

Rooted

Missouri Western State University ◊ 4525 Downs Drive ◊ St. Joseph, Mo. 64507 ◊ Volume 86 ◊ 2011-2012

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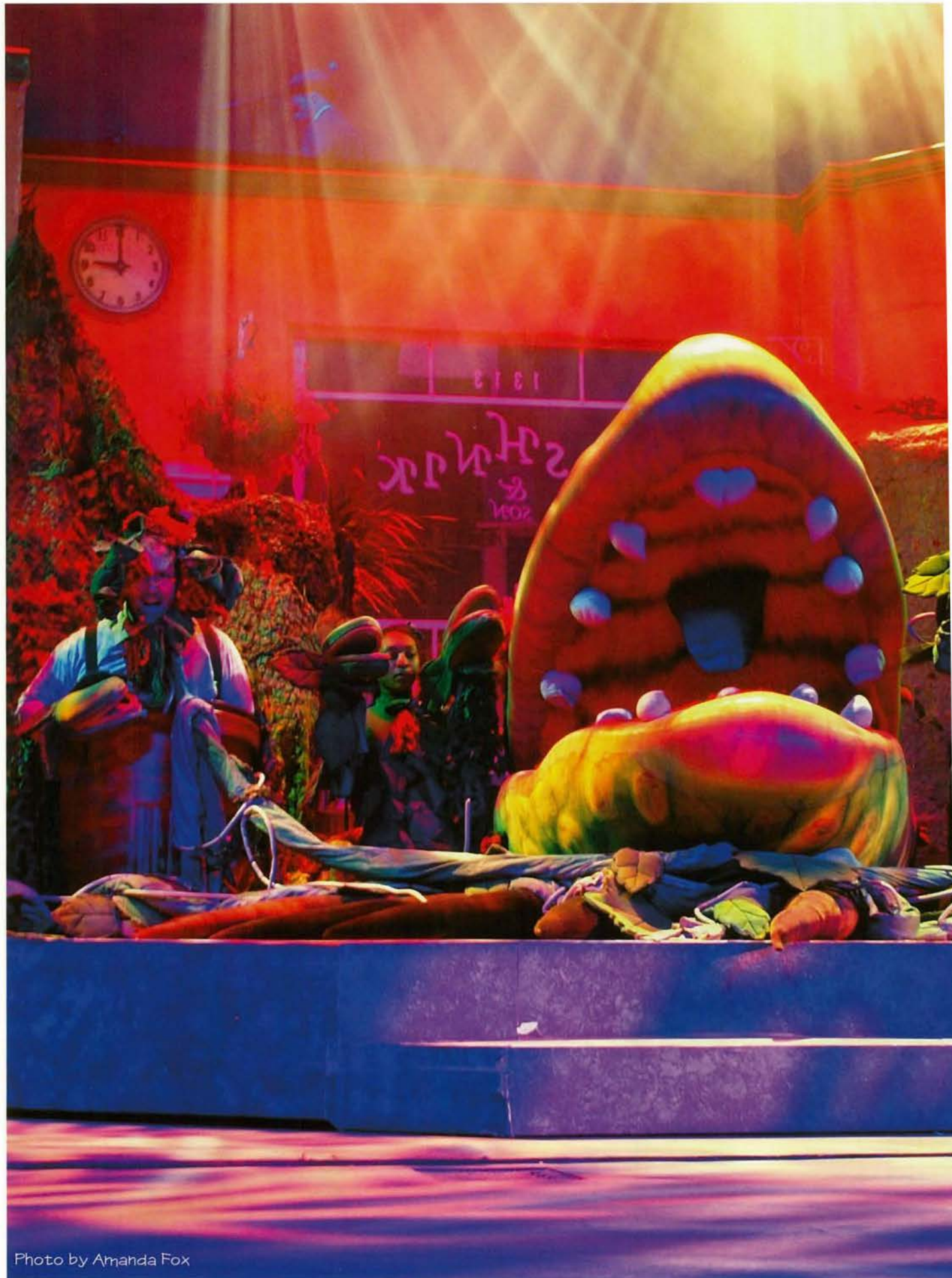


Photo by Amanda Fox



Rooted

This is the beginning. The moment you step foot on campus, you're rooted. You'll plant your seeds and build your foundation, and watch your life grow. Your roots will link and blend and weave together; you'll create connections.

Reach out to as many people as you can; you may be surprised by how many will reach back. Nurture relationships that help you grow. Chase what makes you truly happy and dream big because this is your chance.

As you're walking the concrete path from one brick building to another, passing through the trees, don't be afraid to leave your mark. Leave a trail, a path, a memory, and plant your roots in a community that wants you to succeed.

These buildings, this place, these people, will be your core, your family, and your roots.

- Sarah Hatten 



Photo by Clifford Petersen

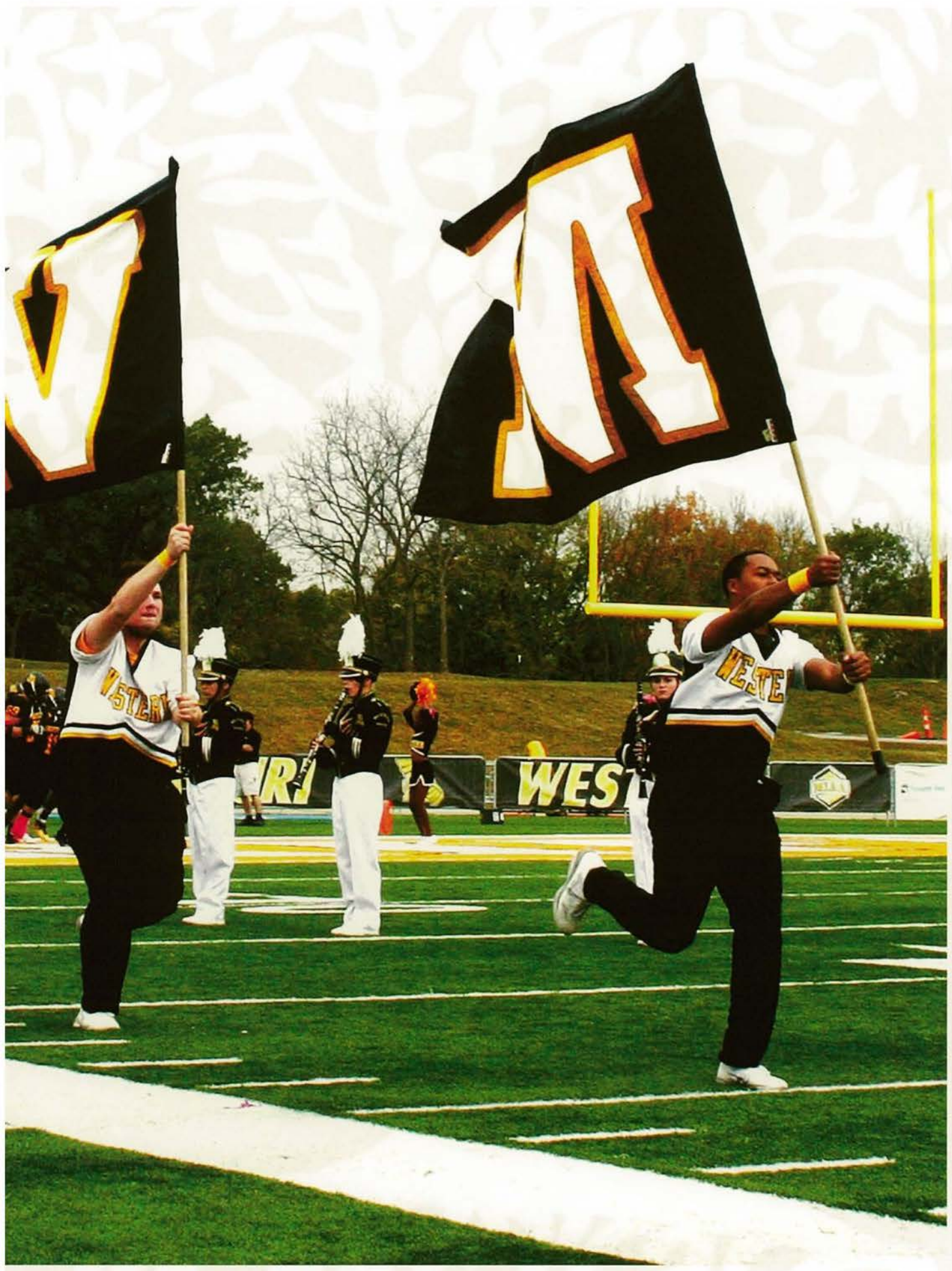






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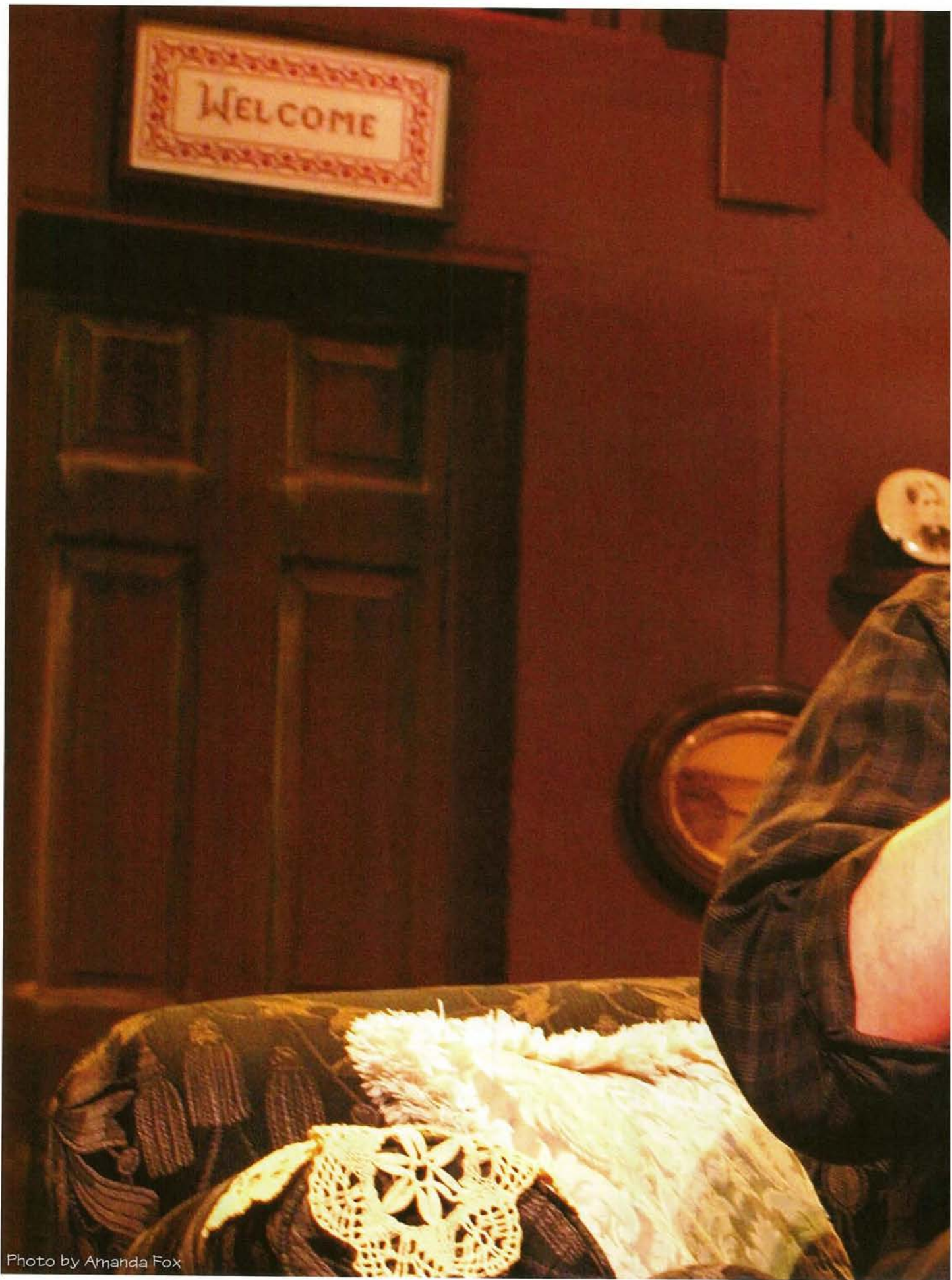
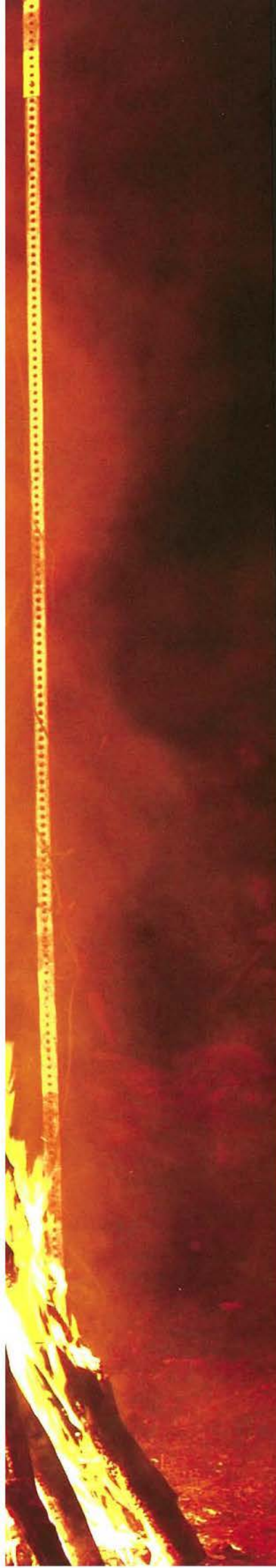


Photo by Amanda Fox







STUDENT LIFE



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Photo By Heather Heater



The Bearcat Battle

Story by Sarah Hatten
Photos by Clifford Petersen

The Griffon community felt a surge of pride on the fateful November day when the football team prevailed over Northwest Missouri State for the first time in eight years. Griffon players and fans boarded an emotional roller coaster for the history-making record-breaking game against the rival Northwest Bearcats.

Griffons refused to be dismissed by the Bearcats, despite their #3 national ranking. The Missouri Western football players won six straight games leading up to the

Northwest challenge.

After Greg Zuerlein's 58-yard field goal in the 3rd quarter, the Griffons charged to a 31-28 victory. Missouri Western players fell to their knees in celebration of the big win. Senior players have been waiting for years, plotting to change the expected outcome of the rivalry match.

Not only was this a big day for the black and gold representatives, it was Senior Day. It meant a lot to the Griffons, especially those who had played for Missouri

Far Left- Freshman Sam Brown, 43, and teammates prepare for the battle to begin. The Griffons made sure to limber up before taking down the Bearcats.

Center- Quarterback Travis Partridge hands off the ball to running back Mike Hill. The duo worked together smoothly.

Top Right- The student section of Spratt Stadium overflowed with Griffon pride. The students kept spirits high throughout the game. Watching their team take on the enemy and come out successful.

Right Bottom- Coach Jerry Partridge kept the guys focused, and never lost sight of this win. The Griffon's hard work paid off.

Center Bottom- The football player's helmets sit on the field. The yellow and black not only covered the field, but the stands as well.

Left Bottom- Griffons line up to take on the Northwest Bearcats. This battle of rivals has always kept fans on edge.



Western for years.

Spratt Stadium was thumping with reactions to the victory. Griffons hadn't celebrated a win over Northwest since 2003. The lucky number was 31.

Zwerlain's field goal of 58 yards was blasted with 11 seconds of play left in the quarter. The field goal broke Zwerlain's record of 57 yards and also broke the record of a single season field goals with 18 in one season. This field goal also proved to be a game winner. The players didn't take the win for granted and neither did the fans.

Griffon fans rushed the field in a black and gold frenzy, eclipsing the green grass and overwhelming the green jerseys.

The marching band took the field for the regular halftime performance, but was interrupted by a flash mob. Students from different directions of the field invaded the band's space and performed a choreographed dance. The students started out in Northwest clothes but shred the layers to reveal the Missouri Western wear.

"I wasn't just there, I was part of the flash mob and I think we really motivated the Griffons to break the Northwest curse," said Robin Ussher, Missouri Western senior.

Griffons Unite

Story by Robyn Patti

Photos submitted by Diane Holtz

Budget cuts were a typical hurdle for colleges and universities across the country. Missouri Western had dealt with budget cuts in the past, but for the 2011-2012 school year, Griffons were dealt the worst hand they had ever seen.

Governor Jay Nixon decided to put a large withholding on Missouri Western's yearly budget to balance the financial problems that were brought on by the flooding problems in Northern Missouri and the tornado disaster in Joplin that both occurred in 2011. This withholding ended up being an 8.1 percent budget cut, the largest of any university in the state.

To combat this unfair budget cut, the Griffons rallied together to show that Missouri Western wouldn't go down without a fight. Student Government Association President Alison Norris took the stand to oppose the inequity in educational funding.

"Every student should show their support," said Norris. "I take great pride in my education I receive here at Western. We are all in this together and we need to show our support to our university."

Alison Norris spoke at the pep rally, as did Jacob Scott, Vice President of SGA and the Student Governor, Peter Gregory. Missouri Western's President Dr. Robert Vartabedian also took the stand to support our student leaders in the motto "Can't Keep a Griffon Down."

The leaders of Western took charge of this motto and were successful in staying true to the theme that budget cuts weren't keeping Western down from being successful.

"It's really important to see the student body coming together for something as important as this," Dr. Vartabedian said.

"This is their education, their lives, we

are dealing with. To see them work hard to come out successful shows dedication to what they believe."

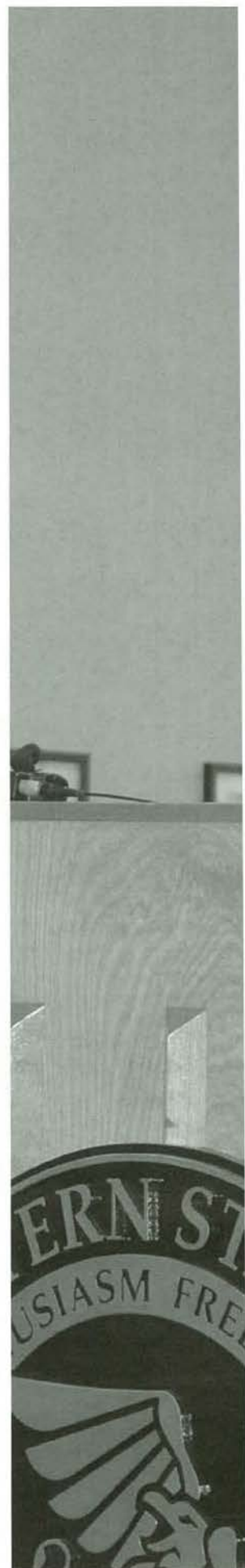
And successful they were. The 250 students and four state representatives that rallied together to show Western support took to the challenge of not letting budget cuts keep down the success of the school. Looking back on the year there were many high points through out many organizations.

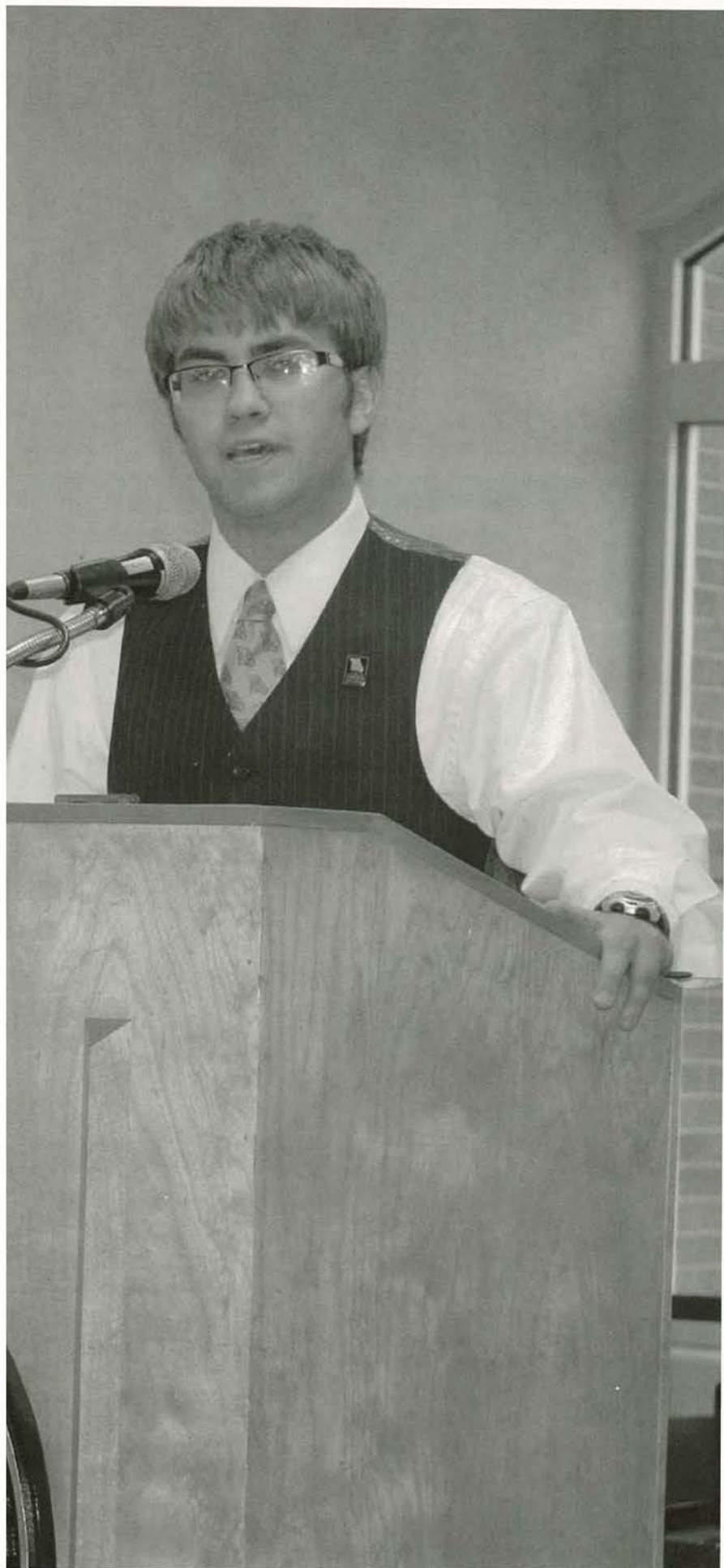
There were nationally recognized professors, organizational recognition and many awards given throughout the university. By the end of the fiscal year the student government had given \$100,000 to improve classrooms on campus and looked to start the next year ahead. These triumphs were in hard times, proving that really no one can keep a Griffon down.

By the end of the second semester, the SGA was planning ahead for the year end in July. There had been a bill approved through Missouri's House for a budget plan that would not include any cuts. If the bill would pass in the Senate, it would go to Gov. Nixon's desk for him to decide the fate of the bill.

If he would approve the bill then Missouri Western would start the fiscal year with their full budgeted amount, allowing for student tuition to stay level and campus to have more flexibility financially. If Gov. Nixon would choose to veto the bill, however, the Griffon's would see a 7.6% budget cut, not as high as the previous year, but still a cut nonetheless.

"If we don't get the cut, it will be a good year for Griffons," said Scott. "But if the cut does have to happen, at least now we know that it is true: you can't keep a Griffon down!"





Left- Jacob Scott, Vice President of SGA, spoke to the crowd at the pep rally. His words urged the students and staff to not let anything, including a budget cut, keep the Griffons down.

Right- Dr. Vartabedian, Allison Norris, Eric Fuson and Pierce Karguth applaud for a fellow speaker. SGA had a heavy hand in the pep rally and the upkeep of spirits throughout the year.

Bottom- Jacob Scott and Allison Norris stand by the motto of the year, "can't keep a Griffon down." The motto rang through the buildings of Western as Faculty, students and organizations showed their school pride.

Top Left- Matt Johnston and Justin Myers posing with one of the displays at FUDRUCKERS. This was one of the many places students could go to relax, enjoy some local food and drinks and listen to music.

Right- "Spring Break 202" drawn into the white sand of Destin, FL. Although spring break locations had many attractions for students to visit, the beach and the sand seemed to be the main attraction.

Center- MWSU's Jesse Engelken, Ben Jackson and friends soak up the sun on the beaches of South Padre. This was one of the many spring break hot spots for college students.

Left Bottom- One of the Panama City beaches full of people. Students from all over the world cover the beaches of spring break destination spots.



WOM Spring Vacation Destinations

Story & Photos by Alexa Adams

Spring break was an event much looked forward to by Missouri Western students. Travel plans began months before the week-long break, and some even before the school year started. Although some students went home for spring break, many MWSU students traveled to an array of places like Daytona Beach, Memphis, San Diego, Palm Springs, South Padre Island, Panama City Beach and Destin.

Even with many options, Florida was a very popular spring break destination for college students. The March weather was sunny, in the middle to upper 80's, a real difference from Missouri's rainy mid 50's. The Florida beaches were a major attraction for the ecstatic spring

breakers.

The sand was pristine and white between their toes, while the ocean water was a comfortable temperature that was salty and serene. The beaches of Florida were lined with vacationers and college students, each group displaying multitudes of school pride.

Cody Beyers, a sophomore at Missouri Western, traveled to Miramar Beach, Florida. Miramar is just minutes away from Destin, Florida, another hot spot for college spring breakers.

"I really liked the dance club called The Swamp," said Beyers, "they had a foam party that brought in a lot of people, and they played the best and newest music."



Along with The Swamp, the sports bar Poppy's Time Out was also a great spot for college students to venture to during the night hours. The main attraction of Poppy's was their no cover charge and regular ladies' nights.

Destin also had many great places to eat. The city contained many delicious chain restaurants, including The Hard Rock Cafe and Fudruckers, where the crocodile dish was one of their most popular cuisines. Even with the wide variety of chain restaurants available, local places such as the Beach Walk Restaurant and Pompano Joe's Seafood House were still popular tourist dining stops. If you were a seafood fan, Destin's local eateries were the place to go.

Just an hour southeast of Destin was another popular spot in Florida, Panama City Beach. Matt Johnston, a Missouri Western junior, was one of those spring breakers on the beaches of Panama City.

"Some must sees are the beaches and the gift shops,"

said Johnston. "It was amazing, lots of fun, crazy and full of a lifetime of memories," said Johnston.

Although beaches are the more popular spring break destinations, senior Dan DeClue traveled to Memphis, Tennessee. During break Memphis was sunny and in the 70's, perfect weather for touring the town.

Some of Memphis's must-sees included Stax Museum, Graceland, Beale Street, Sun Studios and BB King's Blues Club. DeClue also had some appetizing food while there.

"I can't choose between the ribs at Charles Vergo's Rendezvous and Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken, which has pretty much ruined any other fried chicken places for me," said DeClue.

College spring breaks are usually an exciting and much anticipated escape from daily grind of school, and this year was no exception. This spring break was not only invigorating and eventful, but it also forged life-long memories for the students of Missouri Western.

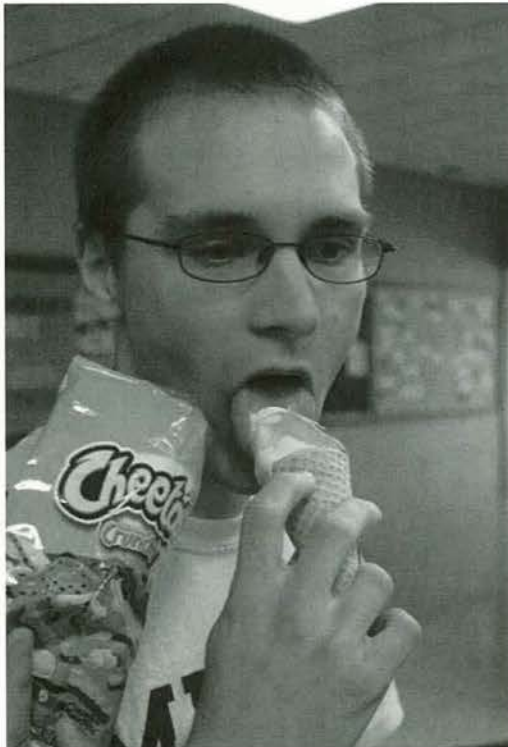
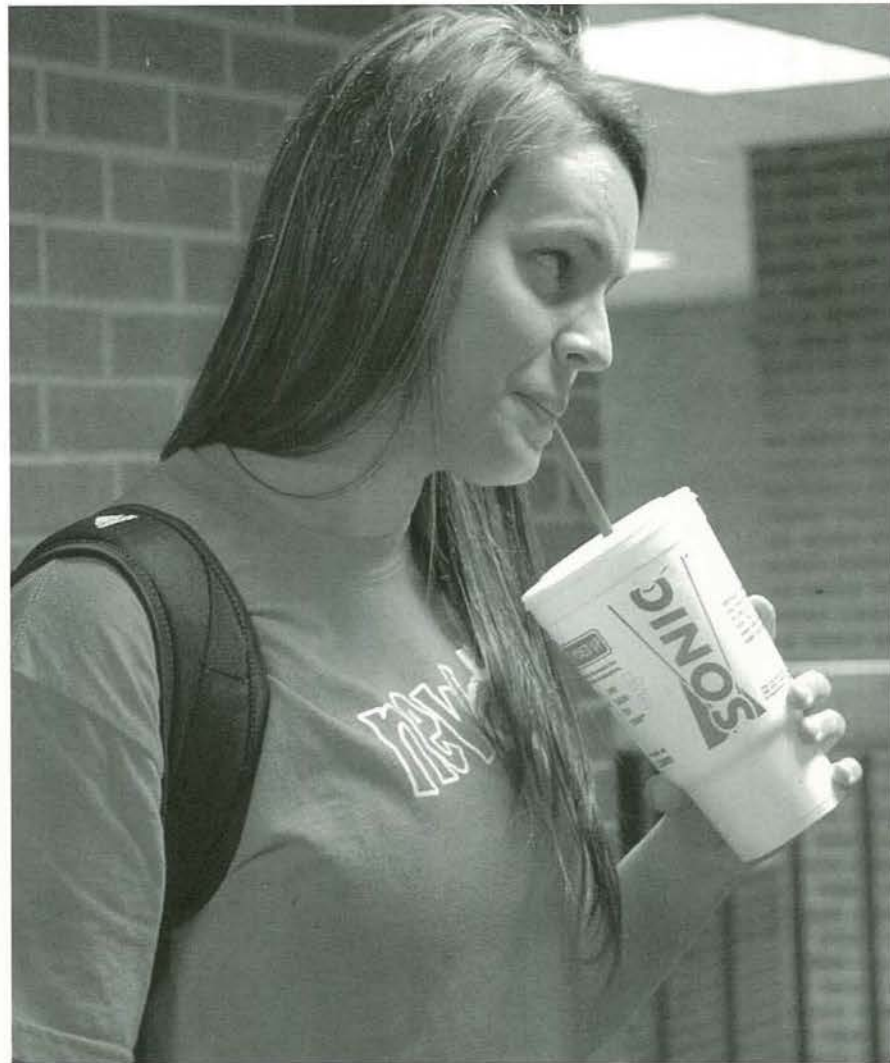
**"IT WAS
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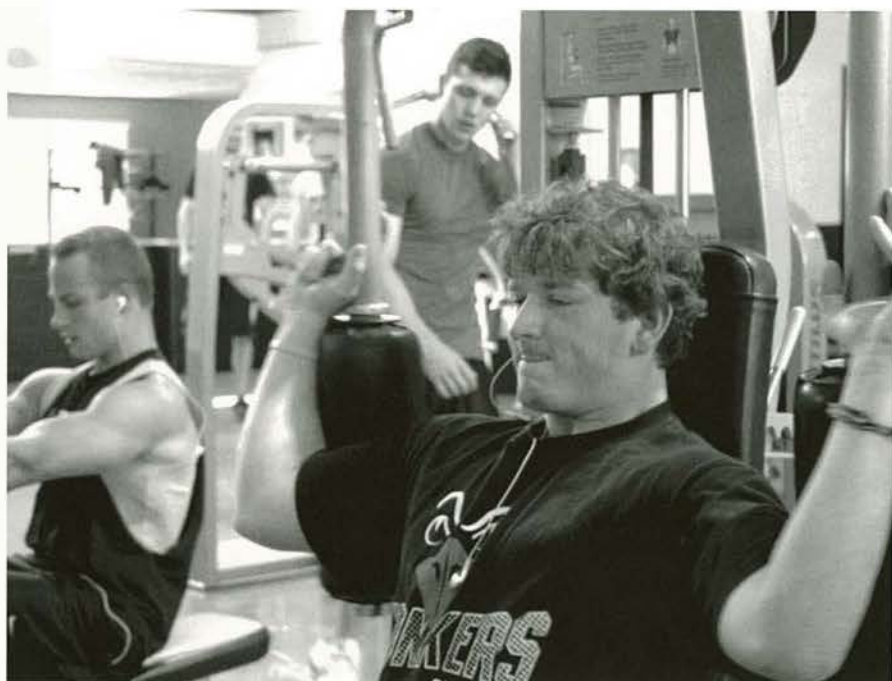
-MATT JOHNSTON

Left- Money is always a factor in college life, especially when it comes to eating habits. A lot of fast food restaurants, like Sonic, would have specials, making it easier to consume larger amounts of fat and sugar. Photo by Amanda Fox

Left Bottom- A lot of freshmen who utilize the dining hall on campus blamed weight gain on these meals. With buffet-style service, it was easy to stuff your face! Photo by Noel Collier

Below- The easy access to junk food like Cheetos and ice cream plays a big part in weight gain. Vending machines around campus were stocked with unhealthy snacks. Photo by Noah Bonnett-Tapp





Right-Lifting weights can also help burn extra calories, preventing weigh gain. Baker Fitness Center had many options for both cardio and weight centered exercise. Photo by Noel Collier

Right Bottom-The fitness center can be the solution to all of these problems. By doing carido exercise freshmen could help avoid gaining weight in their adjustment to independent life, while also relieving stress! Photo by Noel Collier

Avoiding the Pounds

Story by Alexa Adams

Going to college was a very exciting venture for newly graduated high-schoolers, but there were also many concerns from the incoming freshmen, one of which was the infamous Freshmen 15. It was easy for college students to gain weight in their first year away from home due to the drastic changes they went through. It took a lot of effort and mental strength to avoid the gain.

Freshmen Erik Waters and Chase Mcrea said they had been consciously eating healthier than they were used to since arriving to Missouri Western. "We're trying to keep it healthy," Waters said. Freshmen Erica Lorange also worried about gaining the freshmen 15. "It's hard because you eat more when stressed out and you're more stressed out at school," Lorange said.

The buffet style cafeteria did not help the students' cause. Sophomore Daniel Brooks was one student who learned to avoid the cafeteria. "People don't realize how much they are eating, they get plate after plate," Brooks said.

Not only were the food choices important, but working out became essential. Freshmen Katie Pearl had a set workout schedule while at college. "I work out three times a week, and usually do elliptical, weights and abs," Pearl said.

Waters also had a work regimen of 30 minutes cardio and an hour of lifting weights. Even student athletes kept a personal workout regimen. Freshmen soccer player Katie Kempf was one of those athletes. "On days we lift for soccer, I jog or do the elliptical," Kempf said.

Chase Mcrea also did some activities outside of the gym. "I go to the pool, play tennis and a lot of pick up games and inter-murals," Mcrea said.

It was all about balance. "I watch what I put in and what I work out," Brooks said. For the freshmen to avoid that terrible 15-pound gain they had to make health-conscious choices when they ate and stay dedicated to some kind of work out regimen throughout the year.

Since their parents were no longer there to help influence decisions, the college newcomers had to do it on their own.

"Not gaining the Freshmen 15 is your own responsibility," Mcrea said. Their health and weight was now in their own hands. "I actually lost weight my first semester," Mcrea said.

Once they put their mind to it and decided to make healthy decision while at school these college freshmen were able to avoid the dreaded Freshmen 15.

Defend the Dot

Story by Lauren Dillon

What would you do if you witnessed a group bullying someone? Or a girl being taken advantage of, when she is in no condition to fend for herself? Or someone being, verbally abused? These are questions that the Green Dot program wants you to ask yourself. Would you walk away or would you stand up?

Green Dot is a program developed by the YWCA and has "the ultimate goal of preparing organizations/communities to implement a strategy of violence prevention that consistently, measurably reduces power-based personal violence (including sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse and bullying)," says the mission statement on livethegreendot.com.

September is Campus Safety Awareness Month; it seemed like the best time to kick off the beginning of the Green Dot initiative on the MWSU campus. Jackie Moser, prevention education coordinator, was trained in the program last year when Western and the YWCA collaborated on several activities to end sexual violence. She introduced the Green Dot initiative at the Griffon Edge orientation in August and

the Green Dot Fair on September 14, in the Blum Union.

There was a tie-dye table to decorate shirts, an informational booth, music blasting to keep everyone upbeat and cheerful, along with Jackie's son, Dillon, and husband, Shawn, taught passing students a few self-defense moves. Freshmen, Brianna Barnett and Peter Windsor both jumped into the ring to learn a few things from the Moser team and were vocalizing their enjoyment. "I could definitely use some of these moves on an attacker, not a doubt," Windsor said.

Katherine Eddy, sophomore, also was thankful for the Green Dot fair but for a different reason. "I heard about Green Dot at Griffon Edge and it really hit a chord with me because I was bullied," Eddy said. "So I was able to talk to Jackie Moser here and told her about why this [Green Dot] is so important to me and she asked if I would like the opportunity to be a volunteer speaker to a middle school audience. I am so excited and I support this fully. I mean, who wants to be alone? Everyone should judge others on their actions, not 'who they are' because actions show a person's trueness."

Top- Brianna Barnett shows her self defense skills at the events self defense lessons were given on campus to interested students. There were several students who were interested in learning these techniques. Photo by Jennifer Notbusch

Right Bottom- Students gain loads of information about the Green Dot movement. Posters, pamphlets and buttons were available at the event. Photo by Molly Thomas

Left Bottom- Missouri Western gets involved with the YWCA's Green Dot campaign in a big way. Safe locations on campus were marked by green dots. Photo by Molly Thomas







Paint This Town

Story & Photos by Sarah Hatten

College students brightened up the walls of a treatment center in St. Joseph, Mo., on March 24. Missouri Western State University has been bringing the walls of local schools and centers to life with vibrant colors and different characters since 2010 when volunteers painted Mark Twain Elementary. In the fall of this year, the student government selected Humboldt Elementary to liven up the halls. The students and volunteers that help with painting feel that it promotes a healthier learning environment for the students.

"I have helped with several of the murals that have been done over the years, including the few on our own

campus," said senior, Alison Norris, president of the student body at Missouri Western State University. "I truly believe that students at these schools look forward to coming to school and seeing the bright colors and fun pictures on the walls, it really makes the environment a happier place."

In the spring semester of this year, SGA chose to liven up the walls of the Riverbend Treatment Center. They included inspirational quotes and famous faces and even painted Riverbend's mascot, a raven, on the gym wall. Griffon Art Alliance sketched the outlines prior to students painting the walls. Students and volunteers

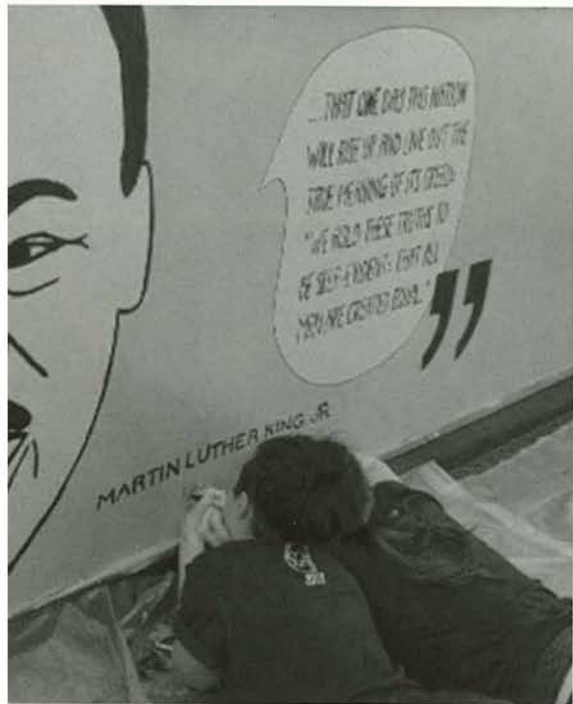


Left- One of the Murals for Minds was a picture of Malcolm X. The murals were painted to help bring history and education to the Riverbend Treatment Center.

Center- The Griffon Art Alliance painted many murals, including the Riverbend's Mascot, the Raven. The murals helped the treatment center's residents to be immersed in knowledge and history.

Right- One Art Alliance member paints bricks along the wall as part of the mural. The Student Government selected a location every semester to bring a mural too, helping the city one building at a time.

Bottom Left- Two Griffons work diligently finishing a mural of Martin Luther King Jr. The murals included historical quotes of each famous person.



were not required to have any art skills to help out; all murals were paint by numbers so anyone could help with the project.

"I don't have an artistic ability, but I try my best because this is for such a good cause," said senior, Lauren Dillon, president of Western Activities Council.

The Griffon Art Alliance had an ongoing program with the center prior to Murals for Minds, where students from the organization would go in on a regular basis and help troubled students learn art techniques just as the MWSU students were learning themselves in class.

"I personally enjoy painting, so being able to share the knowledge and love I have for art has been a great opportunity," said Sophomore Patrick Larson, studio art major. "I have participated in the painting of schools and

centers, and I know how much this opened the minds of children for a more positive learning area."

Riverbend Treatment Center is a care facility that offers treatment for at-risk young men. The group painted Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X on the Riverbend walls, urging them to be extraordinary.

Jacob Scott said this is a great opportunity for Western students to get involved in the community, outside of just Missouri Western campus.

Riverbend Cares for Youths, grades 6 through 12, and about 35 students are currently attending. The treatment center offers a healthy, safe facility for the teens to learn and grow. The goal is to be a positive influence on those who may come from a difficult past.



Graphic Submitted by Campus Printing



Photo by Molly Thomas



Photo by Lauren Dillon



Photo by Heather Heater

**MWSU Homecoming
Programming**



Photo by Amanda Fox



Photo by Amanda Fox



Photo by Molly Thomas



Photo by Heather Heater



Photo by Amanda Fox

Touchdown For Homecoming Win

Story by Megan Baggett, Katie Fields and Robyn Patti

Western fans went wild for the Homecoming football game. Hundreds of fans came out to show their Griffon Pride. The parking lot was covered with tailgaters and large drivable campers preparing to boast their Griffon pride. Students, faculty and family were decked out in black and gold, and there were several sorority and fraternity members who were covered in body paint to show their spirit.

Just like you would find at a professional football game, towels and flags were twirled through the air throughout the stand during the entire game as the Griffons dominated the Bulldogs. Two touchdowns in the opening half, both from Reggie Jordan, really got the crowd going.

At half time the Griffons were up 24-0 against the Bulldogs. During the halftime extravaganza the Homecoming Court Royalty who were crowned the

night before, glided across the field dressed to impress. Alumni and some current faculty members were also recognized for their outstanding achievements.

The crowd grew louder and more rowdy as the game continued and the Griffons' score kept growing. Senior Nic Burrell had nine tackles that led the Griffons defensively, and Michael Hill rushed 87 yards throughout the game. Sean Tray Bryson attained three sacks during play, with Oliver Pryor and Ben Pister each having one sack as well.

The Griffons bashed the Bulldogs with a sense of ease at Spratt Stadium with a 45-7 final score, giving the Griffons a 3-0 Homecoming winning streak.

The fans of Western were not disappointed by the plays on the field and kept spirits high for a Homecoming worth cheering for.

The Amazing Race

Story by Lauren Dillon

The "Amazing Race," a widely known television program, was redone Western-style for Homecoming. The Amazing Griff Race was held in Looney for the Homecoming festivities. Taking the basic concepts from the show, groups of five members participated in nine stations that had different activities. Each station represented a popular pastime from a country from around the world.

The first station was the "finger toss" which resembled a game from China and determined which groups would start off the race. Following "countries" visited were: Australia, where "Net Ball" was played; South Korea, where team members had to do sumo wrestling moves and then eat five cookies as fast as they could; and Indonesia, where group members played a target-aimed version of badminton. At the Israel station

group members played a version of soccer, which required each teammate to dribble the soccer ball around cones and kick the ball in the goal. The India station played cricket. The last country visited was America, where members played a variation of baseball that required them to spin around a baseball bat and eat a hotdog.

In order to win the race, points were calculated for the fastest times and the highest number of points made at each of the sections.

"Our strategy was to have fun, be competitive, and make it as memorable experience as possible," Ashley Ogden said. Ogden was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha's team, which was one of many organizations to compete in the event along with other Greeks, athletes and clubs.

Right- A member of Alpha Sigma Alpha runs down the court carrying a Bulldog. Bulldogs were incorporated in to many of the Homecoming events. Photo by Lauren Dillon



Far Right- Students dug through pie dishes filled with different things including ramen noodles, whip cream and bears. They had to dig through the stuff and find a coin. The first team to find all of the coins was declared winner. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Bottom Right- Josh Blue, winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" performed on the same stage as competing comedians. The following competitors were judged on many things including audience participation, crowd response and improvisation. Photo by Molly Thomas

Last Griffon Standing

Story by Robyn Patti

The organizations geared up for a reality infused skit show this Homecoming. With themes such as "Cupcake Wars," "Survivor," and "Biggest Loser" the reality of the laughs were nothing to joke about.

The skits brought students out to support the homecoming theme and students weren't let down. The event consisted of each organization staying true to their theme but with a twist thrown in. Each organization had an improvisation added to each skit about a minute before the students performed.

These improvisations included a fist-pump, a 30-second cheerleader spirting, and a leap and a toe-touch added somewhere within the skit.

The skits were followed up with "Last Comic Standing" winner Josh Blue. Josh was brought in by WAC to perform for Western and brought the laughs with him.

Blue, who openly jokes about his condition, cerebral palsy, had an interesting set allowing the crowd to loosen up and laugh with the comic at his difference, something the comic is known for.



Extreme Griffon Takeover

Story by Sarah Hatten

Members of campus organizations gathered in Potter Hall to makeover the theater. The students labored for hours to spruce up the stage.

Set pieces and costumes were rearranged and organized to make more room for new supplies.

Even the balcony got some attention as students took turns clearing out the junk. Students made an assembly line and passed equipment across the floors to empty the stage in preparation for the big cleaning.

The students toiled for hours to make sure the job was done well. Towards the end of the night the trash pile was as tall as Potter entryway. Potter got the face-lift it needed.



Far Left- Students color away on cupcakes that were a part of "Griff My Ride." The cupcakes were part of a coloring contest that Missouri Western students competed in against one another. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Left- Patrick Larson, "Griff My Ride" winner, shows off his wheels. The car has wheels made up from a garden hose reel. Photo submitted by the Griffon Art Alliance



Below- The ladies of Alpha Sigma Alpha pose for a shot by their ride. The ladies of Alpha Sigma Alpha were present and participated in all of the Homecoming events that Missouri Western offered. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Griff My Ride

Story by Sarah Hatten

The organizations flocked to the student union to show their creativity instead of mechanical ability during the "Griff My Ride" event of Homecoming week. The organizations were allowed to bring cardboard, Duct tape, and whatever other accessories they desired to build and decorate a car. The time limit was one hour and the students had to build everything from scratch. Each organization had a personal theme that they had to incorporate into every aspect of Homecoming week that the groups participated in.

The students were allowed to let their imaginations run wild during this event and the organizations had a broad range of finished products. Outside the doors, the fumes were thick as students spray painted as fast as

they could before their time ran out. Casi Webb, junior member of Student Athlete Advisory Council, said, "We're just trying to build as fast as we can. We had a plan at the beginning to build a chariot so now we're just hoping to finish in time." The SAAC members were building a ride for their "American Gladiators," keeping in tune with their theme.

The Phi Delta Thetas built a camouflage truck, and Pride Alliance made a racecar for a drag race. There was also a "just married" car, a police car, and even a space ship. The organizations were required to clean up their messes before the one hour time allotment came to an end. The judges carefully examined each car at the end of the competition to determine which Ride had been Griff'd the best.

Parading the Streets

Story by Sarah Hatten & Megan Baggett

The cool air early on Saturday did not stop many of the student organizations from walking through the downtown of St. Joseph sporting their colorful and creative floats. The theme was "Keepin' it Real," and that is just what the organizations did throughout the whole week. Each float was decorated with the upmost detail. The crowd roared as all the floats came down the street in awe of all the hard work.

The nursing department was part of the parade this year for the first year, since they were celebrating their 40th anniversary. They have had over two thousand graduates from the program. Professors and nurses marched together to show their pride and enthusiasm for their department. The winning float was Phi Delta Theta, a social fraternity on campus. Their float was themed "Survivor." Tyce Vanmetter, Warden of the fraternity, said "the theme was decided as a group, and we wanted it to be original."

There are 27 men in the fraternity this year and they spent about 270 hours working on the float. Followed by the floats were high school bands participating in a marching competition for the battle of the best band. The young students had determination in their eyes as they strolled and made a sharp corner by the judges. Although the parade was slightly smaller than usual, the Griffon pride was shouted to the sky in celebration of Homecoming.



Top-The Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority walked with their decadent float following the sisters' theme of "The Bachelor." The float was complete with Max the Griffon proposing to the lucky bachelorette. Photo by Heather Heater

Bottom-The winner of the Homecoming float contest was the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. The "Survivor" themed float was well made and humorous, complete with a bulldog roasting over the fire pit. Photo by Clifford Petersen



Pep it Up

Story by Sarah Hatten
Photos by Heather Heater

The Homecoming Pep Rally was a series of highs and lows. The highs included the performances, crowning, and bonfire; the lows included the technical difficulties and the temperature. Each organization put together a dance, with a bonus rap song for the Phi Sigs, and put on a show under the bright lights at Spratt Stadium. Even some faculty members joined in the fun and shook their tail feathers. The student athletes won the event with their nod to Michael Jackson as they performed "Thriller." All of the organizations brought their A games and sent the stadium into a wild frenzy of applause after every performance.

The night came to a close with the crowning of

the Homecoming king and queen. Weston Baker was crowned as this year's king, and Jordan Carney was the queen. This was the first year Missouri Western invited kings and queens from past years to participate in the crowning. Previous court members walked down the football field before the current court and were introduced over the loudspeaker.

People in the stands went straight to the bonfire to celebrate the week and keep their hands warm. It was a chilly night at Missouri Western's campus and it was both inspiring and useful to burn the Truman Bulldog.

"This is my favorite part of Homecoming. I love the bonfire when everyone comes together to get pumped up about the football game," said junior Duncan Miller.



Top Left- A group of Missouri Western students perform a dance to Thriller. Many students participated in the event's dance competition.

Top Right- The Homecoming Court poses for the camera. The five men and women of the court worked diligently to become both members of the court and outstanding members of the MW/SU community.

Bottom Right- The chilly night air got to some of the football players waiting on the sidelines to perform. Oliver Pryor kept warm before his dance with the Mystics dance team, a Homecoming tradition.

Bottom Left- Zac Covault dances to "Big, Blonde, and Beautiful" by Queen Latifa. The students showed great school spirit during the competition.

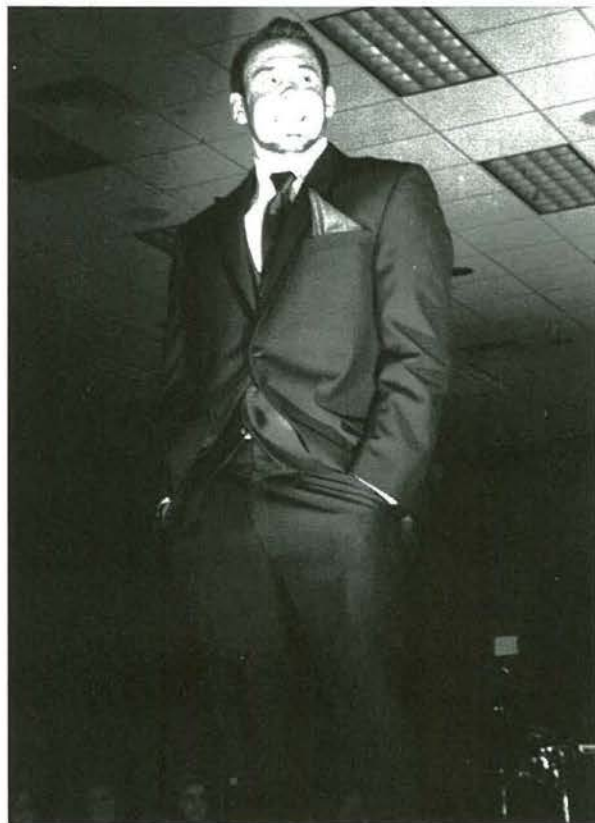


Top Left- Kelsey Sarminius shows off her prom dress from Jessica's Bridal and Prom. The junior was one of many models for the spring fashion show. Photo by Noah Bonnett-Tapp



Top Right- The fall fashions were shown around the fountain by Ector hall. Many came out to support the designers and students for the show. Photo by Cliff Petersen

Right- For the spring show, Matt Johnston models a tuxedo. The junior walked for The Bridal Line and The Buckle. Photo by Noah Bonnett-Tapp



Far Right- This model was dressed to impress and looked like he was ready for a night out on the town. BSU's fashion show premiered a wide range of styles from casual to the Ritz. Photo By Cliff Petersen





Left-Kirby Hoermann works her prom dress in the spring WAC fashion show. The WAC show featured designs and music from Dr. Seahorse. Photo by Noah Bonnett-Tapp

Runway Dreams

Story by Robyn Patti and Staff

Fashion and style could be found year round at Western. Some students were fashionably inclined each day for class, and other students weren't so stylish. Either way, local business' and designers, as well as some of Western's own put on a show or two.

The fall fashion show was hosted by the Black Student Union in September. The fashion show brought three designers from Kansas City to show off their designs, some accessories from Charming Charlies and a few talented musicians as well. The setting of the fall show was made unique when it was brought outside, set around the fountain in front of Eder. The master of ceremonies, Jerrica Brown, noted the change of scenery made the show fresh and new.

"We have done fall fashion shows before, but this time was cool since it was outside," Brown said. The runway show began at dusk, casting a beautiful sunset glow on the models as they strutted around the fountain. Entertainment was provided by Louis 'Tres' Erby who rapped with his hip hop CD 'Boardin' Zone.' Also with live performances from Mary Fulk on keyboards and lead vocals with Daniel Cole, on drums the stage and style set the night.

The fall fashion show brought many students and faculty out to see the fashion and style on campus, but the fashion didn't end there.

The spring fashion show was put on by the Western Activities Council and provided the audience with looks from local stores as well as student designers'. Jacob Scott was one student in the

audience. The junior political science major had his own take on the show.

"I think it was a great opportunity for students to see fashion trends and a great opportunity for businesses, the school and students to work together," Scott said.

Another audience member, R.J. Jackson, liked the energy he saw in each of the models.

"I thought it was excellent," Jackson said. "I saw a lot of great designs from our designers, and you could see the students that liked what they were doing and what they were wearing and that they enjoyed the work."

The last, but not least, aspect to the spring show was the student designers. Junior, Noel Collier created six looks for the show, chose the models and music they would walk to. "I had a great time and was trilled that my designs were displayed to an audience," Collier said. For the rest of the show and between lines the musical duo Dr. Seahorse performed for the audience.

The duo traveled from New Hampshire to perform for the fashion show, and brought their Michael Jackson-influenced pop mix to the stage in great style. WAC President Lauren Dillon was pleased with the group's music.

"We met them at a conference last summer," Dillon said. "I loved them and thought they would be great for something like this. They really proved to be worth it!"

Left- An essential part of dressing professionally is having the shoes to complete the outfit. The CDC's clothes closet literally dressed students from head to toe.

Center- The racks have shirts, ties, suit jackets, skirts, pants and shoes. Students could make an appointment to try on an outfit and rent it out for interviews.

Right- A student picks out coordinating pieces from the CDC's clothes closet. The students were allowed to borrow an outfit for up to a week.



Dress to Impress

Story by Aly Rinehart
Photos by Molly Thomas

Ties, skirts and suits oh my. Blacks, greys and neutral colors as far as the eye can see. Imagine if you will, yourself in a room where shiny, slender metal racks hold new and gently used suit jackets, dress slacks and blouses. Where there are shelves upon shelves of shoes ranging in various colors, shapes and sizes. For the women there are skirts and dresses while for the men there are shirts and ties and much, much, more for both.

Now stop imagining, because you're there. You are in the Career Development Center's clothes closet

located in Eder Hall, room 202. The closet was operated by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The CDC also allowed walk-ins from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., between Monday and Thursday.

The Center's purpose at Missouri Western was to help students and alumni prepare for their debut into the working world. They provided skills, encouragement and now they also provided a place for students to obtain appropriate professional attire for job interviews.

It had always been very important for Western



students who were graduating and beginning their careers to have the right look for the job. Beginning in February, Missouri Western's Career Development Center opened its clothes closet to the student body to help give them the edge they need.

Director of the CDC, Donnel Turner, was the mastermind of the new clothing closet. "It makes a great impact for those in need," Turner said, "It can enhance their ability to interview well. We also offer an award to help purchase clothing."

Supporting the CDC in their endeavor was the Student Government Association. Some of SGA's main responsibilities is to represent students and their needs on campus, and to help promote other organizations with their efforts to better help the student body.

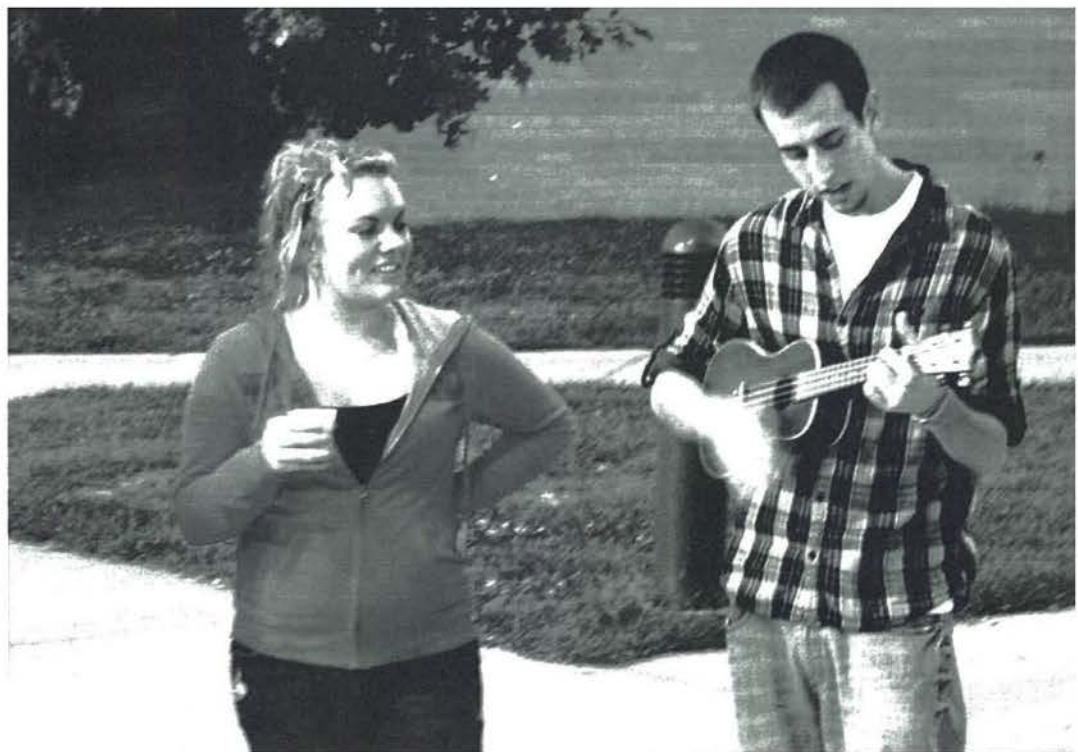
"We got the idea from other universities," said SGA president Alison Norris. "The reason for it is because students often can't afford professional clothes but it's important to have them."

The closet received its clothes through donations by alumni and other students. The regulations set for donating clothes to the Career Development Center's clothes closet was extremely high so that students have nice clothes to choose from. This allows the students to browse the closet without the fear of coming across out dated or, not so nice, items on the racks. All of the professional items must be pressed, on hangers, in good condition and not more than five years old. Students and alumni could get one outfit each year from this event, for free.



Top- Students gathered as friends to support the people they could never forget. The students held candles while singing songs and listening to poems.

Bottom- Derek Thompson plays the ukulele for the gathering. The Canaleight ceremony was the first event Thompson planned on campus.





Left- Jackie Moser speaks to the participants before the ceremony begins. Moser spoke about how the 9/11 attacks happened due to violence.

A Moment to Remember

Story by Katie Field
Photos by Molly Thomas

September 11 is a day that many Americans take a moment out of their lives to remember what happened on that tragic day. 2011 marked the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and many memorial services were held across the country, one of which took place at Missouri Western.

The 9/11 Candlelight Ceremony was held in the commons and was planned by Derek Thompson, a sophomore at Missouri Western.

"I heard about a lot of places back at home in Omaha that were doing memorials for 9/11, but I haven't heard about anyone doing them here, so I figured I would do one on campus," Thompson said.

The ceremony began with Jackie Moser, violence prevention educator, who gave a speech about what happened 10 years ago on 9/11 and how violence, even if it wasn't as severe as the attacks on 9/11, was still violence. Moser got involved with Green Dot by being employed by the YWCA, who partnered with Missouri Western through a grant to end violence on campus.

"There is a call to action for students to step up and volunteer in their communities, so that people who lost their lives and sacrificed their lives are not in vain," Moser said. "But we still continue to participate in

violence, it may not be the same violence as the terrorist attack but it's violence in general."

After Moser's speech the ceremony continued outside in front of the pavilion for the candlelight portion. Thompson had looked up poems that people sent in as memorials to 9/11 and read one during the candlelight. The crowd then sang "Amazing Grace".

Students who attended the ceremony had their own reasons for attending the candlelight memorial.

"I feel like we need to pay some kind of respect, I don't think that just watching it on TV is enough," Sophomore Michelle Stevenson said. "We can watch that anytime, but I think some kind of moment needs to be had." Sophomore Taylor Anding had similar thoughts.

"Derek had put a lot of work into it all so I figured it is the least I could do, and also since it is for a good cause," Anding said, "Just because it didn't affect us personally, like on the family and friend level, it still is important to remember those that it did affect and it did have such a big impact on our country that it's important to not just forget about it."

A Place to Call Home

Story by Jourdan Ryan

You wake up at 8 a.m., one hour before your first class of the day. You turn the stove on and whip up some scrambled eggs, pour yourself a fresh glass of milk, and pop some slices of bread into the toaster. You're in the new kitchen in Griffon Hall, Western's newest dormitory addition.

The new dorm, which was completed just before classes began this fall, is located South of Scanlon Hall. Each suite consists of a fully functional kitchen, a community living room, and four private bedrooms, one for each of its residents. The facility was equipped with enough suites to house 250 Western students, a workout room, and a commons lounge.

"I think Griffon Hall will bring a sense of community for upper-class students," Griffon Hall Residence Hall Director Dany Thompson said. "It shows that the campus cares enough about older students to build an entire building just for them to be closer to campus.

The apartment-style layout definitely appealed to Western upperclassmen. Brand new furniture (complete with full-sized beds for all residents) and private kitchens in every suite made on-campus life far easier to love for on-campus bound students. The new furniture was purchased for around \$250,000 through the Educational and Institutional Cooperative Service Agreement.

"Griffon Hall is necessary because Western requires students who have the Golden Griffon Scholarship or who are athletes to live on campus all four years," Senior Griffon Hall Resident Brooke Carter said. "Providing apartment-like dorms is only fair. We needed an option

that made us feel like adults, not college students still living in dorms their senior year."

The added convenience of a personal kitchen in every suite seemed to be the most beneficial asset to students who moved into the dorms this fall. Students loved having the freedom and responsibility to make and eat meals on their own.

"I love being able to cook whatever I want, whenever I want," Carter said. "I've learned responsibilities that come with having a kitchen and cooking for myself more often, like how to experiment with leftovers to make new meals in order to save money or plan the time to cook, eat, and clean for a meal while getting everything else done that I need to get done for the day."

Dorm life may get stressful sometimes, but a lot of on-campus students wouldn't have it any other way. And the brand new dorms didn't hurt.

"I feel like it's easier to get my work done. If I'm having trouble concentrating on my homework in my room, I can just walk to the library. I feel like I am doing better in school than I would if I had to make the drive to campus in the morning," senior Griffon Hall resident Caitlin Cress said.

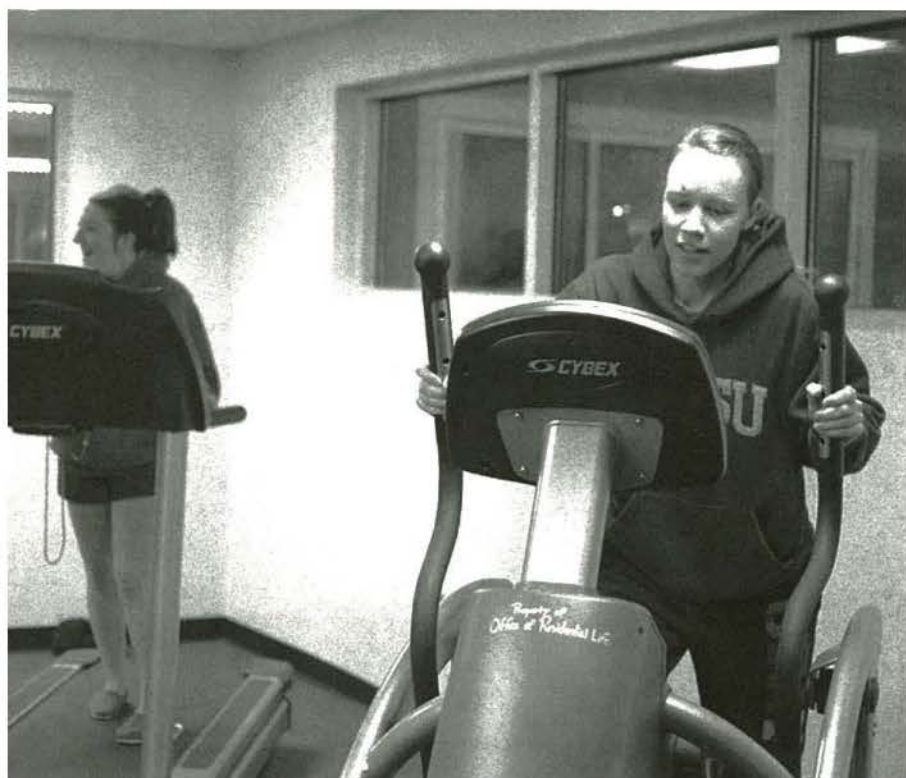
Ultimately, home is where you make it, and for nearly 250 lucky upperclassmen, home came with a kitchen and non-cinder block walls. Griffon Hall was created with students in mind, so that upperclassmen could have their own space, their own food, and most of all, their own apartments.

Left- Doing laundry is never fun to do, but with the new wash center, several students were able to their laundry. Photo by Molly Thomas





Top- Brooke Carter (left) and Caitlin Cross (right) prepare dinner in their dorm's kitchen, the most exciting aspect of the upperclassmen dorms. The Senior girls enjoyed an apartment-like dorm for their last year of campus living. Photo by Lauren Dillon



Right- The dorm exercise equipment provides convenient access to get daily exercise. Several students used the new equipment after a long day of classes. Photo by Molly Thomas

Getting to Know Your RA

Story by Robyn Patti
Photos by Lauren Dillon

Being a resident assistant is no easy task. Keeping track of students, helping students with multiple problems, working the front desk of the dormitories and making rounds at 3 a.m. can make for an interesting semester. Students become a resident assistant for the leadership opportunity, the chance to learn and grow and the reduced living expenses.

The role of the RA is essential to the success of the daily operation of the residence halls, but more importantly they offer a vital educational component to the living and learning experience for our on-campus students.

A student living in the resident halls is likely to succeed academically and socially with role models living on the floors with them. RA's certainly wear many hats

and work diligently towards a healthy work, social, and academic balance.

Resident Hall Coordinator Brad Dixon helps the hard-working students in their efforts. He is there to aide and support the assistants, and sees the benefits of being an RA everyday.

"Assistants are well positioned for the work force as they have extensive experience working with a diverse population of people, working with a team, planning, problem solving, and acting as a resource," Dixon said. "All of which are stellar transferable skills to any and all areas."

Students who become RAs begin with a desire to develop themselves while sharing their Western experience with others in a mentoring fashion.

Name: Weston Baker
Hometown: Chillicothe, Mo.
Degree: Criminal Justice
Class Status: Senior



Q: How long have you been an RA?

A: This is my third year as a Residential Assistant.

Q: What other activities do you like to do?

A: I enjoy intramurals, attending athletic events, riding bikes, telling bad jokes, and of course baking!

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I really enjoy being someone that other students can go to if they just need someone to talk to about their issues. I also love meeting new people almost every day while seeing many familiar and friendly faces around the residence halls.

Q: What do you dislike about your job?

A: My only issue with being an RA is the time commitment. It does take a huge part of the average person's schedule, but the intangible rewards definitely make up for it.

Name: Jessica Criss
Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.
Degree: Communications Studies with
 an emphasis in Public Relations
Class Status: Senior



Q: How long have you been an RA?

A: This is my first year as RA.

Q: What other activities do you like to do?

A: I like to sing, dance, play the ukulele, run, play basketball, and drink coffee.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I don't have to leave campus to go to work, and I get to meet a lot of new people!

Q: What do you dislike about your job?

A: Waking up to a duty call in the middle of the night and not knowing where I am or what time it is.

Name: Katy Sisco
Hometown: Burchard, Neb.
Degree: Accounting
Class Status: Sophomore



Q: How long have you been an RA?

A: I have been a RA since 2009- so this is my third year.

Q: What other activities do you like to do?

A: I enjoy napping, being a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and DANCING!!!

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I enjoy really getting to know the students and in a way, being a mentor to them.

Q: What do you dislike about your job?

A: Sometimes, the job is a huge time sacrifice and a time commitment but hey it's a part of the job!

Name: Derek Thompson
Hometown: Omaha, Neb.
Degree: Vocal Music Education
Class Status: Sophomore



Q: How long have you been an RA?

A: This is my first year as a Residential Assistant.

Q: What other activities do you like to do?

A: I like to hang out with friends, watch movies, scrapbook and play volleyball in my free time.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: What I enjoy most about my job is getting to know the people and seeing how different everyone is. I find it interesting to see everyone's different talents and unique abilities.

Q: What do you dislike about your job?

A: What I dislike most about my job is that I can't go home as often as I would like.

Left- Lana Pena thumbs through one of her new books she just got in the mail. Some students tend to lean towards buying textbooks online because they are less likely to have a major mark up on them like the bookstore.

Right- Though the bookstore can be pricier than getting books online, many students still choose to shop there. Sometimes the convenience of the bookstore trumps the savings of online.



Bookstore vs. Online



Story by Megan Baggett
Photos by Molly Thomas

Buying books is a major expense for college students across the country. Books can cost an average student anywhere from \$200 to \$400 but for nursing students the average cost is about \$800. The unfortunate part of spending all that money on books is that you take the chance of not being able to sell the book back for anywhere near that amount.

Students like Rhyse Curtis, a senior in Criminal Justice, said that, "Students are looking for the cheapest way to get their books." He has tried shopping around for books online and compared some prices and found one book that was priced at \$100 at the bookstore for \$20 online, same exact book. However, he has not always been so lucky so he usually ends up at the book store.

Charlene Divino, a senior, stated that she only shops at the bookstore because she qualifies for book vouchers. With her book vouchers she is able to get all the materials required, and sometimes a few extra books to help her get ahead for the next semester.

Terri Yarnell, an employee of the campus bookstore, believes that students prefer to come into the bookstore for their books because of the convenience.

At the bookstore you do not have to shop around, just bring in your schedule, and they will be gathered up for you. If professors change their minds, the bookstore would return or refund your textbook within a certain grace period after classes began. A new program the bookstore offered is textbooks rental and E-Books. These cost students less upfront and don't run the risk of not being bought back by the bookstore.

Curtis had been successful in reselling his books to companies such as "textbooksrus.com" but his best bet was renting them from a textbook site called "Chegg.com." This site allowed the student to see a picture of the cover and gave a full review of the quality of the textbook: new, good or used.

Senior Nursing Student Jessica Starostka, had a different view of the bookstore. "I appreciate the convenience, but I would rather shop around for books, that way I know what the best prices are," Starostka said. "The mark up of textbooks is incredible, but just entering the ISBN located on the back of the book into google.com can save you a substantial amount of money."

Left- Tony Lucro hypnotizes the row of students on the stage. Lucro was only part of the entertainment as the students took the spotlight.



Dazed and Confused

Story by Nicole Teeter & Charlene Divino
Photos by Nicole Teeter

Tony Lucro is a hypnotist who believes that the best people for hypnotizing come from the crowd. He came to Western to see what kind of audience the Griffons had to offer for a WAC sponsored show.

He began his performance by putting the audience at ease with jokes. Lucro explained what hypnotism is, and what he would do. He emphasized that hypnotism was not magic; it was just relaxation. The crowd clearly felt receptive to Lucro's act. When he asked for volunteers, a stampede of students went racing to the stage to claim one of 10 chairs.

As the 10 lucky students who made it to the stage sat down the crowd readied itself for an interesting show. Lucro began "the stair countdown of relaxation," which caused the students to fall asleep as they listened to Lucro counting and talking about walking down a staircase. It proved effective. Of the 10 students volunteers, most fell asleep. Only two volunteers exhibited no reaction and returned to their seats in the audience. Surprisingly, three audience members also found themselves hypnotized in their seats. Lucro retrieved them and brought them onstage to join the other volunteers.

Throughout the show Lucro used his volunteers to demonstrate the power of hypnosis. Lucro would

say things, which would trigger each student to act out what he was explaining.

Sammie Stoner, freshman, was one of Lucro's volunteers. She describes the haziness of the experience of being hypnotized. "I can't remember anything," Stoner said. "Vaguely, I heard laughing." Stoner says she would definitely do it again. "I felt a lot better and hoped to sleep great," Stoner said.

The entertainer of the night was not just working with the volunteers. Lucro was all over the crowd and getting the crowd involved and laughing until it hurt. After his show Lucro sold CD's of the show. He also stayed for questions and comments from students who wanted to become like him.

Lucro's roots start in the same place of origin as many great showmen, Las Vegas, Nev. After spending time researching what went into developing a hypnosis act, Lucro saw a show and felt inspired to approach the hypnotist afterward. "After meeting him we have been friends ever since," Lucro said. "He took me under his wing and thought me everything he knew."

Lucro has had his own show for nine years and practiced all of the time. He even described practicing on his wife, kids and dog. "My kids love it and it makes my wife be relaxed and sleep better during the night," Lucro said.



Right- Sleeping students make the stars of the show. The hypnotist was brought in by WAC to give Western a good time.

Bottom- Keeisha Beasley dances her heart out while hypnotized. Beasley was one of a number of students who let loose on stage.



Fashion should be FREE

Story by Jerrica Brown

When thinking of fashion, most think a simple definition such as, the clothes you wear. But, fashion can be so much more than that. Not only is fashion clothes, shoes and accessories. But, the way those things make you feel and the way you act when wearing them as well.

Style, rebellion, energy, simplicity, attitude, confidence, comfort, grace, eye catching, colorful and chic are the choice words of 12 griffons, when asked the first word thought of when thinking of their fashion of choice. Fashion can be all of these plus more.

Ricky Seward, sophomore, criminal justice major, feels fashion is the core of his life. "Fashion is one of those things I can't live without," says Seward. "I often shop at thrift stores because I like the idea of recreating my clothes. I'm not going to spend \$1,000 on something from a retail store just to destroy it."

"I sometimes wish Missouri Western's campus was similar to ones in my homestate, California. Everyone dresses up daily in California and I love that. all I see on this campus is sweat pants," Seward said.

Believe it or not, comfort can be fashionable as well. You just have to know how to work it. Octavia Ball, sophomore, psychology major, is a prime example.

"Nike is my best friend," says Ball. "With working two jobs, getting dressed for class is the last thing on my mind. I just grab something quick and convenient to throw on which is usually my Nike or Victoria Secret's Pink gear. They're both so comfy."

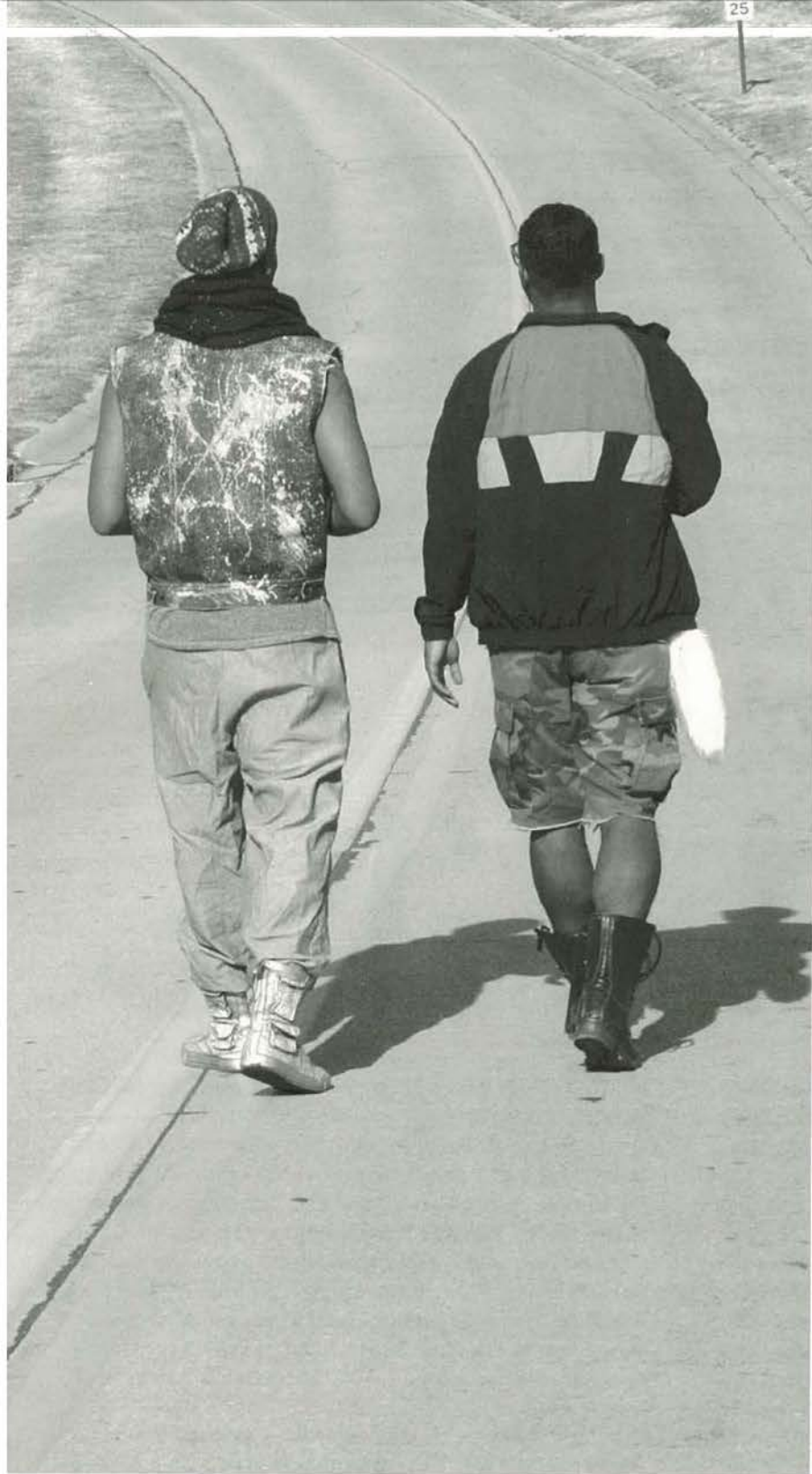
Tobias Pointer, sophomore convergent media major, feels fashion is the best way to express ones self without words. "Fashion inspires me because I can do what I want to do and dress how I want to dress, a person can never tell me what's in or what's out," says Pointer.

Benny Cole, sophomore, computer science majors, feels fashion is whatever he wants it to be. "I usually dress how I feel, if I feel like wearing a polka dot shirt with army fatigue pants, that's what I'm going to wear. I don't put boundaries on my style. I would say I'm more of a free spirit and that's how fashion should be, boundless," Cole says.

Although most students want to look their best on campus and follow the upcoming trends, there are still a large population of students that would rather roll out of bed and show up to class especially those 8 a.m. classes, in their pj's. So whether it is pure comfort or the most trendy attire students at MWSU seem to find and express their own styles.

Steppin' in Style





Left- Ricky Sawant and Octavia Ball show off their attire on James McCarthy Drive. The two men were models in the Fashion show, at Missouri Western. Photo by Jerrica Brown

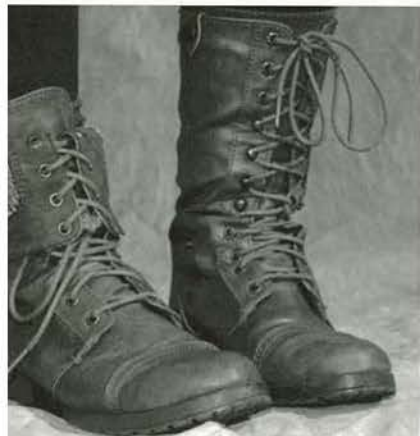
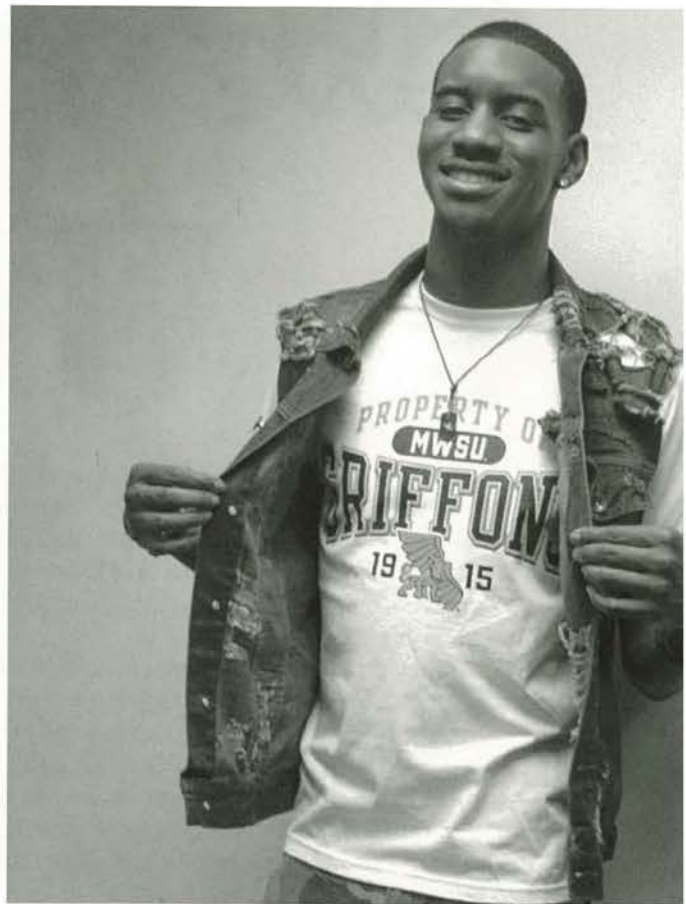
Right- Tobias Pointer holds his jacket open to show off his Griffon t-shirt. Pointer a sophomore enjoyed being a model for the photo shoot. Photo by Noel Collier

Below- Ugg boots were a trendy Fashion amongst the female students. Uggs were not only a fashion statement for women, many men wore different styles of the brand. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Right Bottom- Heels and pumps have made a come back on campus. Women on campus wore heels year round. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Center- Boots will never go out of style amongst MWSU students. With winter months on campus students couldn't survive without them. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Left Bottom- Many students across campus showed their support by wearing Toms. This particular brand supported children in Africa who were without shoes. Photo by Lauren Dillon



Left- The greens of Cool Crest Miniature Golf are decorated beautifully for a pleasant trip around the holes. The golf course includes three courses and a snack bar to enjoy treats like root beer floats after the last putt.



Cheap Thrills

Story by Jourdan Ryan
Photos by Lauren Dillon

When you live in a small town and you're busy with a full load of classes, it's hard to take the time to explore the city or find the hole-in-the-wall spots brimming with fun and entertainment. Saint Joseph has many of these to offer, like Cool Crest, Belt Bowl, and Plaza 8 Theaters.

Cool Crest has been a Saint Joseph attraction for over 60 years. Families and young couples walk up to the window, pay for their games, and step toward the courses with colored golf balls in hand. Cool Crest features three different courses, each with their own array of interesting holes. One hole includes a dragon that opens and closes his mouth. Golfers must attempt to get the ball into its mouth before it closes. Another hole boasts a life-size castle, with a tiny door for tinier golfers to step into. A third hole that is a favorite features a doll house, complete with furniture in every room. The ball is sent through the home's garage and into the corresponding hole on the other side.

Another Saint Joseph hot spot is Belt Bowl. Belt Bowl opened in 1961 and has been in business for 50 years. One of Belt Bowl's most popular events is called Rock & Bowl. It occurs after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays with all the lights turned down, the music turned up, and glow-in-the-dark lanes and balls. Belt Bowl offers a load of cheap specials for the frugal college-aged fun seeker. On Monday nights, ladies bowl free. On Tuesdays, games and shoes only cost \$2. On Wednesday

nights, bowlers over 21 can bowl and drink for just \$10. Bowlers under 21 get free soda and two slices of pizza.

"I go to Belt Bowl to hang out with friends. They have all you can drink, all you can bowl on Wednesdays for 10 dollars. It's a good chance to unwind in the middle of the week," senior Chris Peterson said.

On Thursdays, Belt Bowl's hot dogs and sodas are only 50 cents all day long. Finally, on Sunday nights, Belt Bowl offers \$1 games and shoes. Belt Bowl is also connected to Legends Sports Café, which serves steaks and burgers to customers watching sports games on 10-foot screens.

Plaza 8 Screenland Theater is a discount movie theater on the Belt Highway that has stood the test of time. Plaza 8 shows movies that are on their second run in theaters. Each movie ticket costs only \$2 and both the movies and their show times update every single week.

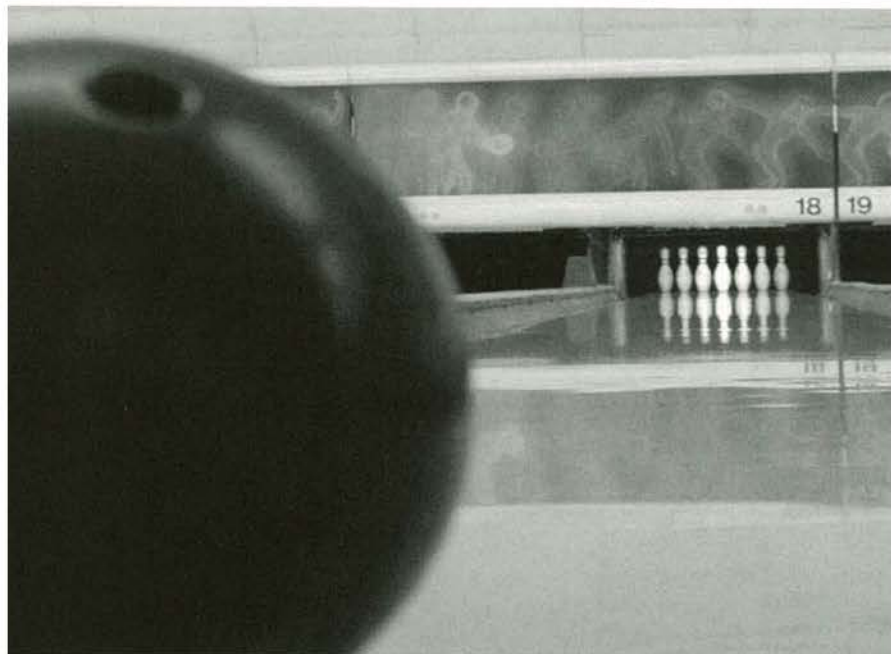
"I like Plaza 8 because it's so cheap and I have been going there ever since I was a kid so it's like a childhood place to me," Freshman Holly Grier said.

Saint Joseph may be a small town, but it's filled with big fun. Cool Crest, Plaza 8, and Belt Bowl are Saint Joseph veterans, as they have been putting smiles on the faces of citizens for years. The next time you're looking for a weekend pastime, grab your bowling bowl, your movie ticket, or your golf club and head to one of Saint Joe's most historic places for a fun night out on the town.



Right- Moviegoers at Plaza 8 Theater stop to see what movies are coming soon. The discount theater brings patrons of all ages to see movies on their second run in theaters.

Bottom- The Belt Bowl offers discounts and specials all week long. The bowling alley is a popular hang out for bowlers and non-bowlers alike since the building houses a sports bar, a dance theater and live music as well as bowling pins.







Left- Children at the learning center gather around the president of Missouri Western State University for story time. Dr. Vartabedian stopped in to be the guest speaker at the Y's center.

Right- Dr. Vartabedian reads to children at the YWCA's kids early learning center on MW/SU campus. He read "A Griffin in the Garden."

Read to Me

Story & Photos by Sarah Hatten

It's not every day the President of a university shows up at daycare to read to kids. Dr. Robert Vartabedian made a visit to the childcare center at Missouri Western State University, delighting the children at the center.

They were cheering and clapping before he even opened the book. They surrounded him in a circle and glued their eyes on his hands as he displayed the book he chose to read.

He read "A Griffin in the Garden" to kids at Y's Kids Early Learning Center on campus. The children took a break from playing on the playground outside of Wilson to spend some time indoors, ears perked up for story time.

They sat around in a circle and tried to sit still long enough to hear the entire story. Dr. Vartabedian interacted with the children and asked them questions about pets and their homes.

The children were eager to share their

answers, happy to have a new face in the teacher's seat. The youngsters listened intently to each and every word and some even asked questions during story time.

They scooted closer and closer to Dr. Vartabedian as he turned the pages. When he asked questions, they screamed their responses at him, giving him more than he bargained for. Y's Kids serves children, ages two through twelve. The children referred to the president as "Dr. Seuss" and gave him hugs after he finished reading.

Dr. Vartabedian was enriching their lives and possibly recruiting future Griffons. Workers at the Learning Center say the kids are always excited when visitors come to read to them, but they were particularly excited when Dr. Vartabedian was scheduled to read.

They usually complain when they have to leave the playground to come inside, but workers said they were eager to meet Dr. Vartabedian.

Hidden Treasures

Story by Jourdan Huffman
Photos by Clifford Petersen

They say you can learn a lot from walking in another man's shoes. But could you learn something by wearing another man's clothes? Or by buying another man's table lamp? College students all over Western were enthralled with the idea of purchasing vintage clothing and furniture from antique stores and thrift shops around the city. Maybe it was the high that came with buying something they loved at a dirt-cheap price or maybe it was more than that, or less than that rather. Maybe it was simply fun.

"I love thrift stores because you never know what kinds of things you will find," freshman Lana Pena said. "I really like places like the Jesse James Antique Mall or the DAV. Sometimes you'll find designer clothes or jewelry that no one has and it makes all the searching worth it."

The Jesse James Antique Mall is located right off of the Belt Highway, on the way to Savannah, Mo. The walls inside were covered with knickknacks and bookshelves, dust and mementos everywhere. The room was sprawling with activity, elderly women picking up hand sewn lace doilies, teenage kids fingering through piles and piles of records from the 1980s, and hip, college-aged girls trying on fedoras and vintage costume jewelry near the front of the store. It was a frugal history lover's dream.

"The prices are the best part. College kids love cheap clothes and being original, so it's easy to see why buying clothes from thrift stores can be fun," Pena said.

The DAV is not much different, located on the

South Belt Highway. Sponsored by Disabled War Veterans, most of the proceeds go straight back to veteran charity groups around the country. The store was riddled with never ending racks full of shoulder-padded blazers, World Wrestling Federation T-shirts and plaid-printed dress pants.

At another end of the store were shelves piled high with pots, pans, mugs, plates, silverware and candlesticks. There was a small selection of records, mostly Christmas selections, and a whole shelf devoted to books, some with ripped-off covers and others with coffee-stained pages. The prices for each item were written on them with an erasable chalk-like pen, in black.

"You get more for your money at a thrift store and the items tend to be a little bit more unique. The DAV is my favorite thrift store in town because I find really cool items there for mega cheap like my favorite sunglasses, for example," senior Robin Gann said. "I paid 50 cents for those."

What age category would the majority of the shoppers in these stores fall into? Most of them are college-aged, a boy looking for an old recliner to play his X-box from, a girl looking for patterned tights to wear with a new dress she bought the day before, or a couple, trying to find the ugliest Christmas sweaters for a party they're going to that weekend. College students need to save money and antique stores and thrift shops let them do just that, while allowing them the experience of searching through old junk to find a brand new treasure.

Top- A rack of purses hang on display for shoppers to browse through. The bags have been donated to the thrift shop by people who were trying to clean house and do a good deed at the same time.

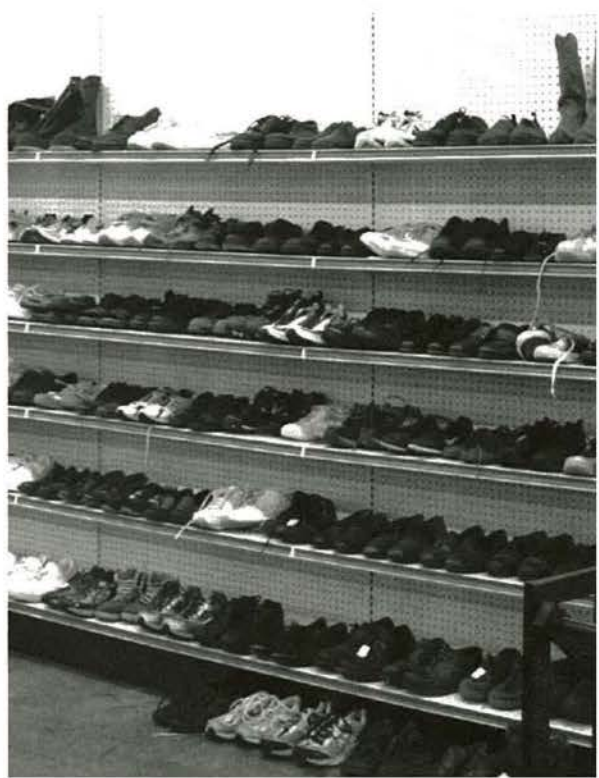
Right- Lamps and other appliances can also be bought from the DAV. Many college kids made visits to the DAV for items needed to make their college living easier.

Middle- Students walking around campus know about wearing out a pair of shoes. The DAV allowed students to pick a pair of shoes that fit their needs without emptying their pockets.

Right Bottom- Seasonal sections are offered in the store so you can get your holiday shopping done year round. Students and many other people visit thrift stores frequently to find unique and fun things.

Left- Racks upon racks of clothes and accessories can be seen as you walk into a thrift shop. Thrift store shopping was not as conventional as going to a corporate owned store, but those stores don't hold the hidden treasures either.







A Write to Heal

Story Robyn Patti
Photos by Molly Thomas

She was lying on the sidewalk, beaten and bruised for hours before finally one out of hundreds of people stopped to help Lisa Regina after she was thrown out of her fiancé's car and left to die on a sidewalk in the middle of New York City.

This incident was the circumstance that Lisa Regina was working to prevent for other women throughout the country. Regina was an actress and acting coach in New York, and was working on the show "The Sopranos," which is where she had met her fiancé that led her down the path of destruction.

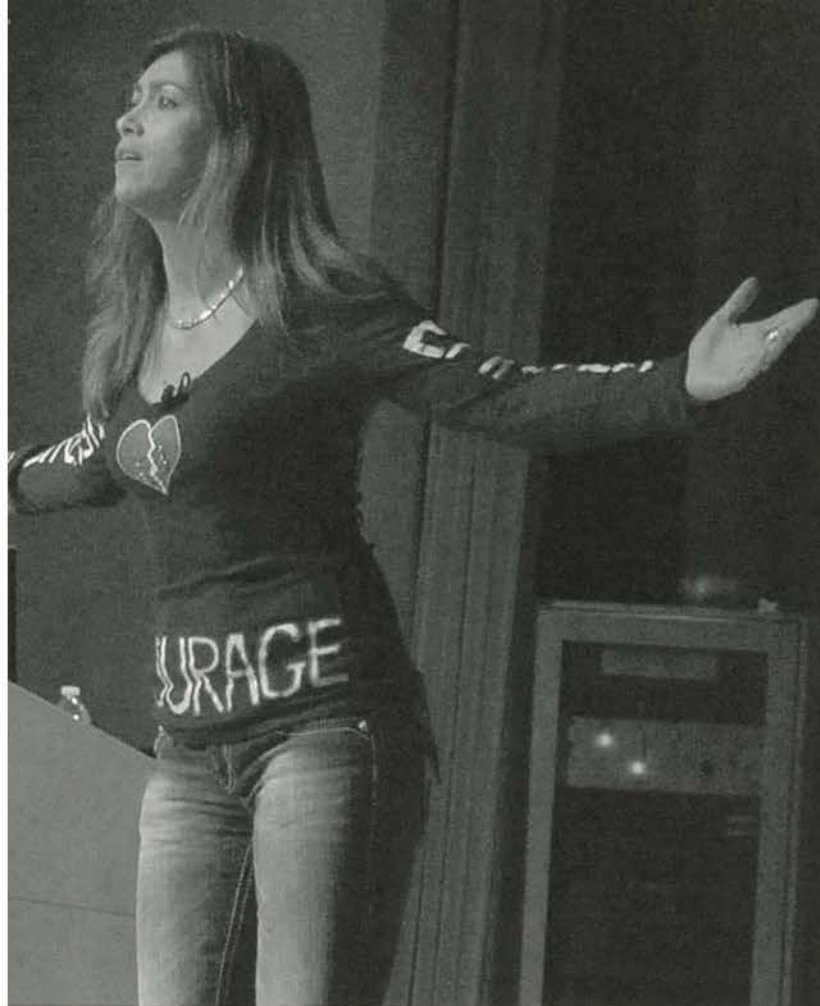
The local YWCA of St. Joseph was working with Regina to bring domestic violence awareness to women around the country. Jean Brown, director of the YWCA, introduced Regina to the stage and talked about the new programs the YWCA has to offer women in the area. The YWCA had helped with crisis intervention and sexual violence counseling for 27 years in St. Joseph. The new programs added to the YWCA included a sexual assault primary prevention program, installed to immediately help victims in-house instead of having to send them to

other counseling services.

Regina spoke to the crowd about her experiences as an abused woman. She described the events that led up to her lying on a sidewalk in the middle of New York City. She also explained how she went further and further into a downward spiral, only to build herself back up and move on to help women who also had been victims of domestic abuse. Regina described the vicious cycle of violence, how it starts with verbal abuse and then escalated into physical abuse. This cycle continues and starts again with a honeymoon stage, then falling into abuse again.

The fact that only one person, out of hundreds in New York City, stopped to help Regina when she was bruised and battered proves that no one in any place wanted to address this issue. This problem had been present for centuries around the world, and Regina was working to bring it to the face of many communities to let it be known, so it could be fixed.

"The backdrop changes but city after city this issue is out there," Regina said. Her efforts to spread abuse



Left- Audience members responded to Regina's dramatic monologue emotionally and personally. Some responded with personal attestments relating to domestic abuse.

Center- Regina, actress and activist, performs her life story in a strong monologue. Regina traveled the country speaking out on domestic violence and abuse as a effort to help women worldwide.

Right- Regina is best known for her role on the hit mob drama, "The Sopranos."

awareness started with getting herself back on track. After she locked herself in her apartment for weeks on end her best friend, Christina came to help her. Her friend knew Regina did not trust anyone so she stayed outside her door for five hours until Regina would let her in. After about a week Regina finally left her apartment and she lived with Christina for six months.

"I stayed in bed for what I had thought was days, but had ended up being about three months," Regina said. "I couldn't eat or sleep, but would just drown myself with pain medication. I started writing because it was the only thing I could do to get out the pain and the blame. I kept a pad of paper by my bed and just wrote and wrote."

The things Regina wrote would later come to rescue her from her drowning. As an acting coach and actress, Regina brought out her creative side while going through the healing process. Her writing from the first scary months was later turned into a monologue that she performed in New York City. She had worked on herself and built herself back to health mentally, physically and spiritually. She performed her monologue and immediately had women speaking up to say they were in similar situations. Regina answered these cries for help by starting a writing circle. She would invite women to her house to write down the feelings they were having, just as she had done months before to help her heal.

The women responded with writing stories just as hard hitting and heavy and emotion-laden as hers had been. She helped a number of women take the personal and legal actions necessary to secure safe lives for themselves and their children. Regina also took a few of these women's stories to the stage. She performed other women's lives in a monologue just as she had done for

herself. She said by seeing their lives from that point helped them do what needed to be done.

"When I would perform these women's stories I always made sure they were safe and anonymous in the audience," Regina said. "One woman came up to me after the show and said to me 'I see now what my life looks like, and I want to change it,' and the next day we went to the local precinct and took out a restraining order against this woman's husband who had been beating her and raping her for years. That is why I am here: to help these women get out of the abusive situation before it's too late."

Regina took questions from the audience, to get to know who was there. A couple of women could relate to her situation and she would direct them to the YWCA for all necessary scenarios.

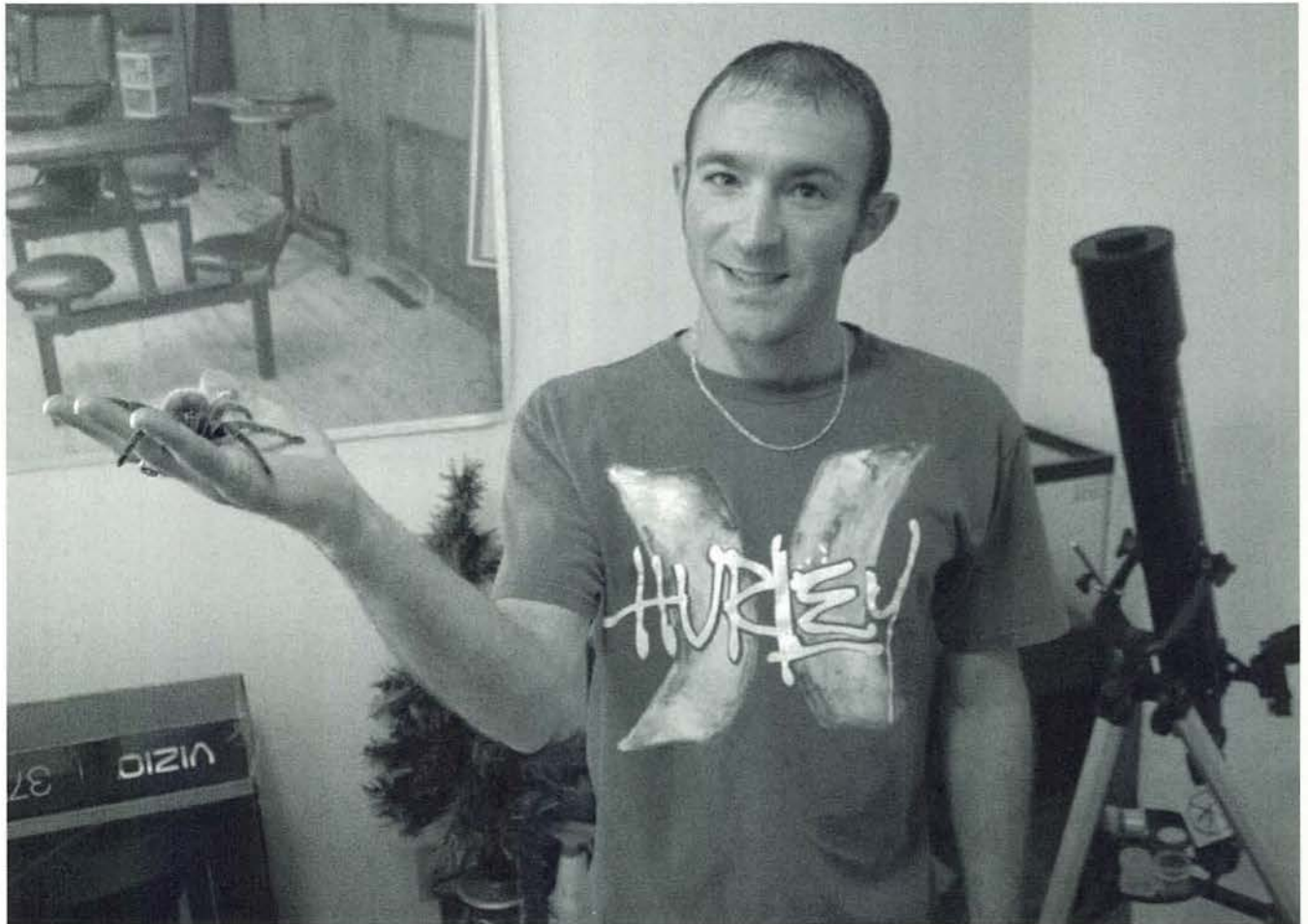
"The staff at the YWCA is wonderful," Regina said. "You have to utilize these resources because they are so available to you!"

Sophomore Damon Coy was in the audience and spoke to Regina about what a fan he was of "The Sopranos" and talked to her about her role in the show, along with other women.

"There really wasn't a woman on the show who wasn't abused," said Coy. "Do you think that promotes the cycle of abuse?"

Regina answered with a statement about how television didn't necessarily promote violence; it usually was present in someone before they had a chance to learn it from movies or television. Coy then asked if she would let her children watch "the Sopranos."

"No," Regina said. "Absolutely not!"



Extra Ordinary Pets

Story by Aly Reinhart
Photos by Zac Covault

They say that dog is man's best friend. But this cliché doesn't apply to everyone. Missouri Western featured several students who opened their hearts and their homes to some not-so-typical pets. Leah Voltmer was a senior at Western, and the proud owner of not one, or two, but 30 salamanders.

Voltmer wanted something a little more interesting than fish. Salamanders certainly fit the bill. These little guys start out small but can grow to be 12 inches long and live nearly 15 years. Not only that, but they have a special defense mechanisms: when a salamander is in danger, caught by a bird for example, they can snap off a leg or their tail, scurry away and then grow the limb

right back about a week later.

Why so many Salamanders? Voltmer's male and female took her breeding idea into their own hands. But Voltmer didn't really mind.

"When I was younger, my favorite story was called the 'Salamander Room'," Voltmer said. "It was about a boy with a room full of salamanders. I thought that sounded cool. Well, now I have a 'Salamander Room!'"

Besides these amputating amphibians, senior, Jacob Lutes had a unique pet of his own. Lutes kept a female tarantula, Terrance Little, as a pet. Lutes said he knew a professor with a male tarantula. Like Voltmer, he had breeding plans, but that hasn't happened yet. In the

Left- Senior Jacob Lutes has owned his tarantula Terrance since 2005. Lutes enjoys standing out from his peers by being a nontraditional pet owner.

Center- Senior Leah Voltmer loves having over 30 salamanders. Voltmer has been interested in salamanders since she was a child.

Right- Voltmer displays one of the salamanders in a container of water. Salamanders can live both in and outside of water.

Right Bottom- Lutes enjoys letting his tarantula crawl up and down his arm. Lutes would often take Terrance out to see the sights on campus.

Left Bottom- Lutes lets Terrance out when she wants to let him stretch all eight of his legs. Lutes made sure Terrance would feel right at home complete with his very own decorated living area.



meantime, he learned many interesting things about these large arachnids.

Most people are afraid of spiders. Most people don't know that these particular spiders can live up to twenty years. Lutes has owned Terrance since 2005. He also said that these creatures are surprisingly fragile. Because they have an exoskeleton, like some bugs, holding them too tight or too rough can cause internal damage. They also shed their skin like a snake and can regrow legs that are injured or lost just like Voltmer's salamanders.

"She's a pretty easy pet," Lutes said. "There's no barking and she doesn't leave out too many toys."

Lutes is pretty satisfied with being a nontraditional pet owner.

Along with Lutes and Voltmer, junior, Hillari Krull kept a slightly unusual pet. Krull was the owner of two chinchillas. When her cat died, Krull went to the

pet store, just looking, until she saw the chinchilla. She brought her home and named her Nala. She recently adopted another female to keep Nala company.

These soft and fluffy rodents are excellent jumpers and climbers, and may be the only pet you bathe by letting them roll in dust. To keep their fur from getting oily and grimy, chinchillas take dust baths instead of regular ones, and they love to play.

"We have a really big hamster ball for them," Krull said. "Nala will get in it and let our dog push her around with his nose and paws."

These students took having a pets while in college to the next level. It seems like anyone can have a cat or dog in this age, but not everyone has a salamander, tarantula or chinchilla. Owning these pets is just one more thing that helps make these students unique and nontraditional pet owners.





Left- The denim that was donated had messages wrote on the legs to show support for rape victims. Many students supported Denim Day by wearing jeans. Photo by Michelle Allen

Right- A message about rape awareness says loud and clear, "No means no." Many of the students aren't aware of the devastations f rape, but Green Dot is trying to fix that. Photo by Zac Covault

Bottom- Denim Day was created to raise awareness of rape. Jeans were donated to the cause as well as worn by supporters. Photo by Noel Collier

No Means No

Story by Nicole Gardner

Did you know that in 1992 an 18-year old in Italy was picked up by her driving instructor to begin a driving lesson and that soon after she was raped on the side of the road by him? She pressed charges and won her case, but her instructor appealed and the case went to the Italian High Court.

In 1999 the court overturned the conviction with a member of the High Court declaring that since the victim wore very tight jeans, the instructor could not have removed them himself, therefore the victim must have willingly participated. Women of the Italian legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans, as news of the decision spread, so did the protest.

In April 1999 the state of California established the first Denim Day in the United States. Over the past year Missouri Western's Green Dot program has been teaming up with WAC to help spread awareness and intolerance against sexual and domestic abuse campus wide.

Ronald Cohen, Green Dot's Prevention Education Specialist said, "The participation at first was just about wearing jeans and I think that the students that we interacted with got the who, where, what, when

and why about why we wear jeans on this particular day answered for them."

"I didn't know what it was until a friend of mine got a packet with the story (and a pin) behind Denim Day attached, and next to the Vagina Monologues, it's been one of the only other programs on campus that I've supported. I even wore the pin I got, to show my support once I knew what it was about" said Sara Frank Junior a Technical Communication's major.

Green Dot's Denim Day impacted both women and men, Scott Mezaros, senior and Psychology major was proud of Missouri Western for acknowledging rape and doing something to raise awareness against it.

"I think that rape is a terrible thing and that there is no acceptable reason for rape to happen and when Ronald Cohen propositioned me about the program and I read the pamphlet with the story on it, I wore my pin proudly!" said Mezaros.

Many students campus wide wore jeans to support the event; with this being one of the most successful Denim Days the campus had seen. Green Dot and WAC hope next year the news is even beiger with more people supporting the cause.



Over-Time

Story by Alexa Adams

Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Potter Hall is just like any other hall on Missouri Western's campus, but it was what happened after 4:30 p.m. that brought Potter to life. In the evenings Potter Hall was crawling with talent. Students would come in to practice their music, rehearse their lines and create works of art.

The Administrative Assistant of the Music Department Carol Criss saw a lot of the students who spent nights in Potter.

"Practicing is a huge part of the applied learning process here at Missouri Western," Criss said. These after-hours gave students the time they needed to practice their work and move forward in their major. The

administrative staff of Potter Hall definitely saw progress in students who took advantage of the after-hours that were provided to them.

"It would be like an athlete not having a gym," Criss said.

Just like a gym, Potter Hall was lively at night. Students were given access to computer labs, print studios, drawing studios, photo studios, practice rooms and even classrooms. The labs in the building were filled most of the time with students doing homework.

"They live here. We wish they would go home!" said Custodial Staff Member, Sabrina Campbell.

Most students were kicked out of the building at

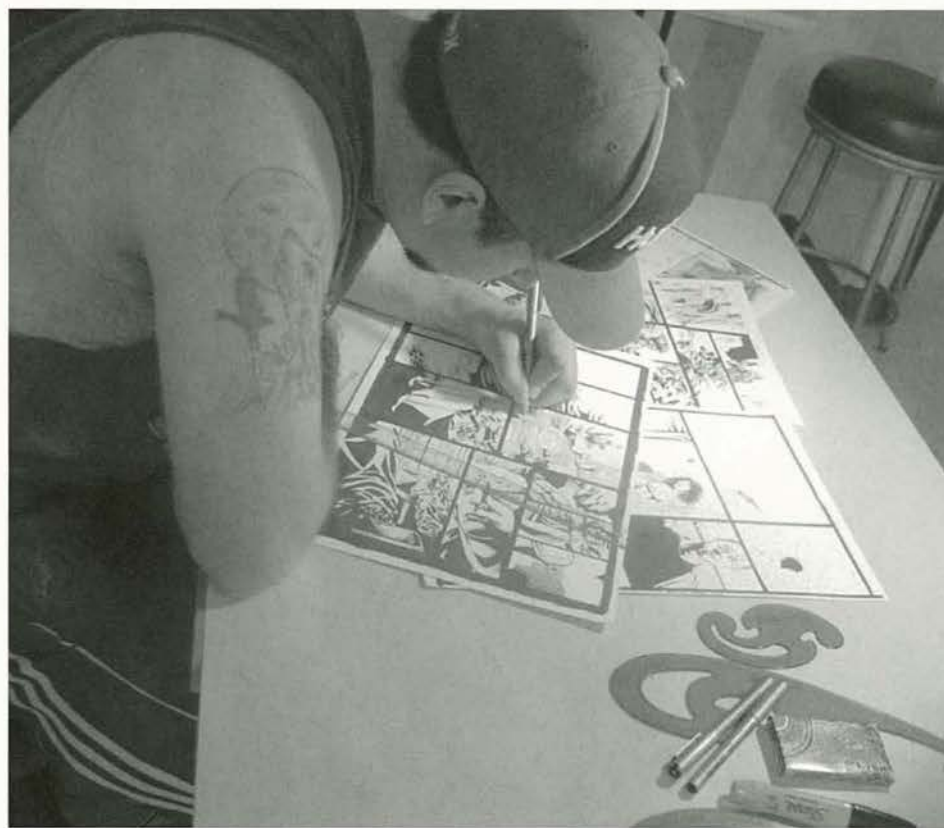


Top Left- People from the community also use Potter after hours to practice. The Saint Joseph area holds talent shows in Potter. Photo by Noel Collier

Center- Students worked on their projects late into the night. The art department sold many pieces of student's art throughout the year. Photo by Molly Thomas

Right- Chad Hammontree, a Graphic Design student, concentrates on his work. Many illustration classes were offered to students during the year. Photo by Molly Thomas

Left Bottom- One of the Saint Joseph dance studios practice in Potter Hall. The building was full of students and people of the community practicing their skills. Photo by Noel Collier



midnight but some art students were able to obtain 24-hour passes to the building to work on their projects.

Andrew Setter, a senior art student, was one of the few that stayed past midnight. "Last semester I was in there more than the dorm," Setter said. "I'm usually in there for at least six to seven hours a day."

Potter Hall became some students' second home. "The officer comes around 3 a.m., so I leave then," Setter said. Most art, music and theater students cannot finish everything that is required of them within their scheduled class time so these after hours were essential for the students, allowing them to finish the work they could not get done in class.

"It is quiet and so easy to work during after hours," Setter said. "The people who are in there are all really dedicated."

Not only could the students get projects done during after hours, but they could get paid too. Students had the

ability to become hall monitors during Potter after-hours. The job of hall monitor entailed students to walk around the building every 30 to 40 minutes during their shift and check on students who were busy working and using Potter's supplies.

Hall monitors were allowed to work 20 hours a week and were provided access to all the building's facilities. They also had the job of letting students with passes into classrooms they needed access to. Non-traditional student, Teresa Rodewald had been a hall monitor since 2008.

"You get a lot of work done for classes while working," Rodewald said. "It forces you to work."

Unlike many other buildings on campus, Potter Hall was anything but dead in the evenings. It was filled with students working together on their projects. Sabrina Campbell said it best, "What happens in Potter stays in Potter!"

**"LAST
SEMESTER I WAS
IN THERE MORE
THAN THE DORM."**

- ANDREW SETTER



Journal Club



Shake it... for Me

Story by Alexa Adams
Photos by Heather Heater & Lindsey Roberts

Missouri Western and WAC have a tradition of hosting a free spring concert in St. Joseph for students, and this year was no different. The 2012 featured the artist, Missouri's own, Sara Evans. The Missouri native not only entertained the masses but also helped make WAC Spring Concert history for highest turnout ever, 1,900 people attend.

The rock country band, Shooting Blanks, opened the concert for Sara Evans. They performed a total of nine songs for the crowd, including their song, "Everything" from their newly debuted album.

Sophomore, Breannah Nissen, who was one of the many Western students in attendance said, "The opening band was very good!"

Shooting Blanks set list also included their songs "Back Down to my Heart" and "Shake it for Me."

Although the opening band was enjoyed by the crowd, all were in anticipation for the main event, Sara Evans. Evans opened up with her song, "As If" and the crowd roared and sang along with her every word. Between songs Evans expressed her sentiment for Missouri and talked about her family.

"I liked when she talked between songs," said sophomore, Scott Schlessler. "It gave her some more depth and personality."

Some of the other songs on Sara Evans set list for the night included, "Perfect", "Born to Fly", "Suds in a

Bucket" and of course "A Little Bit Stronger."

"My favorite song she performed was definitely 'Suds in a Bucket'," said sophomore, Nathan Harms. "I knew a lot more songs than I thought I would."

Even though the performances by Shooting Blanks and Sara Evans were phenomenal, the songs were not the only part of the concert enjoyed by the students.

"The atmosphere was hopping," laughed Nissen. "It was very energetic and fun."

The friendly atmosphere and diversity of the crowd allowed everyone to have a good time.

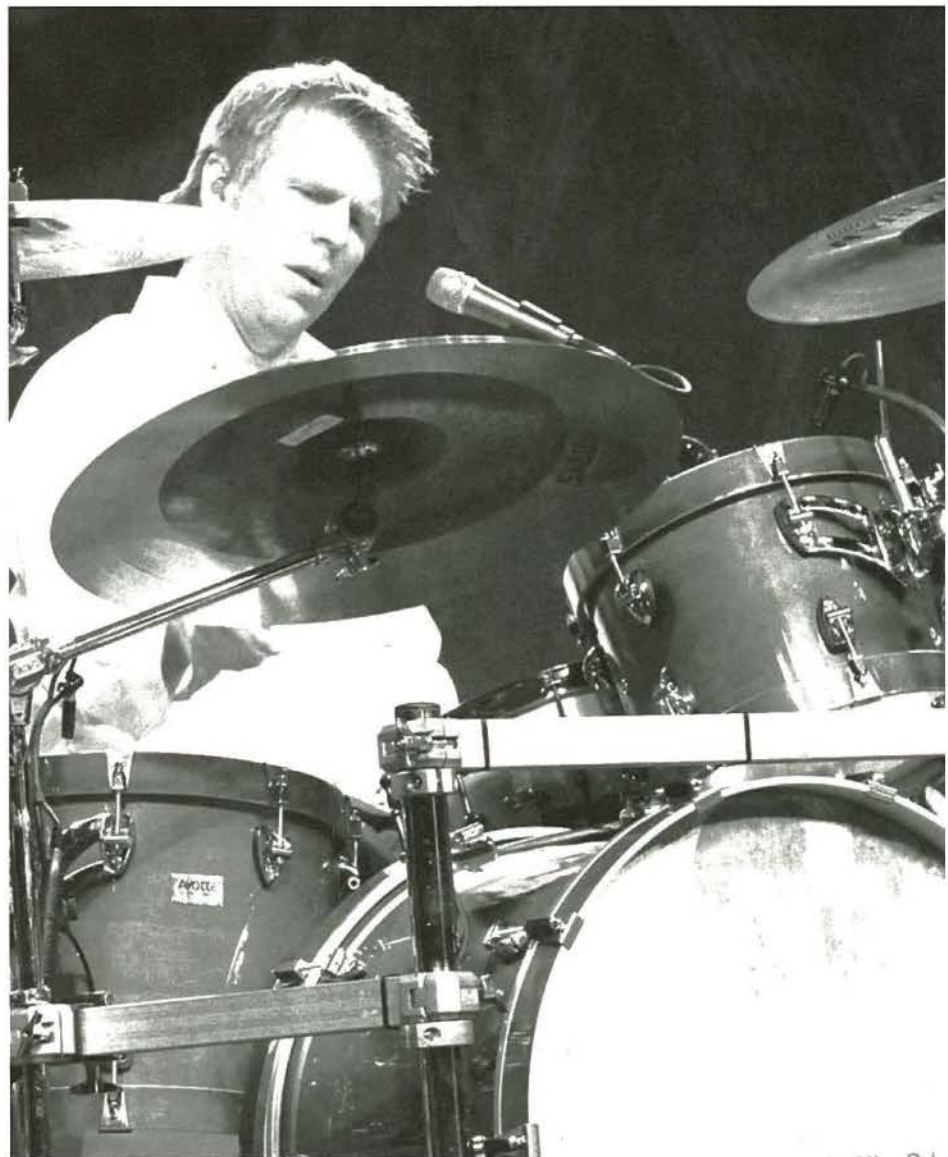
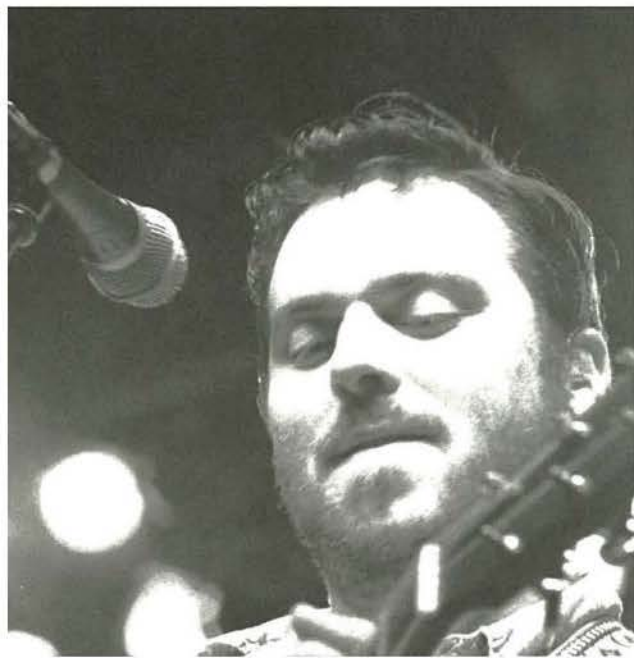
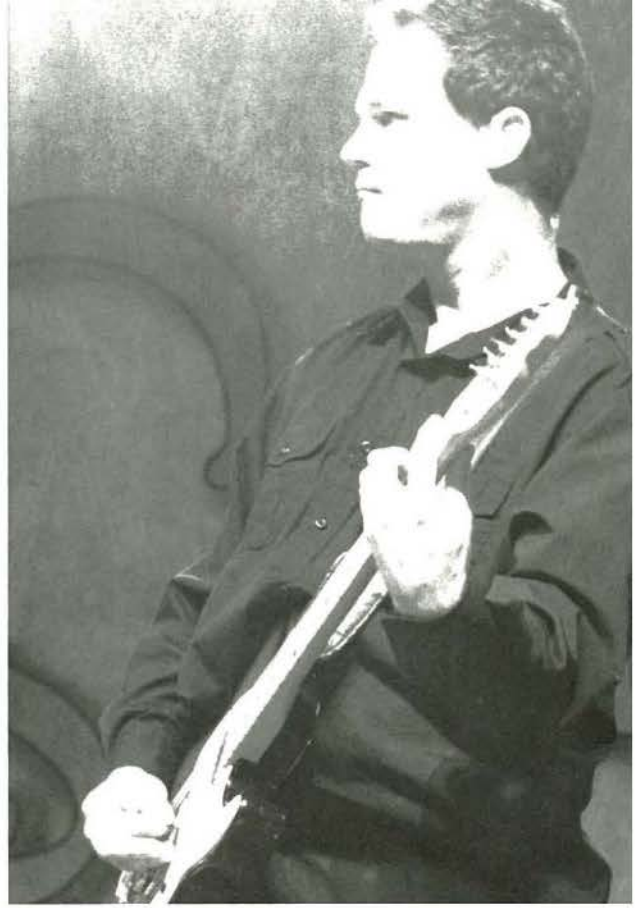
"I was surprised at the broad range of people there, it was pretty cool," said Schlessler.

Nissen also was impressed with the concert's turnout. "It was pretty full, there were a lot of older people there, so the variety of people was different than just college students," Nissen said.

Missouri Western's annual spring concert was an event that many students looked forward to.

"I love that Missouri Western puts on a free concert because it allows us to go out and have some fun for free since we are poor college students," said Nissen.

WAC provides free tickets to Western students, allowing more students to attend and a better student body turnout. "It makes students participate in school activities and want to be more involved," said Schlessler.





Rushing to Unite

Story by Katie Field
Photos by Amanda Fox

While the fall semester was already underway, sorority recruitment was just beginning. Formal recruitment was held from Sept. 12-18 on campus. The three Panhellenic sororities that were rushing new members were Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Gamma Delta, and Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Amber Rivera, Panhellenic president and other recruitment leaders, had been planning the event since last semester.

"We started planning for recruitment back in April, had recruitment training sessions this summer and Rho Gammas learned how to be unbiased, give new girls an opinion about all the sororities and really help them find

where they are comfortable," Rivera said.

Rho Gammas were current members of one of the three sororities on campus who help lead recruitment by advising the potential members in an unbiased fashion. Rho Gammas were required to remove themselves from their sororities during the summer before recruitment and were not allowed to talk to any members of their sorority until Bid Day.

This way potential members did not know what sorority their Rho Gamma belonged to and couldn't make a decision because of them. Stephanie Burns, Panhellenic vice president, also had to remove herself from her sorority in order to help out with recruitment.



Left- Current members of Sigma Sigma Sigma talk to the potential new members while making cards for the children at the Noyes Home. The Noyes home is one of Sigma Sigma Sigma's philanthropies.

Right- Current members of Alpha Gamma Delta talk to potential new members during one of their open house nights. During open house nights each sorority offered food and beverages for the new members while they carried on conversations.

Right Bottom- Potential new members and current members of Alpha Sigma Alpha help decorate a banner for the Special Olympics baseball tournament. The Special Olympics was one of Alpha Sigma Alpha's national philanthropies.

Left Bottom- A member of Sigma Sigma Sigma attempts to re-tape a streamer to the wall that kept falling down during their open house. Each sorority decorated their room with items and photos that represented their sorority.



"I appreciate my sorority always, but I appreciate it so much more," Burns said. "I never thought it would be this difficult without sorority sisters, because I have friends outside of sorority but they don't touch my heart the way that my sorority sisters do."

"No matter which way you go, you can't go wrong," was the theme for recruitment this year. "Just cause all the organizations are really great. No matter where you are, as long as you're comfortable there, it's going to be an amazing experience." Rivera said. There were 68 potential new members that rushed in the fall.

Recruitment week started on Monday and Tuesday with information nights, where the potential new members got the chance to meet a few members from each sorority and learned about what was going to take place the rest of the week. Wednesday was a study night, which was a new event added to the agenda for recruitment.

During the study night the potential members were able to see that other members in sororities remain focused, learned study tips and which classes and professors to take or not to take from the Rho Gammas.

Thursday and Friday were open house nights; the potential members got to meet other members from sororities, eat food and had the chance to learn about what each sorority had to offer.

At the end of the week, the potentials ranked their choices by computer, for a preference night they would like to attend. Each sorority did a preference night where they showcased the serious and emotional side of their chapter.

The potential members were invited back for preference night by their choice of the sorority. By the end of preference night the potential members submitted their final choices. Bid Day followed the next morning, which included the new members accepting their bids, being welcomed into their new sorority, and the Rho Gamma reveal and Bid Day pictures at the Clock Tower.

"My favorite part about recruitment is getting to know the girls before they find what fits them, and seeing who they are before they are in their chapter," Rivera said. "And Bid Day, of course, everyone getting to be in that comfortable place of 'this is where I belong and this is where I'm comfortable.'"

Media Productions Spotlight



Dave Hon

Q: How does it feel to win the Journalist of the Year Award?

A: It's nice to see the long hours pay off. But more than the hours, it takes a certain attitude and mindset to be a good journalist, let alone the best college journalist in the state.

Q: Have you ever won any awards like this before?

A: I competed in debate in high school, and sometimes I'd place in the top three. But, really no. I've never had the chance to win something like this.

Q: What does this mean for MWSU and Griffon News?

A: Since I competed against school like Missouri State and Northwest, it means that Western isn't a second rate school. I can promise them this, an experience from Missouri Western is worth more in the workforce than just a degree from Northwest, Turman or MU. No matter where you go to school, you should get involved.

Q: What kind of responsibility is there to be the Editor-in-Chief of a newspaper distributed to the entire university?

A: Oh, you know. I've been threatened with lawsuits before, and I knew that was a risk going into it. The error these people were upset about wasn't even an error I made, but when you're EIC, every error in the issue is yours. The paper and its staff are your responsibility.

Going the Distance

Story by Robyn Patti

At a typical college campus across the nation, a student can find a campus newspaper at their daily coffee spot, or run across a school yearbook while browsing the library. Some students never think twice about the time and effort that was put into these medias. But in offices across campus, there are many students hard at work putting together these capsules of information.

The Griffon Newspaper was a student-run news outlet that covered all areas of interest across campus. Two-year, Editor-in-Chief, Dave Hon, was the writer, and editor as well as the deadline-keeper of the news office. The sophomore took on the duties of being the face of the newspaper in stride, winning awards, such as 'Journalist of the Year.'

"While we don't spend countless hours trying to put together a great publication for the awards, it's nice to be recognized for our hard work," Hon said.

And recognized they were, with 20 awards given to The Griffon News team for the 2011-2012 MCMA Conference. Hon knew the awards they walked away with were earned and each reporter deserved the win.

"Out of all the schools in our division, we're probably the smallest staff and the smallest budget," Hon said. "At contests like these, big budgets and big staffs don't always translate to great publications."

The Griffon Yearbook was also represented at the MCMA Conference. With 15 awards given out to designers, writers and photographers and former Editor in Chief Raphaelle Drew receiving second place for the theme of the 2010-2011 book.

The newspaper and yearbook weren't just around to win awards, though. The two publications were actually classes offered to anyone, mostly taken by English and Journalism students. By enrolling in either of the two credit courses, students would take on responsibility of writing articles, snapping photos or learning layout processes.

By having a classroom setting for these media outlets, the students had a hands on experience in creating something that would be seen all across campus, either every other Thursday or once a year with the new yearbook.

Heather Heater was the Editor-in-Chief of the 2011-2012 yearbook. Heater was a graduate convergent media student and saw the benefit of having a class for these publications over just having a staff.

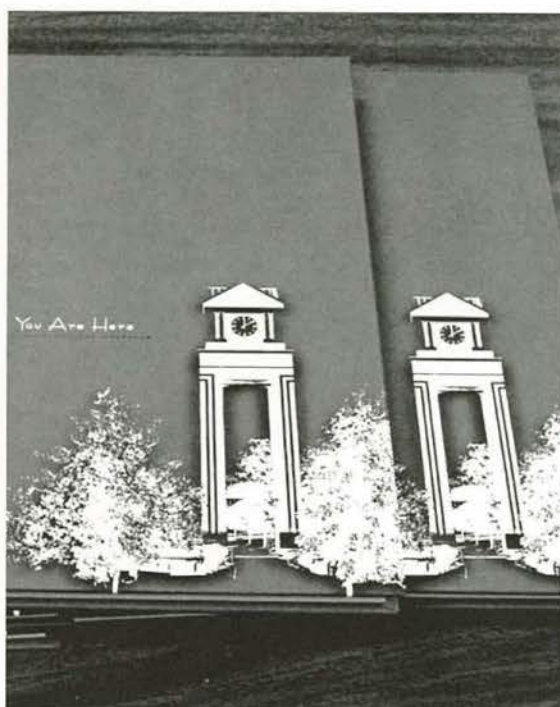
"The media classes are important to students because they are able to get real world experience with reporting, putting stories together and working on a team with other staff members, as well as learning photo and design work," Heater said. "Without these classes I feel like the journalism and other media based students wouldn't get the hands on experiences they need for life after college."



Top- Dr. Ann Thome and staff pose for a group shot with their Silver Crown Award. This was the second time yearbook had won the award. Photo submitted by Molly Thomas

Right- The 2010-2011 Griffon Yearbook. This yearbook was put out by Raphelle Drew, the Editor-in-Chief for the previous five yearbooks. Photo by Molly Thomas

Left- Dave Hon, Editor-in-Chief of The Griffon News paper, presents awards for the MCVMA banquet. Dave Hon won the Journalist of the Year Award. Photo by Jason Brown





Back to Your Roots

Story by Megan Baggett

Family is what holds us together, pushes us to succeed and supports us when we need it the most. Because of this, Western administration decided to expand and create a day that glorifies family and the importance of families. Dr. Esther Paralez was part of the committee that helped to make this year the best Family Day yet and to really set a standard for the years to come.

Family Day is a special day to honor the families;

all moms, dads, guardians, spouses, brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends of students were invited to a full weekend of fun, sun, interaction and football. Saturday started off with a 5K walk or run for the United Way followed by a pancake brunch in Remington hall and then the day continued with tours of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex and the Planetarium.

Several on-campus organizations set up booths around campus to give information about their



Right- The Griffon Arts Alliance set up a table to provide information to interested students. Several students showed interest in joining. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Right Bottom- Members of the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity took a picture. AKPsi is sponsored by Beverly Payne a business instructor. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Left- The ladies of Alpha Gamma Delta show off their letters and trophies for their families to see. Several organizations gathered around Murphy and gave information about their club. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Bottom- Students and their loved ones take a tour of the new Griffon Indoor Sports Complex. The GISC officially opened its doors in the summer of 2010. Photo by Amanda Fox

Center- Max along with a little girl show off their prize from one of the games. This year had a large turn out for students and families. Photo by Molly Thomas



organization and also to provide activities for children. Many of the students brought their whole family including small children who enjoyed participating in the booths activities.

The most popular activities were the rat race provided by the Psych Club and the ring toss provided by the Center for Student Engagement.

"Family Day gives us a great way to spend time with our families and gives our parents an opportunity to learn more about the campus," said Justin Ray, a senior at MWSU.

Later in the afternoon the fans began to tailgate for the football game. With all of the family support present for the game the football team made an easy win ending

with a score of 23 to 6.

"The turnout is wonderful and it is so nice to see all of the students with their families enjoying the beautiful weather," Peralez said.

After the football game the day was ended with a hilarious comedy show by Mad Chad Taylor titled "The Evil Knievel of Comedy." Another active team player in getting the family day organized was Isaiah Collier, the Student Life Director for the Center for Student Engagement.

"Getting family together is a great way to get the students connected and involved in their school and their education," Collier said.



Top- A family of condiments began their walk in Maple Parkway. The mustard took hot dog lead the way.

Bottom- A couple of girls rocked 80's style outfits as they walked accompanied by one of their friends. The event began at 10 AM on Oct. 28 and nearly 100 people joined in on the fun.





Left-Babies dressed like tiny animals rode in strollers. Their mothers brought them out to be a part of the Clear Air Saint Joseph sponsored event.

Freaky 5k

Story by Jourdan Ryan
Photos by Clifford Petersen

It was a brisk morning in October; Saint Joseph's Maple Leaf Parkway was crawling with ghouls, princesses, superheroes, goblins, pirates and witches. Kids were laughing and eyeing each other's costumes, hand-in-hand with their parents, most of whom were wearing costumes themselves. More than 90 people showed up, did some stretches, costumes and all, and geared up at the starting line of the Freaky 5k race.

"The week before the race, the numbers really came together and we got a turnout that we could be happy with. We also nearly tripled the attendance from last year, so that was a great accomplishment," Clean Air St. Joseph Employee Trevor Hannum said.

On October 29, bright and early at 10:00 a.m., Clean Air St. Joe hosted its annual Freaky 5k and Creepy Costume Walk. The Costume Walk, which cost only \$15 per person, was free for all kids to attend.

Adult participants received a t-shirt, goodie bag and refreshments throughout the event. Even though the event had its perks, it definitely wasn't all fun and games. Clean Air St. Joe hoped to use the event to bring more awareness to Saint Joseph citizens about the effects of second-hand smoke in the community. Clean Air believes that non-smokers have rights too and that they shouldn't have to breathe in toxic,

smoky air all over town.

"I care so much about clean air because smoking and tobacco use has personally affected my family and I," Hannum said. "My grandfather, who smoked unfiltered cigars for his entire life recently passed away. On top of that, I know how spending hours in a smoke-filled place can affect me personally."

Many of the costume-clad participants could have told stories just like Hannum's, about how lung cancer and other smoking related health issues caused them to lose a loved one prematurely. But they were too busy getting their run on for a good cause.

On top of the run, there was a costume contest for each age division, including adult participants. Volunteers from Pickett Elementary School provided other fun activities for the walkers. There was even a costume walk, so that the little ones could get one more chance to show off their outfits.

"I definitely see myself doing something like this in the future. My fellow interns and I had so much fun planning this event. I was pleased to have the opportunity to do this for Clean Air St. Joe," Hannum said. "I know that even when I am working in my career, this experience will definitely be one I can draw from."

Drag Out the Ladies

Story by Nicole Gardner

The lights, the music, the atmosphere, the performers and the men dressed as women?

All of these things could be found in Fulkerson Center for Missouri Western's Second Annual Drag Show. This year's lineup of performers' ranged from returning friends of the event coordinator, Tyler Rhoad, to professional drag queens.

Tyler Rhoad former Pride Alliance President spoke about his favorite part of the drag show, "It goes towards a great cause, we have the ability to donate to the Royal Family Kids Camp." The Royal Family Kids Camp is a network of camps and clubs set up to help children who have been abused in the Foster care system.

Performer and emcee, Sparkle Maan, has been doing drag for ten years and got started through friends. "I had friends around me that were doing it and they were curious to see me in drag, so I did, and I thought I looked pretty so I just kept doing it" said Maan.

Dirty Dorothy is another one of the performers who has also been doing shows for a while. "I'm an actor and I used to do Dorothy backstage at a theatre called "Late Night Theatre," Dorothy said, "My favorite part of doing shows like this is the spontaneity of interacting with the audience members."

Pride Alliance member and waitress

for the event, Robin Ussher, played a small part in the preparation for the event, but she played a much bigger part when she volunteered as a burlesque waitress/server at the Drag Show.

"I think that the drag show has gotten better and better every year and I'm excited to see how it turns out next year!" said Ussher.

Not only were the students involved, but outside the venue The Esry Health Center had a booth set up to provide free HIV tests to audience members before the show. Marti Burri a RN shared in the excitement of the Drag Show with the students and fellow community members as well as to spread awareness of not only HIV, but of everything that Esry Student Health Center has to offer.

"We got invited and we are here to get the word out to the students that we are available for free HIV testing at any time and any other minor medical needs that students may have" said Burri.

The show was a hit with the theme of 'Know your status' to encourage everyone safe sex is the only kind of sex. Many students roared with laughter and applauded the queens as the show came to an end. Many students walked away with pockets full of condoms and a clear conscience because they would soon know their status.





Left- Gerewa Starwyck struts her stuff during her show. The performer sang her heart out, entertaining the crowd. Photo by Noel Collier

Right- The ladies of Missy B's put on a full show for M/SU. The drags perform weekly in KC, but brought their show up North for a good cause. Photo by Michelle Allen

Right Bottom- Encee Sparkle Mann prepares for the show. Hair, makeup, and costume prep makes for an amazing show. Photo by Heather Heater

Left Bottom- Regina La-Rae shows her stuff on stage. The drag queen was one of the crew to make the show. Photo by Michelle Allen





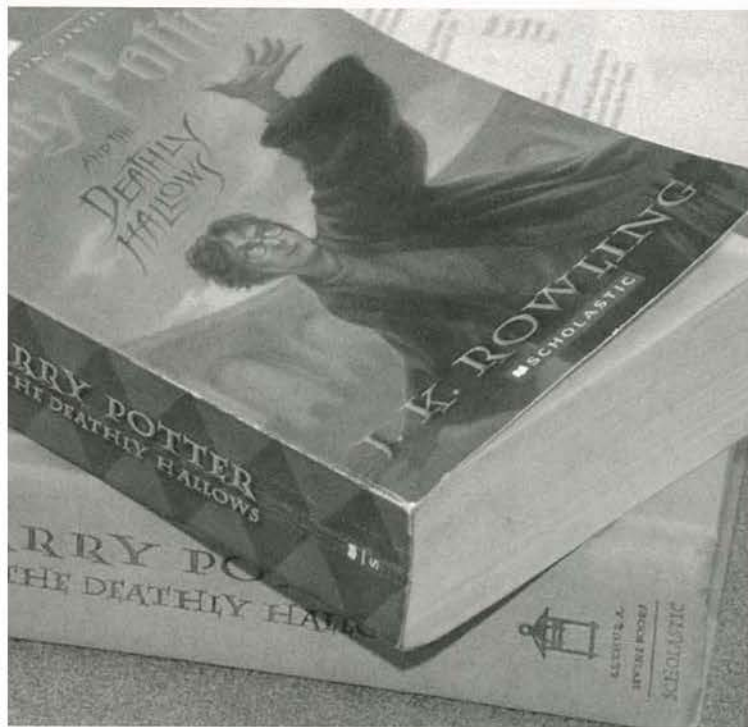
Left- Professor Donaher and her class pose for a group photo. The entire class participated in the Harry Potter Festivities on the last day of class. **Photo by Heather Heater**

Center- Harry Potter books were found on the table in the classroom. Most students would read the series for leisure but these students read them to learn. **Photo by Michelle Allen**

Right- Senior Mallory Edson ponders on what it would be like to be apart of the Harry Potter world. Harry Potter became a sensation amongst colleges with even students playing the game Quiddich. **Photo by Michelle Allen**

Bottom- Edson and Blake Thorne read through a few pages preparing for the class discussion. Students analyzed the series to see what the books were really about. **Photo by Michelle Allen**





Witchcraft and Wizardry

Story by Nicole Gardner

Pack your trunks; grab your quills and ink and have your wands at the ready! A little bit of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was present at Missouri Western for the spring semester. "The Worlds of Harry Potter" was a class taught on campus, and a little bit of the magic of Harry Potter undoubtedly surfaced. Professor Tricia Donaher conceived the idea for the class after having not only witnessed, but experienced the fanfare surrounding the Harry Potter series.

"I've been a fan from the beginning," Donaher said. In order for the magic of the class to come to fruition Professor Donaher, and all other English professors that taught a 400 level class had to present their ideas to peers for approval. Dr. Michael Cadden, professor and chair of the English and Foreign Language Department, was sure that the class wouldn't be opposed by anyone in the department. "If you like the books then you shouldn't be scared to analyze them and see what there is to it," Cadden said. "You don't have to agree with the conclusions, but it is worth talking about."

It's no surprise that Cadden would have approved of the class had he been given the chance to have a say in it, in light of his background with Elementary Education.

"I don't get involved in approving of the classes, but I don't disapprove of it," Cadden said. "It's a literary and pop culture phenomenon and I don't think that we can or should ignore it."

Though it's only three weeks into the class, Donaher and the students in the class are already having fun picking apart the story lines and analyzing the characters. Not only did the students analyze the text they also were separated into one of the four houses, Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin to make the class more enjoyable and interactive with the books as a whole.

"It's really fun to do that with some of my favorite books," said Senior Caitlin Cress, an English Literature and Public Relations major. Cress was Professor Donaher's research assistant, she knew about the class before her last semester and had saved a handful of credits for the chance to take the class.

Due to budget cuts and professor rotation, "The Worlds of Harry Potter" may have had a one-semester life, but the magic, like the novels will surely be something to remember and stick with all of those involved and introduced to the magic that is Harry Potter.



ACADEMICS

Penny • Peter • Phillip • Pierre • Precious • Preston • Prisha • Quinn • Quaid • Raymond • Rebecca • Rebekah • Rechela • Reed • Regina • Reginald • Renee • Rhinnon • Romero • Ronald • Rosalyn • Rosanna • Rosie • Ross • Roxanne • Roy • Ruben • Samaria • Samuel • Sammy • Sandi • Sandra • Sara • Sarah • Saren • Sascha • Savannah • Sawan •



Convocation..... 102



Jazz Band..... 110



Conservation..... 126



4 Plays..... 128

Photo By Amanda Fox



Beyond a Bachelors

Story by Rechaela Gribble

Photos by Noah Bonnett-Tapp

You've got exams to study for, papers to write and other deadlines to meet. Graduate school is something you can worry about later, right? Wrong. You're probably thinking, "I'm scrambling to make graduation. Who has time to think about grad school?"

With a fairly new graduate school, pursuing a graduate degree is something that every student should at least take time to consider. Those with graduate degrees earn significantly more, approximately \$2.5 million, throughout their lifetime than those without. They also qualify for higher positions with more lucrative salaries.

Junior, Rosalind Blackwell, like a lot of students didn't even know Western had a graduate school.

"I thought I had to go somewhere else," said Blackwell.

Over 13 graduate degrees are offered at MWSU, as well as a few graduate certificate programs. More graduate degree programs will be offered in the near future. Each one is highly specialized and tailored to fit today's employment needs.

It has been recognized that students have lives and obligations aside from school. For this reason all classes have been conveniently scheduled as online courses or for 4:30 p.m. and later. A typical master's program is structured so that a full-time student will graduate in four semesters, having taken eight-credit hours per semester.

However according to the Dean of Graduate

School, Dr. Brian Cronk, "most take nine credit hours a semester."

So when exactly should you start planning for grad school? Depending on your area of study, "Most should start preparing around their sophomore or junior year," Cronk said.

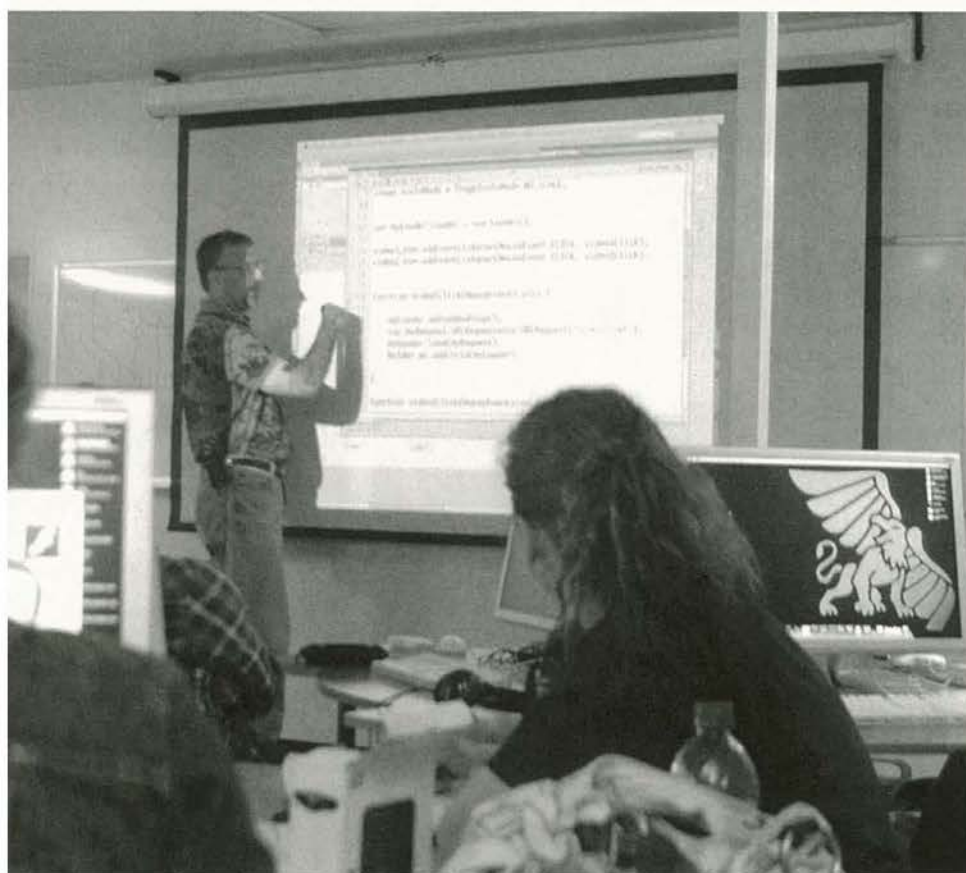
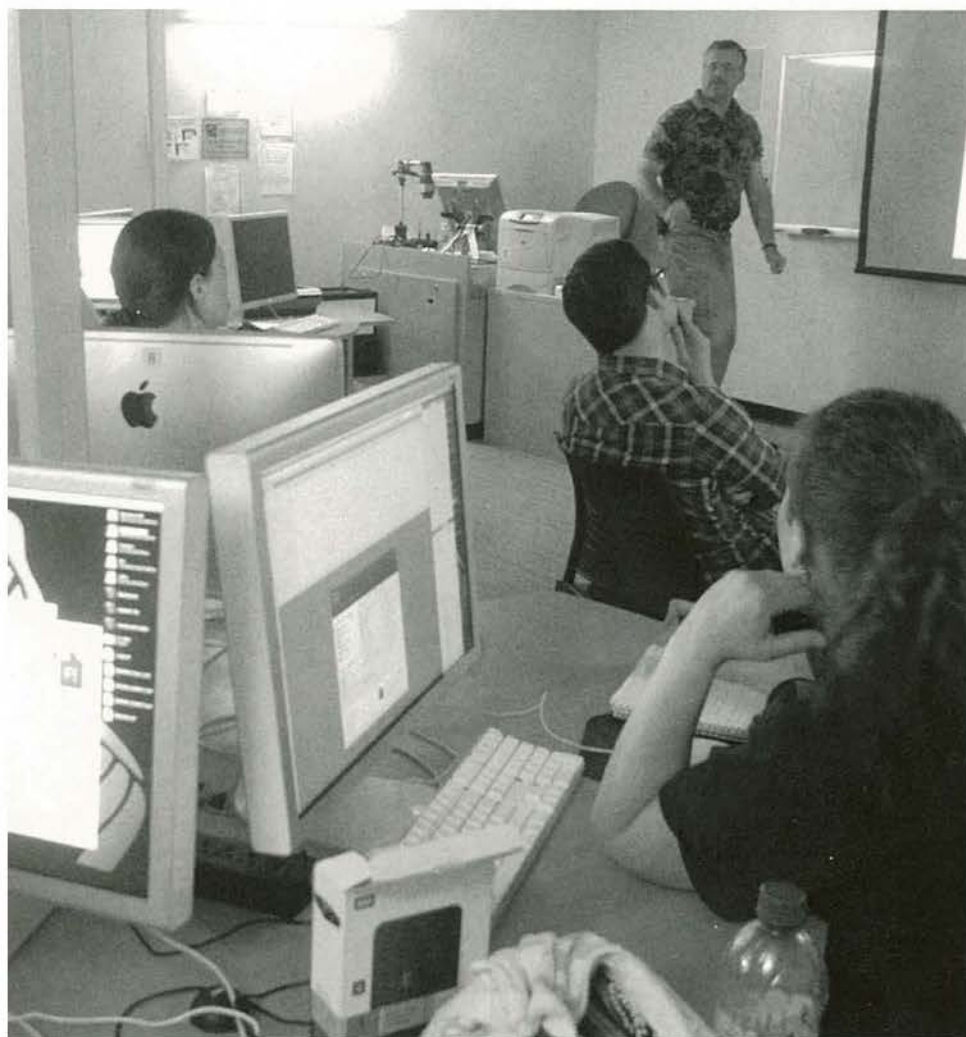
While some graduate programs are fairly accepting, requiring a GPA of 2.75, others such as nursing and chemistry are quite competitive requiring a higher GPA and also additional admittance requirements.

Tuition is relatively lower than that of other schools with similar programs, costing on average \$10,000. The average tuition cost of nearby schools offering the similar degrees is \$29,000. While Pell Grants are available to those seeking undergraduate degrees, those seeking graduate degrees must turn to alternative funding sources. Typical funding sources include student loans, scholarships and grant assistantships. Grant assistantships are similar to work study, but are directly relevant to your degree," Cronk explained.

When asked what advice she would give to anyone thinking about enrolling in grad school, MWSU alumni and current grad student, LaVell Rucker answered, "I would start planning as soon as possible."

The process is quite simple. You just go online, fill out an application, and follow a few more simple steps as instructed.



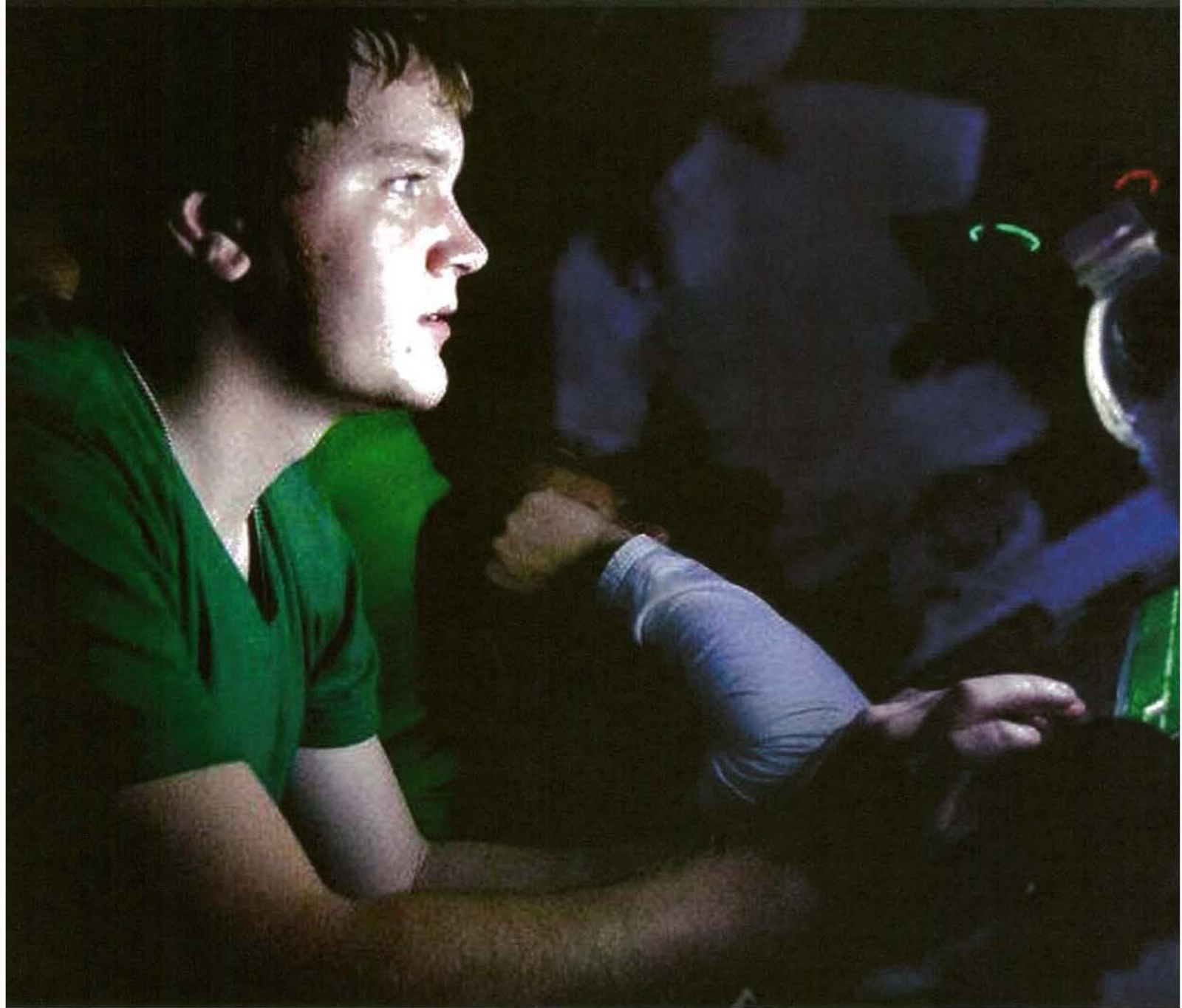


Left- Pete Hriso conducts a class of graduate students. The class was to teach students the basics of Adobe Flash.

Right- Brian Cronk, dean of graduate studies, answers questions about the multiple programs offered at Missouri Western. the graduate program offered many different areas for students including the recently added Digital Media degree.

Below- Whitney Callaway, watches as demonstrations are given to the class. Callaway was in her last semester as a graduate student.

Left Bottom- Vickie Pike tries to follow Hriso's instructions. Students worked hard to make E-cards and Kiosks in the Applied Integrated Media class.



Top- Niemeyer's big gig was WAC's Blacklight Party. This was one of the reasons he won the M/SU 2012 "D.J. of the Year" award. Photo by Jason Brown

Right Bottom- Niemeyer performing in his very first band. "Our Last Run." He joined the band in 2010. Photo submitted by Nick Niemier

Right- Niemeyer introduces the next song at WAC's annual formal. He worked closely with WAC and several other organizations on campus. Photo by Jason Brown

Left Middle- Niemeyer can be seen three to four times a week working at Legends in the Belt Sports Complex. He nailed the position when he was still only a freshman at M/SU. Photo by Jason Brown

Left- Niemeyer kept the music flowing at this year's Western Warm Up. He was also there representing his fraternity. Photo submitted by Nick Niemier



Dropping & Spinning Records

Beats

Story by Lindsey Roberts

The award for MWSU's 2012 "D.J. of the Year" goes to, drumroll please, Junior Nick Niemeier. Some could say they are not very surprised though considering the guy is everywhere on campus and various places in St. Joseph.

Just last year alone he worked at several of WAC's events including the Blacklight Party, WAC's Formal and their annual carnival. Plus he has also done work for some of Scanlon Hall's events, MWSU's eXtreme Percussion Show and kept the music going a couple nights a week at the Belt Sports Complex.

Niemeier came to Missouri Western in the fall of 2009 extremely experienced in the music field.

"Music has always influenced me," Niemeier said. "Even when I was little I was always finding ways to make music. I began playing Percussion in the 5th grade and picked up quickly on snare drum and the drum set."

While in high school he was in the marching band, concert and jazz bands; and was also section leader of the drumline. Niemeier played in a couple different rock bands and ended up becoming the drummer for a band called "Our Last Run." He started his DJ business, 'Soundninja DJ,' when he was only a sophomore in high school.

"My hobby quickly became my career and

before I knew it I was a young entrepreneur," Niemeier said. "And becoming successful doing what I loved. I brought my business to college with me and began spreading my talents through St. Joseph."

Niemeier explained that he was very conscientious while deciding which college he wanted to go to. He weighed his options, toured some different campuses and in the end decided that MWSU was the best pick for him. It almost could go without saying that he is defiantly an amazing addition to the Griffon community.

Once here, he jumped right into making a name for himself on campus, in the St. Joseph area and not just with his DJ'ing. Niemeier is a music technology major, president of Phi Sigma Kappa, member of the Golden Griffon Marching Band and a on the MWSU drum line.

Niemeier has nothing but praises from Missouri Western and the education he has received here so far.

"I am learning to do various jobs in the music industry," Niemeier said. "Such as live audio recording, studio engineering, music production, audio for film, becoming a better studio musician and much more. I knew coming into college this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."



His lawyers' phone call: 8th District Court
request for appeal denied...

He said, "If my Father's will is to
keep me here, it's ok, but if He
wants me to come home
I am ready."



Top- "His time was up," Sister Christine explained to the Criminal Justice Students. Mose Youngs' request for an appeal had been denied, his last 'words' to sister Christine was a peace sign as he faded away.

Bottom- Bianca Amorim, President of Delta Phi Upsilon, introduces Sister Christine, a sister from St. Francis. Sister Christine spoke to the criminal justice department about the flaws in the United States Justice System.



Writing to Death Row

Written by Sarah Hatten

Photos by Jennifer Notbusch

Sister Christine heard a call from the Lord to be a pen pal to someone on death row, but she never expected that call to change her life. Sister Christine is one of the Sisters of St. Francis in Savannah, Mo. and now she spends time traveling and telling her story. The patron Saint Francis followed the "rule of life" and believed that God's love was intended for every person. The story goes, when he saw a leper, he saw the face of God.

The Sisters of St. Francis in Savannah made it their mission to see God and answer the question, "Who is the leper today?" They sought out those who were on the fringes of society, the outcasts, and the despised. The sisters set up a hospice in 1995 for prisoners and they began to write letters to prisoners on death row.

Sister Catherine started writing to a man named Mose Young who was convicted of murder in St. Louis, Mo. Throughout their correspondence, she sent Young many letters and some even included stamps and money. Sister Catherine wanted Mose Young to know God's love.

Sister Christine learned a lot during her time spent communicating with Mose. She realized greeting cards were not easy to find for someone who is behind bars. Many cards include something about "Birthday festivities" or other pleasantries that inmates do not experience. She made many cards herself, with help from the other sisters.

The most important lesson she learned from Mose Young was that nobody is beyond the reach of the love of the Lord. He was in prison for 18 years, and after accepting his circumstances, he let

go of his anger and put his life in God's hands. The sisters of St. Francis traveled to see Mose Young as often as they could, even though it was a six hour drive. They developed a fellowship and a love for one another that neither distance nor confinement could hinder.

Clarisa Cudworth, a criminal justice major, attended the event for senior seminar class and

said, "The system does have flaws and not everybody is an offender who is in the system."

Sara Potts, also a criminal justice major said, "what Sister Christine does is so important because some people on death row are innocent and there are always exceptions."

Guards and personnel described Mr. Young as honest and upfront. Until the day he died, Mose maintained his innocence and said even though he was paying for the crimes, he never killed anyone.

Adam Carmichael, criminal justice major, did not have a change of heart after hearing

the presentation, "I support the death penalty, but I do not believe the courts had enough evidence to convict Mose."

These students believe Sister Catherine is making a difference and educating people about the injustices. Being in school has opened their eyes to changes that need to be made in the justice system. They are starting to see that crimes are not all black and white and not everyone is considered innocent until proven guilty.

"If my Father's will is to keep me here, it's ok, but if He wants me to come home, I am ready."

-Mose Young's final statement

**"IF MY FATHER'S
WILL IS TO KEEP
ME HERE, IT'S
OK, BUT IF HE
WANTS ME TO
COME HOME, I AM
READY."**

- MOSE YOUNG




Left- Karen Koy did not receive the Excellence in Education Award for sitting in a classroom. Koy used hands-on teaching and physical examples.

Right Bottom- Students get involved in Koy's teaching example. Koy wanted students to have a complete understanding of what she was teaching, so she wanted to do whatever it took.

Left Bottom- In the classroom Koy also uses an active education approach. Students liked this style of learning because it was interactive and fun.





Digging for Answers

Story by Michelle Allen
Photos by Molly Thomas

Not every university professor gets honored for their teaching methods, but Missouri Western's own Dr. Karen Koy proved that she was different from most professors when she received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education.

Every year the award given to an outstanding faculty member from each participating higher education institution in the state and this year Koy was their pick for MWSU. To be a candidate for this award, a professor must have shown that they are effective in their teaching, advising, their service to the university and nurturing student achievement.

Koy expressed how surprised and honored she felt to receive the award.

"I had no idea that anyone had suggested me. I was very excited." 33-year-old, assistant professor Koy began teaching at Western after receiving her doctorate in earth and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois-Chicago after receiving her master's degree in geology from Indiana University-Indianapolis and a bachelor's degree in paleontology from Bowling Green State University.

At MWSU Koy teaches physical geology, meteorology, paleontology and an honors

colloquium on science and pseudoscience. Koy said that she tries to use investigative learning in her classrooms to help students to learn more effectively.

"I try to have labs where the student can become the scientist," Koy said.

Koy said in her higher leveled classes she encourages students to come up with questions they may want answers to and have them experiment and tell what they found to increase their learning process. Koy explained why she felt this method of teaching was necessary.

"I just want students to walk away with a better understanding of science and the major areas of science that may be in politics like climate change," Koy said.

Koy felt Western was best for her because they cared so much about the students.

"In most universities they focus more on research and Western doesn't do that," Koy said. "I'm given a chance to interact with the students, and that's what I like about Missouri Western. The main focus is the students."

Although Koy seems to be very laid back she informs her future students that she gives the grades they earn and that everything you need to know is in the syllabus for a successful year.

"I JUST WANT STUDENTS TO WALK AWAY WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE AND THE MAJOR AREAS OF SCIENCE THAT MAY BE IN POLITICS LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE."

- DR. KAREN KOY

FREEDOM of Speech



Top- Dr. Karen Fulton listens, smiling as the banned books are being read. Fulton participated in the gathering by reading, "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss.
Bottom- Synthia Tunnell holds up her favorite childhood books, the Junie B. Jones Series. Tunnell read a portion of the banned Junie B. at the gathering.



Left- Ginger Rudolph reads a funny story to the audience. "Walter, The Farting Dog," was being challenged due to its excessive use of the word "fart."

Story by Robyn Patti
Photos by Amanda Fox

Professors, students and even a news anchor stood in front of the small gathering, reading aloud from a variety of books. As the stories were read, emotions were evoked of childhood and being read to before bedtime.

Dr. Michael Cadden opened the Banned Book Reading by reminding the audience of the pleasure of being read to.

"Listen to these readings and return to a familiar practice of being read to," Cadden said.

But many of those favorite books of your childhood are being banned from libraries across the nation, like "Junie B. Jones" and Dr. Suess's "The Lorax." These were a couple of the books that took the stage for the Banned Book Reading.

The first reader was KQ-2 News Producer and Anchor Bridget Blevins, who read Robert Cormier's "The Chocolate War." This book was challenged because the book deals with violence, nudity and sexually explicit materials. The excerpt Blevins read was about a student in Catholic school being embarrassed in front of his classmates. The small bit that was read dealt with harassment, name-calling and violent imagery.

Ms. Stephanie Hartley read a bit from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by Frank Baum. Hartley was a member of the Prairie Lands Writing Project and her reading was about the witches who are in the classic novel. The book was challenged because of the inclusion of benevolent witches and the idea that people could be developed without God.

Dr. Robert Vartabedian read a Russian poem, "The Alphabet of Revolution," that he had first come across in his college days, when the war with Vietnam had started. He chose this poem to read

because it still had relevance even decades later. The poem was banned from libraries because of the topic of violence that was throughout the poem.

"Walter, the Farting Dog," "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" and Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" were also read, because of content dealing with dark subjects, socialist issues, and the word "fart." A woman in Wis. had complained about the word "fart" being included in a children's book, so the title was then put on the Challenged Books list with the American Library Association.

The president of the student chapter of the International Reading Association, Synthia Tunnell, read an excerpt from "Junie B. Jones" after her second grade teacher gave her a box set of the books to keep, since the teacher would not be able to use them in her classroom any longer. Tunnell said this hit home with her and prompted her to read a bit of her favorite childhood book.

"We are the only active organization in the Education Department right now, so I wanted to be a part of this reading to take this back to our meeting," Tunnell said. "Reading is incorporated in every subject, making it so very important."

Jessica McMinn, who was the reader of Harry Potter, represented the student chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English. She had known of the Banned Books Reading in previous years, but this was the first time she participated.

"I hate that people are challenging these books," McMinn said. "But it does mean that they are engaging and processing what they are reading if they are getting offended by it. It means that their brains are turned on."



Monkey See Monkey Do

Story by Jourdan Ryan
Photos by Amanda Fox

What do a sombrero salesman and a little girl in a red, hooded cape have in common? Well, at Missouri Western, those were just two actors from a couple of children's operas that Western students put on for the community on November 12-13. The plays, each about 45 minutes in length, took place in Potter Hall Theatre. 'Little Red Riding Hood' was performed first, followed by a 10-minute intermission. After that, a brand new cast came out to perform 'Monkey See, Monkey Do.'

"Seeing my students grow and learn to appreciate new shows is extremely gratifying," Western faculty member Susan Carter said. "Most have never heard an opera, but the world of the musical grew from the world of opera."

Participants in the show came from Carter's Opera Workshop; a class Western offers to theatre students. Practice occurred mostly during class throughout October, but as opening day got closer, evening rehearsals and performances at local elementary schools were added in order to get the cast ready.

"Rehearsals for 'Monkey See, Monkey Do' began for several of the soloists last spring. This music is extremely difficult and demanded more time for learning the score," Carter said. 'Little Red Riding Hood' and the chorus for 'Monkey See, Monkey Do' was cast at the beginning of the fall semester with rehearsals two times a week during the weekly class time and evening rehearsals the week of the performances."

On opening day, a crowd of tiny audience members entered the theatre, their hands clasped inside of their parent's, taking a seat as close to the stage as they could get. In the theatre's foyer, there were coloring books for the kids to snatch and some original Western artwork based on the productions hanging on the walls. Inside the theatre, hand-painted canvas sets adorned the stage.

"We wanted to make the sets very cartoon-like," Adrienne Collins, who played Maria in "Monkey See, Monkey Do," said. "We were given the direction as performers to also think of ourselves as cartoon characters."

The casts were small and the sets were simple, the vivid colors of the forest scenes and brick wall backdrops making perfect sense, especially since the shows were geared toward younger viewers. Student actors stole the show, singing in operatic voices and getting tons of tiny chuckles from the kids in the seats in front of them.

Jonathan McClain, who played Pedrito the Sombrero Salesman in 'Monkey See, Monkey Do,' worked hard to take the audience into account.

"There is always a difference in your audience. Knowing the differences, and playing towards what is more pleasing to them is your job as an actor," McClain said. "For example, for a group of 4-5 year olds at a school, we play up silly expressions and give time for the monkey puppets to get their laughs. But with a performance for the faculty, we try to emphasize the technique required for the music we are performing."

Little Red Riding Hood's plot was simple. It followed the little girl we all know and love on her journey to her grandma's house, the journey that ultimately almost gets both she and her granny eaten by the sneaky wolf. The moral of this play was easy to spot: don't talk to strangers.

'Monkey See, Monkey Do' was about a traveling sombrero salesman whose sombreros get hijacked by some mischievous monkeys. One such monkey happens to belong to Antonio, the father of Perdito's beautiful love interest, Maria. Antonio doesn't want Maria to marry Perdito because he's not wealthy, but when Perdito tricks the monkeys into returning his sombreros and returns the lost monkey to Maria's father, he is so happy to have his pet back that he allows Maria to be with Perdito in the end.

"I enjoyed playing Maria very much and the vocally challenging score that came along with her," Collins said. "This is the first time that I have performed an opera for children. I found it very exciting to be able to entertain and inspire such a young audience through such a wonderful art form."

Top- Perdito takes a little nap on stage. The children's operas ran for two days, Nov. 12 and 13.

Right- Jonathan McCain played Perdito the sombrero salesman. This character gave the kids lots of laughs.

Left- Little Red Riding Hood gets a lesson from her mother. The actors spent weeks learning their lines and solos.

Picking Your Brain






Left- Susie Thornton and Alecia Cotter hand out refreshments to the trivia players. The two United Way workers helped the Community Center of the Arts by selling treats.

Right- Faculty members put their heads together to answer a question. Students and teachers participated in the challenge to raise money for the arts.

Bottom- Tee Quillen and Dallas Henry ask the crowd which man wore panty hose for an ad. The hosts kept the players thinking and laughing with their questions and antics.



Story & Photos by Robyn Patti



The Center for Community Arts hosted its annual "Trivia Night" on campus to invite more students to be involved in the cause.

The "Trivia Night" was a way to raise money for scholarships that the CCA awarded each year. Previously held in the Downtown University Center, the change to have it on campus was a decision made by the CCA to bring in more student interaction.

Martha Greer, Director of the Center for Community Arts, was pleased with the turnout. "We saw quite a few more faculty this time around," Greer said. "The faculty was a big part last year as well, but more so this year." Greer said that the faculty who had won the "Trivia Night" in previous years had donated their prize money back to the scholarship fund. The main fundraiser of the evening was the silent auction.

With a variety of items to bid on, ranging from pottery to dance lessons, the attendees carefully watched the bid sheets in between

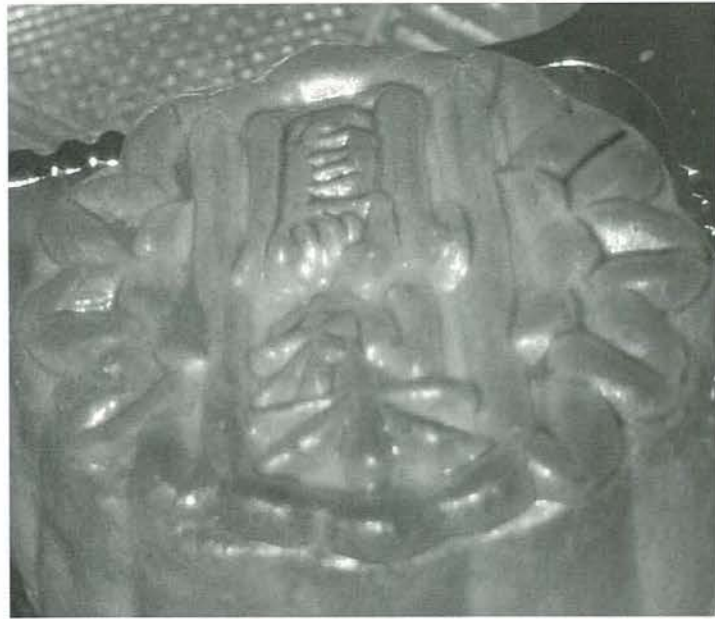
rounds of trivia questions. With teams at each table, the emcees Dallas Henry and Tee Quillen asked ten rounds of trivia questions ranging from sports inquiries to questions about 18th century films. People at the tables would "ooh," "aah" and holler with each round of answers being given, each one wondering if they would make the final cut.

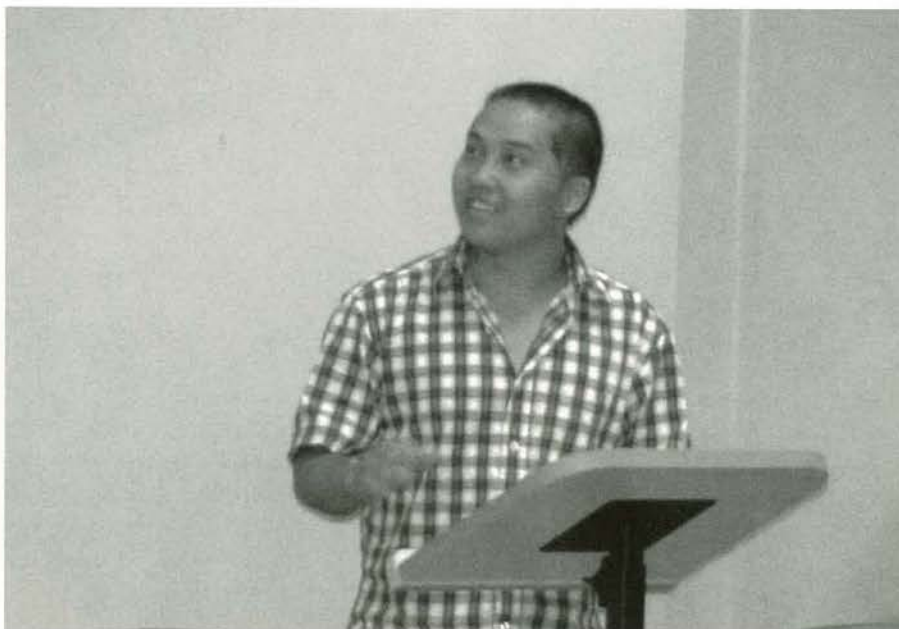
The winning table did consist of professors and staff, leaving the table of students feeling less than knowledgeable.

Ellie Green, junior, was one of those participating students. "We figured there would be a lot more students, so it was much harder than we thought," Green said. "But we still had a blast!"

"Trivia Night" was a successful money-maker for the Arts, gave many people an opportunity to buy unique gifts and lent a few laughs for the crowd as well.

Moon Take Me Away





Left- Some students brought Moon cakes. This delicious dish is a staple for this festival

Right- A Foreign Exchange student from China, Fan Biao, recites a poem about the harvest. Harvest moon has been celebrated over 1400 years.

Bottom- Students in the Chinese 100 class enjoy an umbrella demonstration from Cindy Heider during the day long Harvest Moon Celebration.

Story by Megan Baggett
Photos by Jennifer Notbusch

Being far away from family is well known for a lot of students. Many students are from all over: Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and even California, but in the fall there were several students and a teacher from over 11,000 miles away: China. They definitely had to make huge adjustments to adapt to the Missouri life and probably suffered from a little bit of homesickness.

September 12, the members of the Chinese language class, Chinese 100, and several of the foreign exchange students worked together to celebrate the Harvest moon. The program lasted about an hour and included reciting Chinese poetry and an introduction of the poet.

The legend is that when you are far away from someone very special to you and you look to the moon at this exact phase it creates a spiritual connection between you and that person. All over China the Harvest Moon Festival is celebrated. As busy as it is during the harvesting season, the workers leave the field and take a day of rest no matter how far behind they might be. They do this to remember those who are far from them and also those who have passed away.

Although this event has been celebrated for over 1,400 years in China, this is the first time that it was brought to campus. Students and faculty packed into a small classroom in Leah Spratt to listen to the Chinese poetry reading by both

American and Chinese students. Zou Tiantian, the new Chinese 100 professor, helped lead the event. "I was amazed that all the students took part," Tiantian said. "I figured if half took part, that would be good, but there wasn't even enough seats. A lot of people were interested in Chinese culture."

This holiday is always celebrated with a moon cake, the main dish for this type of festival. Other food available to sample was apples, grapes, a big white rabbit candy and several types of tea. Each family has their own recipe for the dish that has been passed down from generation to generation. The moon cake at the festival came from the Chinese food market in downtown Kansas City.

Many students came out of curiosity but some were able to receive extra credit in their Communication and Journalism classes. Krystal Potter, a member of the class learning Chinese, said she was "really impressed with the turnout of people curious about the festival." Her favorite part was when the Chinese students recited the poetry.

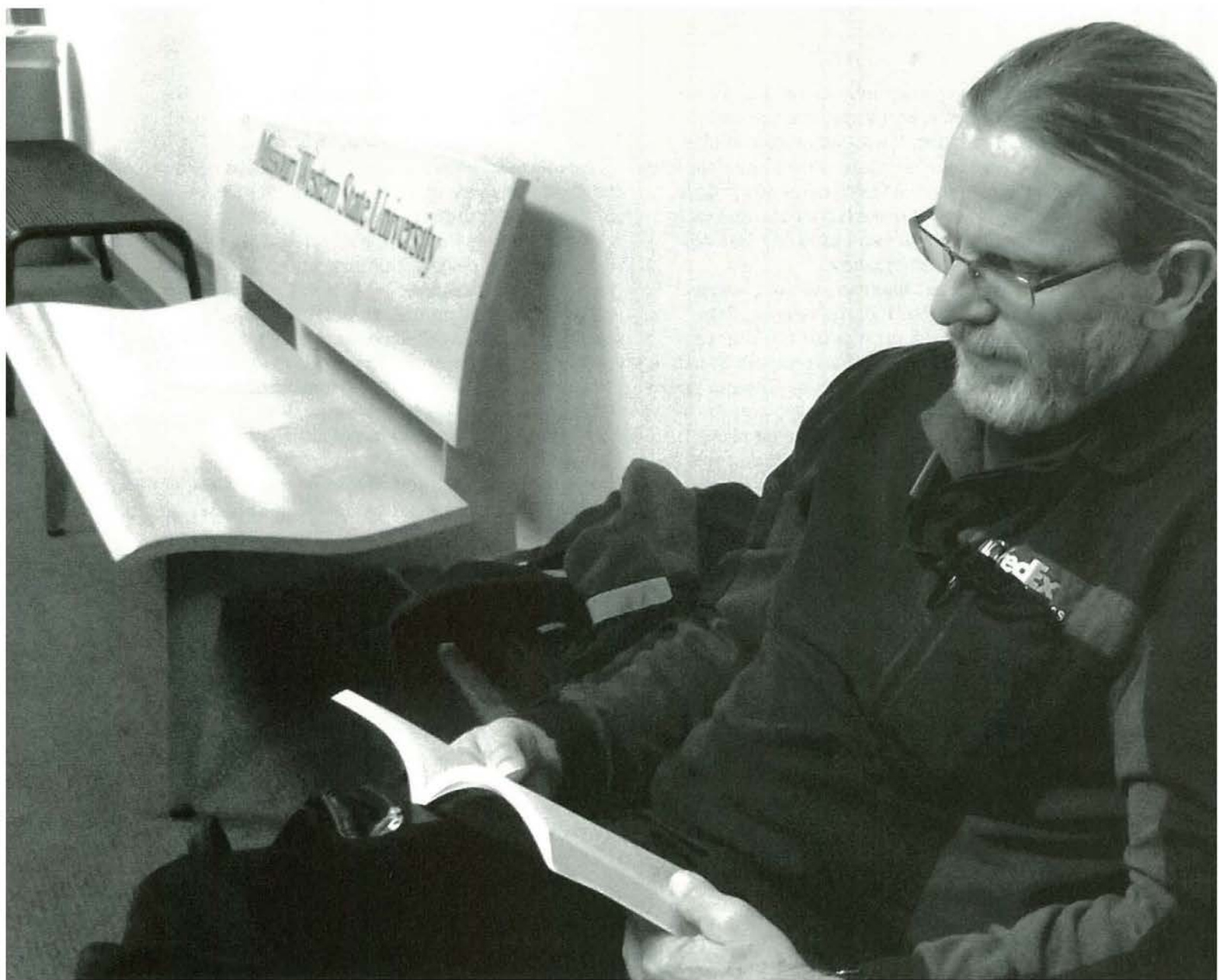
Chinese 100 was offered at three different times during the fall and spring semester. The class was designed for students that had no experience in studying Chinese and were interested in expanding their knowledge in the culture and to learn basic Chinese. "The class is very individualized because of the small class size and moved at a fast pace," Potter said.





Right- During the blackout, sites such as Google were offline. The Search option was blacked out to prevent people from using the site to prove SOPA was against the good of the world wide web.

Below- instead of using sites like Wikipedia, students had to find information in textbooks. Clay Masters, a senior, was one of those students utilizing the old-fashioned way of studying.



Google are you there?

Photos by Amanda Hess
Story by Rechaela Gribble

"I was like what the..." said junior Brian Ramsey when asked of his reaction when trying to gain access to Google during the anti-Sopa blackout. A blacked out Google logo and an array of completely blacked out web sites is what students saw on January 18th when attempting to log onto various sites. Sites such as Google, Wikipedia, Craigslist, Reddit and Mozilla all took part in the protest. While some sites such as Google redirected its visitors to information on the Sopa Act before permitting them access to the site, others such as Wikipedia completely shut down. All efforts to protest a bill that would endorse web censorship, major websites say.

Although done for a good cause it was a little frustrating to students who relied on sites like Wikipedia for information to get assignments done. Thankfully classes had only been in session for a day so most students' workloads weren't very heavy yet. Some students were affected by the blackout, others... not so much. "I rarely use Wikipedia anyhow," senior Clay Masters said.

So what exactly is Sopa? Sopa stands for Stop Online Piracy Act, and is a bill that its creators say was intended to take down overseas websites that permit illegal downloading. Since the companies that run these sites are physically located outside of the U.S, it is extremely difficult to take action against them. So the Sopa Act's intentions was to require U.S advertising agencies, search engines, and other internet providers to withhold services to these companies. This would cause these foreign

websites to not show up in Google, Yahoo, or Bing (just to name a few) search results. Also U.S companies like Paypal would be restricted from transmitting funds to them. Sounds like a good idea, however the problem Sopa's opposers say, is the broad manner in which the bill was written.

The way the bill was written, more than half of all major websites and search engines (Google, Youtube), would fall under the list of sites to be shut down. This may not seem like such a big deal to some, but had the bill went into effect, millions of everyday citizens would have been affected, not just the major sites listed above. Say for instance you decided in good fun to upload a video on youtube of your best friend dancing to LMAO's "I'm Sexy and I Know It," you could be found guilty of pirating since the song is copyrighted.

If you're friend happened to be wearing a name-brand outfit whose logo could be seen, that'd be grounds for prosecution as well. Not so funny anymore. One student took the blackout one step further. Self proclaimed internet addict, senior Robin Gann gave up Facebook, Twitter, and even completely turned off her mobile networks on her smart-phone for 24 hours.

"It was a big challenge to me," says Gann, "almost like a smoker giving up cigarettes for a day. But it was so important to me because I was really against Sopa."

Fortunately the anti-Soap blackout gained enough support that its efforts proved successful. The bill was abandoned by its major supporters and will not be going into effect anytime soon.

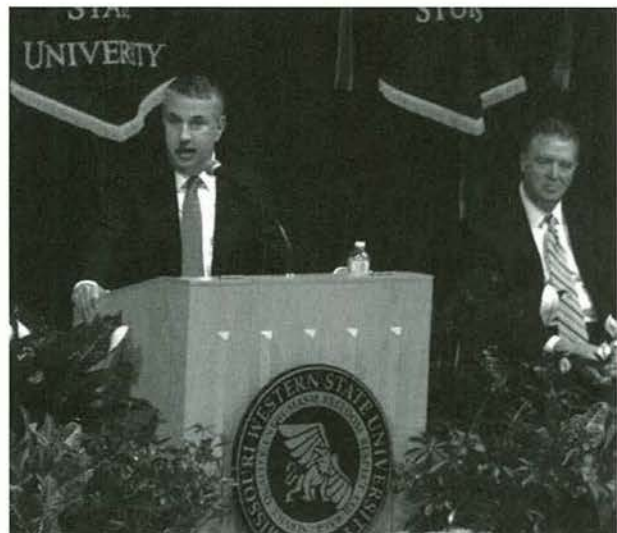
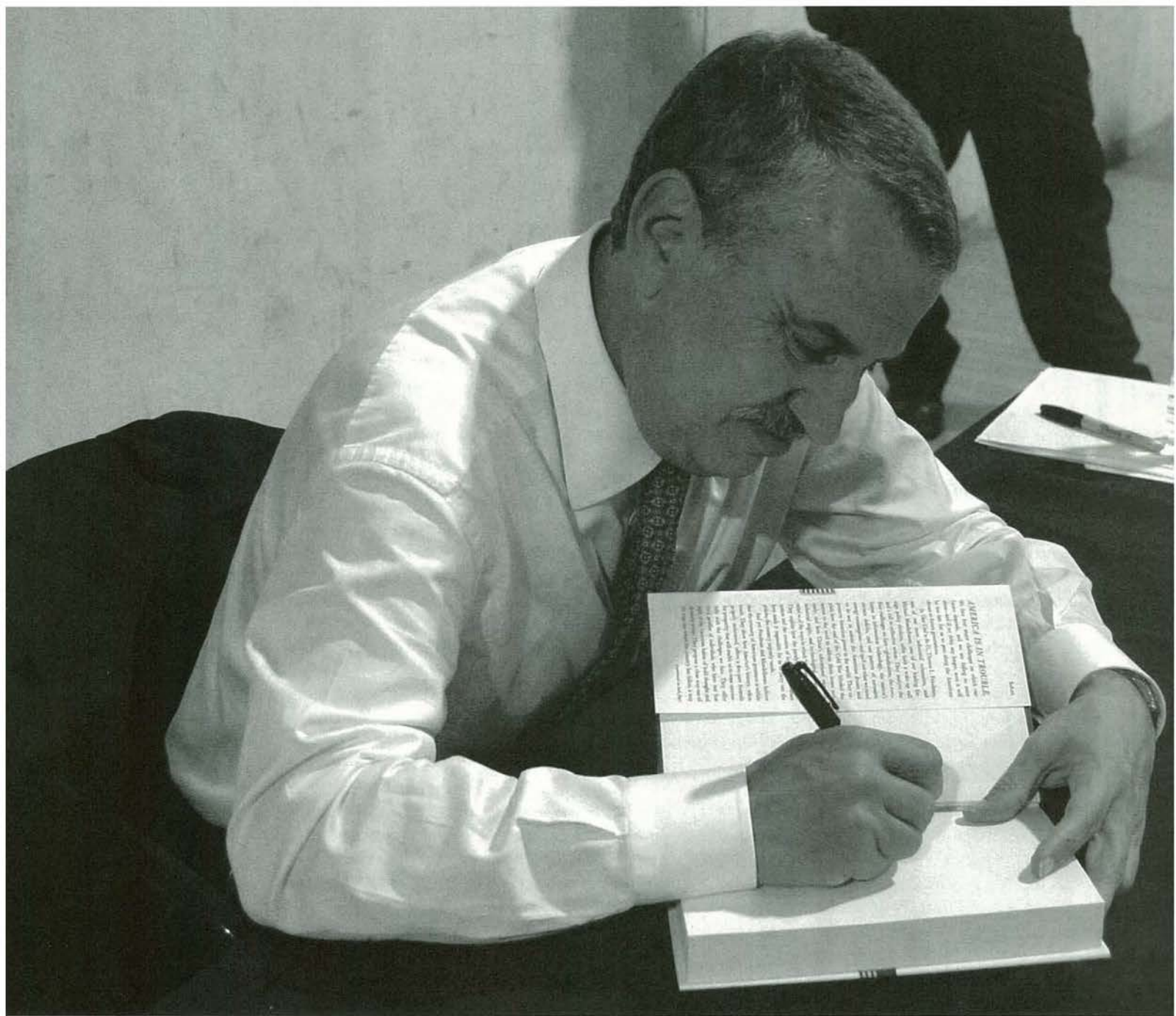
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Imagine a World Without Free Knowledge

For over a decade, we have spent millions of hours building the largest encyclopedia in human history. Right now, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that could fatally damage the free and open Internet. For 24 hours, to raise awareness, we are blacking out Wikipedia. [Learn more.](#)

Contact your representatives.

Your ZIP code:



Hyper-Connected World

Story by Nicole Teeter
Photos by Molly Thomas

Missouri Western presented their 18th annual Convocation of Critical Issues on Tuesday Sept. 20, 2011. Thomas L. Friedman, a foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times, was the speaker for Convocation in the old gym of Looney Complex. The speech was about his recent book, "That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World it Invented and How We Can Come Back."

Friedman said he was a frustrated optimist but knew that America slipped and the country can pick itself back up again.

"For starters, if you see something, say something. The world is flat. Facebook didn't use to exist, Twitter was a sound the birds made in the sky, 4G was a parking spot, LinkedIn was a prison," said Friedman. "An application is what you sent to college, and Skype was a typo. We've gone from a connected world to hyper-connected world."

"Average is starting to be exiled. Being an average person is over. We have to fight to become unique. Nothing will be handed over. Everyone will have to think like an immigrant such as, where do I start, what do I do, and what's going to happen? In this hyper-connected world everyone will all have to fight like a new immigrants," Friedman said.

Friedman continued his speech by explaining

that we as people of this country need to find that something extra. He informed the crowd that average really was over and we all needed to step up.

Even if it was an extra spoonful of fruit at breakfast, by putting a little bit more into life, everyone could get just a little bit more out of it. He was adamant about showing the crowd that it doesn't take a lot of extra effort to be unique, but that people have to make the effort before anything would come of it.

"The Convocation was a good, educational point of view because it is true that we have become hyper-connected, because cell phones are changing the world. At the next Convocation I would like to hear President Obama talk and see what he has to say about the U.S." said Freshman Emily Moore. "Friedman's ending was, the world has many problems that we can't fix by a snap of fingers, because so much has changed politics, values, and generations. Everyone has to step in."

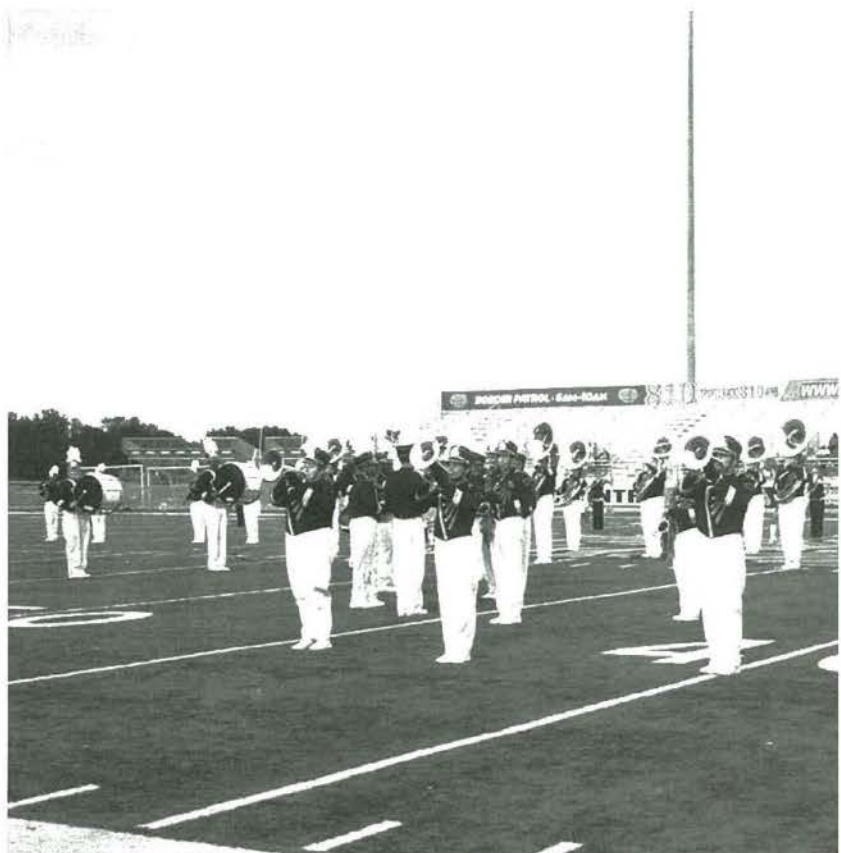
Convocation tradition began in 1993 and has been held every year, was held in honor of R. Dan Boulware, former regent president. The Convocation of Critical Issues was an educational way to bring together the University and community, as well as an overall commitment to offer enriching experiences to students.

Top- Friedman autographs copies of his book. He spoke about his optimistic views of America during his speech.

Right Bottom- Faculty members listen to Friedman's speech. Faculty wear their garb as a representation of their degrees.

Center- Thomas L. Friedman addresses many issues in his speech while informing Western students & faculty of his views on our country. Friedman was a foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times.

Left Bottom- The audience gives Friedman a standing ovation. The gym was filled with students, faculty, staff and community members.



Keeping the Beat

Story by Garrett White

As the Griffon's football team took the field some have no idea that the game day did not start at kick-off. It actually started at sunrise on game day. Unlike other sports, the college football fan had more to cherish about their favorite team. The game day experience is not only full of anticipation, but also the pageantry surrounding it such as the pep rallies, tailgating and music. When Band Director Jeffery Hinton and his marching band hit the field, it was game time. The band added a lot to the fun of attending games. They entertained through out the game and provide the music for the dance team, cheerleaders and the flag team to perform with.

Although the band is a big part to the half time excitement they also perform for many competitions and other sporting events. Golden Griffon guard started try-outs at the end of the pervious year and train their ladies all summer long so they can be in complete sync with the other team members.

"I have been on the flag team for four years now and this is my third year as captain," said Tess Williams, junior and captain of the color guard. "I am hoping to expand our team, we have a good small team but a big team would be better."

On Saturday April 21 Williams stood outside potter teaching a new group of girls the routine for try-outs.

"I am always excited to teach the routines, we are looking for quantity and quality in our girls and we are excited to do our performance at half time games," Williams said.

Just like the color guard, Hinton would really like to increase the band size and have a much larger studio to teach the potential 175 future band students.

"Students involved in the arts department in general, are more creative and have an above average understanding of the different classes in college because all classes get to come together which has a direct effect in the academic standards," said Hinton.

Many students felt the same way about being a part of the music program, it helped them thrive and do better in other courses. Not only did it help students succeed academically but also it offered them a group they could be a part of.

"It has helped me find a student organization that is both welcoming and engaging in setting up a place for me, as a student, to fit in to the college community," said Garrett Leavell, sophomore music major. "It really helped me grow as an individual. My favorite part, overall, is just the day-to-day happening that become lifelong memories and I loved it."

Hinton was very proud of the quality and involvement on campus in terms of band and flags. Each year the band department at MWSU hosts the yearly marching band festival that brings in over 26 schools 3000 high school students.

"After the 67 performances throughout the year by the various bands and a hundred bottles of slide oil later," Hinton said. "When you add up all of the hours they spend, these kids defiantly earn every bit of their scholarship money."

Left Bottom- Flags have spring tryouts every year. Girls stand in order, waving their flags in the air, trying their hardest to make the team in the fall. Photo by Heather Heater

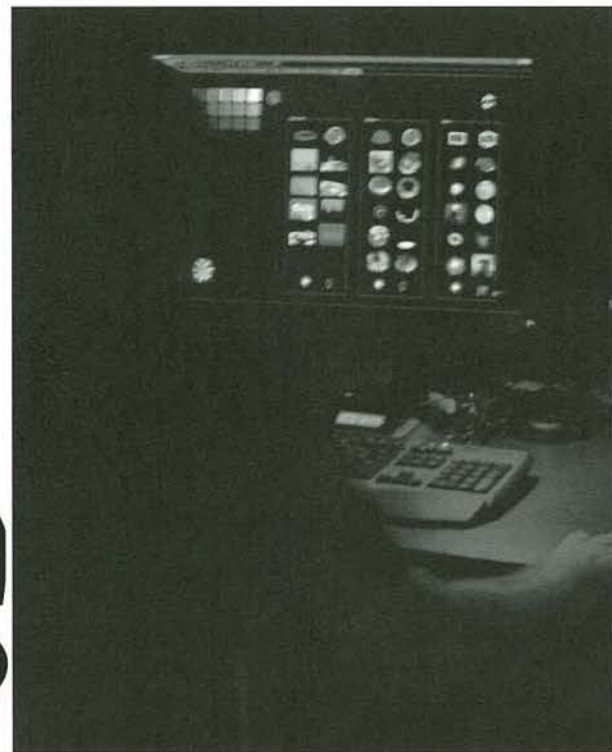
Left- The band stands in a straight line waiting to be conducted. Marching band would perform at pep rallies, the homecoming parade, and all the Football games. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Top- The Griffon Band performs a regular routine at halftime. The band put a lot of hard work into forming straight lines and a perfect sound. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Right- The ladies of the color guard perform at the homecoming dance contest. The flags perform routines at all events with the marching band. Photo by Heather Heater

Right Bottom- The marching band shows off their talent at the North West vs. Mowest half time. The band plays at many competitions throughout the school year. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Seeing Stars



Story by Katie Field
Photos by Molly Thomas

The newly renovated planetarium at Missouri Western State University opened for business this past summer. The Bushman Planetarium underwent several changes as part of the Agenstein Hall reconstruction that took place during the 2010-2011 school year. The planetarium, originally built in 1969, received a new mechanical projector, which is a set of gears and light bulbs that project the images on the dome with a digital system similar to a projection television.

"The mechanical projector is very high resolution and projects on a spherical surface, so we now have the ability to project any kind of video image on a three dimensional dome overhead," Christopher Godfrey, planetarium director and professor, said. "The facility is as state of the art as there is, it is the best we can get."

The planetarium was built to serve several purposes including a teaching tool for the astronomy students and entertainment for students of all ages as well as the public. In past semesters it has been used for astronomy labs and is going to be used in the upcoming semesters. Local elementary and middle schools have taken field trips to watch shows, "Children go nuts for the stuff in the planetarium, and I always get a kick out of it," Godfrey said.

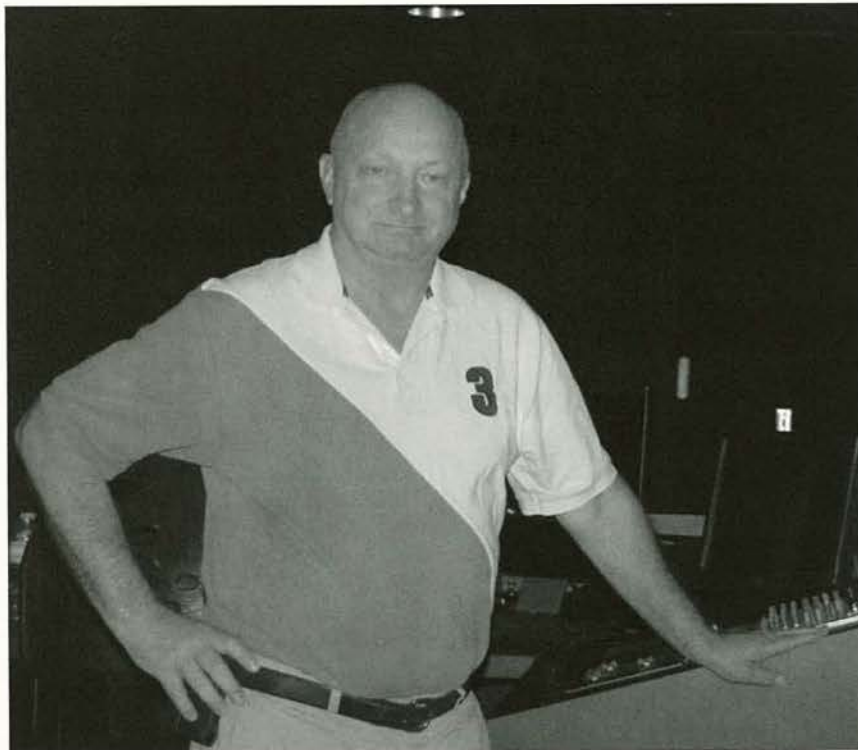
Missouri Western students have also found the planetarium to be a place of interest, "I was really

impressed with the planetarium," Brooke West, sophomore, said. "I liked how it taught me to find the summer night constellations at the beginning of the show, now I am able to do it."

Another student had similar thoughts, "I liked learning how to locate the North Star because I've never been able to spot it. But in the planetarium, it shows you exactly what it looks like and how to find it," Taylor Braby, sophomore, said. "I also would definitely recommend the planetarium to others and wouldn't mind seeing another show."

The planetarium offered a variety of shows in the catalog for the Summer Series and continued the programs into the fall. About ten shows were offered during the series and ranged from "Secret of the Cardboard Rocket," an adventurous film directed towards the interest of pre-elementary and elementary children, to "Black Holes," a program describing one of the greatest mysteries of the universe. The shows offered previews for upcoming programs as well as a virtual "roller-coaster" at the end.

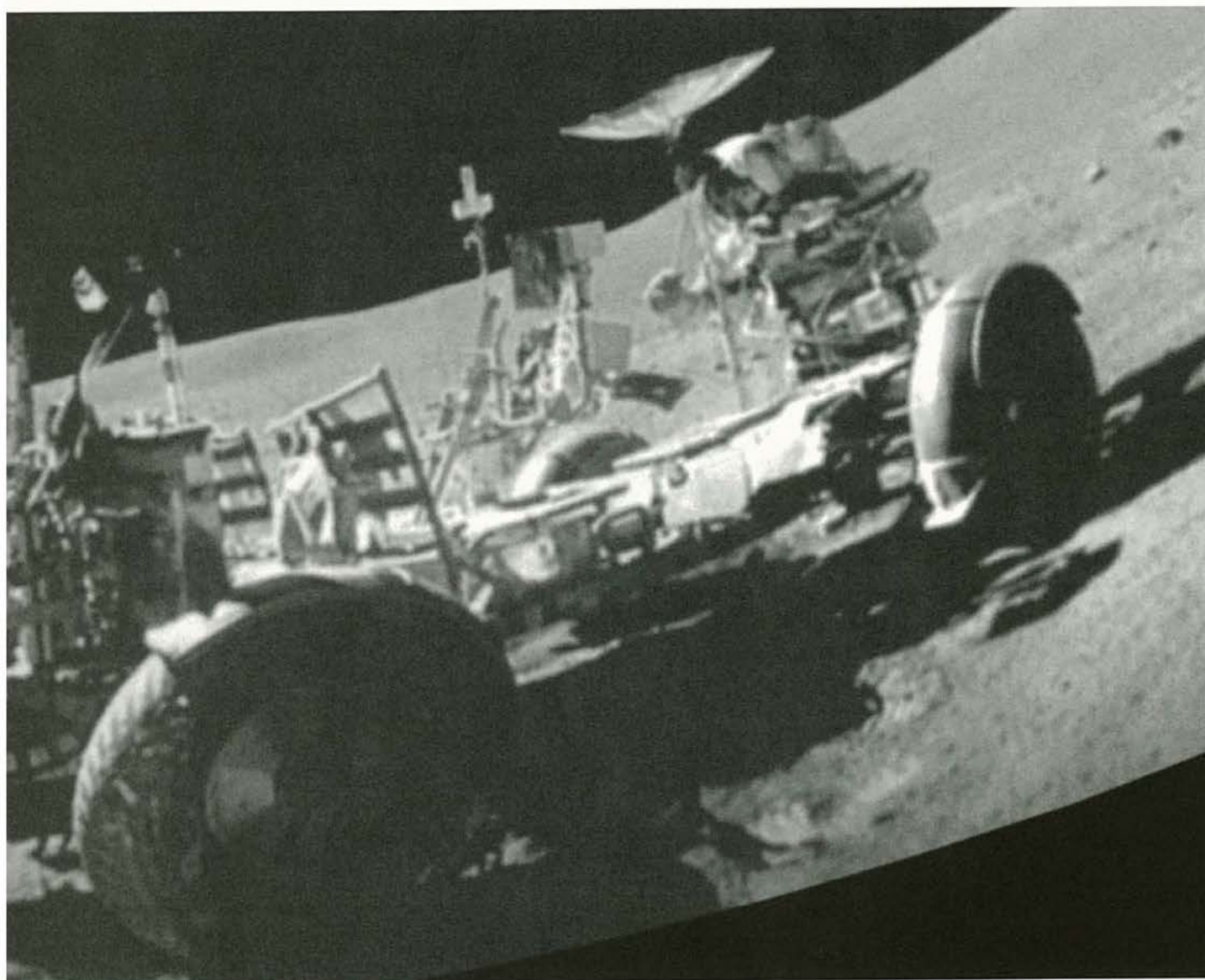
The first three months after re-construction the planetarium had showed its programs to more than 1,000 people. "A lot of people come by, some of them their first time to the planetarium, some of them their first time to Missouri Western, that's a real advantage for the institution," Godfrey said.



Left- The control center of the planetarium utilizes a series of computers and digital systems to keep the shows rolling. The planetarium used a mechanical projector and state of the art programming to make the universe readily available to students, children and everyone in between. Photo by Molly Thomas

Right- Dr. Christopher Godfrey teaches physics as well as directing the planetarium events. Dr. Godfrey used the renovated planetarium as a teaching tool for his students as well as entertaining the community. Photo by Jennifer Notbusch

Bottom- In this scene of, "Secret of the Cardboard Rocket," an astronaut works with the lunar rover. "Secret of the Cardboard Rocket," is the most popular planetarium show among children. Photo by Molly Thomas





Top- Western's Renaissance Singers serenades the dining guests by singing renaissance period songs. This year marked M/WSU's third annual "Lights n' Tights."

Far Right- The fine and performing arts programs put on the renaissance themed fundraiser. Each department played a big role in making the night a success.

Right- For just \$50 guests were wined, dined, and entertained. The night's performers encouraged guests to participate as much as possible.

Left- Brian Duskey showcases his talents by wowing the crowd with his performance. "Lights and Tights" is not only for entertaining the community, but it also helps raise money for Missouri Western's fine arts.

Far Left- Professors Dallas Henry and Ted Gullin act as the hosts for the evening. The duo worked together to keep the night light hearted and to promote future events out on the M/WSU arts community.



Renaissance Affair

Story by Robyn Patti
Photos by Lauren Dillon

The costumes, the voices, the olden days songs and the harpsichord, everything about the Music Department's Lights and Tights Concert took you back to a time of court jesters, merriment, and joyful singing. Dr. Roger Hale masterfully directed the choir in reenacting beautiful renaissance pieces, in full choral numbers, duets and solos. The music of the evening brought an air of royalty to the Fulkerson Center.

Dallas Henry and Tee Quillin brought entertainment and laughs to the merriment of the Renaissance. The two hosts worked side by side with the Renaissance singers to bring the utmost enjoyment to the audience. Henry and Quillin performed in between the singers by acting out commercials, Shakespearian plays, and Christmas Carol advertisements, bringing out the laughs in the crowd of faculty, staff and community members who came out to support the Arts of Western.

Diane Holtz is an active member of Western's art community. Holtz helped arrange, "Lights and Tights," and photographed the event for the public relations office. Holtz believes the fundraiser is a vital part of each school year.

"This festive show is a great way to unite faculty and the community with these talented students," Holtz said. "The performing arts gets so much benefit from this show, it is really worth it for everyone."

The dedication and passion of these singers

was apparent in some of the numbers they sang. With songs in French, Latin, and Italian and even in animal-speak, these students had to learn and study to perform these numbers with ease, and these difficult tunes were executed convincingly. The students sang the foreign languages and odd sounds naturally, just as they would during the Renaissance.

The costumes of the performers really sold the story of the Renaissance to the audience. With full dresses done up with petticoats and corsets on the ladies, and pantaloons and tights on the gents, the Renaissance air was complete for the crowd to feel as if they were in a king's court.

Jacob Mills, freshman, was a member of the Renaissance choir who performed the Lights and Tights show.

"It was interesting to be a part of this group, nothing like what I sang in high school," said Mills. "The Renaissance singing is much more intense and definitely more advanced but it was really fun learning how to sing this way."

The night began with a social hour with drinks being served and attendees talking with others while parading around in Renaissance garb. The background music of a harpsichord played by staff pianist Ara Ju, helped set the scene for the old-time festivities to begin.

The dresses made of velvet and silk, the tights and pantaloons and feathers held high on the hats proved the Renaissance was only a song away.



All That Jazz

Story by Alexa Adams

Photos submitted by Molly Thomas

When walking through the halls of Potter students could hear many different types of music from behind the doors of the practice room, one of which was jazz. Missouri Western's vast music program included two very passionate and soulful groups: Vocal Jazz and the Jazz Ensemble. These two classes added an entirely different spectrum of music to the Missouri Western music department, and allowed students to experience a less conventional style of music.

The Vocal Jazz program was directed by Kathleen Holeman, and was a group of around twelve male and female vocalists who specialized in jazz. Sophomore Tim Barnett was unsure about joining the class but after hearing more about it he decided to give it a try.

"Being able to be taught under Kathleen is such an amazing opportunity," said Barnett.

The vocal group was a mix of music majors, non-music majors, seasoned singers and people who had never been a part of a vocal group ever before. Freshmen Sara Mathews, who was also a part of the Vocal Jazz group, decided to sign up for the class and ended up falling in love with it.

"Instead of just focusing on melodies and rhythms we focus on the meaning behind the music," said Mathews.

The group performed along side the Jazz Ensemble at one school concert a semester and at a jazz festival hosted by Missouri Western.

"My favorite part of the class is the atmosphere," said Mathews. "It's a lot more casual, and we are able to come together as a group while working on technical aspects of songs."

The students gather in a keyboard room on

the second floor of Potter Hall and sit or stand in a group circle while practicing.

"Kathleen knows how to keep us working while keeping a relaxed environment," said Barnett.

Along with Vocal Jazz Missouri Western also provided an instrumental jazz class to students. Bob Long, a seasoned teacher in music, directed the Jazz Ensemble group. This class was the top instrumental jazz group at Missouri Western.

Students in the class had to know their instrument well enough to keep up with the complexity of the music. The students were required to be able to focus and listen to both the director and the other members of the group.

Rebekah Cooper was a member of the Jazz Ensemble group.

"I love jazz, and I play trombone so I thought it would be a fun way to use my skills," said Cooper.

The group included instruments like trombones, trumpets, saxophones, piano

and percussion. Mario Asti, a non-traditional student at Missouri Western, joined the group because it was part of his real world experience for his performance emphasis major.

"It's awesome, it's an experience you don't normally get," said Asti. The class met three times a week for an hour at a time.

"This class is different because it's more about feeling the music rather than reading it," said Cooper.

The group also performed a school concert once a semester along with Vocal Jazz, and they performed at the jazz festival, and also went on a tour of some high schools in Iowa.

Although the halls of Potter vibrated with many different types of music, it was hard to muffle the sound of all that jazz!

"THIS CLASS IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT'S MORE ABOUT FEELING THE MUSIC RATHER THAN READING IT"
- REBEKAH COOPER





Left- The vocal Jazz ensemble performs with the Jazz lab and Jazz ensemble. There were two Jazz concerts this year.

Right Top- Tracey Whitmill grooves on the stage while singing. The vocalist made the audience want to dance along.

Above- Mario Asti a non-traditional student stands up for his solo. The Jazz band created many opportunities for Griffons to showcase their talents.

Left bottom- The brass and woodwind sections of the Jazz band performs a nice little tune for the crowd. Jazz band students spent most of the year preparing for concerts and performances.

The Many Faces of IMC

Story by Katie Field

Photos by Clifford Petersen

Many students may be unaware what the Instructional Media Center is or that such a department at Missouri Western. However, if you have ever used WebCT, visited Missouri Western's website, visited an academic computer lab, or been in a lecture that used a projector, you have experienced the services of the IMC. This department provides Missouri Western students and faculty with technological services to enhance the learning process and outcomes.

Dean and Executive Director of Western Institute Gordon Mapley is also Director of the IMC.

"We help faculty do things that will enhance their educational activities, and we do things for students that will also help them in terms of their learning in the sense of things that are technology based or computer technology based," Mapley said.

The services the IMC provided were wide in the technology spectrum, anything from helping professors with lessons, to students who needed to borrow a camera for filming, to the accommodation of students with disabilities.

IMC provided accommodation for students with various kinds of disabilities, called Adaptive Technology.

"We do anything we can to make classroom materials more accessible," Michelle Gram, adaptive technology specialist, said.

Students with disabilities such as visual or auditory problems could turn to the IMC to help them through technology by offering them with the necessary accommodations: tape recorders or a pen that records the lecture while the student writes, and if the student missed a few words they could point the pen to that location and it would play it back for them.

The IMC also offered students to have the opportunity to have textbooks scanned, brail versions of text books, enlarged print, and the

most common, audio textbooks. Help with tests for students who were not capable of reading the tests or writing their answers was provided by having a scribe who would write down the answers dictated by the student. Gram had about 35 students using audio books with others using closed captioning and specialized seating.

"Pretty much anything you can think of that would be in your way, ends up getting brainstormed over here," Gram said.

A lot of students borrowed materials for classroom activities such as cameras for video or audio tape presentations.

"We loan out a lot of equipment to students and this is going to increase quite dramatically," Mapley said.

The cinema theatre department planned to receive \$200,000 worth of current generation equipment for students to use.

"So students can actually go out and do what they need to do to have the applied learning we are trying to provide for students here at Western to make them marketable, so when they graduate they can go out and market themselves," Mapley said. "We also do video for community groups and for the institution as a whole."

Convocation was filmed by members of the IMC, they helped United Way produce a video, and if someone wanted a commencement video, they filmed it.

"Television shows that we broadcast on university channels and we also broadcast on cable channels in the community, so a lot of video," Mapley said.

Outside of video, the IMC also provided a lot of computer technology-based services. WebCT was one of their major contributions, which allowed for students to take online courses and they operated in many academic computer labs on campus for either walk ins or coursework.



Top- Ryan Minley, host of the Griffon Sports Insider, talks with a guest. The show was filmed in the IMC weekly to keep students up to date on sports.

Right- Ellis Cross and Sarah Hutter hosted the Griffon Today and filmed segments in the IMC each week. The student-run production area on Griffon News' website, griffonnews.com.

Left- Kyle Penland helps with equipment in the IMC studio. Penland was a part of the Griffon Today news show.



Left- The Orchestra gathered at Krug Park to play for the community. Students enjoyed being apart of the group because it felt like a family. Photo by Molly Thomas

Right- The clarinet and flute section of the Orchestra perform a solo for patrons at the park. The Orchestra performed many concerts throughout the semester. Photo by Molly Thomas

Center- Dressed in black the Orchestra takes a bow to end their concert. They performed at Krug Park as part of the concerts in the park series. Photo by Molly Thomas

Left Bottom- Jeffrey Hinton, the conductor of the Orchestra, directs each section for their part. Hinton has been apart of the M/SJ bands for 17 years. Photo submitted by the Art Department



Blowing the Melody

Story by Alexa Adams

The orchestra is one of the many musical ensembles at Missouri Western, but it is no ordinary band. In fact it is not really a band at all. Missouri Western's orchestra is a group of hard working string, brass, woodwind and percussionists who come together to help revive music from the Classical Era.

Missouri Western's orchestra does not rehearse and perform typical band music, but instead they play music we do not hear very often, music from the Classical Era. This era was made up of famous composers, such as Bach, Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. Sophomore Dru Jordan, who is one of the orchestra's trumpet players said, "It is challenging because it teaches you to play a completely different style than what you are used to." The classical music that Missouri Western's orchestra plays is not only challenging the students but it teaches them a new playing style that they are not entirely used to and broadens their musical horizons.

The orchestra is comprised of only two of

each instrument and there is two parts for each instrument, therefore each player in the orchestra has their very own part. Freshman Sydney Given said "It can be very intense because you play your own part and if you mess up it's your fault and your fault only." Players have to spend a lot of time outside of rehearsals learning their part. Not only is it tough for the players to play their very own part but at times they even have to revise their part into a different key. Sophomore Rachel Young said "It is challenging because you have to transpose a lot of the music and you are the only one doing it."

The group is conducted by Jeffrey Hinton who also conducted the marching band. He was very committed to the orchestra and Missouri Western's young instrumentalist.

Missouri Western State University's orchestra is not just an ordinary band, it is a very hard working group of student instrumentalists not only coming together to play some challenging classical music, but also to become better musicians.









Missouri Western

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 **Missouri Western** MissouriWestern

Halftime: No. 1 seed Washburn 43 No. 8 MWSU 34. Koch with 18, Schoonover 9

 **Max Griffin** maxgriffon

4 min. in, Griffons have 4 blocked shots-Stone 3; Koch all 8 Western points. 8-5 Griffis.

[@Pepbandrocky](#) [MissouriWestern](#)

 **Missouri Western** MissouriWestern

Pep band rocks the MIAA Tournament. 10 minutes from tip! Go Griffis! [fb.me/1z4AnH3B](#)

[View photo](#)

 **Missouri Western** MissouriWestern

MT @hurlmatt: SGA Presidential debate tonight @ 7pm at Kemper recital hall. Come and support your candidate.

 **Missouri Western** MissouriWestern

The Benton and Savannah choirs will also be part of the Verses and Voices concert in Jeff City Tuesday evening.



118 Rooted

Networking in 140 Characters or Less!

Story by Nicole Gardner

Most students have been in a class when their neighbor pulled out their phone or laptop and logged onto Twitter and started to sum up their day in 140 characters or less. However you may be surprised to learn that Twitter became part of the Public Relations curriculum.

Dr. Christopher Bond, professor, was one teacher on the social media bandwagon. In Bond's Nonverbal Communication class students were required to set up a Twitter account to be able to interact with Bond as well as the rest of the class. This was also to help aid in the learning process teaching the class more about nonverbal communication.

"It makes the class more interactive and allows students to voice their questions or comments on Twitter, and helps students that may be quiet or shy, and allows them to ask questions," Bond said. Although Bond sees many positive attributes in Twitter, he's not too fond of using Facebook to interact with his students. "I would *never* use Facebook," Bond said.

He was inspired to start using the social media giant by his students. "It has primary relevance and it's what the students are doing and Twitter is a little bit different," Bond said. "Twitter is more informational and not relational."

Twitter and other social media websites such as Facebook were not just limited to the classroom; Western's very own mascot Max the Griffon even started posting updates on Griffon sports with his Tweets. Max quickly became the main athletic Twitter page for Missouri Western. The man behind Max's tweets, Ryan Menley, kept the students updated with sports news and athletic events news.

"I think that interaction is the key, and that's why I think that is why Max has been so popular, because it's not just a stale account that just posts links, Max actually responds," Menley said. In a matter of months Max has gained over 1,200 followers and counting, making it one of the most popular of the Missouri Western Twitter accounts.

"When someone is Tweeting about something positive, or somebody asks Max a ridiculous question, than yes, we do interact back," says Menley.

With the widespread use of social media among students and an increased number of faculty and staff who used the new technology, it was no surprise that even the university had started to incorporate the websites into their promotional strategy. Websites like Facebook and Twitter have aided in the interactions between students, faculty, and staff and are improving the educational experience overall.

Assistant Director of Public Relations and Marketing Kent Heier was in control of Western's Twitter and Facebook accounts. On a normal day Heier's schedule is packed with meetings with different organizations and various faculty members to discuss the latest going's on at the school so that he can update these media outlets.

"I think one of the things that social media can do is help create a greater connection not only with the students, but with alumni," Heier said.

Communication devices such as smart phones, laptops, Ipads, Ipods, and other new technological advancements have helped Missouri Western communicate more with its students. Most Western students can be found communicating with each other on Twitter on a daily basis.

Top - Ryan Menley updates Missouri Western's Athletic Twitter account. Menley also interacts with students that tweet to Max the Griffon's account. Photo by Michelle Allen

Right- Professor Chris Bond updates his Twitter account for his Nonverbal Communication class. Bond's class interacted via the social network through their own Twitter accounts. Photo by Michelle Allen

Far Left- The Missouri Western main Twitter page. The page is used to keep students, alumni and possible future students informed and up to date with the University. Photo by Charlene Divino

It's Tempo Time

Story by Nicole Gardner

Every fall the grand tradition of football is partnered with the familiar rat-a-tat-tat of the drumline. The snare, tenor and bass are just a few of the main drums in play during the half-time show at Missouri Western's football games. Sophomore, Sara Verduzco, a general studies major with an emphasis in percussion has been drumming since she was a child. "I took up drumming at age 10 because I had nothing else better to do and ever since my first lesson I have been in love," Verduzco said.

Daniel Cole, a junior, and Music Technology major, and fellow drumline player also started drumming at a young age and since he first picked up a drumstick has been hooked. "Being in drumline has helped me build discipline, my musicality and technique and you build friendships with other drummers it's great," said Cole.

Tarquin Kellough, a percussion player, freshman and Music Education major, has also been playing drums as well as a variety of different instruments for years. "I started playing drums in my church when I was about 10 or 11 years old," said Kellough.

Like most of the students in drumline, the anticipation for performances on and off the turf are a favorite, "Performing is my favorite part and there's this feeling you get while performing and it's a pretty amazing feeling" said Kellough.

"The best thing about drumline is not only about getting to meet new and talented musicians, but, also getting the opportunity to play next to

them professionally," said Nick Niemier.

Niemier, a junior, music technology major, participated in the Extreme Percussion show, for his second year in a row.

"I've been playing drums since the Fifth Grade and I played all through middle school and high school," said Niemier. "Since then I've played in various rock bands and now I play in the drumline. I've always had such a strong passion for music, especially the drums."

This semester the drumline put on an extreme percussion show that featured songs by dub step artist Skrillex, which were performed by Sara Verduzco, Daniel Cole and Nick Niemier. For the performance each student played a drum set at the same time. "Not only did I get to use my percussion talents, but I also got to show off my mad DJ skills," said Niemier.

Other students in drumline like Daniel Cole, got the chance to perform in bigger venues, such as the South by South West media festival in Austin, Texas over Spring Break and the experience was a once in a lifetime for him. "It was a blast, I am so fortunate to have got the chance to perform," said Cole.

The Missouri Western drumline was made up of students whose passion for percussion led them down the path of sound. Their time and dedication to the drumline paid off at every event they attended. Each student was a part of the band who all worked together in rhythm as one beat making machine.





Left- Students perform their music at the percussion show. They practiced all semester for their three-night performance. Photo by Jason Brown

Top Right- The steel drum made an appearance at the Extreme Percussion show. The annual event was an opportunity for the band to raise funds for the year. Photo by Amanda Fox

Right- Students stand outside Potter on a hot spring afternoon practicing their drums. Although the semester was coming to an end students still had a joy for playing their instruments. Photo by Sarah Hatten

Left Bottom- The drumline is a powerful presence on the field and MWSU. The percussionists were featured for many half-time performances during football season. Photo by Heather Heater



Cinema Equipment

Reservation Info

G Number

Name

Purpose

Check-out Date/Time

Check-in Date/Time

Semester office hours
 JANUARY 20TH HOLIDAY
 RETURN DATE/TIME FOR

Movin' On Up

Story by Charlene Divino
Photos by Amber Hess

The Cage...? Many students outside of the Theater and Cinema Department may incorrectly identify the function of the Cinema Equipment Cage. Could the Cage house animals in the conservation department? Is it the holding cell for repeat parking offenders? Maybe a medieval torture device housed in the Center for Academic Support for particularly resistant students...?

All those guesses would be wrong. The Theatre and Cinema department identifies the Cage as the storage area for production equipment. The Cage houses an array of cameras, lenses, audio equipment, lighting and grip equipment, as well as a variety of rigs and steadicams.

The equipment was moved from Potter this past winter in order to accommodate a number of new purchases made by the Theatre and Cinema department that upgraded the equipment to HD quality. These new technological additions would enable film and cinema students to produce professional quality reels and portfolios. According to Professor Dallas Henry, these upgrades put Missouri Western on par with film schools in the country.

Theatre and Cinema major Carlos Gomez has not only checked equipment out on a regular bases from the cage, but he has also worked in it as well.

"It was necessary after the acquisition of over \$200,000 worth of equipment," Gomez said, "to move from a room that was eight by six to one that is three times the size.

Gomez, who was a junior, had nothing but positive things to say about the big move.

"There are only pros to the move," Gomez said, "as near the cage entrance is a loading dock for vehicles to load equipment quickly and easily. Not to mention there are also Saturday hours, which there wasn't in the old cape."

Another part of the upgrade, the Cage was relocated to Hearnese, below the library. One aspect of the big move was updating the checkout system which students use in order to borrow equipment. In the past students had simply written down which equipment they intended to checkout, but with the new system everything would now be reserved online on a "first come, first serve" basis.

In addition to streamlining the process, this also helped to reinforce policies set in place to ensure only students with sufficient training and experience gained access to the department's costly and highly technical equipment. In order to be approved for access, students must be enrolled in the program and a class that will serve as the training necessary to check out equipment. This policy was so strict that the access rules even detailed that failure to attend classes would result in an inability to check out equipment because of lack of training.

These improvements were proposed in the Spring of 2011 by the Theatre and Cinema Department and were funded by an increase in the student fees paid by Cinema students.

Top- Myles Clayton, a member of the cage staff, checks the computer for any new reservations. Student had to schedule times to pickup and return equipment and were held responsible for all equipment rented.

Right- This was a typical camera bag looked like on the inside, complete with all necessary accessories, ready to be checked out. Those bags were purchased new this year for film student to use for hands-on experience.

Right Center- Students fill out a short application, requesting cinema equipment for class projects. All students who need equipment are required to complete this initial step.

Left Center- Film student Jared Spangler signs the check-out form to receive equipment for a class project. Kevin Kelly, the cage staffer, was responsible for fulfilling the reservation.

Left- Extra storage is down the hall from the Cinema Equipment Cage. The storage room was filled from floor to ceiling.



n and 2pm-4:30
E: PLEASE SUI
FORE 10:30AM

The Celebration of Conservation

Story by Charlene Divino

Missouri Western's campus is well known as the home of the Kansas City Chief's training campus, but the school boasts other unique features as well. The University is also home to the Missouri Department of Conservation's Northwest Missouri Service Center.

The partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Western was forged in 1991, and recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary on campus.

Biology Professor Dr. John Rushin started working with the conservation department in the 1980's. He recalls the building's construction in 1991 after a collaborative effort by the University and Missouri Department of Conservation to make the dream of an on-site conservation area a reality.

"Missouri Western's Vice President James McCarthy and I gave a presentation in Jefferson City about building the conservation department office here," Rushin said.

"Legislation came up to campus to see what we had provided and decided it was ok to build."

The Otoe Creek Nature Area is a 180-acre field study area on campus. The facilities include classrooms, research labs and self-guided nature trails. The land also includes a stream and nine ponds, including Otoe Creek, which was named for a local Native American tribe in 1994 by Western's chapter of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society.

These resources have been a great benefit to Missouri Western students, but particularly students seeking Western's degree in Wildlife

Conservation and Management.

"The conservation office now has a full-time naturalist program for Western and they work very well with us biology professors," Rushin said.

Often biology classes utilize the facilities' building and grounds in lesson plans. The convenient, on-site proximity of the conservation department enables the biology department to better integrate up-close, hands-on experience for their students.

Students enjoy the opportunities to break away from the classroom and explore what can be learned at the conservation department. Freshman Chelsey Crockett found it exciting to get outside and apply her new knowledge. "Wish the biology lab classes could do that more often!" Crockett said.

Freshman Rachel Lucassen appreciates the environment of the conservation center and feels that students could learn a lot by simply taking a look around. She describes what it was like for the class to take a walk through the

land and see biology in action.

"As a class we learned a lot by walking through the woods and looking at the different habitats," Lucassen said. "It was very beneficial to our class."

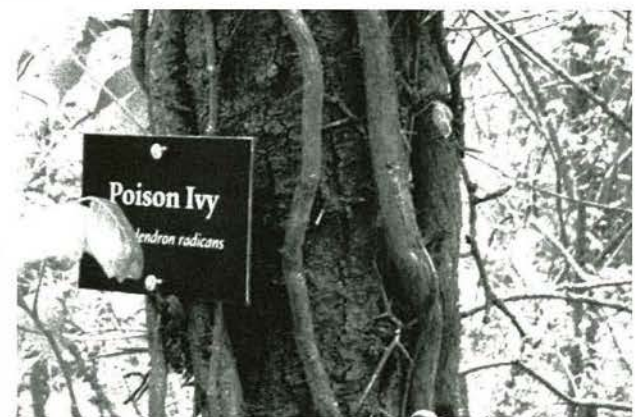
The Biology department isn't the one that benefits from the proximity of the Conservation Center. Other classes additionally use the facilities ponds, trails and land for PED classes.

"If you haven't been to the conservation building I recommend stopping by some time," Lucassen said.

**"THE CONSERVATION
OFFICE NOW HAS
A FULL-TIME
NATURALIST
PROGRAM FOR
WESTERN AND THEY
WORK VERY WELL
WITH US BIOLOGY
PROFESSORS."**

- DR. JOHN RUSHIN





Top- Dr. Chevalier takes his Biology lab outside for a little hands on learning, he wakes them through the woods and taught them the importance of Maple trees in our environment. Photo by Tanner Torre

Right- Students have to beware of the Poison Ivy that is cluttered throughout the woods. Facility posted signs on the trail to warn passing students of the itchy poison. Photo by Tanner Torre

Left- Missouri Western student Tanner Torre fishes at the pond located on campus. Many students and other Saint Joseph residents can enjoy catch and release fishing at the pond. Photo by Hanna Greenwell

THE OUTR Play

Story by Zac Covault

William Shakespeare once said that "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages."

If all the world is a stage and men and women merely players what does that make an actual stage and the men and women that perform on the stage? That would be called theatre. A place where the audience can escape their lives and have a couple of hours where they escape their problems and see others perform the unrealistic and make it seem realistic using costumes, sets, effects, and the magic of imagination.

This year Missouri Western State University put on a whopping four theatrical performances. On October 6 until October 9, the tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet" took the stage. For the Christmas season, Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" was brought to life on the weekends of December 9 until December 11 and December 15 until December 18.

February took a spin with a sibling duo who comically kill to help out the lonely as their charity, featured on the weekend of February 16 until February 19. The final production on campus began the weekends of April 19 until April 22 and April 27 until April 29 when the school was introduced to Seymour and his talking, flesh eating, R&B singing exotic plant.

This year Missouri Western selected four plays, which was unusual for the university to do. The way Director's Dallas Henry and Tee Quillin selected how many shows to do for the 2011-2012 theatrical season was simple. They looked at how many shows other campuses were putting on and based Missouri Western State University's number on that, and chose four productions. They also determined what genres to do based what other campuses chose between classic plays and modern plays.

"We chose a four show season to do this year so we could bring in more classics," Henry said.

"Audiences relate better when they know the shows when they are released to the public. The difference in our play and musical choices adds a variety. This theatre season was a wide range of classics."

Not only did they break the mold by doing a four play season, but they each took artistic vision with certain shows.

Director Tee Quillin decided to take the time frame of Romeo and Juliet and set it during the Civil War in the United States. Since Quillin is not from Missouri originally, and actually from the South, he said that he had been reading a book on the border war and noticed that it would make a natural fit for Romeo and Juliet.

"This border war made it fit," said Quillin. "The Civil War was just a back drop, not a main point of the production."

Director Dallas Henry took a different approach to another classic theatrical performance. Henry had read several adaptations of "A Christmas Carol" before he gave his production a touch of yellow brick dust, "The Wizard of Oz" effect.

For each ghost that Scrooge encounters, was played by someone else Scrooge knew in his life. For example, Scrooge's very manly maid is also the Ghost of Marley his old partner. There was also a new special effect put into use that was new to productions of A Christmas Carol.

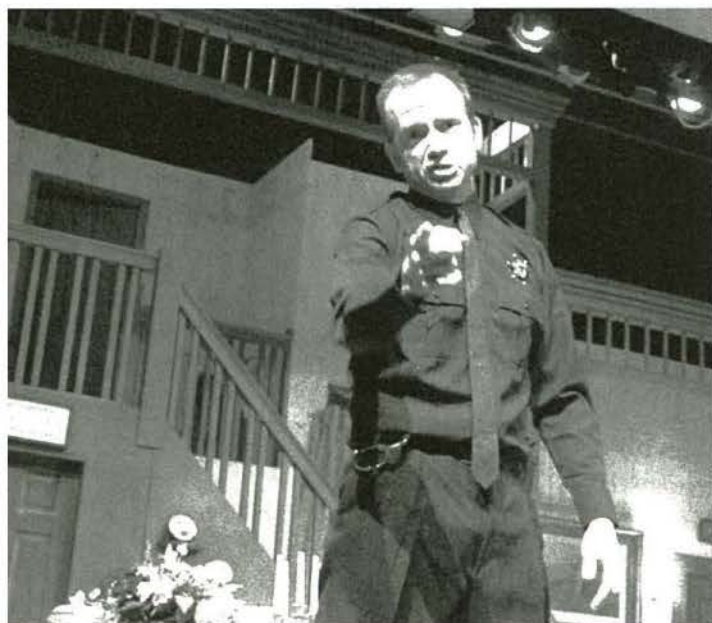
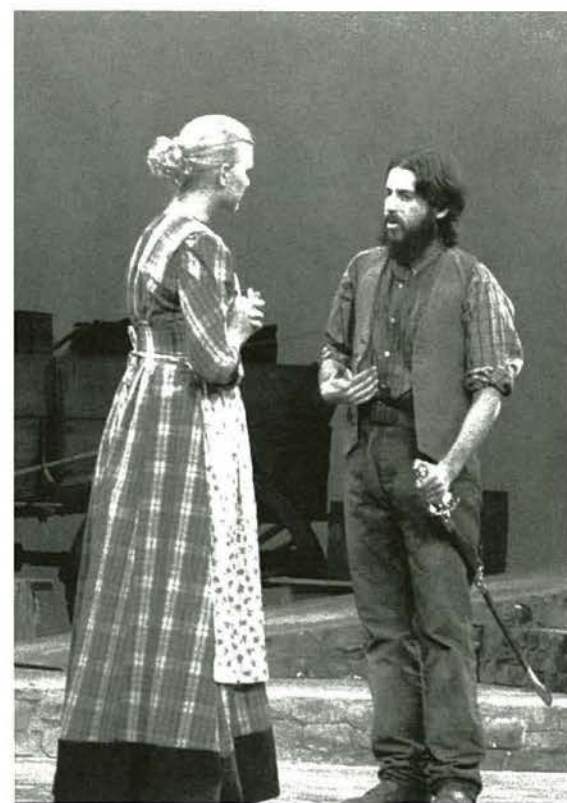
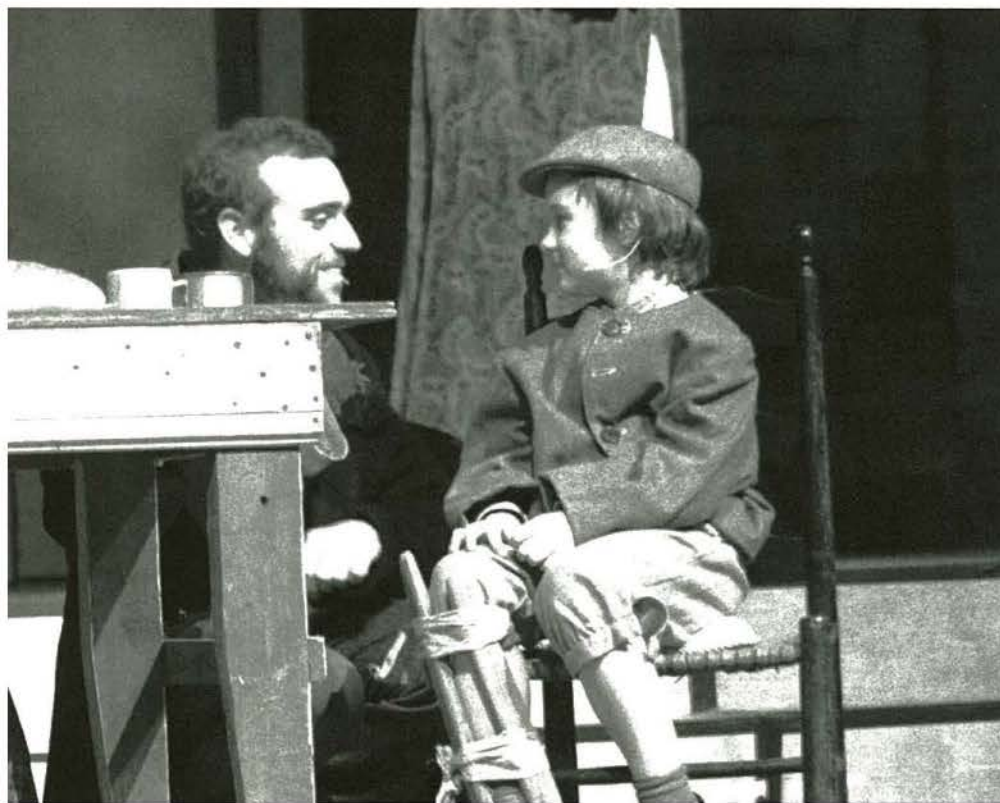
"I read 12 out of 13 adaptations of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'," said Henry. "I used different effects in it. I'm from Kansas so adding 'The Wizard of Oz' effect was just natural to me because it took me back to my roots."

For the third production of the season, Quillin chose to do the classic dark comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace". He kept the production to its original style.

The final production of the season and the only musical of the year, was a cult classic. "Little Shop of Horrors" was picked because it was a title most people knew and because the dark comedy underlying it went along with the previous play.

"I went with a cult classic," said Henry. "The only thing I changed in this production was I added more dancing to it than the original production."

The year in plays was a bit altered from the norm, but that is what led to a great production schedule, tailored to meet the needs of the students.



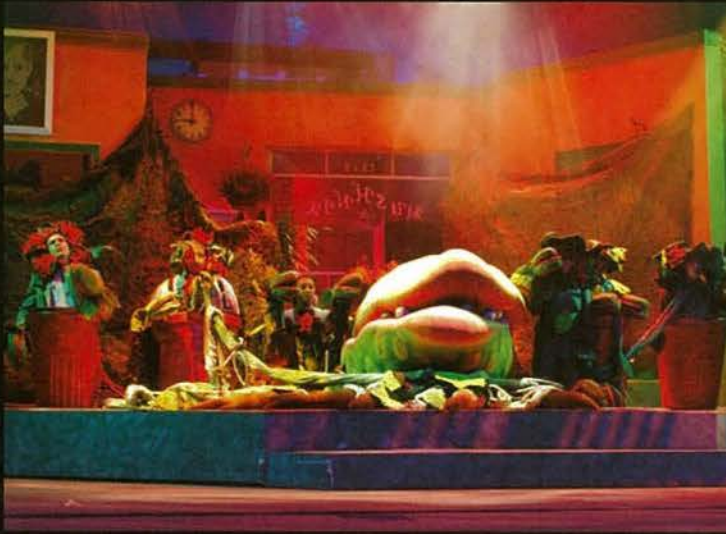
Top- M/SU performs Little Shop of Horrors in April. Morgan Breckenridge played leading lady Audrey. Photo by Amanda Fox

Right- Students put on a Civil War era version of Romeo and Juliet. Erin Williams and Jeremy Edwards shared a scene as the nurse and Benvolio. Photo by Amanda Fox

Center- November is the perfect time for A Christmas Carol. Sebastian Smith played Bob Cratchit, here with Tiny Tim. Photo by Lauren Dillon

Left Bottom- Andy Tyhurst strikes a pose as Officer O'Hara. M/SU also performed Anon and Ole Lace. Photo by Amanda Fox

Little Shop of HORRORS



Cast List

Jacob Mills as Seymour Kelborn
 Morgan Breckenridge as Audrey
 Erik Burns-Sprung as Mr. Mushnik
 Hayleigh Albers as Chiffon
 Nerissa Lee as Ronnette
 Rachel Cox as Crystal
 Jeffrey Jones as Audrey II (voice)
 Steve Catron as Audrey II (manipulation) / Wino # 1
 Kyle Minx as Orin Scrivello Wino #2 / Customer /
 Bernstein / Mrs. Luce / Skip Snip / Patrick Martin
 Shawn Agnew as Narrator / Radio Announcer



A Christmas Carol

Cast List

Steve Catron as Ebenezer Scrooge
 Ian Rhoad as Boy Scrooge
 Keifer Helsel as Young Scrooge of 14
 Jeremy Edwards as Young Scrooge of 21
 Morgan Robinson as Belle
 Nerissa Lee as Fan
 Erik Burnes-Sprung as Mrs. Dilber/Marley's Ghost
 Erin Williams as Doll Vendor/Spirit of Christmas Past
 Jeff Jones as Spirit of Christmas Present
 Matt Wright as Spirit of Christmas Future
 RJ Jackson as First Solicitor
 Danny Kellogg as Old Joe/Undertaker
 Sebastian Smith as Bob Cratchit
 Robin Ussher as Mrs. Cratchit



THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO & JULIET

Cast List

Steve Catron as Escalus
 Ian Johnston as Paris
 Larry Clifton as Montague
 Matt Wright as Capulet
 Keifer Helsel as Romeo
 Jeremy Edwards as Benvolio
 Brian Duskey as Mercutio
 Andy Tyhurst as Tybalt
 John P. Tretbar, Erik Burns-Sprung as Friar Laurence
 Erick Burns-Sprung, Jeff Jones as Friar John
 Riley Bayer as Balthasar
 Brady O'Dell as Sampson

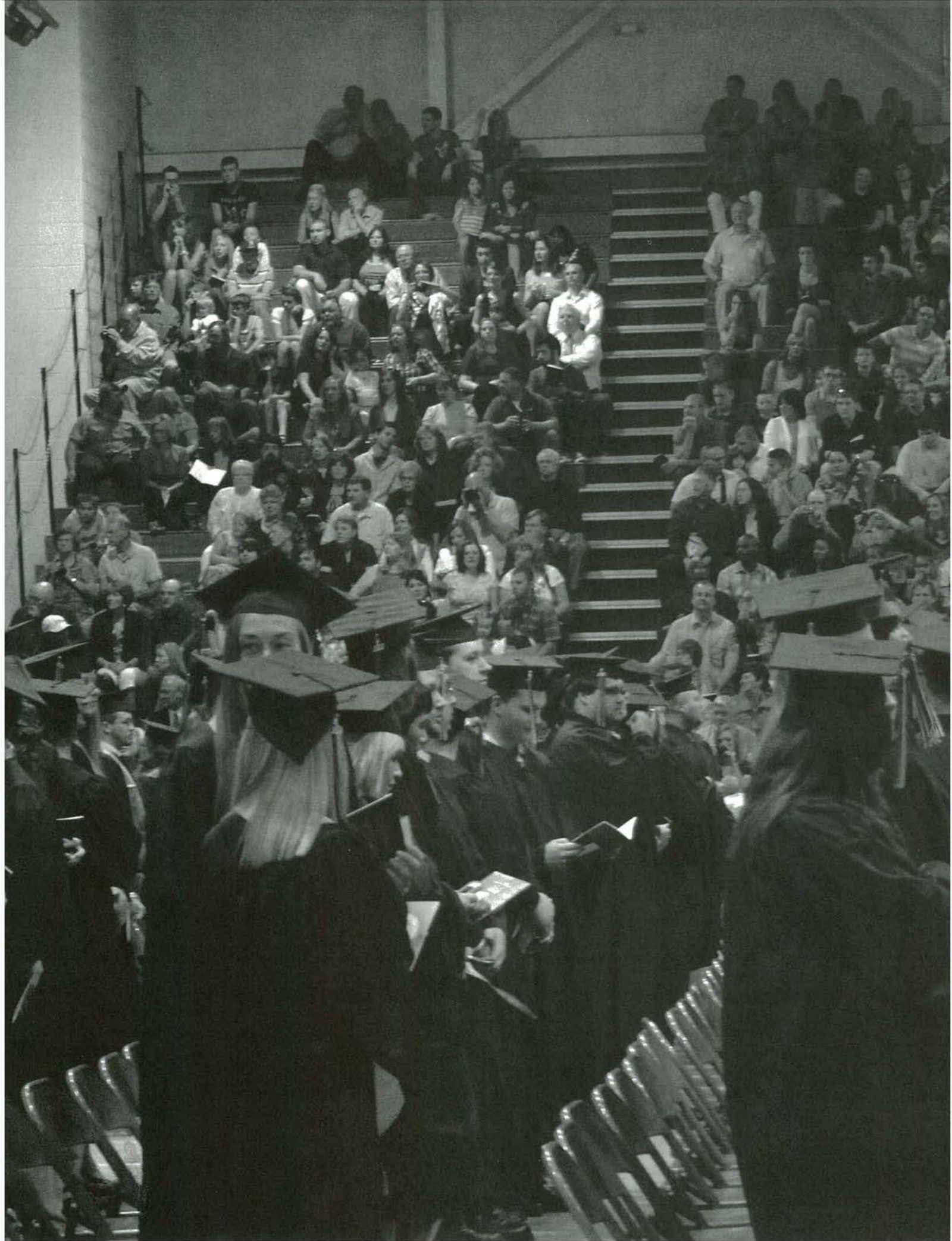


ARSENIC and Old Lace

Cast List

Riley Bayer as Officer Klein
 Brian Duskey as Mr. Witherspoon
 Dan Bank as Lieutenant Rooney
 Andy Tyhurst as Officer O'Hara
 Sebastian Smith as Teddy Brewster
 Keifer Helsel as Officer Brophy
 Ian Johnston as Dr. Einstein
 Jeremy Edwards as Rev. Dr. Harper
 Ali Bind as Abby Brewster
 Larry Clifton as Mr. Gibbs
 Matt Wright as Mortimer Brewster
 Erin Williams as Elaine Harper
 Sonrisa Johnston as Martha Brewster







Left- The Looney Complex was filled with friends and family celebrating their loved ones success. The spring commencement saw 500 undergraduates walk across the stage. Photo by Amanda Fox

Right- The graduate students stand with their banner in the crowd. There were 17 graduates who received their Masters in the spring. Photo by Heather Heater

Finally Done

Story by Robyn Patti

The caps, the gowns and the proud parents galore all indicated the ceremony that was to come. Graduation was a celebration of the students of Missouri Western who have moved through the stages of college life and on out the door and down the path to the next challenge ahead. Whether that challenge was a career or graduate studies, the students of Western moved across the stage, on with their lives.

The Winter Commencement featured Senior Bridget Janssen as the commencement speaker. Janssen graduated in May with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology. Her speech to the graduating class of Fall 2011 gave the graduates something to think about after joining the rest of the world's degree holders.

After Janssen's speech Mr. Joe Gray received an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree. Mr. Gray was chairman of the board of Gray Manufacturing Co. He was a member of the Western League for Excellence and the Missouri Western Arts Society, being such an avid supporter of Western, he was honored at the commencement.

Isaac Collins was a member of the graduating class of 2011. The business major graduated in the fall and went on to be a manager of local business Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

"It's great to get out of college and have something to go right into," Collins said. "There wasn't a lot of hang time in-between so it was a relief."

The business major and former Griffon football player was a member of the audience for the Spring Commencement as well. His girlfriend, Hannah Strasser, had graduated with a degree in public relations, and walked with the class of 2012.

The spring graduating class had two processions on Saturday, May 12. The 500 undergraduates and 17 graduate scholars were a part of the ceremonies held on that sunny afternoon.

Alison Norris was a member of the undergraduate scholars. She received her Bachelor's of Science in convergent media.

"I'm getting married next month and then I start grad school in the fall," Norris said. "So this is just one of many exciting things to come!"

The speaker for the 2012 commencement was Dr. Tushaus, a professor of legal studies at Western. The educator congratulated these students for their hard work and helped remind them that hard work will always be waiting or them. He shared an anecdote of a donkey in a well and how the animal had to work his way out to get to where he wanted to be, and the same applied to the graduates. If they would continue to work for what they want, soon they would be where they wanted to be.

The years will continue to come and go, with graduates walking across the stage each year to receive their degrees, but once a Griffon, always a Griffon, especially with that degree saying so.

FEAR
THE
BEARDS



The help



SPORTS



Basketball..... 142



Volleyball..... 154



Football..... 136



Soccer..... 156

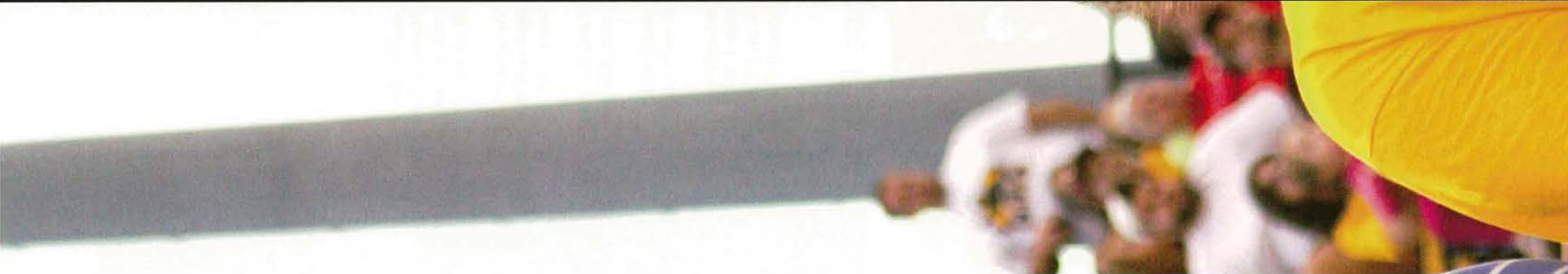


Photo By Molly Thomas



DRIVEN TO GLORY

Story by Nick McCutcheon
 Photos by Clifford Petersen

After beginning the season 2-2, the Missouri Western football team pulled the lever and hit the jackpot with triple sevens by season's end. On Nov. 12 the Griffons defeated Fort Hays for the seventh consecutive time, earning the team its seventh consecutive regular season victory and seventh consecutive trip to the postseason. Along the way, some Griffons made their mark on the record books and earned some national recognition.

The Griffons fell to eventual NCAA DII National Champion, Pittsburg State to open the season. The team bounced back with a 23-6 victory over No. 12 Central Missouri and shutout Langston 47-0. Things were looking good heading into a nationally televised matchup with No. 8 Washburn. The Griffons led at halftime but lost to the Ichabods 41-20 and fell to 2-2 on the season.

"I think we got better every week. We started off 2-2 and everybody was doubting us and we just got better and better. It didn't stop; great players on offense and defense. We had a great run, just got to finish," running back Mike Hill said.

Hill did what he could to help the team rattle off seven straight wins to tie a school record with nine wins in the regular season and seven straight. The junior running back led the MIAA with 1,240 rushing yards on 244 attempts on his way to first-team all-conference recognition.

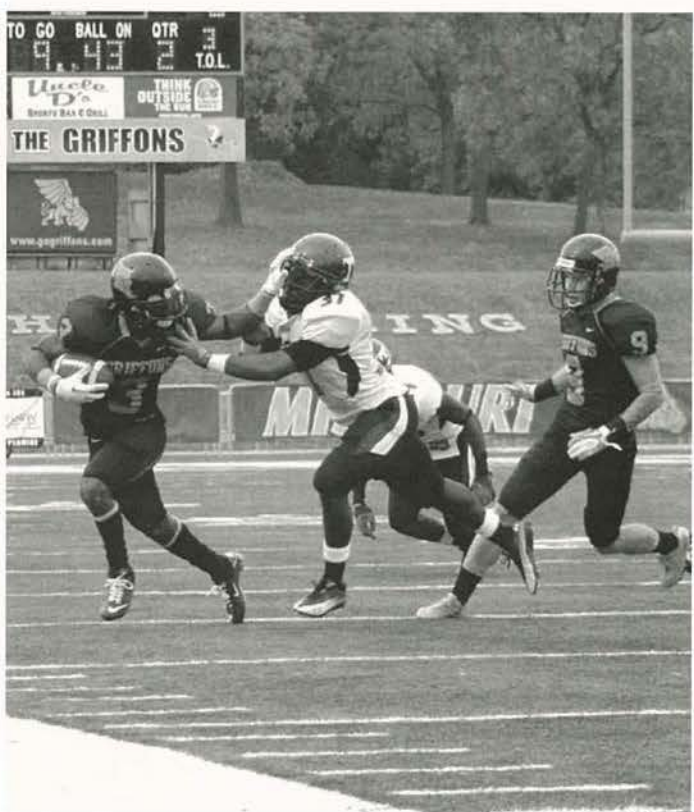
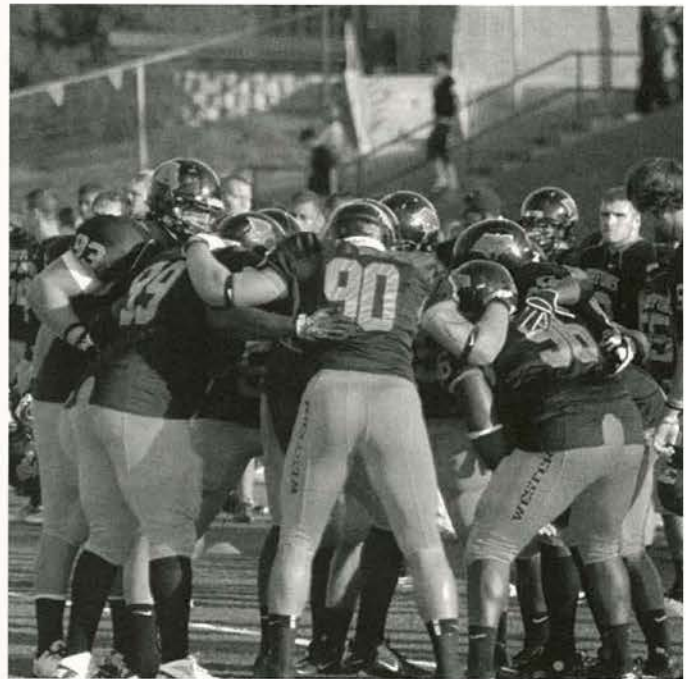
Hill's accomplishments may have only been overshadowed by a surprising luxury the Griffons had this season – a kicker. Greg Zuerlein transferred to Western from Nebraska-Omaha after UNO cut football from its athletic programs. Zuerlein shattered Western records and made his mark on NCAA record books on his way to first-team All-America honors as well as being named MIAA Special Teams Player of the Year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 138



SCOREBOARD 9-3 OVERALL

◇ Pittsburg State..... L. 7-34 ◇ Missouri Southern..... W. 35-23 ◇ Southwest Baptist..... W. 31-24 ◇
 ◇ Central Missouri..... W. 23-6 ◇ Lincoln..... W. 81-20 ◇ Northwest Missouri State..... W. 31-28 ◇
 ◇ Langston University..... W. 47-0 ◇ Emporia State..... W. 22-16 ◇ Fort Hays State..... W. 55-17 ◇
 ◇ Washburn..... L. 20-41 ◇ Truman..... W. 45-7 ◇ Northwest Missouri State..... L. 29-35 ◇



Top- Brandon Wright tries to make a catch in the end zone. He stretched out and tried to match the catch with all of his might but it slipped through his fingers.

Above- The Griffon offense huddles up and plans their next move. The huddles usually give the team time to make changes to what plays they want to run.

Right Bottom- Tyron Crockum gives the opponent the "stiff arm." Stiff arm is a football term used when the offensive is trying to push away the defense.

Center Bottom- Linemen including Michael Hill fight for yards. They are trying to gain yards and get leverage on the defense.

Left Bottom- Michael Hill number 28 tries to evade the defenders. He was stopped by the two defenders on this play.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 136

"I can't wait to watch him on Sundays because I think it will happen," Head Coach Jerry Partridge said of Zuerlein.

While Hill started for the Griffon offense and Zuerlein for the special teams, junior defensive end David Bass did his part for the defense. Bass set a school record with 20 tackles for loss and came just short of the Western marks for sacks in a season and career sacks. Bass joined Hill and Zuerlein as first-team all-conference performers and was named All-America team with Zuerlein.

Bass will have another shot at the season sack record and is sure to set the career mark when he and most of the other starters from this team return next season. Western is set to return nine starters on offense and seven on defense.

"I think we're right on the verge," junior defensive back Ben Jackson said.

The Griffons were on the verge of winning their first ever playoff game after jumping to a quick 16-point lead over Northwest Missouri. Much like the season before though, the Bearcats avenged the regular season loss to Western with a 35-29 win. Coach Partridge was pleased with the season.

"Missouri Western will certainly be back next year with this huge senior class, no questions," Partridge said.



Right- John Brown tackles the opposing team discontinuing their run down the field. John Brown is part of the Griffon Defensive line and put a hard hit on the ball runner. Photo by Molly Thomas

Below-Tyler Fenwick Missouri Westerns Offensive Coordinator riles up the team. He gives them the courage to keep on fighting. Photo by Clifford Petersen



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ISSAC COLLINS



Issac Collins

Q: How do you feel about this season?

A: I feel that we surprised a lot of people this season. Since we did graduate so many big time seniors and had a 2-2 start to the season, people kind of wrote us off and thought this was just a rebuilding year. We had a great season being the third team to ever make it to the playoffs, having the longest winning streak in school history, being the second team to have a 9 game regular win season, and beating Northwest for the first time in 8 years. I feel like this season was solid.

Q: How was the team dynamic?

A: Team dynamics were great. I've never seen a team's chemistry be better and see so many guys work together to achieve the same goal. This summer we had around 40 guys stay in town to work out and lift weights. That was nearly half of our team!

Q: What was your favorite part of the season?

A: This is an easy one. Beating our rival Northwest was my favorite part of the season not only because it hasn't been done in 8 years but because it was on my Senior Day. I couldn't have asked for a better Senior Day to think back on and remember.

Q: What do you hope to do after you graduate?

A: My hopes are to move away and find a good job. I am also contemplating graduate school to receive my MBA.

Q: What's a random fact about you?

A: I've always been a big Michael Jordan and Chicago Bulls fan. Their intro video was about a dozen wild Bulls running wild in the streets and then they bust into the United Center. Well, by seeing this when I was young, I've always wanted to do the running of the Bulls with a Michael Jordan jersey or Chicago Bulls shirt on.

Q: If you could have a zoo animal for a pet, what animal would you have?

A: I'd have a griffon be my pet. What? That's not a zoo animal!?!... I guess I will just go with a lion then. Lions are fearless, big, and strong!



Above- Linebacker Nic Burrell tries to rip the ball away from the other team. The other Griffon Football players start to gather around to help out their fellow teammate. Photo by Molly Thomas

PLAYER
SPOTLIGHTS
TAYLOR KRAM



Q: What are your thoughts on the cheer squad getting the patrons amped for games?

A: It's simple it's what I do best! I believe that if a cheerleader isn't yelling for their team and a cheerleader doesn't believe in their team then there is probably no way that a crowd will either.

Q: What was the best part about your season?

A: I was recently awarded two awards from the athletic department. My first award was the Cheer Squad-Athlete of the Year. At the end of each academic year, every coach will select one member of their team to be that year's athlete of the year for their specific sport. Each and every athlete puts in a lot of hard work and a lot of hours and it is always very nice and very special that the athletic departments recognizes that.

Q: How long have you done cheerleading?

A: I have been a member of Missouri Western Cheerleading for four years. Cheerleading is actually one of the reasons that I came to Missouri Western. I have been a cheerleader since I was a little girl. It was a sport that I always enjoyed and soon became a huge passion of mine.

WE GOT SPIRIT

Story by Jerrica Brown

Enthused, dynamic, fun and hardworking is just a few words easily used to describe Missouri Western State University's pep squad.

Western's cheerleaders and the mystics dance team aren't just cute faces for fans to stare at during games and they prove this, yearly. The pep squad not only maximizes Griffon fans' energy level, but also keeps the athletes levels up as well.

Bryan Allen, four year cheerleading coach, guarantees Western's cheerleaders do a number of things to make each year better than the last.

"We recruit more members every year" says Allen. "We add more and more opportunities for our squad each year.

This upcoming year, we are hoping to compete in a college level competition here in Missouri" Allen adds.

Lacie Beth Thompson says cheerleading isn't just a sport; it's her family. She was a cheerleader in high school, but being on the pep squad in college is a different world. Not everyone on the squad is from St. Joseph, so they rely on each other as a support system and a family.

"Its one thing to be on display and be responsible for the tone of an entire crowd, but its nice not to do it alone," Thompson said.

They have each other and the work isn't on just one person. Kristine, a freshman mystic, and business management and marketing major, feels bonding is what makes the team. "We all get along well and made great friendships, it makes the practices and performances go much smoother without drama," says Kristine.

"With me being a freshman, I had different expectations. The girls were nicer than I expected but the difficulty of the dances was not what I expected college to be, especially during football season. Learning the routines right before the performances was stressful. During football season, mystics practice Monday through Friday afternoon with the band and dance practice Tuesday and Thursday evening. During basketball season, since games are less consistent, practice is reduced to Tuesday and Thursday evenings only."

Practicing two to five days a week didn't leave much time for the girls to focus on their academics and friends. Time management has always been an important skill to anyone who is doing extra curricular activities while in school. Most organizations require the student to maintain a certain GPA in order to participate in the groups activities. This requirement was set in place to make sure that athletes kept academics as their main focus. The cheer and mystics girls have done a great job at balancing their schedules and keeping students pumped up.



Top-During a football game, the cheerleaders keep the crowd going. The cheer squad do stunts and lifts throughout games. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Right-The Mystics smile pretty on the sidelines. The dance team performed during half time, but would keep spirits high during the games as well. Photo by Clifford Petersen

Right Bottom-The cheerleaders keep the crowd pumped for a basketball game. The squad would cheer and build stunts for basketball time-outs. Photo by Jerica Brown

Left Bottom-The Mystics practice a media time-out for basketball games. The dance team also performed throughout football and basketball. Photo by Jerica Brown



BALL SO HARD

Story by Alexa Adams

The Missouri Western men's basketball team may have not had their best season, but their 9-17 record did not reflect their talent or teamwork.

Freshmen Reed Mells said, "This season was very disappointing. We had a lot of talent."

The Griffons had a solid and talented team, which was not mirrored in the team's statistics. Junior Alex Tuluka from Mons, Belgium said, "We didn't have a good season, but we didn't give up and continued to play hard until the end."

The men pushed forward throughout the season, and kept positive. Senior Lavonte Douglas said, "It was a heartbreaking season, we worked hard and came up short."

Although the statistics for the 2011-2012 Griffons may not have been what the men hoped for, it did not affect their team chemistry.

"It was a real close team," said Mells. Even though the team endured demanding practices and tough losses they never let it affect their attitudes.

"The team chemistry was great, we never gave up or hung our heads," said Douglas.

Even though the season did not go exactly as expected, it did come with some of its own memorable moments. Seniors Lavonte Douglas and TJ Johnson both received all-MIAA honors. Johnson, who was named MIAA Honorable Mention, clutched a career high of 23 point against Lincoln and scored double figures in 15 of the Griffon's games. Douglas, who was a third team selection, scored double figures in a total of 18 games and finished the season as the number six scorer in the MIAA. "Although it is an honor, I would have much rather had a better season over honors," said Douglas.

Another standout moment in this year's season was in November, when Head Coach Smith won his 600th game in his 24th season at Missouri Western.

"I love Coach Smith, so being a part of something that made him stand out was special," Mells said. This beloved basketball coach is one of a mere 75 coaches in the history of college basketball to achieve 600 wins in his career. "He is a great coach, he knows what he is doing," said Tuluka.

Not only was Coach Smith a role model in the gym, but he also made quite the impression on the players off the court as well.

"Coach Smith has been a big influence in my life, not just as a coach, but as a friend and mentor too," said Douglas. "He is one of the best coaches I've played for."

During the season Missouri Western's men's basketball team did not give up and pushed through until the end. The Griffons may have not had the end result they were striving for this season but they were still able to create opportunities for Missouri Western to come together and experience some unforgettable moments.



SCOREBOARD 9-17 OVERALL

◇ Fontbonne University... W. 69-55	◇ Fort Hays State L. 59-66	◇ Washburn L. 55-64 ◇
◇ Manhattan Christian.... W. 87-46	◇ Washburn L. 55-79	◇ Fort Hays State L. 58-62 ◇
◇ William Jewell W. 65-64	◇ NW Missouri State L. 53-64	◇ Missouri Southern L. 69-85 ◇
◇ Rockhurst University... W. 68-58	◇ Lincoln L. 63-66	◇ NW Missouri State L. 61-67 ◇
◇ Southeastern Okla. L. 49-68	◇ Truman State L. 86-87	◇ Lincoln L. 67-79 ◇
◇ St. Mary's W. 77-76	◇ Central Missouri L. 48-64	◇ Truman State W. 74-70 ◇
◇ Pittsburg State W. 71-77	◇ Southwest Baptist L. 61-65	◇ Central Missouri L. 68-74 ◇
◇ Emporia State L. 57-59	◇ Pittsburg State L. 67-69	◇ Southwest Baptist.... W. 78-58 ◇
◇ Missouri Southern W. 75-67	◇ Emporia State W. 72-66	◇

COACH SPOTLIGHT TOM SMITH



Tom Smith

by Amber Hess

After 24 years of hard work and dedication, men's basketball coach Tom Smith achieved his 600 win during the 2012 season.

"You have to have good players to win that many games," Smith said.

Smith began his Missouri Western coaching career in 1988, acquiring 440 of those 600 wins. The Gary, Indiana native was inducted into the Missouri Western State University Athletics Hall of Fame six years ago for his winning numbers.

"Most of them were here at Missouri Western, so it's even more special that I haven't really moved around all that much," he said. Smith began coaching at Central Missouri in 1975.

At 67 years old, Smith ranks number 61 among basketball coaches who have accumulated 600 wins during their careers.

"The fact that not that many people in all of basketball have been able to do that is kind of unique," he said.

In 1998 he became the top winning basketball coach of Western's history. His 600 win came only 7 years after he gained his 500 win, in 2007.

"Anytime you get that many wins, it means that you have good people working for you that have recruited good players," Smith said. "It's a unique honor."



Top- TJ Johnson and Shawn Tarver battle against Fort Hays State University. The Griffons worked hard in everyone of their games. Photo by Molly Thomas

Bottom Right- Senior Lavonie Douglas goes in for a slam dunk. The crowd was always excited when the player scored with a dunk. Photo by Jennifer Notbusch

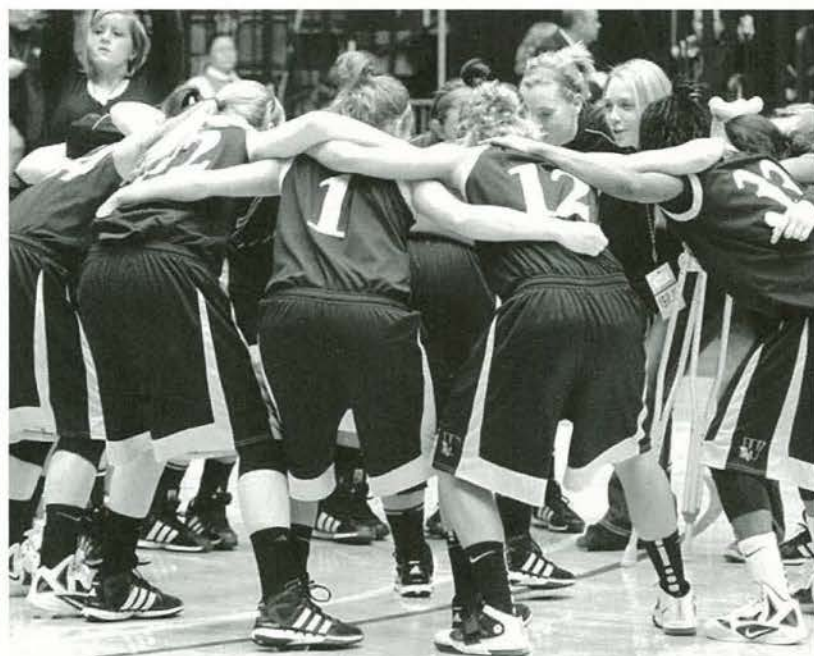
Bottom Left- The team listens intently to their coach, Smith, during a time out. The players all loved and respected their coach. Photo by Molly Thomas



Left- Jessica Koch number 24, goes in for a lay-up. The senior forward started all 27 games and scored double figures in all but one game.

Right- Koch shoots a free throw on the line. Koch made 139 free throws throughout the season.

Bottom- The Lady Griffons huddle up on the court. The team was a positive group of friends who worked well together on and off the court.



SCOREBOARD

7-20

OVERALLL

- ◇ Livin the Dream..... W. 96-52 ◇ Pittsburg State L. 57-82 ◇ Univ. of Neb. Omaha L. 62-64 ◇
- ◇ Quincy University..... L. 68-91 ◇ Emporia StateL. 48-66 ◇ NW Missouri State W. 62-51 ◇
- ◇ Colo. School of Mines .. W. 65-57 ◇ Missouri Southern L. 62-66 ◇ Lincoln W. 74-66 ◇
- ◇ Colo. Christian Univ L. 54-69 ◇ Fort Hays State L. 48-70 ◇ Truman W. 65-64 ◇
- ◇ Rockhurst University.... W. 57-50 ◇ Washburn L. 63-87 ◇ Univ. of Central Mo. L. 67-72 ◇

CHANGE IT UP

PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS ALEX SAXEN

Story by Alexa Adams

Going into the 2011-2012 season, the lady Griffons had high hopes and expectations. It was saddening when the season did not go quite as planned. Freshman Alex Saxen said, "Our season was not as successful as we were expecting it to be, we had very high expectations for this season and unfortunately did not reach them." The women's basketball team finished the 2011-2012 season with an overall record of 7-20, and a conference record of 5-15. Although the wins were not as high as they hoped there were still many positive things that came out of this year's season.

One of the team's juniors, Kallie Schoonover said, "This year we did a lot of team building, it was more of a bonding experience."

The Griffons had to work together through the ups and downs of the season. One of the 2011-2012 season's ups was making it to the MIAA tournament. Since the team was ranked eighth going into the tournament they had to play Washburn, who was ranked number one. Even though the lady Griffons put up a good fight their season came to an end in the first round where they lost to the lady Blues 80 to 63.

This unfortunate loss did not overshadow the team's accomplishments in their season, especially Senior Jessica Koch's accomplishment of becoming Missouri Western's All-Time leading scorer with a total of 1,751 baskets.

"I've had such a blast this year, even though we didn't get a lot of wins," said Koch. The entire team celebrated in Koch's achievement of All-Time leading scorer. "Jess breaking the school record was a really neat experience!" said Saxen. "I teared up a bit."

"I'm going to remember my senior year like that," said Koch. "It wasn't negative, it was a very positive year."

"Coach Plett was a father figure, he was very caring and genuine," said Schoonover. "We are sad to see him go."

Unfortunately the season was the last for Missouri Western's coach. Even though the Griffons were losing their beloved coach the future was looking bright with the hiring of Coach Edmisson. "He will be tough," said Schoonover. "He expects your best every day and complete focus on basketball." The new coach had a rich history of success and never had a losing season.

"He is what we need to turn our program in the direction it needs to be going," said Saxen. "Back to the old traditions of the Missouri Western Women's Basketball program." Even though the lady Griffons were presented with a tough season they were looking forward to reinstating their old legacy and looking ahead to future winning seasons.



Q: How do you feel about your season?

A: Our season was not as successful as we were expecting it to be, we had very high expectations for this season and unfortunately did not reach them.

Q: What was the best part about your season?

A: The best part of the season was being able to experience being on a college team, along with the relationships formed and of course the wins that went along with the season.

Q: What will the team be like without Coach Plett?

A: The team will certainly not be the same as it was this year, having lost five seniors and Coach Plett. But I feel the program will undoubtedly get back to being competitive and high paced, with the help of our new coach (Coach Edmisson), he will help bring a new, fresh dynamic to the program.

- ◇ Southwest Baptist L. 99-100 ◇ Missouri Southern L. 73-83 ◇ Univ. of Central Mo. L. 55-75 ◇
- ◇ Pittsburg State L. 68-86 ◇ Arkansas Tech L. 75-81 ◇ Southwest Baptist .. W. 86-69 ◇
- ◇ Emporia State L. 65-73 ◇ NW Missouri State L. 71-72 ◇ Washburn L. 63-80 ◇
- ◇ Washburn University L. 55-60 ◇ Lincoln L. 56-68 ◇
- ◇ Fort Hays State W. 90-78 ◇ Truman State L. 64-80 ◇

Left- Max the Griffon poses in the Looney Complex. Max was introduced to MWSU fans in a new costume during the halftime of a football game. Photo by Zac Covault



Top- Max parades through the crowd at a basketball game, getting the crowd amped up. The new Griffon costume shows all the feathers of the mythical creature. Photo by Zac Covault



Right- The Griffon poses for another photo on the stairs to Looney. Max had an energetic attitude that really brought the mascot to life. Photo by Heather Heater



DRESSING THE PART

Photos by Heather Heater



BECOMING THE GRIFFON

Story by Zac Covault

Most students and bystanders look at Max the Griffon and assume it's some student parading around in costume for fun. The reality though is it takes a lot more than a mere costume to be a good mascot.

Being the mascot is not just a position that is handed down to the person who goes to the games. Students are required to audition for the part. The student trying out must go in for an audition in front of the cheer coach and two other judges.

Bryan Allen, the current cheer coach gave some information on the subject.

"The student auditioning for Max does not try out with the cheerleaders," said Allen, "If we need to have another try-out then we hold one separately for Max. Normally we have the mascot do a short skit and then we put some music on for them to see if they can dance."

Just because the student wears a costume with a giant mask doesn't mean Max is not picked based on what the student looks like. Although there is not height or weight requirements it is still necessary for the student to be able to fit in the costume so it will look like how it is supposed to.

"Although there are no height or weight requirements required for Max we do look at certain characteristics and personalities in a person wanting to be Max," Allen said. "The characteristics we look for are; a person needs to be outgoing and not too shy, how responsible and dedicated the person is since being the mascot is a huge time commitment, we look at how the person acts when around others since that is what the mascot does most of the time. Another thing we look for is the ability to dance. And a good sense of humor also helps."

As Max the student has to be ready to give up their time to play the part. The time commitment is year round since Max does football, basketball and other appearances. The current Max agreed to answer questions as long as their real name was not used, so Max he shall stay. According to Max the biggest disadvantage to playing the part is cleaning the suit and the possibility of a smell.

"It was much easier to put on the old costume and clean it. Although the new one has better features of the Griffon I have to put on like seven different layers when I only had four before," Max said. "Since being Max is a huge secret if I mess up or goof and do something embarrassing no one knows it is me so it is the best form of protection."

Students on campus are very into having a physical mascot at games. Tori Shuskey was excited to see a mythological creature at school events.

"It is different seeing a person go to the games and be the school's mascot," Shuskey said. "I came from Cameron High School. We did not have a kid dressed up like a Dragon showing school spirit at games. So I think it shows great school spirit to have a physical mascot at games and events."

Max mentioned that he was going to miss being Max the Griffon after he graduated, but he only had positive things to say about it.

"It is completely worthwhile," Max said. "It got me involved in school in ways that I did not know existed. It also got me more interested in going to sporting events for our school."

Although Max the Griffon for 2011-2012 has retired and moved on to newer things he will never be forgotten. Students and faculty can't wait for the next year when a new Max will appear and show off his new suit again!



TOUGH COMPETITION

Story by Kyle Inman

Photos by Noah Bonnett-Tapp

Main photo submitted by Jacob Lutes

Missouri Western baseball finished the 2012 season with a record of 34-17 including 26-7 in MIAA conference play.

The Griffons found strength in starting pitchers Brandon Simmons and Nik Jurado. Simmons was named first team All-MIAA for the first time in his career as he was an honorable mention during his first two seasons at Western. He finished with a school record 12 wins which led the conference and the nation while only losing one and throwing two complete game shutouts. His earned run average was 1.58. Jurado finished 8-1 in 11 starts with a 1.79 earned run average and was named second team All-MIAA.

Spencer Shockley led the way offensively with his .402 batting average and .615 slugging percentage. He hit 14 doubles, 36 runs batted in and six homeruns on the season earning him first team All-MIAA. Michael Schulze finished with a .354 batting average and 31 runs batted in while Nate Ramler knocked in a team-leading 45 runs batted in while hitting for a .314 average. Ramler also led the team in homeruns with 10.

Jimmy Smelcer batted .314 with 37 hits, Bubba Dotson hit .313 with 40 hits, and Grant Fink hit .308 with 52 hits. Fink and Ramler were named second team All-MIAA while Schulze earned an honorable mention.

SCOREBOARD

34-17

OVERALL

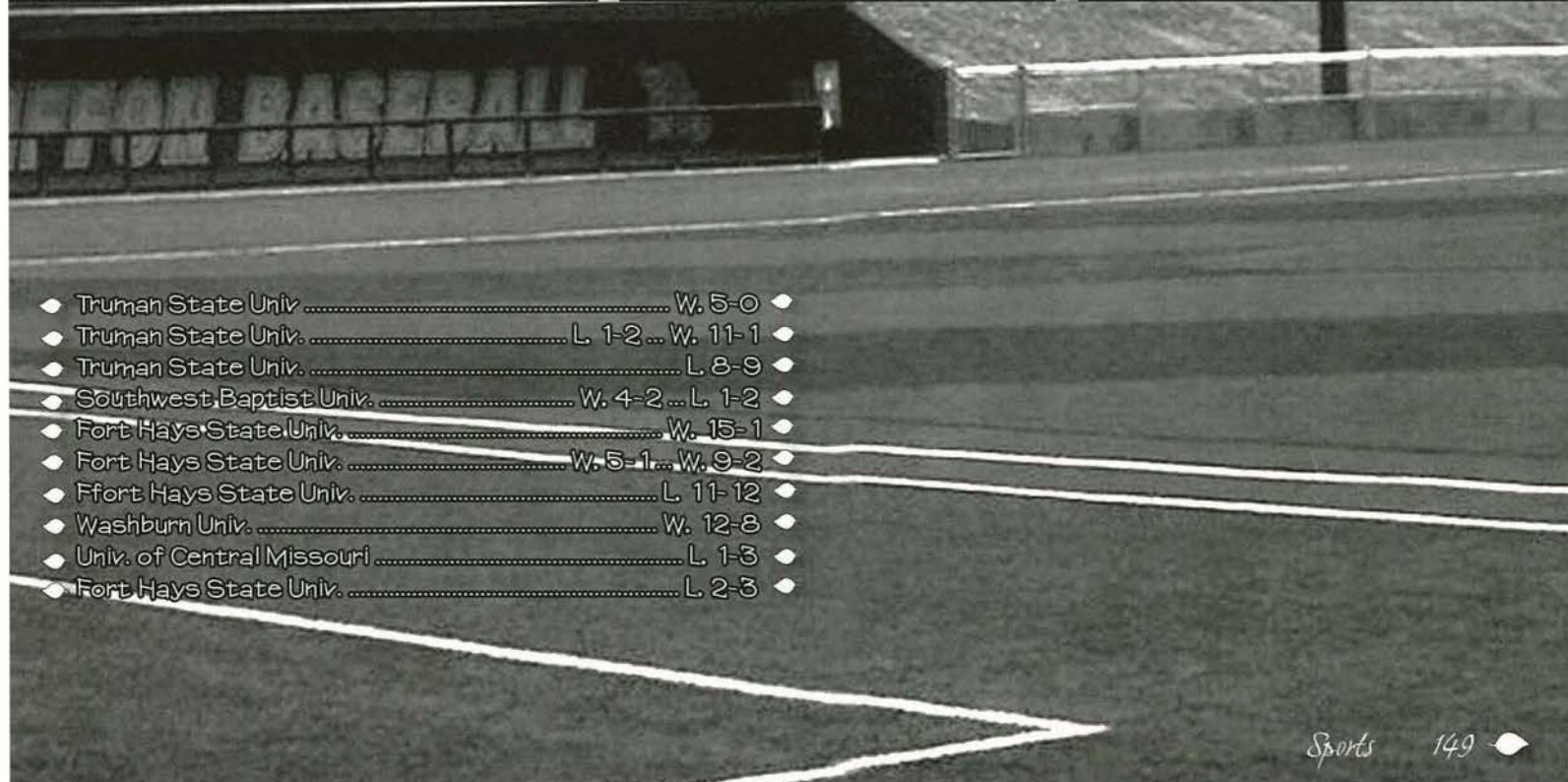
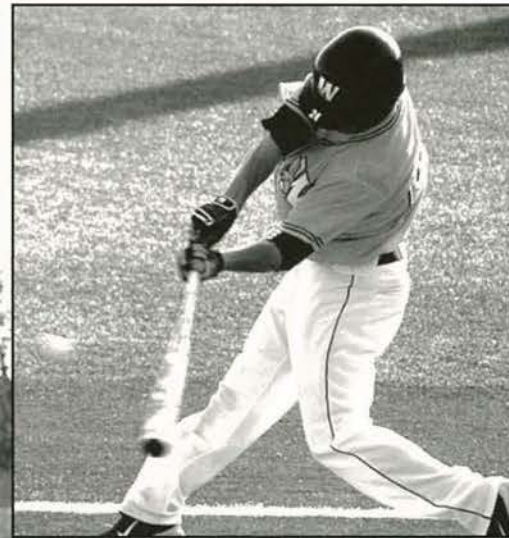
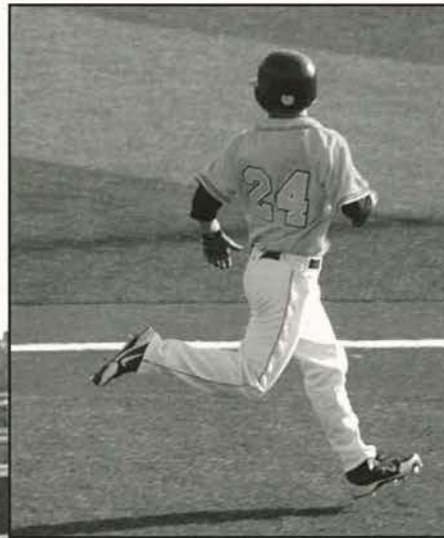
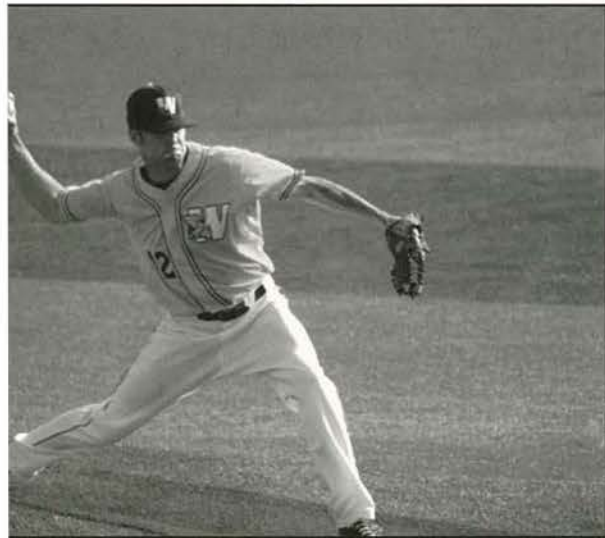
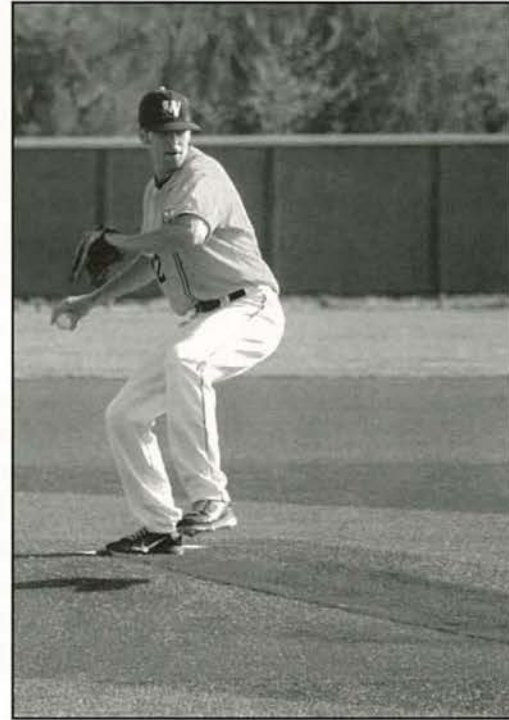
◆ Univ. of North Alabama W. 4-1...L. 2-7	◆ Mo. Southern State Univ. W. 5-2
◆ Univ. of North Alabama L. 3-5	◆ Lincoln Univ. W. 9-1...W. 21-3
◆ Univ. of Neb. at Kearney W. 7-2...L. 2-6	◆ Lincoln Univ. W. 2-1...L. 6-10
◆ Univ. of Neb. at Kearney W. 3-2...W. 12-5	◆ Emporia State Univ. L. 2-3...L. 1-5
◆ Univ. of Central Missouri W. 8-3	◆ Washburn Univ. W. 3-2...W. 3-2
◆ Univ. of Central Missouri L. 0-11...L. 8-9	◆ Washburn Univ. W. 5-2...W. 5-4
◆ Univ. Central Missouri L. 2-7	◆ Northwest Mo. State Univ. W. 2-1...L. 1-9
◆ Univ. of Mary W. 5-0...W. 4-0	◆ Northwest Mo. State Univ. W. 7-5...L. 1-11
◆ Univ. of Mary W. 3-1	◆ Emporia State Univ. W. 5-4...W. 6-2
◆ Mo. Southern State Univ. W. 5-3	◆ Pittsburg State Univ. W. 12-1...W. 15-1
◆ Mo. Southern State Univ. W. 2-1...W. 3-0	◆ Pittsburg State Univ. W. 13-5...W. 17-6

Western started off going 6-5 against tough competition but then went the next ten games all at the Spring Sports Complex where the Griffons went 18-5 on the season. The home winning streak from March 10 to the 25 included a 21-3 victory over Lincoln. Western finished on a 20-7 streak after a loss to Fort Hays State in the MIAA tournament ended the season.

The Griffons graduated seven seniors including Jurado and catcher Tony Loeffler who played with each other in high school in California, junior college, and at Western. According to coach Buzz Verduzco, Loeffler's ability to manage the game from the catchers position is something that will be missed next season.

The '12 Griffons finished with a collective batting average of .306 while hitting 46 home runs and 267 runs batted in while only allowing 172. Western was 16-1 when scoring three to five runs and 3-12 when scoring zero to two.

Western's 34-17 record was a vast improvement on last season's 26-25 team and the best in Verduzco's career which has yielded 10 out of 13 winning seasons.



- ◆ Truman State Univ W. 5-0 ◆
- ◆ Truman State Univ. L. 1-2... W. 11-1 ◆
- ◆ Truman State Univ. L. 8-9 ◆
- ◆ Southwest Baptist Univ. W. 4-2... L. 1-2 ◆
- ◆ Fort Hays State Univ. W. 15-1 ◆
- ◆ Fort Hays State Univ. W. 5-1... W. 9-2 ◆
- ◆ Fort Hays State Univ. L. 11-12 ◆
- ◆ Washburn Univ. W. 12-8 ◆
- ◆ Univ. of Central Missouri L. 1-3 ◆
- ◆ Fort Hays State Univ. L. 2-3 ◆

HITTING FOR BIG DREAMS

Story by Kyle Inman

Main photo submitted by Jacob Lutes

Missouri Western softball finished another successful season with a record of 42-13 and the school's sixth ever trip to the NCAA tournament. The Griffons have went to the tournament for six out of the last eight seasons under coach Jen Bagley.

Pitcher Jackie Bishop built on a strong freshman season with a 24-5 record as a sophomore. Bishop had a 1.43 earned run average and set the school strikeout record with 243. She recorded a career-high 16 strike-outs against Pittsburg State on April 6 and was named first team All-MIAA. She received the MIAA pitcher of the week award four times and threw eight complete game shutouts.

Bishop was the first ever Griffon to receive the MIAA Pitcher of the Year honor and was also named second team All-American by Daktronics.

Analee Rubio was the other starting pitcher on the mound for Western and she went 18-5 with a 2.24 earned run average. She recorded 105 strikeouts and pitched 18 complete games.

Second basemen Blair Stalder led the Griffons in batting average with a .358 followed by Maegan Roemmich who batted .347. Kendall Sorenson led the team in doubles with 13 while Keri Lorbert led the teams in runs batted in with 53 and homeruns with eight including hitting two three-run blasts on April 21 against Northeastern State. Stalder, Roemmich, and Lorbert started all 55 games.

The '12 Griffons went 18-2 in MIAA conference play and 14-2 at home in the teams second season of playing at the Spring Sports Complex.

SCOREBOARD

42-13

OVERALL

◆ Henderson State Univ. W. 2-1	◆ Univ. of Missouri St. Louis L. 11-12
◆ Ouachita Baptist Univ. L. 0-6	◆ Southwestern Okla. State Univ. W. 5-0
◆ Delta State Univ. W. 5-2	◆ Missouri S&T W. 3-0
◆ Rockhurst Univ. W. 2-1	◆ Univ. of North Alabama W. 9-1
◆ Univ. of Arkansas at Monticello W. 1-0	◆ Univ. of Illinois Springfield W. 7-6
◆ Henderson State Univ. L. 2-6	◆ Univ. of Arkansas at Monticello W. 3-1
◆ Newman University W. 8-1	◆ Quincy Univ. L. 0-3 ... W. 2-1
◆ Southeastern Okla. State Univ. W. 7-3	◆ Southwest Baptist Univ. W. 9-0 ... W. 6-2
◆ Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin W. 12-2	◆ Univ. of Central Missouri W. 5-1 ... W. 8-2
◆ Northeastern State Univ. W. 3-1 ... W. 9-0	◆ Wayne State College Neb. W. 3-1 ... W. 3-0

The team saw two seniors graduate, first basemen Leah Steele and second basemen Stalder. Steele was a four-year player while Stalder transferred in from Garden City JUCO and spent two seasons as a starter. Freshman Bre Fleschner had a standout season batting .329 with 47 hits.

The Griffons went all the way to the championship game of the MIAA tournament before falling to Emporia State 6-5. The season ended with two one-run losses in the NCAA tournament in San Antonio.

Bishop and Roemmich earned first team All-MIAA honors while Stalder and Lorbert were selected to the second team. Rubio, Steele, Fleschner, Sorenson, Kat Steponovich, Taylor Anding and Sarah Elliott were awarded as honorable mention selections.

The Griffons longest winning streak on the season was 11 games from March 9 to the 17. Western finished with a collective team batting average of .313 while allowing opposing team to hit just .215. The Griffons combined for 241 runs batted in while only allowing 112 and had a collective on base percentage of .373. On defense they amassed a .970 fielding percentage while committing only 44 errors to the opponents 92.

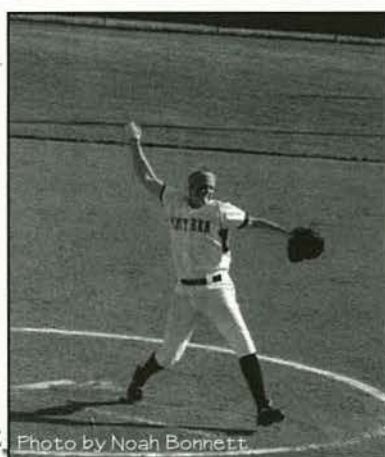


Photo by Noah Bonnett

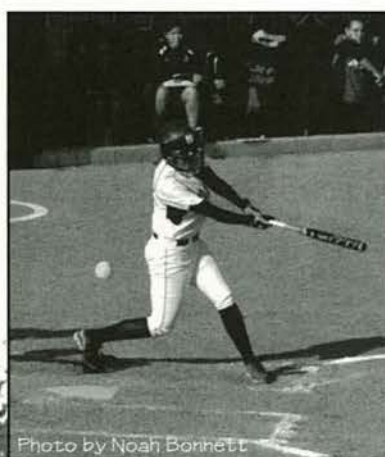


Photo by Noah Bonnett

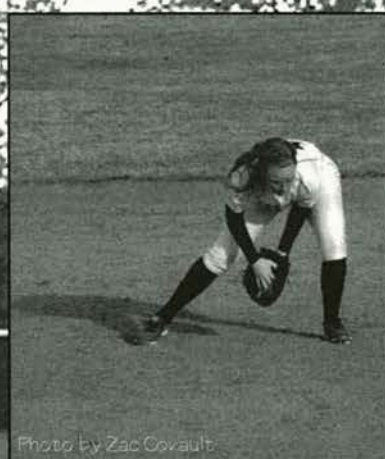


Photo by Zac Covault



Photo by Zac Covault

◆ Northwest Missouri State Univ. W. 9-0 ... W. 8-3	◆ Univ. of Central Oklahoma W. 3-2 ... L. 0-5
◆ Truman State Univ. W. 8-0 ... W. 4-0	◆ Northwest Missouri State Univ. W. 2-0
◆ Emporia State Univ. L. 2-5 ... L. 4-5	◆ Fort Hays State Univ. L. 1-2
◆ Fort Hays State Univ. W. 3-1 ... W. 8-0	◆ Washburn Univ. W. 9-6
◆ Washburn Univ. W. 8-0 ... W. 9-7	◆ Univ. of Central Missouri W. 8-5
◆ Pittsburg State Univ. W. 5-0 ... W. 3-2	◆ Fort Hays State Univ. W. 14-5
◆ Missouri Southern State Univ. W. 11-0 ... W. 1-0	◆ Emporia State Univ. L. 5-6
◆ Drury Univ. W. 1-0 ... L. 0-1	◆ Texas Woman's Univ. L. 3-4
◆ Lincoln Univ. L. 10-1 ... W. 11-3	◆ Saint Edwards Univ. L. 1-2
◆ Northeastern State Univ. W. 9-4 ... L. 0-1	

**PLAYER
SPOTLIGHT
NATALIE
BIRD**



Natalie Bird

Q: What was the best part of the season?

A: The best part of the season was the MIAA Championships. We were all giddy with the thought that we could win. Our team had been through a lot this year, and to finally come together for the most important event was exciting.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years after you graduate?

A: After I graduate, I plan on working to play golf professionally. I am going to try to qualify for both the Futures Tour, a mini-tour, and the LPGA Tour. Depending on when my game is ready, I am not sure exactly when I will forfeit my amateur status.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

A: It would be that I could fly. That would be awesome! It seems like it would be fun

THROUGH THE ROUGH

Story by Alexa Adams
Photos submitted by Ryan Menely

Missouri Western's men and women's golf teams may be two of the smaller teams representing the Griffons this year, but that did not prevent them from having a big presence on the range.

The Lady Griffons started off their 2012 season with a bang by winning their first spring tournament, the RU Early Bird Tournament, finishing first out of seven teams. Senior Kristen Cooley expressed her thoughts on their first tournament of the year.

"Starting out with a win is always a good thing," Cooley said.

Unfortunately after the first win the women hit a few bumps on their course to placing first. Sophomore lady golfer Shelby Stone said, "Our team in general kind of struggled to put two days of good golf together after winning our first tournament."

Fortunately the ups and downs that the Lady Griffons endured throughout the season did not hinder their relationships with each other or their team chemistry.

"By the end of the season we were as close as ever and were really out there playing for each other and not just ourselves," said Stone. The Lady Griffons also credited much of their success to their coach Cathy Habermehl.

"I don't think you could ever find a coach who cares more about her players than Cathy," Stone said. "She would honestly do anything for us."

The Missouri Western men's golf team was a little disappointed by their 2012 season statistics. Freshmen Scott Sheldon explained.

"We had a tough season but were able to finish well at the MIAA Championship," Sheldon said. The Griffons discontent with their tournament outcomes did not inhibit the men from bonding during their spring season.

"Bonding is important," said Sheldon. "It makes you feel more comfortable around your teammates and helps you play better."

The Missouri Western women's golf team did not let the struggles of the 2012 season affect their finish, the lady Griffons ended with a second place finish in this year's MIAA Championship Tournament, losing the first place title by only one stroke.

"The support we had at conference was pretty incredible, plus we fought the hardest and played the best, so it felt like a first place finish," Cooley said. Although the women finished second overall, the loss of a first place finish left the women with a bittersweet taste in their mouths.

"It was pretty devastating to be so close to a conference championship," said Stone. "Even though we ended in a sad way there were many positives to take away." The MWSU men pushed through their season's struggles and were able to pull out a third place finish in their MIAA Championship Tournament.

The Missouri Western men's and women's golf teams may be small in number, but their heart and desire to succeed are enormous.

MENS SCOREBOARD

◇ Missouri Intercollegiate	7th	◇ Central Oklahoma Invitational	17th
◇ Pittsburg State Invitational	8th	◇ Rockhurst Early Bird Tournament	6th
◇ 13th Annual NSU Golf Classic	15th	◇ Midwestern State Invitational	11th
◇ Southwest Baptist Invitational	5th	◇ Washburn Ichabod Invitational	12th
◇ Park Univeristy Fall Invite	3rd	◇ MIAA Championships	3rd



Left- Sophomore, James O'Brian swings his club back waiting to see how many yards down the fairway his ball lands. The mens golf team played most of their games away from home.

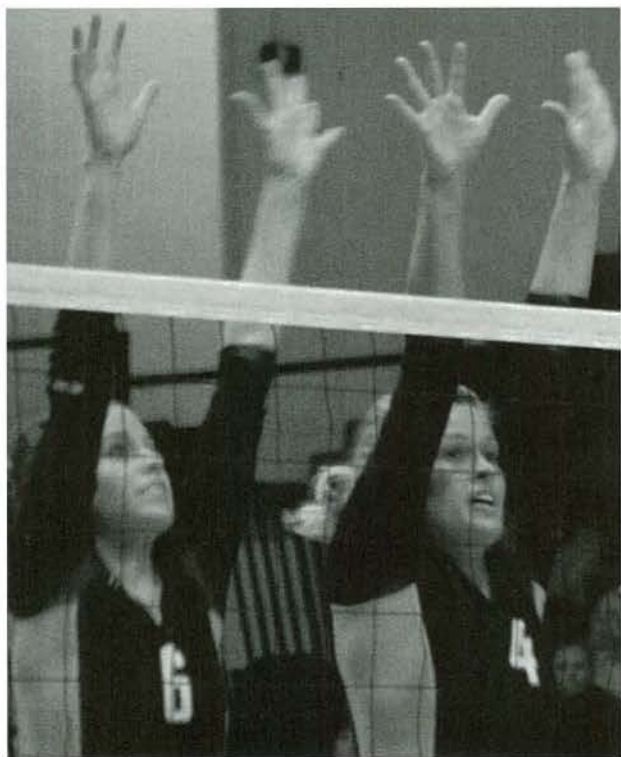
Right- Sarah Campbell, senior, attempts to get her ball out of the sand pit. The womens golf team had successful year.

Below- Senior, Tyler Gast crouches on the green to eye the distance he has left to sink his ball. Mens golf worked and played hard to have a great season.

Left Bottom- Natalie Bird, senior, watches her ball soar down the fairway towards the hole. The lady Griffons worked as team to reach their goals.

WOMENS SCOREBOARD

◇ Wildwood Lodge CU Invitational	6th	◇ Green & Gold Classic	2nd	◇
◇ Fort Hays State Women's Invitational	2nd	◇ MWSU Invitational	4th	◇
◇ Drury University Fall Shootout	9th	◇ RU Early Bird Tournament	1st	◇
◇ Bearcat Fall Golf Classic	1st	◇ Avila Spring Invitational	2nd	◇
◇ Park Univeristy Fall Invite	3rd	◇ MIAA Championships	2nd	◇
◇ Truman Bulldog Classic	2nd	◇		

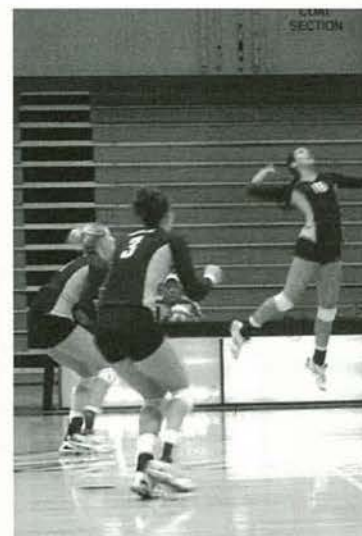
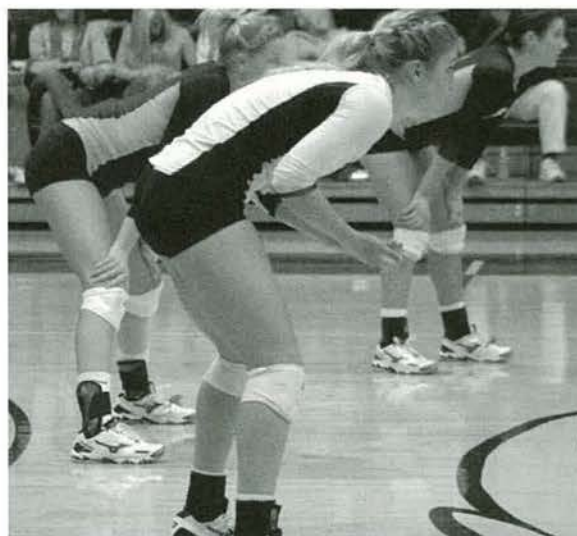
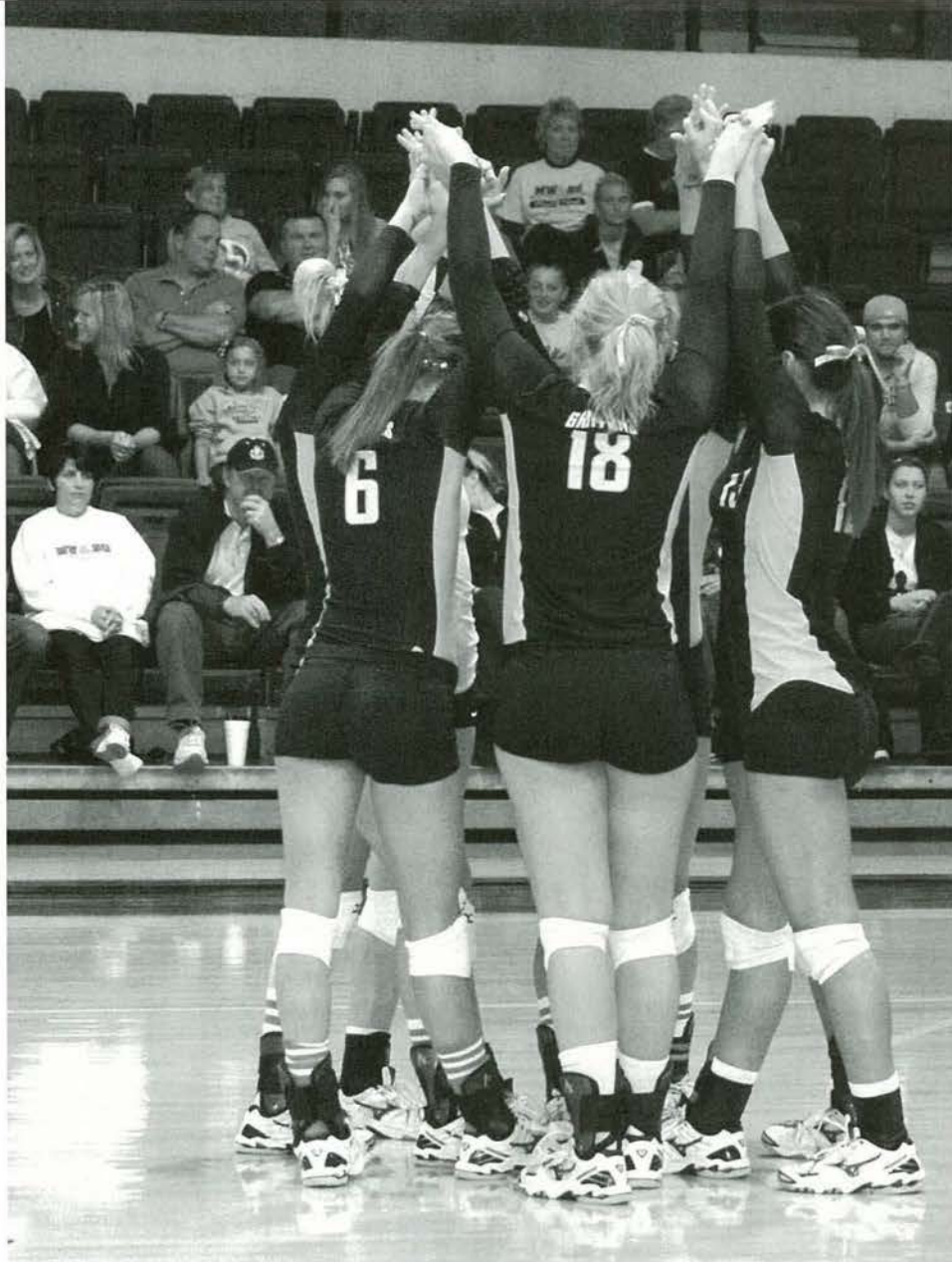


Left- Stephanie Hattey and Meredith McCormick jump high to block the ball coming from the opposing side. Sophomore Hattey had 50 block assists this season and newcomer, freshman McCormick had 39. Photo by Lauren Dillion

Right- As the girls prepare for their game, they join hands. This helped the players get focused and ready to play hard. Photo by Amanda Fox

Right Bottom - Hannah Zimmerman is a very talented spike hitter for the team. She scored several points by using this move. Photo by Clifford Petterson

Left Bottom- The players always lean down to prepare as the opposing team gets ready to serve. Preparation is key to stay ahead especially when they were in tournaments. Photo by Lauren Dillion



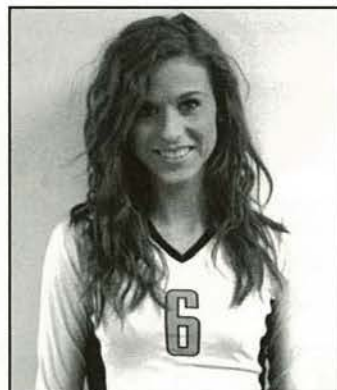
SCOREBOARD 14-17 OVERALL

◇ Easton New Mexico W. 3-1	◇ Black Hills State W. 3-0	◇ Southeastern Okla W. 3-2
◇ Angelo State L. 0-3	◇ #10 Wayne State L. 0-3	◇ Arkansas-Fort Smith L. 1-3
◇ UT-Permain Basin W. 3-2	◇ Fort Hays State W. 3-0	◇ Arkansas-Monticello..... W. 3-0
◇ West Texas A&M L. 0-3	◇ Emporia State L. 0-3	◇ NW Missouri State W. 3-2
◇ Chadron State W. 3-0	◇ #6 Washburn L. 0-3	◇ #8 Central Missouri L. 0-3
◇ #5 Nebraska-Kearney..... L. 0-3	◇ TX A&M-International W. 3-0	◇ Truman L. 2-3

CAN YOU DIG IT?

PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS

STEPHANIE HATTEY



Stephanie Hattey

Story by Robyn Patti

One of the shining moments of the 2011 volleyball season was senior night, when seniors Tahler Johnston, Alex Behnke and Hannah Zimmerman were honored, and also when the Griffons beat Truman State for the first time in nine years. The final home game of the regular season brought down the NCAA powerhouse on home court adding one last highlight to the season.

Other highlights included two players, sophomore Stephanie Hattey and senior Tahler Johnston, making the All-MIAA Third Team. Johnston made the third team as an outside hitter and started all 31 matches for the Griffons. The senior led the team with 381 kills for the season. Hattey joined her teammate in the honor with 1,214 assists for the squad and 380 digs, which was second best on the Griffon's team. Hattey was MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2010, which led to greater things in the 2011 season.

Hattey said she had already learned so much about the game since she joined the team and had high hopes for the future. "We are a pretty young team and have a lot of growing to do still," said Hattey. She believed if everyone put their hearts into the game and gave 100 percent effort, the team would go to regional and national levels in the future.

Senior Alex Behnke and freshman Shelby Corkill were named honorable mention All-MIAA in the 2011 season. Corkill finished the season with 293 kills and was second in kills on the squad. Behnke had 94 blocks, leading the team.

The Griffon girls opened up the season at the Lady Buff Classic hosted by West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas. Behnke, a middle hitter, led the team with 24 total kills for the first day, which included tying her career high of 14 kills in the opening match. Johnston also had a career high of 16 digs in the season opener.

Johnston went on to have a 22-kill career high against Arkansas-Fort Smith on Oct. 1 and was also named to the UNK Fall Classic All-Tournament Team. Johnston was recognized for her double-digit kill record throughout the season.

The team closed out their season with a 14-17 overall and 7-11 in MIAA play. The strong will of the hard hitters took these women to new levels in the fall season.

Q: How did you feel about this season?

A: We did pretty good this year but could've done better! There were games we lost but should've won that ended up hurting us in the end.

Q: How was the team dynamic?

A: We are a pretty young team and have a lot of growing to do still.

Q: What did you gain from being on the team?

A: I've learned so much more about the game than I knew before. If everyone puts their heart into the game and gives 100% effort in practice and games, we can go to regionals and nationals next year.

- ◇ Quincy L. 1-3 ◇ #5 Washburn L. 0-3 ◇
- ◇ Fort Hays State L. 1-3 ◇ NW Missouri State L. 2-3 ◇
- ◇ Missouri Southern W. 3-0 ◇ #7 Central Missouri L. 1-3 ◇
- ◇ Pittsburg State W. 3-2 ◇ Truman W. 3-2 ◇
- ◇ Southwest Baptist W. 3-1 ◇ Missouri Southern W. 3-1 ◇
- ◇ Emporia State L. 2-3 ◇ Pittsburg State L. 1-3 ◇
- ◇ Southwest Baptist L. 2-3 ◇



Personalities



Ann Thorne..... 182



Organizations..... 218



Mary Fulk..... 170

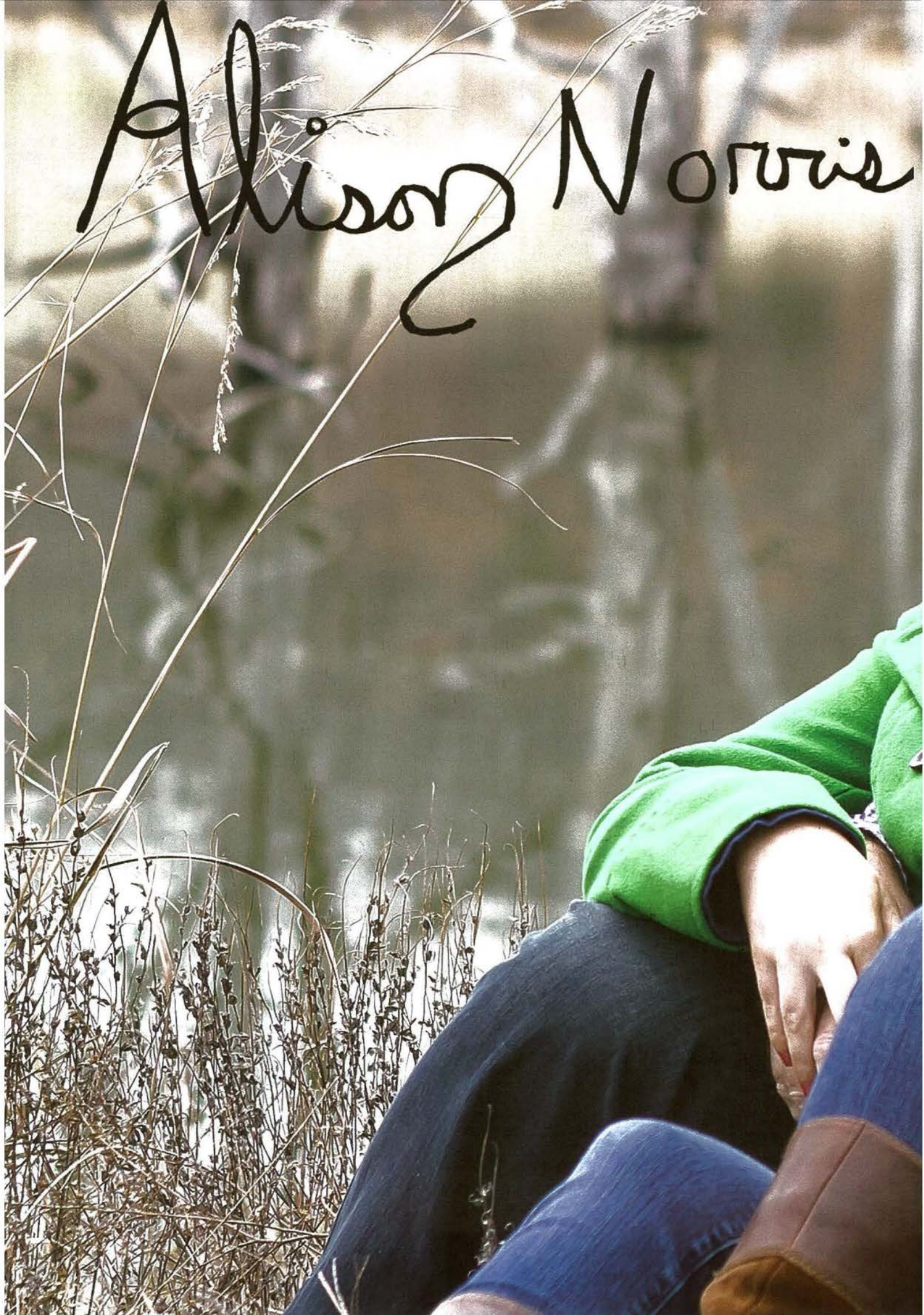


Graduates..... 186

Photo By Molly Thomas



Alison Norris







Alison Norris



Story by Robyn Patti

Alison Norris is living proof that if you work hard enough, your dreams can come true. As a graduating senior from Missouri Western, Alison looked back on a long, hard road knowing she earned everything she would take with her.

Born in North Carolina to a missionary father and a teaching mother, Alison and her two brothers were moved around as children, living in different areas including the Dominican Republic for a while. When Alison was around seven her parents ended up in Kansas City, Mo., where her father continued to travel, preaching around different areas.

The Norris family eventually landed in Gower, Mo., where the three Norris children were taught from home, since Alison's mother had a master's in education. After two years of home schooling and church, Alison's life took a drastic turn when her mother suffered a brain aneurysm and passed away when Alison was eight years old. The sudden life-altering loss was followed by her enrollment into public school. Alison had only ever had her brothers as classmates, so when she started the third grade, adjusting to this change took a while for her.

"It was hard for me to attend public school because I had never been around a lot of kids my own age," said Alison. "At recess I would stick to myself and never wanted to make the effort to meet anyone."

Alison had a hard time adjusting, but by the time Alison was in the eighth grade, she had made friends and things started getting better. After gaining some maturity and learning how to adapt, she realized that her mom wouldn't have wanted her to sit back and let life pass her by. Alison decided to get involved and make school worthwhile because she knew her mom would want her to.

Her transition into college was pretty smooth, and Alison looked forward to being involved. Being the first kid of her family to go to school, Alison had to completely support herself.

"I was on my own from the start, paying for my own school, finding my own place to live, everything," said Alison. "But I know it was a good thing because it made me realize that I needed to know what I was going to do

and I did. I figured it out and made it happen." Alison knew she wanted to go into Journalism starting out, so she began her writing classes and general education courses while still wanting to be apart of something.


Alison was on the Griffon News the first chance she got. She became the Lifestyles Editor soon after, and then right after that feat became the Editor-in-Chief. She absolutely enjoyed reporting and writing stories, but soon realized it wasn't enough.

"I was writing news on all these things happening on campus, and I wanted to be the one doing those things, not just writing about it!" said Alison. "A friend of mine from high school joined SGA and told me how much fun she had so I decided to try it out."

Alison became a student Senator soon after that and started to make things happen that she wanted to see. As a sophomore, Alison had taken on more challenges than some seniors ever had. While running the student newspaper, Alison was gaining more and more experience working with the student body. The following semester, Alison applied to be the Director of Communications, a position that essentially would combine her two previous positions. Becoming the Director of Communications she had the best of both worlds.

Alison worked with SGA on many different issues and helped out the President with everything she could. Alison ran for the position of SGA president herself that following fall, and took the position head on. She graduated a year later, in May 2012 with an Outstanding Graduate in Convergent Media Award and the knowledge that she could do anything she put her mind to. Alison would go on to graduate school, pursuing a Master's in Higher Education with plans to continue working with student life.

"I get to put on events and programs and impact student's lives," said Alison. "All I want to do with my life is continue to mentor students to get past mediocre and encourage them to go beyond yourself and never do anything unless you're going to do it all the way."

A photograph of a wooden deck railing. The railing is made of light-colored wood with vertical balusters and a dark-stained top rail. The deck floor is made of light-colored wooden planks. In the background, there is a large green tree and a lawn. The name 'Noan How' is written in black cursive script across the bottom of the image.

Noan How



Nolan Stark



Story by Sara Hatten & Lindsey Roberts

"Just the very idea of the being able to serve the country is very appealing to me I want to be able to defend this nation and stand up for what is right," said Missouri Western's ROTC's Alpha Company Commander, Nolan Stark.

One way for students to get a head start after college is the ROTC. The pre-military program gives students training ahead of their service and offers a way to pay for college.

"It has definitely affected the way I carry myself, the way I act. I'm more driven; I'm more motivated I'm more dedicated to everything I do because of Army ROTC," Stark said.

For Stark the military life is all he has ever known. His father retired after 22 years as a lieutenant Colonel and Stark moved a lot as a kid. He is also the youngest of four boys and two of his older brothers also participated in ROTC in college. In fact his own parents met in their colleges ROTC program, so one could definitely say that military runs in the Stark family.

His obligation to the Army is four years. He's going to be on active duty field artillery after he graduates.

"Once you sign the contract, when you graduate, that's your obligation," Stark said.

He will be in charge of 30 to 50 people depending on the size of platoon.

"If we get deployed and go down range, their lives

would technically be in my hands," Stark said.

He feels like ROTC has prepared him and is ready for the responsibility.

"It has given me a great sense of self confidence," Stark said.

During his time in the ROTC program, he's built

strong relationships. "You really build that friendship and that sense of camaraderie," Stark said. "The skill set that I've gained through ROTC is incredible. I've learned so much about myself and how to be a proficient leader in the Army."

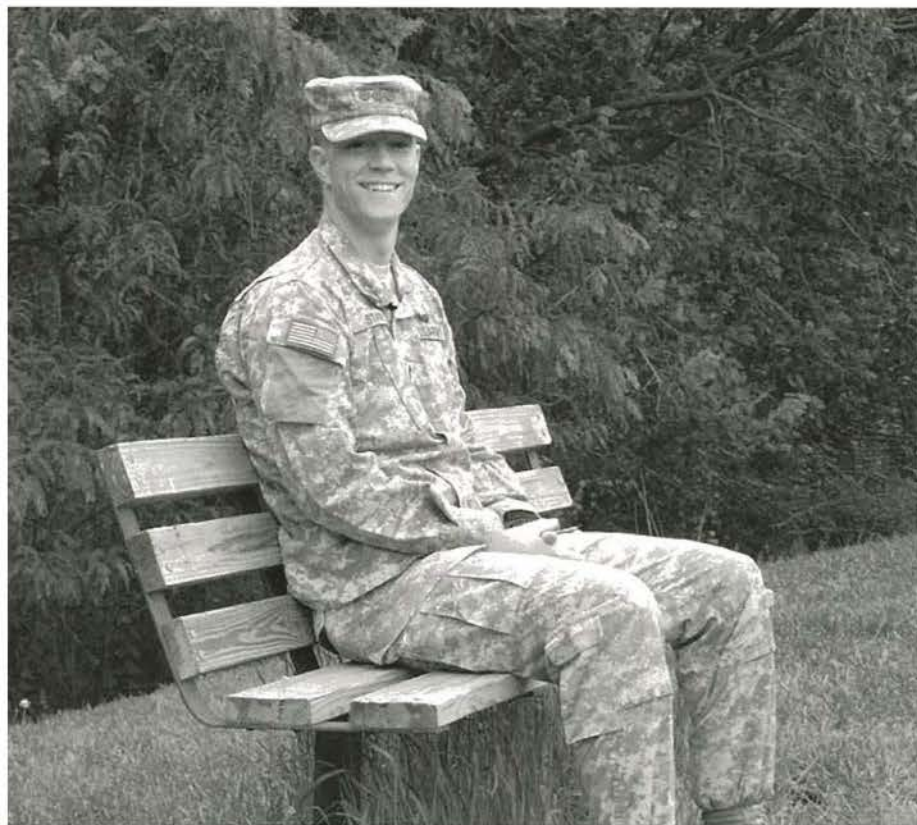
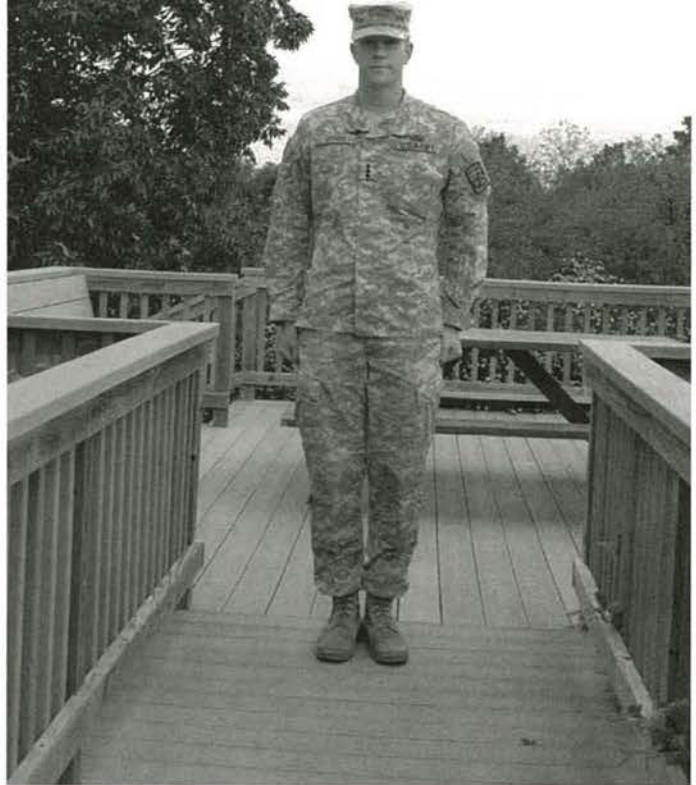
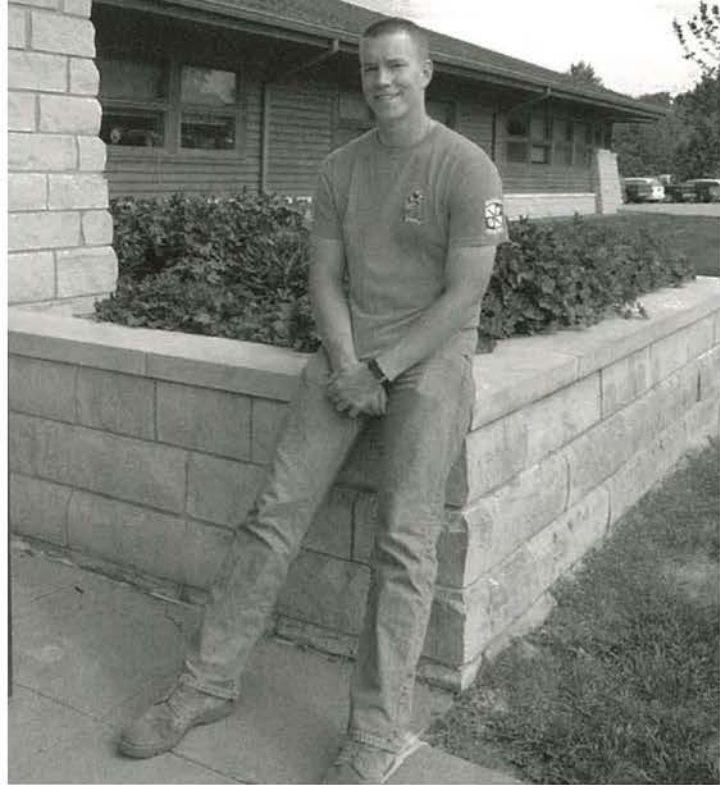
Do not be fooled though, there is much more to Stark other than just the ROTC. He was also a senior and graduated in the spring with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. Stark will be marrying his fiancé, Heather Blecha, just two weeks after graduation. Stark and Blecha met through a mutual friend and Blecha was also a Missouri Western graduate from the Physical

Therapy Program.

Lastly Stark wanted to express his personal morals and what pushes him to succeed. "I just feel the need to serve others, do what is right and live up to everyone else's expectations," Stark said. "I always feel the need to put others before myself and I never want to disappoint anyone. This causes me to always put forth my best effort in any task that I take on."

"I'M MORE
DRIVEN; I'M MORE
MOTIVATED I'M
MORE DEDICATED
TO EVERYTHING I
DO BECAUSE OF
ARMY ROTC"

-NOLAN STARK





Ma

J. A. Fulk

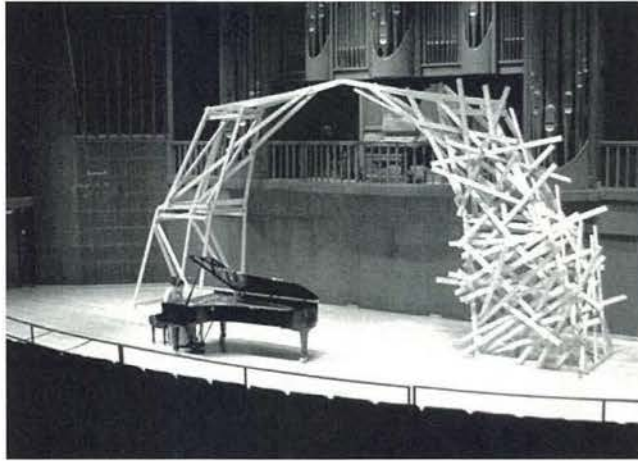
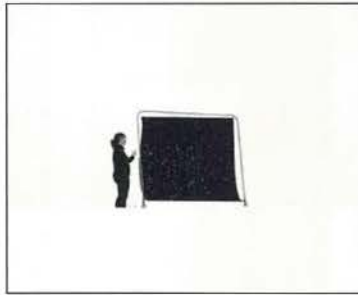


Dum

Small Hitter



J. Neil Lawley & Sarah Hoitsma



Story by Robyn Patti & Michelle Allen

Missouri Western's inspiring couple Neil Lawley and his wife Sarah Hoitsma won over the hearts of the students in the art department with their youthfulness and their exciting method of teaching.

The two Texas natives took a unique route to becoming college professors. Both received their Masters of Fine Arts, Neil in Studio Art, in Dallas, and Sarah in Sculpture and Dimensional Studies, in New York. Before grad school, Neil and Sarah backpacked around Europe for three months. The couple found their way back to Dallas, where they lived for four years, and later moved their lives to Japan for another four years, teaching English.

"I discovered that I love teaching while in Japan. Now I have the opportunity to teach the subjects that I love," Sarah said.

The pair moved once again, back to Dallas and Neil attended Southern Methodist University. In Neil's second year of grad school Sarah moved to Alfred, NY to begin her graduate studies. Neil moved to Alfred after finishing his masters, where he worked as a foundry technician, wood shop technician, bicycle mechanic and adjunct professor. After Sarah finished school, the duo finally made their way to St. Joseph.

Sarah began teaching classes in 3-D Design and Sculpture at Missouri Western in 2010 while Neil began teaching Introduction to Art the same year and Introduction to Tools and Techniques the following year. It might be thought that it was difficult to work with a spouse while sharing the same workspace but somehow Neil and Sarah made it work in their favor.

"It's like having a built in team member," Sarah said. "It's like having somebody that you know is going to be available to help out because they know exactly what your day was like."

Neil shared what he felt the greatest advantage was

while working with his wife.

"We get to see each other," Neil said.

Students were not only attracted to the couple's youthfulness but also their method of teaching, where an atmosphere is created that they could be themselves in.

"I've been told I'm a little crazy," Neil said jokingly. "Most importantly I think that students feel we're both very approachable, and not everyone gets that but I try to be very available and to me that's my job here is as a facilitator, to help students reach their objectives."

Sarah said that many students who took her class came in with very little experience with power tools and some students were a little frightened, but by showing them the best practices and working with them one-on-one she gave them the confidence to do projects assigned.

"The whole class is structured on learning through doing," Sarah said.

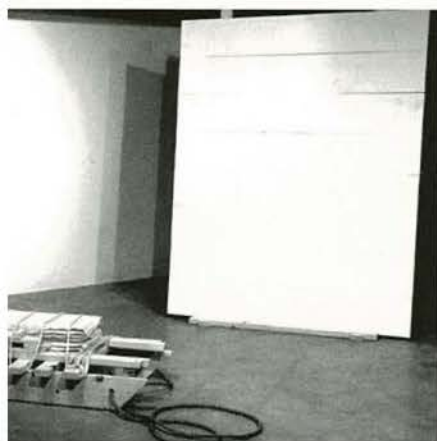
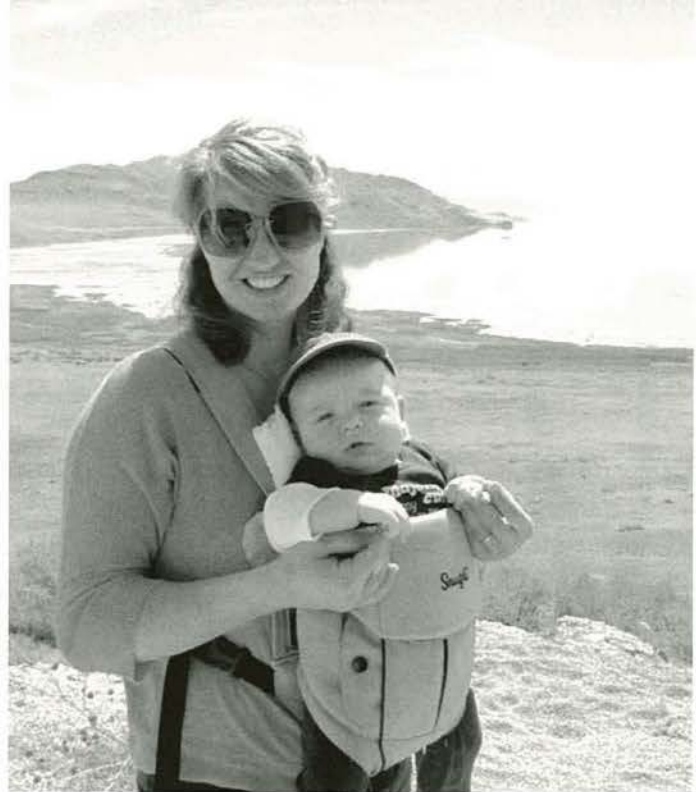
Neil praised his wife for teaching a woodshop class that dealt with power tools because he said she helped break the stereotype that only men usually worked with power tools.

Neil had always enjoyed sharing knowledge with others, and said it led him to teach.

"After seeing my first art professors I thought that they were so lucky to get to share their knowledge of what they knew and loved, and to have the time and facilities to make their own art work," Neil said. "I thought to myself, 'That's what I want to do,' and I became a professor."

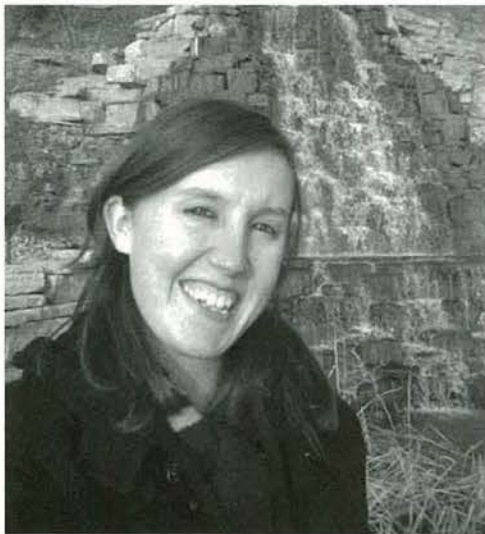
Although Neil and Sarah had a lot on their plates they still made time for their newborn son Nicholas, who they call "Nico."

Neil and Sarah said, now that they have a new addition to the family they are not as dispensable as they use to be, but with a lot of teamwork and dedication they make their life look easy.



Nicole Sanchez





Nicole Gardner



Story by Amber Hess

After overcoming many hardships in her life, 22 year-old, freshman, Nicole Gardner became part of the Missouri Western family, in search of a speech communication degree with an emphasis in public relations.

Gardner has suffered many physical setbacks due to her health, including a stroke, a broken back, 5 open-heart surgeries and cancer. On top of all that, she also lost her father 2 years ago. Fortunately, that is behind her, and she is in great health now.

"So far I'm good to go. I'm two years in remission," Nicole said.

Gardner started out at Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City. Despite the advice from her advisor, that she should attend a community college instead of a larger one; she made the move to Western after one semester. "I've always loved Kansas City, and I always will, but it was time for me to get out," Gardner said.

At first, Missouri Western turned down her application due to her grades and GPA.

"I sent them a tree's worth of appeals, and they let

me in," she said. "Now I am here and now I know what I'm doing."

Gardner said she has loved her experience at Missouri Western and living on campus so far has helped her make friends and become rooted to MWSU.

"It's probably one of the best things that ever happened to me," Gardner said. "I know that's saying a lot, but I like living on campus. There's so much to do, and so many people to meet."

Some of Gardner's hobbies include writing, reading and blogging. Her blog of randomness, "The Assorted Thoughts of a Scatter Brain" has been quite successful. She was even approached by an author to do a PR piece for them. The project entailed her to interview the author, and include an excerpt from the book on her site.

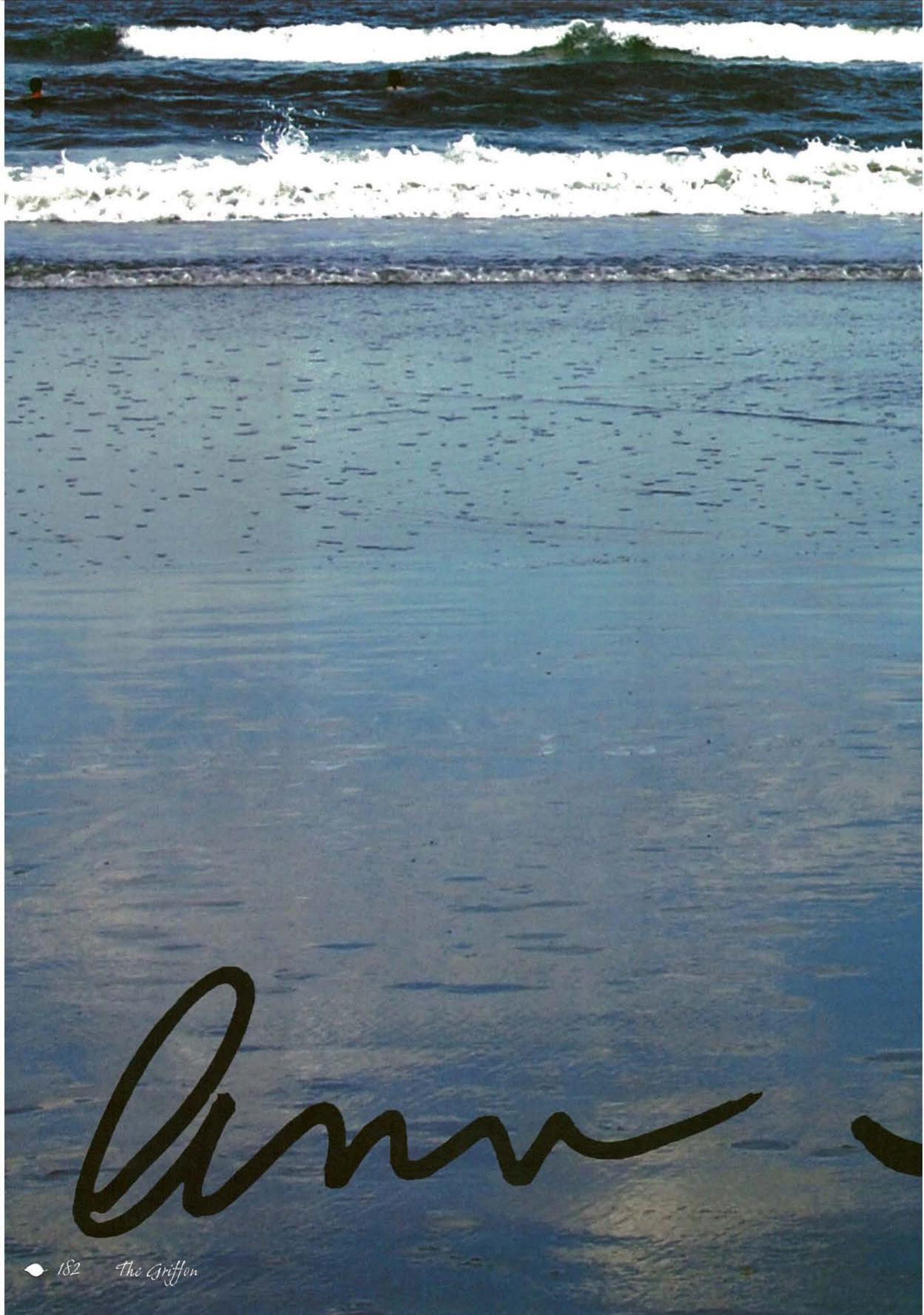
"I'm actually getting a lot of traffic because of it", Gardner said.

Although she says she's not cut out for a sorority, Gardner is involved in the residential hall association and recently became the national communications coordinator.

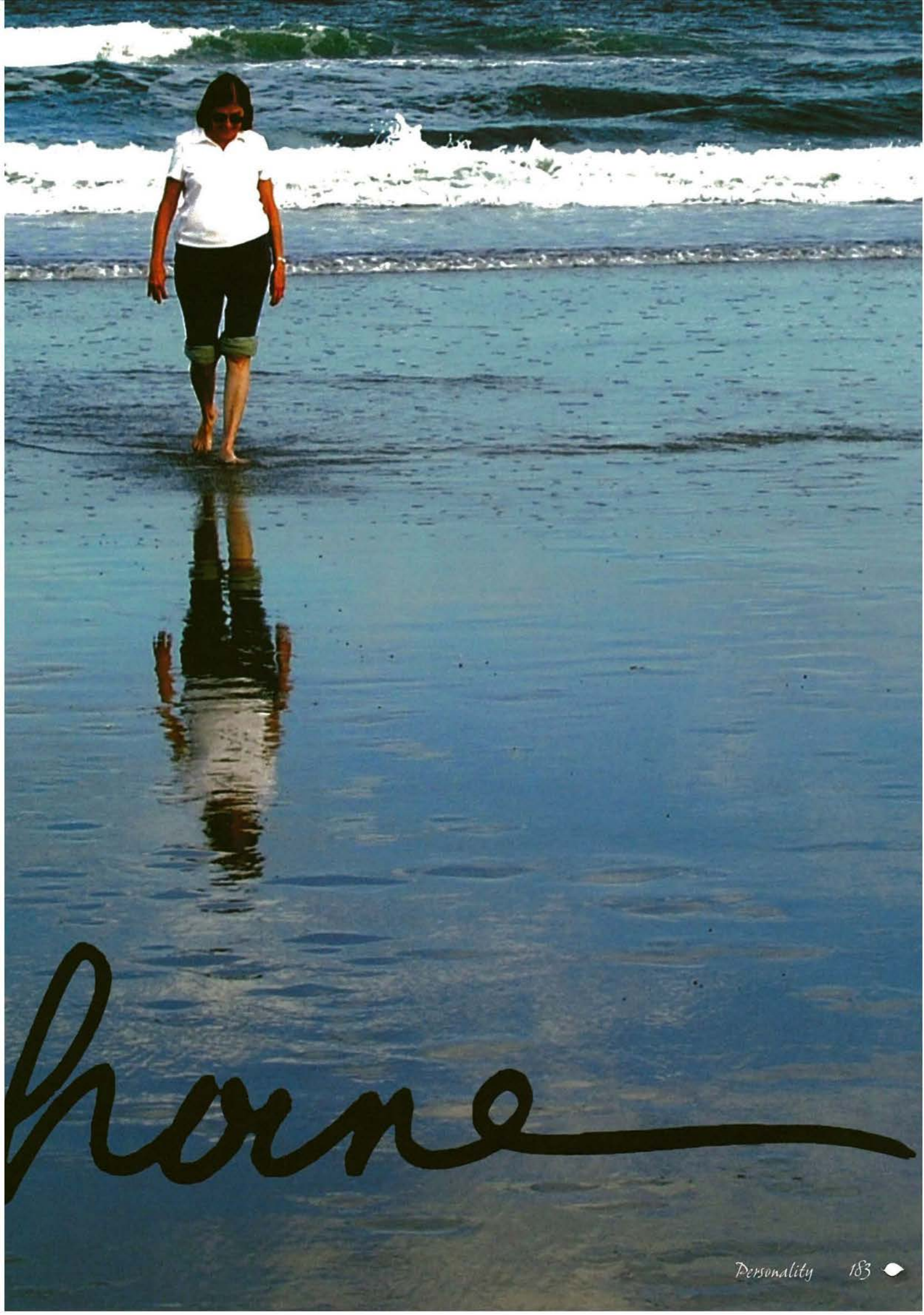
"It's hard work, but after all that I've been through, it's going to be a drop in the bucket," Gardner said.

"I LIKE LIVING ON CAMPUS, THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO, AND SO MANY PEOPLE TO MEET."

-NICOLE GARDNER

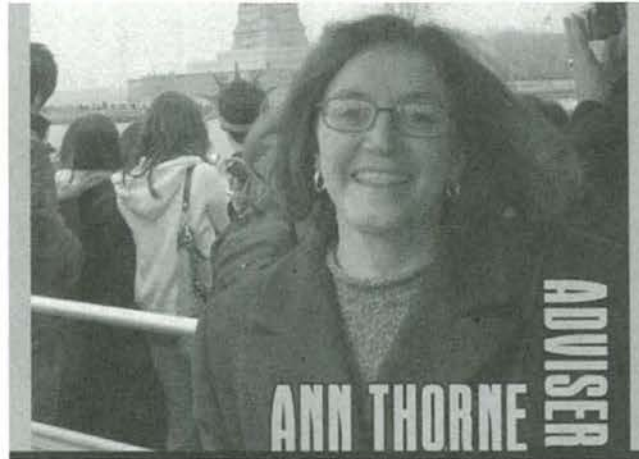


Amn



Home

Ann Thorne



Story by Robyn Patti & Eboni Lacey

With 25 years as yearbook advisor under her belt, Dr. Ann Thorne decided to move on from Missouri Western and into the exciting life of retirement.

The professor, advisor and mentor has had many memories here at Western and has left an impression on quite a number of students. Thorne has come a long way from the gentle advisor of the Griffon Yearbook from two decades ago. Her journey did not start here, though.

Thorne lived in Chicago for eight years with her husband, Creath, who was a lawyer. Thorne and her family moved to Missouri and lived in her husband's family home. She continued work within journalism in the Midwest and worked with the Farm Bureau to edit their pamphlets that were sent out to farmers.

"I wrote about corn, it was sort of dull but I liked the job," Thorne said.

She was offered a position at Missouri Western State University in 1987 and began teaching and took over the yearbook on campus. She started out with a corner office and no desk, but worked her way up the ladder.

"When I first started with the yearbook, we didn't have computers we had to draw out spread by hand," Thorne said. "We didn't have staff it was just the editors. It was really hard."

But yearbook improved through the years, with a

class created around the writing and photography of the book and computers and design systems being produced to ease layouts and page design. Now, 25 years later, Thorne has seen about all there is to see in publications.

"Its almost like I'm graduating as well! I'm graduating on to retired life and I can't wait!" Thorne said.

The newly retired Dr. Thorne will leave Western knowing she made an impact on the publications of Missouri Western and will look forward to a lovely life of not working and more traveling.

"My husband is worried I wont have enough to do, but I have a lot of things planned!" Thorne said.

One of her favorite things to do is to travel, and travel Dr. Thorne will do.

She has already planned many trips and journeys, such as a three week vacation to Paris in the fall. Thorne also is planning to be a part of future journalism conventions to help present classes to students in attendance.

She was asked to present for the New York City 2013 convention and will be a part of many more journalism activities in the future.

Dr. Thorne was a teacher, an advisor and a friend to many students and faculty at Missouri Western and especially for those students who were a part of the Griffon Yearbook. She will always have a place in the hearts and a memory in the minds of MWSU faculty and students.

**"ITS ALMOST LIKE
I'M GRADUATING
AS WELL! I'M
GRADUATING ON
TO RETIRED LIFE
AND I CAN'T WAIT!"
-DR. ANN THORNE**



Graduates



Robert Anderson



Tahani Atieh



Jake Baber



Brandi Bilderback



Timothy Brooks, Jr.



Jonathan Burford



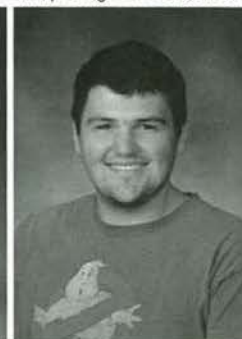
Donald Cadle



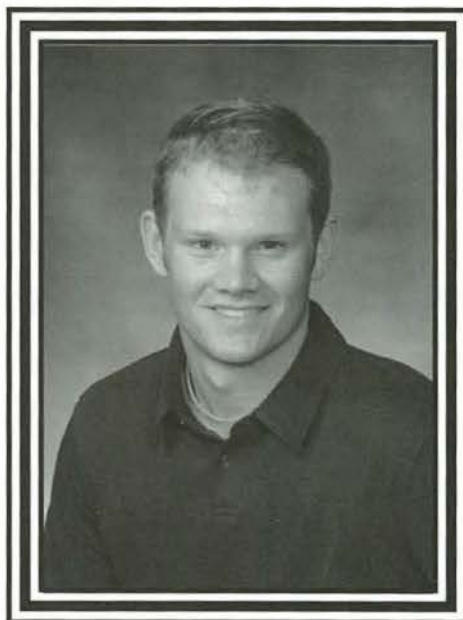
Cristen Cagle



Brooke Carter



Ramiro Chavez



Name: Jake Baber
 Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.
 Degree: Double major in
 Economics & Political Science

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: The convenient location and the great value are two of many reasons I choose Missouri Western.

Q: What is your favorite tree?

A: My favorite tree was destroyed last year by a storm. It was just outside the library between Eder and Hearnes.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: I look fondly on a lot of my memories at Missouri Western, but my fondest memory would have to be my trips to San Diego and Omaha where I presented research findings.



Isaac Collins



Daniel Crawford



Lindsay Creason



Nikki Cross



Jamie Cunningham



Brandi DeSpain



Sarah Derr



Mark Diggs



Kendra Donato



Brittany Donovan

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose Missouri Western because when I first visited the campus, it just felt like home. It was a place where I could see myself thriving during my educational career.

Q: What is your favorite tree?

A: Favorite tree? Hmm... I would have to say the tree that's outside the Cafeteria window by the bike racks. I love walking under it in the spring when it flowers!

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: It's hard to pin point just one memory! I would have to say a lot of my fondest memories have to do with RA Training!memory.

Q:What makes your rooted to MWSU?

A: I'm rooted to MWSU because over the last four years it's become my home. That's really the only way I can describe it.



Name: Jamie Cunningham
Home Town: Chillicothe, Mo.
Degree: Criminal Justice
w/ Law Enforcement
Concentration, accepted into
the Forensic Investigations
Master's program



Schardae DuPriest



Shannon Ebling



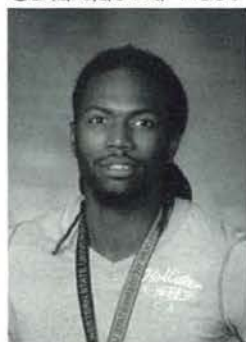
Arrey Etakibie



Kate Fimple



Robin Gann



Edward Gipson



Brandi Glenn



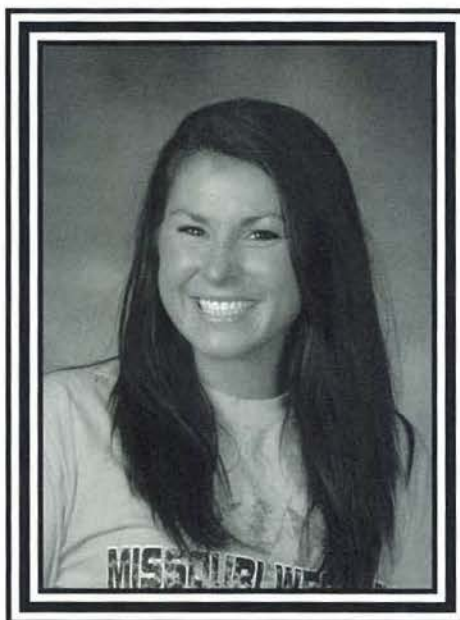
Celeste Hass



Sarah Hatten



Barry Hersh



Name: Sarah Hatten
Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.
Degree: Convergent Media

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose mowo because I love the small classes and this town. I played tennis and I got to be involved in many activities.

Q: What is your favorite class?

A: I would have to say that my favorite class was probably be Yearbook. it helped me sharpen my writing skills. In the end it became more like a family for me rather than a class. That is something I am going to miss too.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory at Missouri western would have to be writing a story about the Inman family cattery or getting drunk at during some of my deadlines.

Graduates



Morgan Huffman



Megan Johnston



Amanda Keeling



Kallista Kelly



Samantha King



Bethany Kirkendoll



Taylor Kram



Cody Kremer



Thomas Madget



Brittany Malone

Q: What made you choose Western?

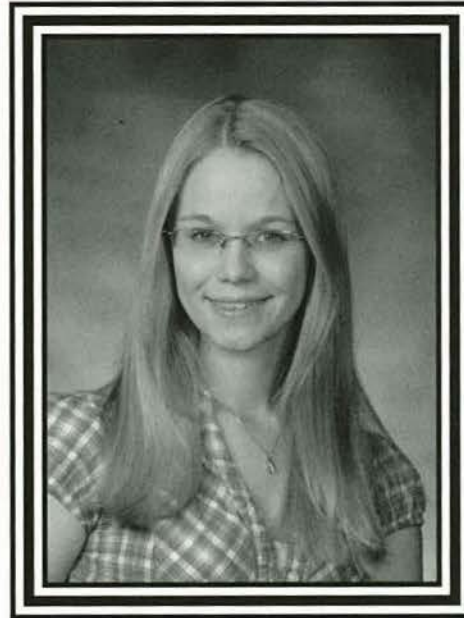
A: There were a lot of scholarship opportunities and many friendly people on campus.

Q: What is your favorite tree?

A: I would have to say that my favorite tree is an Oak tree.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: I went to this Halloween party my freshman year and it is one of the best memories I have at Missouri Western.



Name: Amanda Keeling
Home Town: Omaha, Neb.
Degree: BSBA in Management

Graduates



Nick McCutcheon



Lindsey Morales



Kathleen Nigemeyer



Alison R. Norris



Tom Parker



Hannah Parrott



Lauren Pollock



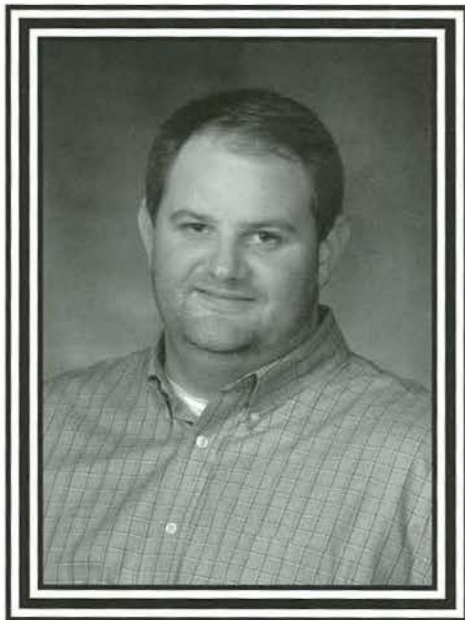
Lindsey Pollock



Jeanna Ross



Dana Rudolph



Name: Nick McCutcheon
 Home Town: Smithville, Mo.
 Degree: Convergent Media

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because it gave me the best opportunity to succeed.

Q: What is your favorite class?

A: I would have to say that my favorite class was probably JOU 302.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory was all the time that I spent working in the athletic department.



Laura Schneider



Dominick Scott



Kelli Sicer



Autumn Smith



Darrin Smith



John Solomon



Isaac Tawney



Brittany Taylor



Jacquelin Trant



Melissa R. Turner

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I wanted to further my education and my in-laws went to MWSU so I knew it would be a good school.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: I would have to say joining Alpha Kappa Psi and becoming part of something that would impact me for the rest of my life is my fondest memory.

Q: If you could do one thing that has never been done on campus what would it be?

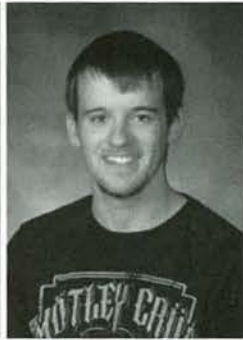
A: I would host a mock "America's Got Talent" and try to get local radio/news to interview the winners.



Name: Jacquelin Trant
Home Town: Lansing, Kan.
Degree: Accounting



Johnathan Ueligger



Chance Umstatttd



Damon Verbick



Danielle Wagner



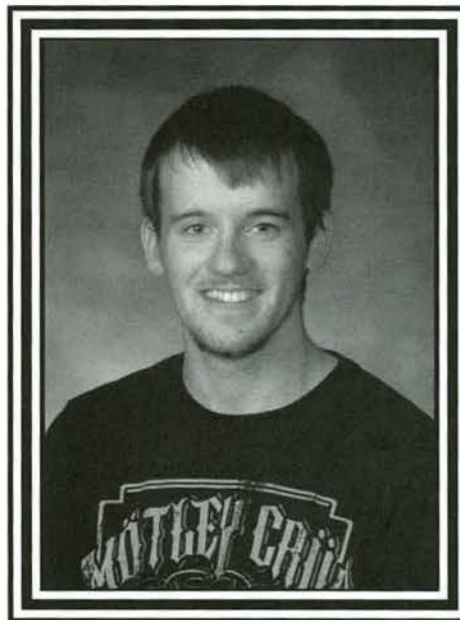
Sarah Waters



Blake Weddle



Rebecca D. Wilcox



Name: Chance Dale Umstatttd
 Home Town: Adrain, Mo.
 Degree: Bachelor of Science
 Theatre and Video
 Minor: Speech Communication

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I came from a smaller town and Missouri Western had that small town feel to it, but at the same time being a Division 2 school, it was small enough to not get lost in the shuffle with so many students but at the same time it's big enough to have many opportunities and try new things.

Q: What is your favorite class?

A: English 210. It was the poetic/literature class where we learned about the Beat Writers and Jack Kerouac, Neal Cassady, and others. It was one of my first classes ever here at MoWest and I was scared of it, but Cynthia Bartels was the professor and she did a great job of teaching it and I have always been a fan of the 1950 and 60's history which we learned a lot about and I thought it was the coolest class I have ever taken.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Being a part of the Missouri Western VIP program and meeting so many people through that. Another one was living in the residence halls. I have so many fun memories from living on campus and the friendships I made from living on campus I will hold on to forever. I learned some dumb things and some smart things from living on campus and they have all taught me to be a better person and to always have fun in life!

Graduates



Photo by- Heather Heater

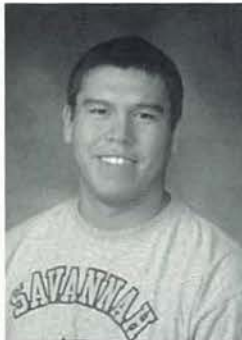
Underclassmen



Alexa Adams



Chase J. Adams



Cory Adams



Dennis Adams



Michelle Allen



William Allen



Wesley Allensworth



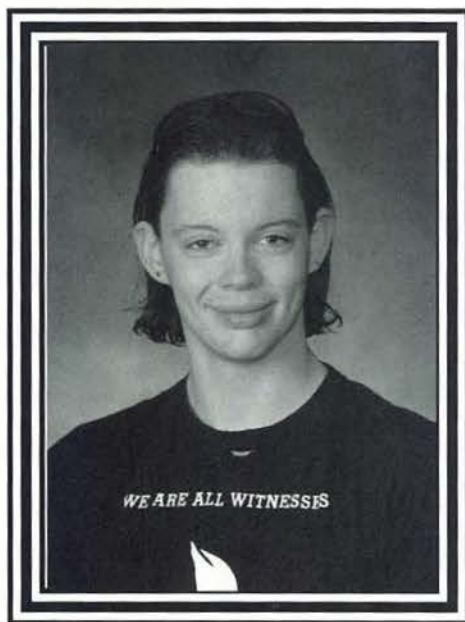
Travis Anderson



Sohail M. Anwar



Michael Ashby



Name: Cody William Benowitz
 Home Town: Elmer Mo.
 Degree: Music Technology

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: They had the degree I wanted at a price I could afford.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory so far would have to be playing frisbee in the middle of a thunderstorm. It was interesting.

Q: We heard about you winning the chicken wing eating contest. do you get involved with a lot of MWSU activities?

A: I try to get involved on campus if it fits my schedule. I'm always trying to finish some project or other. The wing eating contest, well, it was a lot of fun. I had to be careful I was dressed up for something that day. I remember thinking they would be super hot and I would end up quitting but they were ok (haha). My concern was beating David, the guy next to me. He was getting ready for the wing challenge, Buffalo Wild Wings. I just focused on eating as fast as I could and not taking a break for milk so I wouldn't fall behind.



Ogeehi Atughonu



Emily Augur



Tyrell Avance



Durren Bailey



Danny Baker



Weston Baker



Marie Charmaine



Daniel Banks



Dominique Barnes



Brianna Barnett



David Bass



Erin Bauer



Riley Bayer



Anthony Bearden



Kyle Beavers



Alexandra Belcher



Kiejera Bell



Tiffany "Kit" Bell



Cody Benowitz



Alex Berry



Elizabeth Bertram



Angel Bills



Shawna Bomberger



Noah Bonnett-Tapp



Robin Bowman



Robert Bradley



Dylan Bradshaw



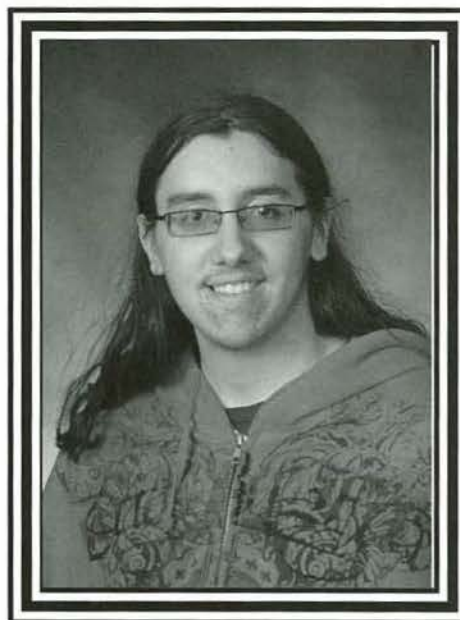
Brittany Bremer



Daniel Brooks



Jerrica Brown



Name: Dylan Bradshaw

Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.

Degree: Pre-Major Bachelor of Music Education

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: Because of the excellent music department, with a great program for percussion.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: The first time that I performed in the Extreme Percussion Show.

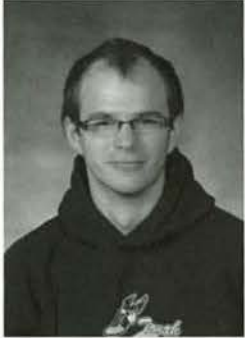
Q: If you could do one thing on campus that has never been done, what would it be?

A: One thing that has never been done... Put together a small percussion ensemble to perform at university functions other than sports.

Q: What makes you rooted to MWSU?

A: What keeps me rooted to Missouri Western is that I can study my interests from great teachers while living in my own home town..

Underclassmen



Jordan Brunner



April Buntin



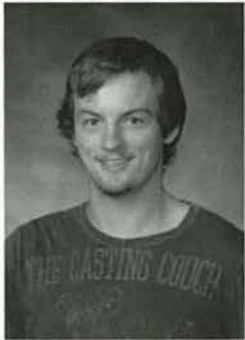
Brandon Calahan



Israel Campbell



Ronald Campbell



Seth Campbell



Morgan Cannon



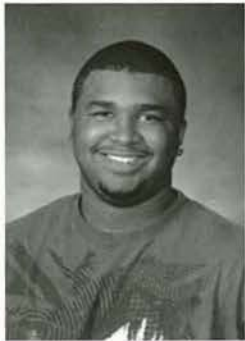
Adam Caples



Raymon J. Carson



David Carter



Kenneth Carter



Lindsey Casady



Crystal Cassity



Raynice Charleston



Grace Chester



Toni Chiesi



Hayley Christian



Ahnyea Church



Rhyanna Clayton



Katie Cluck

Underclassmen



Noel Collier



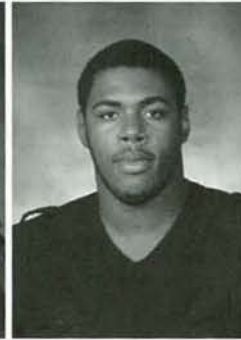
Adrienne Collins



LaNasia Coppins



Jessica Criss



Niyaa Daniels



Kristine Daugherty



Tia Davis



Taniesha Day



Shelby DeMott



Shaleigh DeVore



Name: Jemeca Durfee
Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.
Degree: Nursing

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because it has a high graduation rate.

Q: If there was one thing you could change about MWSU what would it be?

A: I would change smoking on campus. I think it should be banned. It's not just hurting the smokers, but it's also hurting everyone else around them.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory is just the whole experience and atmosphere of campus.



Dillon Dennis



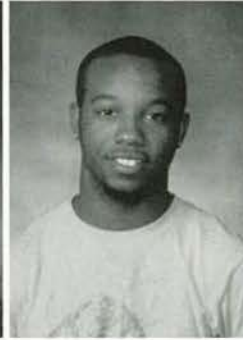
Meranda Dennis



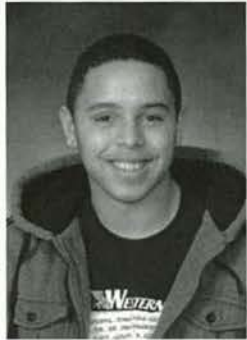
Lauren Dillon



Uraina Domon



Tyrell Dorsey



Anthony Dougherty



Jacob Dowell



Jemeca Durfee



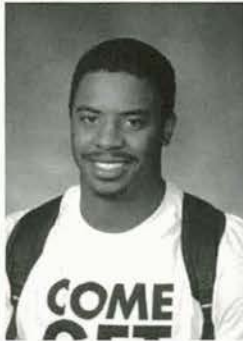
Todd Durfee



Lindsey Ebert



Catherine Eddy



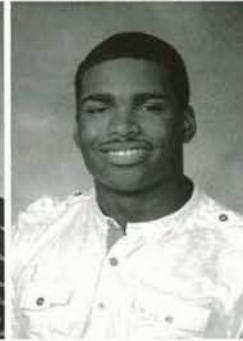
Chris Edwards



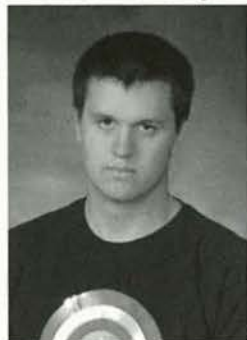
Makenzie Elliott



Daphne Emrick



Keenan England



Alex Erdrich



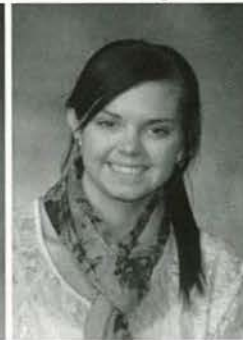
Tammy Evans



Evan Everett



Ashley Eversole



Katie Field



Eriona Fleeks



Allen Fletcher



Rodney Flinn



Amanda Fox



Cassidy Frahm



Kathryn Franklin



Jordah Frazier



Eboni Freeman



Ali Friedlund



Abigail Fryer



Name: Tiffani Hahn
Home Town: Lyndon, Kan.
Degree: Mathematics

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: The Math dept. larger campus than my last college and yet it's a close-knit school.

Q: What is your favorite tree?

A: The tree in between Blum and Spratt by the patio with the stone picnic tables.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: All the math puns in the MCR.

Q: If you could do one thing on campus that has never been done what would it be?

A: Light the sidewalks with candles for the American Cancer Society.

Q: What makes you Rooted to MWSU?

A: The Math dept., its professors and staff.

Underclassmen



Nicole Gardner



Adam Gosney



Jazmine Grabill



Asia Green



Hanna Greenwell



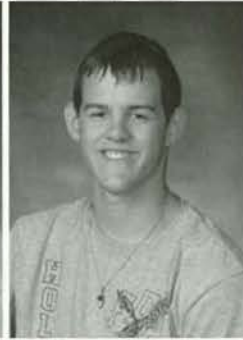
Kendra Greer



Rechaela Gribble



Sean Grinstead



Sheldon Guthrie



Tiffani Hahn



Portia Hahn-Leat



Katie Halford



Brian Hamilton



Amy Hansen



Jordan Hargis



Tyler Hatten



Merriam Hayden



Gwenda Haywood



Katelin Hecker



Fabian Heil

Underclassmen



Brooke Helin



Claire Hendren



Staci Hersh



Brandon Hershley



Amber Hess



Toyana Hickmon



Kirby Hoerrmann



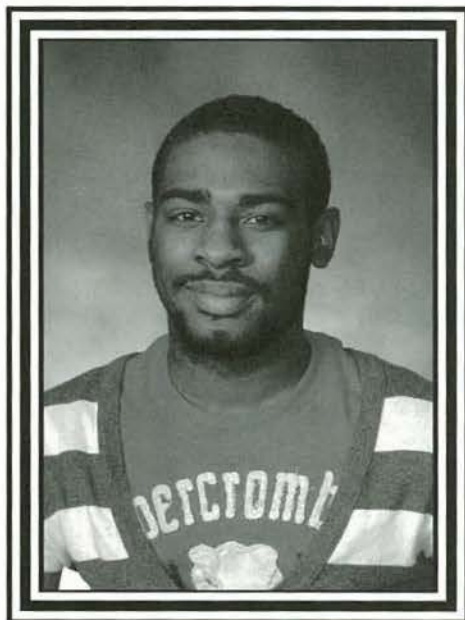
Erica Holliday



Chontanese Hollins



Thomas Hollins



Name: Daimon Jackson
Home Town: St. Louis, Mo.
Degree: Digital Animation

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: Great price and nice environment.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Enjoying campus life with all my amazing friends.

Q: What makes you rooted to MWSU?

A: The feeling I get when I see that all my fellow Griffons are having a great time.



Diamond House



Briana Hughes



Jaysia Hughes



Jonathan Hund



Elizabeth Hunter



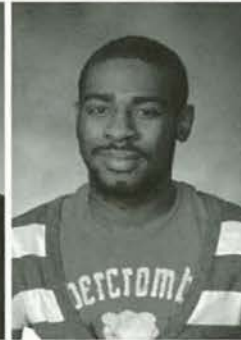
Henry Hunter II



Andrew Hurley



Gilbert Imbiri



Daimon Jackson



Richard Jackson



Taylor Jackson



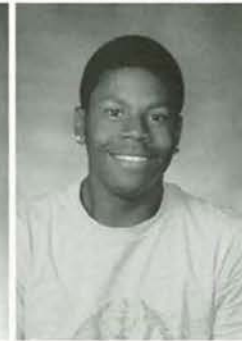
RaVon Jefferson



Airiona Johnson



Kristiny Johnson



Stanley Johnson



Matt Johnston



Elainea Jones



Tracie Jones



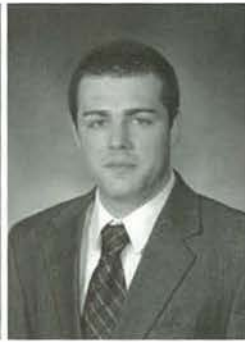
Jonathan Jullon



Marquita Kail



Pierce Karguth



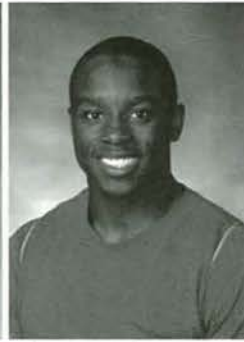
Jason Karr



Katie Kempf



Ayanna Kennedy



Meshach Kennedy



Shelby Kennedy



Jennifer L. Kepner



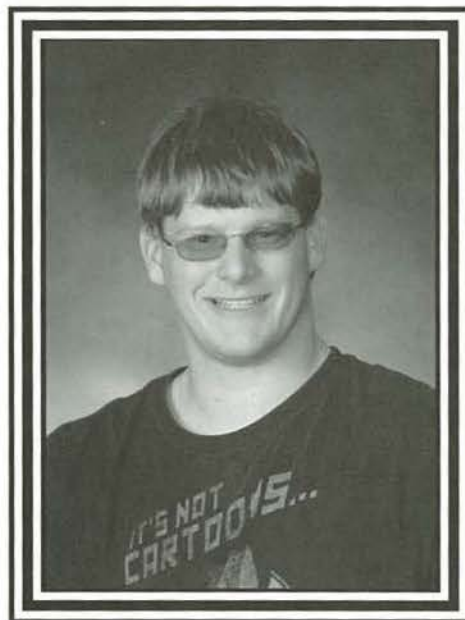
Sierra Killingsworth



Zachary Kimmel



Taylor King



Name: Matthew Kurtz
Home Town: Oregon, Mo.

Degree: History with a minor in
Creative Writing

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: It was close to home and I got a good scholarship for it.

Q: What is your favorite class?

A: Military history with Dr. Trifan.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Hmmm, getting one of my stories selected for Canvas.

Q: If you could change anything on campus what would it be?

A: The ridiculous parking

Q: What makes you roote to MWSU?

A: All the of the good times with the friends I made here.

Underclassmen



Shelby Klapp



Chris Kottwitz



Tess Kram



Matthew Kurtz



MacKenzie Lawson



Amber Layne



Andrew Leacock



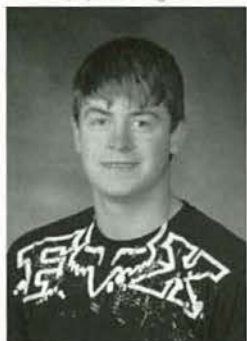
Nerissa Lee



Tasia Lee



Matthew P. Lenz



Landon Lewis



Shanming Li



Amber Liebhart



Mark Loew



Willie Love



Janica Lowry



Brittany Lusan



Danica Lyring



Sarah Lynch



Ryan March

Underclassmen



Katherine Marquart



Sam Marsh



Maurice L. Marshall



Clay Masters



Chastity McCourt



Joseph McDaniel



Lindsey McDowell



Kaela McKenzie



Katie McKnight



L.A. McMullen



Name: Cassy Mohling
Home Town: Beatrice, Neb.
Degree: Elementary Education

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MoWest because it had what I wanted without being too expensive.

Q: What was your favorite class?

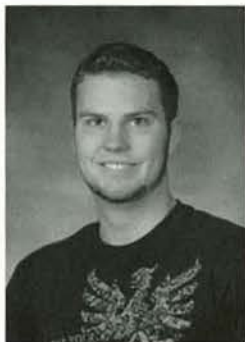
A: Social dance was my favorite class.

Q: What was your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Really it would be just hanging out with all of my close friends.

Q: What makes you Rooted to MWSU?

A: Mainly my friends make me rooted.



Chase McRae



Tara Melton



Christian Mengel



Anthony J. Mikus



Dana Miljavac



Duncan Miller



Kenya Miller



Martha Miller



Michael E. Miller



Michelle Miller



Monica Miller



Adrian Minor



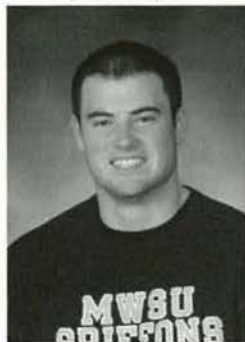
Davesha Minton



Madeleine Misemer



Cassy Mohling



Alex Molloy



Emily Moore



Ashley Morgan



Dwan Morgan



Darien Morrow



Micheal Mullen



Matthew Mullins



Jayse Musser



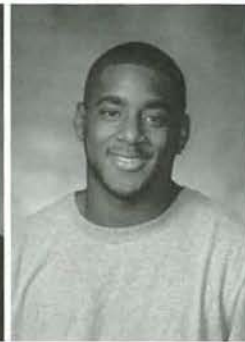
David Myers



Corey Naeger



Teriq Newton



Shennen North



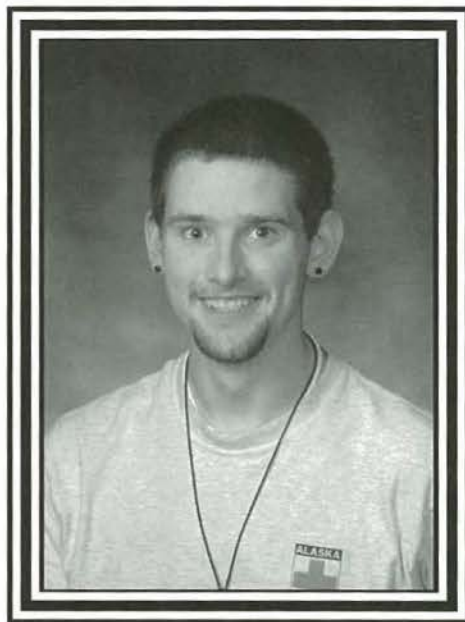
Ros Sean Norton



Jennifer L. Notbusch



Brittany O Brey



Name: Andrew Poet
Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.
Degree: Undecided

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because of the location.

Q: What was your favorite class?

A: My favorite class so far would be with Dr. Ashley, BIO 101. He is the best teacher I've ever seen.

Q: What was your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Sitting behind Scanlon Hall at smokers corner with all the different people from different dorms.

Underclassmen



Katie O'Toole



Teresa Offerman



Michael Owens



Hyeyeon Park



John Parker



Karissa Parrish



Roshni Patel



Robyn Patti



Ariadna Paula



Lana Pena



Tyler Penland



Duane Perkins



Kendra Petties



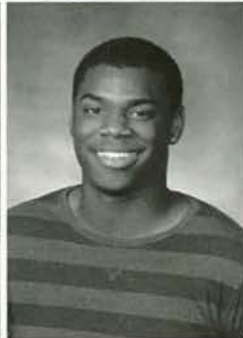
Justin Phillips



Donald Pierre



Andrew Poet



Tobias Pointer



Samantha Poirier



Valerie Poirier Smith



Chelsea Powell

Underclassmen



Kelsie Precht



Jake Presnell



Jeremy Prezwodek



Lauren Prywitch



Kelly Puckett



Alfredo Ramirez



Christine Ray



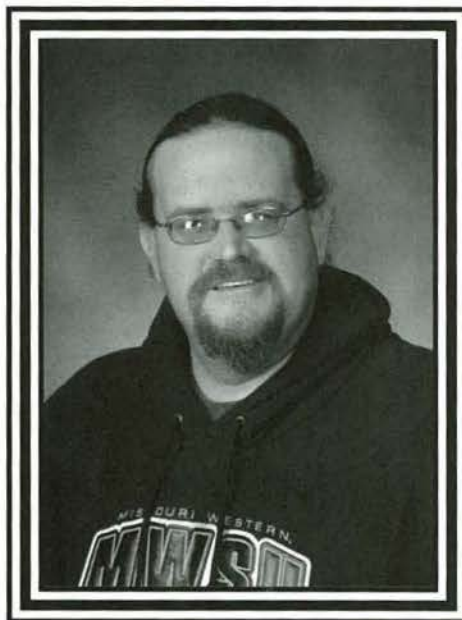
Tony Redmond



Jennifer Reese



Dylan Reno



Name: Tony Redmond
Home Town: St. Joseph, Mo.
Degree: Double Major in
 Studio Art and Art Education

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because a couple of reasons. First it was close to home and second I have lived in St. Joe all my life and have always heard good things about MoWest.

Q: What makes you rooted to MWSU?

A: I have now truly become rooted here because of the great teachers and classes in my major also I own a home in St. Joe so it suits my needs.

Q: What was your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory of MWSU so far in the Griffon Edge program, even though I'm a Non-trad student everyone welcomed me with open arms and I felt a kin-ship to all, it was a blast. Also all the new friends that I have already made and the ones still to come.



Shane Resler



Delisa Richardson



Karenrenae Richter



Aly Rinehart



Lindsey M. Roberts



Rodney Roberts



Shawna Roberts



Breanna Robinson



Ceasera Robinson



Kiara Robinson



Morgan Robinson



Gisella Robles



Kelsi Roebling



Sandra Rogers



Christina Ruark



Hoda Salat



Kelsey Samenus



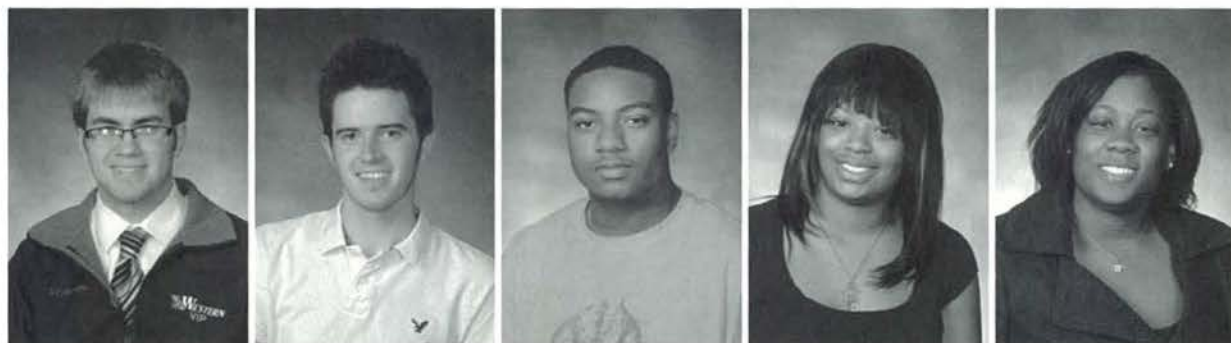
Hannah Sartain



Jessica Savage



Daniel Schmitz



Jacob Scott

Jay Scott

MonTerio Seewood

Mathel Seibert

Raven Shelby



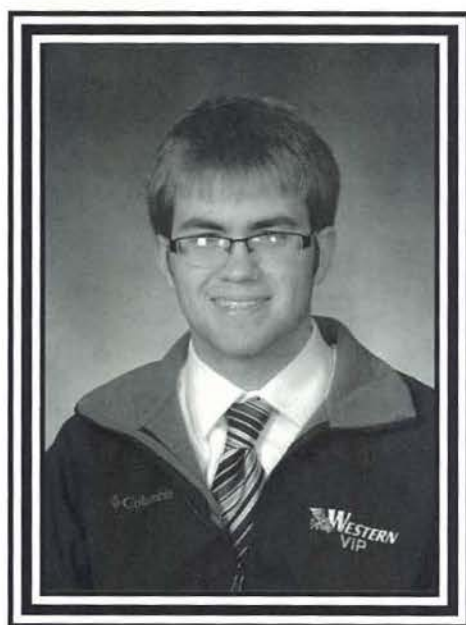
Monica Silber

Joshua Sims

Irish Smith

Mark Smith

Dakota Snow



Name: Jacob Scott
 Home Town: Savannah, Mo.
 Degree: Government & Public
 Affairs

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because it gave me the best opportunity to succeed.

Q: What was your favorite class?

A: Humanities Middle Ages to the French Revolution.

Q: What was your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: Being inaugurated as Student Body President.

Q: What makes you rooted to MWSU?

A: Missouri Western is home, it has offered me so much over my college career, and it is my responsibility to do what I can to give back.

Underclassmen



Hanna Souther



Jared Spangler



Natalie Spivey



Blair Stalder



Samantha Stanton



Alex Stearns



Chealsey Stevenson



Darius Stone



Sammie Stoner



Chelsea Strahm



Taylor Summers



Netta Sutton



Abigail Svendsen



Catherine Swing



Nicole Tetter



Brian Tharp



James Thomas



Molly Thomas



Patricia Thompson



Meghan Thompson

Underclassmen



Ricky Thompson



Dee Toliver



Eric Toliver



Michael Towle



Tyrell Tripp



Lydia Tulpana



Synthia Tunnell



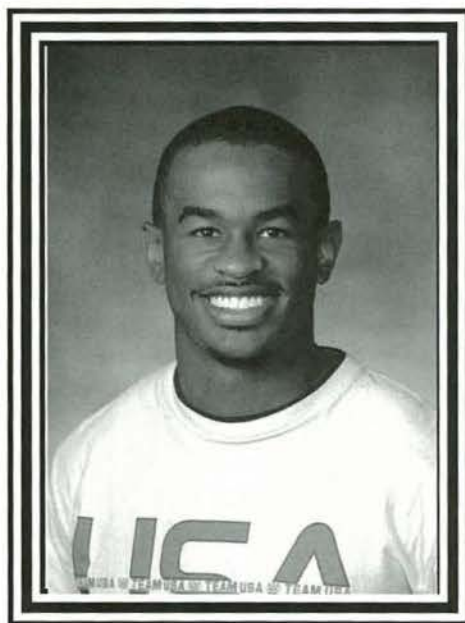
Emily Tyson



Travis M. Urban



Robin Ussher



Name: Devin Whittler
Home Town: Jefferson City Mo.
Degree: Sociology

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: The reason I chose MWSU is because they had a stellar football program and I play cornerback for them

Q: What was your favorite class?

A: I would have to say that my favorite class was Racial and Ethnic Relations.

Q: What was your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory at Missouri Western would be the very first time I stepped on the football field.

Q: If you could do one thing on campus that has never been done what would it be?

A: I would prank Coach Partridge and get away with it.



Andrea Vaccaro



Meghan Vandever



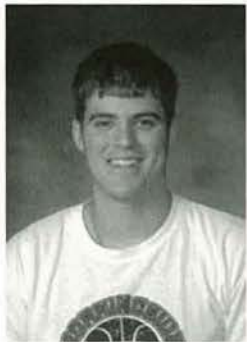
Jamil Velasquez



Dautrail Wafford



Carrie Walden



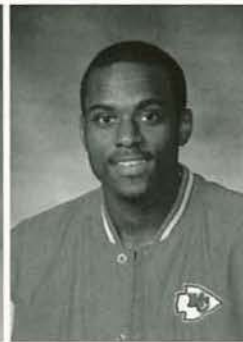
Chad Walker



Mary Warner



Kia Wash-Lee



Marcus Washington



Corvette Way



DaNell Weaver



Dawn Wheeler



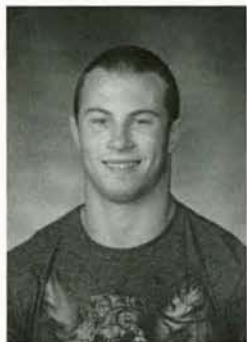
Devyn Whited



Aeesha Whitley



Randy Whitley



Alex Whitmore



Devin Whittler



Erica Wilhite



Demeco Williams



Tatiana Williams



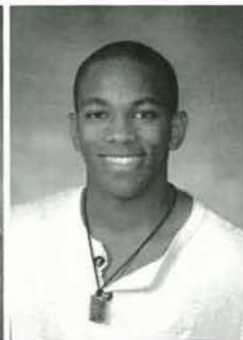
Virginia Williams



Jessie Wilson



Patricia Wilson



Peter Windsor



Brooke Witthaus



Shara Wolf



Kimberly Wright



Samantha G. Wright



Nicholas Yetman



Thaddeus Young



Name: Brooke Witthaus
Home Town: Herman, Mo.
Degree: Criminal Justice

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: I chose MWSU because the campus was very pretty and i was able to get "A" plus if I attended this school.

Q: What is your favorite tree?

A: My favorite tree is a dogwood tree.

Q: If you could do one thing that has never been done on campus what would it be?

A: I would shoot the geese that crowd the pond and are everywhere on campus.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

A: My fondest memory is all the good times that I had with my college family that I met.

Underclassmen



Jordan Yurth



Kaeleb Zeltwanger



Alex Zimmerli

Q: What made you choose Western?

A: The overall spirit and diversity of the campus.

Q: What is your fondest memory at MWSU?

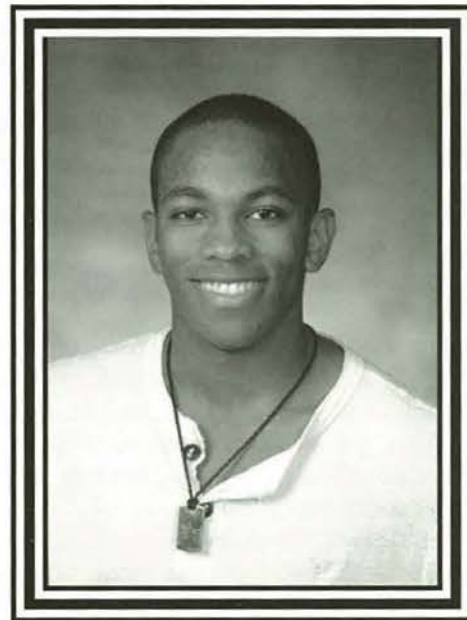
A: The scanlon parties me and two other friends put on every friday.

Q: What was your favorite class?

A: Elementary chinese.

Q: If you could do one thing that has never been done on campus what would it be?

A: Run a Zumba class as much as possible there.



Name: Pete Windsor
Home Town: St. Louis, Mo.
Degree: Nursing

Getting Organizations Organized

Story by Jerrica Brown

As the school year progressed, organizations were starting to adapt to the process of Orgsync. This new system for students was a program that offered an online community management system that centralized campus involvement, often titled the "Facebook" for organizations. With MWSU having 95 registered organizations, Orgsync helped make things much simpler.

Director of Student Life Isaiah Collier referred to Orgsync as an upscale Facebook. "Org sync is a good tool if used properly and utilized to its best abilities," Collier said.

Collier did admit that students didn't like the Orgsync program at first, but after the training process, students became comfortable with the program and learned the pros and cons. After the students were aware of things that they weren't previously, Orgsync became popular among the organizations on campus.

Director of Student Relations Jordan Carney felt Orgsync helped organizations communicate with each other. "Even though it's harder getting new organizations signed up and more difficult getting information when everyone isn't signed up, still helps organizations succeed more," Carney said.

Carney believed that Orgsync helped the campus as well. Not only was Orgsync for organizations, but also

students who weren't involved as well. Since every event had to be registered through Orgsync, it was easier to know the activities going on around campus.

"It's great because there's one place for everything," Carney said. "For example, if you're committed to more than one organization, you can go to one site for them all and just simply click on the organization to know what's going on."

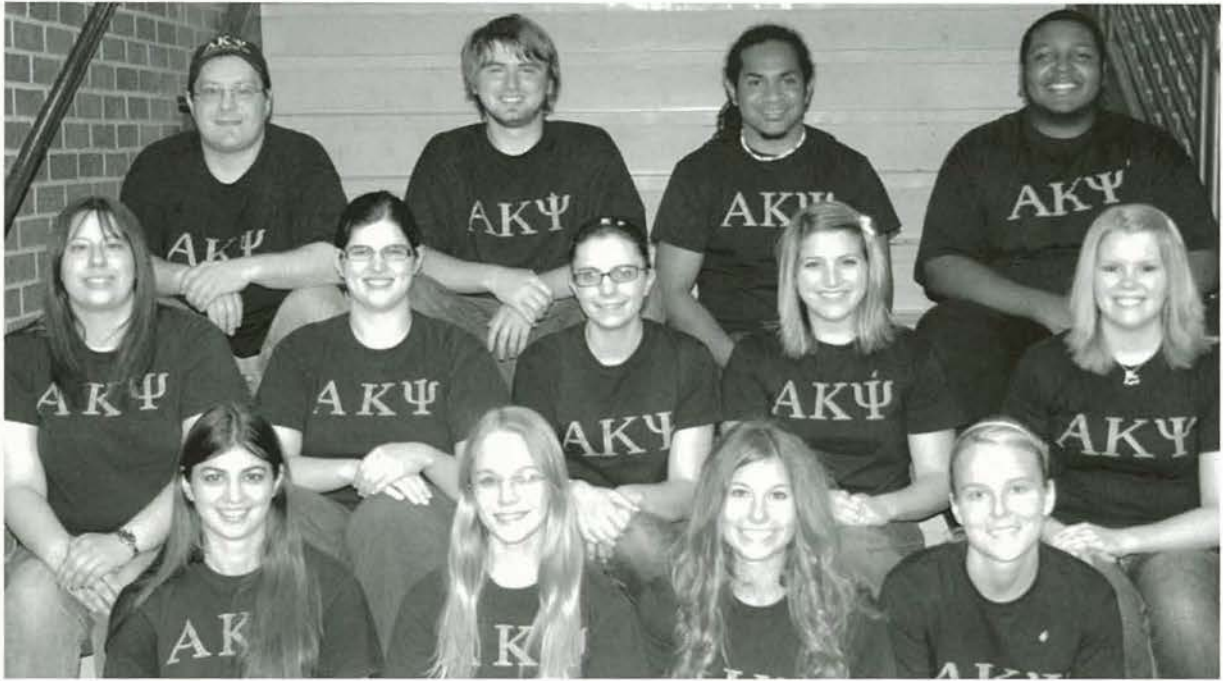
President of Black Student Union Louis Erby thought that Orgsync had the potential to be great, with some exceptions.

"When everyone in your organization isn't registered on org sync, it can be a hassle," Erby said. "And the fact that there isn't a mobile notifications option for Orgsync; it's one of those 'whenever I reach a computer to check it' deals."

There were benefits as well though, such as central location for info and environmental benefits. "I think the fact that it cut down a lot of the paper work that was previously requested for events through the Center for Student Engagement is awesome," Erby said.

In the early stages of the program, most students felt this system would grow on the Griffons. The organizations involved and the students who wanted to get involved both could benefit from the new "Facebook" for orgs.

Alpha Kappa Psi



Front Row- Brittany Malone, Amanda Keeling, Kelsey Samenlus and Kelci Parman
 Second Row- Bethany Kirkendoll, Amanda Poole, Amanda Mavel, Stacy Temple and Kaylee Burris
 Third Row- Marcus Cook, David Wooth, Gilbert Imbiri and Jarred Edwards



Front Row- Jessica Ralston, Robert Bradley, Jessica Parker and Kristin Bonks
 Second Row- Virginia Williams, Jennifer Loftin, Heather Schmidt, Caleb Hopper, Tiffany Bell, Merriam Hayden and Cassy Mohling

Anime Club

Griffon Art Alliance



Front Row- Ali Dalsing, Teresa Rodewald, Kat Furlong, Elizabeth Green and Jakob Ehlert
 Second Row- Amellia Johnson, Tony Redmond, Rosie Lammoglia, Joe Snapp, Jessica Ralston and Andrew Sprague



Front Row- Jason Brown, Blair Stalder, Caitlin Cress, Natalie Spivey, Allison Beattie, Charles Mengel and Dr. Kenneth Rosenauer
 Second Row- Nathaniel Pickman, Thomas Huitt-Johnson, Brian Duskey, Ellis Cross, Eboni Lacey, Albert Shelby and Dave Hon
 Third Row- Kyler Penland and Kyle Inman

Griffon Newspaper





Front Row- Hanna Greenwell, Jennifer Notbusch, Megan Baggett and Clifford Peterson
 Second Row- Lindsey Roberts, Katie Fields, Nicole Teeter, Amanda Fox and Dr. Ann Thorne
 Third Row- Heather Heater, Zac Covault, Robyn Patti, Molly Thomas, Sarah Hatten and Tiffany Bell

Griffon Yearbook Fall



Griffon Yearbook Spring



Front Row- Tiffany Bell, Sarah Hatten, Garrett White, Dr. Ann Thorne and Noel Collier
 Second Row- Amber Hess, Lindsey Roberts, Nicole Gardner, Amanda Fox, Noah Bonnett-Tapp and Hanna Greenwell
 Third Row- Heather Heater, Aly Rinehart, Alexa Adams, Brittany Brimmer, Zac Covault, Molly Thomas, Robyn Patti and Jerrica Brown



International Club



Front Row- Yanhao Tin, Foifan Zhu, Way Zhant and Ahmad Shah Salimee
 Second Row- Gilbert Imbiri, Hao Cai, Edgardo Jamil Velasquez, Maricarmen Teran Vela and Javier Aleyandra Paz Blanco
 Third Row- Michael Hindhaugh, Jing Zhang, Zichan Zhang, Alejandra Nunez and Lubing Luo



Jazz Ensemble

Front Row- Justin Briher
 Second Row- Seth Campbell, Marlo Asti, Gavin Morris, Avery Deacon and Tom Keller
 Third Row- Matt Musselman, Jacob Kroesen, Brittany Klever, Brandon Wehmeyer, Rebekah Cooper and Thomas Knopp
 Fourth Row- Josh Ralston, Chris Peterson, Garrett Jones and Bob Long
 Not Pictured- Jeremy Wallace and Sam Stephan

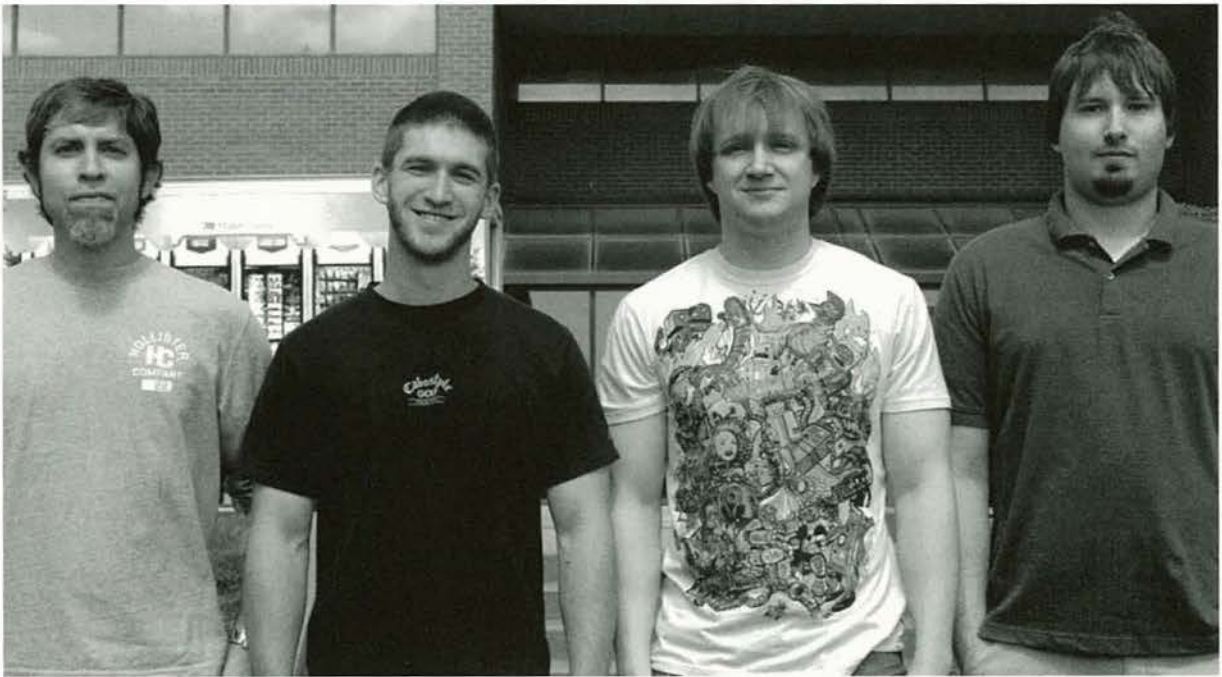


Jazz Lab



Front Row- Avery Doran, Ally Sexton, Alex Hagenbuch, Daniel DeClue and Wesley Enyeart
 Second Row- Steve Molloy, Anna Steely, Jordan Hargis, David Ward and Brittany Klever
 Third Row- Jamie Haffner, Adam Park, Kyle Minx, NickRiver, Dru Jordan and Sydney Given

Omega Electronics Club

Front Row- Ryan Irwin, Micha Dunlap, Drew Nold and Jeremy Lawing

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia



Front Row- Austin Carter, Dylan Drawshaw, Sam Stephan, Jeremy Wallare, Chris Peterson, Jordan Hargis, Alex Hagenbuch, Tom Keller and Jared Green
 Second Row- Nick Button, Alex Fitzgerald, Kevin Shanks, Garrett Jones, Zackary Kirkman and David Ward



Front Row- Wesley Pickman, Coltin Ridenour, Luke Spencer, Nick Niemeier and Doug Richards
 Second Row- Matthew Morris, Jayce Berry, Domonique Fells, Zach Dyer and Duncan Miller

Phi Sigma Kappa



Physical Therapy



Front Row- Beth Christgen, Martika Kissick, Hillary Maberry, Danielle Watring, Mckenzie Null and Stephanie Gillespie
 Second Row- Kelsey Dirksen, Shelby Graeff, Tracie Calhoon, Kelly Brecht, kristin Stafford and Andrea Allen
 Third Row- Erin Kempf, Cassandra Sherrow, Laura Haner, Anita Jackson, Ryan Nerling, Brian Holaday and Nic Barnes

Psi Chi



Front Row- Scott Meszaros and Erica Boan

Psychology Club



Front Row- Clifford Petersen, Scott Mesazaros and Erica Boan



Front Row- Christina Jennings, Lauren Prywitch, Mary Beth Rosenaur, Justin Griffin, Alison Norris, Jacob Scott, Lauren Dillon and Taylor Kram
Second Row- Peter Gregory, Jordan Carney, Brittney Edwards, Kyle Beavers, Clifford Petersen, Monterio Seewood, Brian Shewell, Amanda Johnson and Julie Hodson

Student Government Assn.



Western Activities Council



Front Row- Sebastian Smith, Lauren Dillion and Tayana Hickman
 Second Row- Sam Poirier, Kelsie, Frecht, Hayley Christian, Alex Stearns and Noel Collier
 Third Row- Lindsey Ebert, Ahsley Spooner, Shelby DeMott, Anthony Dougherty and Brooke Wittaws
 Fourth Row- Damion Jackson, Tatiana Williams, Ashley Morgan and Marina Howells



Above- Western Activities Council sets up a booth at the Heart, your Union event every year. Damion Jackson and Sam Poirier man the booth while a student reads about the organization. Photo by Noel Collier



Photo by Amanda Fox



Rooted

When you leave, you'll leave something behind. The impression you left on everyone you met along the way.

You'll grow and build your character. You'll find a way to be extraordinary. But do not forget you started here, with your feet planted firmly on the ground.

Embrace it, smile when the clock tower sings to you, appreciate the sculptures planted by Potter Hall and leave as many footprints as you can. Because right now this is your home.

Put your signature on the time you spend here.

Do not let the twists and turns take away from the journey. This is your time to hit bumps in the road. Make mistakes, and learn.

Look forward to what's in front of you, but do not forget what prepared you to take those next steps.

You'll move past this place, ready for something more, but you'll always be rooted here.

- Sarah Hatten 



Photo by Amanda Fox





Photo by Molly Thomas

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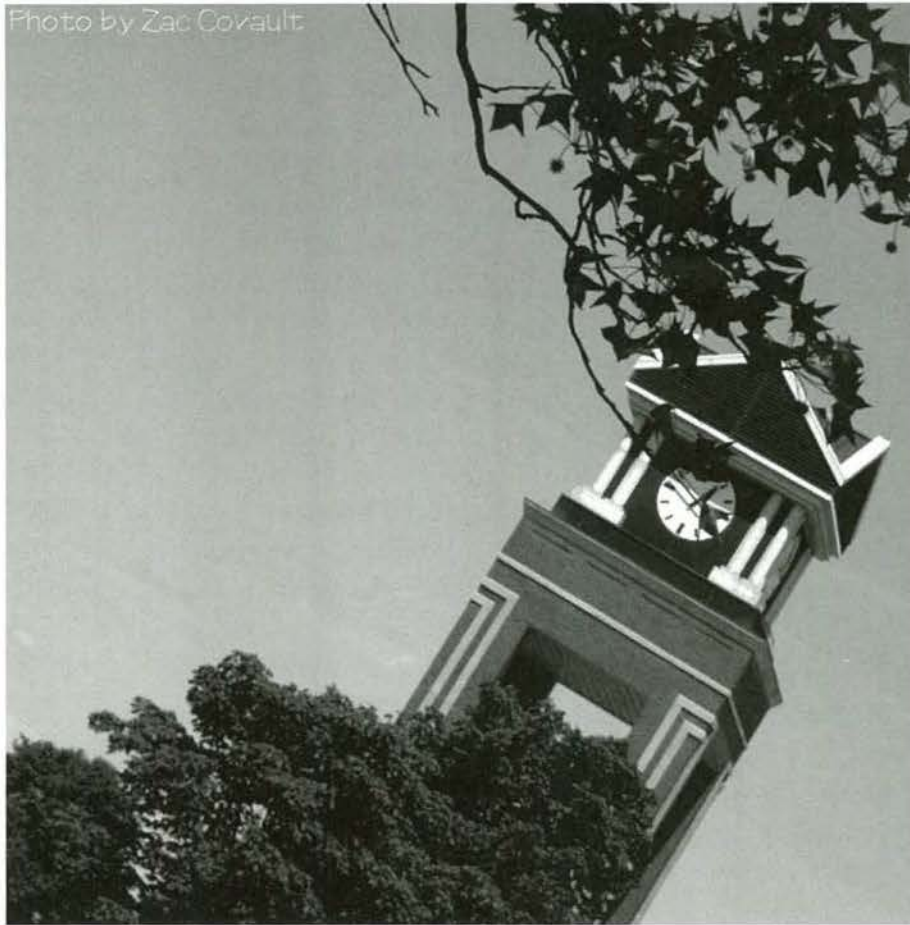
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Photo by Noah Bonnett-Tapp

Photo by Zac Covault



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MWSU first annual car show
 Photo by Heather Heater



Photo by Amanda Fox





Photo by Amanda Fox



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Advisor Since: 1986

Hometown: Columbia, Mo.

The Griffon Yearbook wants to thank you for your dedication of 25 years and know that the yearbook will not be the same without you. You will forever be rooted to Missouri Western will miss you enjoy retirement. -The Griffon Yearbook Staff

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Colophon



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To the 2011-2012 Griffon staff,

I am sad to see most of you finding a new journey in your life. Robyn, Sarah and Zac you brought joy and laughter to the office that I looked forward to seeing everyday. I wish you all the best of luck with your careers, new adventures and safe travels. Molly, you brought the party to yearbook and were a wonderful photographer. Ann, I would like to thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity and yearbook will not be the same with out you. I hope you enjoy retirement. Last, but not least, Hanna and Lindsey, I could not have done this with out you, your dedication, hard work and late nights that you put in, are what helped get the book done. I know we will have a successful year next year as long as we work together. New challenges await us with a new staff and advisor, it will be a fun exciting new year. Thank you so much to a wonderful staff, advisor and representatives, you helped me get through my first year as EIC and made it a wonderful experience.

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