you’re not afraid to goof around with,” Abeling said. “He will go out of his way to help each and every student achieve their greatest potential.”

The dedication and hard work of the Western cinema students is recognized through the impressive films produced for festivals and technology work done for live productions.



Top: Gabe Barton is the subject of the Motion Picture Lighting class' portrait practice. Around him the lights and tools have been strategically placed in order to let Professor Hanson demonstrate contrast ratios. Center: SFX makeup example of work on for one of the 48 Film Festival movies. Bottom: Professor Hanson's Motion Picture Lighting class gets hands on experience adjusting the camera settings. Students wait for their turn while they learn about contrast ratios. Photo credit: Maggie Sharp & Maria Selby





# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

BY MAGGIE SHARP

The shows produced at Western can attribute a lot of their success and excellence to the behind-the-scenes crews that work on production.

Behind-the-scenes of production are light crews, prop managers, sound technicians, directors, producers and designers. The responsibilities placed on the student tech crew is enormous but Assistant Professor of Theatre and former technical director Jeff Stover believes they are capable.

“They show initiative, they’re really smart and have a good sense of humor,” Stover said. “We follow as much as we can a professional pedagogy, the way the students interact here is the same way they would act in a professional environment.”

Ben Smith, an actor and student on set for the production of Blithe Spirit said shows wouldn’t function without the complete cooperation of all those involved.

Smith has worked as a sound designer and for a set change crew. He often has to be prepared to deal with microphone malfunctions during the show and other technical difficulties.

Lindsay Mosher has experience in shows as an assistant stage manager, props manager and lighting crew member. Mosher enjoyed working as a props manager because she could search the loft and shop for props that would be best for the show.

Another student involved with Blithe Spirit was actor and co-set designer Elizabeth Adams. Adams has been a stage manager, assistant costume designer and an actor.

“Co- set designer means that instead of class you get to do practical work,” Adams said. “You read the script, do research and make the executive decisions. What is the color palette going to be based off mood and tone, finding furniture and props and everything else to make it happen.”

Communication is key to all technical groups working effectively together. This also extends to actors and the box office.

“Communication is key in everything, especially theatre,” Adams said. “It’s all about knowing exactly what you want, and the sooner people communicate better, things can be achieved faster.”

Overall, the Western theatre program functions not only a team, but as a family.

“We’re a family, even with all the dysfunction that comes with being a family,” Stover said. “These kids are my kids, and it’s great to them grow, learn and blossom.”

As a family, the students at Western make the productions so much more than just a show. They make it a success.





The set of *Blithe Spirit* is constructed with the supervision of Technical Director Mike Scroggs. Scroggs works diligently to lead students in creating the best sets possible for productions. Inset: Angel Edwards does her own stage makeup for *Short and Sweet*. Getting makeup done is one of several steps all actors must take before getting on stage. Photo credit: Tommy Marshall and Jill Oswald







Robert Vardiman,  
 Abby Sexton, Megan Hanley,  
 Dalyn Le Grand and Allyson Bryson  
 sing and dance in "School House Rock  
 Live!" This play teaches history, grammar,  
 math, science and politics through its tuneful  
 songs. Bottom: Kennedy Brock sings a solo.  
 Brock Photo credit: Myleigh Lanham and  
 Public Relations Department  
 Photo credit: Myleigh Lanham &  
 Public Relations Dept.



# WHAT'S YOUR FUNCTION?

BY MYLEIGH LANHAM

Missouri Western's production of "Schoolhouse Rock!" rocked the house in Potter Hall in October 2017.

The jukebox musical is a show during which the audience can say they learned about the government, grammar and money management. Tom, a nervous school teacher, is watching television when iconic educational characters represent aspects of his personality to show him how to win his students over with imagination and music.

Morgan Mallory, who directed the musical, said she enjoys to create, tell a story and collaborate for a show.

"I think directing is one of my favorite ways to artistically express because you deal with a bunch of different people coming together to tell one person's story," Mallory said. "I like all of the little puzzle pieces and being able to create something together."

During the performance, the actors put their full energy into the show. Actors wore shoes with wheels in the heel and would slide across the stage and there was no intermission between all of the dancing, singing, jumping or skipping.

Robert Vardiman who played George, said that he would like to perform for the rest of his life.

"When I am onstage performing, it is like no other feeling in the whole world," Vardiman said. "I wouldn't say it's better than food, but it's out there."

Since the show is very educational, the department offered promotions to incorporate the younger generations. They partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and if a big brother brought their little, the little would get in the show for free.

"We just wanted to do community outreach and connect with kids so we went for a show where they could learn and celebrate," Mallory said.

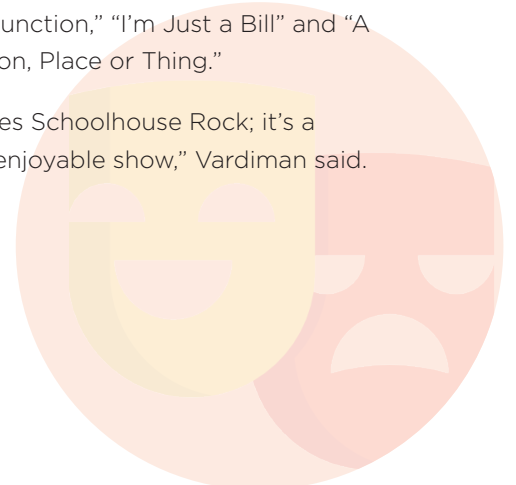
The department also had a pajama night where the audience could come in pajamas, watch Saturday morning cartoons before the show and eat from a cereal bar, the proceeds were donated to the Noyes Home. There was also a bus that would pick children up from the home to come watch the show for free.

Riley Rasche, a sophomore on campus, said she really enjoyed the different aspects of the show.

"The cast and crew did an amazing job," Rasche said. "The lighting was great as well as the vocals and choreography. It was one of my favorite shows at Missouri Western so far."

Over the course of two-and-a-half weeks, the cast had to learn 21 songs. Songs that some audience members may remember such as "Conjunction Junction," "I'm Just a Bill" and "A Noun is a Person, Place or Thing."

"Everybody likes Schoolhouse Rock; it's a nostalgic and enjoyable show," Vardiman said.







## SHORT AND SWEET

BY MYLEIGH LANHAM

The Western theatre season continued with “Short and Sweet,” a production of short plays and films which students got the option to direct themselves.

The production took place in the Kemper Recital Hall and featured six one-act plays and five short films. Two of the plays were directed by students and all of the short films were directed by students.

Abby Sexton, senior musical theatre major, directed the one-act “Hold for Three.” She said she wanted to explore the other sides of theatre by directing instead of performing.

“It is good for an actor to have other assets and really know how an entire production works,” Sexton said. “It’s been very informative to learn about how everything works and what all

goes into being a director and putting together an entire production.”

The production introduced some new faces to the stage. While some students are switching from being onstage to being backstage, there are others who chose to perform rather than be behind the scenes.

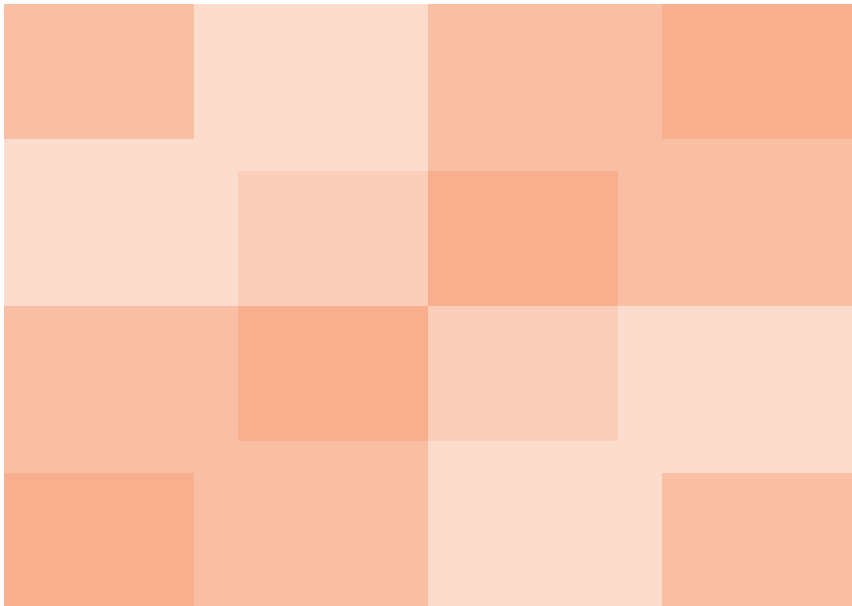
Elizabeth Adams performed onstage at Western for the first time in two one-act plays.

“I want to be a stage manager so it is important to get both sides and know the people that you will be working with but also be in their shoes,” Adams said.

Short films were presented between each one-act. Each film was directed by a student in the theatre & cinema department and some students chose to act in the short films.



Actors perform short plays and films during the spring show Short and Sweet. Actors Angel Edwards, Nathan Gonder, Rachel Segbawu, Dylan Durham, Megan Hanley and Natara Bennett are several who starred in various acts. Photo credit: Robert Hanson



The audience got a short and sweet view of student-directed plays and films. Each show was different, which allowed the audience to watch cast members show off their different sides of acting.

Hayden Solomon, sophomore on campus, said he really enjoyed all of the shows.

"It was really cool to see what my friends could create in the cinema department," Solomon said.

"Short and Sweet" brought something more to the stage. More faces and more opportunities for students to get the chance to direct their own shows.







## SPRING AWAKENING

BY MYLEIGH LANHAM

**W**estern presented Spring Awakening to open its spring theatre season.

The mature musical takes the audience into the lives of teenagers who are going through a confusing time in their life and learning about their bodies. Spring Awakening delves into the experience from adolescence to adulthood through school and pressure at home.

The production was strong in presentation, and had several comedic parts despite its serious tone. Spring Awakening has a lot of cursing, physical violence, a failed abortion, a suicide, an attempted suicide and other mature scenes.

Myciah Williams, who played Wendia in the show, has been in past theatre productions but landed her first lead on

the Western stage.

“As a performer you are always learning as you go along from your actors and directors,” Williams said. “It is less about you being onstage and being the star and more about the relationship and what is happening between the other character onstage.”

While a show has actors performing onstage, it also has a stage manager who helps prepare the show. A stage manager is the hub of communication, having to attend every rehearsal, production meeting and then speaking through a headset to technical operators telling them when to change everything from set, to lights and to sound.

Rachel Segbawu, the stage manager for Spring Awakening, had to prepare herself for long hours, a lot of social

interaction and a calm leadership role with this production.

“To prepare you get to know the show. Read it several times over, listen to the music and watch other performances of it. You want to know what to expect,” Sigbawu said. “The more you know the better you can serve the production.”

The musical is dark with a lot of emotion and a lot of going on. Some of the topics are uncomfortable, however, the cast was mature and had a passion to tell the story.

Williams added that she hopes the audience could place themselves in the character’s shoes. Remember when they were in high school wondering what was

going on and their life between home and school.

“I want everyone to go back to that place and realize we have all went through that,” Williams said. “Look at us now and how we’ve grown and how we’ve taken that and used it for the better.”

*The cast of Spring Awakening express the trials and tribulations of growing through song. Spring Awakening, highlights the pressures that all adolescents experience in their life. Photo credit: Brian Paulette*







## BLITHE SPIRIT

BY MYLEIGH LANHAM

Western's theatre season ended with the production of "Blithe Spirit" in Potter Hall.

The comedic show follows novelist Charles Condomine who is haunted by the ghost of his first wife. As relationships clash, his current wife Ruth is accidentally killed and the two "blithe spirits" haunt Charles.

Nathan Gonder, who plays Charles, said his passion for performing is exploring characters.

"I like to explore the the things that aren't given in the script but help the character become who they are," Gonder said. "A character's story rather than what is happening in the plot."

Many hours are dedicated to preparing for the show. These hours are dedicated to memorizing, rehearsing and set building such as painting and construction.

Abby Wolff said that although the hours are exhausting, it is rewarding to see the complete project.

"There are so many people working alongside another you realize you could

not do this on your own," Wolff said. "There's no way. It is a very collaborative effort."

The audience not only gets to see the talent of the actors, but the talent of those behind the scenes. Many individuals take a lot of time to organize the show.

Angel Edwards, assistant stage manager for Blithe Spirit, said as stage manager she is always working on the next element to move the process of the show forward.

"When you open the show, as a stage manager, you are overwhelmed with pride in your team, performers and yourself," Edwards said. "Being a stage manager can be taxing at points but it is all worth it when the final product is revealed."

The show took place during two weekends in April.

After such a great show, it will be exciting to see what it will come next theatre season.





Actors perform short plays and films during the spring show Short and Sweet. Actors Angel Edwards, Nathan Gonder, Rachel Segbawu, Dylan Durham, Megan Hanley and Natara Bennett are several who starred in various acts. Photo credit: Robert Hanson





# DAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

## DR. MANDRACCHIA

BY CHASE MERWIN



*Dr. Mandracchia jokes around with students at the beginning of his Intro to Counseling Psychology class. His emotional engagement with students creates excitement and interest in his students. Photo credit: Chase Merwin*

If there is one thing that Dr. Jon Mandracchia has always known, it is that he was meant to teach.

Now a licensed psychologist in Missouri and Mississippi, as well as an assistant professor of psychology at Western, Mandracchia's commitment to his field speaks for itself.

Dr. Mandracchia teaches psychology with specific interest in abnormal and criminal psychology as well as counseling. He explains that while every discipline is important, psychology stands out as a more relatable, tangible field for students to immerse themselves.

"All day, everyday, we're dealing with our thoughts, our emotions and our interactions with other people," Mandracchia said. "We

get to teach about things that students really relate to almost every moment of every day."

To reach this end, Dr. Mandracchia teaches a handful of classes in the psychology department, and while he can't name a favorite, his psychology of communication class strikes him as the most "unique".

It is the conversations, communication and relationships that he has with his undergraduate students that Mandracchia enjoys most about teaching at Western.

"My first academic job was at a school with 17,000 students, and while I worked with graduate students and got to know them, there really wasn't an emphasis on undergraduate teaching," Mandracchia said. "Where, here, from the moment I interviewed

it became very obvious that our focus is the undergraduate students.”

Dr. Kelly Henry, professor of psychology and colleague of Dr. Mandracchia, highlighted his ability to engage his students.

“Students really respond to how personable he is,” Henry said. “He just is great at building rapport with students. He’s very positive and self-deprecating; the students really respond to his humor.”

Western senior psychology major Amanda Kephart shared Dr. Henry’s sentiments, adding that he is seen as the “dad” of the psychology department.

“He’s always cracking the dad jokes,” Kephart said. “And he really cares about his students. There are a lot of professors that can just be hard and not care to help you, but he is hard and he cares.”

Dr. Mandracchia even highlighted what he thought his strength was in how he impacts the department.

“I think for me, it’s just getting along with people...I value harmony, relationships and that intangible feeling of ‘It feels good to be here,’” Mandracchia said. “I think I help bring a sense of cohesiveness.”

Devotion to Western students isn’t the only thing this psychology professor has going for

him. When he’s not engaging with students in the classroom, Dr. Mandracchia’s hard work continues.

One service Mandracchia provides as a licensed licensed evaluations for convicted people. His job is to interview the charged individual and his attorney in order to determine whether the individual is competent to stand trial.

Dr. Mandracchia also involves himself in extensive research regarding various facets of psychology. One topic his research has covered is suicide among prisoners.

“I think a lot of people have very much an ‘us-them’ dichotomy, that we’re the normal people and they’re the prisoners - they’re bad people,” Mandracchia said. “But they’re not! They’re just people who oftentimes have very tough situations, who’ve made some bad choices, who don’t have good role models, but for the most part they’re just regular people who want to change.”

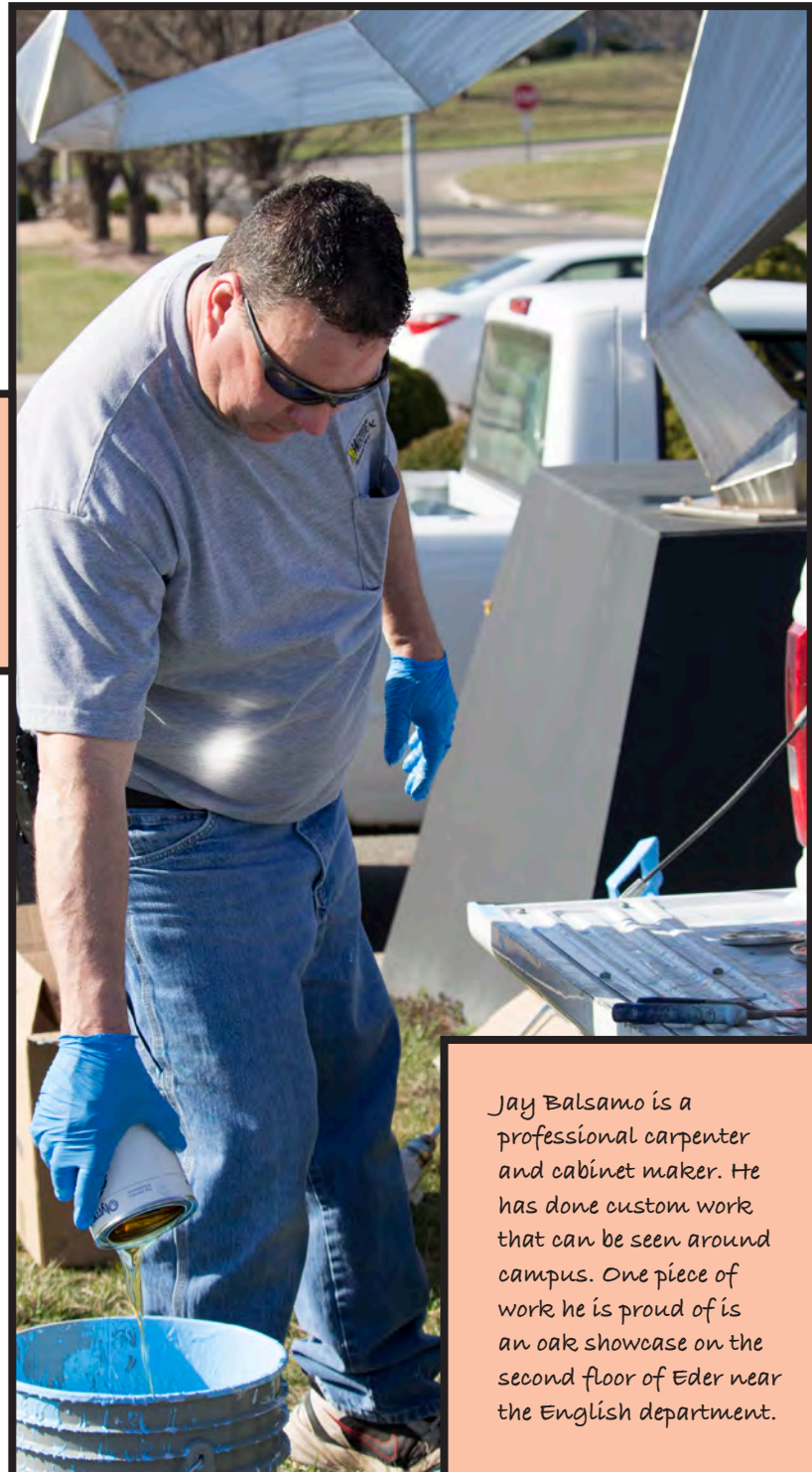
From student to professor to counselor to researcher, Dr. Mandracchia’s story is a story of devotion to people of all shapes, sizes and colors. Through psychology, Dr. Mandracchia has been able to embrace his love of people while giving the gift of education, guidance and sense of family to every person he encounters.



# MAKING CAMPUS SHINE



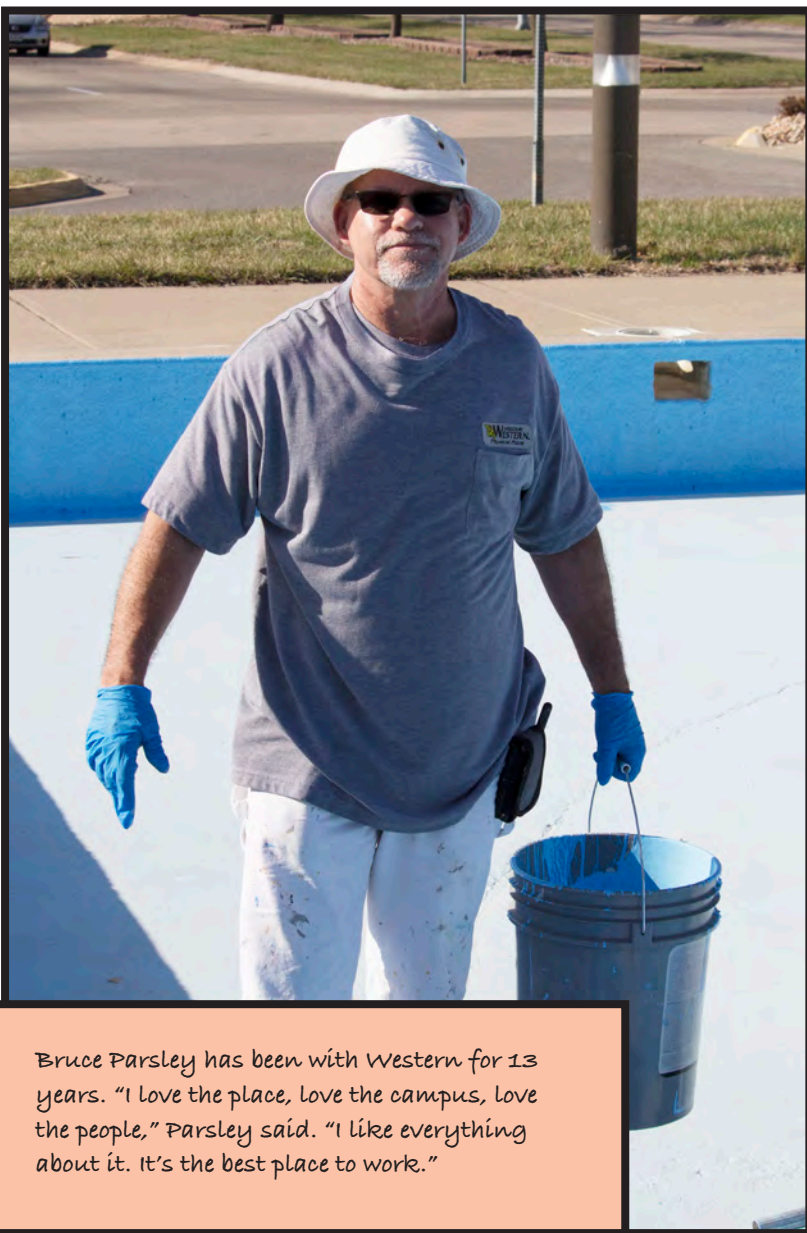
*Dana Lombardino has been a carpenter for Western for three years. He spends his days working on anything from fixing furniture to hanging up awards to changing light bulbs. Lombardino loves what he does and enjoys that each day is slightly different.*



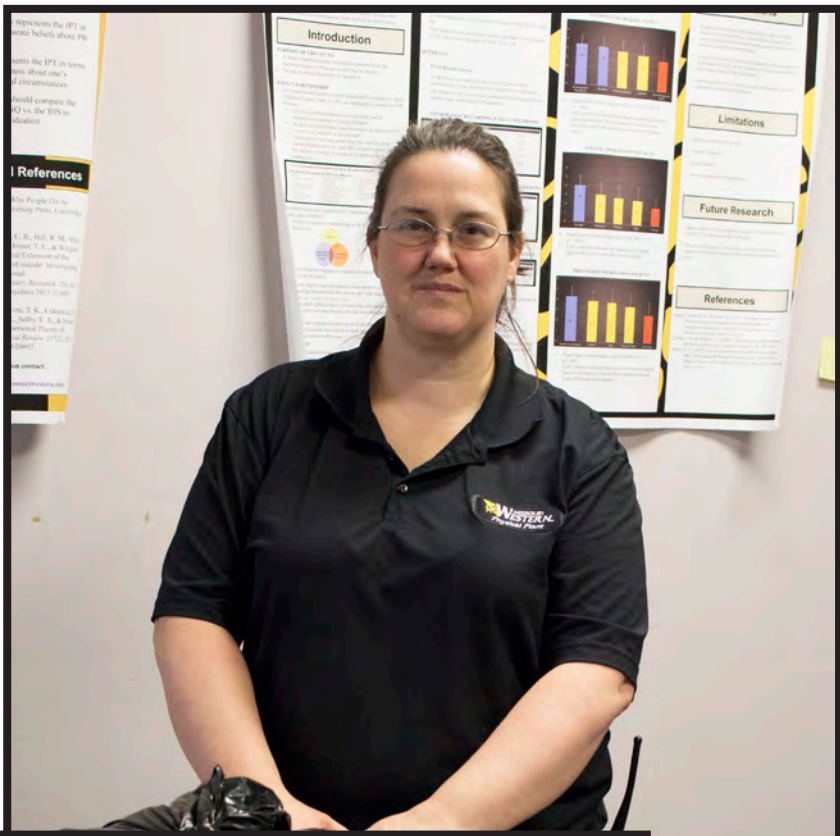
*Jay Balsamo is a professional carpenter and cabinet maker. He has done custom work that can be seen around campus. One piece of work he is proud of is an oak showcase on the second floor of Eder near the English department.*

PHOTO CREDIT: BETHANY VONSEGGERN AND MOHAMMED ALQARNI





Bruce Parsley has been with Western for 13 years. "I love the place, love the campus, love the people," Parsley said. "I like everything about it. It's the best place to work."



Melanie Youtsey diligently works to keep Murphy Hall presentable. Youtsey is always willing to go the extra mile and never skips a beat. In addition to her job, she takes online classes to earn a Health Information



Physical Plant secretary Shelle Browning with new General Manager Bryan Adkins at the 2018 summer open house. Browning and Adkins are two individuals vital to the maintenance operation at Western.



Troy Stewart works on a project at the maintenance shop on West Campus. Stewart works in the heat and air conditioning department making sure each building is temperature controlled.





# STUDY. EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE.

BY BRITTANY PRICE

**If it is such a small world after all, why not try and experience all of it?**

**T**he world is vast and magnificent in all its beauty and majesty.

It is full of different people, cultures and experiences just waiting to be observed. There are limitless lessons to be learned by going out and placing ourselves in a foreign land.

Western offers all of its students an opportunity to go out and explore all of the lessons this world can reveal. The study abroad program is a terrific way to get a taste of things the classrooms cannot always teach.

Head of the study abroad program, Tammy Norris, has been a part of Western and its successful trips since 2013.

Ever since then, 99 Western students have studied in places such as China, England, Scotland, Norway, Iceland, India and Ireland.

“It is really exciting to see people before and after they have travelled overseas,” Norris said. “It is an experience you just can’t describe; you just have to do it.”

The program’s goal is to get at least 100 students involved in study abroad. The trips vary in lengths, some lasting a few weeks while others last a full semester.



However, trips are as not expensive as one may think because financial aid can assist in the expenses.

Spanish professor and founder of the study abroad photography contest, Dr. Miguel Rivera-Taupier, said the study abroad program can improve cultural learning experiences outside of the classroom.

“There’s many things I can teach in a classroom, but there are things that [the students] learn when they are in that place and when they interact with different people in that community, there’s no substitution for that,” Rivera-Taupier said.

Most trips include preparation and learning before and during the experience.

Norris said that studying abroad can also bring more opportunities after graduation for students.

“Studying abroad really gives you a leg-up in the business world,” Norris said. “If you can deal internationally, then you are a more serious candidate for certain positions.”

Western offers a chance for students to study in new and interesting places while getting their degree.

Adventure awaits, but don’t keep waiting!



Pack your bags and get your walking shoes on. Western students from a various departments have the unique opportunity to experience study abroad trips. Each group holds the Western flag proudly at every destination. Check with the department of your major to learn more. Photo credit: sourced Left page: Griffons in Scotland Bottom Right: Griffons in China.





## WHAT'S GROWING NOW?

BY CHASE MERWIN

Campus curiosities beg the question: what's new at the greenhouse?

The renovation of Agenstein Hall in 2010 brought with it a new greenhouse which allows more accessibility, convenience and research opportunities for the biology department. This greenhouse serves many classes across the biology department, from organismal biology to plant physiology.

Dr. Tilottama Roy, assistant professor of biology, said that her classes heavily emphasize and require use of the greenhouse.

"For the time being, I am actually growing some plants that I use for my BIO105: Organismal Biology course," Roy said. "I use those plants - soybean plants and radish plants - for one of my labs."

Dr. Csengele Barta, assistant professor of biology, said she also extensively utilizes the

greenhouse for her classes.

"We use the greenhouse actively for a variety of different projects," Barta said. "I teach plant physiology and plant morphology. My students are always doing independent research projects, so they typically do that in the greenhouse."

Dr. Barta said much of her research within the greenhouse is conducted during the summer, which focuses on the effect of humidity on plants.

According to Dr. Jason Baker, professor of biology, the greenhouse's accessibility allows the department's students to get more "hands-on" for their independent projects.

Western's greenhouse is special in that it isn't simply a show greenhouse, rather it is uniquely divided into three different sections. Each of the three compartments



is regulated through an automated system which reads and adjusts the environment independently depending on the needs of the plants.

Many people are involved in the greenhouse, from department faculty to the Tri Beta Biological Honor Society to student workers. According to Dr. Baker, the greenhouse's day-to-day operation is run by all of these individuals.

"Thankfully, we've had some folks here within the biology department including- not only faculty- but some student workers as well," Dr. Baker said. "They've all been really in-tune with maintaining the greenhouse as needed. We also have a great facilities crew here on campus, and they're very responsive when we have any issues."

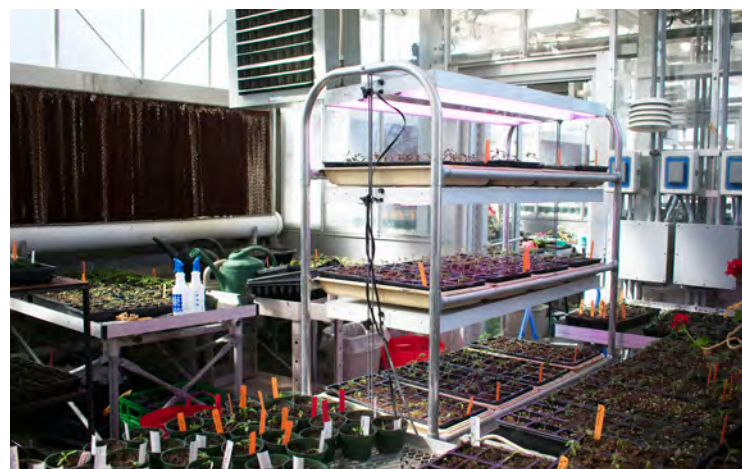
Jeremy Brown, a work-study student heavily involved in the operation of the greenhouse, said his role is to maintain and take care of the plants being grown inside. He also uses the greenhouse for research projects.

"I'm looking at the geranium plants that we have in there because, over the summer, they started blooming and getting seed pods, which is something that Dr. Barta had not seen before," Brown said. "My project is to grow the seeds and see if they're cross-pollinating between each other."

Agenstein's greenhouse is beneficial to everyone involved. Not only is the biology department faculty able to conduct research professionally through the high-tech capabilities of the greenhouse, but students are able to get practical experience for their studies. All this, in turn, elevates the quality of education for Western's biology students.



*Local farmer James Mallow and master gardener Larry Werthmuller oversee the planting and maintenance of Agenstein's greenhouse and the demonstration garden at the Extension Office. Their devotion to plant care and maintenance is one reason the Agenstein greenhouse runs so smoothly. The Agenstein greenhouse fully functions as a research-caliber greenhouse. The environment is automatically adjusted for optimal growth conditions of plants being grown inside it. Photo credit: Chase Merwin*





*Chevalier came to Western in 1996 to assist with the launch of the Conservation department. Chevalier has over 30 certificates and many years working in the wildlife field. Photo credit: Sourced.*

## IMPACTING STUDENTS' LIVES

BY KELSEA HALL

**D**r. Cary Chevalier is reaching beyond textbooks and lectures to educate his students by using hands on experience in the field of wildlife conservation and management.

Chevalier was hired at Western in 1996 to help launch the Conservation and Wildlife Management degree program. Western's program is only one of two programs in Missouri to offer all of the required courses for certification as a wildlife biologist by The Wildlife Society.

Chevalier uses his skills to challenge students to seek field experience with Western's award-winning student chapter of The Wildlife Society, an organization he advises.

Field experience can involve setting and checking animal traps, collecting fecal samples or surveying animal populations; Chevalier and his students are not afraid to get their hands dirty in order to build professional, well-rounded résumés. He earned national awards for his successful advisement and involvement with the organization.

"Don't think for a second that you are going to get a job just because you have a degree--you have to have the foundation of your academic background, but you also have to get involved

in what my students call, 'the trilogy of success,'" Chevalier said.

For Chevalier and his students, the trilogy of success involves three key components: professional development, leadership development and skill-set development. The Wildlife Society adheres to all three components through research projects, working closely with the conservation department and other forms of field work.

However, field work is difficult for students with physical disabilities, so Chevalier puts a tremendous amount of effort to make sure each student obtains equal opportunities.

Bridgette French-Harbison, a graduate student at Western, uses a wheelchair after suffering from a stroke, making it difficult for her to physically join other students at Western during field work for research projects.

When her research group was checking animal traps and trekking across difficult terrain, a task nearly impossible for French-Harbison to perform, Chevalier borrowed a John Deere Gator so she could navigate through the forests. Chevalier wanted her to have the same hands-on authentic experience as the other students.





“Dr. C has always made the extra effort to include me in as much of the fieldwork as possible. He gets a gator or requests that a track wheelchair be brought to campus so I can go out into the forest and participate just like anyone else,” French-Harbison said. “His efforts to allow me to participate in fieldwork helped me gain the confidence I needed to pursue a Ph.D. in science.”

Chevalier believes that professors should reach out to students in need to give them bountiful opportunities and experiences, which is why he provided the necessary equipment for French-Harbison.

“For me, it was a growing experience to be able to work with someone who had a physical challenge like that, and I think I learned more from her,” Chevalier said.

Chevalier’s efforts impact multiple students at Western. Caitlyn Glore, a wildlife conservation and management major, said that Chevalier focuses on educating students by relating academics to real-life situations.

“He genuinely cares about his students, and helps us get professionally prepared for jobs,” Glore said.

Chevalier prepares students by getting involved with community conservation

efforts such as quail and deer surveys. The conservation department often relies on Western’s student chapter of The Wildlife Society for research projects and data collection.

Jackie Herron, a student from The Wildlife Society, said she appreciates Chevalier’s dedication to teaching. According to Herron, Chevalier invites wildlife professionals from his personal network to teach seminars and discuss employment opportunities.

“He’s giving us outside connections with future jobs, so in a way, it’s motivation to get us through our college career,” Herron said.

Chevalier also hosts a chainsaw workshop to teach students how to properly and safely use the equipment. He is proud of the fact that the conservation department trusts his students enough to give them more responsibilities than most student organizations.

Chevalier’s favorite part of his job is watching the transformation his students undergo from the first time they enter his office to the moment they put on their graduation caps to earn their degrees.

“Dreams do not become a reality without hard work, and when you succeed, that taste of victory is sweeter than honey,” Chevalier said.





## SCULPTING THE FOUNDATION

BY CHASE MERWIN

Students at Western express their creativity through the arts.

The School of Fine Arts is comprised of three departments: the department of art, department of music and the department of theatre, cinema and dance. All three departments strive to cultivate the artistic creativity of their students.

Dr. Bob Willenbrink, dean of the School of Fine Arts, said that without the arts, life would be drastically different.

“The fine arts are important today, because they impact every part of everybody’s life,” Willenbrink said. “If you were to do a day without art, you couldn’t listen to the radio, you couldn’t watch television and you couldn’t find your way around because signs are made by graphic artists.”

Willenbrink also said that the School of Fine Arts teaches students the importance of aesthetic values, collaboration and the ability to communicate themselves creatively.

“Whether it is through song or performance, through graphic design or studio art, it’s a way to communicate with the world,” Willenbrink said. “It’s a way to send messages in a very nice, comprehensive, palatable and enjoyable fashion.”

Dr. Kathy Liao, director of the painting and printmaking program, said the strength of Western’s School of Fine Arts is the faculty.

“I think we have a very strong and dedicated group of faculties,” Liao said. “Our goal – all of us – is to give students a solid foundation in all of the disciplines that we’re teaching here.”

Dr. Liao said that each student can develop their skills with one-on-one guidance through relationships with the faculty.

“Everyone is on a different path,” Liao said. “We do teach that foundation, but, at the same time, they’re also constantly challenged by us faculty.”

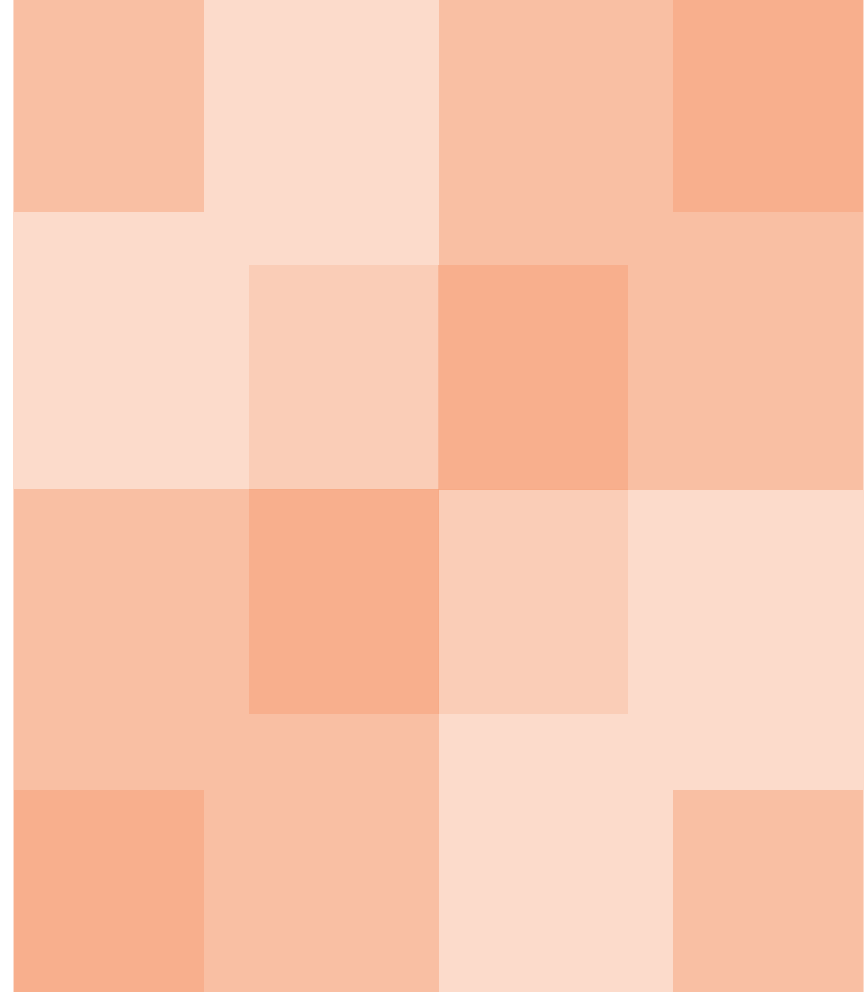
Molly Nashan, a freshman graphic design



student, is looking to take the skills she learns within her major to eventually work for the popular video game company Nintendo. She said Western's School of Fine Arts will provide her with the means to succeed in her future.

"Western's School of Fine Arts seems to take it more seriously than other colleges, like adding more majors and minors that deal with different art programs," Nashan said. "The classes also push you to break your comfort zone, but are still really fun to be in."

A student going into the arts has many career opportunities ahead of them, from video game production to designing the furniture we lounge around on. Western's School of Fine Arts works hard to ensure the artistic creativity, ambition and success of its students.



Students create work in front of a live audience at the MWSU Foundation Reception. Left to right: Alexis Carr shapes facial detail on her sculpture; Austin Holmes forms a new ceramic piece; Indigo Gaydusek smoothes over finishing touches on an art piece. Photo credit: Bethany VonSeggern



Dr. Hepworth plays piano as she guides the singers through song and breathing exercises. Photo credit: Bethany vonSeggern

## MISSOURI'S ELITE

BY CHASE MERWIN

When it comes to singing, Western's Chamber Singers have proven that they are among Missouri's very best.

Western's Chamber Singers choir had the honor of performing at the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) Conference in January 2018, returning for the first time in 10 years among the most talented musical performers in the state.

The group had to prepare seven vastly different songs to showcase at the event.

Dr. Elise Hepworth, director of the choir, said that the reason they chose such a varying range of music to perform was to showcase all that the singers had to offer.

"It's kind of like the Olympics," Hepworth said. "You want to show off all your best attributes."

According to Hepworth, the process of preparation for the group was long, yet enjoyable. On July 15, the elite group found out they were selected to perform at the conference and began rehearsals immediately in the fall.

"It was very intense," Hepworth said. "They spent hundreds of hours of preparation for that one 27-minute performance."





Dr. Hepworth leads the singers at a concert held in Potter Hall. Photo credit: Aung Moe Kyaw

To Hepworth, having the honor and experience of attending the MMEA Conference is a life-changing one.

“I think an opportunity like this completely transforms a person, especially if they’re interested in teaching,” Hepworth said. “There’s 3,500 music educators that attend the conference, and about 1,000 of them go to this concert, so for them to be affirmed by other professionals in the field is enormous.”

Mashel Keplinger, one of the singers, also said that the conference was a great networking and learning opportunity.

“I learned a lot from just going to workshops,” Keplinger said. “I learned a lot more about the connections, how the music educators work as a family and how they benefit each other.”

Jackson Connors, another member of the chamber singers group, had a similar opinion. He felt that performing at the

conference was beneficial for everyone.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the experience because you’re in a conference with a bunch of different musicians,” Connors said. “You really get a bunch of different perspectives on how things are supposed to work within music.”

Connors also praised director Hepworth as being the fundamental piece for the choir’s success.

“Dr. Hepworth is really the cornerstone of it all,” Connors said. “Without her, we wouldn’t be able to do what we’re doing as well.”

Through the MMEA Conference, Western’s Chamber Singers had the chance to demonstrate their choral excellence to thousands of talented musicians across the state. It was not only a learning and networking experience; it was a chance to share one thing they all love so deeply: music.





Throughout his 12 year tenure as a professor of education at Western, Dr. John Ellis distinguished himself as deeply passionate about his content and about his students. His courses always included highly engaging lessons that modelled well for future teachers what good science instructors should routinely do, make science real — and real fun — for students.

On any given day, future elementary science teachers could be found in his classroom opening owl pellets and putting the bones of a mouse back together, or they might be huddled in groups, making roller coasters from ball bearings and foam tubing. As a result of his innovative instruction, students, on their end-of-course assessments, routinely rated him one of the most effective professors within his department, a department filled with experienced and gifted teachers.

While students greatly enjoyed his creative instructional approaches, they appreciated his obvious heart for them and their learning even more. Students often commented that he was their “favorite professor,” one whose passion for them and for his subject were obvious.

In addition to his teaching, Dr. Ellis showed his support for students outside the classroom through his photography; he was a common fixture at most athletic events, camera in hand, taking excellent pictures of student-athletes in action.

Clearly, Dr. Ellis was a credit to Western, embodying its highest ideals of service and sacrifice, and though he will be missed by students and peers alike, his impact on the lives of the teachers he trained will live on in the learning of those teachers' students.

*Above: Even in front of the lens, John Ellis is behind the camera. Ellis photographing a home Griffon baseball game. Photo credit: Chandrae Traxler. Opposite: A collection of Ellis' photographs he shared with The Griffon yearbook. Ellis was a large contributor to the athletic section of the book over the years. His ability to capture action moments is a true gift and the yearbook is proud to have his photographs as part of their success. Thank you John Ellis for your dedication and talent.*





My experience with the Griffon yearbook was nothing short of fantastic. The Griffon yearbook gave me the opportunity to apply, and further develop my photography skills I had learn in a prior class, especially in the area of digital editing. The majority of my photo work was in the athletic department. No one sport is shot exactly alike - in a university setting I had the opportunity to shoot multiple sports. My Griffon yearbook experience opened the door for me to become the team photographer for a professional minor league baseball team.

JOHN ELLIS







# WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

BY CHASE MERWIN

They are more than common, but oftentimes go unnoticed.

Forced to survive in their own world, many homeless men and women across America live without so much as a passing thought from the more-fortunate.

However, this common thread was broken on Nov. 3, when community members had the chance to walk in the shoes of St. Joseph's homeless. 2017's "Walk for the Homeless" was the city's sixth annual event. The walk took participants around downtown St. Joseph on the path that the homeless ordinarily take to receive services from local welfare organizations.

The event was hosted by these local organizations, alongside Missouri Western's Organization of Student Social Workers, Student Government Association and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

According to Geornesha Jefferson, historian for the Organization of Student Social Workers, the walk was meant to

raise awareness of the true meaning of homelessness.

"I think people think of homelessness as people, obviously, on the street. But homelessness is as simple as not having a stable home environment,"

Jefferson said. "If you're sleeping on someone's couch or going from house-to-house, technically that is homelessness." Jefferson also said that homelessness was a universal issue, not an esoteric one.

"Homelessness is something that affects over 40 million Americans," Jefferson said. "It's not just a poor issue or just a certain population issue... It's an 'everyone' issue."

Along the walk, 10 stops were made at the various organizations who serve the homeless in downtown.

Considering the number of shelters in downtown St. Joseph, one shelter being at full capacity at all times is astonishing and



speaks to the volume of homelessness in the community.

Later on during the walk, the 8th Street Drop-In Center was visited. Event participants met a former homeless man who greatly owed his success to the help of this business.

John Williams, who had been homeless for five years early in his life, shared his experiences from growing up homeless.

"I was a former drug addict and I started at eight-years-old because my stepfather forcibly injected me," Williams said. "I actually quit doing that stuff here about ten months ago. I haven't touched it since."

Williams did not go into detail about his past drug-addiction; however, the sentiment earned great applause from walkers. To sweeten his story further, Williams also shared with participants his current situation to demonstrate how far he has come.

"Currently, I have a home, I have a beautiful wife, a beautiful step-son and I have a 4.5-month-old little girl," Williams said. "Me and my family survive off of \$335 a month. We don't really have a lot of bus money so I come down here and do whatever I can to help them."

Williams had major advice for every selfless participant who embarked on the "Walk for the Homeless."

"There's a lot of homeless people out there who don't even have a shower or even a warm meal," Williams said. "Just understand that it is hard to be out there. Try and do something, okay? Do your part."

*Below: At each stop speakers educated and encouraged individuals to make a difference in the lives of the homeless. Opposite: Snacks and refreshments are handed out after the walk at the Sixth Annual Walk for the Homeless. Photo credit: Alex Richardson*







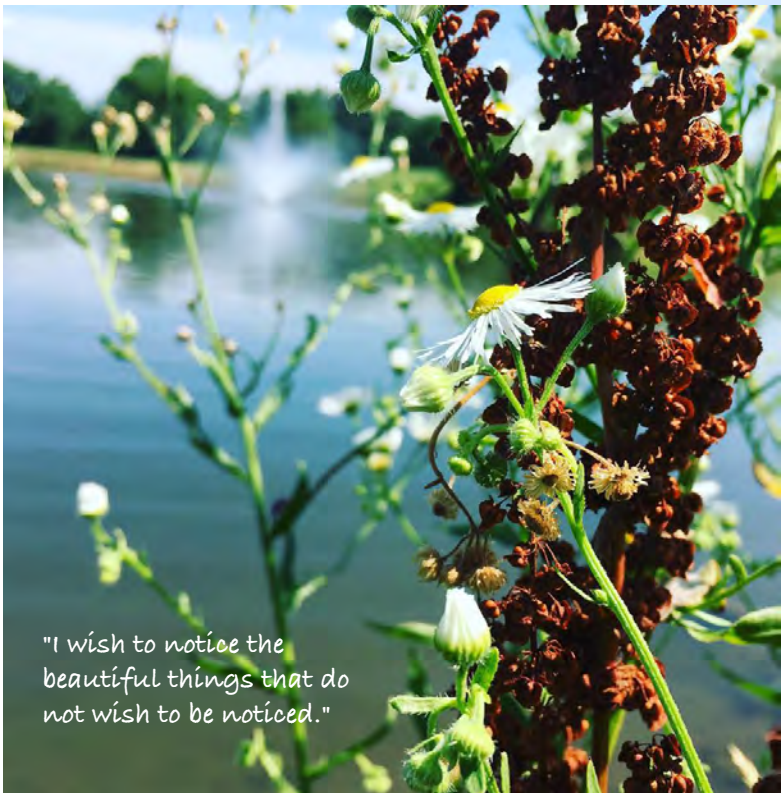
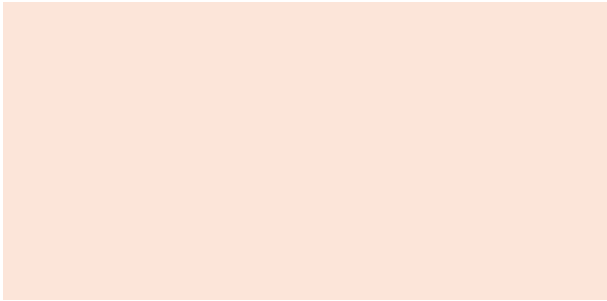
*Why I Take Photographs?*

Life can seem redundant and hectic, so I choose to take photographs as a deliberate decision to focus my attention on the patient, ethereal, and ever-changing beings of nature. This is how I seek solace from the exhaustion of seemingly endless tasks and obligations. For a moment, I am simply kneeling or reaching to capture one unique blip in nature.

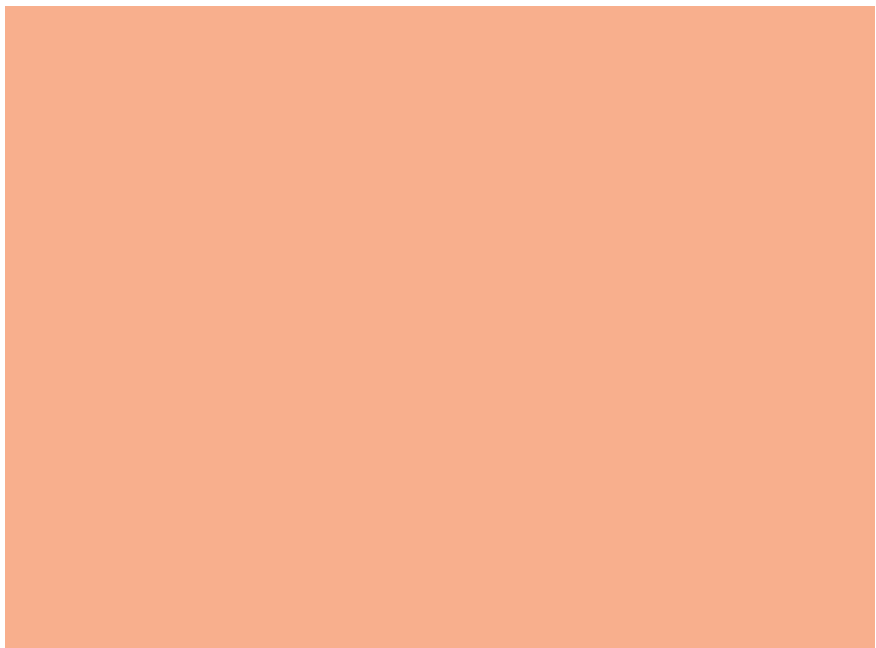
For four years, I have spent an abundant amount of time on the MWSU campus. Even in the summer, I come here and walk every day. I have found that on this campus, the scenic treasures are not quantifiable. I appreciate the scenery on a more microscopic level by honing in on tiny instances of nature that are so common and ever-present.

So when I take a photograph, I usually distinguish a tiny main focus, like a plant or an acorn, and let the background of sunshine and vegetation hug the main focus. I like to give the most special attention to the tiniest common things. I want to share how particularly miraculous the common things are when captured by an appreciative lens.

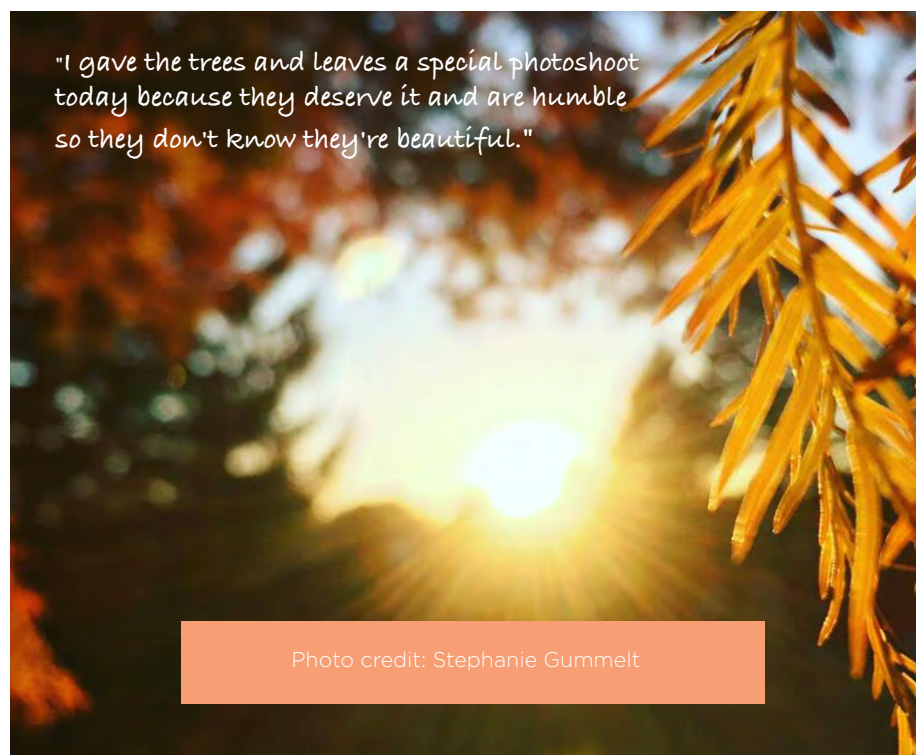
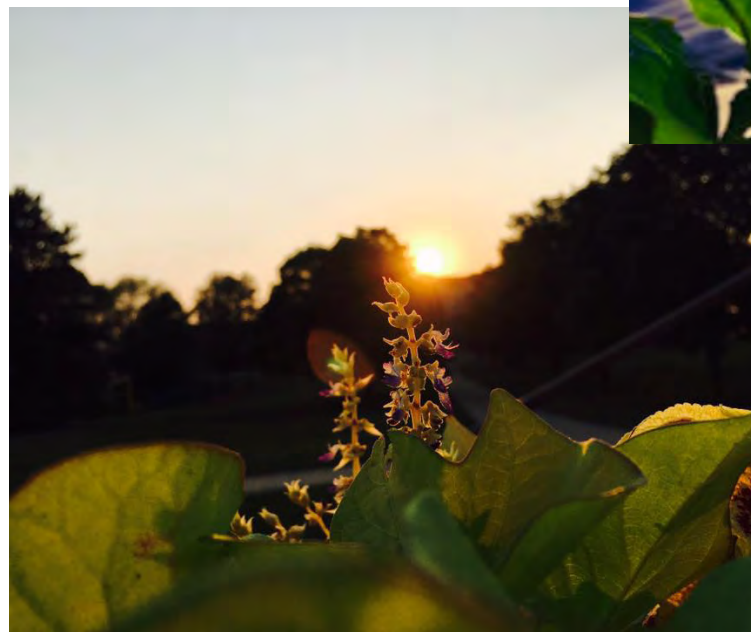
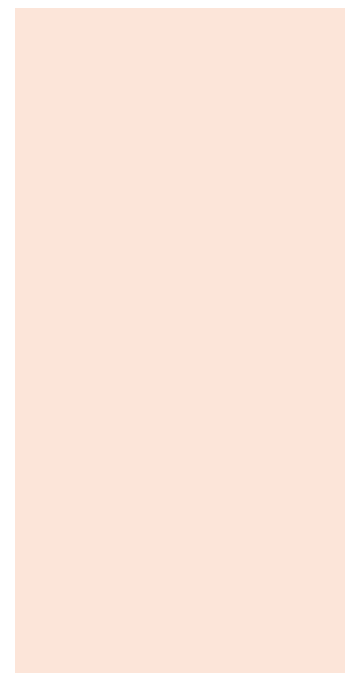
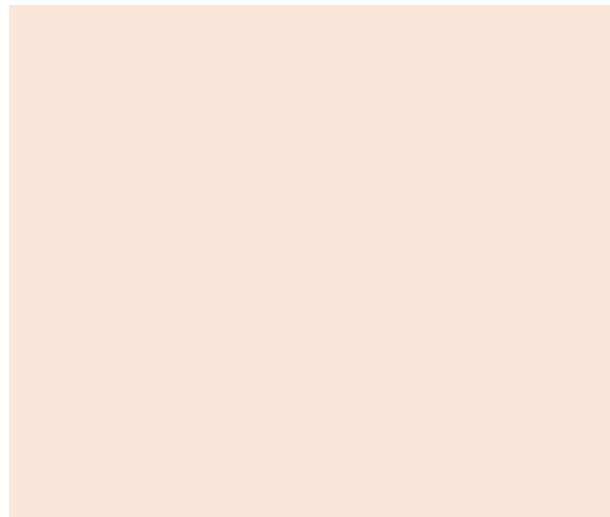
*Stephanie Gummelt*



*"I wish to notice the beautiful things that do not wish to be noticed."*







*"I gave the trees and leaves a special photoshoot today because they deserve it and are humble so they don't know they're beautiful."*

Photo credit: Stephanie Gummelt





# 2018 PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPICS

BY KAYE ADKINS

I have been a fan of the Olympics for as long as I can remember, and for almost that long, I've dreamed of attending the Olympic Games.

This year, thanks to my son Ian Adkins, I was able to fulfill that dream. Ian has been working in South Korea for the past few years, and when he had the opportunity to enter the lottery for Olympics tickets, he took it.

You might say he struck gold: He got us tickets to the gold medal rounds of Team Figure Skating, Mixed Doubles Curling and Men's Halfpipe. This meant that we got to see the U.S. win a bronze medal in the Team Figure Skating and saw Shaun White win his gold medal in Men's Halfpipe.

We spent two days at Gangneung to watch figure skating and curling; because so many events were taking place there, the complex included a large cafeteria for spectators and the largest souvenir store. We spent one day at PyeongChang, watching snowboarding at Phoenix Snow Park and visiting the Olympic Plaza.

The atmosphere at snowboarding was fun, with cheering crowds and music playing and announcers describing the action during the runs. Our trip to the Olympic Plaza was cold and windy, but it was

great to see the Olympic torch and to try the regional specialties being sold by the vendors.

We were impressed with the venues and with how well everything was organized. They were calling this the "pop-up Olympics" because so many of the venues and buildings were temporary.

At the Gangneung complex—site of skating, hockey, and curling events—the restaurants (including McDonald's), cafeteria and other vendors and services were located in tents. In spite of the cold, the tents were comfortable. Even the Olympic stadium, site of the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics and the Paralympics, was temporary.

Although you could tell that buildings like the Gangneung Ice Arena were temporary, there was no sense of them being flimsy. The most obvious characteristic was that the toilets and concessions were located in trailers outside of the buildings.

The biggest portion of the budget for this Olympics was spent on building an express train that makes it possible to get from Seoul, on the western side of the peninsula, to Gangneung, on the east coast, in two hours. Like many visitors, we stayed in Seoul and took the train to the venues.

# 평창



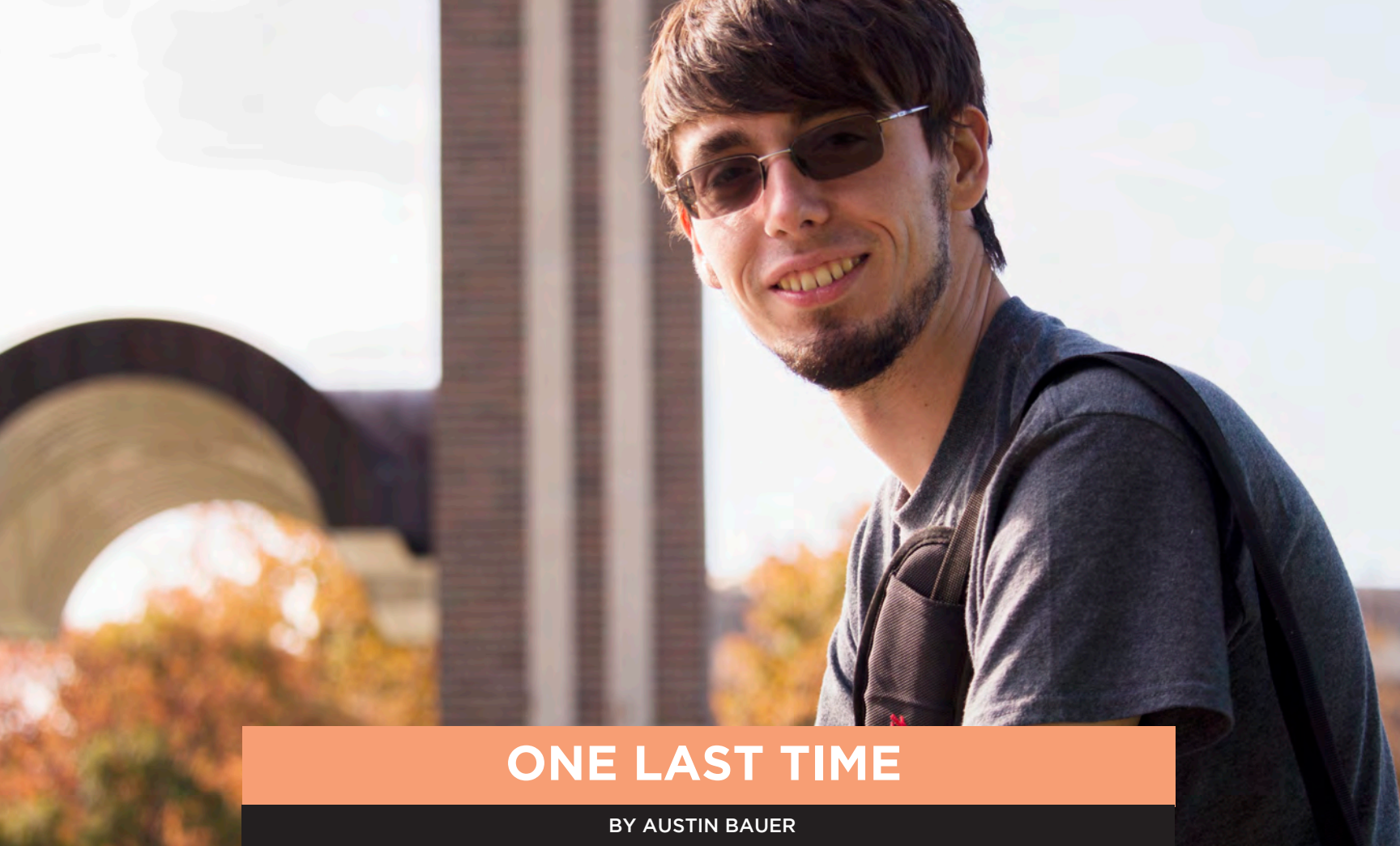
Kaye Adkins at the PyeongChang winter olympics in South Korea. Photo credit: Sourced

Riding the train was a great experience— It was comfortable, and it was great to see everyone in their Olympic gear. For everyone in their Olympic gear. For example, Canada played in the gold medal round of the Mixed Doubles Curling, and there was a group of Canadians on the train who were wearing Mountie hats.

My visit to South Korea was wonderful. The people are warm and welcoming, you can get by with English (although my son does speak Korean well enough to talk to cab drivers) and the transportation and technology are excellent.







## ONE LAST TIME

BY AUSTIN BAUER

It was one of those moments that you know is going to happen, but you still don't quite know what to expect.

You get in line and shuffle on through. You make your way onto the stage. And then just like that, it's over.

You're graduated.

With a simple walk across the stage, my journey of the past four and a half years came to an end.

Admittedly, I don't quite remember the walk across the stage. My heart was pounding too loud and I was pretty focused on making sure I didn't trip or do anything embarrassing (I was the very last one in line, so I had to make sure winter commencement didn't end on a clumsy note).

While walking across the stage remains fuzzy in my memory, I know that the four and a half years leading up to it won't be.

My time at Western was not at all what I expected it to be. It was so much better than I ever thought it would be.

I never thought I'd have the opportunity to travel across the country, to the Pacific Northwest, our nation's capital, or and even overseas.

I never thought I'd briefly cover student government, much less a presidential campaign in Iowa, brush up against real Secret Service agents or witness a sincere act of humanity when CNN's Chris Cuomo picked up a glove a lady dropped on the ground.

I never thought I'd crawl in a wild cave or fly for the first time. I never thought I would see two of the four existing copies of the Magna Carta.

I never thought I'd present my own research at academic conferences. I never thought I'd learn all the things I did from some of the

most brilliant people I have ever met, both faculty and student alike.

Perhaps more importantly, I never thought I'd meet the amazing people I did who made Western a home and my time spent there a treasure worthy of a griffon's guarding care.

But I did.

As I have said before in another publication that is near and dear to my heart, I believe Western really is a place where everything is possible and I'm thankful for the opportunities it provided for me. I'm hopeful that those who come after me will feel the same.

Opposite: Austin Bauer, political science and convergent journalism major graduated with honors in the Fall of 2017. Current top: Graduates decorate their caps with flair. Bottom: Public relations major, Jill Oswald beams with joy in front of the iconic clock tower. Photo credit: Sourced & Myleigh Lanham

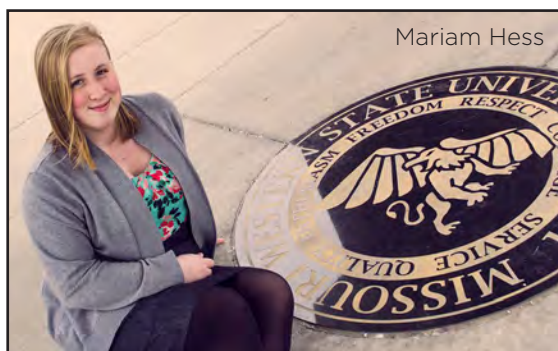






## LOVE YOUR MAJOR

BY MARIAM HESS



Mariam Hess

If someone had told me four years ago that I would be graduating with a B.A. in Creative Writing and Publishing, I would have thought they were crazy. I started college with the intent to pursue a history degree to then go on and earn a law degree; a year later I declared a degree in technical communication. Both moves were in an attempt to make beaucoup bucks when I graduated. Neither degree track was what I truly wanted.

In the fall of 2016, I finally listened to my advisors, friends and family and declared a major in creative writing, like I'd always wanted to do. Since then my grades have only gone up and my engagement with college has only improved. I honestly believe I would have dropped out of college had I not chosen what I loved.

Thanks to my classes with Dr. Marianne Kunkel and *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* literary journals on campus, I'm now on track to start a job in the field of social media marketing. Without my work with them, I wouldn't have the experience I need to break into the field.

I've published poetry and short stories, worked in internships I would never have dreamed of landing, and made some of the closest friends I've ever had in my time as an English major.

Without that little external kick from those who loved me, I would have convinced myself that all I had to offer the world was what I could learn from a major listed in *Forbes* as "One of the Most Lucrative College Degrees."

That line of thinking was wrong.

If I could give an incoming freshman one piece of advice, it would be to listen to your gut and do what you want. If that means bucking tradition and becoming an art student instead of a nursing student, do it. If that means letting your family convince you to chase what you love, do it. It's all worth it in the end - no matter how much money you make after you graduate.

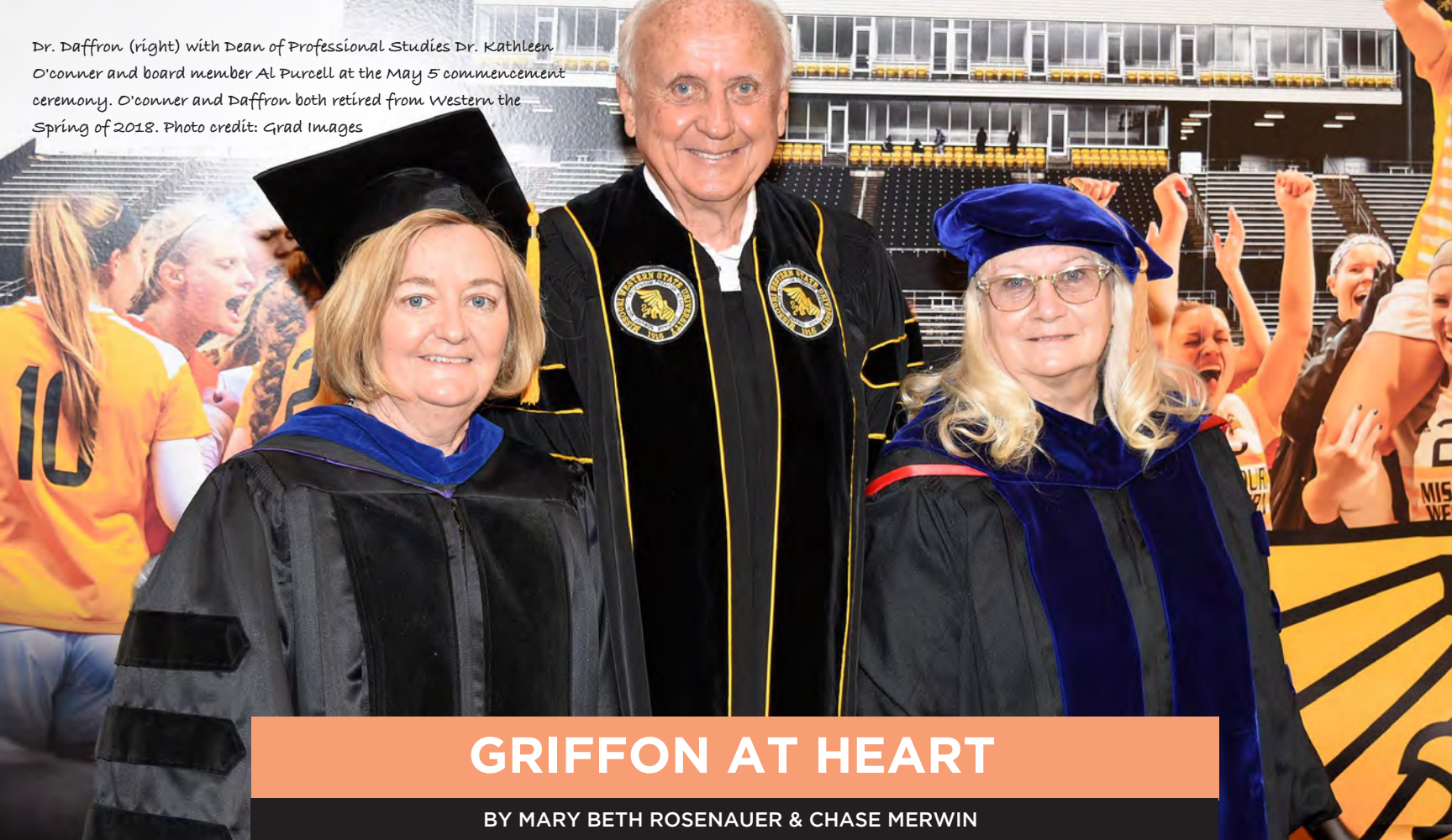


Clockwise from left: 2018 graduates stick with tradition and decorate their caps for commencement day; Sean Clarke, Ryan Hand, Otavio Rio, Sarah Gibson with Professor Dr. Regan Dodd at the graduate hooding ceremony. These four students graduated with a master's degree in sports and fitness management; Graduates wait anxiously as their fellow classmates receive their diplomas. Photo credit: Grad Images





Dr. Daffron (right) with Dean of Professional Studies Dr. Kathleen O'connor and board member Al Purcell at the May 5 commencement ceremony. O'connor and Daffron both retired from Western the Spring of 2018. Photo credit: Grad Images



## GRIFFON AT HEART

BY MARY BETH ROSENAUER & CHASE MERWIN

**P**rovost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeanne Daffron retired from Western after serving the university for over 40 years.

Dr. Daffron began teaching in the nursing department in 1977 then soon helped develop programs both in her field of study and across other academic areas. Her efforts served as a driving force to bolster the opportunities available for students at Western.

President Robert Vartabedian has worked with Daffron for the past nine years.

"I tried to talk her out of it, but I guess when you've been here for 41 years you have the right to call your own shots," Vartabedian said. "I'm very very sorry to see her retire. In my career I only know a very small handful of people who have been at the same institution for that number of years."

Associate Provost for Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Doug Davenport, who served as the interim provost after Daffron, believes that her departure will be a noticeable change.

"She has been outstanding," Davenport said. "She's very caring, she's a servant leader and it will indeed be a loss for the institution."

Daffron, who has served as provost since 2009, is proud of the progress that Western has made over the years.

"I am so proud of this institution, and of our faculty, staff and students who have worked so hard to make Missouri Western the wonderful place that it is," Daffron said. "It has been very rewarding to watch the institution mature."

Under Daffron's leadership many academic opportunities were created such as new programs, internships and research. She worked to create a partnership with Metropolitan Community College, which allowed Western to implement an RN-to-BSN program for its nursing students. The program has evolved to now offer both bachelor's and master's degrees in several different areas of health services.

Other leadership roles include: nursing department chair from 1996-1997; Dean

of the College of Professional Studies from 1997-2004; Assistant vice president for academic and student affairs in 2004; twice served as interim provost and vice president before being named to the position permanently in 2009; interim dean of graduate studies when the first graduate degree programs were offered in 2007.

“It has been such a blessing to me,” Daffron said. “Every time I’ve been ready for a new challenge, there was a new opportunity for me.”

Jennie McDonald, Daffron’s administrative assistant, said Daffron’s impact on the university has been far-reaching. One key triumph of Daffron’s, for McDonald, was the encouragement and guidance she provided for faculty and students. McDonald also attested to the positive work environment that was cultivated under the productive leadership of Daffron.

“She wouldn’t let us consider her as our ‘boss;’ we worked more as co-workers,” McDonald said. “Even with a heavy meeting schedule, Dr. Daffron always made time to listen to a staff member, faculty member or student about any concern.”

McDonald said Daffron always made sure to acknowledge and congratulate the many successes of Western students. Through this, Daffron has embodied the Griffon spirit fully.

“She is a true Griffon at heart,” McDonald said. “And I know that will never change.”



Jeanne Daffron



# GRIFFONS FOREVER

BY COLLEEN COWICH



*Student Leadership recipients at the Annual Alumni Awards Banquet.*

The Western Alumni Association hosts opportunities for alumni to network with one another all year long.

Homecoming is the largest event. Activities include a luncheon for alumni celebrating 40 year or more reunions, an annual golf outing, an annual awards banquet, a pre-parade breakfast for families, the parade itself, an on campus family event, tailgate and football game.

Our chapters and networks host events across the state. This year, members of our regional chapters in St. Joseph, Kansas City and St. Louis signed more than 3,000 postcards which were sent to newly accepted students from those areas. The

Craig School of Business Network hosted a social featuring Mrs. Esther George '81, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and the Black Alumni Network hosted a speed networking event for current students.

The Future Griffons Network – for alumni with families – planned four events this year including two Homecoming activities, a social at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and fishing at the Everyday Pond with the Department of Conservation.

The Graduates of the Last Decade planned our first online day of giving program, raising more than \$10,000 for the MWSU Foundation in less than 24 hours.





Reynan Wilkinson '17 and Tona Williams '00, members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors at the alumni tailgate. Jerry Pickman, Colleen Kowich, Jake Cunnning and Annette Weeks pose for a photo for at the Griffons Uncorked event hosted at Tipple Hill Winery. This was the first wine event that the Alumni Association hosted Photo credit: Jeni Swope





# EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

BY MYLEIGH LANHAM

## WORK FOR YOURSELF



**S**eth Lyons graduated from Western in December 2008 with a degree in finance. Lyons was the first Western alumnus to be awarded a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory through the Craig School of Business.

In 2013, he opened his first Which Wich, a restaurant that serves custom-crafted sandwiches. He bought his second franchise in 2016 and two existing restaurants in 2017. In total he now owns four restaurants and a small ATM business.

Lyons said the finance department at Western and The Craig School of Business helped prepare him for his career.

“I would not be where I am today without the finance department at Western,” Lyons said. “The things Steve Craig has done for the university has made me proud. I don’t think people locally realize how much influence and affluence Steve has contributed to the community.”

Lyons also met his wife at Western and the two work together to run the restaurants. His piece of advice for future graduates is not to be afraid.

“Don’t be afraid to start your own business,” Lyons said. “I learned at a young age, the only way to create wealth is to have people work for you. A job is actually more risky than owning your own company.”



## REEL IN YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

**L**auren Prywitch, graduated from Western in the Spring of 2014 with a degree in speech communication with a concentration in public relations. She currently works in New York City as a story associate for Food Network's Chopped.

Prywitch said her time at Western changed her life. Attending the university, after some difficult years in high school, made her feel safe, happy and allowed her to be someone she always wanted to be.

Prywitch joined many organizations during her time at Western and said being involved is what guided her most.

"Obtaining leadership roles gave me confidence and helped me gain internships, which then of course, led to my career," Prywitch said.

Prywitch said she is proud to be an alumna because she knows of the potential Western has to change someone's life.

"It's a gem of a place, that really allows each student to build their own universe," Prywitch said.



## BE YOUR OWN BOSS

**A**mber McKnight, a 2004 Western graduate with a degree in finance, currently works as her own boss at Fredrick Inn Steak House.

McKnight owns and operates the restaurant located on Frederick Avenue in St. Joseph. She was one of the first in her family to graduate college. She said her professors at Western always pushed her to do her best and showed her the power of knowledge.

"Western helped shape me into the business professional that I attended classes to become, however, I got much more out of my four years of college than that," McKnight said. "I spent four years making my own decisions, meeting friends, balancing school life and work and figuring out who I was. I learned self discipline, independence and the importance of working hard."

McKnight's advice for future graduates is to go for it. She said every success and failure helps shape you into the person you become.

"Take chances, aim to do what you love and everything else will fall into place," McKnight said. "You are the future."



# LIFE OF A GRIFFON



CME Game Night. Photo credit: Nicole Bilby



Java City in Blum. Photo credit: Ali Fowler



Students giving back for Griffon Edge. Photo credit: Diane Holtz



Celebrating National Donut Day. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir



# LIFE OF A GRIFFON



Choir rehearsal takes place. Photo credit: Bethany VonSeggern



2018 International Fair. Photo credit: Bethany VonSeggern



Study abroad in Ireland Photo credit: Sourced

Graduates touch the Griffon for luck. Photo credit: Grad Images



Convocation speaker Martin Luther King III . Photo credit: Adeeb Alsaawi





Great American Eclipse. Photo credit: Sourced



Players are honored during senior day game. Photo credit: John Ellis



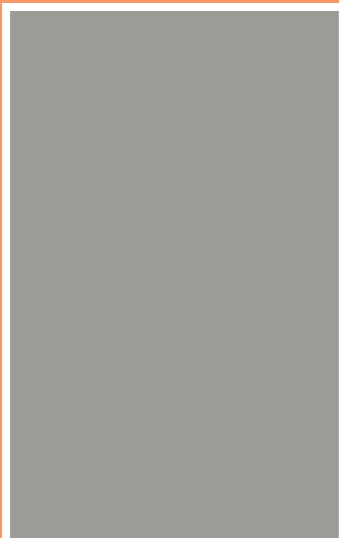
Griffons become MIAA Champions. Photo credit: John Ellis



Sorority sisters bond at bid day. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir



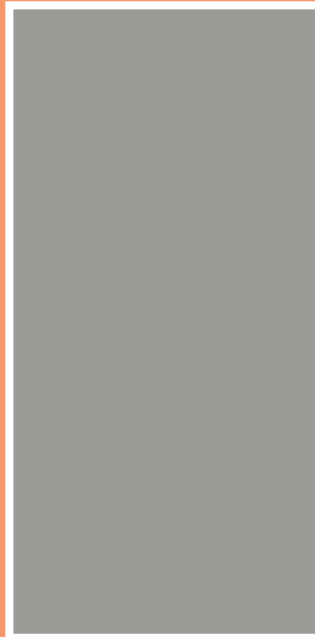
Maintaining the greenhouse. Photo credit: Chase Merwin







Holi Festival celebration. Photo credit: Chase Merwin



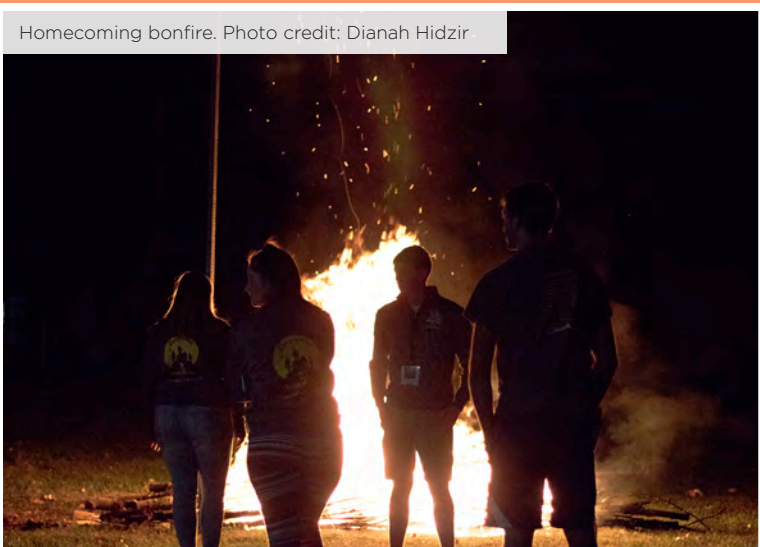
Spring Awakening performance. Photo credit: Brian Paulette



Max Griffon during the Homecoming Parade. Photo credit: Raghavendra Kotakonda



The Great Dubios. Photo credit: Chandrae Traxler



Homecoming bonfire. Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir

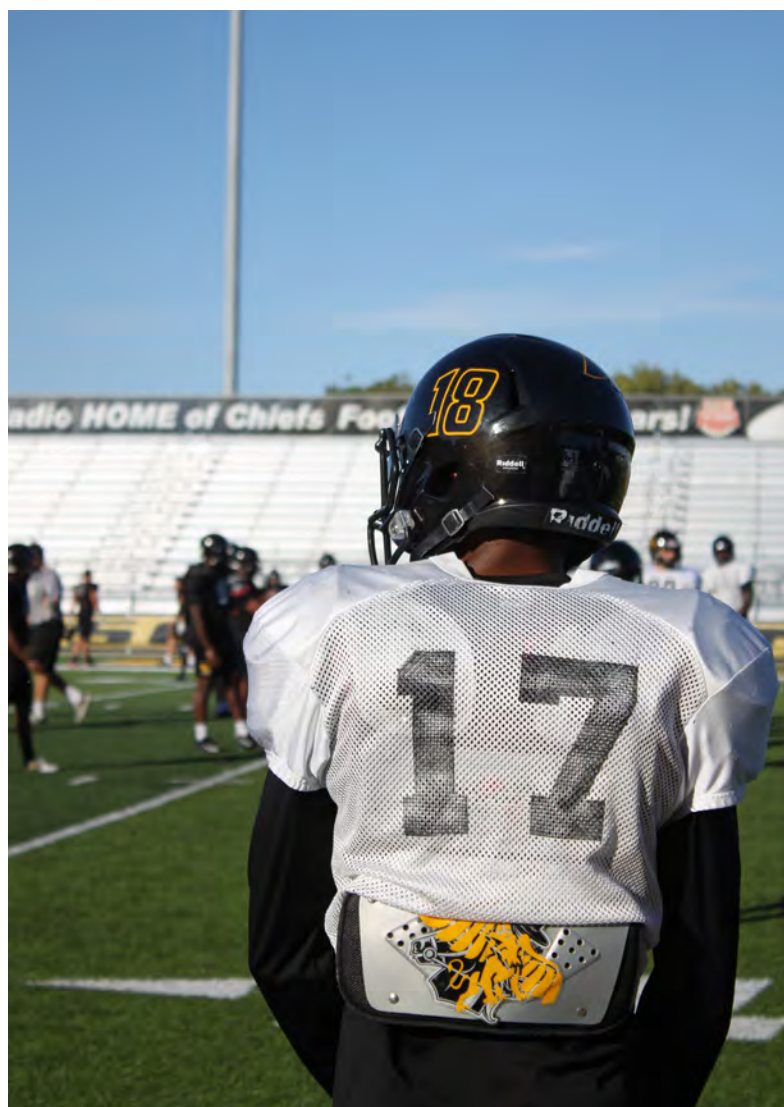


Graduates of Spring 2018. Photo credit: Grad Images



BY CHASE MERWIN

# A TEAM EFFORT



The 2017 Griffon football season didn't go quite as well as the team had hoped, but improvements are being made to bring the team back to dominance.

1996 Western alum Matt Williamson coached his first season for the Griffons during the Fall 2017 season.

Williamson brought with him the desire to instill passion and a hunger for winning in a program that has experienced some struggle in recent years.

"I think the energy and the passion that we brought back to the program was the highlight of our season," Williamson said. "Did we get, and have happen exactly what we wanted to have happen? No, but we've put things in motion to get the program back to the top again."

Williamson said while player passion and cohesion was a main highlight of the season, it was also among the greatest of challenges for the football team.

"Playing as a team, getting everyone on the same page and getting that team bond, chemistry and atmosphere was probably the most challenging when I first got here," Williamson said. "We've done a really good job with that. Our locker room now is 800 times better than it was when I first got here."

One of the team's most devoted athletes is junior quarterback Dominic Marino, who threw a total of 883 yards and whose season abruptly ended with an injury that kept him out of the latter half of the games.

Marino said his injury showed him just how close the team had become over the first half of the season.

"My injury really exemplified how tight-knit we are as a group," Marino said. "I had countless teammates and staff visit and stay with me in the hospital. That time showed me how insignificant the game actually is, but it really is a tool to develop such relationships."

Marino said that there are only two options when looking at a loss, to adapt and improve or to accept failure. To him, choosing the former is an obvious decision.

Another core contributor to the team is junior defensive lineman Kyle Dumler. Dumler executed 12 solo tackles and 25 assists throughout the 2017 season.

Dumler said that the team's devotion to future success has made for a productive offseason.

"If you are focused and work through adversity, you will be successful," Dumler said. "I think the Griffon football team exemplifies perseverance by coming back after a 4-7 season and having the best off-season I have seen in my career here."

The football team looks ahead with pride, confidence and determination. Optimism for 2018 is soaring, thanks to the unity of the team and the new direction of the coaching staff, and Western is sure to see the black and gold dominate in the seasons to come.

*Top to bottom: Griffons huddle for a talk before working on defensive and offensive strategies during a practice; Coach Williamson discusses strategy with a player; Players watch from the sidelines as plays are called out during practice. Photo credit: Danielle Moore and Allysen Owens*



# LAYUP FOR THE WIN

BY MACKENZIE BOOS



Western's women's basketball team went 13-18 on the season after a Cinderella run this year, knocking off some top seeded teams and became the first No. 12 seed to ever win a MIAA quarterfinal game.

Getting to the semifinals game was no easy task for the team or Head Coach Rob Edmisson as the team was challenged with injuries.

While the team had an injury and an eligibility decreased roster, their energy kept up while they beat No. 5 Nebraska Kearney and No. 4 Central Oklahoma.

Cera Ledbetter, a senior forward, said the Nebraska Kearney game stood out to her the most because they were the underdogs.

"My favorite part of the season was the conference tournament when we took down the No. 5 team," Ledbetter said. "No one expected us to advance."

To knock down the No. 4 Central Oklahoma, Savannah Lentz pitched in from behind the arch and hit three shots herself. Lentz was the third leading scorer this season.

"Having our problems throughout the season, coach always told us that our hard work and determination would pay off in the end, which it did when we made a tournament run," Lentz said.

"We played hard and won the games we knew we could win, but no else thought we could."

However, the Griffons couldn't keep up with No. 9 Lindenwood in the semifinal game and ended their season losing 41-59.

Three members of the Griffons basketball team, Ledbetter, Dossou Ndiaye and Melia Richardson were named All-MIAA. Ledbetter averaged 7.7 points a game and 4.0 rebounds. Ndiaye averaged 9.2 points and 5.3 rebounds. Richardson averaged 11.3 points and added on a 2.4 rebound average.

Western was the first No. 12 seed that advanced to the conference semifinals. This was a second time appearing in the MIAA semifinals for Head Coach Edmisson.

With such a challenging season, there is nothing the team can't overcome in the future.

*Clockwise from top: Forward Dossou Ndiaye makes a jump shot against Linewood. Ndiaye is described as an athletic inside player with strengths of speed and transition skills. Middle: Guard Melia Richardson charges in for a shot. Richardson now a junior, has been playing for Western since freshman year. Left: Head coach Rob Edmisson watches the Griffons run defense. Photo credit: John Ellis*



# GRIFFS SUPPORT

## GRIFFS

BY MACKENZIE BOOS



Not often does a collegiate soccer player hang up her jersey for some basketball playing time. However, this was the story for senior Paige Phipps.

Phipps thought her collegiate career was over until she was given an invitation to play on the basketball court.

Women's basketball at Western has experienced some hardships recently when it came to season games, seeing as most of their players were injured. Coach Rob Edmisson, women's basketball head coach, asked Phipps to step in after he only had six players that were healthy and eligible.

"Once I committed for soccer, I never thought I would probably play basketball again," Phipps said. "My dad has always been a big supporter of me playing basketball. Every year he told me to go out for the team; as a senior, I never thought this would happen because I haven't played in four years."

Phipps played basketball in high school and had offers to play at the collegiate level after receiving Nebraska All-Class honorable mention in high school for her talent. However, she stuck with her heart and chose the sport she loved: soccer.

Coach Edmisson said one of the things he loves most about Phipps is how selfless she is.

"She has a good spirit about her and she didn't come in with any premeditated thoughts about needing to get minutes. She just wants to help out," Edmisson said. "It is so refreshing to see someone that was more concerned about helping our kids out than what might come out of it for her."

Phipps said she is all about Griffs supporting fellow Griffs and willing to help out wherever or whenever she's needed.

Soccer coach Chad Edwards mentioned that he appreciated Phipps work ethic.

"I really enjoy her tenacity and how much passion she has for life, academically and athletically," Edwards said. "I enjoyed coaching her because she was always going to give maximum effort."

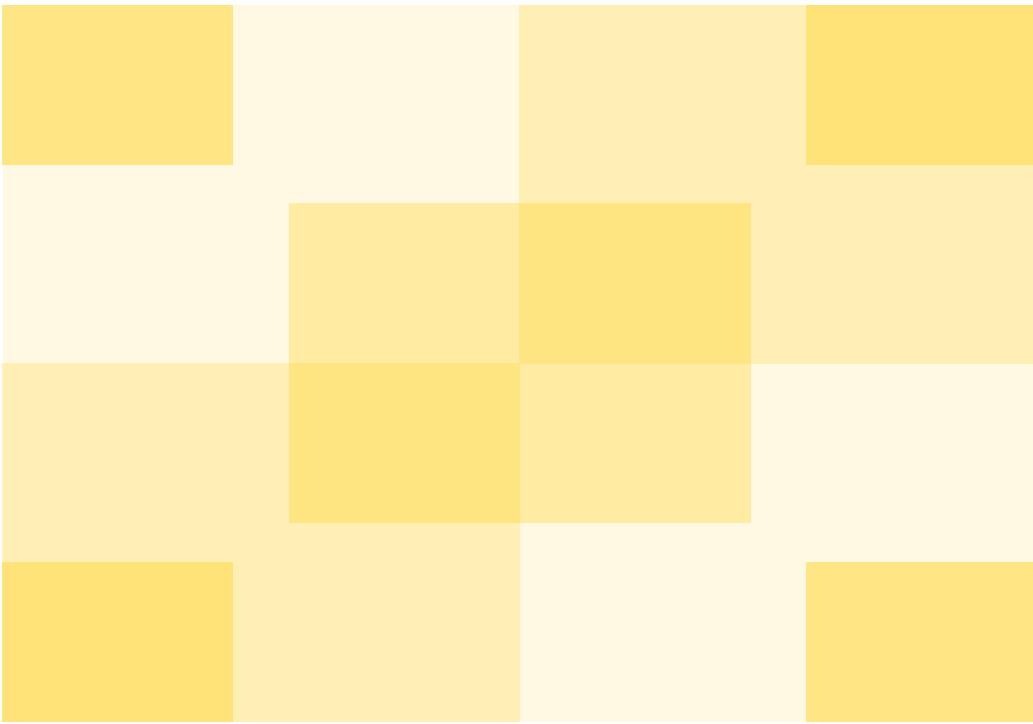
Both coaches praised Phipps for her hard work, but willingness to help also shows off what kind of campus Western is.

"We all support each other and want each other to have success and I am really proud of our hall (Upper GISC)," Edwards said.

*"I am motivated every day by the other coaches in this hall. They are winning and doing a really good job in the community and academically."*

Coach Edwards loves his job as well as the bond between coaches and players because everyone helps one another out. Each coach will give advice and support to any other coach that asks.

"I think this all illuminates this side of things at Missouri Western," Edwards said. "We are all in this together and we are all fighting for the same thing: for our athletes to have success."



Top Right: Western Nursing students pose to take a group shot. There are only 50 spaces available in the program each semester. Left Middle: Seniors posing with their banner before the game. The team finished with 17 wins, 5 losses and 0 ties. Right Middle: Bailey Ketcham, Paige Phipps and Maddy Cowell pose after the Senior night game. Western lost against Pittsburg State 56-79. Bottom Left: Lexie Martin, Shelbie Atwell and Paige Phipps pose for a quick picture during their busy schedules. They are all in the nursing program at Western. Photo credit: Sourced



# HE SHOOTS HE SCORES

BY MACKENZIE BOOS



Left to right: Head coach Brett Weiberg, Cole Clearman and director of athletics Josh Looney. Photo credit: John Ellis

Western basketball bounced their way into the MIAA Championship playoffs after the Griffons went 4-15 in the MIAA during the season.

The season didn't end as the team wished it would. The Griffons ended their season finishing 6-21. They went 2-11 with away games and 4-9 at home.

Head Coach Brett Weiberg is in his fifth season with the Griffons. He said there is more preparation than what people see.

"There's not much you can say before a game, I think it is the preparation leading up to it," Weiberg said. "We always try to make sure each player knows their job. You hope that what you do the days leading up to the game, the morning of the game, the walkthrough before the game, are the most important when it comes to game night."

On Feb. 7, history was made for one basketball player. Senior Cole Clearman joined the 1,000-point club, contributing

219 points this season. Clearman is the first player since 2003 to score 1,000 points. He also broke the record for three-pointers.

"When my teammates were congratulating me, I mean, they're the reason I've got to where I've got," Clearman said. "My coaches are a big factor as well as my parents. I just can't thank them enough for everything."

Senior Seth Bonifas helped lead the team in field-goal percentage, field-goals made and free throw percentage. He was also the leader in offensive rebounds. Bonifas believes that being a student comes first and has full support from Weiberg.

"Coach has always told us to never give up, that we can give more," Bonifas said. "Whether it is on the basketball court or in class, you can always do more to help yourself and help your team."

Western finished their season 6-21 but is now 25-21 overall in the MIAA Championships.





Top: Guard T.J. Evans leaps for a rebound against Central Oklahoma. Western almost won, but ended up losing 65-61. Bottom: Bryan Hudson runs in for a layup while his teammate blocks the Lion's defensive players. Photo credit: John Ellis





## 5 YEARS, 4 DIFFERENT CITIES, 1 AMAZING



Photo credit: Mackenzie Boos

BY TANNER COBB

Life is a journey not a destination, and Western junior forward Cheikh Fall has had quite the journey in his life, from growing up in Africa to living in three states in the past four years.

Fall, who grew up in Theis, Senegal, in West Africa, started his journey in 2015. He came to America his senior year of high school attending Washington Academy in Machias, Maine. He then went to Kilgore College, located near Dallas, Texas, and afterwards was recruited to Western.

"The reason I came to the USA is pretty much basketball," Fall said. "I had the opportunity to play ball and go to school, and I am trying to use it as an outlet to go further in life."

As his sophomore season at Kilgore came to an end, he needed to find a new college. At the same time, Western needed a new rebounding forward. Coach Brett Weiberg, who has coached multiple international athletes, recruited Fall.

"I knew about Cheikh a little bit through a guy that helped me get my other player from

Senegal," Weiberg said. "So, I simply just called the Kilgore College coach, and he sent me game film. After we saw that he was a fantastic rebounding forward and very athletic, we brought him in for a visit, and the rest is history."

While basketball is a big reason for Fall coming to the states, getting a better education was a big factor.

"He is certainly a guy, who basketball is a big part of who he is, but it is not the only part of who he is," Weiberg said. "He is here to see how far basketball can take him, but also to see how far his education can take him."

Fall is majoring in criminal justice, and although he has done a good job adapting to America, he has some difficulties with U.S. history.

"The material is kind of tough sometimes because it is related to U.S. government and economy that I am not very familiar with," Fall said. "I have a hard time getting that part, but I just keep studying to get myself familiar with it."



Photo credit: John Ellis

Although Fall is viewed as a competitive basketball player on the court, he is a very nice guy off the court according to senior guard T.J. Evans.

“You can tell he is wise and that he has a big heart,” Evans said. “I enjoy being around him. He is so humble and quiet. He knows when to say things and when not to. He is a pretty good guy overall.”

Having lived in different geographic areas with various weather and cultural differences Weibeg is amazed that Fall has adapted so well.

“He has adapted fine and is doing well,” Weiberg said. “I think it is pretty cool that even in America, he has lived in three very different parts of the states, and has been able to experience those different subcultures.”

While getting homesick and having to adapt to things like food and vocabulary can be challenging, the weather was the most difficult for Fall.

“The weather has by far been the hardest thing to adapt to,” Fall said. “Before I first got to the

states, I had never seen snow and it snowed in the first couple of months in Maine.”

With weather being the hardest thing to deal with, he still had to adapt to many differences in between Senegal, Maine, Texas and Missouri.

“It is completely different,” Fall said. “In a cultural way, people are more open back home. Everyone is friendly and nice to everyone in Senegal, but here, if people don’t know you they don’t mess with you. It is just so different here than back home. We don’t have that type of interaction.”

With the consistent change in geography for Fall over the past few years, he has still been able to adapt well and continue his basketball and academic careers. He has been averaging 1.9 points and 3.1 rebounds in less than seven minutes a game this year for Western.

*Cheikh Fall is a junior forward from Senegal with an amazing attitude and ambition to succeed at life. Fall has traveled all over the world and came to Western to continue his basketball career. Fall averaged 5.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game.*



# BLACK. GOLD. GO GRIFFS. GO!

BY ALEX RICHARDSON







**B**eing a Griffon Cheerleader is more than just cheering for our team at a basketball or football game. When you become a member of this squad, you become a role model and much more. You become the face of a great university.

Everyone thinks it's so easy to do what we do, when in reality, being a collegiate cheerleader is more challenging than it seems. We practice; we workout; we cheer at sporting events; we volunteer in the community; and we attend campus events, but most importantly, we are held to the academic standards of every other athlete at Western.

The squad practices two hours, twice a week, every week unless it is clear that we have to fine tune some cheers. The best thing about our practices is that even though we work hard and try new things each time, it's never something we dread. Every practice is like a family reunion and is where nearly 95 percent of the best memories take place.

When we aren't practicing, you can find us on the sidelines cheering on our favorite football and basketball teams. Game day may be mandatory, but there's no question, game day is the best day of the week for a cheerleader. These are the times you get to show off your best skills and show everyone your school spirit.

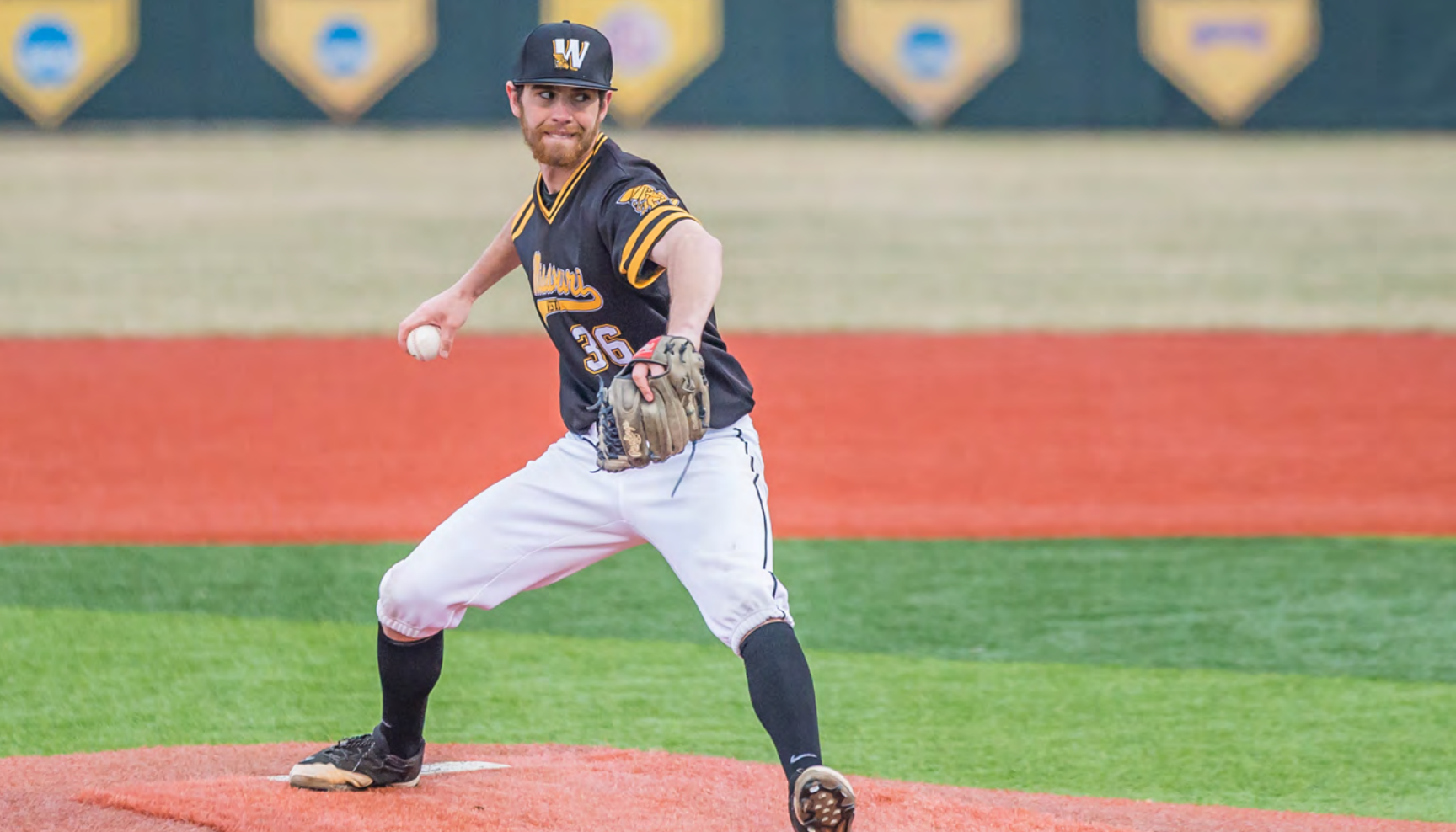
Despite the countless injuries received, cheerleading is that one thing you never want to stop doing no matter how bad you feel. Because there is nothing like the feeling of hitting that stunt for the first time, after you've worked on it for weeks.

Overall, the greatest thing I have gotten in return from cheering isn't the popularity or the scholarships, it's the memories and unbreakable, everlasting friendships I have created.

You know the saying, "get a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life?" Well that's exactly what cheering at Western has done for me!

*The Griffon Cheer Squad provides the encouragement that keeps our teams going. They chant loudly to rally school spirit during sporting events. There are a variety of cheers and stunts included in each performance: liberties, heel stretches and basket tosses. Photo credit: Sourced*





## HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK BY THOMAS MARSHALL

**P**ractice, practice, practice! Once fall classes begin the Griffons start to prepare for the season. An early morning regimen of weight lifting and conditioning ensues, then they hit the field for a practice season, leading up to opening day.

The rigorous training and endless practicing has paid off. The Griffons have been lighting it up on the field all season, sitting at 20-18 coming off back-to-back NCAA regional appearances in 2016 and 2017.

While there have been some pitfalls and the season hasn't been quite what they were hoping, Coach Buzz Verduzco is proud of the work his team has put in.

"Our team is a well-disciplined unit. A fairly new team that has bonded well and has had to overcome some key injuries this season," Verduzco said. "This has not prevented them from preparing everyday knowing they are a major regional contender vying for another

postseason birth."

The birth they are looking for? It's a spot into the MIAA tournament in mid-May.

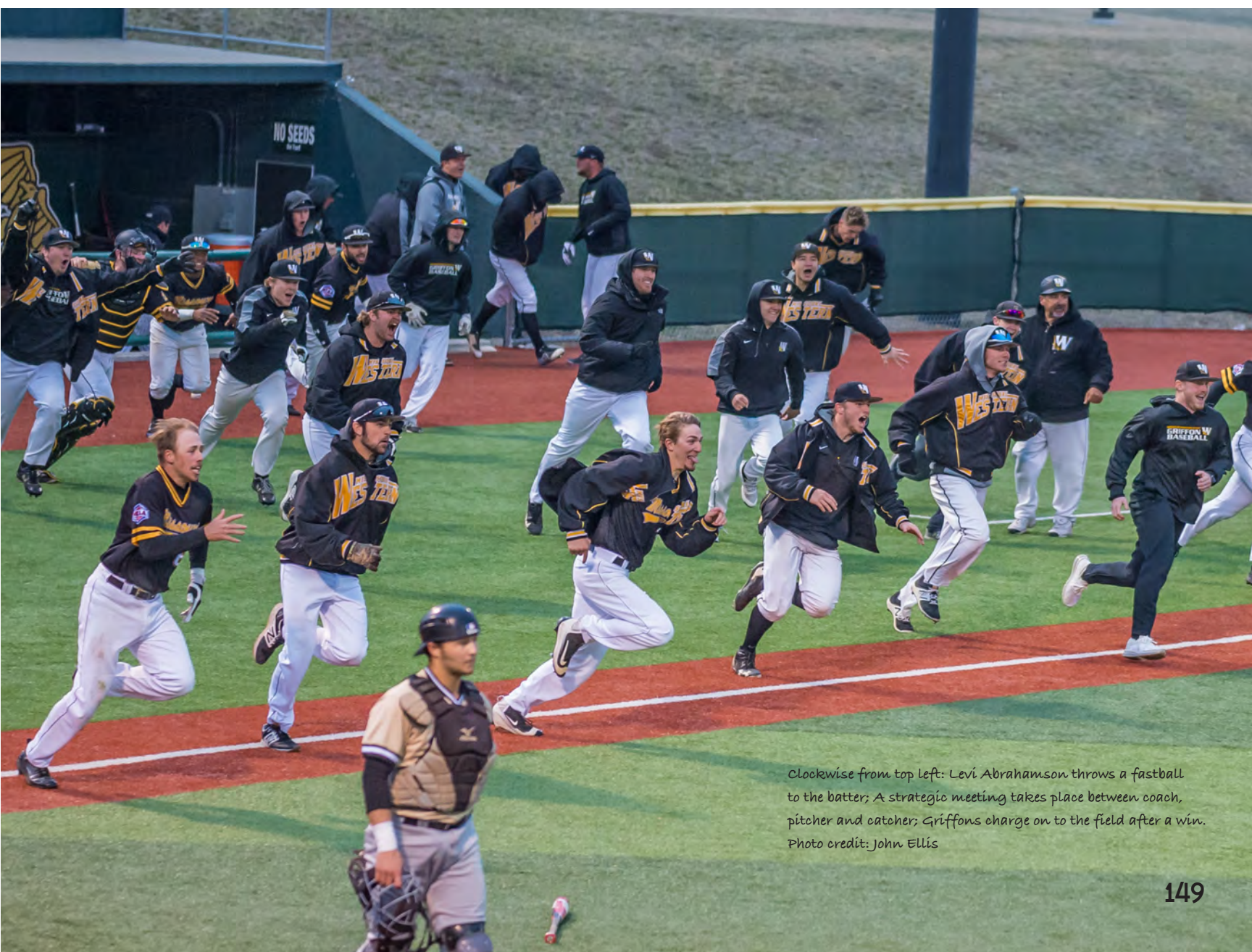
The team has put in the work throughout the season. Hitting harder, running faster and building comradery. Player Cody McArthur believes that are just getting started.

"In the second half of the year we are looking like we could get hot fast," McArthur said. "I'm looking forward to being able to get in there and dominate the game."

While this Griffon Baseball team has a fresh roster, they're playing games like they've been together for years. The communication was spot-on helping the team achieve the birth they wanted.

The Griffons earned a spot in the MIAA Tournament. They played hard, but fell short on the third day. The team closed its season with 29-24.





Clockwise from top left: Levi Abrahamson throws a fastball to the batter; A strategic meeting takes place between coach, pitcher and catcher; Griffons charge on to the field after a win. Photo credit: John Ellis





## SOFTBALL MEMORIES

BY KELSEA HALL

**W**estern's softball team earned No. 5 seed in the MIAA Softball Championships after welcoming 11 new players this season.

The team finished the season with a record of 24-27, compared to last year's 36-16. They agreed that they faced difficulties earlier in the season, but they are looking forward to future seasons together after experiencing a bit of luck and determination on the field.

Head Softball Coach Jennifer Trotter said, "Our overall record is not spectacular, but we started off the year really rough. We have so many new faces that it just took a while for this team to really gel in the field."

Their game improved when the players bonded and created friendships both on and off the field. Shelby Uhl, a junior who bats first in the lineup, believes that when the players bond off the field their communication improves on the field.

"We are all genuinely good friends. I don't know how many teams can say that, but we

all hang out outside of practice, and I think that is a big contributing factor to how we communicate on the field," Uhl said.

Friendships off the field allow the team to become more comfortable with each other and coherently work together while enjoying their time on the field. They became so close this season that Uhl plans to room with a few of the other players from her team. From pretending Starburst Jelly Beans are power pills, to even harnessing the luck from a four leaf clover they named Steve, the team has a few fun memories from the season.

"On St. Patrick's day, one of the freshman found a four leaf clover by our batting cages, so she put it in a bag and everyone touched it before the game, and we played really well that weekend," Uhl said.

The players brought the clover to every game after that. The clover's luck must have rubbed off on the team, because Uhl lead off the St. Patrick's day game against Northeastern with a solo home run into left field, and earned MIAA's player of the week three times this





season. They even went on a seven game winning streak after that.

The two home games against Northeastern were the team's favorite games of the season, because of the persistence and strength it took to win the games back to back. Both games entered 10 innings and lasted eight hours, and kept the Griffons on the edge of their seats.

"It was the first time that our team could just feel that 'refuse to lose' vibe that we have felt in teams in the past," Trotter said. "More than anything the way they fought to win both of those games was a key moment this season."

Shelbie Atwell recalled how the experiences on the field was great motivation for her team.

"The feeling of winning compared to the feeling of losing is the only motivation I need.," Atwell said. "Also knowing that my teammates want it as bad as I do motivates me even more."

Atwell, who finished her last season with the Griffons, left words of wisdom for her team:

"The advice I want to give my new team members is to respect the game. One day it'll be your last, and you don't want to feel like you didn't leave it all out on the field every single opportunity," she said.

Atwell said that she will miss the competitive aspect of the game, as well as all the memories and friends she made in the process. All of the athletes on Western's softball team can benefit from the team in their own ways, but Atwell learned a valuable lesson future players will know as well.

"The most important lesson I have learned from being a teammate is the different ways to interact with different people," Atwell said. "Being a part of a team is the best feeling ever; they become your family."

*Griffons celebrate as Lonnie Groves takes her final steps to home plate. Opposite: Catcher Bekah Mueller attempts to tag out her opponent in time. Photo credit: John Ellis*



# VICTORY ON THE FIELD

BY NICK MCCUTCHEON

It was a reward for a senior class recruited to a program with little to sell, only the potential of being a foundational class for a successful turnaround.

Eight seniors led the Griffons to a 17-5 overall record, the most wins in program history. This was the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Central Region Championships after the senior class signed onto a team that had won just two games in 2013.

Head coach Chad Edwards is proud of the dedication and hardwork that the team has put in to this 2017 season.

"The most special part about the season to me was seeing our senior group go out on such a high note," Edwards said. "They committed to us when it wasn't as easy to believe in the program. They saw success throughout their whole careers - what we thought was really good success - but then to have that landmark type of season was really special for me and the team."

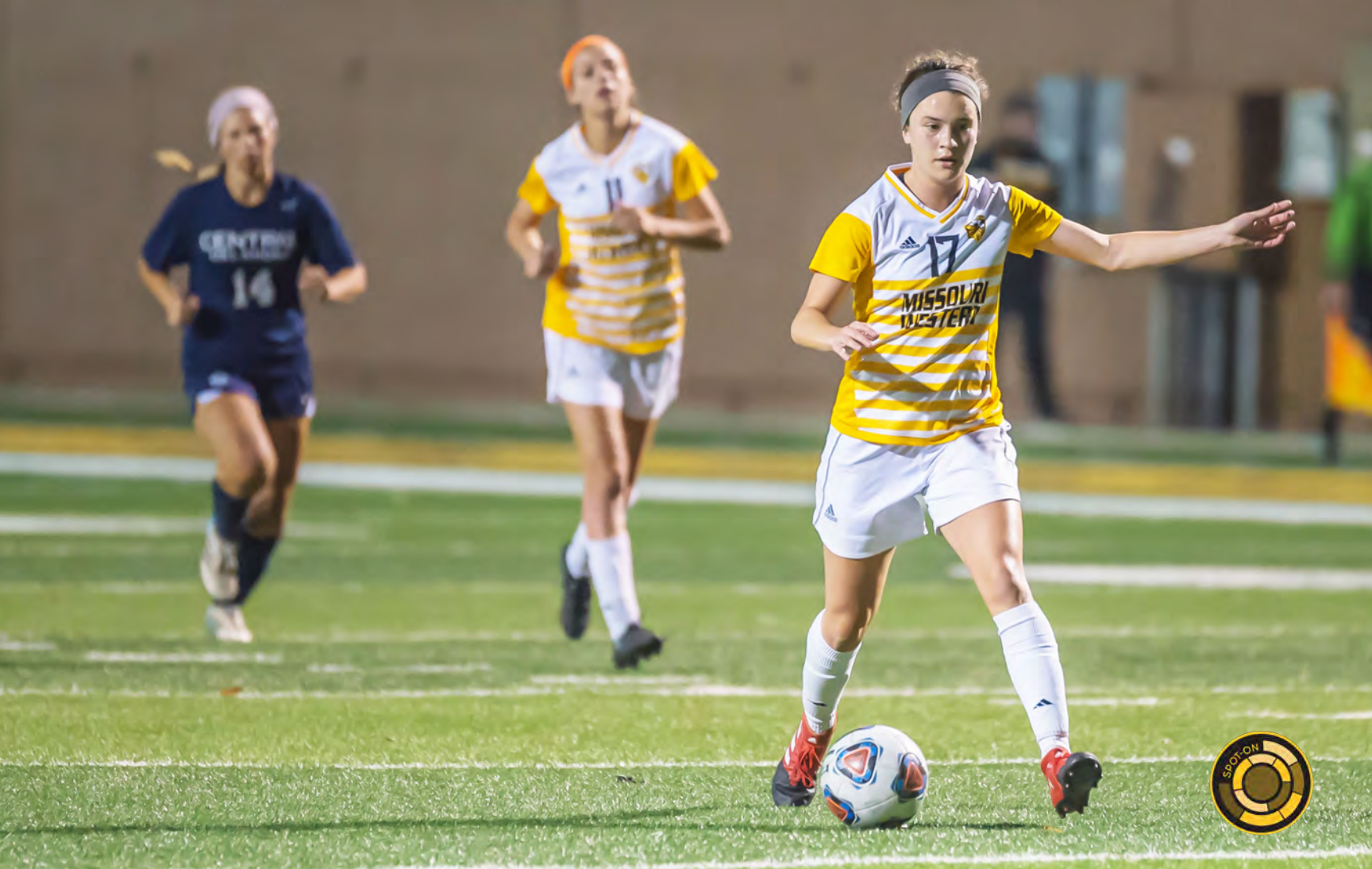
More than 30 individual and team records fell as the team finished second to eventual national champion Central Missouri in both the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association regular and postseasons.

A program-best, 10 Griffons were named All-MIAA and three - Madeline Cowell, Bridget Blessie and Cassidy Menke - were named to both the United Soccer Coaches and Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-Region teams.

The 2017 season was the pinnacle for one class, but also the foundation of a promising future for the program.







Opposite: The Griffons celebrate at the victory bell. Top: Senior Sydney Cluck heads down the field to attempt a goal against the opposing team. Bottom: Freshman Ashley Mathis plays offensively against her opponents. Photo credit: John Ellis





# RING THE BELL

BY NICOLE BILBY

**F**or over a decade, fans, players and coaches have gathered around the Victory Tree to sing and hear a celebration speech from the head coach after a home football victory.

In the late summer of 2016, a bronze tree was placed in the Victory Plaza as a symbol of the original tree for fans to admire. However, in December 2016 when a new football coaching staff started so did a new tradition at Western: the Victory Bell.

Following the first home win of the Fall 2017 season against Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), the initial ringing of the Victory Bell was administered by Jonathan Owens.

Owens was captain for the game against MSSU and had the privilege of being the first player to ring the bell.

"It was a 'player of the game' honor to be the first one to do it, I can always say that," Owens said.

The ringing of the bell was instituted because the new buildings around the original tree made the decade long tradition less accessible. Griffon football players opted for this new ritual because it would also be easier for the fans to experience.

Brett Esely, athletic director for External Relations at Western said it will be a great new tradition moving forward.

"While I was a bit leery of moving away from the Victory Tree/Forest tradition, seeing the scene at the bell following the game was really cool and powerful," Esely said.

Matt Williamson, football head coach, wants the community and the players involved with the the Victory Bell. He said the more people down there to celebrate the win, the better it will get.

Although the Victory Tree tradition is transitioning out, there are still other traditions at Western that are very prevalent. Rally Towels, the fight song and Western chants continue to bring spirit to all athletic events.

The Western, "Fight On, Griffons" song has been part of the university ever since 1979 and is played before football games and after a home victory.

The Victory Bell although relatively new, is another tradition fans can look forward to after every home win.

*Griffon football players celebrate by ringing the bell after a victory at Spratt Stadium during the 2017 season. Photo credit: John Ellis*







# Teed Up For Success

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN

**F**rom the GISC to the green the Griffons putted and swung their way to the end of a successful season finishing ninth at the NCAA Central Super Regional.

Head coach Greg Dillon said that some of the students' success is related to the repetitive nature of the teams' training regimen. The combination of a technical training with a four objective mental conditioning outline help the athletes with any situation.

The four major objectives applied to the Griffon golf team includes: dealing with pressure situations on the green; navigating through and ignoring distractions; decision making during a tournament; and the changing conditions of the weather because regardless of the elements, they will play through.

Assistant coach Ryan Hand said staying positive throughout a tournament is crucial to the dexterity of the athletes. During a typical tournament the athletes will carry a 40-pound bag while walking up and down hills for over 10 hours. Hand will gauge where each athlete is then guide them based off what he feels they need in that moment.

"It's tough times; 36 holes - that's 12 hours and they don't get breaks," Hand said. "It can be mentally and physically draining so I try to stay positive and give them the food for thought of 'this is what needs to be done.'"

Dillon, who is in his fifth season at Western, said while over the years the

kids and relationships change, seeing the growth of the golf program has been a wonderful experience. According to Dillon, this team is not afraid of a challenge and seeing a national basis competition vs. local and regional is one of the biggest changes.

"The biggest thing for me, is the view from the bottom up is a lot better than the view from the top down. That's what I've got to see," Dillon said. "We started from very humble beginnings and being able to have a program - that by design was good, but needed to go to the next level - it's what we did."

Although golf is typically viewed as an individual sport, the Griffons have excelled at making it a team effort. Both Dillon and Hand recognize leadership within Shi Qing Ong and Patrick McCarthy on the Men's Golf team.

"I feel like Patrick and Shi Qing are team leaders, but they are not going to tell you they are, it's all about the team for them," Hand said. "They really want the team to be the first priority."

The comradery, determination to place and leadership of the coaches and athletes has led the Griffons to a season of accomplishment. Ong, led the Griffons and won the playoffs advancing her to the DII National Championships.

Moving into a new season for 2018-2019 Dillon said the door is wide open and recruiting has expanded geographically. Both coaches are optimistic as the drive for success continues.





Clockwise from left: Coach Dillon and Katie Irvin take a moment to assess the green during a match; Shi Qing Ong after making an amazing play; Senior Steffanie Yabut walks to the next hole at a 2017 tournament. Photo credit: John Ellis







Western Golfer, Shi Qing Ong focusing during a match in 2017. Ong credits her ambition to her supportive family (pictured opposite page). Photo credit: Sourced

# PLAYER OF THE YEAR SHI QING ONG

BY DIANAH HIDZIR

If you think international students are unrecognizable, think again.

The best player on Western’s golf team is our very own Malaysian, Shi Qing Ong.

Ong started playing the sport as a hobby, but never thought that she would make a possible career out of it. After four years of leisure golfing with her father, Ong became part of her high school golf team and began to play competitively. After numerous wins in countless championships, Western became the place where she got to shine like a star.

As an international student who came from a relatively small country, Ong amazed everyone during her second semester. She was awarded Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) Freshman of the Year, competed in the All-Region Women’s Golf Coach

Association (WGCA), received the MIAA Academic Honor Roll and led history by making the Griffons qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships and Regional for first time in the program.

Her success throughout her first and second semester at Western is what she considers her best accomplishment.

“Last year, I played my personal best in two huge tournaments and got named the MIAA Women’s Golf Athlete of the Week twice,” Ong said. “I cannot be any more happy and thankful.”

With the achievements that she already such as MIAA Player of the Year in 2018, Ong dreams to go professional one day. Whilst majoring in biology with concentration in health science, she also hopes to become a physical therapist as an addition to her line of work.

# Q&A

**Why did you choose Western?**

I am able to play the sport that I love and pursue higher education at the same time.

**What inspires you?**

My parents are my role models. They are my guides and courage to face challenges in life. They are the reason I work hard every day, and I want to make them proud.

**What do you do in your free time?**

Learn new skills such as improving my culinary skills. I love trying new things!

**How do you prepare for a tournament?**

I pray a lot to God and make sure I stay positive before going into the round.

**What is your dream course to play?**

St Andrews Links in Scotland.

**How would you describe your experience at Western?**

It has been incredible. I have made many friends who are here to support me. It's probably safe to say that I have become an independent individual and have enough confidence to face my personal and professional goals.

**What are your hobbies?**

I enjoy traveling. It brings me a new perspective and different experiences every time.

**What is the best piece of advice you can give to other students?**

Stop comparing yourself to someone else's life. The grass isn't always greener on the other side.







**M**ental focus, practice and determination have led the Griffons to a successful season. The 2018 season ended with a top-10 finish at the 2018 NCAA Division II Midwest/Central Regional.

Sophomore Pat McCarthy, who was named to the NCAA Division II PING All-Central Region Team, said physical and mental preparation is necessary for every match. Starting with a practice round, McCarthy gets in the mindset because he believes if you are not prepared days before, you will not be ready the day of the match.

“The day before I try to hit a lot of putts and really try to get the speed of the greens,” McCarthy said. “I always try to tell myself put things into perspective and just take one shot at a time and commit to every shot.”

Preparation doesn’t stop at an individual level. The Griffons have a rigorous training regimen that keeps the athletes on point and ready to handle distractions, high pressure situations and make immediate decisions on the green.

Assistant coach Ryan Hand said the synced goals of the coaching staff and his experience as a former member of the Griffon golf team has been beneficial to his coaching approach. Hand adapts to the needs of each athlete and thrives on being in the trenches with the team.

“We’re a team that won’t give up and a team that says ‘hey it’s not over until the last put goes in the hole,’” Hand said. “They [athletes] get the big picture. It’s not just week to week, they have one goal and that’s to get into post season tournaments.”



Lucas Horseman (left) and Coach Ryan Hand take a moment to discuss strategy during a golf meet. Coach Hand provides morale and strategic support to the Griffon golfers as they play. Opposite: Jake Majeske swings on the green doing a match. Majeske appeared in eight tournaments in the 2016-2017 season and carded lowest round of 72 in the MIAA Championship. Photo credit: John Ellis

According to head coach Dillon the approach the athletes take to playing this individualized sport is more of a team effort. Dillon said each player is motivated to play at a high level and the demand to play at such a level only increases with each success.

Both the men's and women's team had great seasons with outstanding leadership from Patrick McCarthy and Shi Qing Ong. According to Hand the leadership of McCarthy and Ong, along with the genuine concern each player has for one another, is a tremendous morale booster for the team.

"It's been really fun to have two great players, two great teams, but they all care for each other equally," Hand said. "Everyone is on the same level in everyone's mind. Even on bad rounds everyone is always asking 'how are my

teammates doing?'"

McCarthy said the overall season has been exceptional for the team in skill and comradery.

"It [Harding University tournament] was very nerve racking for us, but it was super fun," McCarthy said. " We didn't win, but I know we learned a lot and had a ton of fun doing it. We are all good friends on the team and we hang out every night and just have fun."

The Griffons continue to prepare for the upcoming season as coaches Dillon and Hand increase the geographic recruitment scope and guide their athletes to succeed both mentally and physically on the green.





## GOLDEN GRIFFONS

### Q&A

BY MAGGIE SHARP

**Dr. Nathan Gay**  
(GGMB Band director, 4th year)

**What were the season highlights?**

Having so many freshmen in the group I think was a really good experience for myself and everyone.

**What are the easiest parts of being the marching band director?**

Moments like this where I get to sit down and talk to students individually. I try to keep an open door policy and students will just drop by and talk. We have chances to chat and I can help out individuals.

**What are the most difficult of being the marching band director?**

Trying to find an appropriate balance that is workable for the students. I'm very conscious of student commitments so I do my best every year to find an appropriate balance so that they won't get too overwhelmed but we still have performance obligations.

to find an appropriate balance so that they won't get too overwhelmed, but we still have performance obligations.

**What would you add/take away from the band repertoire?**

Having a full complement of electronics would make us a bit more current. As far as current trends go, we're a little behind the game. More visual, more guard and props, would help create more of a spectacle.

**Can you think of any one thing that set this season apart?**

The marching competition we hosted had 29 bands, which is a record since I've been here. I think its a record, not the most we've ever had, but the most we've had in awhile. As far as student perspective and what we do on the field, the music I picked was hard and I wasn't sure if a group of 60 freshman would be able to put that together.



**Kasey Sharp**  
(Color Guard (the flags), freshman )

**What was the hardest part of band camp?**

I think it was the gosh darn sun. I became crispier than Colonel Sander's chicken.

**Do you consider marching band a sport?**

Its a sport. It's so hard! Anybody that says marching band isn't a sport has never been in marching band.

**What was the performance highlight?**

Me dressing up like a beaver. And then dancing.

**If you could improve one thing about band what would it be?**

More time for food.

**Zephan O'Connor**  
(Trumpet, freshman)

**Season highlights?**

Having a good time at Silver Dollar City.

**What was hardest part of band camp?**

The first day we were on the field because my feet hurt.

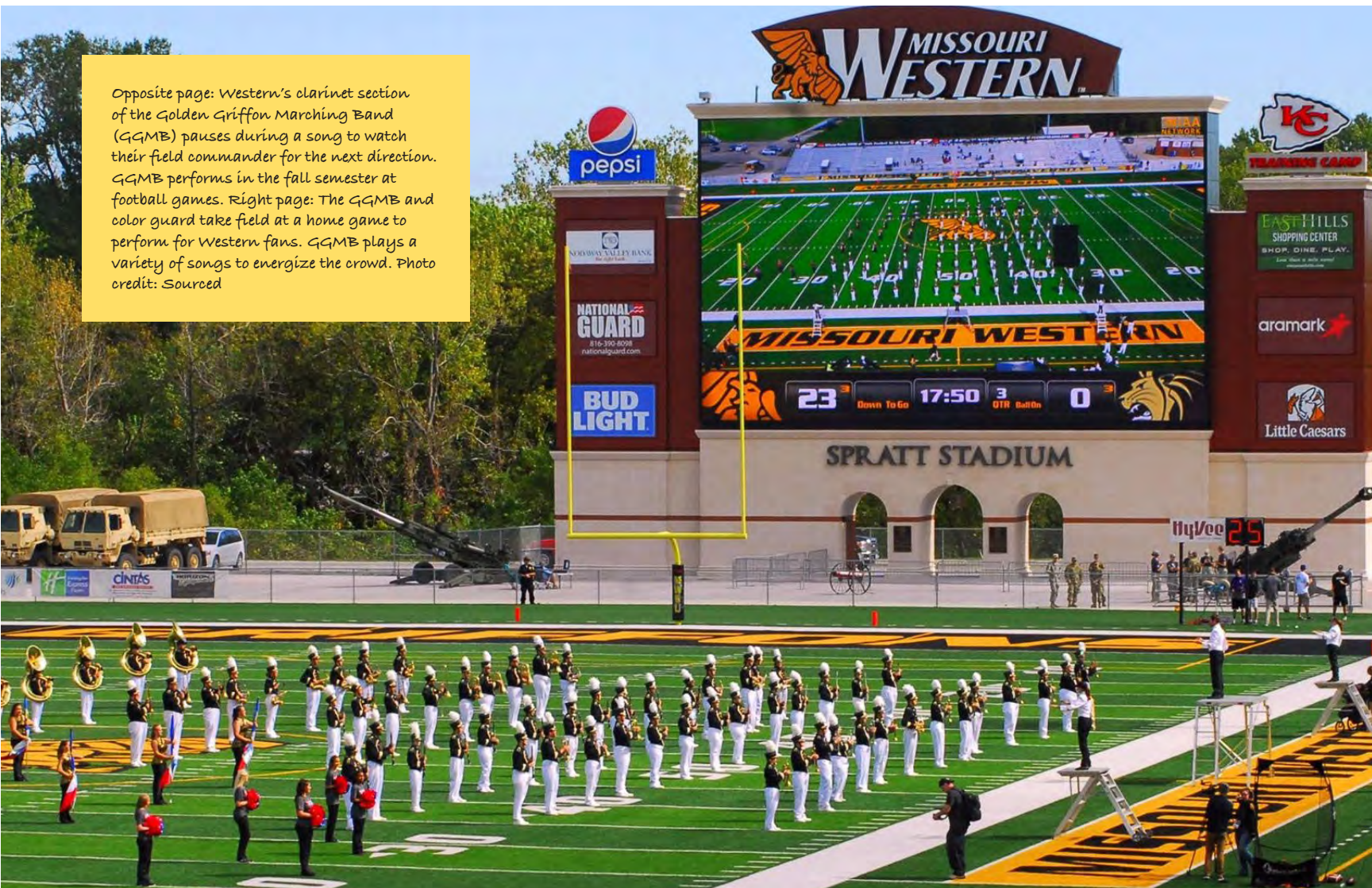
**What was the most fun?**

The ending was pretty cool because at the end it was like "hey we did it" and everyone was super chill.

**If you could describe your experience in what sentence what would you say?**

Jesus Christ my legs hurt so much but it feels rewarding I guess?

Opposite page: Western's clarinet section of the Golden Griffon Marching Band (GGMB) pauses during a song to watch their field commander for the next direction. GGMB performs in the fall semester at football games. Right page: The GGMB and color guard take field at a home game to perform for Western fans. GGMB plays a variety of songs to energize the crowd. Photo credit: Sourced





## FIRST-YEAR TRIUMPHS BY MORGAN DOYLE

**T**he first official indoor meet was right before Christmas break, and the Griffons made our track and field debut.

We'd all been through the training, running together every day at practice, but to be able to see my teammates compete for the first time had me in awe of how talented some of them are. We'd heard the MIAA was one of the hardest conferences, but none of us really knew what to expect. It was a little nerve wracking, being such a young and new team, but it was a challenge that we all faced head on.

As the indoor season went on, times continued to drop and school records were set. By the time conference came around, everyone was at their peak. The MIAA Conference meet was intense, but now we know the type of atmosphere to prepare for.

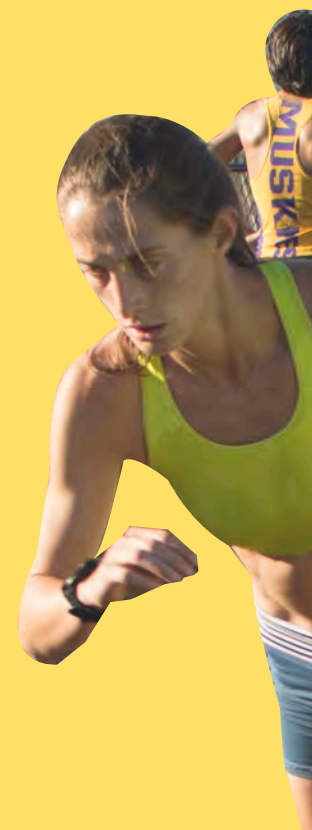
Indoor soon turned into outdoor, as our first meet was ridiculously cold with 20 mph winds. The weather gradually got warmer, and meets became nicer and we could actually practice outside for a change. Part of the grind included freezing cold practices and being gone every single weekend for a meet.

The training was a rude awakening, in a good way, because Coach Cody Ingold and Coach Marc Bierbaum killed us every day with good intentions.

Having to establish your program at your own school and in your conference is something that we are slowly doing. The fact that we are all here to build a program and start a tradition rather than continue one is a cool feeling.

We are setting the standard for teams to follow in the future, and that gives us a sense of pride when we put on our checkered jerseys with the Griffon on the front:

**WE ARE MAKING HISTORY.**



## SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN

Marc Bierbaum  
Head Coach



**T**he Track and Field team ran, jumped and threw the distance where it counted making remarkable first season triumphs.

As a new team there were a few struggles in the beginning, but head coach Marc Bierbaum has seen the team take incredible strides to become a solid unit.

"All in all, in the end, things have started to come together," Bierbaum said. "Kids have bought into what we are doing and you see the successes coming through on the track."





The Women's Track and Field runners race each other during practice to work on their race times. Photo credit: Morgan Doyle

According to Bierbaum the tenacity of his team throughout the season, especially at nationals, was exceptional to witness. The MIAA Conference was the most represented conference at nationals, which is one of the toughest D2 track conferences in the nation. Bierbaum was proud to see freshman make the finals during the meet.

Bierbaum believes as the program grows and students become upperclassmen, the seasons will only get better. He said the students' experience of being on campus, using the GISC and understanding time management will be helpful in

guiding new team members.

Overall, Bierbaum believes that this program is not only helping the university, but it is helping the local running community. He hopes that their influence can help the St. Joseph high school and junior high track programs grow stronger.

After leading the Track and Field and Cross Country teams through their first season, Bierbaum resigned from Western in the summer of 2018.



## ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

BY BETHANY VONSEGGERN

Head coach Marc Bierbaum, alongside coach Cody Ingram, have guided the young cross-country team through the trials and tribulations of being in a new program. They have taught the athletes to adapt to training in an indoor field, train for a year-round season and deal with unpredictable outdoor elements.

While Bierbaum also understands working with a young and new team has its challenges due to the lack of older influence, he has seen his team grow as athletes and leaders.

"It's just as new for them [athletes] as it is for us," Bierbaum said. "It's about them learning us and us learning them; it's a challenge, but I think they've done a really good job fighting through some of the adversity and being there for each other."

Before every meet the team does a rigorous routine from jogging a lap, stretching drills and a team gathering where a student leads a pep-talk. Throughout the season it was noticeable that these team gatherings created a strong relationship among athletes.

According to Bierbaum the team trained diligently and it paid off. The women's team won their first meet in history, with six athletes placing in the top 10.

"We won our very first meet; you can't script that too much better," said Bierbaum. "To go into the regional, which is one of the tougher regionals in the nation, and to have the girls place in the top half is pretty sweet."

As both the cross-country and track and field team add more athletes each season Bierbaum is hopeful for the future. He believes they could not have been as successful without the hard work of the athletes, along with the tremendous support of Western and the local community.

## RUNNING THE DISTANCE

BY MORGAN DOYLE

Being part of a first-year program definitely had its ups and downs, but that's what makes this year and this group of athletes so memorable.

We were all recruited during the same year; the team mainly consisted of freshmen and we all became close fast. It all started when we took an interesting camping trip down to Columbia, Missouri.

We set up tents and a fire, cooked our own food, ran a lot, showered once, played card games and just hung out as a team as we all turned from 30 total strangers into teammates. It was somewhat miserable, not going to lie, but it worked, because we all became close in a little amount of time.

The coaches mowed out a cross country course behind campus, and we held a time trial before classes started. Personally, I was in a boot during cross season, but I was still there every day to support the rest of the team during scorching hot practices and lots of mileage at different locations around St. Joseph. It paid off, because it seems like every race the team ran history was made, school records were set and personal records were broken.

One super memorable moment was the first race of the season, at Northwest. Before we had our official jerseys in, the women's team won the entire race, taking the whole #BeFirst campaign pretty seriously. No one expected anything from us, and yet we'd already began to establish ourselves.

Whether it was going all the way up to compete in Roy Griak, or traveling down the street to eat dinner as a team, being able to become one big family has been such a fun experience. Going on the long road trips, practicing, competing and pushing each other every day knowing that we were making history was such a incredible feeling.





Clockwise from top: The men's and women's Cross Country team at an away meet; Kelsey Cox doesn't let the muddy waters slow her down as she keeps a consistent pace during a race; Freshman Alex Bautista keeps a steady pace as he competes at an away outdoor meet. Photo credit: Sourced





# GAME, SET, MATCH

BY MAGGIE SHARP

With five more wins than last season, Western's tennis finished the season with a 10-12 record and competed in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Championships.

The team is excited to grow and improve on their record, from five wins to 10, as well as going from being one of the only teams not in the playoffs to being a contender.

Head Coach Shawn Becker found that the improvement in the record was huge in terms of the overall performance, attitude and how the team carried themselves. He is confident it will continue.

"I am looking forward to our returners coming in because they will capitalize on the success they had this year," Becker said. "I am definitely excited about the new faces coming in to help take us to the next level."

Practice hours total between 15-18 a week, about 14 of which are generally on the court while the rest is running and conditioning. The team members do their best to practice with different hitters to identify weaknesses and use their strengths.

Sophomore Katherine Yeacker said despite many challenges including athlete injuries, exceeding five wins and creating a better record than the previous year the season was monumental for the team.

Athletics and academics are always a balancing act that players must manage during the season. This was no different for some of the athletes on this team.

Junior Joanna Abreu Roman said that time management and organization is key to helping the team keep their GPA high.

"We have a lot to do but I think we have the best team GPA overall," Roman said. "I think when you have a lot to do you just use your time carefully to get done what you need to get done and play both roles you need on campus."

The team looks forward to an exciting new season where they hope to improve their record and move forward together.



Clockwise from top: Bojana Vuksan focuses as she hits the ball back at her opponent during a match; Karolína Štrmáková swings with vigor. Štrmáková was 9-11 in singles play, 3-1 in #1 singles and played 11 matches at #2 singles; Emilee Dent watches where the ball goes after she hits it over the net. Dent had 13 appearances in the single matches during the season.  
Photo credit: John Ellis







# MIAA CHAMPIONS

BY MACKENZIE BOOS

After 17 years went by, Western volleyball made their way back into the NCAA tournament after they were awarded the No.6 seed in the central region championship.

The women went 25-11 overall with a 16-2 in conference play, while obtaining a 10-1 home winning streak.

They also won their first ever NCAA tournament match and MIAA regular season championship lead by Head Coach, Manan Carbin. She was also announced as 2017 MIAA Coach of the Year.

"My favorite part of the championship and season was to watch our team rebound from a really slow first half of the season and rebuild confidence together," Carbin said. "It's really hard to win a conference championship and it takes a lot of hard work."

Stephanie Doak, outside hitter for the Griffons, made her sophomore year memorable while leading the team in kills

per set, points and attacks. She had 478 total kills and averaged 3.73 kills per set and had a total of 509 total points which is roughly 3.98 points per set.

"We definitely talked about numbers a lot this season and holding ourselves to a high standard." Doak said. "That was a challenge for me and I was always trying to strive to get more for that game."

Another player that made quite the impact was freshman Ali Tauchen, middle hitter, from Iowa City, Iowa. Coming into the season she didn't know what to expect but hoped to make her impact on the team known and she did just that.

As well as being a middle hitter, blocking comes with that, and Tauchen made her point with 1.08 blocks per set. She takes pride in blocking because she thinks it changes the momentum and pace of the game. She said if she can get the rhythm back then that is more important than a point scored.





Tauchen was right behind Doak with a total of 362 kills, and an average of 2.72 kills per set. She also averaged 3.43 points per set.

“I love Steph, she is a great teammate,” Tauchen said. “Competing against her and all the other competitive athletes in the gym only raises your own level of play. I think that is one of the greatest things about this team. In the gym we are all competitors and push each other, and off the court we are all best friends.”

Western volleyball was also awarded at the beginning of the season a spot on the Team Academic Award list for the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

The team had to maintain at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale. They were one of eight from the MIAA to receive the award.

Western volleyball finished No. 25 in the AVCA Division II Coaches poll after winning 19 of their final 23 matches.



Opposite: The Griffons become MIAA regular season champions for the 2017 season. The Griffons won 19 of their final 23 matches, a share of the MIAA regular season championship and advanced to the NCAA Central Region semifinals despite not being ranked all season. Top: The Griffons celebrate a good play against Northwest. Bottom: volleyball coaches ring the victory bell after the season championship win. Photo credit: John Ellis



# ORGANIZATIONS



## ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

**Front Row:** Mykah Poage, Molleigh Arn, Brittany Snyder, Taylor Kull

**Second Row:** Cassie Hinkley, Hailey Gibbens, Kalynn Copenharve

**Third Row:** Hannah Gabriel, Sara Brown, Breanna Callahan

**Fourth Row:** Elizabeth Thomas, Samantha Heath

**Fifth Row:** Ryley Crabtree, Sarah Warren, Kennedy Carson

**Sixth Row:** Jerra Merrifield, Kayla Clancy, Deana Crosson

**Back Row:** Jade Cope, Colleen Meene, Ashley Holoubek, Kailyn Bauer, Dakota Jones, Alyssa Erwin, Danielle Bailey, Kourtney Chaney, Tuesday Thompson



## ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA

**Front Row:** Frankie LeMar, Kelsy Sparks, Jenna Sorensen, Darby Web, Samantha Bullock, Cheyanne Kitchen, Crystal Enciso

**Second Row:** Lydia Reynolds, Mickayla Fenimore, McKenzie Blystone, Lacey Hawkins, Nayeli Romo

**Third Row:** Kaylea Frye, Lilly Young, Mandy Curran, Mason Peynado, Shea Sears, Medeya Granado, Abbey Chauvin

**Fourth Row:** Faith laForge, Sara Coots, Abbi Lueders, Emily Griffin, Abbie Herman, Antanette Ray

**Back Row:** Maria Dias, Chloe Simmons, Hallie Wilcoxson, Tessa Schenleelberg, Mallory Gonzalez, Ashley Hill, Kairstin Snyder, Sadie Wuerfele

# ORGANIZATIONS



## ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

- Front Row:** Antonio Cristobal, Lisa Ye, Elayne Colvin, Awais Khan, Trey Scarborough  
**Second Row:** Wei Zhang, Samuel Poirier, Cecilia Tackett  
**Third Row:** Jacob Blessing, Russell Ferguson  
**Fourth Row:** Jonathan Carlisle, Bobby Purcell Jordon Altiser  
**Back Row:** Benjamin Wardlow, Riley Flint, Huaji Zhu



## BAPTIST STUDENT UNION

- Front Row:** Taylor Orton, Christine Koterman, Lilly Wright, Jessie Wright, Lindsey Morris  
**Second Row:** Eliza Testorff, Jackson Rush, Brianna J. Williams, Billy Beardsley, Elizabeth Staudenmaier, Amanda Calver, Dallas Garber, Maddie Lee  
**Third Row:** Courtney Kipping, Grace Feldmann, Taylor Meyers, Macy McCampbell, Caitlyn Glenn, Abby Wolff, Colby DeLuna, Josiah Moore, Breanna Barnett, Paul Damery  
**Fourth Row:** Abbi Brown, Brianna Erazo, McKenzi Redington, Rylee Miller, Bethany Jordan, Haley Lee, Cameron Cockrum, Kaitlyn A, Rachel Bertram, Lavell Jordan, Deir Montiel Dominguez, Miranda Dean  
**Fifth Row:** Kadie Willis, Sarah Mae Williams, Preslee Dobson, Emma Testorff, Adam Lee, Cody Lee, Brittany Price, Nicole Henley, Michael Adams  
**Back Row:** Brock Cunningham, Brad McClinkick, Damyan Cunningham, Isaac Sykes, Ciera Perez, Drew Aggus, Alex Davis, Tyler Grace, Luke Peters, Shea Stacy, Calvin Tobor, Isaac Whittman, Pablo Lax, Jacob Ruzin, Ryan Humphrey, Carson Myers, JD Scrivens, Will McKern, Joshua Falter





## CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

**Left to Right:** Denise Mason, Duncan Ottinger, Caroline Cramsey, Patrick Trapp, Cheyenne Dewey, Nick Kempf, Claire Haroldson, Sean Peters, Chris Crawford, Leeds Haroldson, Paul Godberson, Matt Ball, Jacob Heinerikson, Joe Hamilton, Bishop Johnston, Connore Daugherty, Kara Violet, Megan Jensen, Sarah Aberer, Heather Daugherty, Joe Karlinski, Dr. Jason Costanzo



## CHAMBER SINGERS

**Front Row:** Kamela Becker, Dalyn LeGrand, Grace Galbearth, Abigale Giles, Sammy Ogdahl, Jasmine Poplin, Lauren Thomson, Jenni Cobb, Maggie Archer, Emelita Barker, Heather Rossi, Mashel Keplinger, Monica King, Praise Murphy, Katie Fitzpatrick

**Second Row:** Grant Poage, Nick Gnuschke, Jarod Haynes, Trasean Stepney, Robert Vardiman, Christian Neuroth, Lamont Broomfield, BJ Myers, Garrett Peterson

**Back Row:** Brandon Birch, Cooper Bald, Dylan Walker, Marvin Byas IV, Harrison Meers, Adarius Wells, Jalen Redmond, Matthan Mrkvicka, Jackson Connors, Joseph DuFrain, Photo credit: Rebecca Foley



## CHESS CLUB

**Front Row:** Cecilia Tackett, Ben Hart

**Second Row:** Victor Tinoco, De'Lorom Coburn, Jake Spease, Joshua Williams

**Back Row:** Riley Flint, Mike Siever, Ian Fletcher, Jacob Koonce, Cody Owens



## COMMUNICATION CLUB

**Left to Right:** Bethany Vorseggern, Chandrae Traxler, Dianah Hidzir, Madison Rounkles, Dr. Jordan Atkinson





## CONCERT CHORALE

**Front Row:** Athyna Nguyen, Praise Murphy, Serena May, Marianna Strehlow, Sydney Lyle, Erica Lundy, Jasmine Poplin, Kat Handza, Kamela Becker, Austin Hoverder, Mackenzie Osborne, Jessica Erickson, Syndie Embry, Startosha Washington, Kayleigh Bell, Kianna Manning, Royale Majewski, Emily Benson, Mycah Williams, Courtney Carter, Hannah Adams, Mashel Keplinger, Conlyn Rush, Lauren Thomson, April Smith, Monica King, Abbie Brown, Anna Handza, Samantha Ogdahl, Adrianna Jenkins, Kennedy Brock, Allyson Bryson, Nychang Duoth, Becca Malin-Schwartz, Taylor Carter, Quinn Jones, Bonnie Bouc, Morgan Larrison, Kati Dellanos, Brie Eison, Marissa Sunderland, Maggie Archer, Jenni Cobb, Emelita Barker, Abigale Giles, Dallas Garber, Dalyn LeGrand, Caden Springs

**Back Row:** Brandon Birch, Trasean Stepney, Chris McFadden, Jason Harmon, Matthan Mrkvicka, Chase Merwin, Zack Jarvis, Adarius Wells, Brett Howrey, Tanner Merwin, Garrett Peterson, TJ Thompson, Robert Vardiman, Jalen Redmond, Austin Carter, Danny Campos, Joseph DuFrain, Lamont Broomfield, Cooper Bald, Grant Poage, James Taylor, Luke Brown, Harrison Meers, Jackson Connors, Nick Gnuschke, Jaron Haynes, Christian Neuroth, Dylan Walker, Duncan Ottinge



## CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

**Front:** Arniecea Johnson

**Left to Right:** Brenda Martin, Huey, Brooklyn Lance, Shaya Force, Dr. Marianne Kunkel



## GRIFFON NEWS (SPRING)

**Front Row:** Caleb May, Chloe Rhein, Brett Howery, Gannon Cornley II, Diamond Carroll

**Second Row:** Danyelle Myers, Mary Beth Rosenauer, Derek Zimmerman-Guyer, Elijah Smith, Caleb Marriott

**Back Row:** Dr. Bob Bergland, Junna Resuma, Dylan Iowder, Christopher Tenpenny, Jacob Hudanick, Jaxon Steele, Chandrae Traxler



## GRIFFON UPDATE (FALL)

**Front Row:** Justin Janorschke, Amaree Martin, Trasean Stepney, Gannon Cornley, Bailey Ketcham, Derek Zimmerman-Guyer

**Back Row:** Jake Meikel, Brett Howery, Dawson Wittman, Mackenzie Boos, Beau Baker-Vaughn, Tanner Cobb, Ida Rasmussen, Francesca Lenzini, Morgan Doyle.

Not pictured: Dr. Robert G. Nulph, Faculty Advisor





## GRIFFON UPDATE (SPRING)

**Front Row:** Gannon Cornley, Devored Horton, Bailey Ketcham, Mackenzie Boos, Danielle Bauman, Kaitlyn Doolan  
**Back Row:** Lance Lawton, Hanna Williams, Jake Meikel, Beau Baker-Vaughn, Morgan Doyle, Kenneth Guzman  
 Not pictured: Dr. Robert Nulph



## GRIFFON YEARBOOK (FALL)

**Left to Right:** Adeeb Alsaawi, Bethany Vonseggern, Mohammed Alqarni, Chase Merwin, Hyeyeon Park, Lance Lawton, Brittney Price, Maria Selby, Myleigh Lanham, Nicole Bilby, Alex Richardson, Jill Oswald, Ali Fowler, Lindsay Gomez, Dr. James Carviou



## GRIFFON YEARBOOK (SPRING)

**Front Row:** Lindsay Gomez, Dianah Hidzir, Maggie Sharp, Hyeyeon Park

**Second Row:** Chase Merwin, Ymani Park, Mackenzie Boos, Kelsea Hall

**Back Row:** Ali Fowler, Myleigh Lanham, Mohammed Alqarni, Dr. James Carviou, Bethany Vonseggern



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

**Front Row:** Sihan Zhou, Ana Lidia Maldonad Bulnes, Mariatul Dianah Hidzir, Sujata Duwal

**Second Row:** Jiuya Qin, Like Lyu, Oganya Sharon Agbaji, Maria De Los Angelos, Adebisi Adejumo, Valerina De La Fuente Suarez, Ana Vega Torrelo, Chanda Galan, Menshan Chen, Iida Suambe, Ayobami Taiwo, Srinitha Mandadi, Payal Verma, Jin Peng, Vinh Bui, Laura Do, Naftal Naftal, Hani Albaqshi

**Back Row:** Aung Moe Kyaw, Seoyeon Hong, Yesol Shin, Yeseul Hwang, Ashma Rayamajhi, Xinyi Wang, Evelina Aurell, Meng Sun





## MOCHILA REVIEW & CANVAS

**Front Row:** Mandee Greer, Mariam Hess, Sara Brown

**Second Row:** Allyson Moore, Brooklyn Lance, Megan Standley, Caitlin Dillon

**Third Row:** Lora Kroush

**Fourth Row:** Daniel HOladay, Huey, Dr. Kunkel

**Back Row:** Sam Lundy, Sky Orr, Cassie Robbins



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC EDUCATORS

**Front Row:** Garrett Peterson, Jarod Estrada, Kamela Becker, Andrew Day, Sarah Lee, Kylah Bateman, Jenni Cobb, Hannah Rose Adams, Claire Popp

**Second Row:** Lauren Thomas, Abigale Widener, Eva Mashel Keplinger, Katie Fitzpatrick, Kayleigh Bell, Morgan Larrison, Kelly Oliphant, Elise Hepworth

**Back Row:** Parker Bell, Lincoln Williams, Graham Leuvell, Aaron Guyer, Alec Schisler, Emily Benson, Brandon R. Birch, Wesley D. Sisk, Jackson Oldham, Matthan Mrkvicka



## NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP & SUCCESS

**Left to Right:** Sandy Lewandowski, Brianna Eckert, Sarah Bertram Strickland, Michael Norman, Cassandra Samuel, Alex Owens, Nicole Mills, Derek Evans



## ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT SOCIAL WORKERS

**Left to Right:** Victoria Clark, Christy Simmons, Kayla Saltgaver





## PHI DELTA

**Front Row:** Logan Meyer, Briley Krumme, Brendin Wood, Baxter Krumme, Jacob Hoppe, Derek Swymeler

**Second Row:** Jack Taber, Hayden Glaubius, Jonah Hoppe, Kody Kisner, Eli Lombardino, Nick Hanlan, Andy Peterson, Cody Kirschner, Jacob Robertson, Justin Peterson

**Back Row:** Mario Corado, Shayd Chandler, Hector Lugo, Joseph Kellogg, Landon Houghton, Tyler Reed, Jalyron Nichols, Keegan Cathcart, Kyle Fuson, Kolbe Miller, Court VanCleave, Logan Zorn



## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT CLUB

**Front Row:** Teresa Snyder, Erica Kerby, Taylor Houx, Rylee Miller

**Second Row:** Connor McDermott, Skeleton, Marisa Jordan, Halee Tharp, Sam Legrand, Nichole Owens, Miranda Sims, Savannah Blackman

**Third Row:** Chris Sadler, Aaron Wright, Braxtan Barbee, Robert T. Maus, Kevin Sugden, Kellie Smith, Taylor Burke, Katie Bruce, Jillian Beauford, Dr. Maureen Raffensperger, Corrinne Barr, Dr. Cosette Hardwick

**Fourth Row:** Waco Porter, Bryson Waitkoss, Amanda Frakes, Shannon Weixelman, Julia Obermier

**Back Row:** Dean Mertens, Daniel Corbin, Nicholas Jorgensen, Sterling Granger



## ALLIANCE IN PRIDE

**Left to Right:** Nick Montgomery, Cassandra Daldrup, Sonia Yang, Samuel Cherry



## ROTORACT

**Left to Right:** Kamela Becker, Braden Hensley, Jessica Belcher, Morgan Larrison, Mashel Keplinger





## SAUDI STUDENTS CLUB

**Left to Right:** Abdullah Enani, Suhil Almazroua, Mohammed Alqarni, Ali Albensaad, Hani Albaqshi, Adeeb Alsaawi



## SIGMA ALPHA IOTA

**Front Row:** Alexandria Null, Katie Gregory, Jennifer Cobb, Mandy Snell, Sarah Lee  
**Back Row:** Emelita Barker, Kelly Oliphant, Morgan Larrison, Samantha Schroeder, Kara Harrison, Courtney Carter



## STUDENT HONORS

### ORGANIZATION

**Front Row:** Savannah Lewis, Kelly Oliphant, Breanna Hancock, Shae Delaney, Tiffany Pimentel

**Back Row:** Lance Lawton, Raechel Tittor, Shelby Wisner, Emily Holland, Kaitlynn Derr



## TRI SIGMA

**Front Row:** Tatum Thomason, Riley Rasche, Savannah Vulgamott, Elizabeth Adams, Sidney Nerner, Carla Smith, Jaime Heine, Gianna Tutorino

**Second Row:** Paige Mathews, Brittany Bix, Cassie Sponseller, Bayley Pickering, Shannon Woods, Noelia DePietro, Breanna Baker, Cheyanne Thorpe, Laruen Coon, Natalie Kovac

**Back Row:** Brooke Hand, Autin Hoverder, Kierah Gilbert, Rachel Hagen, Kristen Hagen, Mallori Atkinson, Annie Allgaier, Kaitlyn Schmille, Meg Lewis, McKenzi Redington, Raechel Tittor, Gracie Thompson, Hannah MacKaben





## WILDLIFE SOCIETY

**Front Row:** Samuel Weber and Stephanie Malone

**Second Row:** Bryan Rosinski and Jackie Herron

**Third Row:** Madi Deshazo, Tyler Flowers, Caitlin Glore, Kasey Sharp

**Fourth Row:** Christian Sarna, Faye Thammarat, Cassandra Daldrup

**Fifth Row:** Kait Atkins, Amanda Schroeder, Branden Doering

**Sixth Row:** Colton Davidson, Chris Watson, Samuel Miller

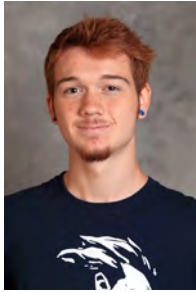
**Seventh Row:** Nathan Barnett, Deric Bishiop, Dr. Cary D. Chevalier, Issac Whitman, Nicholas Darling

**Back Row:** Blake Koelling, Adam Woodrum, James Filley

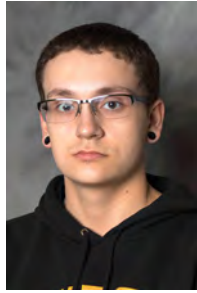
**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AT WESTERN:**

**ALPHA CHI**    ALPHA KAPPA PSI    **ALPHA PHI ALPHA**    ALPHA PSI OMEGA  
**ALPHA SIGMA PHI**    ANIME CLUB    **BETA BETA BETA**  
BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY    BLACK STUDENT UNION    BOARD GAME CLUB    BOWLING CLUB  
**CHRISTIAN CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP**    CLAY GUILD    CRU (CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST)  
EPSILON TAU PI-LAMBDA    GENTLEMEN OF COLOR    **GRIFFON SOCCER**  
HISTORY SOCIETY    HONORS LEAGUE    INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL    KAPPA MU EPSILON  
LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION    **NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL**    NEW VINE  
NON TRADITIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION    PANHELLENIC    PHI BETA SIGMA  
PHI EPSILON KAPPA    PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA    PI SIGMA ALPHA    **POLITICS CLUB**  
PRE-PROFESSIONAL    **PSI CHI**    RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION    SHOTGUN CLUB  
SPANISH CLUB    STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION    STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION  
**STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA**    STUDENT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION  
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE    SUBSET OF UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICAL STUDENTS  
TAU KAPPA EPSILON    **THE POWER ORG**    WESTERN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL    **WOMEN OF THE FUTURE**





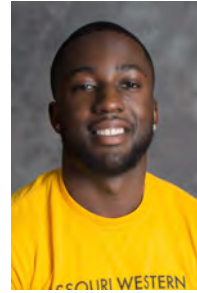
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Abels



Nelson  
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Sarah  
Acuff



Lookman  
Afolayan



Oganya  
Agbaji



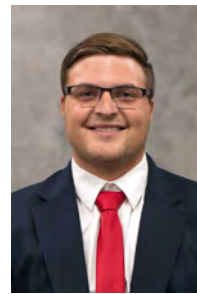
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Aguilera Tovar



Al-Ameen  
Agunbiade



Kyleigh  
Aksamit



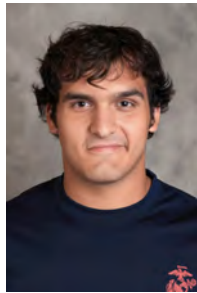
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Aldrich



Melany  
Aldridge



Hanan  
Algurashy



Mohammad  
Alkhatib



Ben  
Allen



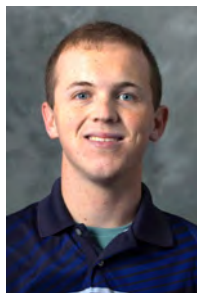
Annie  
Allgaier



Mohammed  
Alqarni



Abdul  
Alshahrani



Jordon  
Altiser



Molleigh  
Arn



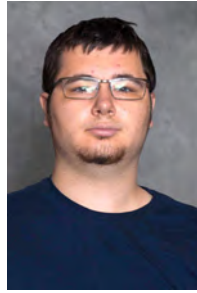
Zach  
Baase



Montana  
Baker



Cooper  
Bald



Matthew  
Ball



Alex  
Bangert



Julie  
Anne Barber



Breanna  
Barnett



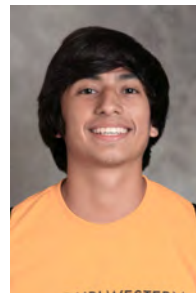
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Barrios



Austin  
Bauer



Kailyn  
Bauer



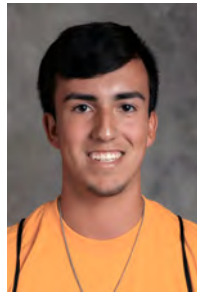
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Bautista



Asya  
Beasley



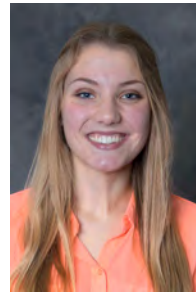
Jaquise  
Benjamin



Joe  
Benkovich



Brennan  
Bennett



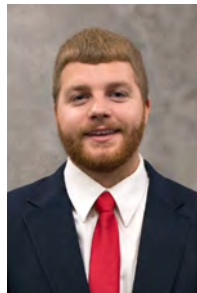
Rachel  
Bertram



Corbin  
Beyer



Nicole  
Bilby



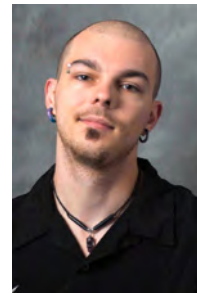
Dylan  
Blackwell



Raymon  
Blades



Ava  
Blessie



Jacob  
Blessing





## INDIGO GAYDUSEK

**Year:** Super senior

**Major:** Studio Art with a painting concentration and minor in printmaking and sculpture

**What is your favorite spot on and off campus?**

Off, is golden glaze donut shop and on would be my best friends room.

**What is your favorite thing to do?**

Deep conversations with friends.

**What do you do in your free time?**

Practice guitar and ukulele. I teach myself foreign languages, Spanish and Chinese.

**What is the best and worst excuses you have given as a student?**

Best excuse, both of the bathrooms were closed.  
Worst, I guess I just had too much other stuff going on.

**What do you wish you had more time to do?**

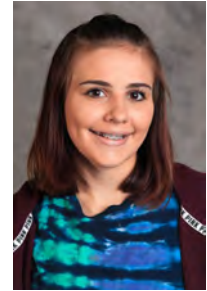
Study the bible.

**What advice do you have for other students?**

You have to decide whether you're stressed or not.  
You have to do the work anyway, why stress?



Collin Boan



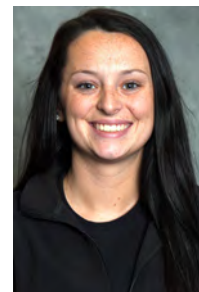
Sophia Bodager



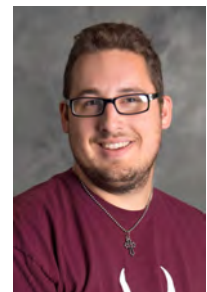
Skylan Bolin



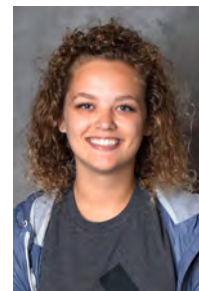
Alex Boll



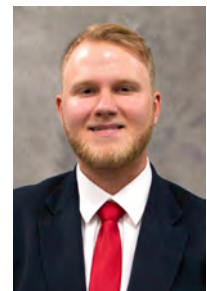
Mackenzie Boos



Jordan Booth



Taylor Bottorff



Kurt Thomas Bowman



Blake  
Bradley



Dylan  
Bradshaw



Mary  
Branson



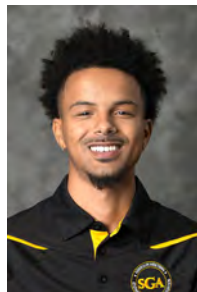
Robert  
Bremer



Sly  
Brewster



Allen  
Brickey



Matthew  
Brimble



Kennedy  
Brock



Alexis  
Brockman



Breanna  
Brown



Kara  
Brown



Markee  
Brown



Jennifer  
Bufkin



Takyra  
Buford



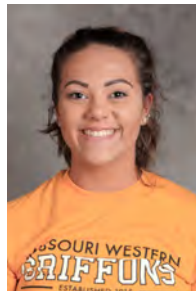
Talbott  
Buford



Taylor  
Burner



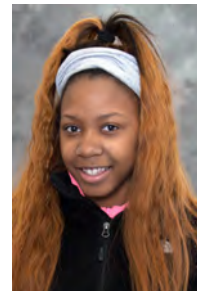
Darion  
Burris



Breanna  
Callahan



Dejah  
Campbell



Alexia  
Carlisle





Jonathan  
Carlisle



Diamond  
Carroll



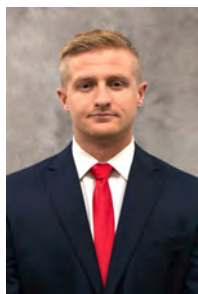
Kennedy  
Carson



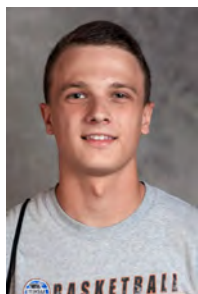
Courtney  
Carter



Taylor  
Carter



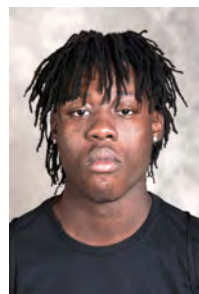
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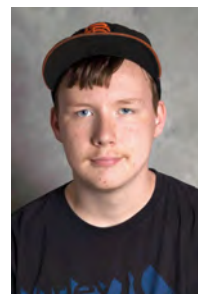
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Cassity



Kourtney  
Chaney



Damontae  
Chapman



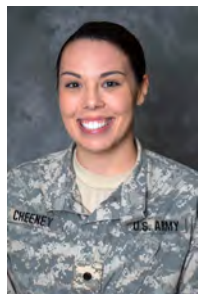
Joseph  
Chapman



Skylar  
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Carrisa  
Chatman



Halley  
Cheeney



Kimberly  
Chilton



Sanhith  
Chinta



Johnathan  
Chittum



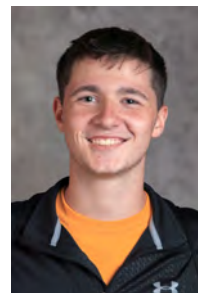
Chloe



Reece  
Christensen



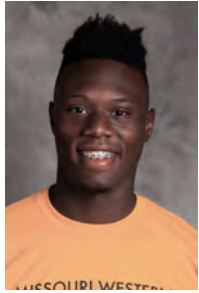
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Clancy



Zackary  
Clark



Emily  
Clay



Malik  
Clayborn



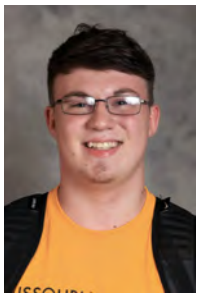
De'lorom  
Coburn



Sara  
Collins



Elayne  
Colvin



William  
Kyle Constable



Lauren  
Coon



Jade  
Cope



Maggie  
Copenhaver



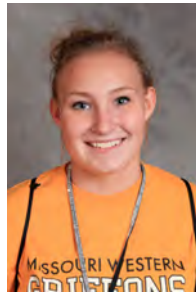
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Coutts



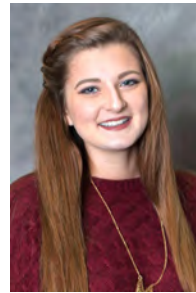
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Crabtree



Antonio  
Cristobal



Brooke  
Crosser



Felicity  
Crossland



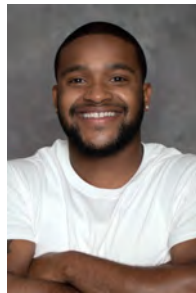
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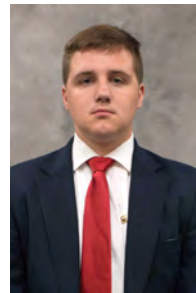
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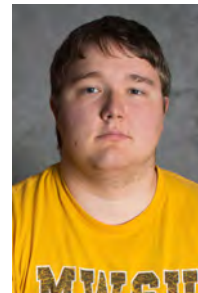
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Cruz



Darian  
Cunningham



Andrew  
Cupp



Zachary  
Czarnecki

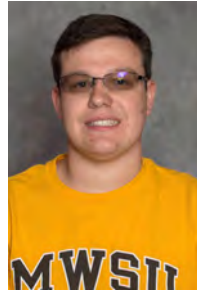




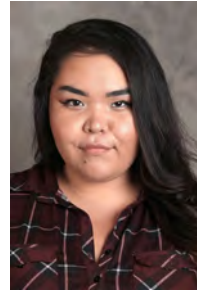
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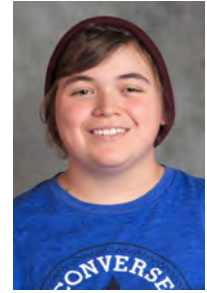
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Davis



Slayde  
Day



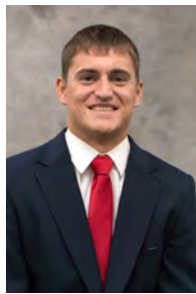
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Delicia



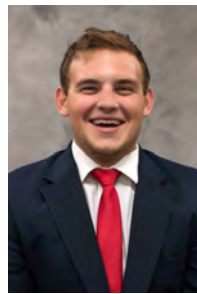
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Derr



Cheyenne  
Dewey



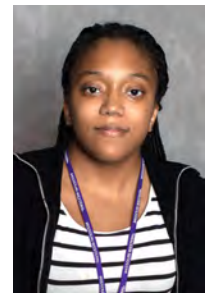
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Dittmore



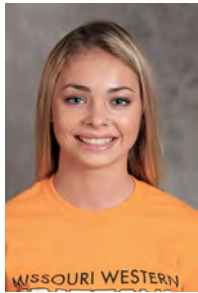
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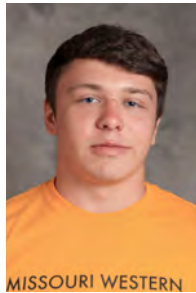
Alexa  
Dixon



Jasmine  
Dixon



Jordan  
Dodson



Mason  
Doll



Maddy  
Dollar



Tayla  
Doolittle



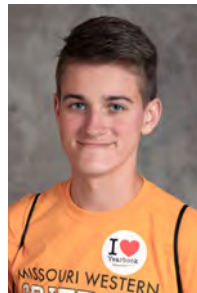
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Driskill



Derek  
Drury



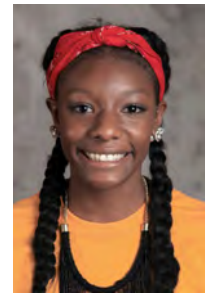
Joseph  
Dufrein



Justin  
Dukelow



Rebecca  
Dunaway



Adrianna  
Duncan

**Name:**  
Dylan Walker

**Year:**  
Junior

**Major:**  
Music  
Technology



**What advice do you have for other students?**

Go to your classes. For the love of God, go to your classes! It is almost impossible to fail your classes if you go to them. When you don't go to your classes, your grades start to tank.

**What is the best part of being a student here?**

The music department, especially. It is really accepting and most people are kind...I just like the kind of family aspect of it, where you can go and sit down next to anybody and have a conversation with them.

**What do you like to do in your free-time?**

Make music. I also really like making jewelry. I'm wearing some right now that I've made.

**Name:**  
Quinn Jones

**Year:**  
Freshman

**Major:**  
Undecided



**What advice do you have for other students?**

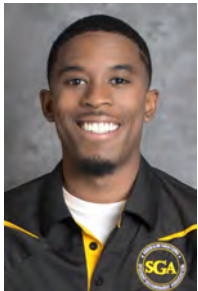
I would encourage them to join things. For me, I joined choir right off the bat just because I knew it would be somewhere I was comfortable. Definitely join something and don't be afraid to talk to people.

**What is the best part about being a student here?**

I think it's how inclusive the campus is because there is always something for everyone to do. Like, if you're bored one night, there's definitely something going on that you can go do.

**What is your favorite spot on or off campus?**

Probably Blum just because you can relax, study and socialize.



Rondale  
Dunn



Sydney  
Durbin



Sujata  
Duwal



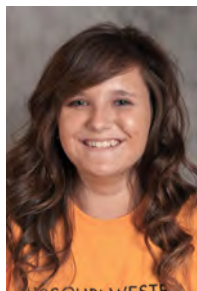
Kenell  
Edwards



Venkateshwarlu  
Egurla



Diazhane  
Ellis



Morgan  
Ellis



Brianna  
Erazo



Alyssa  
Erwin

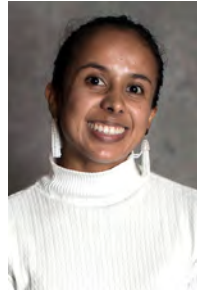


Shelly  
Essary





Hunter  
Estes



Daniela  
Estevez Mena



Cameron  
Evans



Talequa  
Evans



Katie  
Farr



Ashley  
Febo



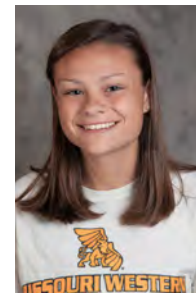
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Feldmann



Russell  
Ferguson



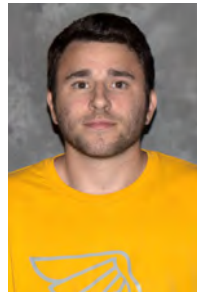
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Field



Hannah  
Fischer



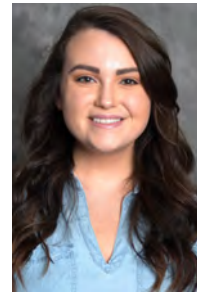
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Flint



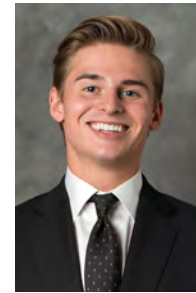
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Flush



Peter  
Fortmeyer



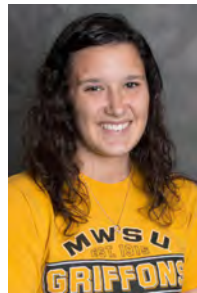
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Kyle  
Fuson



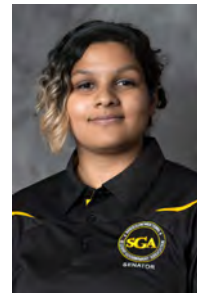
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Gaines



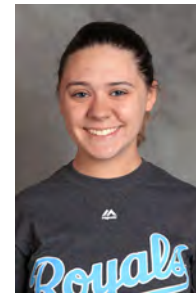
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Gardner



Hailey  
Gibbens



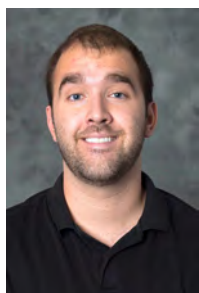
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Gilberty



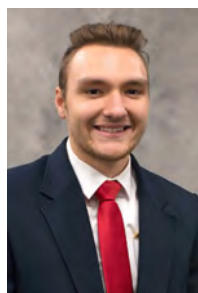
Caitlyn  
Glenn



Megan Goens



Tyler Goin



Connor Goldsborough



Lindsay Gomez



Nathan Gonder



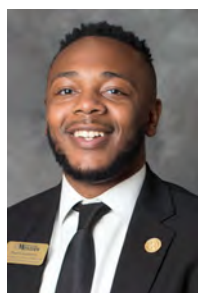
Riley Gorham



Dylan Grable



Tayonnie Granberry



Paul Granberry lii



Sabastian Grant



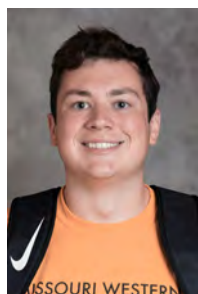
Amber Gray



Graceland Greener



Mandy Greer



Corey Greim



Bobbie Griffin



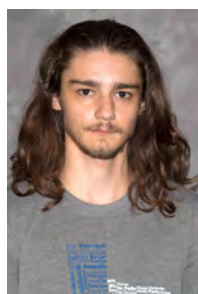
Emily Griffin



Allyssa Griggs



Devin Guerrero



Russell Gummelt



Stephanie Gummelt





Kristen  
Hagen



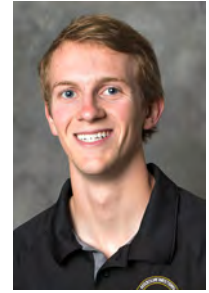
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Hagen



Haley  
Hall



Kelsea  
Hall



Nicklaus  
Hanlan



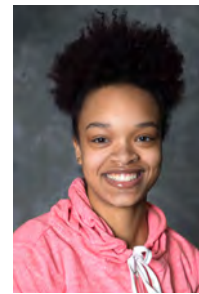
Cal  
Hansley



Jarlisha  
Hardimon



Justin  
Hardin



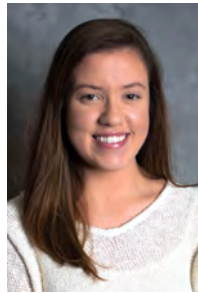
Arianna  
Harrell



Angel  
Harrison



Brandon  
Harrison



Grace  
Hart



Samantha  
Heath



Kyle  
Heckenbach



Jaime  
Heine



Marissa  
Henderson



Nicole  
Henley



Brady  
Hensley



Mackenzie  
Herrman



Dianah  
Hidzir



Chad Higgins



Connor Highsmith



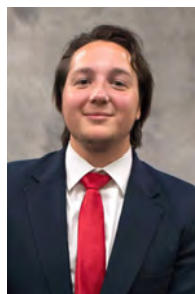
Ravyn Highsmith



Beau Hill



Lauren Hill



Zach Hill



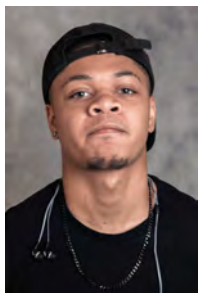
Cassie Hinkley



Shelby Holcer



Cj Holdsworth



Jason Holliman



Spencer Hollowell



Ashley Holoubek



Photo credit: John Ellis

## PATRICK MCCARTHY

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Sports Management

### How long have you been playing golf?

I have been playing golf since I was about five. But I picked it back up and seriously in middle school. I started taking lesson in about fifth or sixth grade.

### What got you into playing in the first place?

My dad plays golf and he taught me early on and got me involved in the game. I would always follow him around the course when I was little and hit with little plastic clubs.

### What is your dream course to play on?

My dream course to play is Augusta National Golf Club it is just so beautiful and important to the game of golf. I got the opportunity to see the course in 2016 at the Master's Tournament.

### Western Season Highlights:

- Named to the NCAA Division II PING All-Central Region Team
- MIAA Freshman of the Year for the 2016-2017 season
- First freshman to qualify for regional as an individual in program history





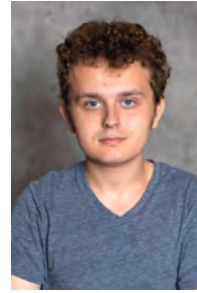
Landon  
Houghton



Britane  
Hubbard



Sondi  
Hunter



Jeremy  
Hurd



Eric  
Hurt li



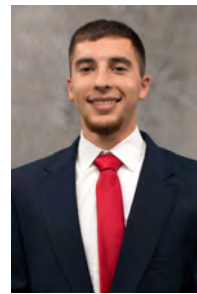
Lisa  
Ilyas



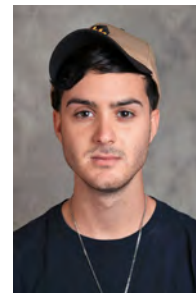
Jordan  
Jackson



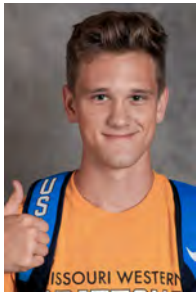
Taylor  
Jackson



Justin  
Jacobs



Pablo  
Jax



Nate  
Jelinek



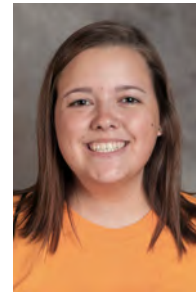
Adrianna  
Jenkins



William  
Jenkins



Jordan  
Jennings



Katelyn  
Joe



Lakota  
Johnson



Kayla  
Johnson



Hannah  
Johnston



Briannai  
Jones



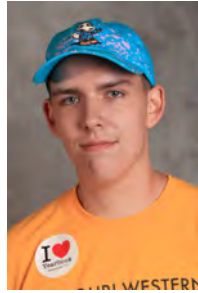
Jaquae  
Jones



Quinn Jones



Lucie Jonnier



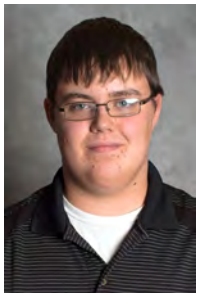
Joseph Karlinski



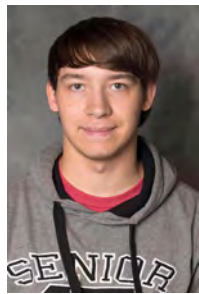
Neiley Karns



Saw Ke



Jon Keel



Caleb Kelley



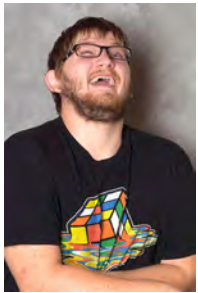
Annaka Kellogg



Myia Kelly



Austin Kemp



Nicholas Kempf



Tanner Kerns



Awais Khan



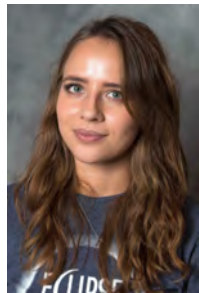
Kelsee Kissick



Martha Koch



Ryan Kolbe



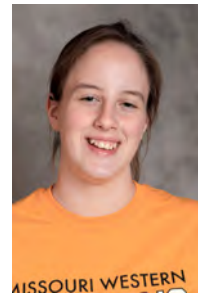
Jessica Kopp



Raghavendra Kotakonda



Madison Kozisek



Sarah Krickeberg





Thu  
Kyaw



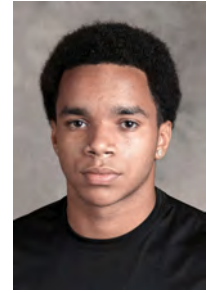
Chanda  
Lama



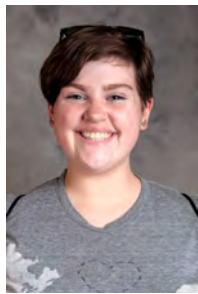
Myleigh  
Lanham



Lance  
Lawton



Dylan  
Leblue



Daylon  
Legrand



Noah  
Leibrandt



Jun  
Lian



Denitra  
Like



Mya  
Like

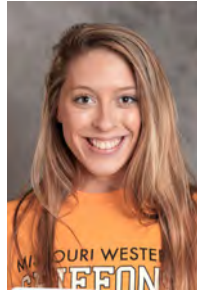
Never a dull moment with **Andrea Gordon** and **Jashira Bolden** as they discuss the new student group, **Power Organaization**. Gordon is one **passionate** student who has started an organization to **make a difference** on campus.



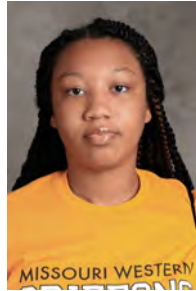
Photo credit: Bethany Vonseggern



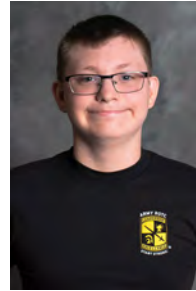
Devon  
Lindstrom



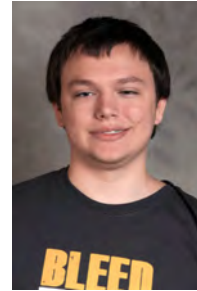
Kylie  
Lineberry



Maleya  
Locke-Lopez



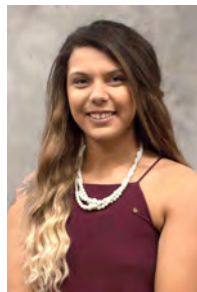
Jacob  
Loftin



Jacob  
Long



Jhadaci  
Maag



Tiffany  
Mabery



Roman  
Madrigal



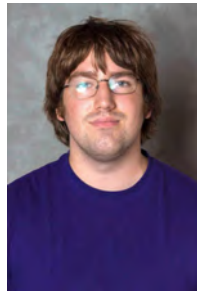
Abdulaziz  
Mallawi



Domenico  
Marino



Brenda  
Martin



Brenden  
Martin



Denise  
Mason



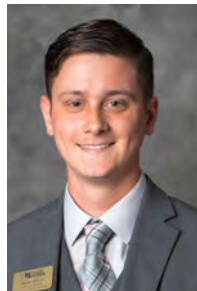
Ashley  
Mathis



Taylor  
Mccloud



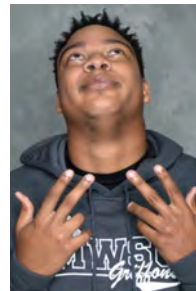
Meaghan  
Mcconkey



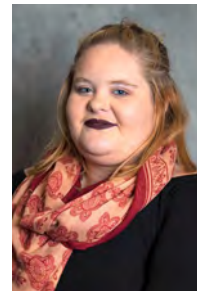
Tucker  
Mccoy



Shechaniah  
Mcghee

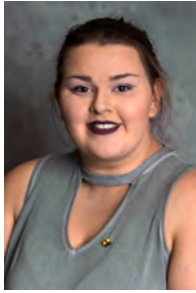


Marcus  
Mckenzie



Colleen  
Meene





Jerra  
Merrifield



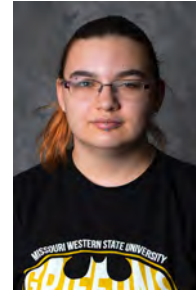
Kenneth  
Mertens



Chase  
Merwin



Josh  
Mesmer



Alexis  
Meyer



Natalie  
Miller



Samuel  
Miller



Yavonna  
Mitchell



Khaja  
Moinuddin Syed



Kassidy  
Monday



Bryar  
Moppin



Jabob  
Morgan



Ryan  
Morris



Lindsay  
Mosher



Benjamin  
Murphy



Amani  
Myers



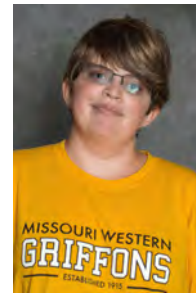
Carson  
Myers



Naftal  
Nafta



Riddhi  
Naik



Molly  
Nashan



Jenna  
Nelson



Anh  
Nguyen



Holly  
Nicas



Valerie  
Nierman



Nathan  
Nkongolo



Anika  
Nobs



Aaron  
Nugel



Alison  
Nutt



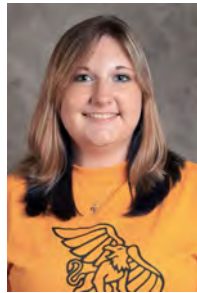
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Mackenzie  
O'neil



Kelsi  
Oberhauser



Taylor  
Oden



Onolabi



Tyce  
Orr



Jill  
Oswald



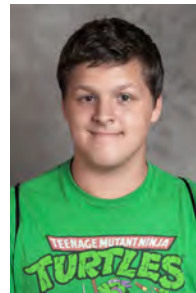
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Dante  
Owens



Hyeyeon  
Park



Jeffery  
Parker

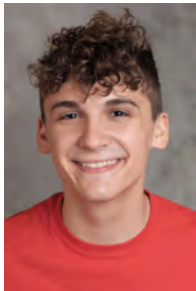


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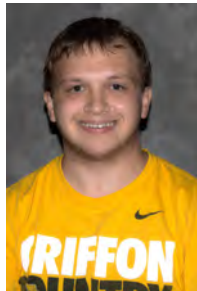




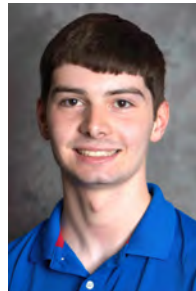
Griffon leaders help new students navigate through their orientation materials at **Griffon Edge**. This event is a way for new students to get acclimated to the campus, meet other students and learn about how to get involved with the university. Photo credit: Office of Public Relations & Marketing



Jared  
Parsons



Josh  
Pearson



Sean  
Peters



Shelby  
Pettigrew



Sydney  
Phelps



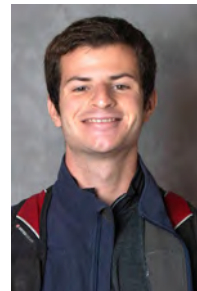
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Phipps



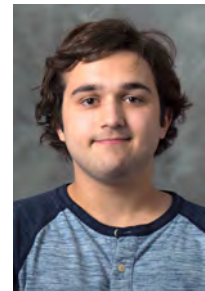
Bayley  
Pickering



Deonika  
Pittman



Luke  
Pitts



Samuel  
Poirier





Tatyana Powell



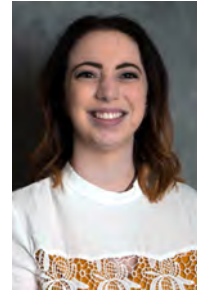
Brittany Price



Cameron Price



Jassmynee Pritchett



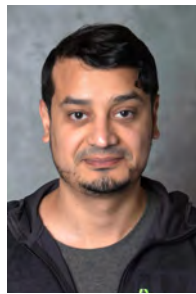
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Michala Pulliam



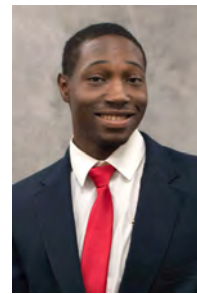
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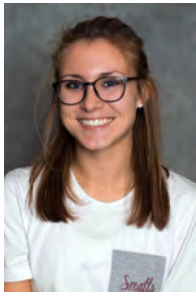
Ibrahim Qahtani



Jiuya Qin



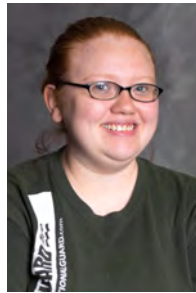
Eddie Quinton



Riley Rasche



Ashma Rayamajhi



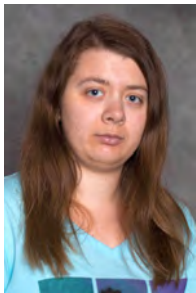
Sarah Raynor



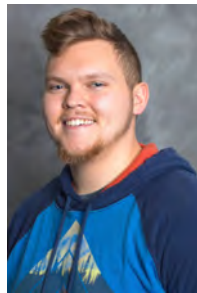
Mckenzi Redinton



Matthew Regan



Cheyenne Reid



Alex Richardson



Octavia Riley



Abigail Rinehart

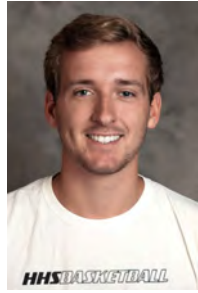


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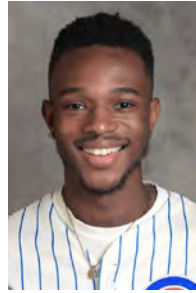




Sammy Roberts



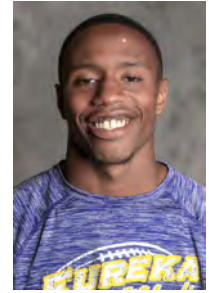
Scot Roberts



Elijah Roland



Nicholas Ross



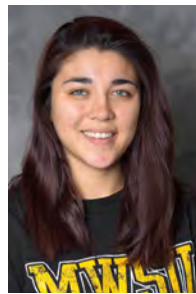
Andrew Rush



Mallory Saladen



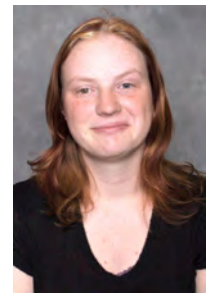
Paul Sanchez



Perla Sanchez



Frantz Sanon



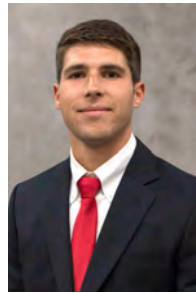
Monica Sansoucie



Caleb Sapp



Christian Sarna



Colton Saunders



Trey Scarborough



Tessa Schenkelberg



Chayse Schmidt



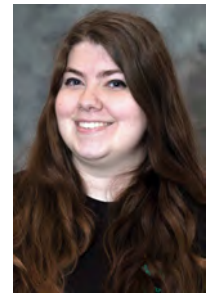
Kaitlyn Schmille



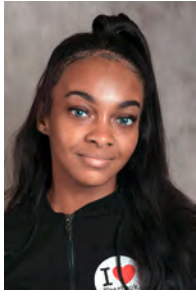
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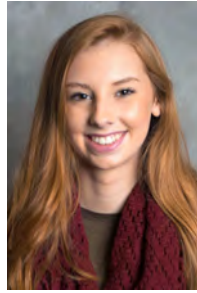
Jonathon Sculley



Maria Selby



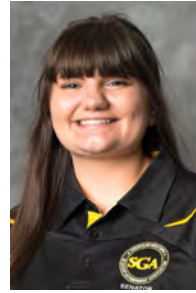
Sunni Sellers



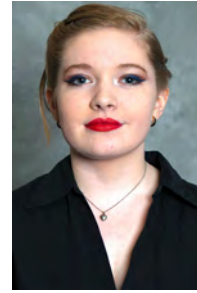
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Kasey Sharp



Kaylee Sharp



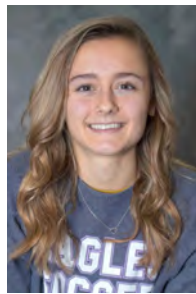
Maggie Sharp



Sid Shelby



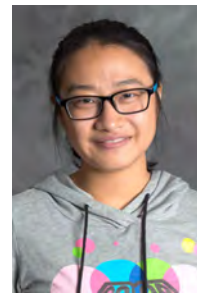
Layne Sheperd



Herner Sidney



Michael Siever



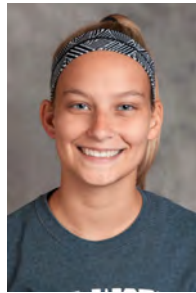
Zhou Sihan



Christy Simmons



Charles Skyles



Carla Smith



Israel Smith



Nathan Smith



Showtime Smith



Brittany Snyder



Kairstin Snyder



Hayden Solomon

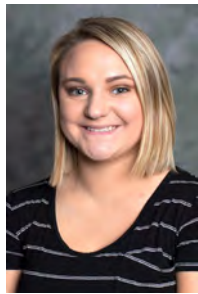


Alexis Spicer





Cassandra  
Sponseller



Kendra  
Sportsman



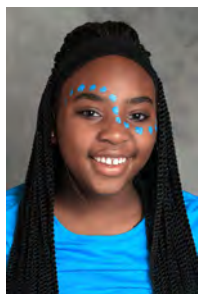
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Christopher  
Stanley



Marianna  
Stehlow



Tyesha  
Steverson



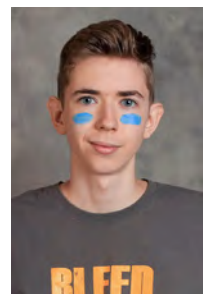
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Meng  
Sun



Mikelyn  
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Calvin  
Tabor



Cecilia  
Tackett



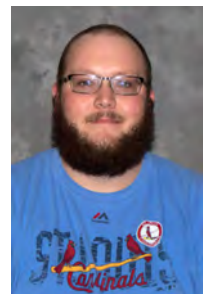
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Taiwo



Alexandra  
Tauchen



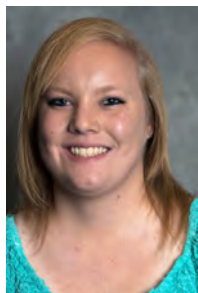
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James  
Theriac



Jonathan  
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Elizabeth  
Thomas



Dallas  
Thompson



Grace  
Thompson



Tyler  
Thompson





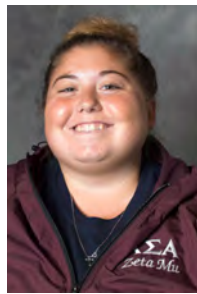
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Cheyenne Thorpe



Arionne Thrash



Hayley Tiller



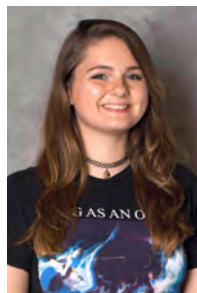
Tara Timmerman



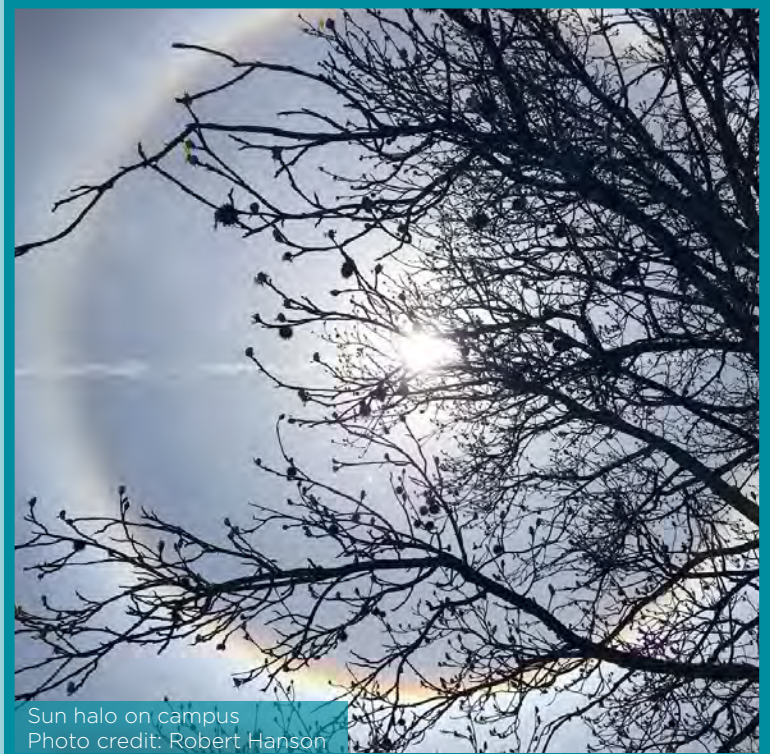
Will Tindall



Raechel Tittor



Chandrae Traxler



Sun halo on campus  
Photo credit: Robert Hanson



Cross Country athletes  
Photo credit: Sourced



Bid Day 2018  
Photo credit: Dianah Hidzir





Teonia  
Triplett



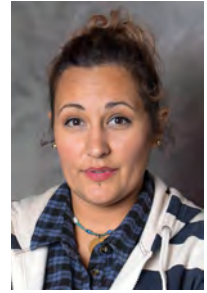
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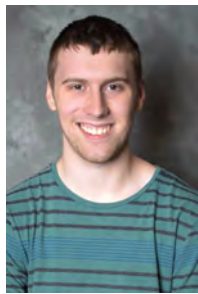
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Turner



Jazmin  
Udave



Amanda  
Valencia



Austin  
Vance



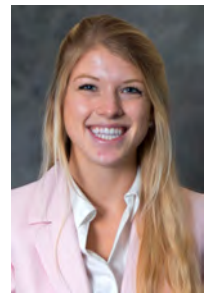
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Bethany  
Vonseggern



Dallas  
Vulgamott



Savannah  
Vulgamott



Jacob  
Wagner



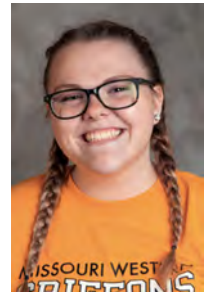
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Benjamin  
Wardlow



Rahman  
Warner



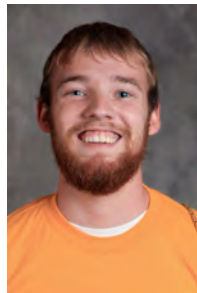
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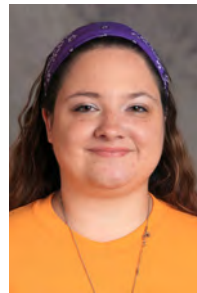
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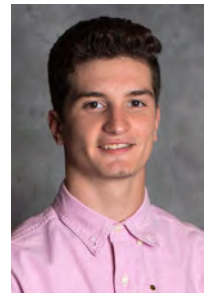
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Brennan  
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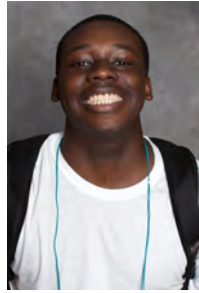
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Seth  
Wetzell



Rebecca  
Wheeler



Darius  
Wherry



Charles  
Whitmill



Ally  
Whitt



Marissa  
Wiederholt



Alexandria  
Wilkerson



Brittiany  
Williamson



Kadie  
Willis



Abby  
Wolff



Wayley  
Woodbury



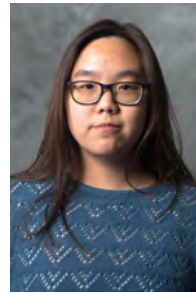
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Sara  
Wyss



Sonia  
Yang



Lisa  
Ye



Jacob  
York



Mariah  
Young



Emily  
Zawodny-Walkup



Ryan  
Zepeda



Wei  
Zhang



Huaji  
Zhu





Ryan Addington



James Adkins



Kaye Adkins



Patricia Adkisson



Jessica Agnew



Shaun Agnew



James Albright



Jimmy Albright



Kevin Anderson



Jennifer Atkinson



Jordan Atkinson



Dawn Baker



Jason Baker



Julie Baldwin



James Bargar



Csengele Barta



Cynthia Bartles



Ana Bausset



Stacia Bensyl



Robert Bergland



Christopher Bond



Melody Boring



Lisa Breckenridge



Peter Britton



Connie Brock



Steven Brooks



Carolyn Brose



Patricia Brost



Rhonda Brown



Laurie Bryantcoe



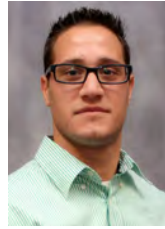
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Bucklein



Michael  
Buckler



William  
Burnich



Christa  
Byer



Mike  
Cadden



Ben  
Caldwell



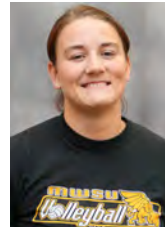
Cristi  
Campbell



Elizabeth  
Canon



Greg  
Carbin



Marian  
Carbin



James  
Carviou



Michael  
Charlton



Brock  
Chartier



Lori  
Chester



Cary  
Chevalier



Michael  
Chiao



Paul  
Choi



William  
Church



Susan  
Claffin



Gary  
Clapp



Pam  
Clary



Debra  
Cole



Andrea  
Collinskeller



Aaron  
Coombs



Jason  
Costanzo



Jeanie  
Crain



Debbie  
Crisler



Brian  
Cronk



Noel  
Cross





Jeanne Daffron



Melissa Daggett



Douglas Davenport



Dominic Debrincat



Teddi Deka



Lane Desautel



Greg Dillon



Regan Dodd



Dawn Drake



Mike Ducey



Todd Eckdahl



Chad Edwards



Matthew Edwards



Douglas Eicher



Chad Elifrits



Brett Esely



Jonathan Euchner



Castillo-Ortiz F. Eduardo



Latoya Fitzpatrick



Rebecca Foley



Tim Ford



Derek Frieling



Jessica Frogge



Jana Frye



Eric Fuson



Carissa Ganong



Sue Godbolt



Christopher Godfrey



Michael Grantham



Rachel Graves



Beth  
Gregory



John  
Gregory



Scott  
Groner



Traci  
Grove



Konrad  
Gunderson



Angela  
Haas



Reza  
Hamzaee



Julie  
Hansbrough



Robert  
Hanson



Sonia  
Hanson



Lee  
Harrelson



Barbara  
Harris



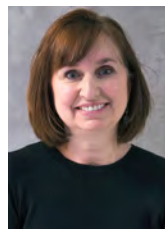
Crystal  
Harris



David  
Harris



Shawna  
Harris



Teresa  
Harris



Evan  
Hart



Connie  
Hecker



Jennifer  
Hegeman



Kent  
Heier



## Greg Nikes Bookstore Manager

### What is the first thing you do when you leave campus?

I head home - I usually get home and flip on the news. How's that for boring?

### What's the best part about working at Western?

Just being able to interact with all age groups, I figure. I started here when I was pretty young and a lot of students were my age or a little bit younger. It got to be where some of the people I knew - their kids started coming through and now their grandkids are coming through. I've actually been here for almost 40 years.

### What advice do you have for students?

As far as succeeding in class this is going to sound like an oversimplification, go to class. I think a lot of times, whether you think you are or not, you're probably absorbing a lot of the information if you're sitting in there, listening. I think a lot of times people tend to go only when they think it's kind of important and I wouldn't say you would be an A student by just showing up, but I think you could go a long way to succeeding if you basically just show up and give the effort.





Kelly Henry



Matt Hepworth



John Hewitt



Shauna Hiley



Jeff Hinton



Kathleen Holeman



Jeanette Holland



Mike Holloran



Teri Holt



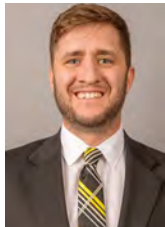
Scorpio Horn



Chelsea Howlett



Peter Hriso



Cody Ingold



Debby Irvine



Jennifer Jackson



Julie Jedlicka



Deborah Jeffries



Adam Jelovic



Adrienne Johnson



Becky Johnson



Britton Johnson



Ali Kamali



Robin Kelly



Joseph Kenall-Morwick



Heather Kendall



Michael Kimmel



Jody King



Suzanne Kissock



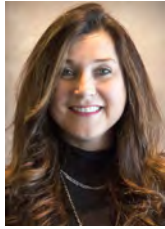
Timothy Kissock



Steve Klassen



Pam  
Klaus



Gladys  
Kline



Joshua  
Knight



Brady  
Kopek



Karen  
Koy



Justin  
Kraft



David  
Kratzmathies



Greg  
Kriewitz



Patty  
Kuecler



Marianne  
Kunkel



Yipkei  
Kwok



Bob  
Lance



Catherine  
Lawson



Greg  
Lawson



Larry  
Lawson



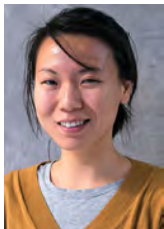
Peggy  
Leland



Jay  
Lemanski



Mark  
Lewis



Kathy  
Liao



Greg  
Lindsteadt



Sherry  
Lisenbee



Tony  
Loeffler



Bob  
Long



Josh  
Looney



Steve  
Lorimor



Christina  
Lund



Brett  
Luthans



Dalong  
Ma



Morgan  
Mallory



Gordon  
Mapley





Dan Stevens  
Academic Advisor

**As a professor, what are some of the worst, or best, excuses that students have given you?**

I remember when I was an undergraduate one of my professors said that he had wished that he had kept a diary of all the things students have said, and I should have listened to him way back in the 70s when he told me that. There's a variety of comments that students will make over the years, and I don't know if I have any favorite or worst

ones but it's interesting to hear some of them. Of course, there's some legitimate comments as well, but I think professors go through the years and kind of listen carefully for clues for what is going on in students' lives. Sometimes those comments can lead you to other questions and concerns that are going on in their lifetime to help them move forward.

**What is the best part of teaching at Western?**

I think the best part of teaching is watching the students grow. I get to see them come in as freshmen or transfer students and I've been here long enough, now, to see some of my initial students graduate. And that's what we're here for, to make sure that students have that support system, that they have someone they can come to, and that they start off on the right track so they don't take classes that they don't need toward their degree. So, to watch them all cross the stage hootin' and hollarin' and watching their family members' faces light up, that's what we're here for - it's that support. It sounds kind of hokey but it's really what we're here for - to make sure you're on track, to make sure that you graduate, and to make sure you get what you want. It's your adventure. Even though I advise - the old poster says "I advise, you decide" - because it really is your adventure. Watching those kids graduate... it's a joy!



David  
Marble



Joe  
Marmund



Susan  
Martens



Fumi  
Matsumotocheever



Nathanael  
May



Lori  
Mccune



Nick  
Mccutcheon



Dana  
Mcdaniel



Jennie  
Mcdonald



David  
McMahan



Rico  
Mcneela



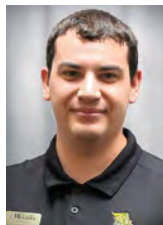
David  
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Ryan  
Menley



Shana  
Meyer



Tyler  
Meyer



Jay  
Meyers



Natalie  
Mikita



Amy  
Miller



Toni  
Millis



Louise  
Mills



Mark  
Mills



Sergio  
Molina



Gaywyn  
Moore



Wes  
Moore



Jill  
Morsbach



Jim  
Mulder



Leanne  
Murray



Shiva  
Nandan



Peter  
Nelson



Jomel  
Nichols



Laura  
Nold



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Noyaert



Robert  
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Linda  
Oakleaf



James  
Okapal



Paul  
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Alicia  
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Owens



Kassie  
Payne



Chase  
Peeples



Jerry  
Pickman



Lawrence  
Pilgrim



Jeffrey  
Poet



Jessica  
Poet



Elizabeth  
Potts

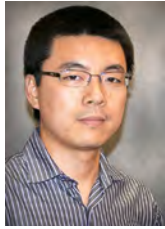


Sandy  
Prescher



William  
Puett





Long  
Qiao



Gretchen  
Quenstedt-Moe



Bin  
Qui



Thomas  
Rachow



Maureen  
Raffensperger



Ann  
Rahmat



Bethann  
Reinert



Jonathan  
Rhoad



Glenn  
Rice



Justin  
Richter



Stacey  
Rieck



Jennet  
Riggs



Madeline  
Rislow



Mike  
Ritter



Miguel  
Rivera-Taupier



Annie  
Roberts



Nicki  
Robertson



Dennis  
Rogers



Ben  
Rops



Tilottama  
Roy



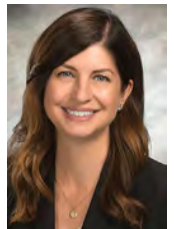
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Scharteldunn



Carolyn  
Schindler



Kendy  
Scudder



Tracy  
Sharp



Daniel  
Shepherd



Jenny  
Sherlock



Brandt  
Shields



Kay  
Siebler



Paula  
Sigman



Kim  
Sigrist



Alec  
Sithole



Machele  
Skinner



Kelly  
Sloan



Kipton  
Smilie



Deb  
Smith



Melody  
Smith



Michael  
Smith



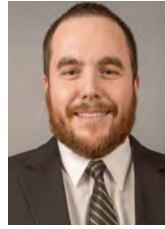
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Soper



Jennifer  
Soper-Wilper



Shaina  
Spooner



Patrick  
St.louis



Debby  
Steinman



Dan  
Stevens



Jeff  
Stover



Stan  
Svojanovsky



Elliot  
Swope



Alana  
Tackett



Shensheng  
Tang



Prashant  
Tarun



Alecia  
Taylor



Dawn  
Terrick



Elizabeth  
Thorne-Wallington



Yen  
To



Deb  
Treat



Daniel  
Trifan





Stacy  
Turner



David  
Tushaus



Deatra  
Tyler



Latha  
Varghese



Robert  
Vartabedian



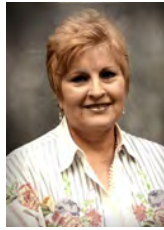
Gregory  
Vecchi



Amit  
Verma



Sharon  
Vest



Barbara  
Voigt



Christi  
Waggoner



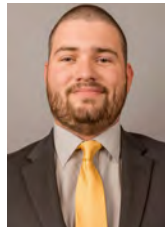
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Walsh



Kristen  
Walton



Dongni  
Wan



Ryan  
Watts



Kim  
Weddle



Annette  
Weeks



Brett  
Weiberg



Kristy  
Weiberg



Matt  
Whipple



Corey  
White



Jesse  
White



Caroline  
Whiteman



Sundance  
Wicks



Vicky  
Widner



Kelci  
Wigger



Tammy  
Wiley



Robert  
Willenbrink



Anna  
Williams



Dixie  
Williams



Matt  
Williamson



Tom  
Williamson



Kip  
Wilson



Jeff  
Woodford



Pam  
Woodruff



Betsy  
Wright



Baoqiang  
Yan



George  
Yang



Nichola  
Yeager



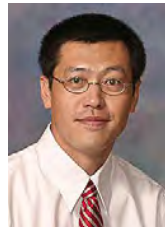
Bill  
Youtsey



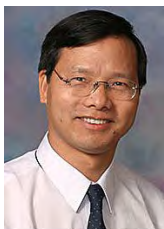
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Yurov



Mei  
Zhang



Zhao  
Zhang



Jinwen  
Zhu



Christine  
Ziemer



Mark  
Zuptich



Marissa Steimel, Events & New Student Program  
Coordinator. Photo credit: Diane Holtz



Mike Scroggs, Technical Operations Coordinator.  
Photo credit: Myleigh Lanham



Chad Edwards, Soccer Head Coach.  
Photo credit: John Ellis



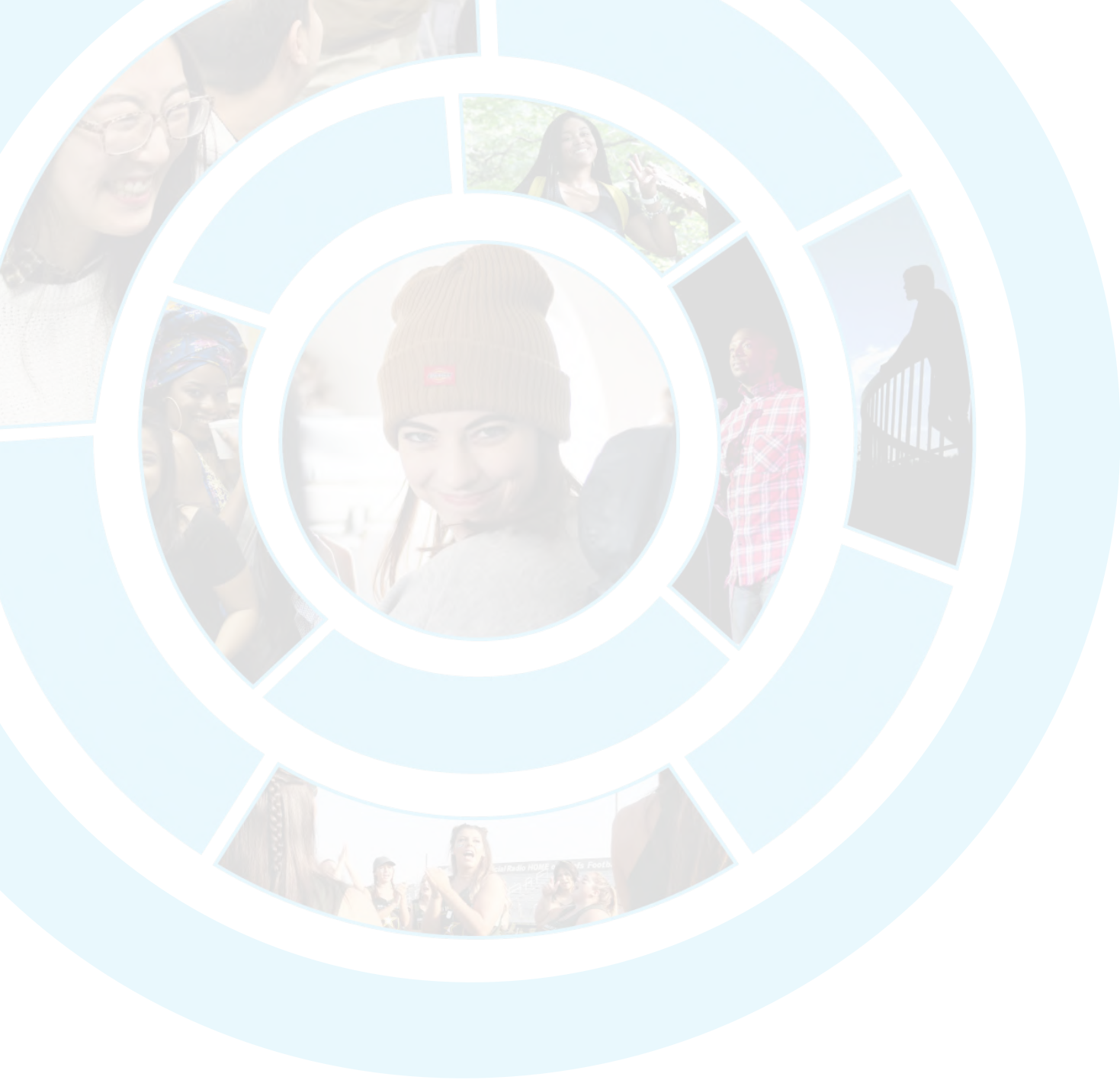


MAX GRIFFON, NOEL CROSS, JEFF POET, PAM DAMERON AND JERRY PICKMAN ARE FIVE ELITE MEMBERS OF WESTERN THAT ARE SPOT-ON. PHOTO CREDIT: JENI SWOPE, BETHANY VONSEGGERN AND MACKENZIE BOOS

# POWER HOUSE

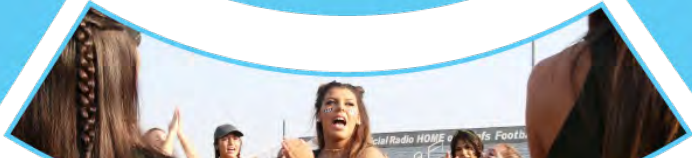






BEING A GRIFFON MEANS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STUDENT LIFE SUCH AS SEEING PERFORMANCES, MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND PARTICIPATING IN CAMPUS ACTIVITIES. PHOTO CREDIT: JILL OSWALD, DIANAH HIDZIR, BETHANY VONSEGGERN AND BRETT HOWERY

# STUDENT LIFE







# ACADEMIC







# ATHLETICS







# ORGANIZATIONS







# STUDENT PORTRAITS







# FACULTY PORTRAITS









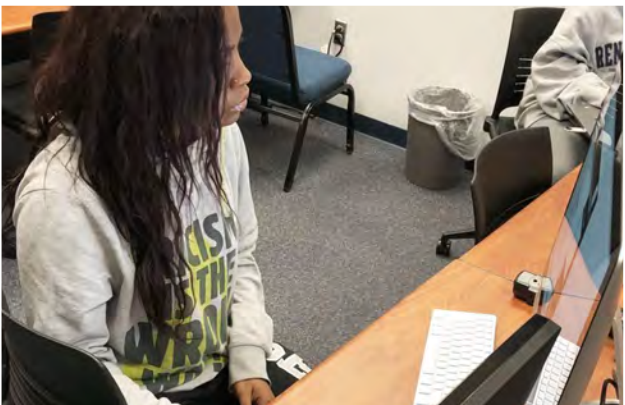


## THEME DEVELOPMENT & INITIAL CREATION

The book must start somewhere; that somewhere is in the mind of editors. During the summer before the school year begins the editor-in-chief and design team meet to discuss the theme of the book. This includes a name, concept, general design elements, deadlines and stories. Theme development is the incubation stage. If it gets delayed the progress of the book gets pushed back adding to the stress of meeting deadlines.



## SELECTING STORIES, INTERVIEWS & COPY



There are 248 pages of content and design in the book, which makes picking stories a daunting task. In the initial stage, editors fill out a "ladder" which lists every page with the corresponding story. During the semester editors choose which stories need to be covered every week such as events, profiles or features. Once staffers receive their assignments they have one week to contact and interview individuals, research the topic and write the copy.



# PHOTOJOURNALISM

Photographs are the primary design elements grabbing the attention of the reader. Every week staffers are given photography assignments alongside copy. This includes taking witness photos around campus, at special events or games. The team also learn from each other and practice working with a camera. All photographs are taken in manual with DSLR cameras. Occasionally, photos from cellphones can be used.



## SELECT PHOTOS & EDIT COPY



After covering their weekly assignments staffers select their best photos and edit their copy. Photos are narrowed down to 10, edited and captions written. To write captions the photographer must know the names of the individuals in the photo, what they are doing and be able to write a couple creative sentences to grab the reader's attention. The copy editor works directly with the reporter to make certain the story is written with appropriate content and in AP style.



## ONGOING DESIGN

The design process is the most extensive and time consuming step of the book. All 248 pages, book sleeve and end sheets must be uniquely designed in Adobe InDesign, which includes selecting color scheme and different fonts. Selecting design elements, layout and making certain photographs and copy work with the design are all part of the process. Every little detail matters such as, how many picas the artwork bleeds off the page, that all of the columns line up properly and that page numbers don't disappear.



## PORTRAITS & PROMOTION



Like most yearbooks, portraits are a significant section. Portrait days are hosted allowing students and faculty to get their photo taken. It's also a chance for the staff to talk about the interesting ways they are capturing the history of the university. The task of taking portraits is slightly complex. The team must know the proper lighting, understand the equipment and be able to adjust to any unforeseen issues. After portraits are taken the editors must then crop and edit them accordingly.





## CONFERENCES & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The yearbook offers many opportunities beyond the classroom and campus. Editors have the chance to attend journalism conferences around the country. The 2017-2018 team went to Minnesota, Texas and New York. Editors spent time at these events presenting, learning and networking with other college and journalism professionals. These trips are not limited to the conference and the team can explore new cities and possibilities.



## SUBMISSION & PROOFS



The submission process, much like design, is ongoing and very extensive. The design editor takes the lead and works closely with Walsworth to submit each page. Proofs are delivered roughly one week later. These proofs let the designers see what their work looks like printed and make necessary changes before submitting the final product to Walsworth. After all pages are final the books are delivered to Western in the fall.



# THE GRIFFON EDITOR TEAM



**James Carviou**  
Adviser



**Bethany VonSeggern**  
Editor-in-Chief



**Hyecheon Park**  
Design Editor



**Myleigh Lanham**  
Copy Editor



**Ali Fowler**  
Social Media Editor



**Mohammed Alqarni**  
Assistant Design Editor



**Jill Oswald**  
Assistant Photo Editor



**Dianah Hidzir**  
Assistant Editor



**Adeeb Alsaawi**  
Web Editor



**Kelsea Hall**  
Assistant Editor



**Lindsay Gomez**  
Assistant Organization Editor

It's been quite a year.

As we focused on the people, programs and reasons that make Western spot-on, we have grown to have a better appreciation of our university. We now see the Griffons and Western for what they are: remarkable.

Our team worked hard to make sure that we found the most interesting and noteworthy stories that happened in the 2017-2018 school year. We interviewed staff and students in unique ways; we covered large ceremonies such as commencement to smaller ones like poetry slams; and we photographed a variety of locations around campus and St. Joseph.

As we put this book together, we grew closer as a team and learned from one another, which is what should happen with any student organization or publication. Our designers taught us how to use InDesign and Photoshop, our photographers taught us not to be afraid to get up close and our adviser taught us to meet deadlines...sometimes!

We'd love to say that we didn't struggle, that there won't be mistakes in this book and that it was easy to understand the publication business. However, we did struggle and we did learn from mistakes and miscommunications. The process of making this book helped us understand the importance of working as a unit and that creating a yearbook leaves you with a sense of pride. The pride of knowing that we have put our heart and souls into providing our university with a historical document that generations to come can reference.

We thank you for helping us make this book possible. Remember be kind, do good things and above all continue to be SPOT-ON.

*Bethany vonSeggern*

Editor-in-Chief





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