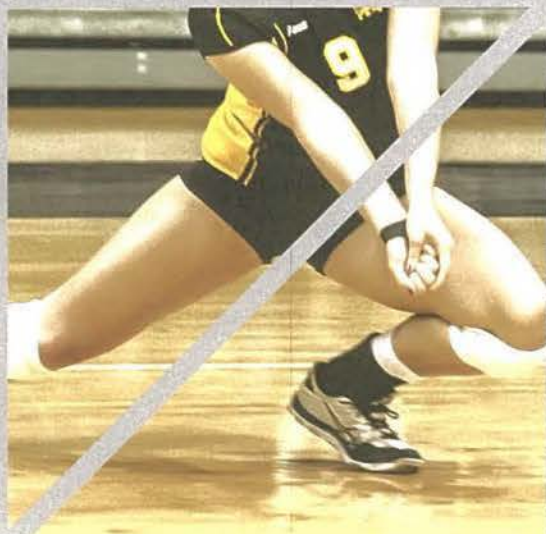
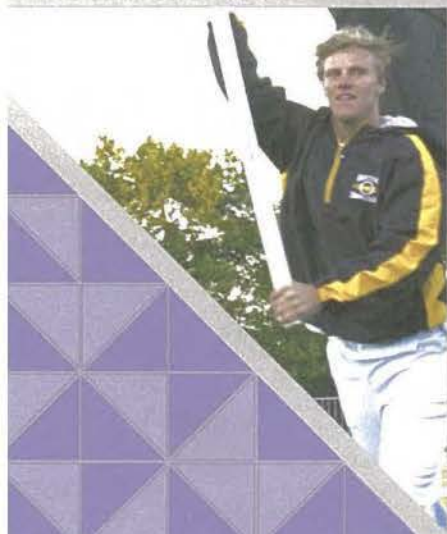
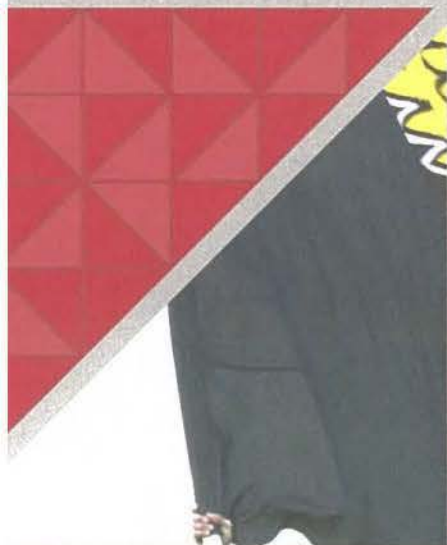


WATCH YOUR YEARBOOK COME TO LIFE WITH AURASMA, AN INTERACTIVE VIDEO APP!

See page 221 for more details.



This yearbook may contain images, language, or other content that could be offensive to modern users. The content may be disturbing and offensive, but should be viewed within the context of that period. The material is being presented as part of a historical record and in no way reflects the values of Missouri Western State University.



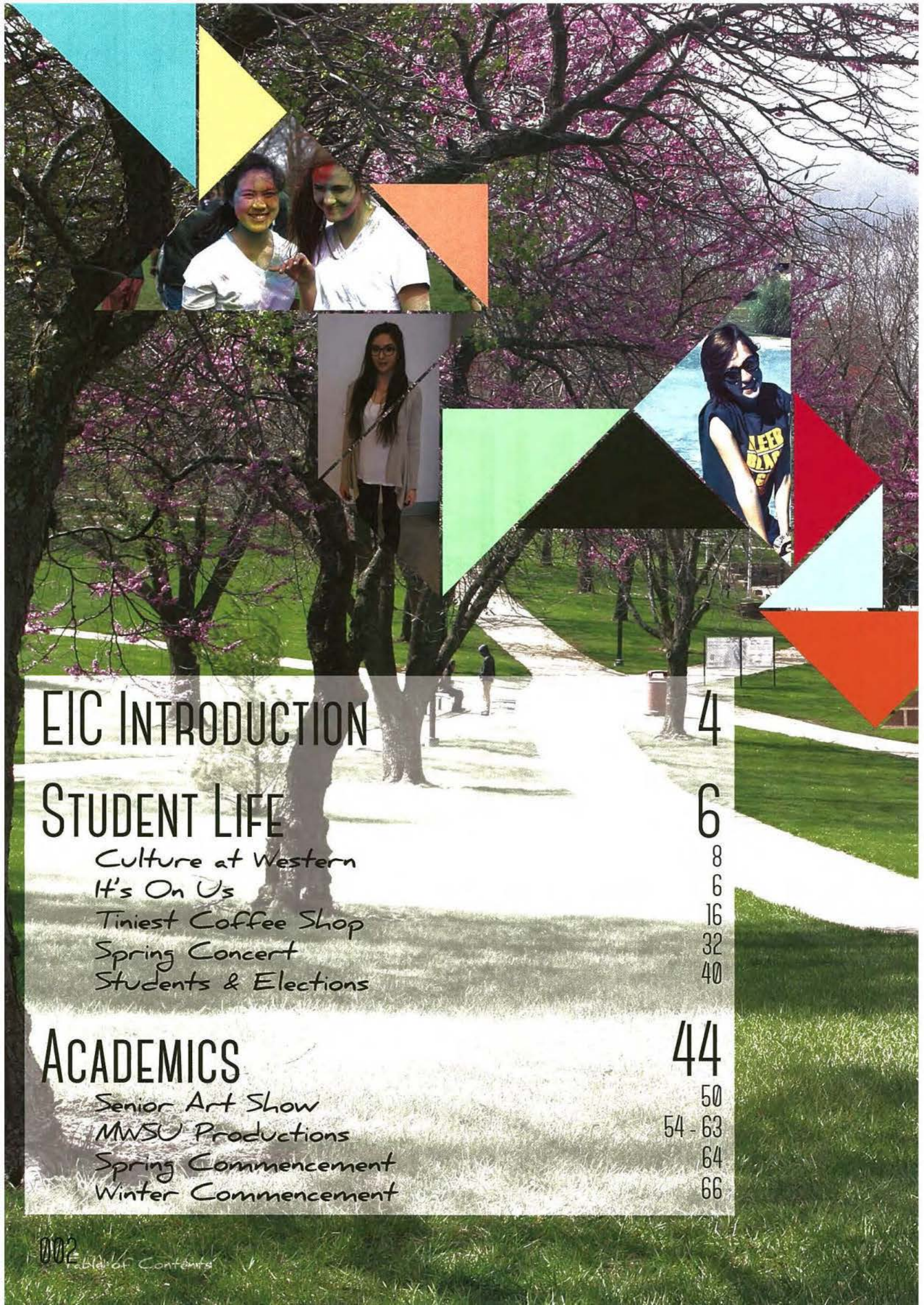
THE NEXT BIG THING

*Looking forward to the next 100 years
of Missouri Western State University*

The Griffon
Volume 90
2015-16

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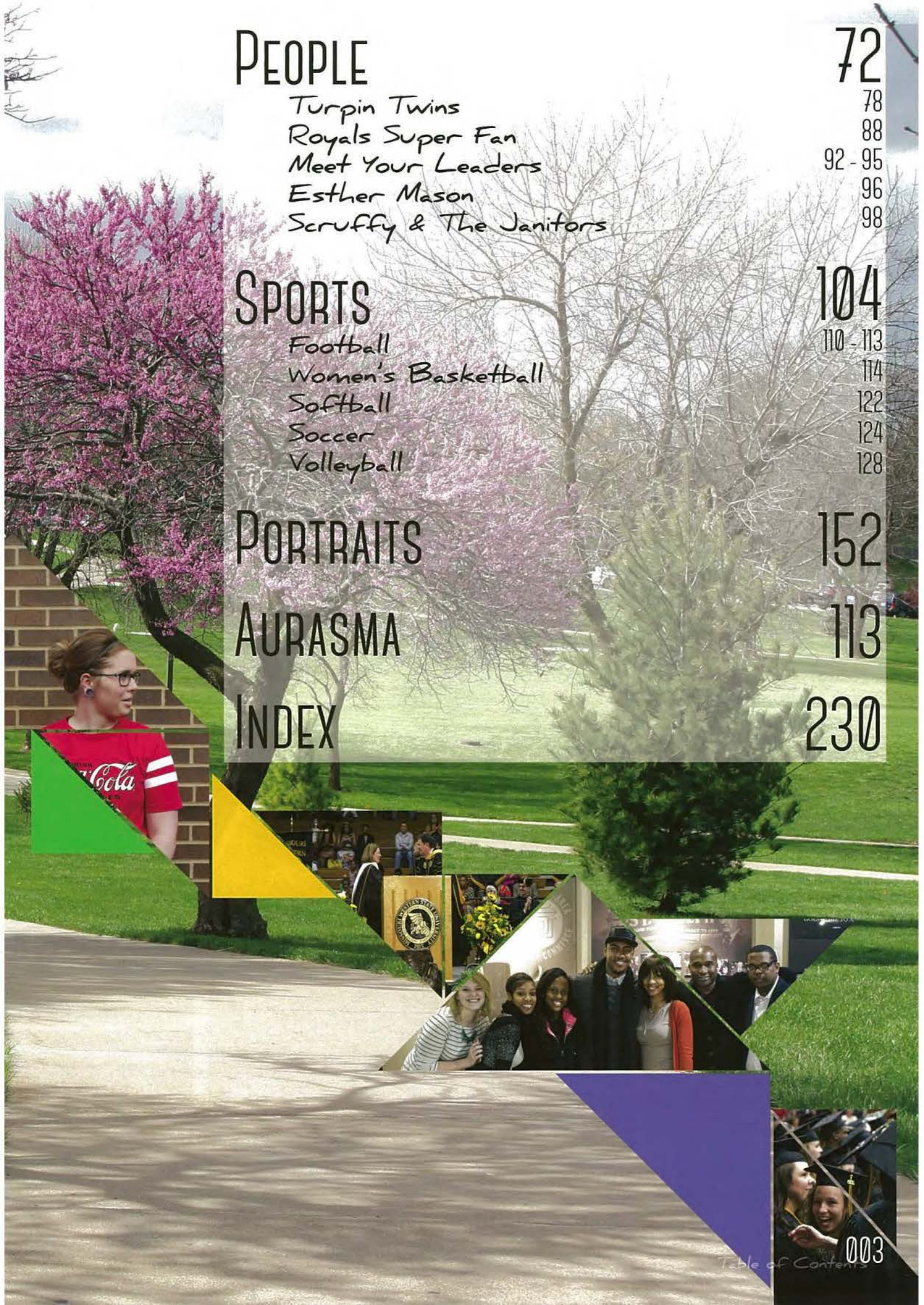
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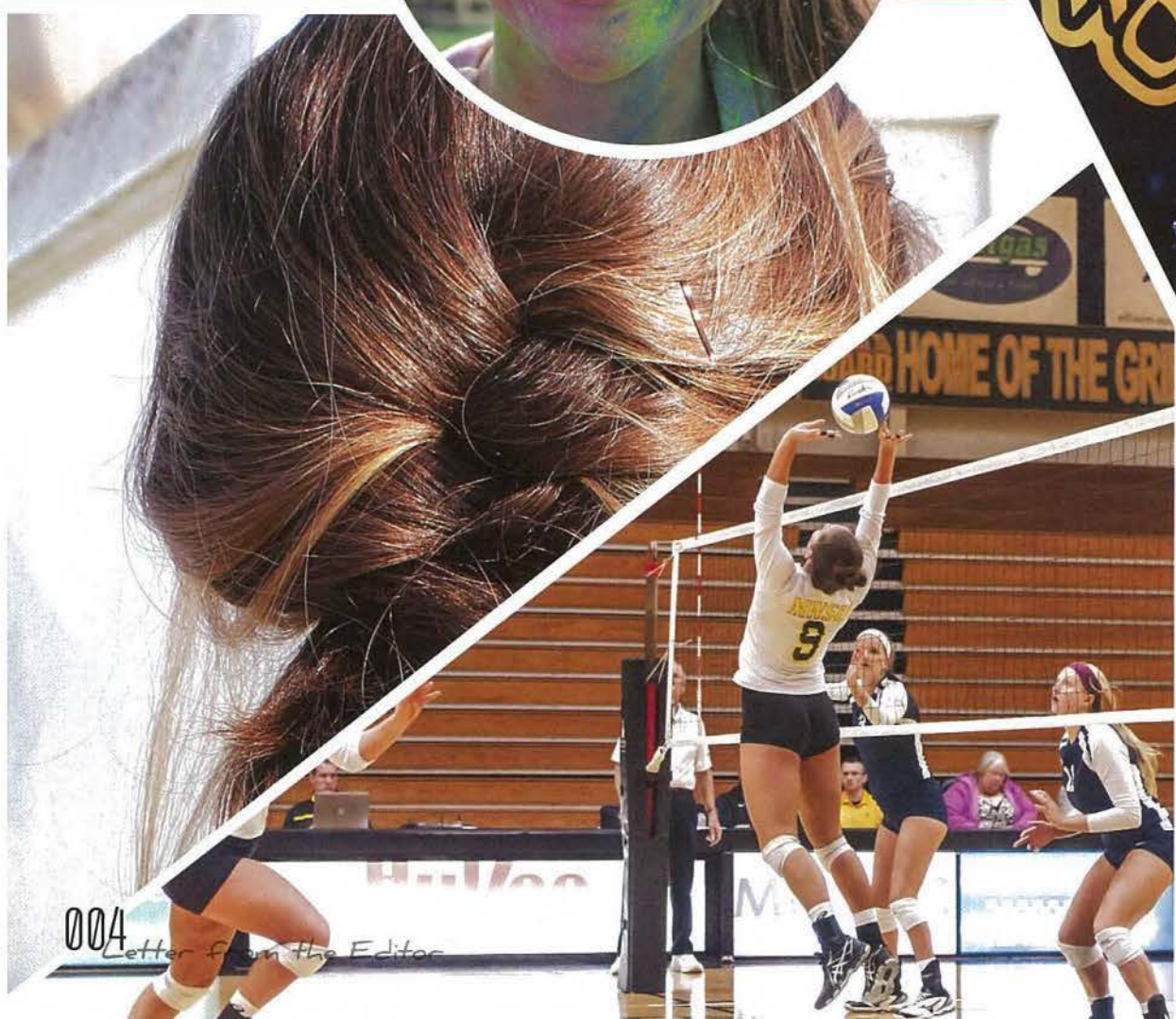
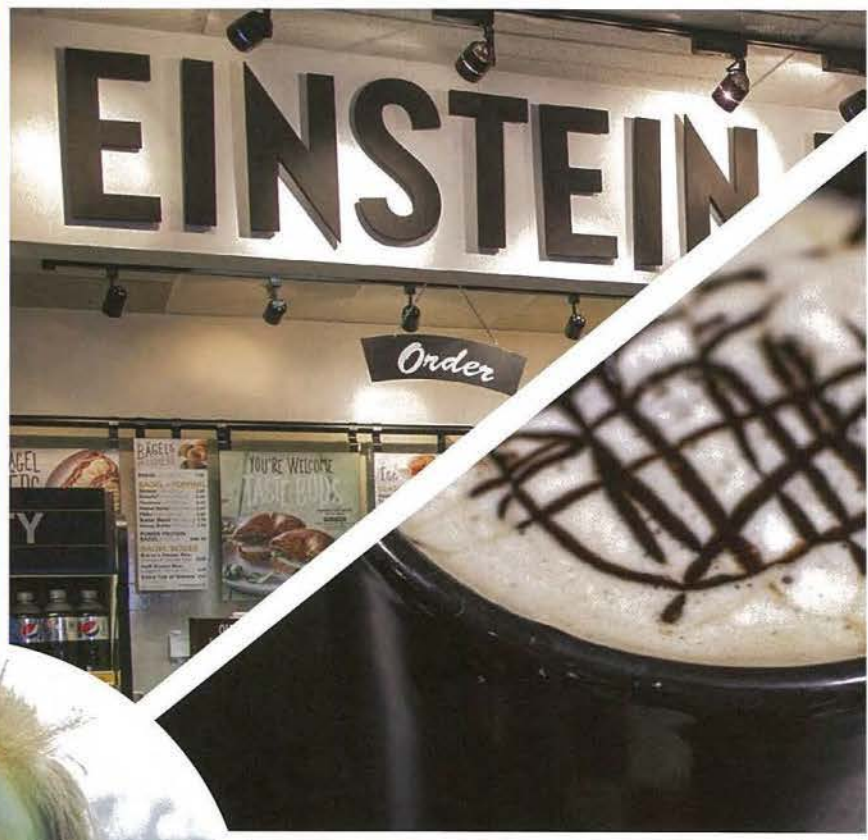
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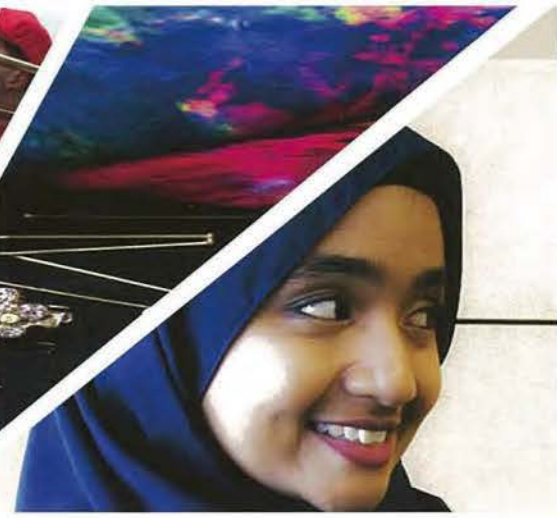
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Why "The Next Big Thing"

The year 2015 was significant for Missouri Western, marking the university's centennial year. Last year was a chance for us to focus on Western's rich history and accomplishments, but this year we decided to take a different approach.

With the first 100 years behind us and the next 100 ahead, we wanted to focus on what Western was doing for the future. How was Western and its students preparing for what lay ahead? What was the next big thing for Western?

Over the course of the past year, we found students who were preparing for the future. We found musicians, artists, filmmakers, soldiers and leaders. Along with these were students who were breaking records as well as stereotypes, all attempting to create a better future for themselves and others.

We also discovered the ways in which Western itself was moving toward the future. We saw the university create outreach programs for students, address social issues and start conversations to create a more diverse campus and community.

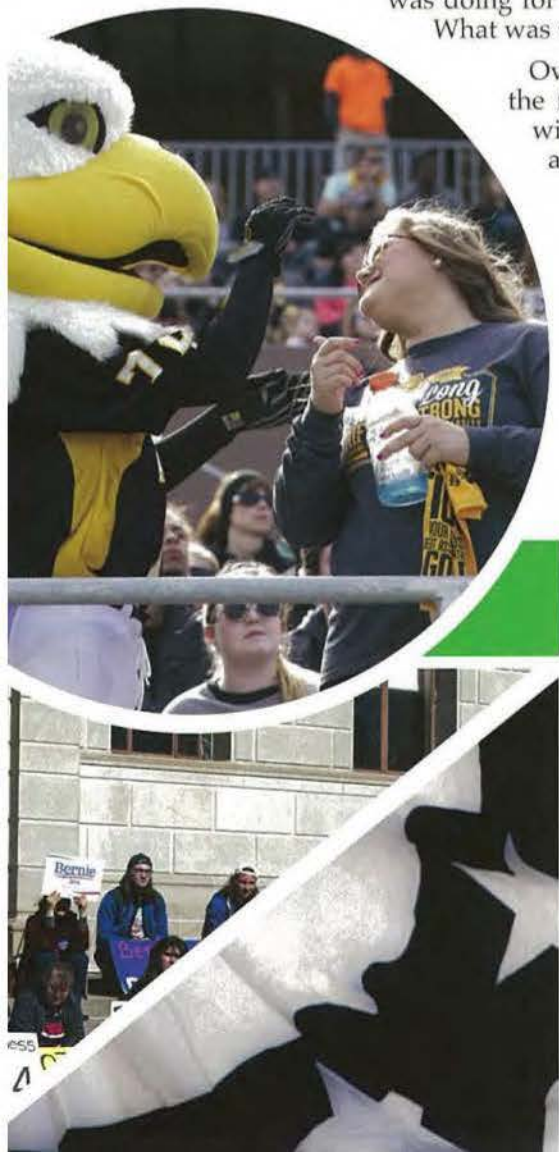
To highlight the idea of looking toward the future, we incorporated modern designs and fresh concepts into this book. On every page, we tried to tell a story about what was next for Western through written word, photos and design.

We started this year asking, what is next for our university and its students. What we found, what we experienced and what we created did not disappoint us.

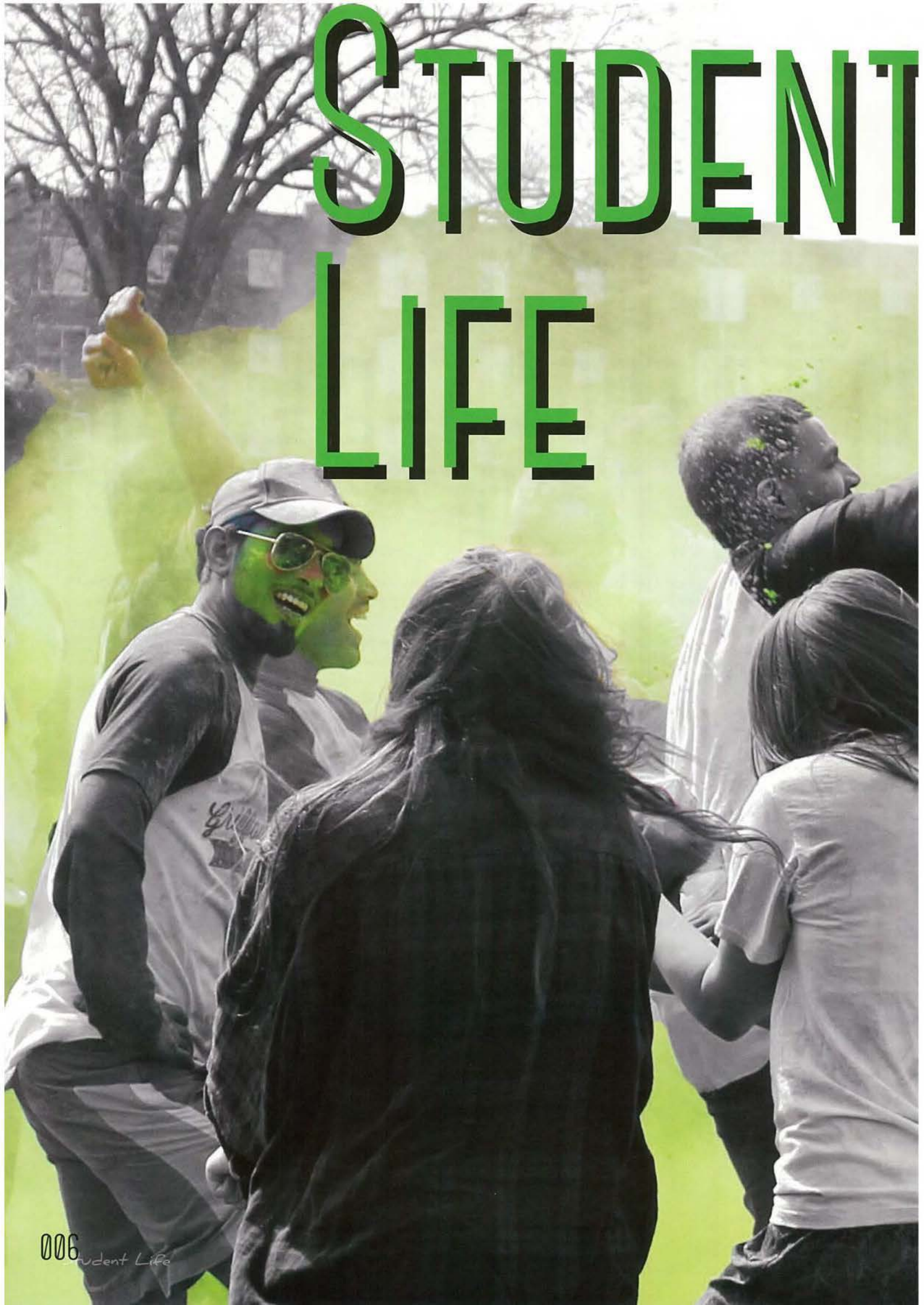
We hope you enjoy looking through this book as much as we enjoyed creating it. Here's to the next 100 years, Griffons.

P.S. Be on the look out for "Easter-Eggs" in the book!

Jessika R. Eidson
Editor-in-Chief, 2015-16



STUDENT LIFE



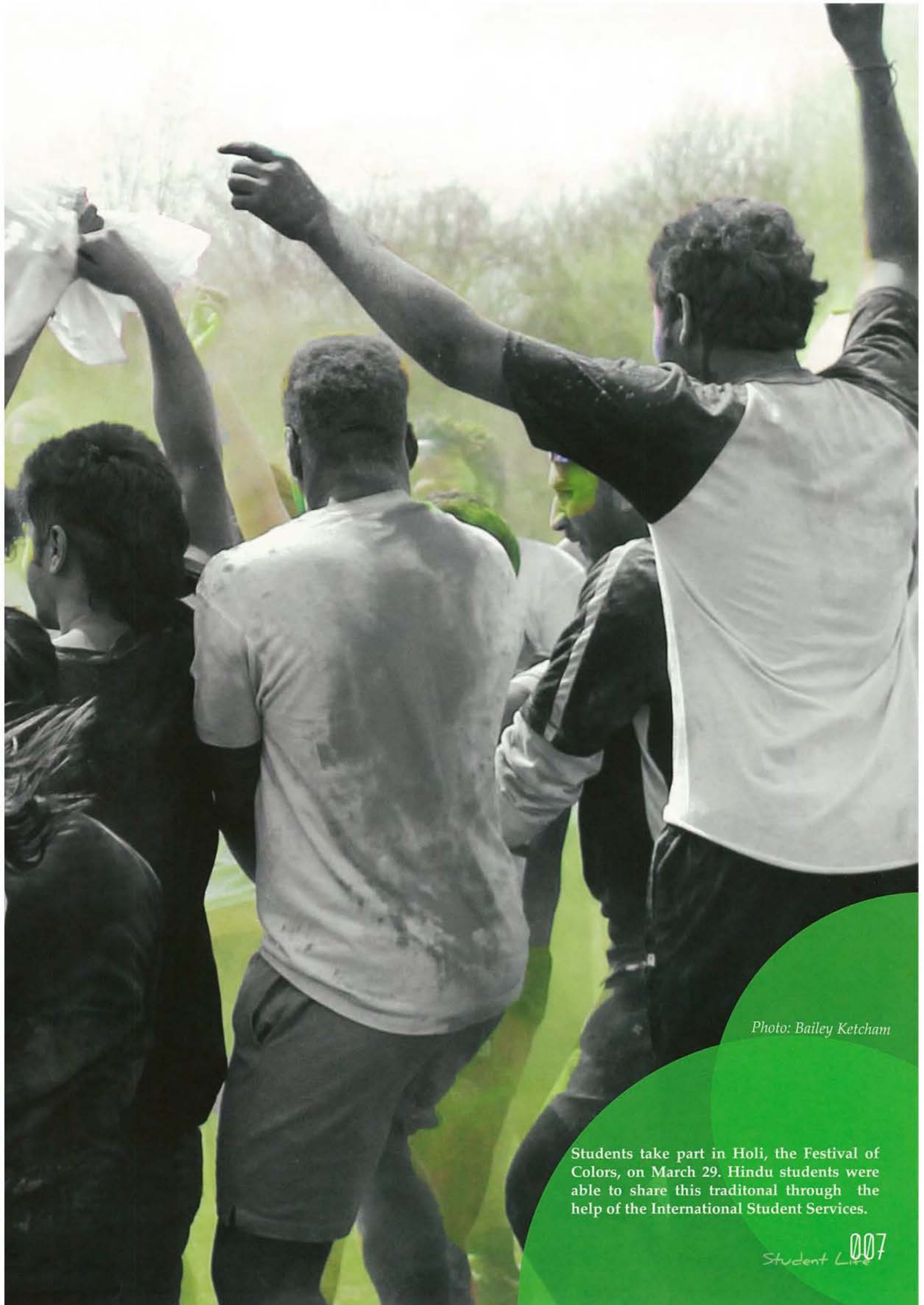


Photo: Bailey Ketcham

Students take part in Holi, the Festival of Colors, on March 29. Hindu students were able to share this traditional through the help of the International Student Services.

THE NEXT CELEBRATION

COMMUNITY HERITAGE REPRESENTATION SUPPORT
DIVERSITY LOVE FAITH TRADITION PEOPLE
ACCEPTANCE CULTURE ADVOCATES
ETHNICITY DIFFERENT EQUALITY
RACE SEXUALITY STATUS RIGHTS LANGUAGE NATIONALITY
MULTICULTURALISM LIFE GENDER INCLUSION
CHANGE EMPOWERMENT

Award-winning slam poet, Elizabeth Acevedo, performs at Hispanic Heritage Month

Story: Jill Oswald
 Photos: youtube.com & wikipedia.com
 Design: Jessika Eidson

Culture is what sets us apart from each other and what makes us individuals. Missouri Western is home to many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. This year Missouri Western recognized Hispanic and Latino Americans' heritage and culture. The Center of Multicultural Education held the annual Hispanic Heritage Banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 15, this year.

This year's guest speaker was a poet, Elizabeth Acevedo. Acevedo is of Dominican descent and grew up in New York City. Her poetry is about the struggles she has been through and the discriminations she has seen in her life. She spoke about being an educated Latina living in New York, and no matter where she ended up, she was looked down upon for being too educated or too ethnic.

Acevedo believed that it is fundamentally important that all cultures and ethnicities have their own voice.

"I've been writing since I was about 12; it was always about having my words there," Acevedo said. "Most writers write because they feel like their story isn't in the world."

Acevedo wasn't always as proud of her heritage as she is today. Growing up in New York City caused her to feel like she was being pulled in different directions - like she didn't belong.

But

through the power of words, Acevedo overcame her disconnection with her heritage and shared this emotional testament through her poetry: "Our stories cannot be checked into boxes."

Latoya Fitzpatrick, the coordinator for the Center of Multicultural Education found Acevedo through YouTube. Fitzpatrick holds banquets like this one numerous times a year.

"Our department wants to educate people about different groups on campus-not necessarily multicultural populations, but also the ones that are traditionally underserved," Fitzpatrick said.

Banquets and social programs are a way for students to come and hangout and help relieve stress. Fitzpatrick says she asks students' input on what's happening in the world around us and what students are talking about to help focus the banquets on students' needs.

Several students attended the events surrounding Hispanic Heritage Month.

Erin Kempf is a Spanish student, who has her Bachelor's in Spanish literature and language, and is finishing her Physical Therapy associate's degree here at Western. She believes diversity is American, and we should celebrate Hispanic culture and what it brings to this country.

"Everybody deserves an opportunity to celebrate and be proud of who they are as an individual as well as a culture," Kempf said.

Hispanics and Latinos have enhanced and shaped our national character with the customs of their community.

Acevedo not only shared her struggles growing up with the students, but also gave them a light at the end of the tunnel. She gave them empowerment.

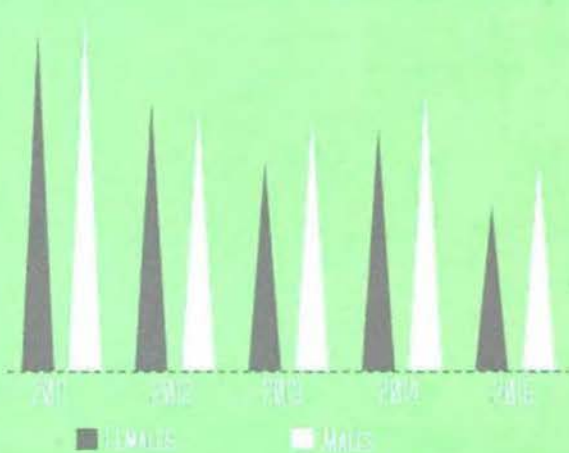
The goal of all these programs put on by the Center for Multicultural Education is to inform students. With this kind of entertainment, students have the opportunity to gain more than just awareness; they will build relationships.



Elizabeth Acevedo performs on her YouTube channel.

HISPANICS/ LATINOS AT MISSOURI WESTERN

INFO SOURCE: IN THE COMMUNITY TODAY



Missouri Western Hosts several events to celebrate and promote progress during LGBT History Month

Story & Design: Jessika Eids
Photos: Kartheek Gaddamee

Following a historic summer for the LGBT community, Missouri Western celebrated LGBT History Month. Throughout October, the university hosted several events that brought the campus and local community together to celebrate progress and discuss critical issues.

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court declared that state-level bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional, making same-sex marriage legal in the U.S. One couple that united through this ruling was pastor of First Christian Church, Brian Kirk, and his partner Jonathan Loesch. The pair was the first same-sex couple to receive their marriage license in Buchanan County.

Kirk and Loesch were invited to speak at a panel during LGBT History Month. Joining Kirk and Loesch was Ashley Karr, who married her wife outside of their home state prior to the Supreme Court ruling. The spouses were invited by the Center of Multicultural Education to discuss their personal experiences.

Laytoya Fitzpatrick, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, wanted to give the campus a chance to ask the speakers questions and seek advice.

"How we brought it back to campus was we asked the question of, 'what advice would you give to any LGBT persons that maybe are not as far as trying to get married, but are still going through that day-to-day discrimination,'" Fitzpatrick said. "So they talked a lot about finding that support system and coming out and not waiting until 30 or 40 years down the line."

For students, talking with the spouses gave them hope for the future. Taylor McGrath, president of the Pride Alliance, related the discussion back to the Trevor Project, an online resource for LGBT youth facing discrimination.

"It just reinforces what a lot of people hear from the Trevor Project, which is 'it gets better,'" McGrath said. "Seeing people who are successful and leading lives as LGBT adults can shine a ray of light."

Along with the panel discussion, the campus' Coming Out Day was held this year. Maranny S, secretary of the Pride Alliance, organized this event which slam poetry was used by students to express their experiences.

"When I was in high school, we had slam poetry and there were many ways to express all the feelings and emotions that were in it," Svay said. "I wanted something that was impactful and really brought across the message of coming out."

McGrath saw the event as a chance for students to bravely be themselves.

"It was kind of scary; it gets really intimate because that's just the nature of poetry," McGrath said. "You should feel safe but also know that, regardless of whether or not you try to make it safe, not every space can be completely safe. And you have to be brave and put yourself out there in order to educate people and make them understand what your life is like."

October also featured the annual Drag Show which 250 students attended. The show was another chance for students to celebrate while raising money for the Trevor Project; \$132 were given this year.

All these events gave Western the chance to discuss the struggles that the LGBT community has overcome and continue to work toward overcoming. McGrath urged allies to continue supporting the community while celebrating the new-found marriage equality.

"It has positive effects - of course it does - and those very obvious," McGrath said. "People get to marry legally and have all of the legal benefits that come with that, it's a big step. But there's still more to do, and I think of people have lost sight of that."

Drag Queen, Dirty Dorothy, performs at Western's annual Drag Show. This year the drag show raised over \$100 for the Trevor Project.



010 LGBTQ History Month

WHERE CAN YOU STILL BE FIRED FOR BEING LGBT?



STATS TAKEN FROM AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

- NON-DISCRIMINATION LAW COVERS SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY
- NON-DISCRIMINATION LAW COVERS SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- NO LAWS PREVENT TERMINATION FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY

Native Pride Dancers from Haskell Indian Nations University perform and speak at Western

On November 17th, a group of dancers from Haskell Indian Nations University visited Missouri Western to share a part of their heritage. Set up by Western's Center for Multicultural Education, the event was a way to help promote awareness of the cultures of various Native American tribes indigenous to North America. As November is Native American Month, the timing couldn't have been better.

"We contacted a group that wanted to come out here and show us the Native pride dancing," said Bailei Johnson, program assistant for the Center of Multicultural Education. "We were thrilled, and we jumped on top of the opportunity."

After that, the plan fell into place, and the Native Pride Dance event was made a reality. Six dancers from various tribes from across North America, including dancers from Alaska and Louisiana, represented Haskell. The event started with a welcoming dance, which was traditionally performed to let outsiders know that their dance was a social dance and that non-members of the tribe could observe it.

Following the welcome dance, the dancers introduced themselves, talked about their tribes, and then performed a solo dance of their choosing. The performances were as unique as the tribes they originated from, with one performer even mimicking the behavior of a prairie chicken.

After the dancers finished their performances, they began to talk about the hardships and challenges indigenous tribes have faced, as well as the symbolism behind some of the outfits. For instance, beads adorning outfits are often arranged in ways that tell stories or convey other information about the wearer. Feathers are used by some tribes to symbolize a male's warrior status.

And some things, such as seashells, are unique to the tribes that use them.

One of the major things the dancers stressed was the fact that they too are normal college students.

"We as Native American people are just like every other person," Naomi Nevaquaya said. "We do have our traditional ways, but we have to keep up with today's society as well."

As the event wrapped up, the audience was invited to join the performers for a final dance of unity. As many tribes symbolize their cultures and beliefs with dancing, it seemed only fitting to show that they aren't any different from the audience.

"I thought the event was very informative and something I would definitely attend again," Western student Sierra Montee said. "My favorite part was the social dance because it made me feel like I was part of something with the [Native American] culture."

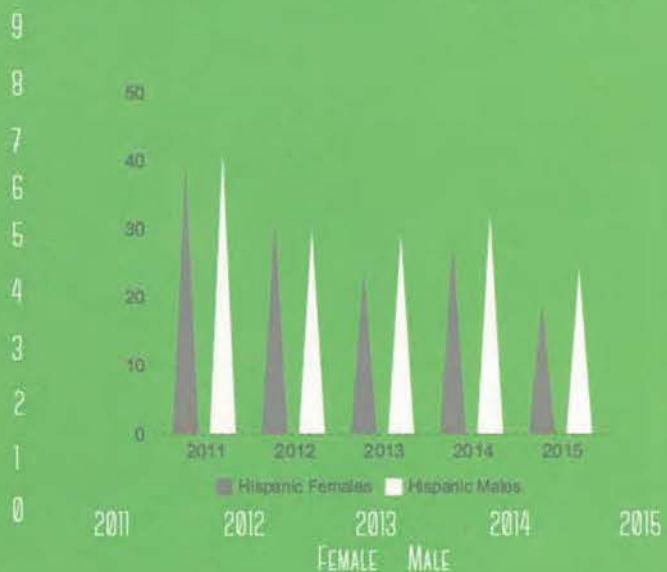
Story: Justin Janorschke
Photo: Brendan Welch
Logo: haskell.edu
Design: Jessika Eidson

Logo for Haskell Indian Nations University



NATIVE AMERICANS AT MISSOURI WESTERN

INFO BASED ON FALL SEMESTERS ONLY



A dancer from Haskell University performs at Western. The dancers talked also took time to talk about the heritage and struggles.



Students take part in several events during Black History Month

Story: Rachel Gough

Photos: Abby Resler

Design and Graphic: Jessika Eidson

At Missouri Western State University, February is Black History Month which means there are a ton of events throughout the month hosted by the Center for Multicultural Education.

The Center for Multicultural Education is run by president LaTonya Williams who is a current student at MWSU.

"It is important to celebrate our history and tell the story of how we got this far.", LaTonya said.

Throughout the month of February, the Center for Multicultural Education hosted the following events: Because We Can Photo Shoot, Comfort Food Wednesday, Blood Drive, Rudy Currence in Concert, Time Wise at UMKC, Black Heritage Ball and Restorative Justice Speaker David Karp.

DeOndre Ross said, "I'm excited to attend the events this month. Black History Month is a time where people can appreciate what the African American culture has to offer and show people how far we have come."

The Because We Can Photo Shoot gave students a chance to be a part of history by dressing up as influential African Americans from the past. The pictures taken during this event were unveiled at the Black Heritage Ball.

Comfort Food Wednesday required students to come by the Center for Multicultural Education office to pick up their free ticket to dine in the cafeteria and eat some of the best comfort foods

while supplies lasted.

Another event held was the Blood Drive. This event was held because Charles Drew was an African-American surgeon who pioneered methods of storing blood plasma for transfusions and organized the first large-scale blood bank in the U.S. The CME wanted to honor Drew's accomplishments within an event.

Rudy Currence in Concert was sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement. This concert invited students to come hear an African-American musician and singer play the piano, keyboard, trumpet and guitar.

Time Wise was an event held at UMKC where students could attend a half-day work shop centered around diversity and inclusion with Time Wise as the key note speaker. He is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and educators in the U.S.

The Black Heritage Ball was sponsored by the Black Student Union and the CME. During this event students got to dress up, eat a delicious dinner that was provided and then dance the night away.

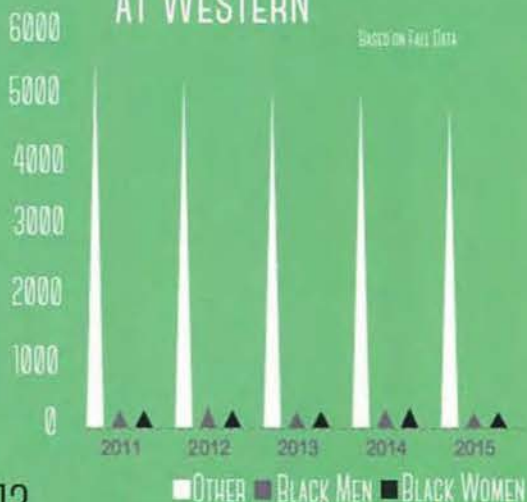
February was a time for all students to come together and celebrate black culture at Western.

Rudy Currence performs during Black History Month. Currence has won both a Grammy and Dove award.



BLACK STUDENTS AT WESTERN

Based on Fall Data



Jordan Alford, performs at the Black Heritage Ball. Several student performed and spoke at the ball.



Women's History Month brings in several speakers and inspires a variety of events

With the beginning of March also marking the beginning of Women's History Month, Missouri Western was once again doing its part to educate the students about the struggles, issues and achievements that women have faced globally.

Kicking off the series of events put on by the various organizations on campus was a speech and discussion by Dr. Franke Wilmer. Wilmer, former representative of the Montana state legislature, came to Western to inform the public of the problems and misconceptions of the patriarchal society that we currently live in.

"We know we are different as men and women, but does that have to become the basis for marginalizing people?" Wilmer said.

Dr. Wilmer's speech, titled "A World of Difference: Living in a Woman's Body," expressed that our current system is not one of equality. Instead of seeing men and women as equals, society has been fooled into treating women differently than men.

Wilmer went on to say how with the current system in place, politically America is flawed, as women's issues are not as well provisioned when it comes to lawmaking. Wilmer did stress that men were not the problem, but rather the inequalities between genders needed to go away in order to have a truly democratic system of government.

Also held by Western was the "Stiletto Stomp", an event designed with the intention to teach women how to defend themselves if they ever came under attack and were unable to get immediate help. Organized by the Center for Multicultural Education, several martial arts instructors from the St. Joseph area were brought in to teach several easy-to-remember tactics for self-defense.

Led by Western student Evana

Women learn how to defend themselves, some while wearing heels. The Stiletto Stomp was just one event of Women's History month that aimed to empower women.



Banks, an instructor from the American Taekwondo Association, the main message to students was that women are not defenseless, and there are ways they can help prevent themselves from becoming the victims of violent crimes.

"Today the number one thing I was trying to drive home was where to hit, because you'll remember that; you'll remember your primal instinct to lash out on those things that you know hurt yourself," Banks said. "An hour can never really prepare you for a situation, but knowing where you are, what's going on around you, keeping your eyes up and not living in fear but being aware that bad things happen to good people."

Students were shown several moves that can be used to throw off chokeholds or make escapes from anyone who would want to harm them. The underlying messages were that women should always maintain situational awareness, and that if they are ever caught in a bad situation that their best option is to flee.

While March's events were focused on women's history, many issues that were highlighted through the various events also pertained to men. One such issue was that of body love and acceptance.

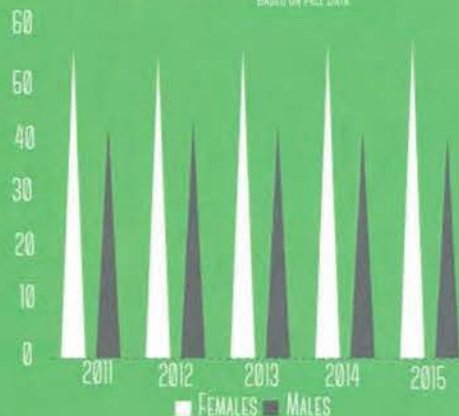
To wrap up Women's History Month, Jes Baker, an author and speaker whose works include activism for body acceptance, wanted her message to be one that conveyed confidence and acceptance for one's physical self.

"There's a lot of issues surrounding a lot of issues to be honest," Baker said. "What we talked about tonight is the connection of worth and health. We visually diagnose someone as unhealthy based on their body, and we treat them as less than human. We end up causing a lot of bigotry, a lot of hatred, a lot of really unnecessary social ills because we let people feel entitled to judge others based on their body."

Though March was Women's History Month, the underlying message was to learn from past mistakes and successes in order to forge a better future for men and women equally.

MALE TO FEMALE STUDENTS AT WESTERN

BASED ON FALL DATA



Story: Justin Janorschke
 Photos: Rachael Bergeron
 Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidsen

THE NEXT STEP TO EQUALITY

Students have the chance to experience the oppression of others

Students place checkmarks on privileges they possess. The Wall of Privilege was used to help students acknowledge privileges that may be more acceptable to them.

The tunnel of oppression gave students an eye-opening experience of going through contemporary issues of oppression. The tunnel of oppression, hosted by the Center for Multicultural Education and the Division of Student Affairs, is held every two years. Awareness about LGBT bullying, abusive relationships, child abuse and learning disorders were a few of the topics mentioned throughout the tunnel. Coordinator Latoya Fitzpatrick stated how pulling this event together did not happen over night.

"We worked all summer looking up all of the facts," Fitzpatrick said. "During the fall semester, we got the word out about needing actors and tour guides. It really started during the summer and the spring of last semester because we actually started looking up facts that we were going to write out for the summer."

The event had multiple skits performed by students. Many of the acts involved crowd interaction that allowed students to experience different forms of oppression first hand. Each skit was based on the oppression that was focused on during that section of the tunnel.

"Actors and actresses were chosen by whoever wanted to sign up," Fitzpatrick said. "We had rehearsals just to help them come out of their shell if they were not comfortable, and we also worked with the theatre department. [A] majority of them were volunteers."

The tunnel contained many different facts that students could read. The facts were gathered during the summer to ensure accuracy. They were posted on the walls of the tunnel as well as on the floor for students to read with the help of a flashlight they were given before entering the tunnel.

Students were able to volunteer for the tunnel of oppression by serving as a guide during the tunnel. It gave

students not only an opportunity to help, but a great learning experience as well. Senior Krystal Hicok assisted as one of the guides during the tunnel of oppression.

"I saw the email that went out looking for help," Hicok said. "I had a lot of free time in the mornings so I decided to do it. I hope students take away knowing that oppression is a problem and by knowing their own privilege."

The tunnel provided students with something they all could learn from. Some of the forms of oppression were familiar to students, and there were other examples of oppression that some students may not have known about. It was something that everyone could learn from. Student and CME program assistant Bailei Johnson helped put together the facts for the tunnel and expressed what students could learn from this.

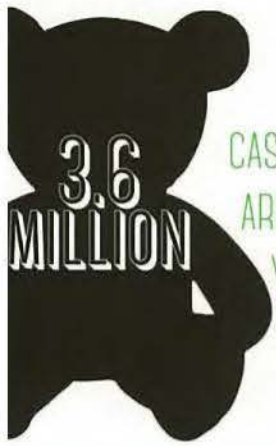
"I feel like students could learn to be more sensitive toward certain subjects," Johnson said. "I think this walks you through and step into someone else's life. It really makes you think."

Many students were able to have an eye-opening experience and recognize the privileges that they each have. The tunnel of oppression was a neat way to get students to think about different forms of oppression, how they have been oppressed and how they can work toward changing it.

Story & Photos: Jasmine Taylor
Design: Jessika Eidson
Stats: MWSU Center for Multicultural Ed

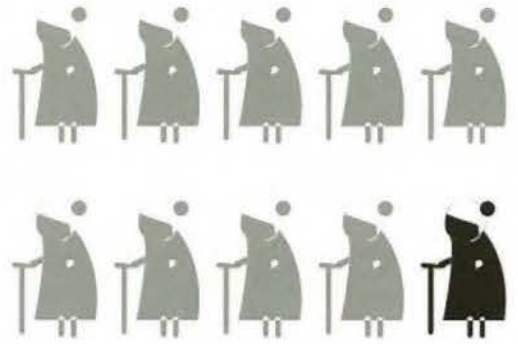
PEAK OUT AGAINST OPPRESSION

EACH YEAR, PEOPLE IN THE U.S. FACE OPPRESSION & DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUALITY, GENDER, RACE & A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS. THE TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION WAS CREATED TO EDUCATE MISSOURI WESTERN STUDENTS ABOUT THE OPPRESSION OTHERS FACE EVERY DAY. THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE STATISTICS ON DISPLAY IN THE TUNNEL.

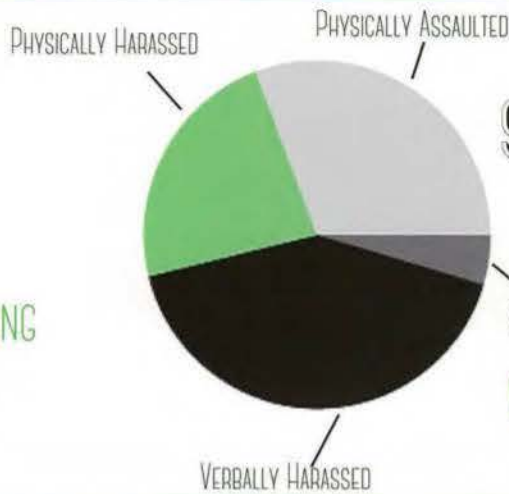


CASES OF CHILD ABUSE ARE REPORTED EVERY YEAR IN THE U.S.

AN ESTIMATED **1 IN 10** OLDER ADULTS WILL EXPERIENCE ABUSE, WITH **2 IN 3** ABUSERS BEING CHILDREN OR SPOUSES



75 PERCENT OF SCHOOL-SHOOTING INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN LINKED TO HARASSMENT OR BULLYING



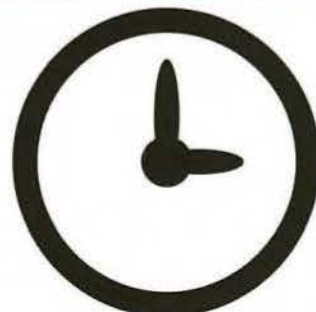
9 IN 10 LGBT YOUTH WERE VERBALLY HARASSED, **1/2** WERE PHYSICALLY HARASSED & **2/3** WERE PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED



FOR EVERY \$1 A WHITE MALE EARNS, A HISPANIC WOMEN EARN **56 CENTS**



4 IN 5 WOMEN WILL BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIMES



SOMEONE IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN THE U.S. EVERY **2 MINUTES**

THE NEXT PREVENTION

Missouri Western launches effective campaign to end sexual violence and misconduct

IT'S ON

US

At Missouri Western it's on us to raise awareness to stop sexual assault, violence and misconduct on campus. This is the idea Student Governor, Lionel Attawia, had for fall of 2014 when he started enforcing the nation wide campaign "It's On Us" on Missouri Western's campus.

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden launched the nationwide campaign in 2014. It focuses on raising awareness to help put an end to sexual assault on college campuses and asks everyone across America to make a personal commitment to step out of the dark and start making a solution to stop sexual assault.

In the fall of 2014, Senator Claire McCaskill came to speak to Missouri Western students with the initiative to stop sexual assault on college campuses. Her message spoke to Attawia, because later that semester, with the help of SGA and the Vice President of Student Affairs, Shana Meyer, he started putting together the "It's On Us" campaign to be established throughout the Missouri Western campus.

"I got a call from The White House, it was a major conference call with Joe Biden," Attawia said. "He was saying that it was a big deal, and he was looking forward to seeing college campuses across the nation get onboard with it, and that's when I thought that we had to do something."

To get the word out about the campaign, Attawia teamed up with students Jeni Swope, Katelyn Canon and Brent Rosenauer to make a PSA involving a diverse group of people from every aspect on campus that wanted to support the campaign. The PSA

it was
National
Media Awards

was
popul
submitte
Pinnacle
where it won first pl
Best PSA/Promo. Swope went this past fall to the N
College Media Convention in Austin, Texas, to receive the
for her video.

"For my Advanced Video Journalism class we had to make a PSA or a promo," Swope said. "Katelyn was already pro the 'It's On Us' campaign, so I contacted her and started working with her and Attawia on it."
Along with using the PSA to get the word out, Attawia started a pledge drive in the fall of 2015 in the Blum Union court. Students could sign their name and email and she would send out an email to them to do the pledge on the time. In order to make the pledge drive more fun and creative, students could also paint one of their fingernails to show they support the campaign.

"I got a lot of good reactions and everyone seemed excited and on board with the campaign; there was a sense of pride that some students really care," Attawia said. "The focus was spreading from just focus on equality and scholarship to athletes, to there being more of a talk on sexual assault preventing things on campus is when it became a really fun and more exciting to students, staff and administrators."

1 in 10 sexual
assaults are
not reported
to law
enforcement

1 in 10 rape
and sexual
assault victims
are male

Every 2
minutes
someone in
the U.S.
is sexually
assaulted

1 in 33
American men
are sexually
assaulted in
their lifetime.

About 8 in 10
female college
students experience
sexual harassment
from their peers

1 in 6 women will
be victims of
sexual assault

9 in 10
offenders
were known
by their
victims

The campaign also goes along with the Title IX program that Meyer works with on campus to help provide students with a safe college campus. Meyer also started a poster campaign that involved posters that were put up around campus with altered lyrics to popular songs that went along with the campaign that students could relate to.

"This campaign is now a federal requirement, being mandated by the government to do something that creates action," Meyer said. "However, it seems to be something that the students have jumped on to the bandwagon and they want people to know that this is a safe campus and want to help be apart of that."

The campaign has been successful across the country, and now with Attawia taking action, it's been successful at Missouri Western and has given students a voice and chance to help keep the campus and community safe from sexual assault, violence and misconduct.

Male college students
are 78 percent more
likely to be victims of
rape and sexual assault



President Vartabedian cuts the ceremonial ribbon. This marked the official opening of Western's Campus Cupboard.

Non-perishable food items line the shelves of the Campus Cupboard. The items were donated by various people and organizations.



THE NEXT STUDENT AID

Campus Cupboard provides aid to students in need

On September 24, 2015, the Missouri Western Campus Cupboard was officially opened to aid students in need. Rotaract Club members, President Vartabedian, Executive Director of Second Harvest Chad Higdon and other members of the Western community attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following a few short speeches and the singing of the Alma Mater, the Campus Cupboard opened for the students of Western.

After the ceremony, attendees were encouraged to take a look inside the Cupboard, located in Blum 214. Shelves lined the walls, stocked with non-perishables and other items such as diapers and toiletries. The Cupboard was able to aid students through the help of the community and university.

"We had a lot of help from Second Harvest and Greek life, just getting stuff," President of the Rotaract Club Mashel Keplinger said. "Then we had our own food drive, and we've had a bunch of help from the rest of Rotaract."

The Campus Cupboard certainly would not have been possible if it were not for the Griffon community. The idea was initially purposed during the 2015 spring semester. The Rotaract Club, a student organization dedicated to giving back to the Western community, felt that it was an important issue for the campus. After a long summer of planning, securing the location on campus and acquiring a stockpile, the Rotaract Club made this dream a reality.

"I definitely got into this for people," said Dr. Elise Hepworth, faculty advisor for the Rotaract Club. "It's a wonderful thought to have a positive impact on another human being's life."

Hepworth said that the Cupboard had already helped around 30 students since the unofficial opening at the beginning of the school year, and she expected many more to make use of the Cupboard's resources. The Cupboard was opened to all students with valid Missouri Western IDs and would allow them to collect up to two grocery bags each visit, with a maximum of two visits allowed per month.

"Too often we don't talk about the extreme financial needs our students live with," said Dr. Shana Meyer, vice president for Student Affairs. "Students have gone without insurance or they have not had the food they need to remain healthy at college. The Campus Cupboard is a way we can give back to each other and help students meet some of their basic needs without having to feel embarrassed."

The Cupboard was expected to serve many more students once word of their grand opening reached the ears of those in need. They made sure to convey that students would have confidentiality when accepting their aid, and that there would be no shame in accepting help when in need.

"Don't be embarrassed; everyone needs help in their life," Hepworth said. "Don't be afraid of judgement. No one will judge; no one will criticize or think less of you. We are all in this world - in this giant mess we call life - together."

*Story & Photos: Justin Janorschke
Design: Jessika Eidson*

THE NEXT GLOBAL MIXER

International students exhibit their native countries at the International Fair.

Top Left: Mariatal Dianah Hidzir addresses the crowd at the International Fair. Hidzir has been a Western student since 2015.

Center: Van Tran exhibits native Vietnamese dancing.



This year Western celebrated its fourth annual International Fair. Western is a home from home for students from different countries, and the fair gives students and guests a chance to meet international students and learn about their cultures and customs.

There were 28 countries that were represented at the fair. Students played traditional music, and showed slideshows, pamphlets, posters, traditional clothing and food from their homelands to give students a chance to experience their countries.

Before the event kicked off, a moment of silence was given to recognize the attack in Bali and other tragedies that had occurred around the world. The fair then went into full swing. Students and guests were given passports before entering and received stickers from each country they visited to represent where they traveled.

Director of International Recruitment and Student Services, Ann Rahmat, was pleased with how the event turned out. This was Rahmat's first year attending the fair.

"I think it's a fun way of getting everyone together," Rahmat said. "It's about getting to know people, enjoying the food and just having a big party."

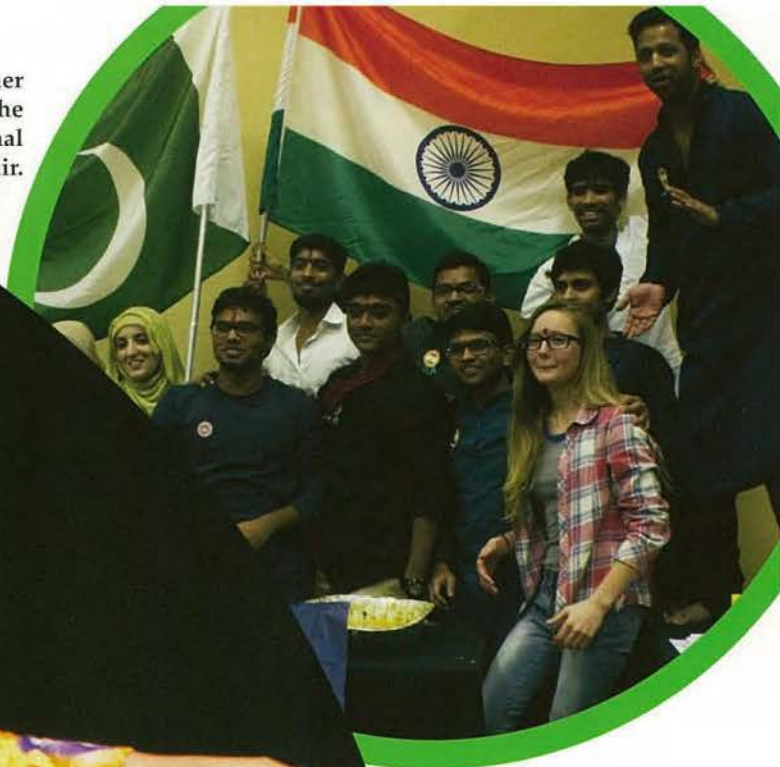
There were many performances throughout the fair and a fashion show presenting traditional clothing from multiple countries. Korean students entertained guests by playing the Mission Impossible theme song and a traditional Korean song on the cello. Other performances, such as a traditional Vietnamese dance, a German poem and a traditional Mexican song, were performed during the fair.

The preparation for the fair began in September. Assistant director John Cheever, along with the help of the international students, planned the event. With a lot of dedication and support, Cheever and the international students were able to succeed in each case each country success. This is Cheever's first time at Western. Cheever was pleased with how the students worked together to make the fair a success.

Bottom Left: Deir Montiel Dominguez sings to a packed house at the International Fair.



Right: Indian students gather for a photo at the International Fair.



"The most enjoyable part was to see the students take initiative," Cheever said. "At first, when I asked them, they kind of hesitated, but if you put them in charge of something they are very good, and they like to do it, and they just exceeded those expectations."

Many students and visitors were able to talk to the international students and learn more about their customs and traditions. The night ended with the international students coming together for a photo. Cheever hopes that guests learned more about each country that was represented and hopes to continue doing the fair for the upcoming years.

"This year I had great support and great help from students," Cheever said. "They put the bar very high so I don't know what next year will look like, but I am super open and, hopefully, next year we can move to the weekend so more community people can come, and students can put a little bit more time into it."

The fair was a great way for students to learn about other countries outside of the classroom. With a great turnout for the fair, Western can expect more events for students to get know international students better.

Story: Jasmine Taylor
Photos: Jessika Eidson
Design: Bryant Scott

THE NEXT CAMPUS

Missouri Western makes improvements
take the campus to the next 100 years

This year is a special one for Missouri Western as it is celebrating its centennial, 100 years of dedicated teaching to willing and hopeful students. As if 100 years isn't exciting enough, there are now a few renovations in the works that are bound to turn some heads. Spratt Stadium, Potter Hall and the Victory Plaza will certainly be seeing some much needed upkeep.

"The main renovation everyone has seen lots of progress on is Spratt Memorial Stadium," Jerry Pickman, vice president for university advancement said.

"Because it is a revenue-producing facility, we were able to bond and get the money to build it without having private funds to do it, so that's how we're paying off the stadium," Kim Weddle, director of development said. The stadium is one thing that just couldn't wait.

"At one time, Missouri Western had the best stadium in the conference," Pickman said. "Yet, now, for the past few years, others have grown and

renovated, and ours was getting pretty dilapidated."

After realizing that and talking to the planners, a design for a stadium was underway. A particular renovation major for a variety of reasons, the most talked about being the design for a video scoreboard proposed by benefactor Steven Craig,

"It will be the largest in our conference, the largest NCAA Division II football stadium larger than a lot of Division I scoreboards and videoboard," Pickman said.

According to Weddle, the scoreboard will be seven stories tall. Director of Athletics McGuffin believes that the sound system and graphics provided by the videoboard will give students and fans a new experience overall.

"I think there will be other ways we can get creative and use the videoboard, whether it be commencement or a night on the turf for College Edge," McGuffin said.

Right: Dr. Vartabedian poses in front of the new griffon statue "The Next 100 Years...". The statue was installed on Oct. 12, 2015.

Above: The new football turf for the Spratt Stadium remodel. The University began the Spratt remodel in May of 2015.

Right: "The next 100 years" installation is installed and cleaned. The statue was installed on Oct. 12, 2015.

Spratt Stadium concessions get
d.

The 2015-2016 yearbook staff
s a yearbook to the time capsule.

The clock tower received gold
to celebrate 100 years.

Students sign the yearbook for the
psule.

The greatest thing about the videoboard
that everybody gets to experience it. Next year,
students should be able to experience it up close and
personal. That shouldn't be a problem, seeing as how the
d was moved in 30 feet.

By getting rid of the old concourse, press boxes
stadium club area and completely rebuilding it, the
re aspect is going to be much larger than before. Suites
skyboxes were added, which will provide a great source
revenue for the athletics department if individuals or
porate groups decide they want to lease out any of the 12
es. The stadium overall will be a lot more user friendly
e to the renovations to bathrooms and concession stands.
think very rarely do you get to renovate a whole stadium
we did and where you can really touch everybody that
ers with some type of experience factor," McGuffin said.
hen it's completed this spring, I think people are going
see that, no matter where you sit or where you go in
re, it's going to be a whole new experience and that's the
aiting thing about it."

The capital campaign is intended to pay for the
ovations of Potter Hall as soon as the money is raised.
the centennial capital campaign that was launched in
5, an initial goal of \$20 million was set. The university
lose to meeting that goal. There are still four more years
aining in the campaign to raise the money needed for
ious things on campus, but for right now, the priority is
ter Hall.

There's fundraising going on for a \$5 million
novation that will hopefully address some of the
mediate needs in the facility, like new bathrooms, etc.
few renovations have already been done to Potter through
use of reserves," Weddle said. "We were able to add the
le drive, a percussion space and new restrooms."
wever, there is still so much that is yet to be done.

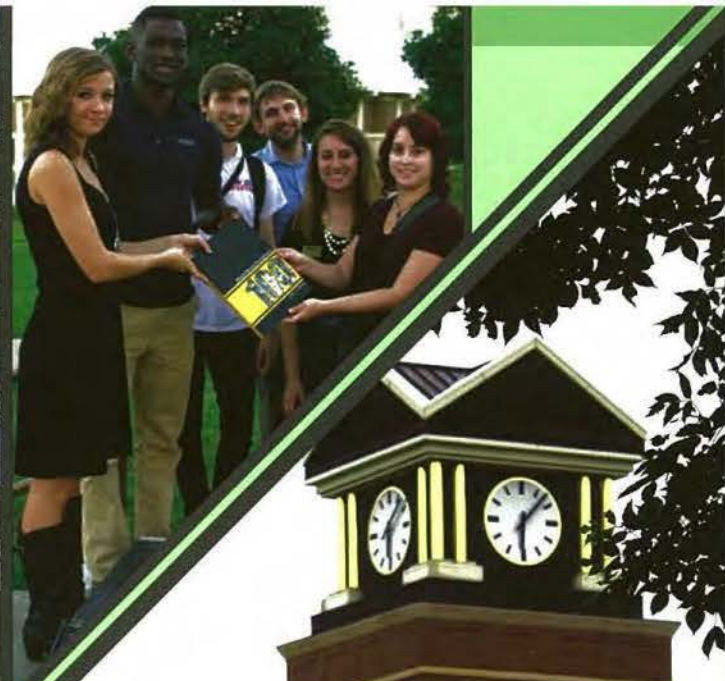
"Our ultimate hope is that we can add an 800 seat
e and performing arts center and gallery space to the tune
round \$10 million," Pickman said.

resident Vartabedian believes that plans to renovate and
w Potter Hall will "continue to highlight the spectacular
rk of our students in the School of Fine Arts."

It but not least, there is the Victory Plaza, which will be
ated between the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex and the
y Spratt Stadium.

The primary purpose for the Victory Plaza is so

y: Heather Groenke
ros: Justin Janorschke & Bryant Scott
gn: Joni Thomas



everyone
has the
c h a n c e
to show their
support for the
project and recognize
certain players or former
coaches.

"It's a great way to usher in
the new facility," said Pickman.

The Victory Plaza is a brick
program, which means people can
purchase bricks and put whatever they
want on them, like 'Go Griff's', their name
or graduation date.

There is also a symbolic victory tree
located behind Baker Fitness Center where, after
each victory, the team goes to close out the game.
The origin of the victory tree is that, after every home
football victory, teammates, coaches, students and fans
gather at the victory tree to hear a post-game speech from the
coach followed by the fight song. This has been a tradition
since 1994, when Stan McCarvey started it.

In the middle of the Victory Plaza, they want to
have a tree, but it may be a statue instead. At the moment, it
is undecided. Hopefully, construction for the Victory Plaza
can begin in March and be completed before commencement
this year.

"Missouri Western has grown tremendously in the
first 100 years of the institution," Vartabedian said. "As we
look to the next 100 years, we must continue to grow and
renovate to improve our campus for future generations of
students, faculty and staff."



THE NEXT SNAPSTORY

Alex Atkinson creates Missouri Western's first Snapchat Geofilter

A growing trend across college campuses is the use of social media. Missouri Western has many different social media accounts in use. From main university Facebook and Twitter pages, to the pages dedicated to specific sports. Keeping up with the trend, Missouri Western has now incorporated a geofilter on Snapchat.

Geofilters are filters that can be added to a picture on Snapchat that can only be accessed at a specific location. These filters are a way Snapchat users can share their location with their followers in a unique and creative way.

Alex Atkinson, a student worker for the Office of Admissions, was beginning to plan Griffon Edge, a three-day orientation for incoming freshmen, when he learned that many other universities used geofilters on Snapchat to help students interact with each other. Wanting to give incoming freshmen this same opportunity, he took it upon himself to begin the process of creating a geofilter for campus.

Creating this geofilter was no simple task. With the help of the Campus Printing and Design office, Atkinson was able to design and submit a geofilter for Missouri Western to Snapchat.

"When you submit your geofilter to Snapchat, they don't accept or reject your application directly," Atkinson said. "Awhile after we submitted, we received an automated message that told us our geofilter was rejected, but for some reason, they didn't tell us why we were rejected. It took a few weeks of trying to finally submit a filter that was accepted."

After many hours in the design room, Missouri Western finally had a geofilter on Snapchat.

Adding a geofilter for Missouri Western was more than just something to keep the university up-to-

date with popular social media trends. It allows anyone on campus to share their location with their followers in a new and exciting way, with this geofilter, anyone can share their experience on social media, and show others they had this experience at Missouri Western.

This geofilter has been more than just a fun way to share experiences at Missouri Western, it has become a tool used to help recruit new students.

"Let's say a student comes to Missouri Western for a tour," Atkinson said. "They post the geofilter on their Snapchat story. Then their friends from high school see the story and the filter, which in turn will give them a sneak peek into life at Missouri Western."

Unfortunately, there is no way to quantify whether or not this geofilter has brought new students to campus; however, most students are pleased with the geofilter option.

"I love it," said Drew Crist, a sophomore at Missouri Western. "Now anytime I use Snapchat, I can show my friends I'm on campus. I've actually found out my friends were on campus because of their using the filter, and it's made me seek them out so we can chill, so I really like it."

Next time you send a Snap while on campus, check out and add the Missouri Western geofilter.



Story: Justin Janorschke
Photos: Rachael Bergeron
Design: Bryant Scott



MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Alex Atkinson birthed the idea of the Snapchat Geofilter to make Griffon Edge more interactive. Alex was a Griffon Edge Leader for one year and Student Director for three years.

THE NEXT COFFEE SHOP

Canvas editors offer free coffee on student elevator rides accompanied by poetry reading



Story: Destinee Manning & Jessika E
Photos: Destinee Manning
Design & Illustration: Bryant Scott

The Tiniest Coffee Shop was created in 2014. The Tiniest Coffee Shop is a way to get the public aware of the Missouri Western literary and arts journal, Canvas. The Tiniest Coffee Shop located in Murphy Hall's first floor elevator. Students handed out Dunkin' Donut's coffee to people who rode the elevator and read excerpts from Canvas. The idea to create The Tiniest Coffee Shop came from Marianne Kunkel, the Canvas Advisor.

"It was my idea that I borrowed from a friend when I was a student at the University of Nebraska," Kunkel said. "I was a PHD student there and we kind of adapted it for our purposes, but it was my idea to do it,"

"We do three outreach weeks a semester, and the first one is The Tiniest Coffee Shop." Crystal Crawford said. "We just hang out in the elevator, read poetry and offer students some free coffee so that we can raise awareness that we exist and we want peoples' submissions."

There are about ten Canvas students who took turns and stood outside the elevator for three days out of the week.

"I wanted be the editor of Canvas because I was in the creative writing class a couple years ago and some of my work got put into the Canvas. Once I got published, it really meant a lot to me, and I wanted to be more involved in Canvas and also because I am a creative writing major and part of my major is to be the editor of Canvas," Editor in Chef, Chris Pankiewicz said.

Canvas is released



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This homecoming marked a special for Missouri Western because this marked Western's 100th anniversary. To recognize the centennial year, homecoming co-chairpersons Tony Dougherty and Jessica Hazelhort had a lot planned to make the "Century Long Griffon Strong" homecoming a time to remember. To make sure it was a success, Dougherty and Hazelhort spent months in preparation.

"We did a lot of planning right when we got the chair," Hazelhort said. "It's the centennial year, so we went over what we really wanted to change, what we wanted to make bigger, what we wanted to get rid of and we created our dream homecoming in our head and started applying it to paper."

Planning for a homecoming event can take up a lot of time, Dougherty and Hazelhort had to make sure there were enough activities to appeal to students, get organizations involved and to make the student body pleased with the event.

"We've been working at this all summer break," Dougherty said. "We were both registration leaders so we'd do a lot of registration and work on stuff. A lot of time just because you don't want to miss anything. We get super competitive at homecoming."

With celebrating 100 years at Missouri Western, Tony Dougherty and Jessica Hazelhort

planned to make this year's homecoming stand out from previous years. "Even before we got elected this is what we were kind of thinking," Hazelhort said. "We wanted to make sure that with us running together. We wanted to make sure that we had the same goal in mind to make it the best homecoming, not just because it's centennial year. We also wanted to make sure we had people in their positions because we wanted to have a committee that could do their job and exceed at it."

The week was filled with activities to get students more involved. The bonfire kicked off the week's festivities. Dougherty and Hazelhort decided to shake things up and put a nice twist on the traditional bonfire by giving away prizes and having a firework show.

"We wanted to go big," Dougherty said. "So for the the bonfire we got fireworks so we're really excited about those. There will be food and stuff there; there will be a DJ, so it should be a lot of fun."

The night of the bonfire began with a few organizations, sororities and fraternities setting up tents and snapping pictures. As time got closer to the start of the event, the DJ got the music going and the grill was fired up. Students enjoyed eating and socializing before the dance party and the prize giveaway. The night successfully ended with a bonfire and fireworks that students watched from the football field.

Other activities, such as the "Scooby Doo Where Are You Hunt," "Lip Sync Battle,"

Blood Drive and Griff-elodeon, went on throughout the week. The week ended with the pep rally and dance competition.

The pep rally brought cheers, laughs and many party horns. The cheerleaders performed a routine, showcasing the evolution of cheer uniforms that were used throughout the years at Western. A dance competition between the fraternities and sororities showed off many of the members dancing and acrobatic skills. After the fun, Dougherty and Hazelhort got down to business and introduced the 2015 homecoming court. Each fraternity and sorority elected a court member. After moments of anticipation, Connor Samenus and Ljubica Basic were crowned as the 2015-2016 Homecoming king and queen.

Saturday started with the homecoming parade and the football game began at 2pm. "Students can expect a good time and something that you'll remember," Hazelhort said. "Centennial year you'd think you'd remember it, but I think it'll be one that you can't forget, one that will be around for awhile."

With months of planning, decision-making, and meeting deadlines, Dougherty and Hazelhort seemed to pull off a fun week that really got students involved. The homecoming celebration was a week Western students will want to remember.



THE NEXT GRIFF-ELODEO

Students enjoy a scavenger-hunt-style challenge themed "Scooby Doo, Where are You?"

This year marked an important milestone for Missouri Western: 100 years of Griffon pride. This meant that the Western Homecoming Committee had to pull out all the stops. For Co-Chair of the Homecoming Committee Jessica Hazelhorst, one of the ways the committee could make this year special was by introducing new events.

"Griff-elodeon is kind of like 'Double Dare' from the 90's Nickelodeon," Hazelhorst said. "They have to answer a trivia question, and then they get to compete in a physical challenge."

The competing teams, made of two contestants each, were split into two brackets. When it was their turn, the competitors were given a question. The first person who made it to an "x" taped on the floor in front of each of the teams' tables was chosen to answer the question, all of which were based around 90's era cartoon trivia. Correctly answering a question allowed the player to select two students from opposing teams to compete in the physical challenge. However, answering incorrectly resulted in automatically being selected for the challenge along with another competitor. The player who lost the physical challenge was eliminated from the event and subsequently had slime dumped on them, reminiscent of "Double Dare." The game ended when there was only one team left standing.

For the first ever Griff-elodeon, the winning team consisted of Weston Pool and Eli Dodge, representing Phi Delta Theta.

Besides the newly introduced event, the Western Homecoming Committee brought back some of its past events that have proven to be popular among students. One such event was Western's spin on the show "The Amazing Race" called "Scooby Doo, Where are You?,"

The event consisted of several five person teams finding clues and using the information gained from them to find more clues. Similar to the hit show sending teams all over the world, competitors were sent across campus to find 5 hints, nicknamed "Scooby Snacks." After obtaining all five Scooby Snacks, the teams were tasked with tracking down Max the Griffon. The first team to find him won the event.

Students enjoyed the scavenger hunt style challenge posed by "Scooby Doo, Where are You?" It brought out the competitive nature many Griffons possess, and allowed group members to work together to help gain points towards the overall Homecoming awards.

For Martha Miller, Member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority one of the better mini-games was a team challenge that required four team members to talk their fifth member, who was blindfolded, through a jigsaw puzzle order to get the next clue.

"I didn't know what to expect, but I had a really great time," Miller said. "My favorite [part of the event] was doing the puzzle."

Another popular event was the "Lip Sync Battle" which took place in the food court. For this competition, participating teams were assigned a year and a theme. They then had to choose a song that fit the criteria and perform a lip sync impersonation of the song. Teams were encouraged to dress according to the themes.

One of the more popular performances was SAAC's rendition of "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley. Another fan favorite was Phi Delta Theta's performance of the hit song "Whistle" by Flo-Rida. For their theme of Disney the guys dressed up with Mickey Mouse masks. The crowd went wild for the performers, who decided that mingling with the crowd instead of staying stage-side was a great way to go in the favor of the judges.

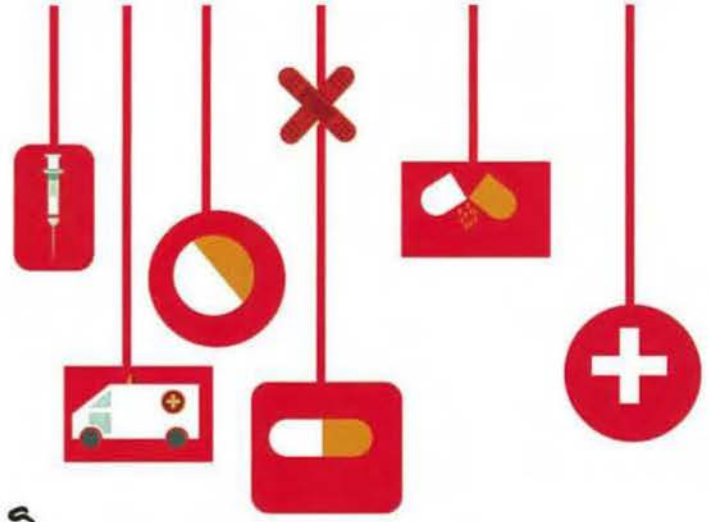
"It was actually a lot of fun," Jalen Redmond, member of Phi Delta Theta, said. "We were kind of nervous at first, but as soon as we got our moves down and everything we just went out there and had fun. Everybody was cheering for us."

There was certainly something for everyone who attended. Following the battle, students were invited to hang out and enjoy some karaoke, have photos taken with props, and make their own custom Pixie Powder Candy Sticks. These were especially popular among the student body.

Regardless of who won this year's Homecoming competition, the students of Western can all agree on one thing: Homecoming 2015 was the celebration of the century.



THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE



The blood drive is a tradition at Missouri Western during homecoming week.

Every year we have a blood drive here at Western and we compete with Northwest to see who can bring in the most blood donations. The School also has the blood drive to bring in more community involvement. All of the organizations on campus people come and donate.

Senior Jessica Hazelhorse worked with the homecoming committee during the blood drive.

Homecoming is always a big tradition here at Western, so being able to be a part of that is a big thing to me just because I really love homecoming, and actually being like behind the scenes and putting it together is kind of something," Hazelhorse

Linna Gray is a junior here at Western, "I have been donating blood since I was in high school," Gray said. "It's scary at first when the needle is in, it's fine and it doesn't really hurt much. I donate blood because I know that the community blood bank here in town needs blood all the time," Gray said. "I also

donate to help us beat northwest in donations and to help my organization Alfa Gamma Delta".

Beverly Longcor is a nurse who has been working at the community blood bank for 10 years, "The first time I stuck someone I just knew that that was my neck and that's what I wanted to do," Longcor said. "I love my job because you get to meet new people all the time, every place you go you meet somebody new. We are out about six to seven days a week, Monday through Friday, sometimes even Saturday and Sunday, getting blood. We go anywhere in the northwest area even Kansas City".

If you are interested in donating, the community blood bank is always in need of healthy blood. They only take 1 pint of blood and the average adult has about 10 pints of blood in his/ her body. Blood donation is a simple four-step process and it is a safe process that can potentially help to save a person's life.

BLOOD DRIVE
0 1 5
IN NUMBERS

35
DONORS

POTENTIAL
LIVES
SAVED

4 5 6

MOST POPULAR
BLOOD TYPES
IN MWSU

O+
B+
A+

152
UNITS

Homecoming Blood Drive 031

THE NEXT BIG SHOW

Country Duo Maddie and Tae bring the energy to Missouri Western students

M

Missouri Western's Spring Concert was one to remember, especially for country music fans. After a poll was taken by the Western Activity Council, it was decided to bring in two popular groups in the country music scene: Maddie and Tae, with Brothers Osborne as openers.

Gabe Thomas, Western freshman and a member of WAC, explains what it was like for him to help bring such popular musicians to Saint Joseph.

"I just thought I was really lucky," Thomas said. "Mostly I was just really excited because I was always pretty involved in high school and I always enjoyed doing all those events, so being able to come here to college and do the same thing on a way larger scale was super exciting."

But before Brothers Osborne and Maddie and Tae entered the stage, Western's own students performed for the crowd. Garrett Shuck, Drew Miller and Will Bryant, known onstage as 9 Miles to Nowhere, were able to tell us what they thought of being able to perform alongside such popular artists.

"A year ago we were joking around saying that we might get to open for the Spring Concert, just kidding, because we had just started this band a year ago," said Miller. "Then the opportunity came up, we submitted for it and ended up getting it. It was kind of a shock at first, we didn't expect to get it, and when we did it just felt great."

Following 9 Miles to Nowhere's performance, Brothers Osborne entered the stage to cheering crowds of students and residents of the Saint Joseph community. The brothers, John and T.J., first decided to do music as kids. Their decision wasn't a hard one, as their parents had written and played songs of their own while

raising the two of them. Besides finding inspiration in their parents, the Brothers found inspiration in the music of many famous musicians.

"We grew up listening to a lot of the greats," said T.J. "Merle Haggard ... Bruce Springsteen, just really all the map. Anyone that was a really good sit songwriter. As long as it was an artist that v good songs and performed them, we loved

As they did not discriminate between genres, their sound has reflected that melting of differing musical inspirations.

Maddie and Tae, who rounded out the of the concert, brought an energetic and upli perspective to the lineup. Singing some of more well-known songs like "Girl in a Cot Song," and covering other famous artists' w such as Justin Timberlake's "Mirrors," the brought the last little touch the concert need please all listeners.

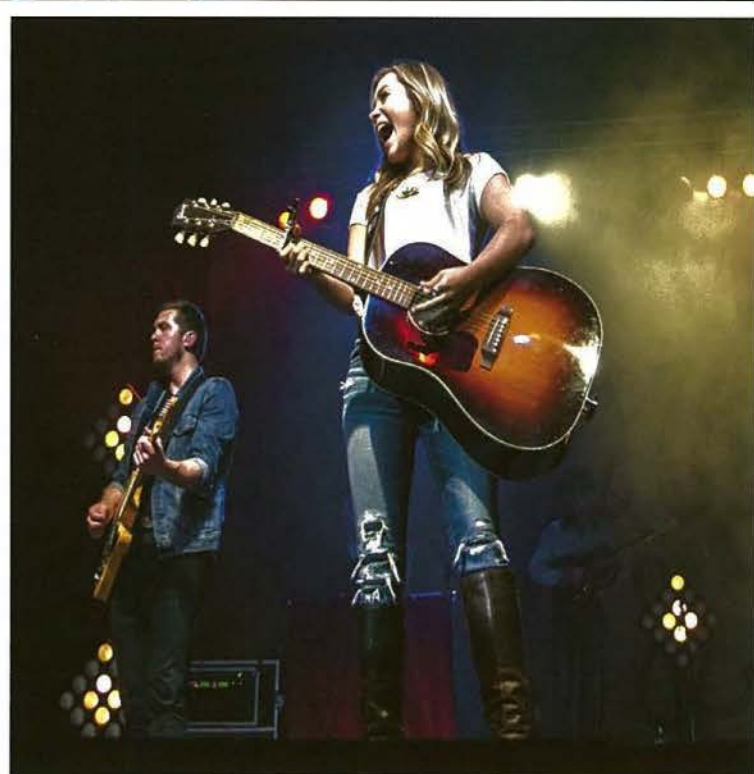
Similar to Brothers Osborne's mu style, the Spring Concert featured a huge sele of sounds. From the southern rock-esque s of 9 Miles to Nowhere, to the smorgas brought by Brothers Osborne and finally Ma and Tae's lighter, energetic performance, We students were treated to a variety of great s that entertained all.

*Story: Justin Janorschke
Photos: Rachael Bergeron
Design: Tommy Marshall*



Top Left: Maddie and Tae performing at the 2016 spring concert. Their debut album "Mud on the Tires" was released in August 2015.

Bottom Left: The Brothers Osborne opening the concert. The country duo originated from Deale, Maryland.



Bottom Right: Maddie and one of their backing guitarists rocking out. Maddie and Tae formed in 2014.

Phi Delta Theta Sweetheart Pageant

Story : Destinee Manning
Photos: Twitter.com, Facebook.com
Design: Rachael Bergeron

Phi Delta Theta hosted its Second Annual Sweetheart Pageant.

The sweetheart pageant has been around for two years now. There were five people who competed in the competition, they had to compete in three different categories which were, trivia, talent, and questions.

Connor Samenus, senior and President of phi delta theta "The purpose of the Sweetheart Pageant is threefold: raise donations for a cure to ALS, increase awareness of the horrible disease, and crown a Sweetheart of Phi Delta Theta".

Sophomore and member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Amy Insko was the winner of the sweetheart pageant this year.

"I think the thing that made me want to compete in the pageant the most was the idea of Greek unity," Insko said. The pageant provides an opportunity to be a part of a great group of guys working to better the university and the community. I also loved competing with girls from the other sororities. It was a great bonding experience for friends I have already made through Greek life and a great opportunity to get to know girls that I hadn't yet met. I think anytime someone decides to showcase themselves in front of an audience there is always that feeling of not wanting to make a fool out of yourself. The minutes leading up to the pageant had my heart pounding but once I looked out to my sisters I felt better because I know they have my back no matter what".

For the talent portion of the competition Insko did

impressions of scenes from different movies.

"If anyone knows me then they know I'm obsessed with quoting lines from my favorite movies. I think just wanted to go up there and do something that really reflected who I am- and that's trying to make people laugh".

"I felt excited. I was extremely honored that the men of Phi Delta Theta thought of me as a worthy representation for their brotherhood," Insko said.

Alec Guy who was a judge for the Sweetheart pageant.

"As far as choosing a winner, we based it off of how the contestants answered their trivia questions, the personality on stage and their talent and how much work went into their performances and how well they were rehearsed." Guy said. "For the formal wear we based it off of how nice their dress was and easy it was for them to answer the interview question, and also the amount of money that they raised"

Alpha Gamma Delta Teeter-Totter-a-Thon

Alpha Gamma Delta has been dedicated to philanthropic events for many years. Current AGD members are happy to serve Missouri Western and the community. Morgan Dowell, Vice President of Finance, believes that philanthropy means “giving in every way in order to better someone else’s life.”

Dowell is a sophomore studying Health Information Management and has been a member of the sorority since the Fall of 2015. Her favorite service activity is the Teeter-Totter-A-Thon.

“It was a fun and creative way to raise money for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation,” Dowell said.

AGD also does highway cleanups twice each semester and hosts Mr. MWSU as service projects. Kalynn Copenharve, Alpha Gamma Delta Philanthropy Coordinator, is also a sophomore and member of AGD since the Fall. She is majoring in English with a concentration in Technical Studies and Marketing. For Copenharve, philanthropy is “the willingness and enjoyment of giving to the community or an organization.”

The Teeter-Totter-A-Thon is a big hit with the members of AGD, and also happens to be Copenharve’s favorite event. The event raises money and awareness for diabetes. Copenharve believes that her sorority makes a big impact on the campus and community.

“I think we have affected the school and community by showing them that we care and inspire them to give back too,” she said.

Sororities add a tremendous amount of value to the campus and overall college environment. Their commitment to the community and volunteerism shines light on the many great aspects of Missouri Western. Alpha Gamma Delta is a group of young women focused on living with a purpose.

AGD is an international women’s fraternity that promotes academic excellence, philanthropic giving, ongoing leadership and personal development and above all, a spirit of loving sisterhood. We are proud to have so many wonderful sororities like AGD at MWSU to bring value, commitment and loyalty to our university.

THE NEXT URBAN RENEWAL

New businesses bring new culture to downtown St. Joseph, attracting more MWSU millennials

Downtown St. Joseph has always been known for its wonderful history: The Pony Express, Jesse James, the Missouri Theatre and much more.

However, with the Belt Highway increasing in business, the downtown area has dwindled over the last several years. Businesses are closing and relocating uptown to more heavily populated areas, leaving Downtown St. Joseph in the hands of a few local businesses. However, in the past year, locals have turned Downtown into something out of nothing.

One of the local businesses to bring some life into the Downtown area is The Tiger's Den, LLC, which opened last summer on July 8. The Tiger's Den is a combination bookstore and bar, offering its customers a wide variety of craft beers, fine wines and classic cocktails made from fresh ingredients, as well as retailing a well-curated selection of books.

One St. Joseph resident loves spending her time at the Tiger's Den. Tonya Corman is a local who has supported The Tiger's Den from the very beginning.

"Love the drinks, music and company at the Tiger's Den," Corman said. "Hands down, one of my favorite places in town."

The Tiger's Den will be expanding their business hours to 7 days a week. They are located at 519 Felix St. in Downtown St. Joseph.

Another local business who is joining the race to keep Downtown alive is The Lucky Tiger, which has been open for business for four years this May.

The Lucky Tiger is a vintage-clothing, accessories and record store. They specialize in wearable vintage clothing, which can be paired with modern fashions. Its merchandise selection ranges from shoes to records and is well-organized to help you find the perfect piece you didn't know you needed. They also support local music and art, with shows on the first Saturday of the month.

Amy Heath, one of the owner's of The Lucky Tiger alongside Brian Myers, has always had a passion for fashion.

"I have loved fashion and vintage clothing my whole life," Heath said. "Both Brian and I are avid music and vinyl lovers, so it was a no-brainer to combine them."

The Lucky Tiger will be relocating right next to The Tiger's Den this year in Downtown St. Joseph.

Just around the corner from The Lucky Tiger and The Tiger's Den is Paradox Coffee & Theatre. Paradox Coffee & Theatre is a multi-use space that lends itself to artistic events of all kinds. The coffee bar has a unique and inspiring atmosphere that has quickly become a welcoming space for many members of the community. Artists create, students work and families and friends enjoy quality time over a cup of coffee and a homemade pastry.

The future of Downtown St. Joseph is looking brighter every day.

Story: Corey Myers
Photos: Alicen Fowler
Design: Bryant Scott



The Tiger's Den will be expanding their business hours to 7 days a week. They are located at 519 Felix St. in Downtown St. Joseph.

TIGER'S DEN
BOOKSTORE & BAR

BUSINESS HOURS
Wed. 11am-
- Sat. 11am



Paradox Coffee & Theatre is a multi-use space for the arts. Paradox Coffee & Theatre is located in Downtown St. Joseph.



The Next COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Story: Justin Janorschke
Design & Art: Jessika Eidson

The year 2012 was a big year for students nationwide. For many of them, it is the first time they will be able to voice their opinions and vote for the next President of the United States. Their involvement has ranged from volunteering for the campaigns of candidates they support to voting in the elections themselves.

Austin Bauer, president of the Missouri Western's Politics Club, stressed the importance of students doing all that they can to make sure their ideals are represented by America's next Commander-in-Chief.

"It's our future that is at stake more than anyone else's," Bauer said. "You have to look at the next four years, but you have to look beyond that too. Think if this person gets elected, how will that change things for the future, and if that's worth it?"

Unfortunately, while many students are eager to speak their opinions regarding potential candidates, political analysts predict that most students won't vote. According to data collected by the US Census Bureau, the number of voters between the ages of 18 to 24 has been in decline since 1962. This can be problematic, as people who want their voices to be heard aren't doing what they can in order to make it happen.

Dr. Jon Euchner, a political science professor at Western, offers insight as to why he thinks students will stay home instead of going to the polls this year.

"Most student involvement this year is through the Bernie Sanders campaign," Euchner said. "Sadly, in my view I think Sanders will end up losing the nomination fight to Hillary Clinton and most young Sanders supporters will not vote in November. I hope I am wrong."

Some issues that have students in support of Senator Sanders are his progressive political views towards healthcare and free college tuition.

"I think the change he is promising is really inspiring. A lot of students who have grown up in this era of disgruntled government," Bauer said. "I think that our generation is looking for a new direction, and Sanders seems to be providing that direction. Whether or not he can deliver on that is another question."

Fortunately, there is a silver lining. Many student organizations exist on campus that are dedicated to student politics such as Politics Club, Women of the Future and Phi Sigma Alpha. These organizations put on events, vote registration drives and hold regular meetings to discuss politics. They don't discriminate based on political party either, so they appeal to students from both sides.

As American citizens, it is important for students to reverse the trend of young people not voting.

"I just think there's a lot at stake, so for students to make their voice heard," Bauer said. "Don't sit idly by and let others decide the future for you."

Who did Missouri Vote For in the March 15th Primary?

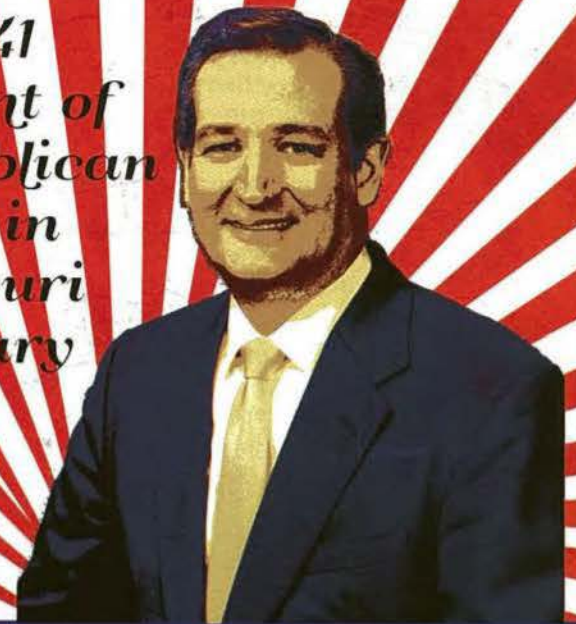
DONALD TRUMP

Won 41 percent of Republican votes in Missouri Primary



TED CRUZ

Won 41 percent of Republican Votes in Missouri Primary



HILLARY CLINTON

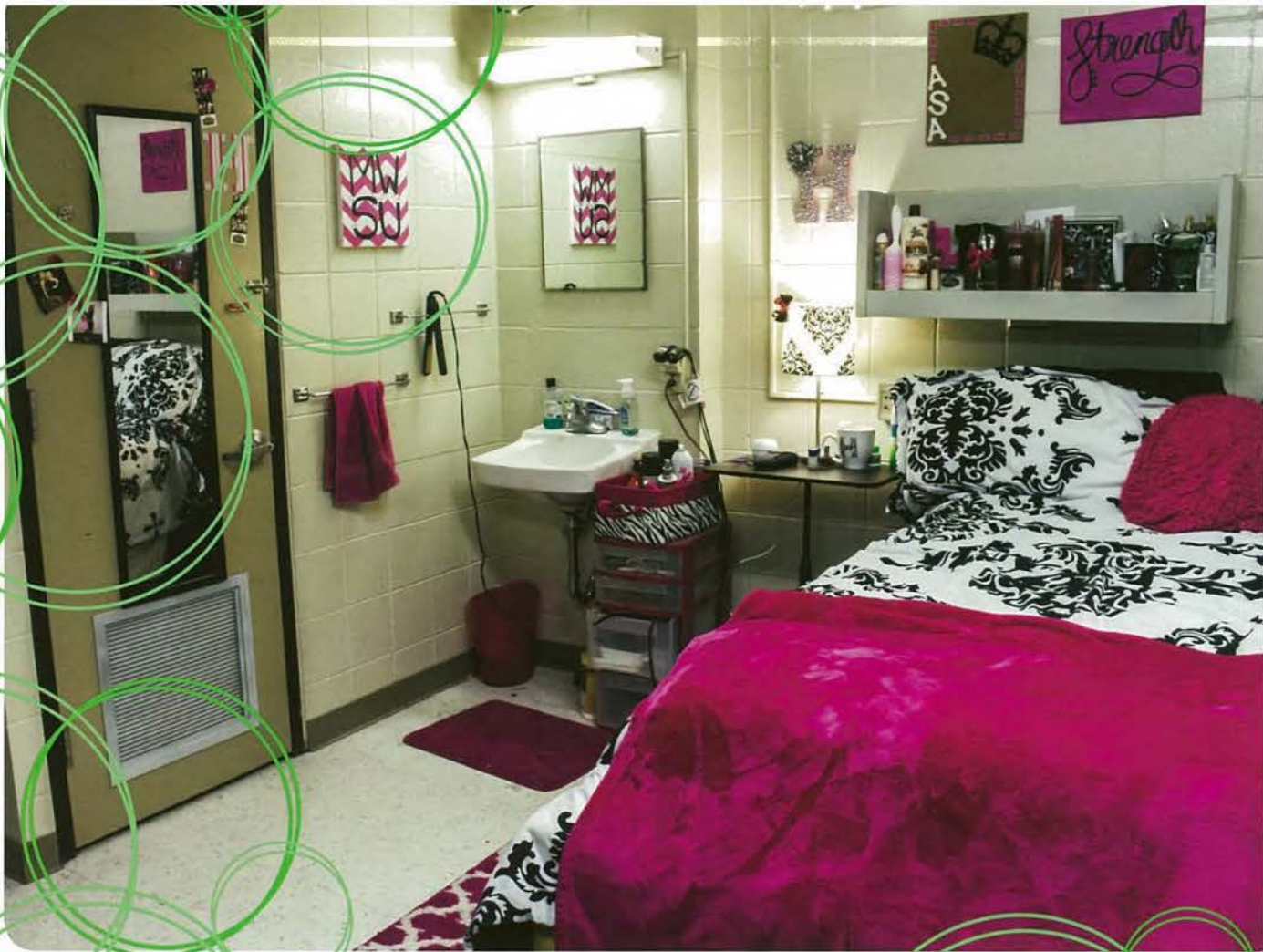
Won 50 percent of Democratic Votes in Missouri Primary



BERNIE SANDERS

Won 49 percent of Democratic Votes in Missouri Primary

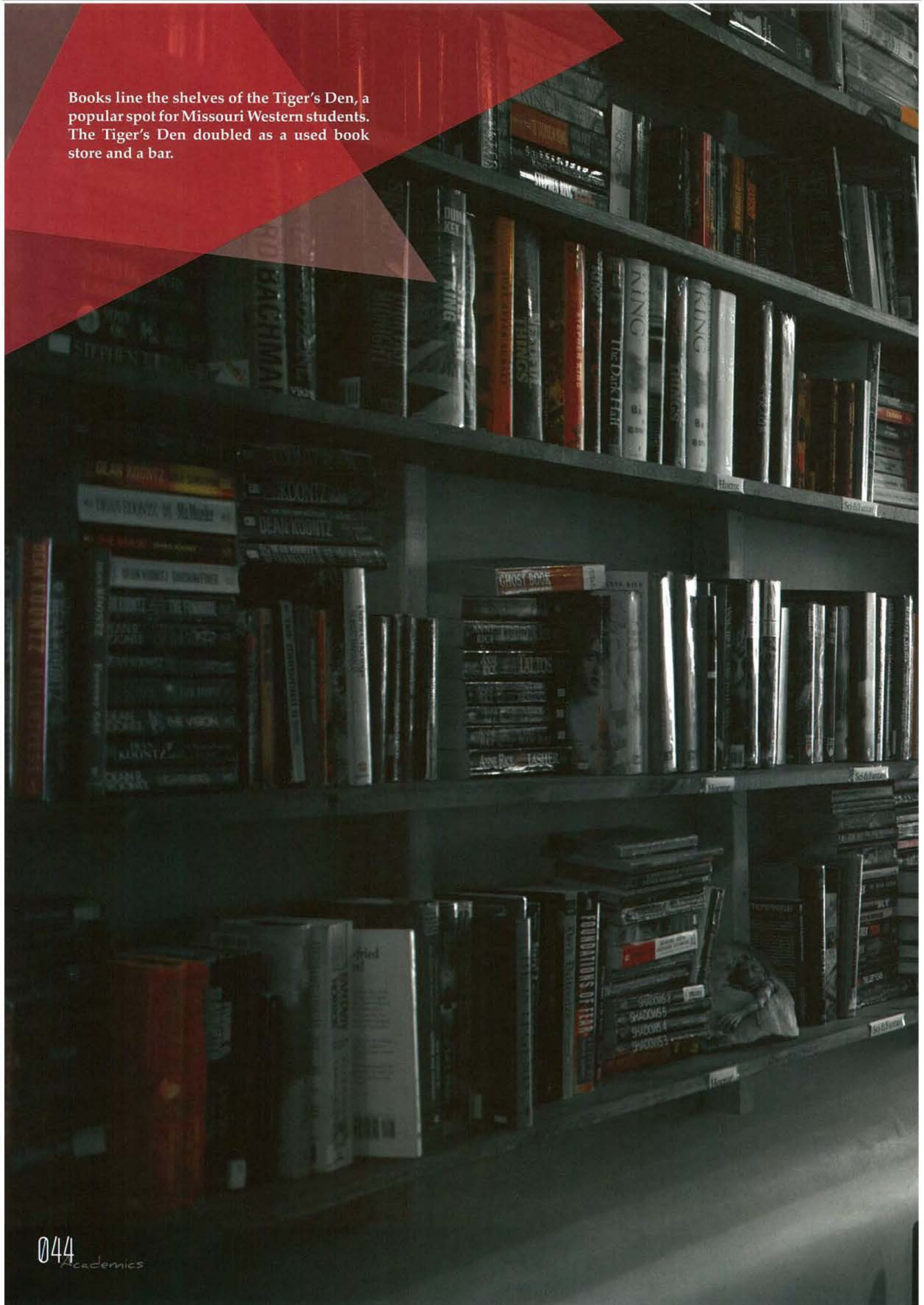




Story: Steven Solomon
Pictures: Ljubica Basic
Design: Rachael Bergeron



Books line the shelves of the Tiger's Den, a popular spot for Missouri Western students. The Tiger's Den doubled as a used book store and a bar.



ACADEMICS

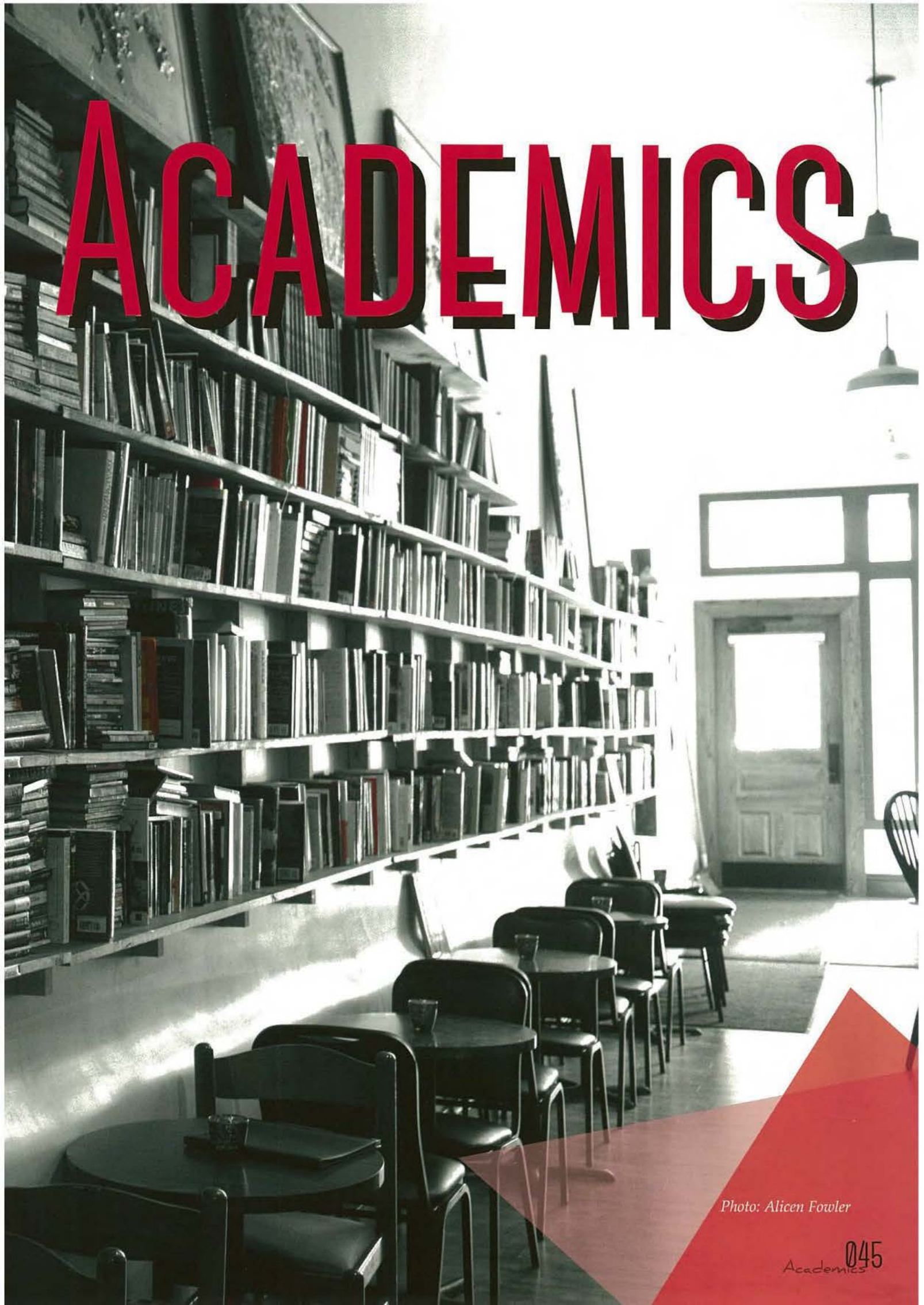


Photo: Alicen Fowler

THE NEXT GREAT DEBATERS

Western's Speech and Debate Club advance under new leadership

The Missouri Western debate team competes in parliamentary debates, which is two-person, limited-prep debate. Missouri Western's two-person team consisting of Chris Miles and Mike Smith is currently ranked 18th in the country. They practice once a week in Murphy 204, the debate practice area.

Jason Edgar had been the director of the debate team; for three months at the time of the story.

"I was hired in July of 2015 to direct the speech and debate program," Edgar said. "I am the first faculty member to direct the team since the program was brought back by Dr. Vartabedian. The only thing I don't like about being the director of the debate team is the amount of time it takes up during the weekends."

There are currently six people on the debate team, and they go on five debate trips per semester. They have competed in California, Illinois, Missouri, and Utah.

Mike Smith, a junior on the team, was recruited from another team.

"I got recruited from my previous college's debate team to come to this debate team," Smith said. "I've been on the team here for two years now, and it's a blast. I enjoy debate; it's a lot of fun, and my debate partner is my best friend."

While students enjoy being a part of the team, it does have its obstacles.

"I don't like the amount of time it takes up on the weekends; it ruins my social life a lot," Smith said. "I

have to balance when I want to go out with friends on the weekends, and when I have to stay in; or go on a tournament along with a big work load on top of classes."

Casey Huffman, a freshman on the team, is new to debate.

"This is my first year debating as a freshman, but I debated last year for one semester," Huffman said. "I like being on the debate team because I meet new people, and I get to travel to different places, and I just love being a part of a debate community"

As a new student, Huffman is still learning to overcome nervousness as many debaters do.

"I do get nervous sometimes when I'm at a debate tournament, but it goes away over time," Huffman said. "Every time I debate, public speaking gets easier."

Madison Lantz, a freshman on the team, took the prize of top speaker at a Novice Parliamentary Debate tournament at Webster University.

The team, as a whole, was a quarterfinalist at the debate tournament in Berkley, California, and semifinalists at another tournaments. They win about 75 percent of the rounds, and are on the way to being seasoned debaters.



*Story: Destinee Manning
Photos: Submitted
Logo: Campus Printing
Design: Jessika Eidson*

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY
TOURNAMENT OF EXCELLENCE
MARCH 19-22, 2015



Michael Smith and Chris Miles attend a competition at William Jewell College. The team also attended competitions at the University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Long Beach; the University of Missouri; the University of Utah and Loyola University



Chris Miles and Michael Smith stand next to the Golden Gate Bridge while attending a competition in California. The team traveled to several competitions across the country.

THE NEXT ART EXHIBIT

Seniors show of their art at the end of the year

Throughout the month of April, Missouri Western art students showed off the hard work that they'd done over this semester at the senior art show. Over 20 graduating students had multiple pieces on display for people to view, and each one was interesting and unique.

The exhibition featured animation, graphic design and studio artwork and took place in Potter Hall in the gallery. Each piece was beautiful in its own way, and many were something that hadn't been done before.

Jessica Hill was a senior majoring in art studio with an emphasis in sculpture. She displayed two pieces in the show, Closure and Agitation, and both were very meaningful to her.

"With 'Closure', I had a lot of struggles as an artist to complete this piece," Hill said. "I wasn't sure where I wanted to take my work at this point, and I felt that all I could do was just keep creating these shapes."

She also mentioned that after making a total of 21 shapes in this piece, she finally felt that she had closure from the struggles she faced. That was why she named the piece "Closure". In her other piece, "Agitation", this was her first wood carving and resin piece that she had ever done.

"I wanted a name that could be used to describe the relationship between the wood and the resin," Hill said. "If you're not an artist, you have to create."

Her two pieces were somewhat simple, yet so uniquely beautiful. It was obvious that a lot of time and work went into creating both. Walking through this exhibit was like being in an art museum. It took quite a bit of time to walk through and view each piece, and you couldn't just quickly walk past one. While walking through, you could see people standing in front of the pieces, examining them closely and taking time to take in the beauty of each one.

Tony Redmond was a senior majoring in studio art with an emphasis in illustration. He submitted three pieces in the exhibit, "Rasputin", "The Tales of Bloody Mary Asylum" and "A Travel Through the Bottle".

"'Rasputin' started out as an assignment to create a combination of myself and Rasputin in an oil painting. If you look at both pictures, the opposite images are in the book and the painting," Redmond said. "'Bloody Mary' is a piece that I did not enter a contest I found online. I developed, I not only won the contest but did all the artwork myself, which is now published."

With Redmond's other piece, "A Travel through the Bottle", he explained that it was a story that was very important to him because it is an abridged tale about his own struggle with alcoholism and some of the things that happened to him, but this one was most important. It was a true story he hoped that it could maybe help someone come to terms with their own addiction.

"No matter where life takes you, always keep dreaming and creating, because art makes the world a much better place," Redmond said.

This art show was so interesting to see and to hear about each piece and what it means to the artist. Art is all around us, even when we don't see it. Tony Redmond was a great example of this when he said that art made the world a much better place.

Story: Hannah Montgomery

Photos: Bailey Ketchum

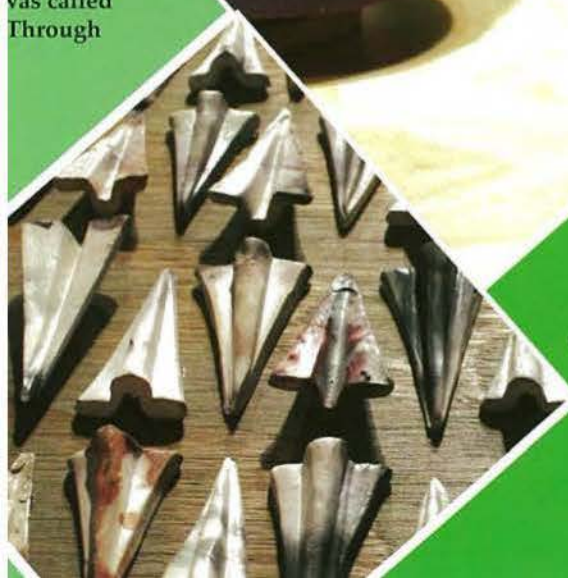
Design: Jessika Eidson

ow: Melissa St. John
ays her graphic design
ec. John's design was a
e for hiking and being
doors and was called
"Backwoods".



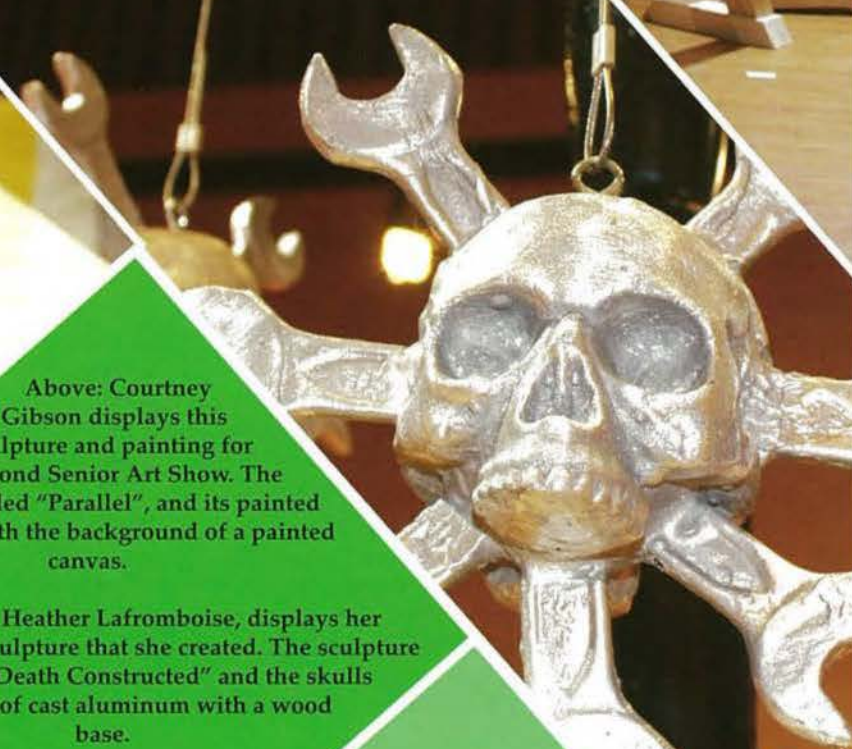
Right: Students, teachers,
family, friends and people from the
community gather to take a look at the
second Senior Art Show display in Potter Hall
on April 15th. Seniors in BFA Studio Art displayed
their designs, ads, paintings, sculptures and many more
for the community to come observe.

Courtney
displays a
piece. This
was called
Through



Above: Courtney
Gibson displays this
sculpture and painting for
the second Senior Art Show. The
piece is called "Parallel", and its painted
stoneware with the background of a painted
canvas.

Right: Senior, Heather Lafromboise, displays her
unique skull sculpture that she created. The sculpture
is labeled "Death Constructed" and the skulls
are made of cast aluminum with a wood
base.



THE NEXT CABARET



Western Students perform "Cabaret" during the fall theatre season

Story: Thomas Marsh
Photos: Jeni Swo
Design: Jessika Eids

The theater in Potter Hall has been home to successful Missouri Western State University productions throughout the years, including the likes of shows such as "Of Mice and Men", "Urinetown" and "The Producers". So when "Cabaret" rolled onto Potter's stage for two weekends in October, it was no surprise that the house was packed.

A few minutes before the curtains were raised, the lights dimmed and it was time for the cabaret to start. The show began with the Master of Ceremonies welcoming the audience and promising that whatever their troubles were, they could forget them at the cabaret. As soon as the ensemble launched into the opening number, they had the audience by the arm.

The show takes place at the Kit Kat Klub in Berlin, Germany, and is set near the end of the '20s. Its story revolves around Cliff Bradshaw, an American writer traveling through Berlin, and Sally Bowles, a British headlining singer at the club. Throughout the musical, their relationship grows increasingly strained as political turmoil begins to rise in Germany. The production is a very emotional one and left the actors stepping

into roles that required a large range of ability. For senior Thomas Delgado, who plays the Master of Ceremonies, it was a challenging aspect to portray darker themes, but it was a challenge he was ready to take.

"Whenever we start the show, it's positive, positive, positive," Delgado said. "Then we get hit with that 'oh this is the situation,' and from there, what's carrying the show is more negative energy."

Bringing these characters to life at showtime may have been emotionally taxing, but the talented cast made it look easy. With roaring musical numbers and upbeat nighttime scenes, the actors hit all the right notes. As sophomore Jordan Roberts said, it was a show that pulled the audience in every night.

"I was really invested in what was going on," Roberts said. "They all did fantastic and really brought the play to life."

While the show had an amazing run, there was a lot that went into bringing it to the stage. The cast and crew

he cast of
et" stand together on
e
r Hall. The 20-person
s directed by Carol



(Above) The female cast members perform a musical number in cabaret-style apparel. German cabarets, like the one in the play, began in the early 1900s and were notorious for political satire and gallows humor.

(Below) Abby Sexton plays the part of Sally in Missouri Western's production of "Cabaret". Sexton also played Little Red Riding Hood in Western Playhouse's production of "Into the Woods" the previous summer.



Thomas Delgado plays the part of the Emcee, master of ceremonies for the Kit Kat Klub, during the song "Money". Delgado has played several other roles during his time at Missouri Western including the part of the Wolf alongside Sexton in "Into The Woods".

had four weeks to put the
together. That includes
writing lines, lyrics and
choreography along with
sets built. They
to rehearse and get
thing right, down to the
Many of the cast members
never acted in a college show;
ly did they deliver, they excelled.

With a show as classic as "Cabaret", there are a lot of expectations
put up to. They put 110 percent into every aspect of the musical,
sets, to acting, to music. As sophomore Chris Fry says, it's
her entry in a long line of great Western productions.

"I thought the show was fantastic," Fry said. "It's
a lot of heart, and Western's theatre department
did it off beautifully."



THE NEXT SHAKESPEARE

Missouri Western students earn several laughs performing "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged"



Left: Antonio Daniels-Braziel introduces "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged" to the audience. Daniels-Braziel has performed in the Missouri Western's professional summer theater.

Story: Jasmine Taylor
Photos: Jeni Swope
Design: Joni Thomas

Shakespeare Abridged



Left: Antonio Daniels-Braziel and Ronald Baker perform a scene from "Macbeth." Daniels-Braziel and Baker have been friends since high school.

Right: Riley Bayer plays Titus Andronicus in Shakespeare's tragedy, "Titus Andronicus". Bayer has performed in fifteen shows for Missouri Western.



M

Missouri Western's Department of Theatre, Cinema and Dance put on a play that entertained students and guests. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged gave the audience a chance to experience the known and unknown works of Shakespeare through comedic acts. Juniors Antonio Daniels-Braziel, Ronald Baker and senior Riley Bayer performed all 37 of Shakespeare's works in only 97 minutes. Though sections of the play were improved and depended on audience participation, the stage was far from new to them. Daniels-Braziel and Bayer are Theatre Cinema majors and Baker majored in Convergent Media. Before getting their roles, they each had to audition. Bayer explained how the audition process worked for the show.

"We basically came in for the first round," Bayer said. "We did a comedy monologue. For the callbacks we actually had an improv section and we played a couple of improv games."

The play was not on the original season list of shows and was added in later. The prep time for the play was also a little shorter than the amount of time spent on other productions. The actors had a month to prepare for the show. Daniels-

Braziel explained more about how they prepared for opening night and how they planned to have successful shows.

"In rehearsals we would go in and warm up," Daniels-Braziel said. "We would do improv games, we ran through a few of the quicker scenes and we just specified what we wanted to do. Some sections we had free reign of improv."

The play served as an entertaining walk through Shakespeare's greatest works and though the preparation time was not as long for the play, the actors made due and enjoyed putting on the production. They had the opportunity to do what they love and keep the audience entertained.

"Honestly my favorite part had to be the audience participation bit," Baker said. "That's just so fun. In the rehearsal process for the audience we used crew members or our directors. With the audience it really came alive."

Every night seemed to be a different show and a new experience for the actors and the audience participation gave them energy to feed off of. The Western students were able to put on a successful show.

Left: Ronald Baker performs Hamlet's monologue. Baker landed the lead role of Lysander in a "Midsummer Night's Dream" his first year here, Fall of 2013.

Center: Riley Bayer brings some comic relief to "Romeo and Juliet" by playing Juliet. Bayer started acting his freshmen year of college.

Right: Riley Bayer, Antonio Daniels-Braziel and Ronald Baker perform the ghost scene from "Hamlet". Bayer, Daniels-Braziel and Baker all enjoyed the improv part of the show.



THE NEXT RETRO WEDDING

Missouri Western's theatre department gives a unique perspective on a classic play

Right: Figaro (Thomas Delgado) seat during an introspective monologue. In line with the 80's adaptation, Delgado referred to this scene as his "Ferris Bueller" moment of theatre.

W

When going to see a Restoration-era play, most audiences would expect the scene to be set in historic Italy, Spain or France, and the actors to be dressed in Victorian clothing and wearing big wigs. However, when seeing "The Marriage of Figaro" at Missouri Western, they would only be right about the wigs.

For the third show of the university's theatre season, the Missouri Western cast and crew put a 1980s spin on the classic tale. The eye-catching set featured bold colors, striking lines and back-lit seagull silhouettes. The actors donned big hair, puffy shoulder-padded dresses and bright, neon suits for their roles.

Missouri Western senior Skylia Booth, who played The Countess, enjoyed the adapted setting and the effects it had on the audience.

"I love the '80s theme," Booth said. "We have taken this French Restoration piece and set it into 1980s Miami for a few different reasons. One is to kind of modernize it a little bit, give the audience something to reference."

The '80s worked well as a substitute for the traditional Restoration setting because it mirrored many of the themes from that era. Restoration theatre featured comically lavish outfits and emphasized presentation over substance.

The play follows Figaro, a servant to The Count, who overcomes the obstacles he faces in order to marry his love, Susan. On the night before their wedding, The Count attempts to scheme his way into Susan's bed, but she and Figaro continue to outwit him.

Trevor Belt, director of the production, explained the play's unique take on social hierarchy and class structure.

"For the first time in a Restoration piece, it treated the people of higher stature as the idiots, or the morons, or the people that didn't know what they were doing," Belt said. "So there's a lot of emphasis on, to put it in a modern context, having the 99 percent tackle and conquer the hurdles that the one percent has put in place for them."

Figaro manages to stay balanced, against all odds, through a grounded sense of humanity and compassion for all others. Rather than believe each character exists only for their job, he treats everyone like they are equals.

Thomas Delgado, the senior theatre major who plays Figaro, found a personal connection to this attribute, and encouraged others to act similarly.

"He would rather have nothing than lie, and cheat and steal his way to get to the top," Delgado said. "I think that this generation, this society now, kind of thinks that that's how things need to be ran, but it's not."

The play delivered a good message on the consequences of scheming for personal gain while remaining comically delighting. "The Marriage of Figaro" ended on an upbeat synth-pop hit that kept the audience dancing along through the curtain call.



Above: Figaro (Thomas Delgado) explains an absurd situation to Antonio (Kelsey Garber). Scheming between the upper and lower class was a predominant motif throughout the play.



Right: Agnes (Megan Hanley) and Susan (Abby Sexton) attempt to disguise Hannibal (Antonio Daniels-Brazier) in a bridesmaid's dress. Originally written in 1778, "The Marriage of Figaro" was considered controversial by members of the upper class.

Left: The cast of *Godspell* gather for a heart-felt song. *Godspell* features a live orchestra led by James McCullough.

Below: Jesus (Thor Delgado) hangs from a crucifix. This was Delgado's third performance in the role this season.



THE NEXT GODSPELL

Missouri Western theatre students spread a message of love through a Broadway musical

Each spring, Missouri Western State University's theatre department ends the semester with a spectacle of song and dance. This year, they rose to the occasion again with *Godspell*.

The Broadway musical, which opened on April 8, tells the stories of Jesus's teachings and the parables. Though the script leans heavily on Christian imagery and stories, the message it teaches is universally applicable.

Tee Quillin, Missouri Western theatre professor and director of *Godspell*, feels that the denomination of neither an audience member in the seats nor a cast member on the stage makes a difference on the importance of that message.

"I think it's a good thing to have the absolute basic message of Christianity presented in such a way that you can just hear it without a lot of the dogma that goes along with a lot of the denominational stuff," Quillin said. "It's not something that we as a production have made a point of doing. The show kind of does that on its own."

The play's moral is delivered through a series of parables told by the disciples of Jesus. However, productions of *Godspell* are given copious leeway when it comes to how to present these stories.

"Steven Schwartz himself had gone back in [the script] and said, 'this is what we did in the original production, and this is what we did in 2012,'" Quillin said. "But my recommendation is, whatever the strength of your ensemble is, you take that and you make this play your own."

Most of the cast members do not have named parts, are instead asked to play a version of themselves. As each actor takes a turn at telling a parable, they may choose to disregard the script altogether and tell it their own way.

This creative freedom produced unique and hilarious scenes, such as when actor Sean Connors must act out fellow actor Antonio Daniels-Brazier's narration via interpretive dance.

"It's better to play ourselves while we're telling the stories," Daniels-Brazier said. "It brings a lot of character and life to the production."

In order to better act out these scenes on-the-fly, Quillin had his cast rehearse with a number of improv games. One of the most popular challenges became a running theme for the show.

"There's a phrase we've been shouting at them the whole time, 'yes and -' affirm, and add to it," Quillin said. "And they've taken that and ran with it. Everything about the show is 'yes and, yes and.' Which really, when you think about it, is the core of Jesus's message."

Godspell's lead actor, Missouri Western senior Thor Delgado, felt that the improvisational nature, as well as the heart of the show, allowed him to connect with his cast mates in a way that he's never experienced before.

"We can laugh at each other, and know that it's coming from a place of love," Delgado said. "I think what really helped was the text and the message that we were sending to everyone. And that is to just love each other."

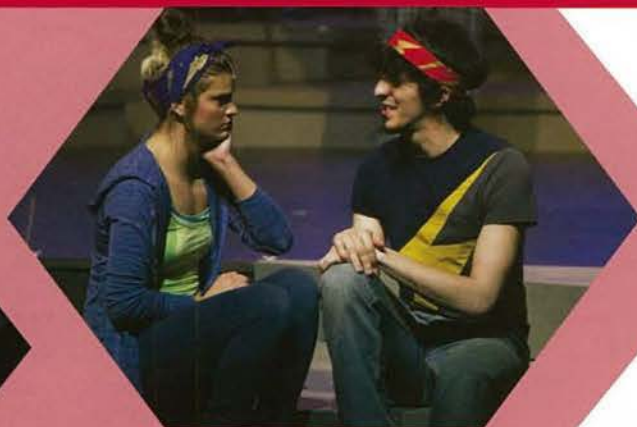


Above: The cast of *Godspell* tells a parable. The actors were encouraged to tell the stories in their own unique ways.

Below: Jesus (Thomas Delgado) and Raven Reed meet downstage to sing "Day By Day." The song reached number 12 on the billboard charts in 1972.



Above: Skylia Booth leads a song to its epic finale. The musical featured a variety of genres played by a rock and roll orchestra.



THE NEXT "CITIZEN KANE"

Students and community members take part in Missouri Western's 48-Hour Film Festival

There's nothing more exciting or more stressful than putting together a five-minute masterpiece in only 48 hours, which is exactly what Missouri Western students who participated in this year's annual 48-hour film festival would tell you.

"Good God, we were stressed because in the back of our heads there is a mental clock ticking," said participant, Jor-El Washington, director for Conception Inn. "Trying to create something from scratch and make it presentable to watch in 48 hours is something else, but at the same time we had a blast making the film."

There was a total of 10 films entered for the festival with each film containing a group of anywhere from 3-7 people. All the films were under 10 minutes in length and ranged widely in genre.

When it came to genre, participants had several categories to choose from: comedy, thriller/suspense, buddy film, anniversary/birthday, horror, mockumentary, coming of age, heist, action/adventure and zombies.

It is refreshing to note that each genre listed above was demonstrated, providing the festival with a lot of variety.

There were certain guideline that each film had to follow while filming, and that was the use of a particular line and prop. In this case the line was, "now we're /I'm on my own" and the prop was gummy bears. This was only to insure that the film being submitted was new and specifically made for the festival. It also put the participants to the test in the area of creativity.

One might think that incorporating these two things would be difficult, but it was actually fairly easy, according to cinematographer for We Got This Far, Bryson Wooden.

"It wasn't too difficult incorporating either the line or the prop into our film," said Wooden. "The line fit so well with the tone of our film at the end, and we ended up getting the award for Best Use of Line."

However, anything worth having requires hard work and none knew this better than these filmmakers.

"Having multiple jobs during a 48 hour film festival is a necessary sacrifice that I've learned to accept," Wooden said. "Having such a limited amount of people in the group, some of us had to take on multiple jobs. The hardest part was making sure everything was getting done on time, even if sleep was sacrificed."

Despite all the stress and difficulties, it's worth according to Washington. The festival was not only enjoyable experience, but a learning one as well in the way of preparation for his future.

Wooden described his favorite part of the process getting to see everyone else's stories at the premiere.

"I tend to forget how many other talented individuals participate," Wooden said, "It's so much fun to see everyone else's ideas come to life, especially knowing that they shared the same deadline."

With a deadline of only 48 hours and minimal sleep, teams produced very entertaining and well-edited content.

"The 48 hour film fest is such a fun experience every time I participate, and I'm very proud and impressed of everyone's hard work," Wooden said.

Story: Heather Groenke

Photos: facebook.com

Design: Jessika Eidson



Amber Anaya and Ronald pose on the set of "Conception Inn". Anaya and Bal have both performed productions by Missouri Western and West Playhouse.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO

Best Use of Line- We Got This Far

Best Use of Prop- Birthday Trip

Best Use of Character- And Then There was Sam

Best Sound- Lydia Rauch, Birthday Trip

Best Editor- Christina Wade, Birthday Trip

Best Cinematography- Bryson Wooden, We Got This Far

Best Writing- Nathan Pinion, Sam and Ted Versus The Dead

Best Director- Jor-El Washington, Conception Inn

Best Female Performance- Amber Anaya, Conception Inn

Best Male Performance- Thomas Delgado, We Got This Far

Audience Award- Birthday Trip

Second Best Film- Conception Inn

Best Overall Film- Birthday Trip



Above: Kyle Braun gets a zombie makeover for "48 Hours Later". Braun and his team were given the genre of zombie for the film festival.

Left Center: Amber Anaya and Ronald Baker lovingly embrace during the film "Conception Inn". The film was named the second best film of the festival.

Left: Cooper Herrington reapplies gore makeup to Kyle Braun. "48 Hours Later" and "Sam and Ted Versus the Dead" both received viewer discretion warning prior to their viewings due to gory makeup and strong language often seen in horror and zombie movies.

Below Right: Jordan Jinkerson and Meghan Vee, act on the set of Birthday Trip. Birthday Trip won the award for Best Overall Film and the Audience Award.
Photo: Megan Hanley

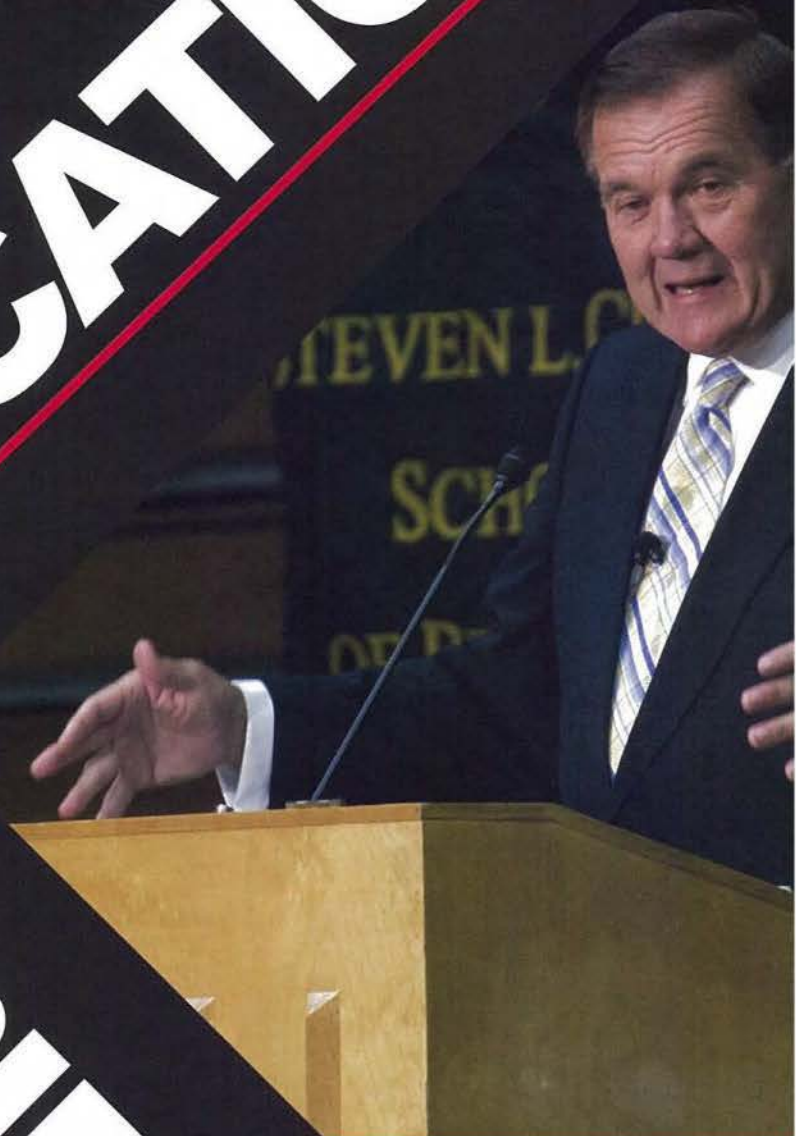


Below Left: Sam Peters work behind the scenes on the set of "Conception Inn". Filmmakers do a number of jobs on the set of their films including acting, directing, editing, and filming.



THE NEXT CONVOCATION

TOM RIDGE AT MINGOSHER ST. JOSEPH 2015 UNIVERSITY



Tom Ridge speaks at the Dan R. Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues 2015. Ridge has served as governor of Pennsylvania, in the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

In 1993 University President Janet Gorman Murphy created the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues. The convocation was created to enrich students' experiences while creating a connection between the college and the community. Then namesake of the Convocation, R. Dan Boulware was a former president of the Board of Regents from 1986 to 1993.

Speakers at past Convocations have included people like Colin Powell, Joseph Nye, Steve Forbes, Newt Gingrich and Robert F Kennedy Jr. The 2015 Convocation was no different, bringing in former governor of Pennsylvania and former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge.

"[Ridge] regularly addresses audiences throughout the world on issues such as security, terrorism, and global engagement." Boulware said, "Today he favors us with his presence, and I am pleased to present him to you. I have really been looking forward to this."

Ridge came to Missouri Western on Tuesday, September 15th, 2015 to speak about a topic that has been a part of the majority of Missouri Western students' lives. Ridge's speech titled "ISIS: The Growing Threat of Global Terrorism," was derived from his time serving under President George W. Bush as the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. Ridge served in this position from 2003 - 2005, after serving as the President of Homeland Security from 2001 - 2003.

Ridge was born in Munhall, Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh's Steel Valley. The oldest of three children, Ridge graduated from Harvard University in 1967 with

honors. After starting at Dickinson School of Law he was drafted into the U. S. Army, as an infantry staff sergeant in the 23rd Infantry during the Vietnam War. He earned the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He started his political career as a U.S. Representative in 1983, and in 1995 he served as the governor of Pennsylvania, until he accepted his position at Homeland Security. Ridge is now the chairman of Ridge Global, a company helping organizations decrease security risks.

"I have been blessed all my life with opportunities to serve, starting with my time as a soldier, as a prosecutor, and all the way to a cabinet secretary." Ridge said, "I'm very pleased to rely on some of those experiences I've had and offer some ideas to you today. I hope that they're relevant, not only for the academic discussions you have, but more importantly just as citizens of this great country."

Ridge's speech flowed in a very political fashion, moving from one topic to the next briefly touching on the implied subject matter from the title. Many students attended the convocation on the unusually warm fall morning to hear Ridge speak. Prior to the Convocation, Ridge spoke at a private early breakfast meeting with student government and student journalists, where he answered questions and gave a brief biography of himself and some anecdotes of his time he spent serving the president.

Story & Design: Bryant Scott
Photos: Jeni Swope

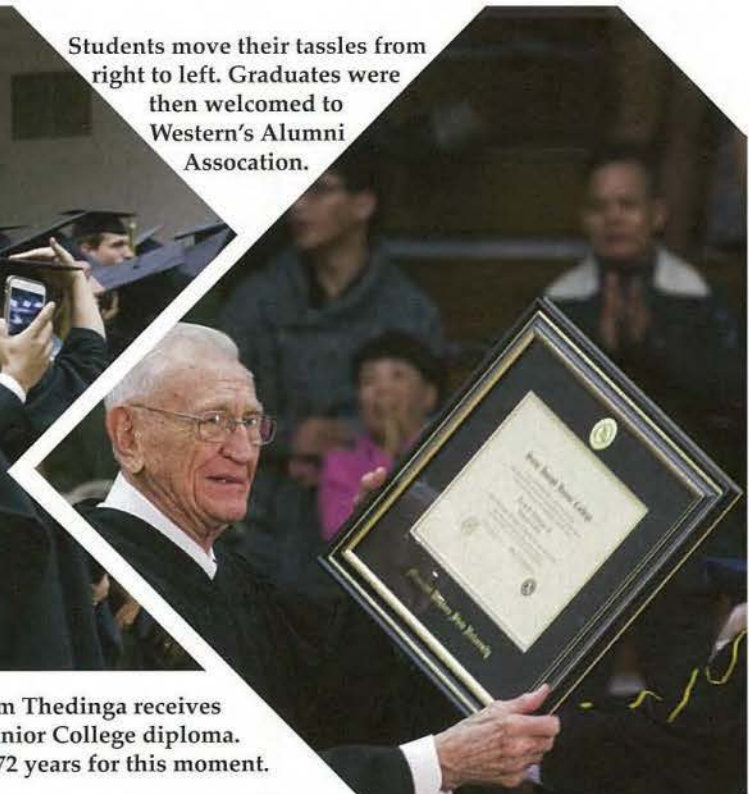


Robert Vatabedian and Dan Boulware introduce Tom Ridge as the 2015 Convocation speaker. convocation was started in 1993 by former University President Janet Murphy

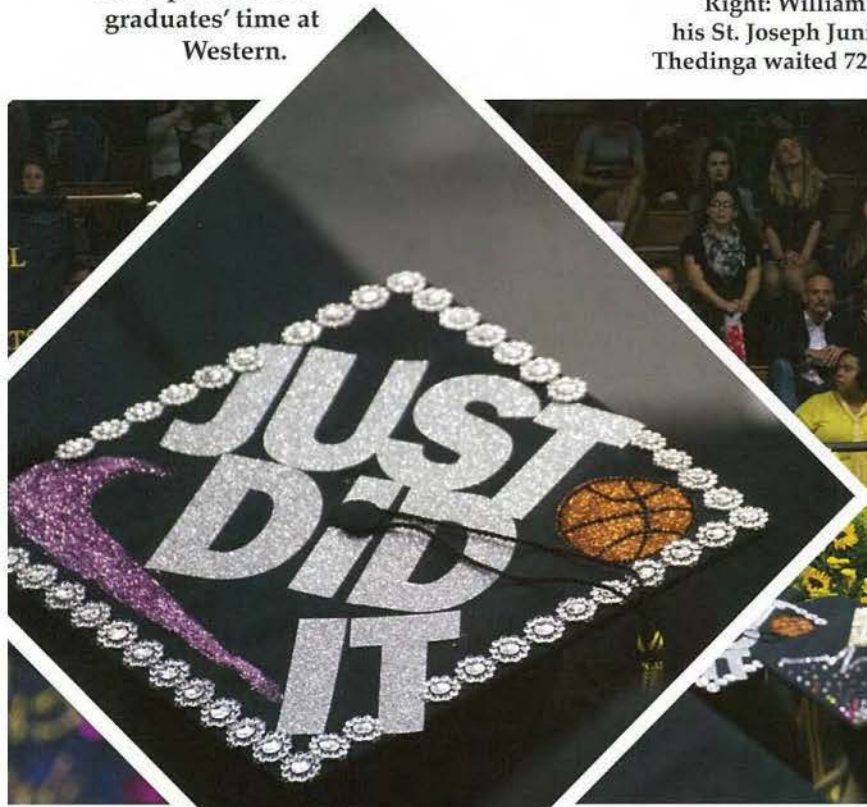


Students move their tassels from right to left. Graduates were then welcomed to Western's Alumni Association.

Below: Students wear personalized caps. The caps reflected graduates' time at Western.



Right: William Thedinga receives his St. Joseph Junior College diploma. Thedinga waited 72 years for this moment.



Left: Obi Aust about his life b transformed graduated Western

Below: The Centennial Time Capsule is closed by Shana Meyer, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Lionel Attawia, Student Governor.



Graduates enter Looney Gym at the start of the ceremony. Students graduating with honors wore golden sashes.



THE NEXT GRADUATING CLASS-WINTER 2015

296 Griffons graduate during the Winter Commencement Ceremony

During the winter commencement of 2015, nearly 300 students graduated from Missouri Western.

The graduating class, along with their friends and family, had the opportunity to hear from Obie Austin, an alumnus of Missouri Western, who went from the inner-city Kansas City area to earning his nursing degree in seven and a half years.

Austin talked about his time at Western and how the faculty helped transform his life through love, understanding, vision, guidance and mentorship.

"Missouri Western is not a facility," Austin said. "It's a house where people pour their hearts and their souls into the lives of all those that come from wherever we come [from]-to be educated, to find our path, to find our 'what's next in our lives?'"

During the Commencement, William Thedinga was finally awarded his diploma after 72 years.. Thedinga was attending St. Joseph Junior College in 1943 when he was called to serve in World War II.

Although he missed his graduation from the junior college, Thedinga went on to receive his bachelor's and masters degree. He also was the principal at Benton High School and Lafayette High School.

"Yet there was still something missing," Dr. Robert Vartabedian said about Thedinga. "He still did not have his

diploma from St. Joseph Junior College, which in a conversation with him several months ago, meant a lot to him. So we would like to rectify that today."

Just as Thedinga received his diploma, 296 undergraduate and graduate students were given their degrees. As each graduate walked across the stage and shook hands with Vartabedian, they were welcomed by Angie Springs the president of Western's Alumni Association.

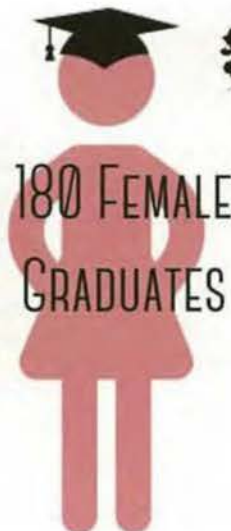
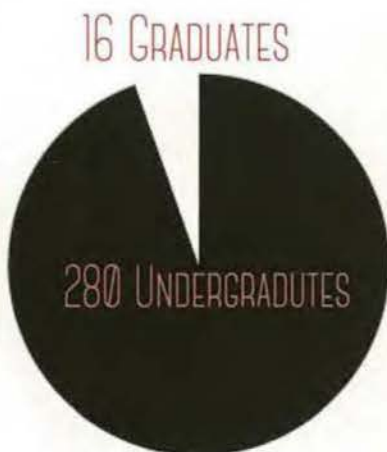
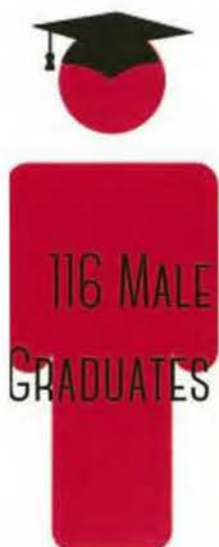
"You will always be connected," Springs said. "Your memories of Missouri Western, faculty members, late night study sessions and late-night chats with your friends are etched into your hearts and into your minds forever. Remember though, that this is your home, and you will always be welcomed back with open arms."

As students closed this chapter of their life, Western also closed its own chapter. In some of the final moments of the centennial year, a time capsule, scheduled to be reopened during 2065, was closed. Ida Haefner, President of the Student Government Association said a few words before closing the capsule.

"2015 celebrated how our lives are transformed at Missouri Western," Haefner said. "And I for one know for certain that my life has been transformed."

Story & Design: Jessika Eidson
Photos: Jeni Swope

FINALLY GOT THAT DEGREE!



10 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM CHINA, SAUDI ARABIA AND ECUADOR

Winter Commencement 065

THE NEXT GRADUATING CLASS- 2016

560 students receive their diploma during Spring Commencement

Graduation was something I had been dreaming about before I even finished high school.

Everyone's college experience is different. Even if you go to the same university, college is what you make of it. It can be the best four (or five or six, no one's judging) years of your life.

I had a countdown in my phone from the first day of my senior year. At that point, it was somewhere upwards of 250 days and it seemed like May couldn't come fast enough.

Classes had me swamped with work. Deadlines with the newspaper and Griffon Update seemed never ending. Sorority life had one thing after another. It was middle of fall semester and my countdown read: 165 days.

Seniors were applying for their last semester of classes, the holidays passed and the new semester started. Before I realized it, my countdown was officially under 100 days.

College was a pretty constant state of "If I can just get through this week..." I think that's why the last few months really flew by. Finals came and went with little problems.

I woke up that morning and it didn't feel different than any other day. I got out of bed and got ready like I would for any other day. It didn't really hit me until I was pinning my cap to my head and walking out to my car with my gown.

It was happening.

Seeing friends I had known for four years in their caps and gowns made the feeling more surreal. Girls

were gabbing over how they had decorated their caps. Pictures were being taken everywhere you looked. Friends were hugging, some more than once.

It was happening.

The graduates lined up. Students from my department all banded together to sit in a pack. The graduates were lined up of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex and down to the field. What had been a pretty stormy week ended up to be a beautiful day for an outdoor graduation.

It was happening.

When we made it to our seats, I have an attempt to hug my family in the massive crowd in the stands. I gave up quickly though, realizing that over 500 students had to be present for the day.

I don't remember much about the speeches given. Haefner's got quite a few chuckles, including her corn about the geese. Alex Atkinson's had a few in tears, especially those of us in the Communications department.

Then it was really happening.

One by one, students' names were called. I got hit with nerves when my row stood up to be announced. The walk to our seats to the stage had everyone anxious to hear their names being called. Handing over my name card to the announcer standing to be next in line to shake Dr. Robert Vartabedian's hand and receive my diploma felt like a dream.

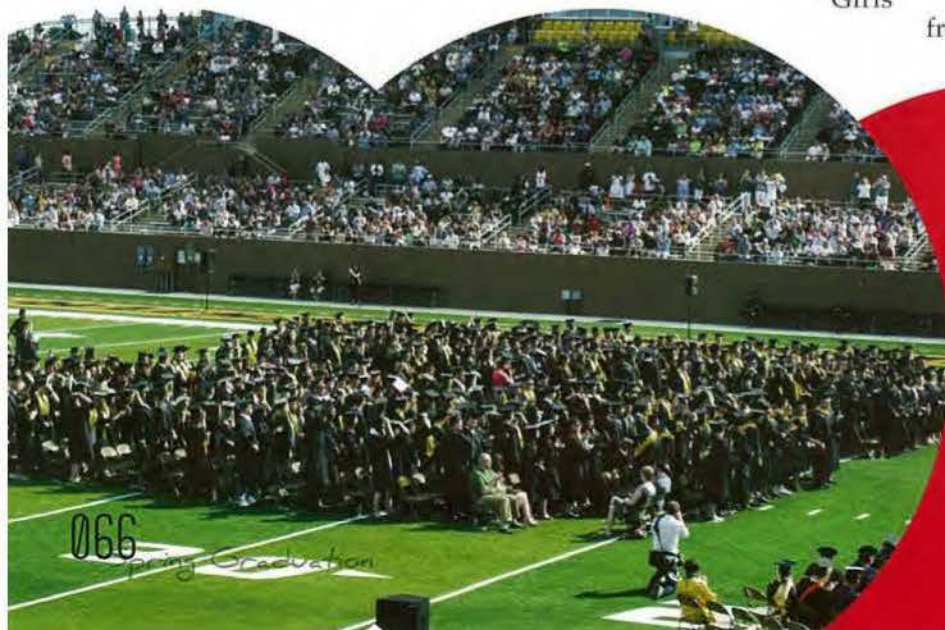
It happened. I achieved my lifelong dream of graduating from college and earning a degree in something I loved.

When everyone's names were called and we were all back at our seats, we moved our tassels to the right. The symbolic moment that we had officially graduated from Missouri Western.

Seeing the diverse reactions from everyone was the best part. Some cried, some danced, some even did a little dance. But we all did one thing that day.

We graduated.

Students turn their tassels. Five hundred sixty students graduated during the Spring Commencement ceremony.





A graduating nursing student celebrates earning her degree. Graduates decorated their caps to express themselves despite recent rules against decoration.

Students wait to enter Craig Field. This was the first Commencement ceremony held on the newly-named field.



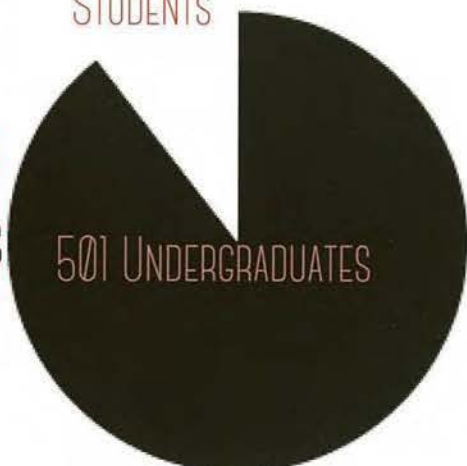
Story: Mika Cummins
 Photos: Rachel Bergeron
 Design: Jessika Eidson

WHO FINALLY GOT THEIR DEGREE?



STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

59 GRADUATE STUDENTS





THE NEXT STUDENT LOAN

What the is Student Loan relief?

Attending college is an expensive part of life, if one chooses to go. College is supposed to help change your life by furthering your education, and afterwards, find a career. So what about all the debt that you'll be swimming in for years to come?

On average, a college student will graduate with about \$30,000 in debt. If they pay a minimum of \$200 payments each month, it will take about 12 ½ years to pay that debt off. That sounds like a nightmare.

Recently, there has been quite a bit of talk about President Obama's new program, the "Obama Student Loan Relief." Though this has been in the making for a few years, it is finally going into effect for students. The program isn't what it sounds like, though.

On social media, there has been quite an upset about this new program from students who claim that they worked hard to receive a scholarship, and they don't believe that just anyone should be able to have their loans forgiven. These students are under the impression that this program will wipe their debt away, and they won't have anything to pack back. They're wrong.

The repayment program, also known as "Revised Pay as You Earn or REPAYE," cuts borrower's monthly bills to 10 percent of their income. It also forgives the debt after 20 years of payment. Until now, those terms were only offered to people with very low income relative to their debt and who took out loans after 2007. The Obama administration now offers the program to anyone with what's known as a Direct Federal

Loan, regardless of income or when they borrowed. All federal loans, if they are not in default, are eligible for the plan. In 2010, the government decided to only lend direct borrowers, rather than backing loans originated by banks or other financial firms. During that time, the government's small direct lending portfolio that has tripled in size.

Students that have a bank-based loan or a Perkins loan can consolidate that debt into a direct loan to take advantage of the REPAYE program. However, Parent Plus loans aren't eligible for this program.

Here is how this program works with monthly payments. The calculation will be based on a person's discretionary income or whatever that person earns above 150 percent of the federal poverty line (\$17,655 for a single person).

For example, if someone makes \$30,000, the discretionary income would be \$12,345. This means the monthly payments would initially be cut to \$102.88. If that person's income is very low, they may not have to pay anything until their paycheck increases. This program will not completely wipe your debt away, but it will help make your payments more reasonable to help you along the way. To sign up for the program, there are two options. You may apply online at studentloans.gov, where you may be able to electronically upload your tax return information. Or, you can ask the student loan adviser for a paper application.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT DEBT AFFECTS STUDENTS OF MISSOURI WESTERN, MISSOURI AND THE UNITED STATES. THESE STATISTICS ABOUT STUDENT LOAN DEBT WERE TAKEN FROM TICAS.ORG.

AVERAGE, IT TAKES STUDENTS



TO PAY OFF THEIR LOANS



7 OUT
OF 10

STUDENTS GRADUATED
WITH DEBT IN 2014

MISSOURI WESTERN STUDENTS

GRADUATED WITH A DEBT OF
\$26,015 IN 2014



Story: Hannah Montgomery

Information: washingtonpost.com

Photo: piktochart.com

Graphics & Design: Jessika Eidson

THE NEXT BLACK CAP

A ban is placed on personalized caps, high heels and cords for Greek life during commencement



Story: Ljubica
Photos: Stephen Solomon, Jeni Swope
Office of Academic Affairs
Design: Jessika E.

Spring Commencement couldn't come soon enough for some Missouri Western students. Some are looking forward to another warm summer, and many are looking forward to crossing the stage and starting a new chapter of their lives.

Walking across the stage and receiving a diploma is something everyone dreams as a kid, but having this dream only three weeks away is almost crazy to think about for some students.

"I feel like I have been waiting for this day my entire life, I can't believe it is finally here," said nursing senior Kenzie Calloway.

Meanwhile, all of the Western graduates are beyond excited, some are upset due to the new rule passed not long ago. Senior graduates are not supposed to add any decorations to their graduation hats this spring. This has been a college tradition for many years, not just at Western, but also for many colleges around the country.

"It is just a little silly to me," said senior Beth Garrison. "I have been waiting for this moment my entire life. The number one thing I have been looking forward to is being able to decorate my hat and put my sorority letter on the top of it. I just don't think it make sense. This has been a huge tradition in the years before us, how can they tell us we can not do this anymore."

Right: Students wait to turn the tassels of their caps. Commencement was a memorable moment for all graduates.



Students personalize their graduation caps. This personalization gave students a chance to express a part of their time at Western.



University officials explain that they want Western to have a formal and very professional graduation this year. It will be held outside, and they want everyone to match and look alike.

Not only are Western students not allowed to decorate their hats, but the new rule also impacts those students who are graduating and not allowed to wear cords unless they are for academic reasons. This means that the women who have been active members of a sororities are no longer allowed to wear a cord to represent their sorority for their time at Western.

"I honestly did not even know or hear anything about these rules," Calloway said. "I do not understand how Western can inform such rules and not tell anyone about it. All I've heard

THIS HAS BEEN A HUGE
TRADITION IN THE YEARS
BEFORE US, HOW CAN THEY
TELL US WE CAN NOT DO THIS
ANYMORE.

-KENZIE CALLOWAY

about this is word of mouth nothing direct from admiration. It is a little silly to make rules but not directly inform the students about them."

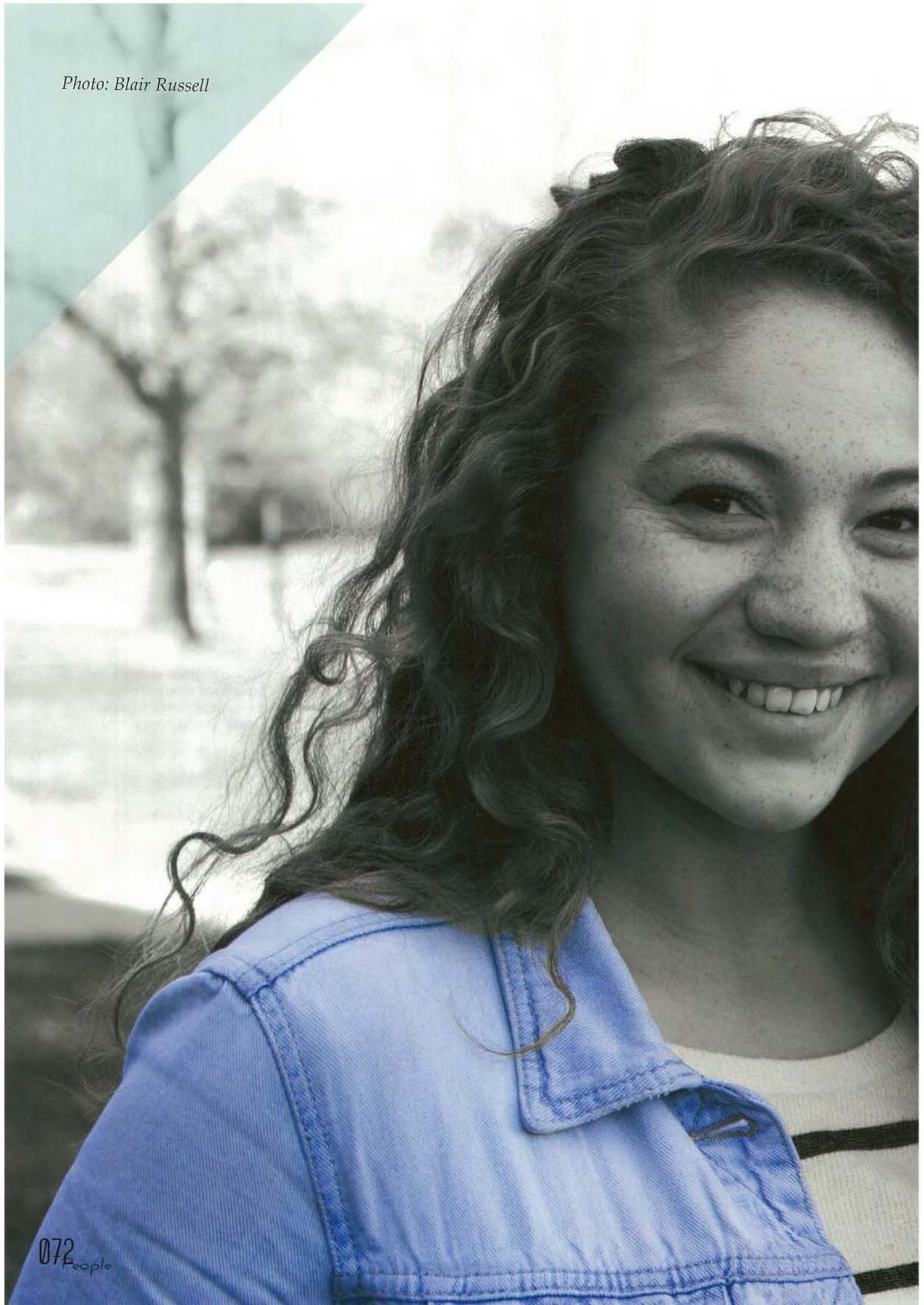
High heels will also be banned from the graduation ceremony. This is to prevent damage to the new field and inconveniences during the ceremony. Students are required to wear flats or wedged shoes.

Finally, although this day can't come soon enough for many Western students, there is some tension in the air about the soon graduates on the new rules.

The Academic Affairs Offices announces a ban on high heels for the Spring Commencement Ceremonies. Students were required to wear flats or wedges instead.



Photo: Blair Russell



PEOPLE

THE NEXT NATIONAL PLAYER

Sydney Andrews wins on and off the field

S Sydney Andrews is an outstanding individual and student at Missouri Western. You may have seen her around campus or on the soccer field. Andrews graduated from the PTA program in 2014 and will graduate in May 2016 with a bachelor's degree in health and exercise science. One of her biggest passions is soccer. Andrews started as a center-midfielder for Western's soccer team and has since played a centerback position, where she played for most of her career.

Andrews has been playing soccer since she was five years old. In 2012, she began playing for the U.S. Deaf National Women's Team as a centerback. The USDWNT provides Andrews with an incredibly unique opportunity.

"It's an honor to be able to play for my country," Andrews said. "Not many people can say they have that opportunity, so I am absolutely blessed and grateful for that chance, and I hope to represent my country well."

The USDWNT provides Andrews with an opportunity to play soccer with other women who are deaf.

"With the USDWNT, I have met some of the most inspiring, hard-working, humble and amazing young women," Andrews said. "I absolutely learn so much from each and every one of them, both on and off the field."

The team allows for a very strong bond between the players, and is also unique in the fact that they play globally.

"The USDWNT has never lost an international match," Andrews said. "We have won four gold medals. We have

played in Australia, Taiwan, Turkey, Bulgaria and are gear up to play in Italy for the Deaf World Cup to defend our title this summer."

Andrews' MWSU soccer family has been supportive of her national team.

"The teams here at MWSU have been absolutely amazing in learning how to work and play with me and are supportive of me," Andrews said. "There is just a little bit of a bond and understanding that the USDWNT provides that you don't get anywhere else."

Andrews sometimes struggles with how hard it truly is to communicate in a hearing world, but believes that struggle has made her into the person she is today.

"I don't think people realize how hard I have to work and how much focus I have to put into just following a simple conversation," Andrews said. "It is absolutely exhausting and frustrating at times. Towards the end of the day I just need to take my ears out and just turn everything off. But if people ask if I had a choice to being hearing or deaf, I would choose being deaf every single time. It may be hard, but it has always been a blessing. I would not be the person I am today, without the determination and understanding of how much value there is in working hard and putting your everything into all that you do."

Andrews adds, "Plus, I sleep great at night, and I honestly don't know how you guys do it."



Right: Andrews and her team celebrate after winning the gold medal in Ankara, Turkey, for the Deaf World Cup in 2012. Andrews and her team had won four gold medals all together during her time on the team.





Left: Andrews plays with a young girl during her first mission trip to India. "It was so amazing for me to connect and spend time with the kids in the orphanage there. There may be a language barrier, but there is no barrier when it comes to showing love and compassion," Andrews said.

Andrews is proud of being deaf and hopes she can show those around her that no matter what difficulties you may face, if you put the work in and put your mind to it, you can achieve anything you want. Attitude and effort are two words to live by. Andrews gives this advice: live with a lot of heart.

The people that Andrews has been able to meet during her time on the Western soccer team has been her favorite part of being on the team. Each year brings a different set of girls to the squad, and Andrews loves to see how they grow as a team and how they also grow off the field.

"Honestly, being able to have those relationships and have a common bond for loving the game of soccer is the best part about being a part of a team sport," Andrews said. "They not only are your teammates, but they become family who you can always count on for love and support."

Additional interests of Andrews include volunteering, hanging out with friends, exploring, listening to music and going on mission trips.

"I try to devote much of my free time to helping others," Andrews said. She spends time mentoring and hanging out with children at the Noyes Home each Monday, and even helped start a partnership between the Noyes Home and MWSU athletics.

"The last Monday of every month, a team goes out and spends a couple hours with the kids there," Andrews said. They all just need good role models and people to love on them; everyone deserves that."

Andrews has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, United Way and Helen Davis. She has enjoyed her

opportunities to go on mission trips across the world, as well. Andrews has visited Mexico to help build a house for a family

PEOPLE ASK IF I HAD A CHOICE TO BEING HEARING OR DEAF, I WOULD CHOOSE BEING DEAF EVERY SINGLE TIME. IT MAY BE HARD, BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN A BLESSING. -ANDREWS

through the Casas por Cristo organization, and to India to provide free physical therapy for individuals, as well as spend time with children in an orphanage. Andrews considers the mission trip to India "an experience that definitely changed my life," and will be going back during summer of 2016. Volunteering is absolutely a joy to Andrews, and she plans to pursue a career where she can live out the passion of helping others.

Being a missionary could be in the future for Andrews, and she hopes to end up overseas in someplace like Africa.

Her immediate plans after graduation from Missouri Western include moving to Denver, Colorado. Her current job as a PTA will transfer to Denver, and she hopes to further her education with an international affairs degree.

Story: Abbey Resler
Photos: Submitted
Design: Jessika Eidson

Right: Andrews poses with her parents, Sarah & James, at senior night game. They were Andrews' biggest fans and supporters.

Left: Andrews makes a tackle on a player from Russia. Andrews has played against athletes from all over the world.



THE NEXT PERFECT PAIR

Twins, Claire and Carmen Turpin, bring new meaning to 'double major'

Many students are able to experience having a best friend during college. Not many can say that their best friend is also their twin. This is the case for junior students Claire and Carmen Turpin. Carmen and Claire, who were unexpected, are five minutes apart, Carmen being the oldest.

Though the two have a few common interests, many people neglect to understand that they are both still two different individuals. Some may feel that since they are twins, that they have to like the same things. Even though they do enjoy the same things, making the assumption could still be problematic. Claire shared how she feels about people making the assumption of her and her sister having to like the same things and always have to be together just because they happen to be twins.

"We get along for the most part," Claire said. "We'll go two weeks, and then there will be that one week, where we can't stand each other. We just nit pick at each other, but usually once we get time apart we're fine."

Carmen and Claire are transfer students who are currently journalism majors. Claire started out wanting to be a teacher and Carmen majored in criminal justice. They both then decided to switch to journalism. They are also roommates and share an apartment.

It is quite common that people get the two mixed up, especially at work. Reminding people that they are talking to the wrong twin got tiring for them, so many times they go along with what people are saying and may even answer for each other. Carmen recalled one of the many times when the mix up happened.

"Last week I had this girl come up to me," Carmen said. "She said, 'hey, how are you doing?' She called me Claire so I just said, 'good,' and started talking like I was Claire."

While discussing the topic of always being confused for the other, Carmen and Claire mention that not only strangers confuse them, but their mom still occasionally gets them mixed up too. The girls recalled a funny time when their mom got them confused.

"Sometimes our mom still gets us mixed up," Claire said. "We have to almost wear a name tag around our family. She will ask Carmen to get something out of the kitchen and I'll be in the kitchen and she'll be sitting right next to my mom and I'm like, 'mom, it's Claire.'"

When thinking of twins, many people picture two identical persons who dress the same and can sense when the other is in pain or thinking something. This couldn't be further from the truth, even though there have been occasions where one decided to wear a specific outfit and the other did as well, by coincidence. The Turpin girls have their "twinning" spontaneous moments of feeding off the other's vibes and finishing the other's sentences, but the ability to read each other's minds is more of an assumption.

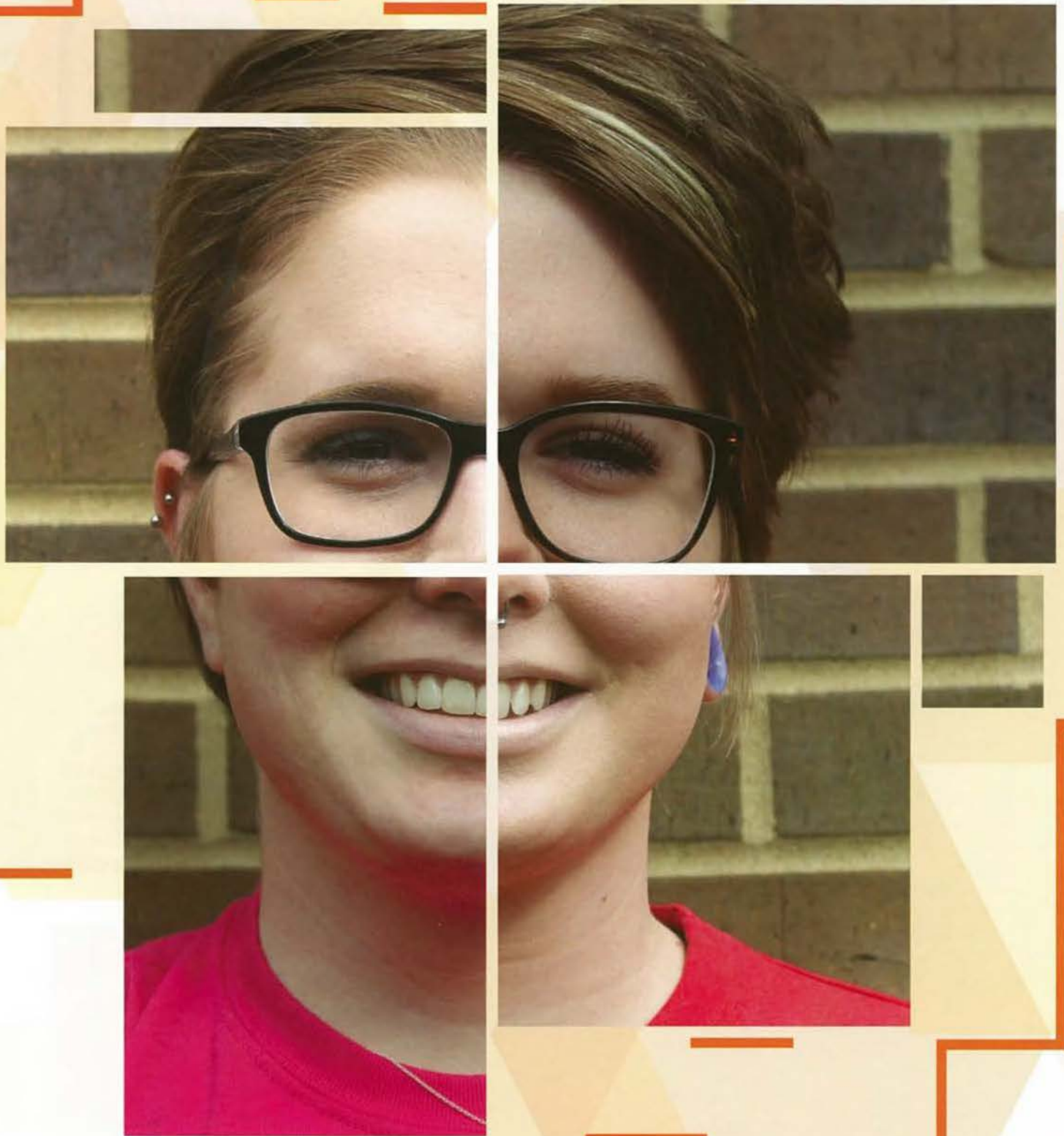
"People always ask if I know what she's thinking," Claire said. "Or do I know if she's in pain and I'm just like, 'no. It's like, 'hey Carmen what are you gonna eat for breakfast tomorrow send me an answer.' I think it's funny. Sometimes we can talk at the same time but it's not as on demand as people think. There are times she will give me this look and I don't know what it means."

With the girls spending the majority of their lives together the question of life after college arises. Will they live in the same area or go separate ways? Well, the response to this question is still under construction. Carmen is all for starting her own life and venturing out. Claire on the other hand, respects her sister's decision but does not agree with it.

"I would like to move away," Carmen said. "Claire will say that I have to stay in this area, but no, I don't. She thinks that we're going to like, grow old together in matching houses."

Though the two have a lot of things in common, and even have majority of the same friends, they are still very two individual persons but hopefully the two can come to an agreement on the living situation after their graduation.







The

World culture
finds a place in
student life at
Western.

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Story: Shannon
Photos: Rachael B.
Design Kia Abhari & Violetta



MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
AUGUST 20

Next University Discussion

It's human nature to be curious. As such, it is only natural to be curious about someone who looks and dresses differently than yourself. Mariatul Dianah Hidzir has a welcoming, open personality, and she says she's more than happy to answer any questions.

"People approach me with a very curious and inquisitive attitude," Hidzir said.

Hidzir, known by most around campus simply as "Dena" Muslim and, as a Muslim woman, has made a choice to dress in a specific way. Hidzir covers herself up nearly completely, with only her face and hands visible.

"I came here with this style on," Hidzir said, gesturing to her hijab. "If you compare this style and the turban style you would be more curious about this kind of thing rather than that. Anyone can wear a turban."

Hidzir quickly became comfortable, taking advantage of her powerful singing voice and open personality to get involved with other campus and community organizations.

"When I came here, I was the only female Muslim in the orientation for the international students," Hidzir said. "When I came here, I was really alone."

Hidzir has performed at the Robidoux Theater in Downtown St. Joseph as well as with Missouri Western's a cappella group, Eastern Appeal, and competed in Missouri Western's The Voice competition since arriving here just one semester ago.

Despite her initial feeling of limbo and unsureness, Hidzir quickly made a home here with her fellow international students as well as the rest of the student body.

When asked about any negative responses she had experienced, Hidzir said that the way Muslims are sometimes portrayed in the media and pop culture makes her feel awkward and uncomfortable.

As for personal experience, however, Hidzir had very few negative things to say about the people around her. Her only negative encounter has been with one individual who told her she might get sent home to Malaysia, depending on how the next Presidential elections were to go.

"So far I haven't met anyone who oppresses anyone over here," Hidzir said, "It's more just a matter of them being curious."

When asked about what impact she thought she has on the community at Missouri Western, Hidzir said it was for other's to decide.

"Although I still have to cover myself, I am still allowed to do the things that I want..." Hidzir said. "I have the ability to tell people that, no matter where you come from and no matter what culture you practice you can still do the things that you want, I still wear the headscarf, I'm Muslim, I still practice the Islam culture and I can still sing. I still do the things that I do, and people know me."

THE NEXT SOLDIER

Cody Young fights on two battlefields as a student and a serviceman

For Private First Class Cody Young, there was no doubt in his mind of what he wanted to do when he grew up. He belonged in the Army, taking the mantle from his father, a retired artilleryman.

"I had to do something more for myself and for others," Young said. "I knew [the Army] was a good way to build me up as a person."

A year ago, Cody was at Basic Combat Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, a military installation located in the Ozarks. He was taught a wide assortment of skills, ranging from marksmanship to rappelling. After completing basic training, Young was sent to Advanced Individual Training school. There he received further training as a Horizontal Construction Engineer, a "12 November" in military terms.

This year, Young is enrolled at Missouri Western, where he plans on majoring in Criminal Justice. He's the first of his family to attend a university. Young stresses the importance in keeping motivated, whether in a military or civilian environment.

"It's two different ballfields; the environments you're in are so different," Young said. "I'm pretty determined to finish school. I'm going to; I will. You give me a task, and I will do it."

Young certainly means what he says. When it comes to taking his education seriously, Young makes

sure he gives it his all. Just ask his reading teacher, Kathryn James.

"Cody seems to have a realistic attitude toward his education and how it will benefit him," James said. "I would describe Cody as a good student, fun to have in class, polite to others and capable of doing well in school. I enjoy having him in class, and I count on him to be ready to discuss a subject if the class is lagging."

Making sure his best effort goes into every endeavor he embarks upon is just a part of who Young is as an individual. Whether he's serving his country, or earning his degree, anything less than 100 percent is unacceptable.



Private First Class
Cody Young



Young showcases his unit's challenge coin. He received it when he completed combat training.



Pfc. McKeown and Pfc. Young take some time to relax in the barracks. The two men became "battle buddies" shortly after meeting each other.



THE NEXT SUPERSTAR

Basketball player breaks the rules

W

"We live everyday breaking the rules and hearts, but the minute the tables turn we shatter like open parts of a machine that's only ran by human beings. We rely on Kings and Queens for satisfaction, hopes and dreams." - Mhykeah Baez.

Missouri Western Women's basketball player, Mhykeah Baez, may be known for her basketball skills, but she has another talent, which is rapping. Baez is a senior from San Antonio, Texas and in her first season for the Griffons, she shot over 44% from the field and lead the team with 15 blocks on the year. In her senior season, she helped the Griffons to an 18-0 start before they lost, in which they beat multiple Top 25 teams.

Aside from having a great career for the Griffons, Baez has a hidden rapping ability and is also a great song writer, in which she has been doing since she was 15 years-old.

"I have been rapping for seven years. I started at the age of 15, I am 22 now." Baez said. "I was always a reserved person and never really liked talking to people, so my outlet was to write and rap out my pain I was going through at the time."

Some of her favorite artist to listen to is Drake, Jhene, Aiko, Naz, Kehlani, and Kendrick Lamar. Baez has a few songs that she has written since she has started rapping but hasn't had the chance to record them because of her first priority, basketball. She also explained how she got in the rhythm to write her music.

"Music just comes to me, if I hear a beat anywhere I start to rap," Baez said. "if I need to write I'll take my phone out and text a rap in my notes, but normally I'm better writing in my room to myself on any beat I play."

Baez likes to rap, but doesn't want to make a career out of it. She is a talented person and is also pretty good a drawing.

"My other hobby I love is to draw or sketch anything that comes to mind." Baez said.

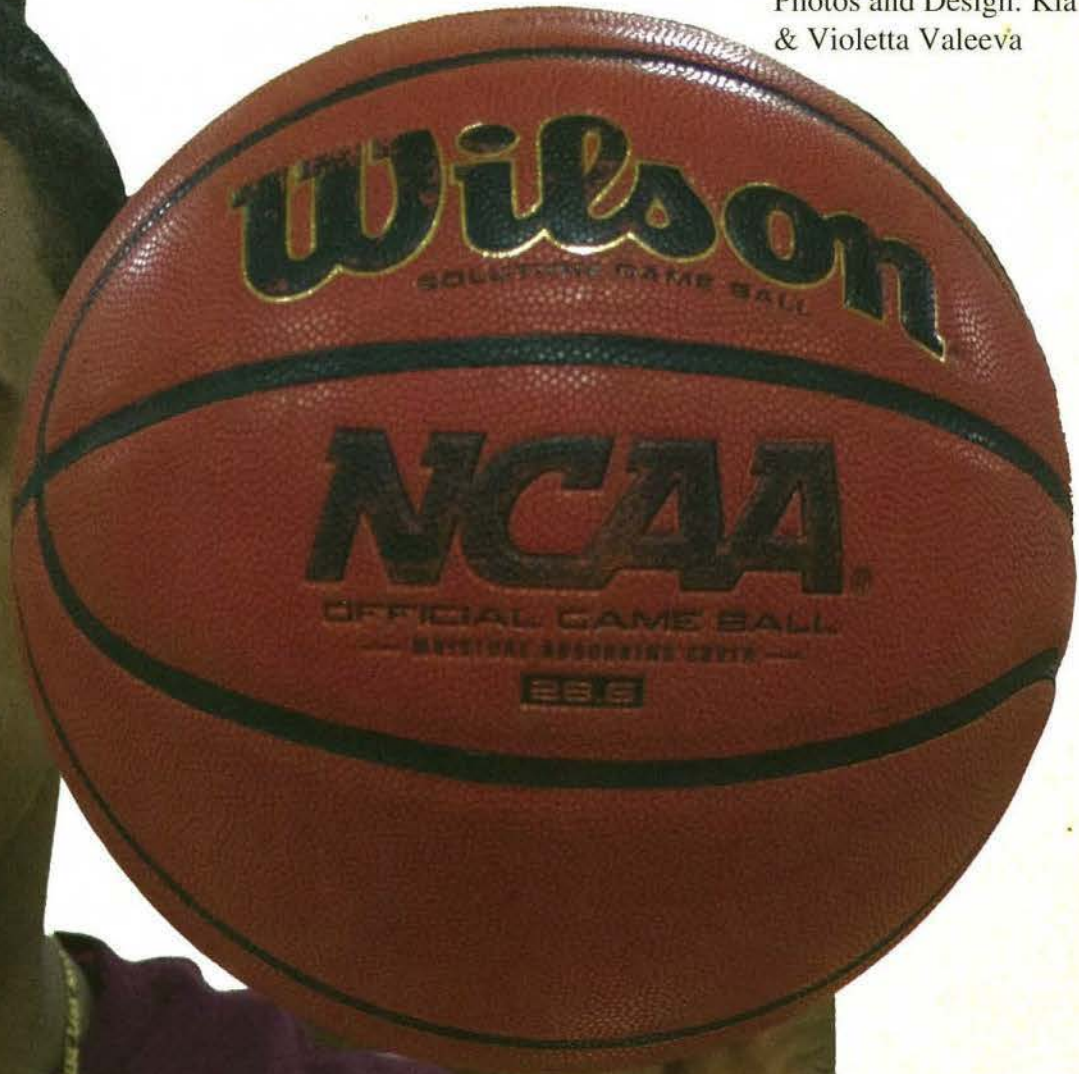
She plans to try and play basketball at the professional level after her time at Missouri Western or going to the navy.

"Music has been a hobby to me, nothing I would want to further my career in. Some dreams of mine is playing basketball at the next level out of college, and I would like to join the navy."

The San Antonio, Texas native has some big plans in the future, but as she said before, her main priority right now is focusing on her basketball career.

"We love with no limits, we start with either to finish but when the time has come we quit with no hesitation. As our minds tend to overthink we blink, hearts drop, a mystery is what it seems to be. Life." -Mhykeah Baez.





Story: Cortrez Colbert
Photos and Design: Kia Abhari
& Violetta Valeeva



THE NEXT

Western says
goodbye to Julie
Schneider, director of
the library

Julie Schneider was the director Missouri Western's library for 25 years, but her time at Missouri Western and her love for literature began long before that.

Schneider was a student at the St. Joseph Junior College which would later become Missouri Western State University. It was there that she studied to be an elementary school teacher and fell in love with literature and libraries.

She continued her education and graduated from Northwest State University with degree in English and Library Science. She then moved onto the University of Missouri and earned her master's in library science.

Schneider eventually came back to Western and began working in the library.

"I kind of came home," Schneider said.

After coming back, Schneider worked for Western for over 44 years.

"I've really enjoyed my time here," Schneider said. "Forty-four years has gone really fast. I feel like I've contributed. The library has certainly moved along from handwritten cards to automation. We've tried to present for faculty and students the latest, greatest whatever in databases."

During those 44 years, Schneider made some memories with the people she worked with.

"We've had some really interesting times-some funny times," Schneider said. "We've had some really trying times.

We've had major events happen, like when we got our system. Every book and video and audio in the library has been marked for the security system. That was a huge ordeal."

During her time at western Schneider also saw a lot of change over the course of 44 years. One of the main changes she saw was the library transitioning from a place of studying to a place where students meet to socialize.

"This floor has ended up to be more of a gathering place," Schneider said. "It's almost like people like being here; it's a place to be seen- people will meet you here, and you can get a cup of coffee. This library, as well as others, has evolved from a 'shh' type of thing to being more open- a gathering place."

While some librarians may seem to be annoyed by the influx of students, Schneider always enjoyed being there for those students.

"Helping students," Schneider said when asked what she would miss most. "Feeling like you're making a difference in someone's life, and helping them learn how to find information, not just handing it to them, but helping them find information so that they have a life-long skill set, something that will help them for the rest of their lives."

Schneider plans to travel during her retirement; she has two states (Oregon and Alaska) left to visit until she has seen them. She hopes to see the library continue to expand, and encourage her successor to continue to help the library.

"Go with the flow," Schneider said. "Be flexible. Even though it is something different, for this position at least. You never know what's going to come up."

LIBRARY

Western welcomes
new library director,
Sally Gibson



The library may seem like just another building on campus. It's a quiet place to study; you can find books for your research paper that is due tomorrow and maybe even grab a coffee before class. Students do not always realize the amount of work that goes into making the library a healthy space for students.

Sally Gibson became Missouri Western's new Library Director on March 28, 2016. Her job is to make sure every aspect of the library runs smoothly, from the books in the collection to the library's future plans. Gibson loves working in the library and making sure that it is a safe place for students to grow and learn.

Gibson has not always wanted to be a library director or even a librarian. She said she considered the idea during her freshman year of college after her grandmother told her she should become a librarian.

"At first I was like 'No way!,'" Gibson said. "The more I thought I thought about it, I thought, 'You know that would be interesting, because you are working with people. You can help people find information and evaluate information. You have a lot of interaction with a wide variety of topics and ideas.'"

She has been in university libraries for 20 years and has always wanted to be a library director. Her hopes are to make the library an integral part of each student's learning experience.

"The school is focused on student success and learning; I really like that," Gibson said. "The more I looked at Missouri Western, the more I thought it would be a great place to be part of."

Linzi Dobard, student worker in the library, said her first impression of Gibson was she was very nice and open.

"She is open to talk to everyone," Dobard said. "I always see her walking around and communicating with everyone."

Lisa Hensley, circulation coordinator, works very closely with Gibson to make the library the best it can be.

"She has talked to everybody one-on-one," Hensley said. "She will have a good impact. There will be changes that will be beneficial for the staff and beneficial for the students."

When she is not working in the library, Gibson spends time with her husband and her dog. She loves to travel and has visited 45 states. Her goal is to visit all 50 states.

Next time you are going to the library to study with friends or finish a class project last minute, take a moment and be thankful for people like Gibson and her team who work hard to make it a safe and resourceful environment for all students to succeed.

Story- left: Jessika Eidson
Story- right: Alicen Fowler
Photo- left: Andy Garrison
Photo- right: Hannah Montgomery
Design: Jessika Eidson

THE NEXT FAN

Missouri Western student follows Royals to World Series victory

If you see Chris Stone on campus, you might not think he's different than any other student at Missouri Western.

However, the communications student from Kansas City, Missouri has an alter ego.

Stone is known around Kauffman Stadium as Superfan, a nickname he more than lives up to.

"The first game I dressed up, we were 10 games under .500, and we weren't even in the pennant race at all," Stone said. "I started dressing up and we started winning, so I'm not going to stop now."

Stone has been a Royals fan his whole life, but his Superfan ego came around at the beginning of the 2014 season.

"I've been dressing up for Chiefs' games for about five or six years," Stone said. "I was thinking about it, nobody does anything really out-there for Royals games. I was just like, 'I'm going to give it a shot.'"

Stone is a fan-favorite around Kauffman. He estimates that himself and his brother Andrew, who also dresses up, take roughly 120 pictures with fans at every game they attend, which has been about 100 over the last two seasons.

"We have to be there an hour before the game to get in by game time," Stone said. "People are always stopping us...People come up to us because we've made it on MLB's Instagram, we've made it on Sportscenter, we were interviewed by Fox. It's bringing attention to the Royals, so we've had people from the Royals front office come down during the games and tell us what we're doing is awesome, and they want us to keep doing it. I like the attention, but it's more just about the Royals."

However, with the popularity in KC, comes the detest in other cities. While on trips to Minnesota, St. Louis and Houston, Stone says he's been harassed by opposing teams' fans.

"The way we dress, especially on the road,

we are lightning rods," Stone said. "When their tea is beating us, we are the people that they want to be on and throw stuff at...because they feel like we're tl Royals, or something, because of the way we dra attention to ourselves."

Fox 4 in Kansas City recently wrote an article abo Stone and the other Royals super fans. Stone has be interviewed by several TV stations, including one Houston after the ALDS.

The Royals' success over the last two seasons h been memorable for every fan, especially Stone.

"We went from the guys that 'oh it's a nice sto they're there, but they're not going to do anythin to the guys that can do something," Stone said. "V proved to America that we're not the underdo; anymore. This year has just been incredible; it's ju been a whole different reaction...definitely from la year to this year has been night and day, going fro being underdogs to being the favorites."

Stone is just like every other fan though. He is mo than superstitious, especially when it comes to how I dresses for every game.

"I wear my towels in the same place for eve game," Stone said. "Whenever I get a new towel for tl playoffs, I won't put it on until we win and I know it lucky, then I put it on. I do a lot of different stuff wi beads. I've had the same hair the whole time."

With the upcoming series against the New Yo Mets, Stone is hoping to plan a trip for the games Citi Field.

Stone may be a die-hard Royals fan, but he is mo than confident in the team's ability to finally take tl crown. He says the fans' spirit every game is wh makes the team so special.

"That's what's special about Kansas City sport and I feel it every time I go to a game, it's different he in Kansas City...how passionate fans are," Stone sai "It just shows how passionate the fans are and ho much we deserve this. There's not one team, anywher that deserves this as much as we do...nobody deserv this as much as we do and that's why we're getting this year."

Side Photos: Christ Stone dresses up for sporting events for both the Chiefs and Royals. Stone often posed with fans at events.

Story: Mika Cummins

Photos: kansascity.com & facebook.com

Design: Jessika Eidson

THE NEXT CHAMPIONS

The Kansas City Royals win the World Series after 30 years

Party like it's 1985!

It has been 30 years since the Royals won their last World Series title. Quite a lot had happened in that three-decade span. A few ups and more downs than fans cared to admit made up the last 30 years in Royals' history.

With the Royals winning the 2015 World Series, a new era for fans began.

It's been 30 years since the Kansas City Royals have won a World Series title. Until now, it had been just as long since the team even won a divisional title.

Forty years is a long time. Most Missouri high school students weren't even alive during that magical time in Kansas City history. So, why the last two seasons have been a lifetime experience for students.

Senior sports management major Tyler Paschall has been a Royals fan his whole life, so this has been a long time coming.

"I've grown up watching the Royals since I was a kid, and [I] had never seen the Royals do anything good while I have been alive," Paschall said. "It's been rough every season because the team lose so many games when there are as many players go through the season, like Carlos Beltran, Johnny Damon, Mike Moustakas and Jermaine Dye, that could have helped us get to the postseason, but they didn't stay in KC."

"The amount of royal blue that has taken over the last two seasons has not been incredible, but it's been more than that."

Paschall, a junior sports management major, loves the support the Kansas City area fans are giving its team.

"It's just fun," Paschall said. "Even though there are a bunch of bandwagon fans, it seems like everyone in KC loves the Royals. We have a great atmosphere. It's also cool to go from watching softball to, now, great baseball."

For many fans, the best memory so far has been the 2014 AL Wild Card game against the Oakland A's. The Royals were down until a strong 8th and 9th inning helped them tie the game 7-7 before going into extra innings. They went on to win 9-8 in 12 innings, giving them their first playoff win in 30 years.

"Watching that Royals' team come back from four runs down in the 8th and 9th, to tie the game and send it into extra innings... [it] will not only be my favorite memory over the last two seasons, but, honestly, in my lifetime," Coder said.

That game is what gave most of Kansas City hope for the remainder of the postseason.

"After that game, I really felt like we could do something special," Paschall said.

For other fans, like junior elementary education major Megan Lampert, it's simply getting to watch this team do something unexpected that makes these last two seasons unforgettable.

"The greatest memory over the last two seasons is having a dream come true of seeing them in the playoffs and go to the World Series," Lampert said.

This team is beloved by fans near and far. With the widespread support the Royals went on to win the 2015 World Series in game 5.

1985
The Royals defeat the Cardinals in Game 7 of the World Series.

1994
The Royals officially join the AL Central. They finish 64-51.

1997
The Royals finish dead last in the AL Central at 67-94.

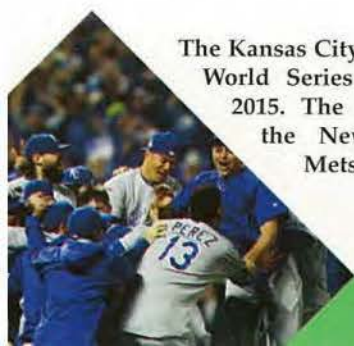
2000
The Royals earn a 77-85 record and finish fourth in the AL Central.

2005
The Royals have their worst finish in the 30-year span at 56-106.

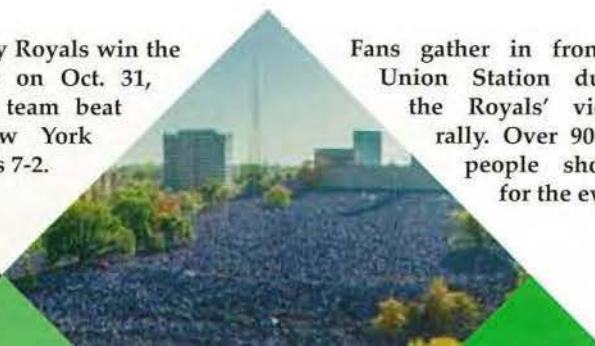
2009
The Royals end the season at 65-97, their worst record in nearly a decade.

2014
The Royals win the AL Pennant, taking them to the World Series. The royals lost to the San Francisco Giants in Game 7.

2015
The Royals defeat the Mets in Game 5 to win their first title in 30 years.



The Kansas City Royals win the World Series on Oct. 31, 2015. The team beat the New York Mets 7-2.



Fans gather in front of Union Station during the Royals' victory rally. Over 900,000 people showed for the event.

THE NEXT GREEKS

Alpha Sigma Phi establishes themselves as a new fraternity on the MWSU Campus.

Alpha Sigma Phi may be a new fraternity on the Missouri Western campus, but it is the 10th oldest fraternity in the nation. It was established in 1845 at Yale University and is part of 140 campuses across the United States, Canada and Scotland.

Matt Weido, coordinator of expansion and growth for Alpha Sigma Phi, assisted students in establishing the fraternity on the Missouri Western campus this spring. He is excited about the expansion of the fraternity and encourages students to consider joining.

"There are many reasons to join Alpha Sigma Phi," Weido said. "Whether it's for networking, social, service, leadership, general involvement or the bragging rights of being a Founding Father, we make sure to provide collegians with endless opportunities."

Two of the students inducted into the fraternity this spring were Chuck Mosley and Dylan Queen. Mosley and Queen became founding fathers of the fraternity and are committed to forming a fraternity unlike any other on campus.

"There aren't any preconceptions about who we are or what we do because we get to make this fraternity the way we want it to be," Mosley said.

The five values of Alpha Sigma Phi are silence, charity, purity, honor and patriotism. The fraternity's goal is to help members become a better man. Weido, Mosley and Queen encourage students to join the organization to build friendships and get involved in community service activities on campus.

"Aside from the new bonds I have built with my fellow Alpha Sigs, joining the fraternity has given me the chance

to embody the five values of Alpha Sigma Phi," Queen said.

"I decided to join because it's a great opportunity to be part of a Greek life organization that is unlike the others," Mosley said. "If you are thinking about joining a fraternity, just do it. It's a great opportunity to get involved on campus and meet really great people."

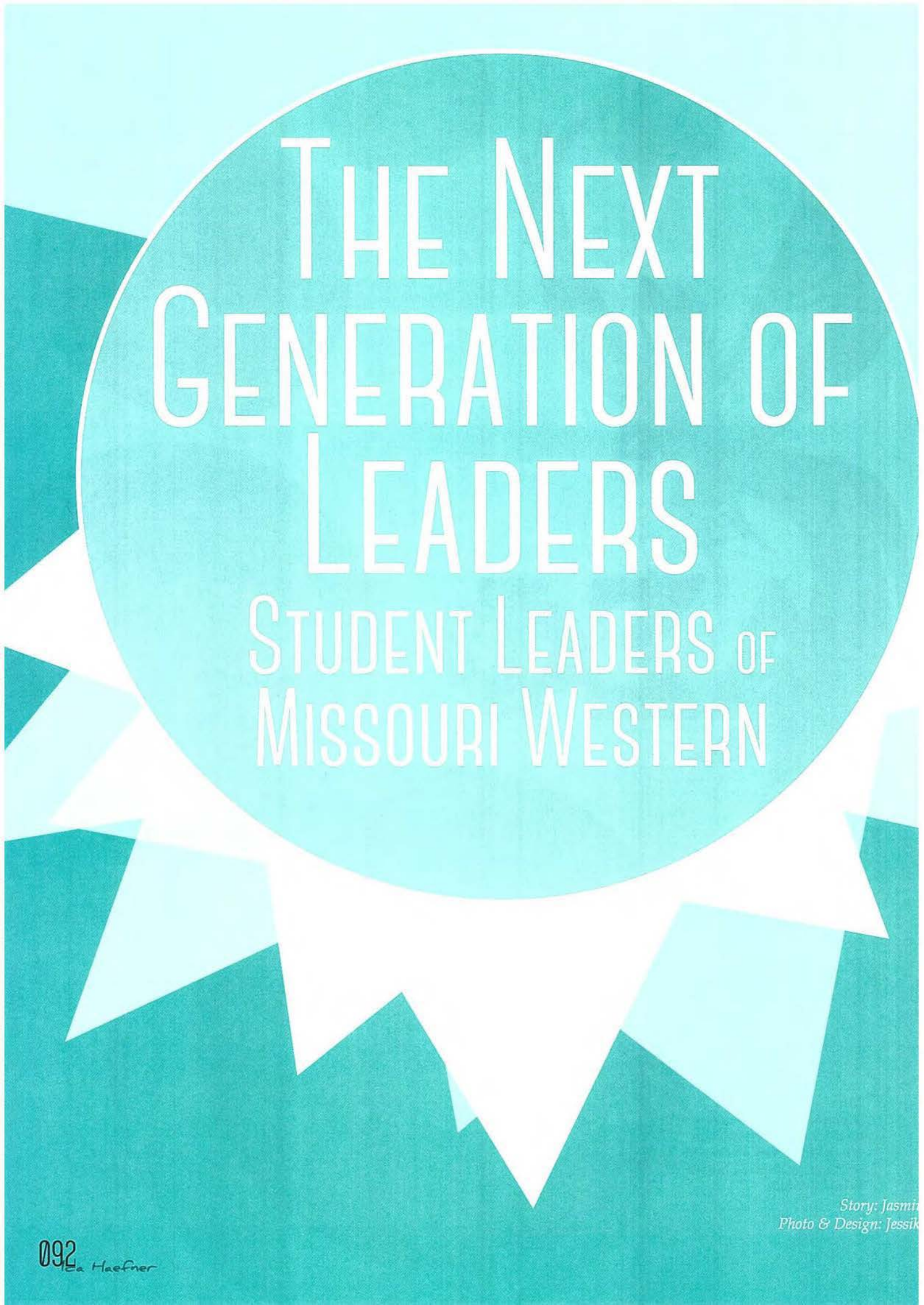
Once fully established the men will be host community service, philanthropy opportunities and brotherhood events. They want to make sure to include everyone on campus: Greeks, non-Greeks, faculty, staff and commuters.





All:
Alpha Sigma Phi members
meet for the first time as an
official fraternity on campus.
ASP was established in 1845 at
Yale University.

Story: Alicen Fowler
Pictures: Alicen Fowler
Design: Bryant Scott



THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

STUDENT LEADERS OF
MISSOURI WESTERN

Story: Jasmin
Photo & Design: Jessika



Ida Haefner: Student Government Association President

The Student Government Association (SGA) plays a large role at Missouri Western. They represent the student body and uphold the image of the university. The SGA made many changes this year. Along with gaining new members, there was also a new president elected, senior Ida Haefner. Haefner is a biology major with a concentration in psychology and has been involved with the SGA since her sophomore year when she accepted a position as senator.

During her junior year, Haefner applied for and was accepted as the director of communications. As director of communication, she kept track of the minutes in the senate meetings, called roll, checked in on any legislation and other tasks. As the new president, Haefner has the opportunity to lead the SGA in the direction she wants to go.

"This year came around for president," Haefner said. "It came to be that I was the only one running."

After being involved with the SGA for three years, Haefner knew the organization's strengths and what could still be worked on. Haefner knew what was expected and the tasks that needed to get done.

"I saw a need," Haefner said. "I saw a need for our university, and I thought I could fit that role and hopefully bring some more greatness to our university. So far, I think we have been doing okay."

As president, Haefner will run a full term, which runs from April to April. The SGA requires commitment and dedication, and more so as president. Haefner spent plenty of time finding ways to make

the SGA and Western better.

"I have 20 hours in the office a week,"

Haefner said. "I attend committee meetings with faculty, and I'll give the student perspective. Then I go out to the students and ask them. I also do a lot of representing students as a whole."

Haefner is not only the SGA president, but holds other titles on campus as well.

"I'm the historian of Tri Beta, the Biological Honor Society," Haefner said. "I'm also in Alpha Chi National Honor Society. In the past I was an ambassador for a year and a half and vice president for the student honors organization." She was also a house manager for a couple of campus theatre productions as well.

Though the SGA is doing well and continues to be a strong voice for the students, Haefner has new ideas and strategies that could make the SGA even stronger.

"Right now we're looking into redefining our committees," Haefner said. "We're also looking to get more involved with the community and doing a student lawyer so [students] can have an affordable solution if legally needed."

Ashley Filipelli shows all the events posted around campus. Filipelli and WAC put on a large variety of events for students.



There is a mastermind behind the activities held on campus and it is Ashley Filipelli, president of the Western Activities Council.

Ashley is a senior elementary education major with an emphasis in Spanish. Her dream is to teach elementary students, especially students with English as their second language.

Before her years at Missouri Western, Filipelli was not the outgoing leader she is today. She grew up in Blaine, Minnesota, and attended a big high school. She said she was involved in high school, but she never pursued any leadership roles.

She chose to attend Western to grow closer to her father and pursue her dream of teaching elementary students.

"My dad just showed me around the campus, and I just fell in love with it," Filipelli said.

Little did she know, her time at Western would help her break out of her comfort zone and grow as a leader as well.

Filipelli said she became involved on campus after joining her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, and working as a program assistant for the Center for Student Involvement. She loves planning events that help students get involved while having fun. She said her sorority sisters really encouraged her to join WAC, and after being involved for a semester, she decided to run for president.

Her time on the Western Activities Council has also really helped her step outside of her comfort zone.

"It [WAC] has really helped me grow as leader," Filipelli said. "It helped build my confidence."

When she is not planning campus events for students, Filipelli likes to spend time with her boyfriend, her sorority sisters and her dog. H e r

favorite activities include shopping, date nights with her boyfriend and simply relaxing.

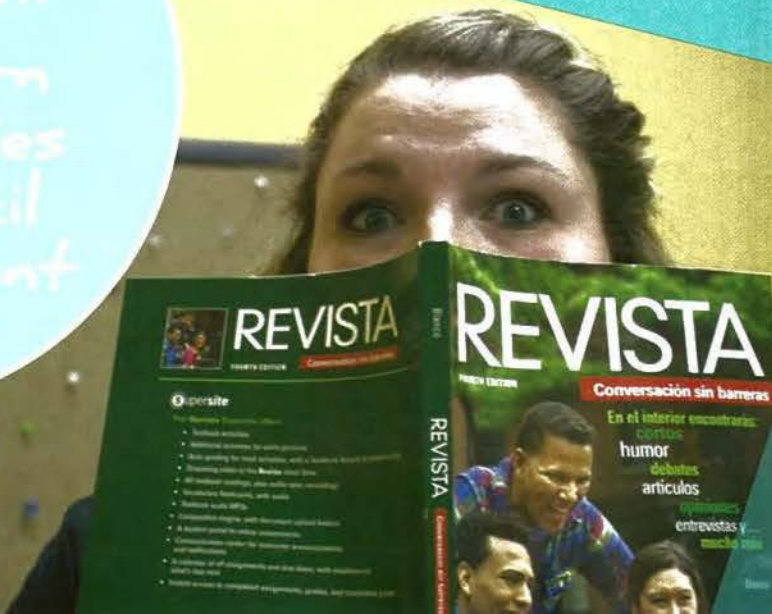
Candace Jenkins, Filipelli's sister and vice president, described Filipelli as a very enthusiastic and person.

"No matter what the topic is, person you could go to and there be no judgment," Jenkins said.

Filipelli is an outgoing, leader on campus. She has been planning fun programs for students on campus and she has loved making memories with her sorority sisters. She said she could give one piece of advice to incoming students it would be to get involved on campus.

"Try to get out of your comfort zone," Filipelli said. "Try to be involved on campus."

Ashley Filipelli: Western Activities Council President



Ashley Filipelli shows off some of her Spanish books. Filipelli wanted to seek a career in teaching English as a second language.



Brad Stanton and his friend, Haden McDonlad meet Rudy Currence, a Grammy-award-winning artist.

Brad
Stanton:
Vice President
of Student
Government
Association

Most people who know Stanton know him as the vice president of our Western's Student Government Association. However, before he came to Western, he was just another teenage teenager, like the rest of us.

One of Stanton's friends and fellow SGA member, Haden McDonald, recalls the college years he spent with Stanton. The two met seven years ago, and became fast friends through shared interests.

"We started talking to each other around middle school and did things like airsoft and playing videogames together," McDonald said. "We

both did debate in high school and debated together as a team ... we've learned to read each other very well."

After graduation from Savannah High School, the two enrolled at Western. Brad decided to try something new here: student government. He had never served on a student council before, but his love of politics spurred him into trying his hand in SGA. A Political Science major, Stanton became involved with the SGA during his freshman year of college when he became a student senator. He also joined the Politics Club and Pi Sigma Alpha. After his two years as a senator, he became vice president when the previous elect opted out. In doing so, he became a voice for the students, a conduit to

allow them to make changes throughout the university.

"The goal of SGA is to be the voice of the students," Stanton said. "SGA has direct communication with the administration, so if there's ever anything the students need, they can tell SGA."

This yearning to help give Western students what they want has kept Stanton very dedicated to his position within the SGA.

Dr. Shana Meyer, vice president of Student Affairs and advisor to the SGA, met Stanton when he joined student government.

"Brad is very intelligent; he has a great sense of humor, he is ... on the ball,"

Meyer said. "If he says he is going to do something, he will do it. He's got a sharp sense of wit as well."

This motivation to get things finished has become synonymous with Stanton's reputation. It is perhaps this quality that makes him liked by so many.

Dr. Melinda Kovacs, a political science professor, sees Stanton continuing his political career in the future.

"[I think he will be in] something that involves being a mover and shaker, where you have to think on your feet -- where you have to be really quick," Kovacs said. "I would see him in some sort of nonprofit that is pushing for change."

Story (left) : Corey Myers
Photos (left): Ali Fowler

Story (right): Justing Janorschke

Photos (right): Jasmine Taylor & facebook.com

THE NEXT AGENT

Esther Mason transitions from Griffon to Federal Agent after reaching out to the FBI.

Esther Mason, sophomore at Missouri Western, knew what she wanted to do from an early age: she wanted to help people.

"When I was ten, I decided what I wanted to do was to go into the criminal [justice] field," Mason said. "I always wanted to do CSI to do the chemical side of it."

Originally interested in a police job, Mason was encouraged by both her father and one of her professors to get in contact with the FBI to pursue her dream career. After following their advice, Mason soon began her preparations to become an eligible candidate to be an agent. She has had several meetings with them, starting in December of 2014.

Mason possesses several qualities which will make it easier for her to get in. It doesn't hurt that the FBI has been trying to add diversity to its ranks by introducing more female agents. It also doesn't hurt that she has a sharp mind, and physical prowess to go with. Her determination to do everything

to the best of her abilities is one of the most appealing qualities to the list.

One of the things people do not realize is that the FBI often does not hire people who major in Criminal Justice. They tend to hire people who major in other disciplines with a minor in criminal justice.

"[Esther] has a passion for science and forensic analysis that will drive her determination to succeeding in the FBI," said Lynn, friend of Mason's. She is also very good at distancing herself from her work and not getting attached, which will be incredibly helpful in the

Being able to keep one's emotions detached from work is a good trait, as investigations are often conducted in an unbiased manner. Mason's ability to stay detached is very attractive in the criminal justice field. At the same time, it is important for her to care about what she does that she puts in her best effort. Mason's combination of these two characteristics put her in a good position.

Story: Justin Janorschke
Photos: Blair Russell
Design: Bryant Scott



Esther Mason poses by the clock tower on campus. Esther has been a proud student of Missouri Western for 2 years.

THE NEXT RISE FROM THE ASHES

International students overcome tragedy while being away from home

Many international students around the country are victims of tragedies that occur in their hometown. It could be hectic when innocent people are killed and international students are trying to figure out what is going on in their country and if their family is safe.

Missouri Western exchange student, Fabien Forestier, experienced this firsthand when terrorists killed nearly 130 people on November 13, 2015, in Paris, France. Though Forestier is from Rhone-Alpes, France, this attack hit close to home because he knew a few people from Paris.

"When I heard about the attack, the first thing I did was listen and read to know more about the situation and, of course, contact my friends in Paris to make sure they were okay," Forestier said. "I wasn't worried about my family because none of my family lives in Paris."

International students all over the country face problems like this. The hardest part for Forestier during this attack is seeing his country hurt.

"I mean, this is hard in the way that you see a country vulnerable to these kinds of attacks," Forestier said. "Of course I was really sad and kind of angry because more than 100 innocent people died for no reason."

These types of events can happen anywhere, that's why Forestier doesn't consider being in the United States safe when the attack occurred.

"The fact that I was in the United States didn't really change anything because, thank God, I didn't lose anybody during the attacks because I live away from Paris," Forestier said. "Even if you might feel safer when you are far from where it happens, recent events showed us that it could happen anywhere. So, there is still a feeling of insecurity."

Forestier left some advice for other students that may be in a similar situation as him during attacks on their country.

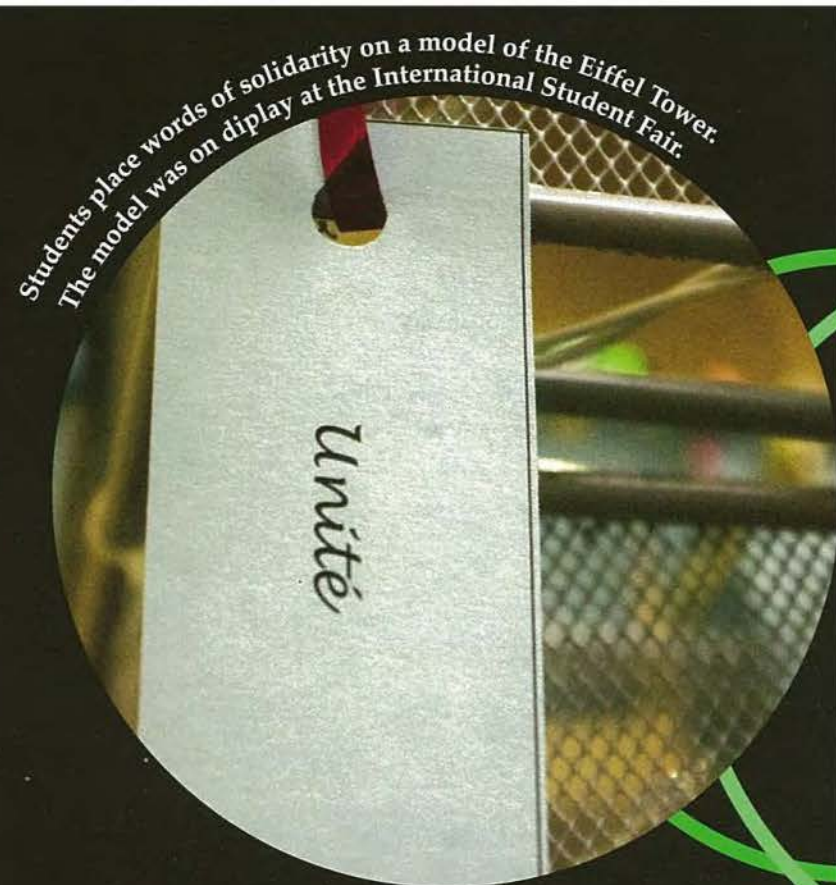
"You have two options: yield to fear and hide in your house, or keep living your life and show these people that no matter what they do, we will get up and get on with our life," Forestier said.

Artist Jean Julien creates artwork after attacks. The piece went viral on social media in the weeks following.





Fabien Forestier stands under the Clock Tower at Missouri Western. Forestier's home was struck by terrorist in November.

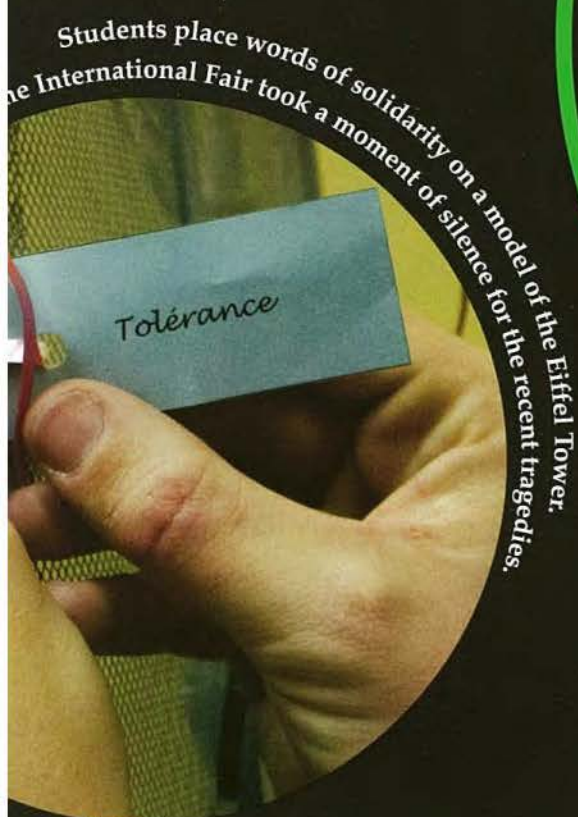


Students place words of solidarity on a model of the Eiffel Tower. The model was on display at the International Student Fair.

The letter to the right was posted to the MWSU International Student Services' Facebook page on March 27, 2016

A LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES OFFICES

Dear International Family,
France Belgium, Turkey, Ivory Coast, Syria and Pakistan. Acts of terrorism happened in many countries. Many families and friends lost thier closest one. It's also planted the seed of fear into many people's minds. You are very lucky to have opportunities to meet people from different nationalities, cultures, religions and races. {I} hope you are open-minded and respectful to others. {I} you build a friendship with someone who is from a different country, religion, or race. {I} hope you share the stories of these positive experiences with your friends and family who never had a friendship with someone outside of their cultural group.
"World Peace" sounds great, but sounds so big. Remember, there is no "World Peace" if there is no peace with you. Let's start "Peace" in the friendship level. Then, we can move to the campus and local level. We can contribute to "state pece", and it eventually becomes "World Peace".
You are very important and a big part of "World Peace".
{I} hope you are committed.



Students place words of solidarity on a model of the Eiffel Tower. The International Fair took a moment of silence for the recent tragedies.

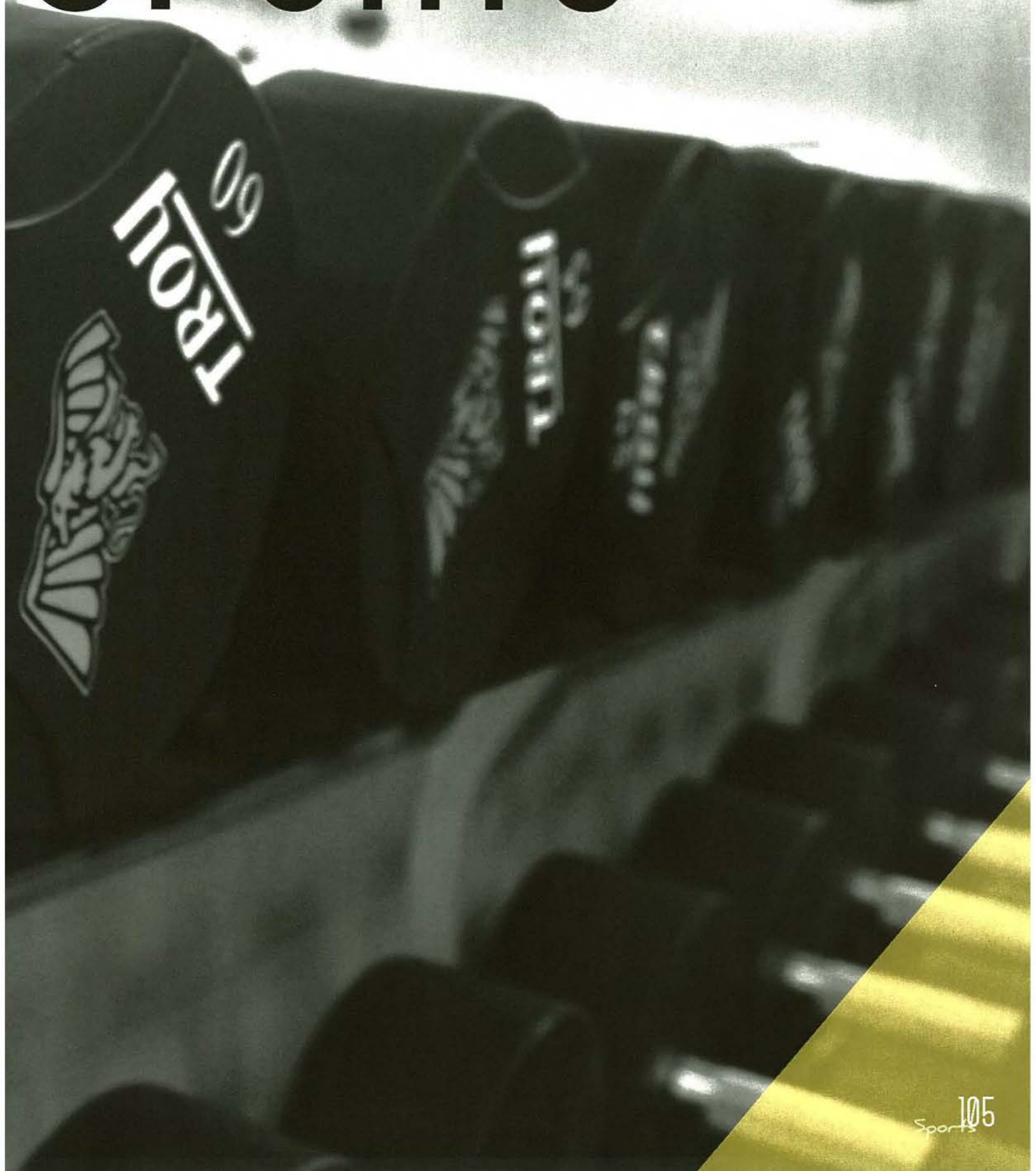
Story: Cotrez Colbert
Photos: Jasmine Taylor and Jessika Eidson
Design: Jessika Eidson

Photo: Blair Russell



TROY
60

SPORTS



THE NEXT BATTER

Western's baseball team finishes with a 38-20 record

M

Missouri Western baseball has started the season strong. Overall, the Griffons have a 38-20 record, giving them the number two seed in the MIAA Conference.

The Griffons began their season with a slow start. On opening weekend, they played a series at Arkansas Tech and lost two out of three games. The next seven games were a draw for Western, giving them a 5-5 record after the first 10 games of the season. However, since the tenth game, the Griffons have been hot.

After being 5-5 to start the season, the Griffons began to turn things around. Out of the next 10 games, the Griffons won nine, sweeping the series with Pittsburgh State, Drury and Truman State.

After starting April off with a three game losing streak, the Griffons have been on fire since. Winning 10 out of the last 11 games they have played.

"It has been really fun to be able to watch the team play so well," Beth Garrison, a Missouri Western student, said. "I am a huge

baseball fan, so I try to get out to every home game I can catch. It's a really fun environment at the field when the guys are doing so well."

One of the most impressive stats seen in the team this year is the dominating offensive play. Landon Mason and David Glaude are leading the teams with .430 and .405 respective batting averages, while Cosimo Canella holds a .366. The entire team boasts a .339 batting average.

"Offensively, we've been playing well," Canella said. "It's been really fun winning as much as we have been. We're going to just try and keep it up throughout the remainder of the season."

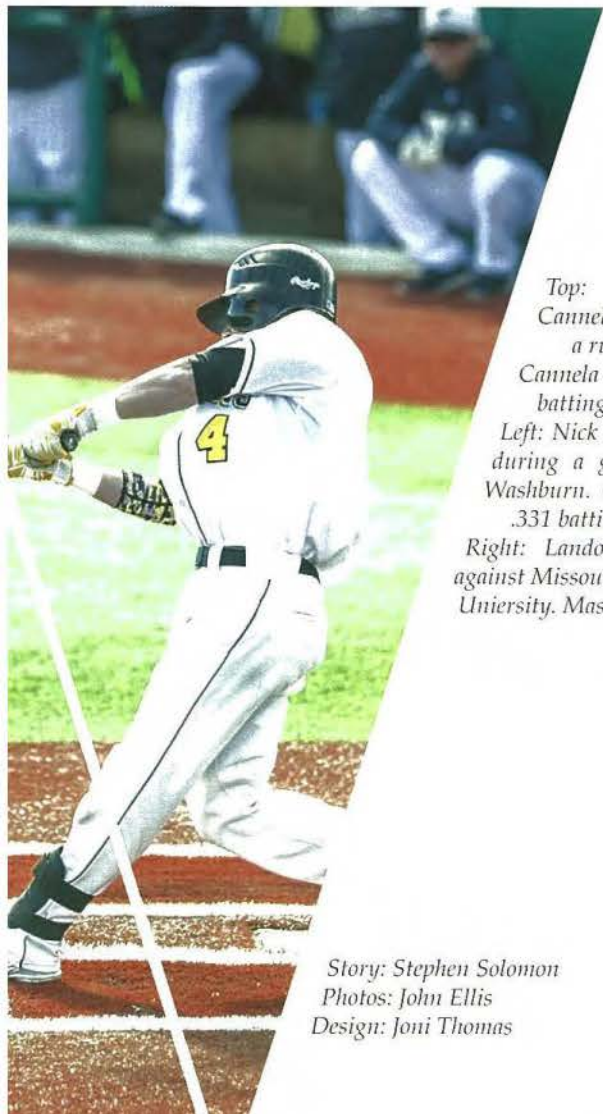
Not only do the Griffons have a lot of offensive firepower they also have a pretty stout defense led by an excellent pitching team. Preston Bailey and Alex Clavet lead the pitchers with 3.35 and 3.71 ERA ratings respectively.

"I think as a whole, the defense is very strong," Mi Calimeno, Griffons pitcher, said. "Our offense has been playing really well, so the defense needs to keep up so we can keep winning."

Missouri Western looks to hold on to its hot streak as it heads into the final stretch of the season. The Griffons will finish up the season with a final home series against Lincoln University on May 6-8. The MIAA Championships begin May 11 and the Griffons hope to enter the tournament strong.



Left: Evan Jones pitches during a game against Missouri Southern. Jones pitched 43.1 innings.



Top: Cosimo Cannella blocks a runner.

Cannella had .360 batting average.

Left: Nick Gawley bats during a game against Washburn. Gawley had a .331 batting average.

Right: Landon Mason bats against Missouri Southern State University. Mason batted a .419.



*Story: Stephen Solomon
Photos: John Ellis
Design: Joni Thomas*





Top right: Freshman Tanner Pettet kicks for a field goal try. Pettet was 14-26 in field goals for the 2015 season.

Bottom: Senior Raphael Spencer leaps over Northwest players during their Halloween game. Spencer rushed for 1,188 yards in the 2015 season.

WINS 6 LOSSES 5



Right: Senior Raphael Spencer runs the ball against Central Oklahoma. Spencer's longest rushing yards for the 2015 season was 64, and his longest kick return was 68 yards.



THE NEXT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Women's Basketball team finishes #1 in Women's MIAA

The Missouri Western women's basketball team had quite a remarkable season. They ended the regular season as MIAA conference champions at 27-4, then advanced to the NCAA Regional Tournament, where they were knocked out by Arkansas Tech, 81-80 in the first round.

Regardless, this season is one for the books.

"To win this conference is a special accomplishment," associate coach, Roger Smith, said. "We play in the toughest conference in the country. So to win it by two games when we were picked to finish fifth, is something to be proud of."

No single coach or player knew what the season had in store for the Griffons, but they faced every game and challenge head on. One player Mhykeah Baez, thought the team succeeded because they were able to work together so well.

"At the beginning of the season, we had no clue how good we could be," Baez said. "We have players that bring a lot to the table, but nothing gets accomplished if we don't know how to play together as a team. As each day brought us challenges, we took what was given and played like a team- not being selfish, but making each other better so as to wholly be the best."

According to Smith, the Griffons have brought the spark back to the program and exceeded expectation with their exceptional hard work and dedication.

"The chemistry they have has been special to be a part of," Smith said. "They have found a way to win the toughest games not only at home, but also on the road. Our mantra for this season has been 'It's not about me, it's about the person next to me.' They have taken that to heart and that has made us hard to beat."

LaQuinta Jefferson was the leading scorer with a total of 589 points throughout the season. Jefferson was also named Player of the Year and a top pick for first team in the MIAA selection.

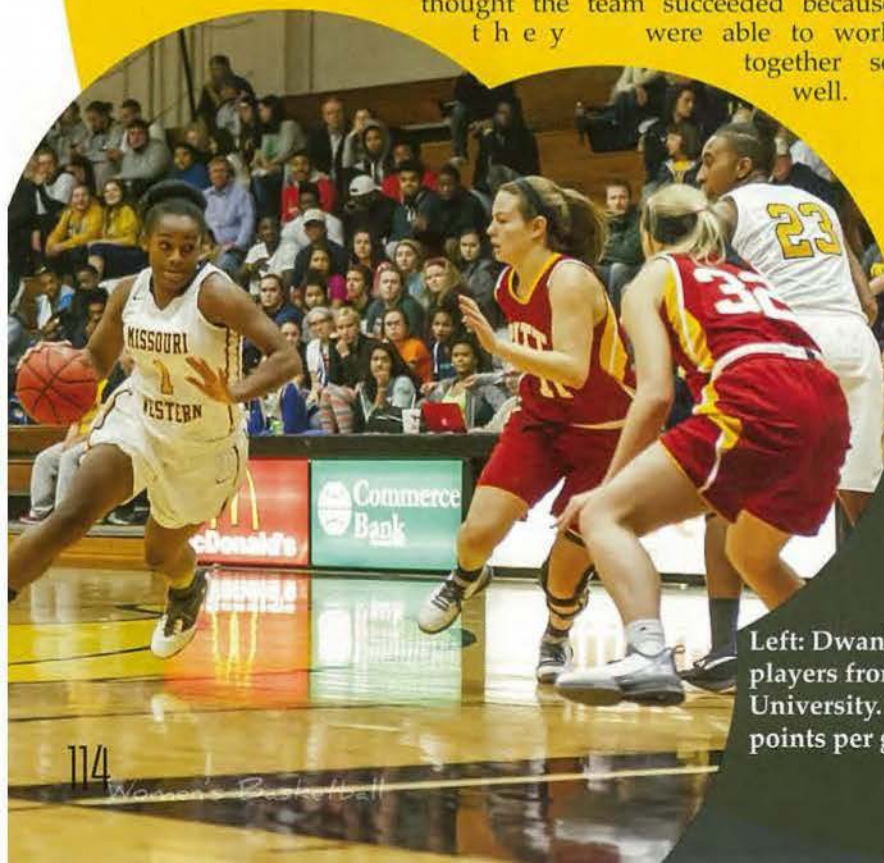
Smith thought it as no surprise the team made it as far as they did, because expectations were high from the start and the ladies were determined to make the season great.

The Griffons made it to Nationals this year, which was a big accomplishment seeing as how it's the first time in 11 years.

"This team will be remembered as the team that brought the tradition back to MWSU women's basketball," Smith said. "People will be telling stories about this special group of ladies for many years to come. I am proud to have been a part of it."

Left: Dwanisha Tate avoids two players from Pittsburg State University. Tate averaged 6.3 points per game this season.

Story: Heather Groenke
Photos: Jon Ellis
Design: Jessika Eidson



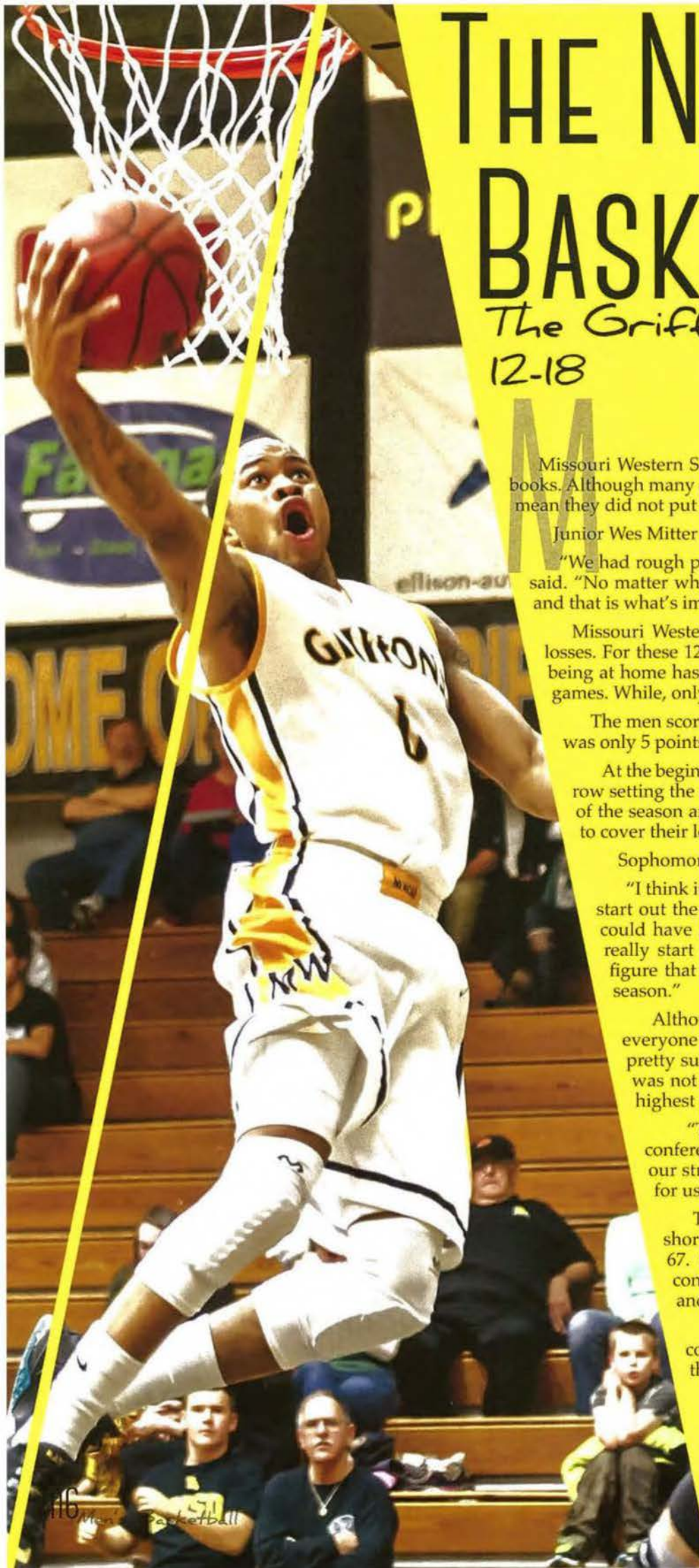
Left: The women's basketball team claims their trophy. The team won title of MIAA champions during their game against the University of Nebraska. 42 losses wins ty of Nebraska.



7
NS
7

4
LOSSES

Right: Sarafina Handy goes for a layup during a game against Graceland University's Yellowjackets. Handy averaged 14.4 points per game this season.



THE NEXT BASKET

Story: Ljubica Bas
Photos: John Ellis
Design: Jessika Eids

The Griffons end the season
12-18

Missouri Western State University men's basketball team had a year of ups and downs. Although many of the players believe this was not their best year, it means they did not put sweat and blood into the season.

Junior Wes Mitter scored a total of 122 points this past season.

"We had rough parts to our season, but we ended the season well," Mitter said. "No matter what happened on the court we always tried our best and that is what's important."

Missouri Western ended the season with an overall of 12 wins and 10 losses. For these 12 wins 10 of the wins were home games. Meaning being at home has a big impact on the success rate of the men's basketball games. While, only two of the losses were away games.

The men scored an average of 71.6 points per game while the opponent was only 5 points ahead scoring an average of 75.5 points per game.

At the beginning of January, Missouri Western had lost three straight games setting the men back some. Although they soon picked up at the end of the season and started bringing home the wins, it wasn't quite enough to cover their losses at the beginning of the season.

Sophomore Seth Bonifas had a similar opinion on the season.

"I think it was a roller coaster year for us," Bonifas said. "We didn't start out the year like we wanted, but we finished strong. I think we could have found our stride sooner. It took until February for us to really start playing our best basketball, and I felt like we could have figured that part out sooner in the season to have a more successful season."

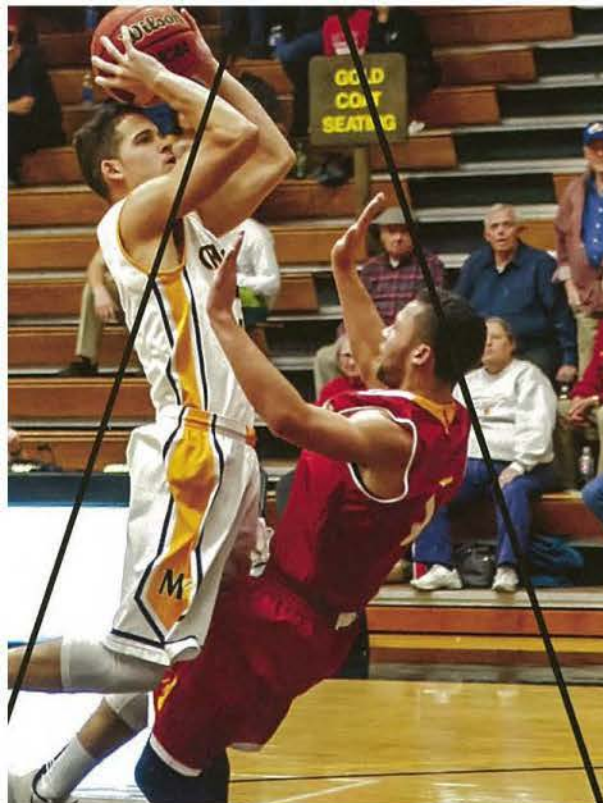
Although the men had a hard time to the start of the season, everyone would agree they ended the season with a big bang and pretty successfully. Player Mason Hughes explains that they were not what they expected, but he was happy to talk about the highest peak of the season.

"The highest peak was beating Washburn during the conference tournament," Hughes said. "We could have found our stride a lot sooner, but the end of the season went very well for us."

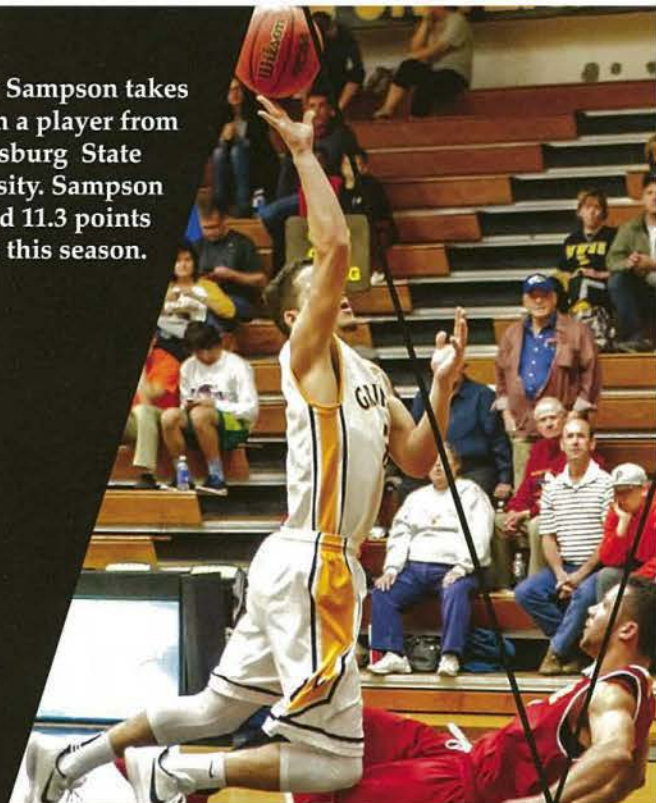
The men played Washburn on January 13th and came out short of a win with the ending score being Washburn 78, Western 67. Soon the men were back at it with Washburn during the conference tournament. Western got their playing time and came out winning the game, Western 70, Washburn 67.

"Beating Washburn and advancing to Kansas City during the conference tournament was our highest peak as a team for the following season," Bonifas said.

Aaron Emmanuel goes for a layup against Missouri Southern University. Emmanuel averaged 11.3 points per game this season.



Trey Sampson takes down a player from Pittsburg State University. Sampson averaged 11.3 points per game this season.



2018

LOSSES



Right: Miles Wentzien goes against a player from Pittsburg State University. Wentzien averaged 6.9 points per game.



THE NEXT ANNIKA SORENSTAM

*Women's Golf Leads
new tournaments during the
2016 season*

The Missouri Western Women's Golf team finished fourth in the MIAA Championships. The Griffons had all five girls finish in the top 35 of the tournament.

Freshman Ong finished tied for eighth in the tournament, shooting a 238. Ong's best round was her final round, when she finished with a 73. Her score was the best of any golfer that round.

Madison Romjue wasn't far behind Ong, finishing 13th in the tournament with a 244 in three rounds. Celine Lim finished with a 247 and Callie Wilson shot a 252. Coach Greg Dillon has been impressed with the way Ong has played all season.

"You know I think that Shi Qing has a chance to win the Division II championship," Dillon said.

Lindenwood finished 12 strokes ahead of the Western for third place, but finished 10 strokes ahead of Central Missouri for fourth place. First place belonged to Northeastern State University, recording a 922. The second place team also reigns from Oklahoma. The Bronchos of Central Oklahoma recorded a score of 902.

Baylee Price of Northeastern was the individual winner of the tournament. Price finished with a 219, giving the RiverHawk her fourth title of the season. Second place went to Central Missouri's Elizabeth Leath.

The women's team competed in the 2016 N Central Super Regional in Axtell, Nebraska, May

"I believe the biggest challenge for us was getting through that first weekend," Dillon said to the tournament.

It was the women's first trip to the tournament and their confidence was high that they could advance in the tournament.

"We just have to remember it's one tournament," Dillon said. "It's a new season and opportunity for us."

The women's golf team traveled to Axtell, Nebraska, for the UNK Spring Invite. The team finished ninth in the tournament with a team score of 646 over two rounds.

Shi Qing Ong finished with the best individual score on the team, shooting 153 in her two rounds. Ong finished in 11th place individually. Her coach, Greg Dillon, was happy to see her achieve this ranking.

"Shi Qing has really stepped up her game and it is really fun to watch," Dillon said.

Senior Callie Wilson was second on the team, shooting 163 and Madison Romjue was third on the team scoring a 164.

Northeastern State University won the tournament with a team score of 607. The RiverHawk also produced the individual champion, Baylee Price scored a 145 in the two-day event.

The women will join the men's team in Arkansas for the Henderson State University Invitational.

"We've got more regional tournaments and a conference tournament ahead of us," Dillon said. "Our focus is to go after some of the top schools in the region."



Far Right: Tiffanie Yabut tees off at the Holiday Inn Classic. Yabut had a major in exercise science.
Right: Jasmine Kosmatka thinks about her next move. Kosmatka's father and brother also played golf in college.



Right: Celine Lim gets a better view of her course. Lim planned on majoring in computer science.



Far Right: Madison Romjue puts her ball. Romjue majored in elementary education.
Right: Anna Kloepell tees off at the Holiday Inn Classic. Kloepell majored in biology and health.



Story: Anthony Crane
Photos: John Ellis
Design: Joni Thomas

THE NEXT TEE OFF

Western's men finish seventh in championship

The men's golf team finished seventh in the men's championship. Western recorded a 917 at Tiffany Greens Golf Club.

"I thought we should have finished a little higher in the tournament," Coach Greg Dillon said. "We struggled early, and the weather was really a factor."

The Griffon's best score came from Corey Knight, recording a 223, good for 10th. Ryan Hand finished 22nd in the tourney with 229. Cole Roberts shot a 236 and Jakob Rudosky finished with a 237.

"Ryan got behind early, but he battled back in the tournament," Dillon said.

Central Oklahoma won the tournament, swinging their way to an 882 team score. Lindenwood finished second, recording an 891 through three rounds. Blake Lammers of Lincoln was the individual winner, shooting a 210 through three rounds.

After a long winter break Western's men were back in action. The team traveled to Oklahoma City for the Broncho Invitational where the team finished tenth.

The weather was a big factor according to Dillon.

"The wind that I saw was as bad as I've ever seen," Dillon said.

The Griffons finished with a team score of 675 on the par 72 course. Leading the Griffons was Jakob Rudosky, who recorded a 162 score in two rounds. Rudosky finished 12th individually, shooting an 80 and 82.

"Jakob has been a real big surprise this spring," Dillon said. "We've been expecting him to have a breakout year."

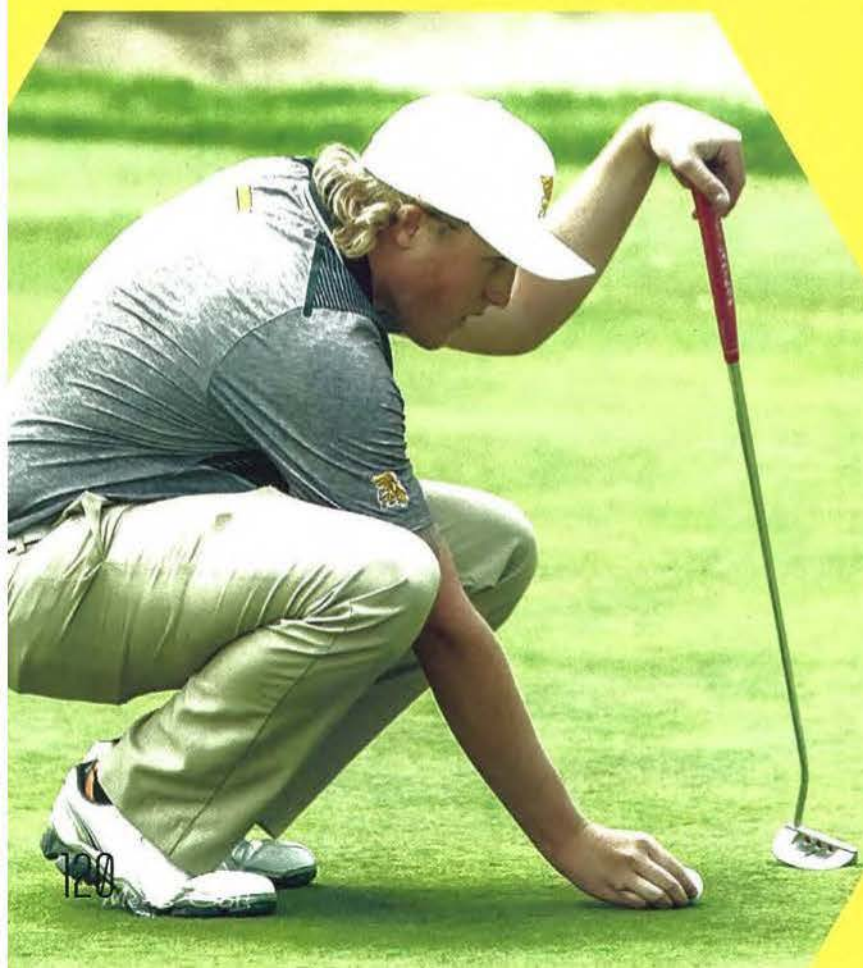
Ryan Hand had the second best score on the team and placed 22nd in the tournament with a score of 163. Then there was Knight who finished 46th in the tournament with a score of 168.

"Ryan is still in the hunt for a regional championship," Dillon said.

Oklahoma Christian won the tournament with a team score of 631 in the two round tourney. Central Oklahoma finished second with a score of 632 and third was Southwestern Oklahoma State with a score of 639.

The team returned to action on April 4 for the Henderson State tournament in Mountain Home, Arkansas, at The Big Creek Golf Course.

"We've had a pretty good start to the spring," Dillon said. "But we're looking for more."



Right: Drew Lagan prepares to take his shot. Lagan was a sophomore this year.

Story: Anthony Cra
Photos: John Ellis
Design: Jessika Eids



Right: Jakob Rudosky carries his bag to the next hole. Rudosky is originally from Cortez, Colorado.



Above: Jakob Rudosky gets a better view of his field. Rudosky was a sophomore this year.



Left: Corey Knight tees off. Knight majored in Sports Management.

THE NEXT JUMP, SET, SPIKE

The Griffon volleyball team finishes the season with a winning record.

The Missouri Western women's volleyball team set the bar high during their 2015 season. With 21 wins during their season, the Griffons proved that they are a force to be reckoned with. The team consisted of talented athletes who were hungry to play and work together to win.

Jordan Chohon served as a setter during her volleyball career. Chohon finished her last season with the team and recalled one of the multiple strengths the team possessed.

"I think we were, overall, really well-rounded," Chohon said. "I think a lot of teams will have a really good person that just stands out and is their go-to. Our defense really improved and our offense, so it's hard to find a weakness."

Marian Carbin finished her third season as head coach. Carbin made sure to push each athlete to reach her full potential.

"I think that coaches are here to help our players reach their full potential, not just on the court, but as young women in their communities as well," Carbin said. "I want to challenge them to do things or become someone that they weren't sure was possible when they walked in as freshmen."

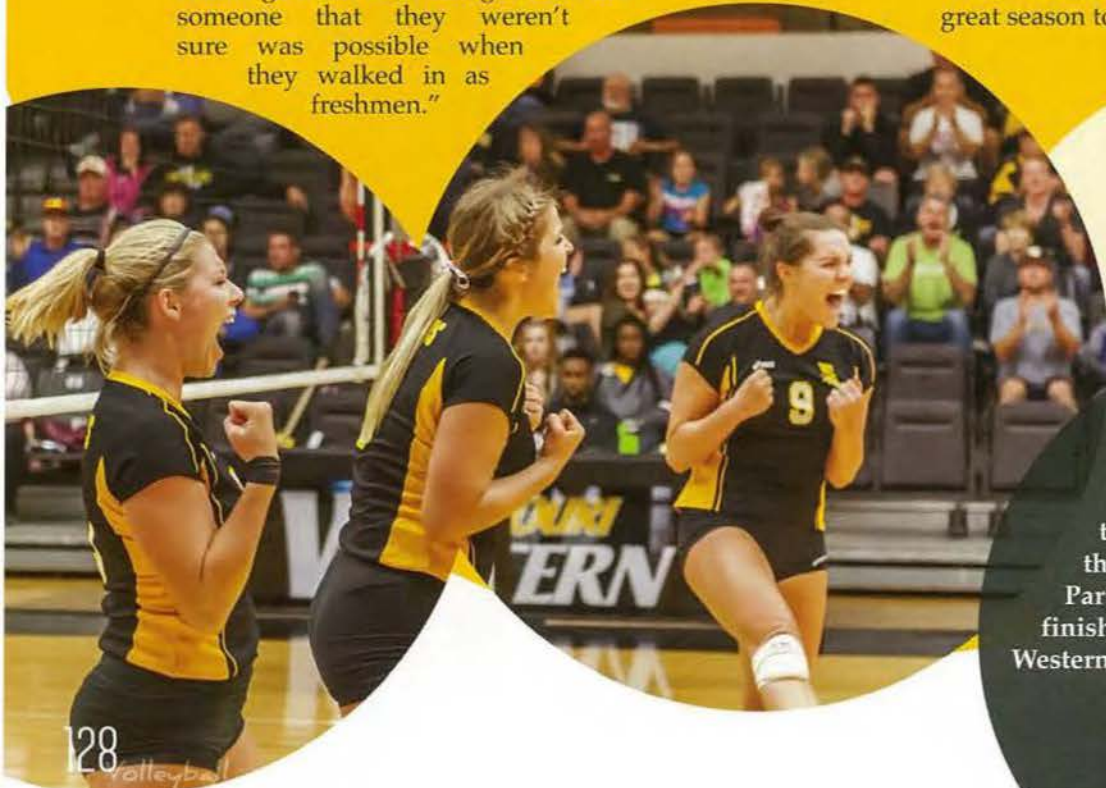
The Griffons are expected to have another great season. Coaching alongside Carbin will be Ashley Petak. Petak previously coached at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Petak will serve as the team's assistant coach at Western and is looking forward to a great season.

"I think we have a really strong group of returners," Petak said. "We're still working on finalizing the incoming class, but the girls that we have right now are going to be really strong and add to the skills that we have."

The team worked hard to give their all during games and plan to do the same for next season. The team's goal is to compete for a conference championship and, with the team constantly pushing themselves to grow and improve, a conference championship is in no way out of reach.

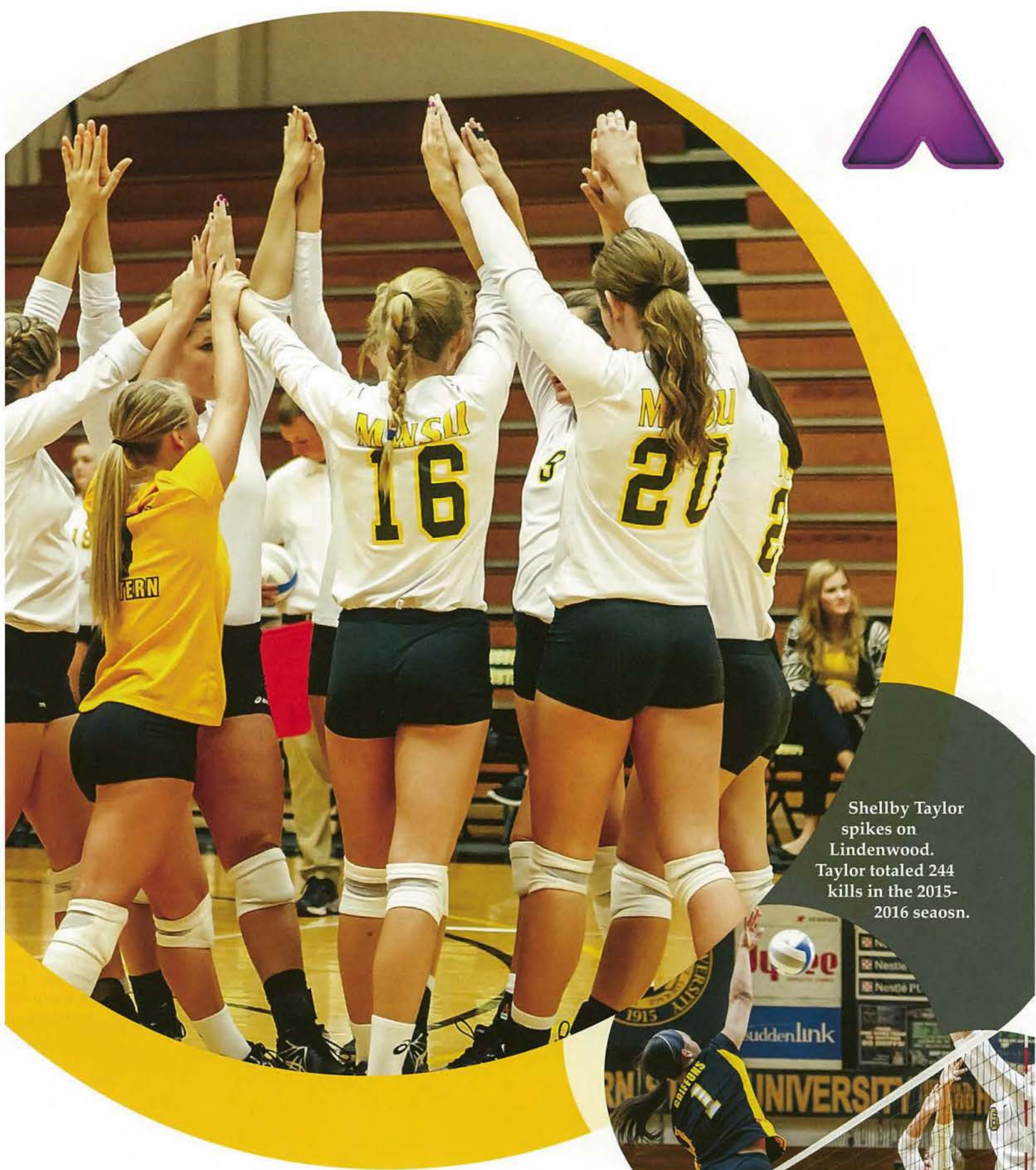
"I don't see any reason why this team can't do that," Carbin said. "We have a lot of talent returning and they are all hungry to continue to get better."

Western had a wonderful season and will have another great season to look forward to.

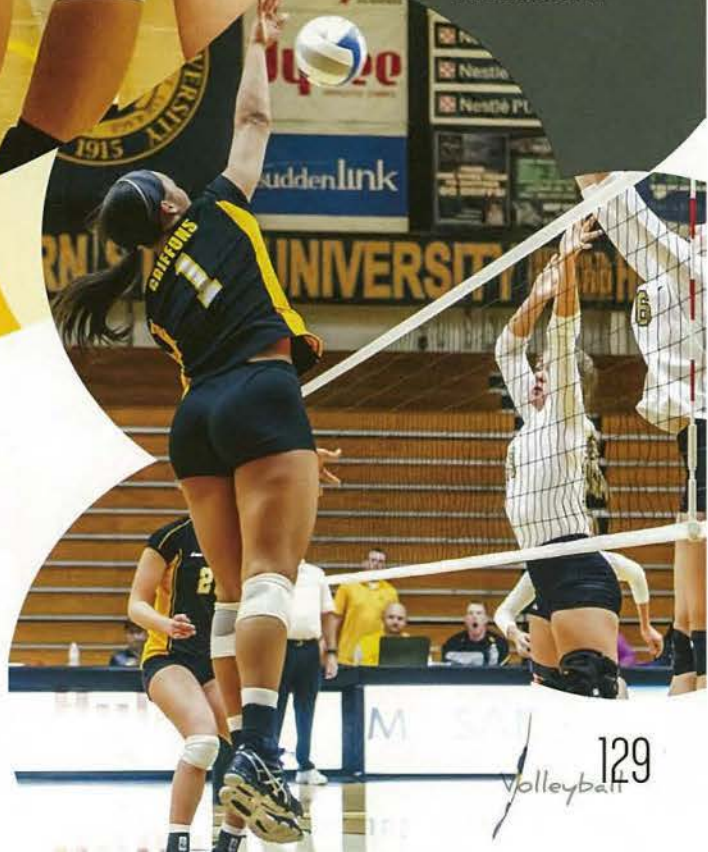


*Story: Jasmine Taylor
Photos: Jon Ellis
Design: Jessika Eidson*

Blair Russell, Lindsey Partridge and Jordan Chohon celebrate the team's win against the Lindenwood Lions. Partridge and Chohon both finished their last season at Western.



Shellby Taylor spikes on Lindenwood. Taylor totaled 244 kills in the 2015-2016 season.



21
WINS



10
LOSSES



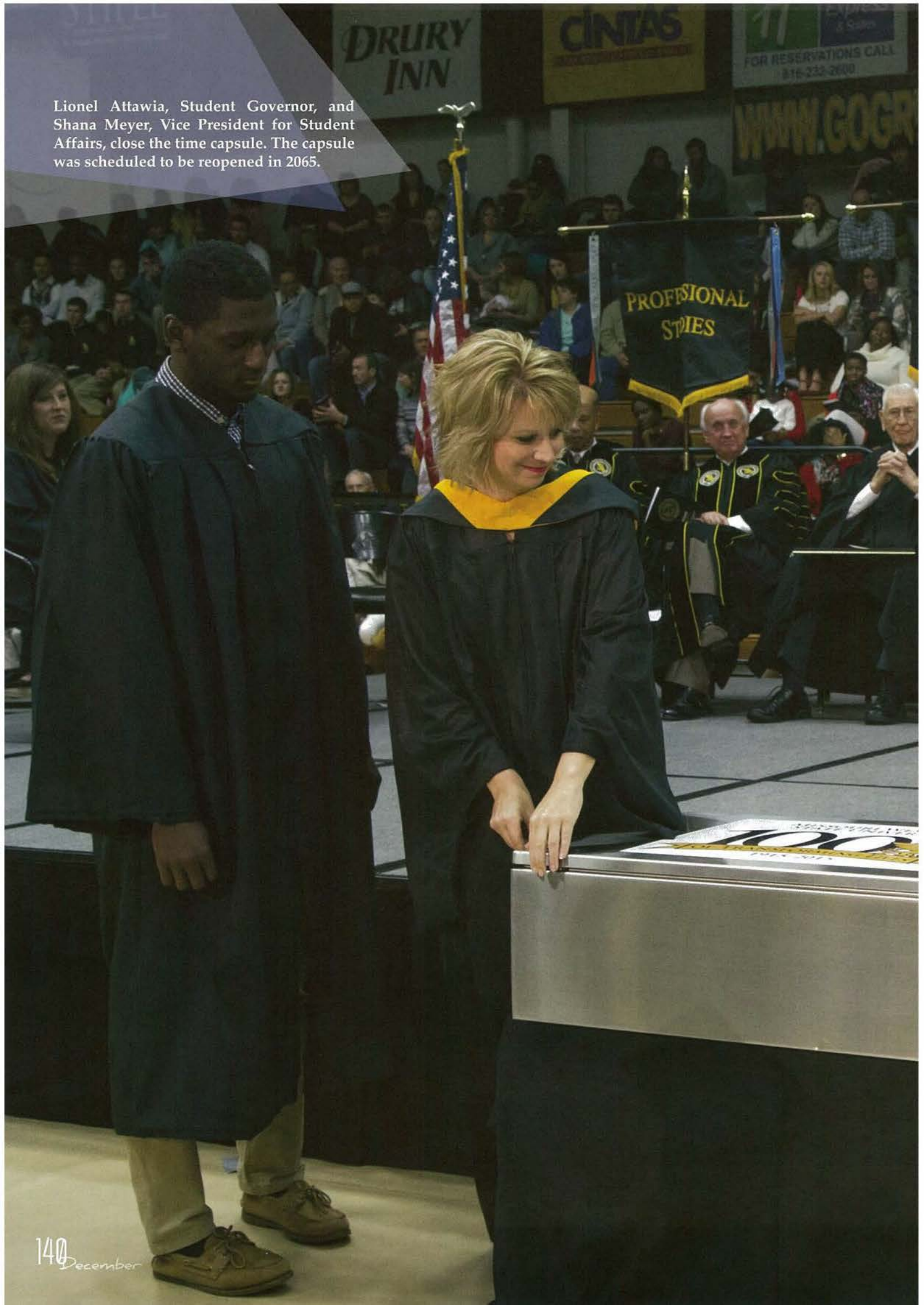
Photo: Blair Russell

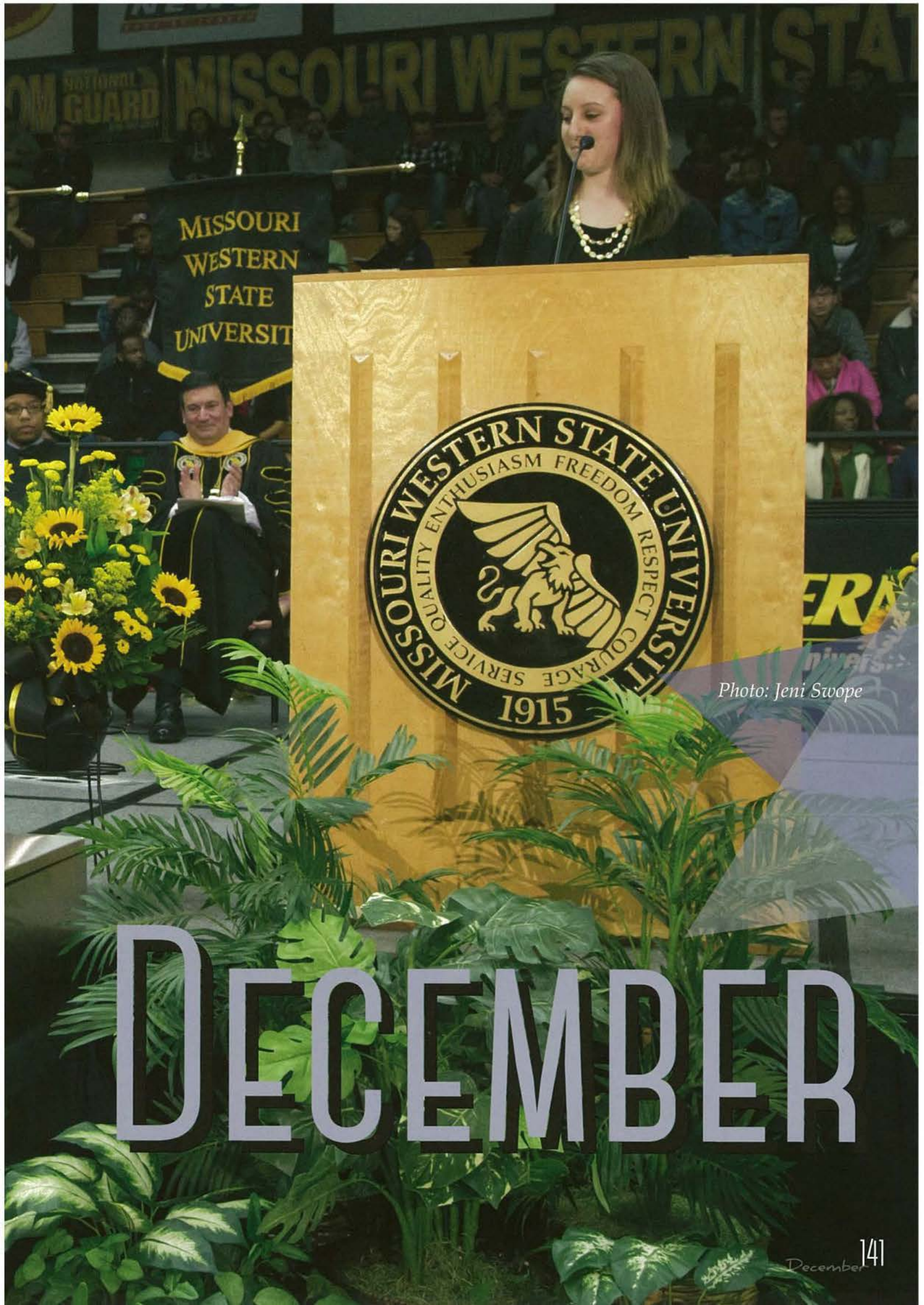
Fallen leaves create a colorful campus for Missouri Western students to enjoy. Missouri experienced warmer weather throughout the month of November.



NOVEMBER

Lionel Attawia, Student Governor, and Shana Meyer, Vice President for Student Affairs, close the time capsule. The capsule was scheduled to be reopened in 2065.





MISSOURI
WESTERN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

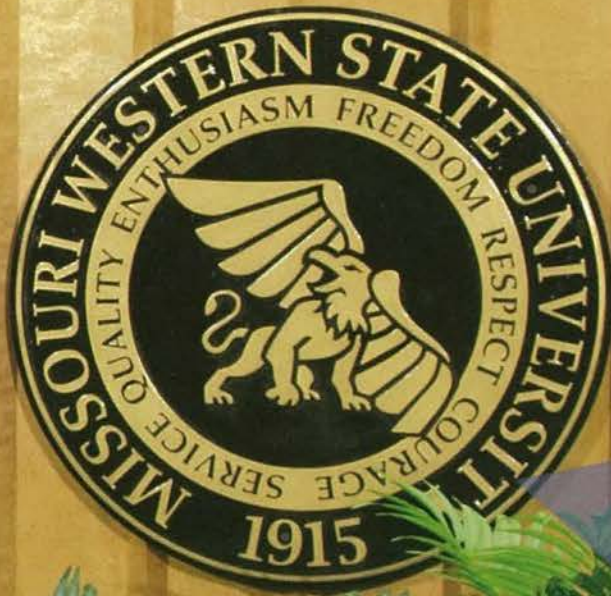


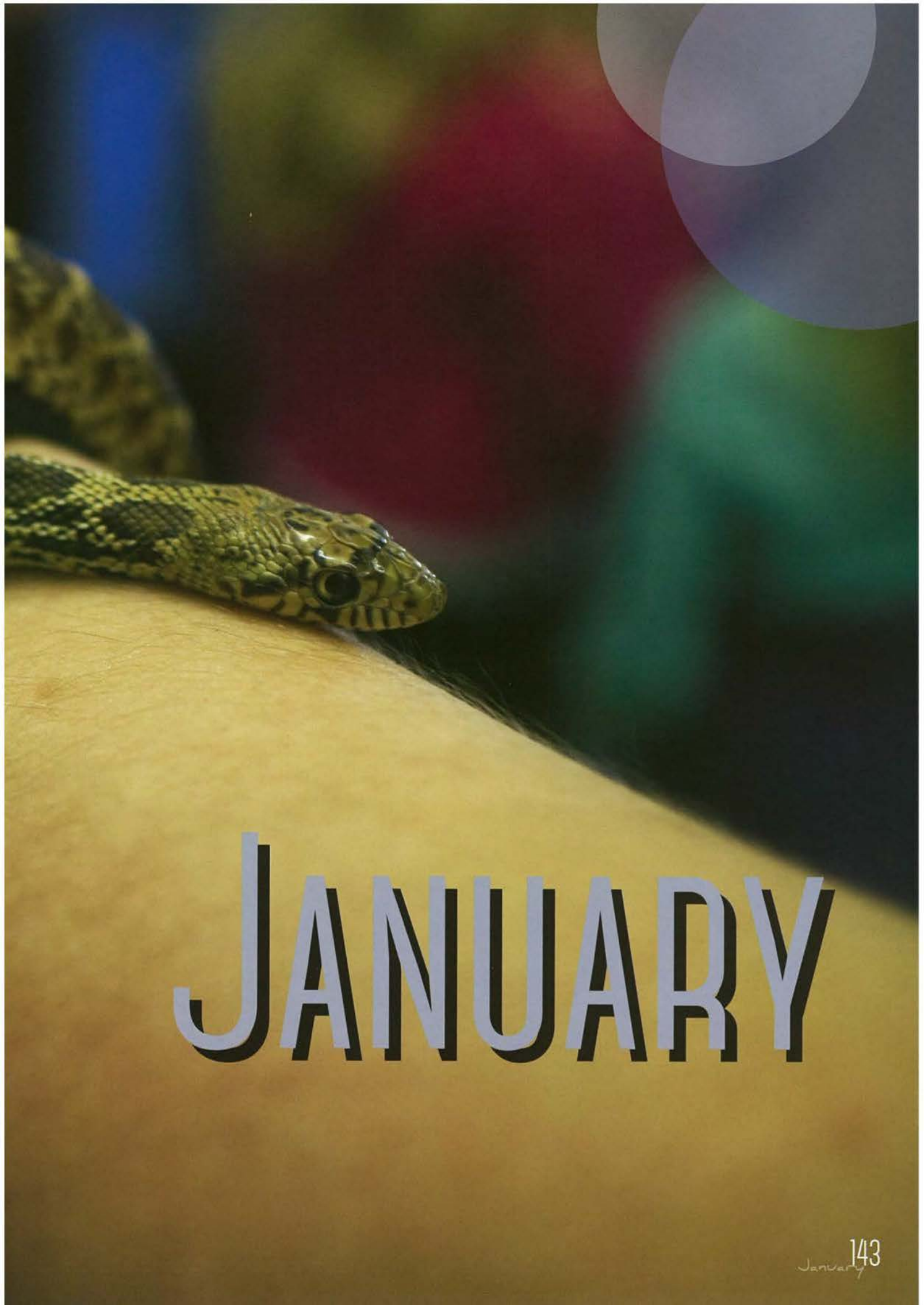
Photo: Jeni Swope

DECEMBER

A local elementary student holds one of the snakes on display during Super Science Saturday. Missouri Western professors presented several interactive activities throughout the day.

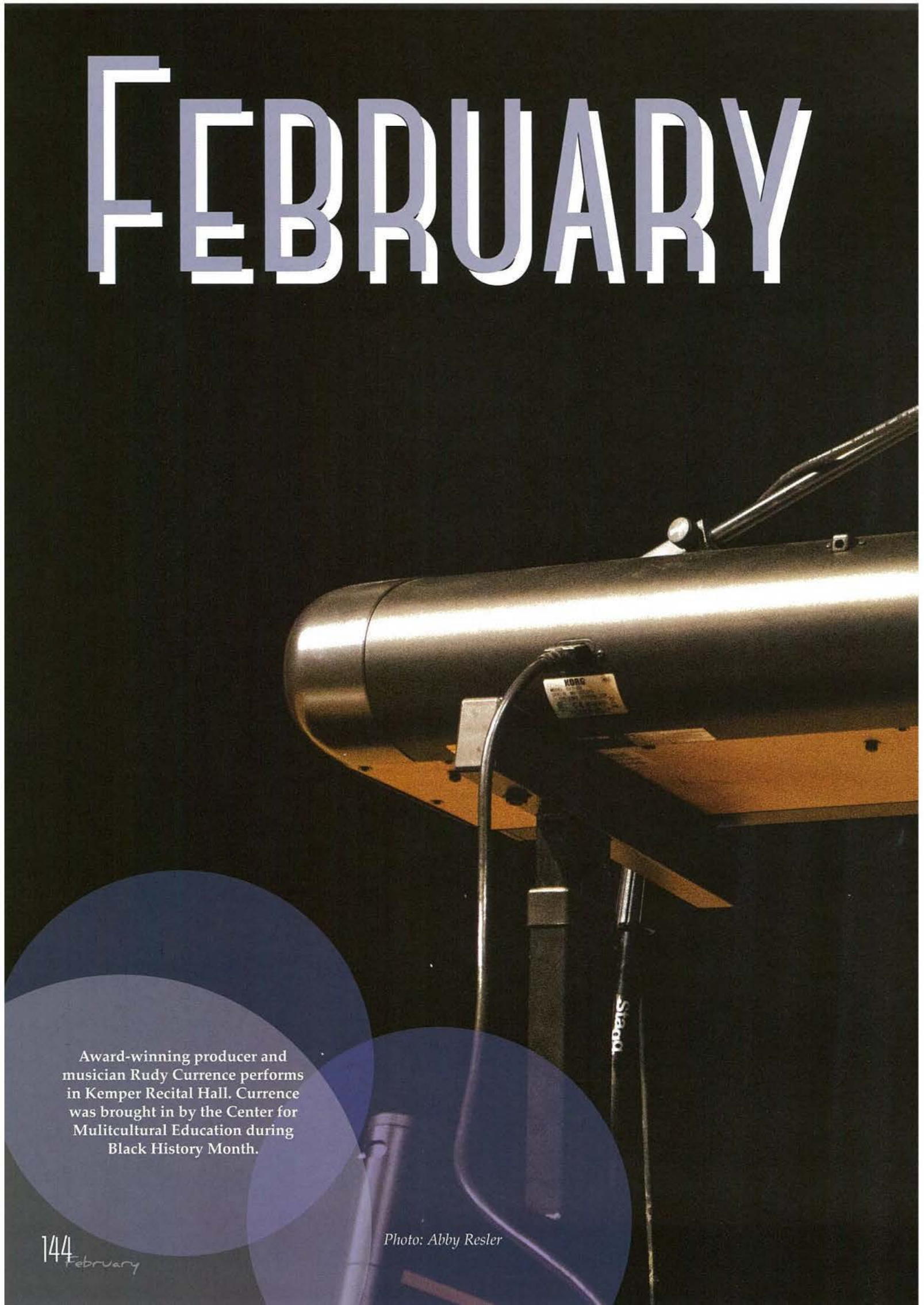


Photo: Corey Myers



JANUARY

FEBRUARY



Award-winning producer and musician Rudy Currence performs in Kemper Recital Hall. Currence was brought in by the Center for Multicultural Education during Black History Month.

Photo: Abby Resler



ORG

MARCH

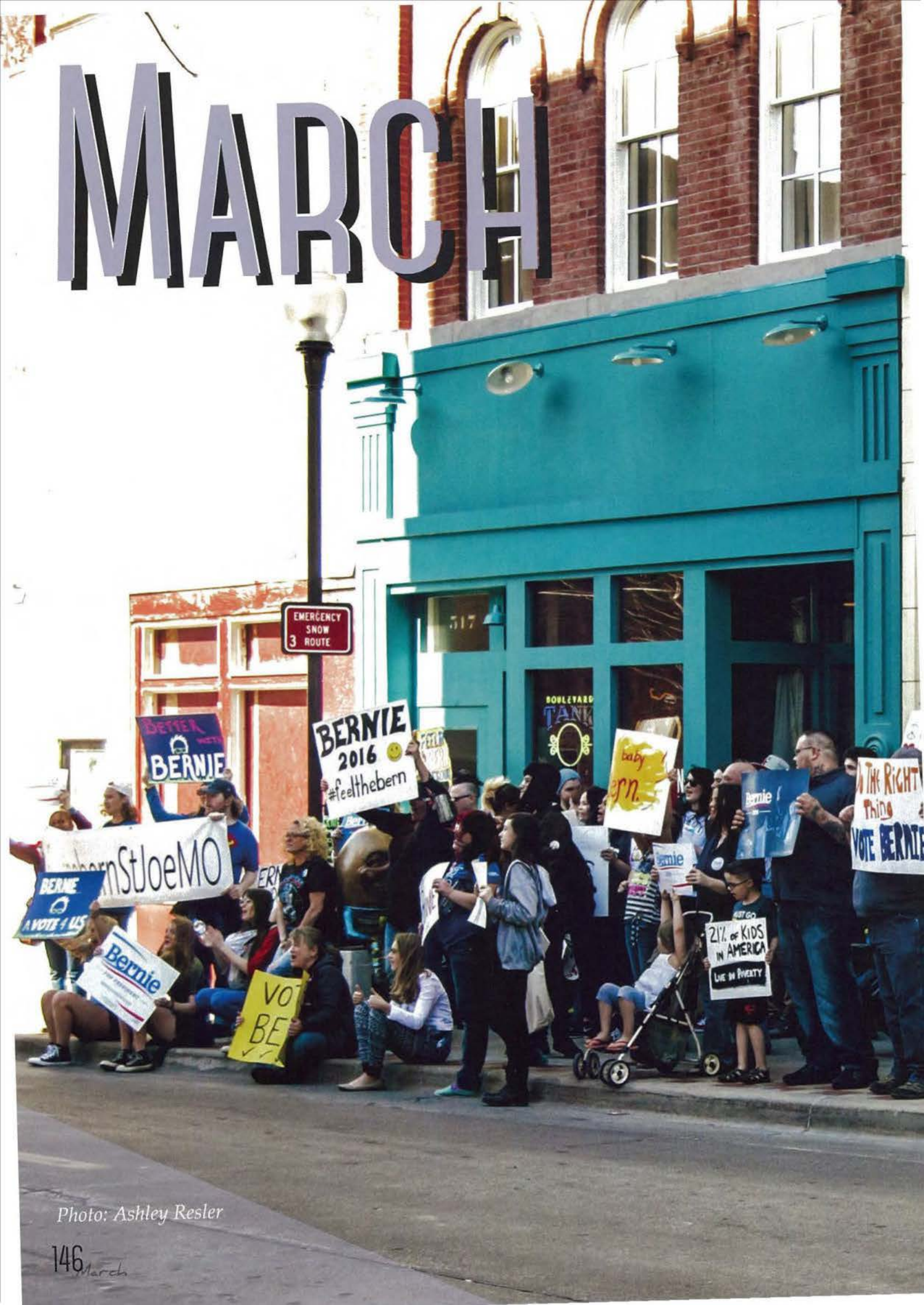


Photo: Ashley Resler

Supporters of presidential candidate Bernie Sanders gather in Downtown St. Joseph. On March 15, 2016, Missouri voted in the primaries, giving Sanders 49 percent of the Democratic vote.

WELCOME
TO
HISTORIC



APRIL




Photo: Blair Russell



April weather brings back a wide variety of plants to campus. Western students enjoyed temperatures in the 50s and 60s during the month.

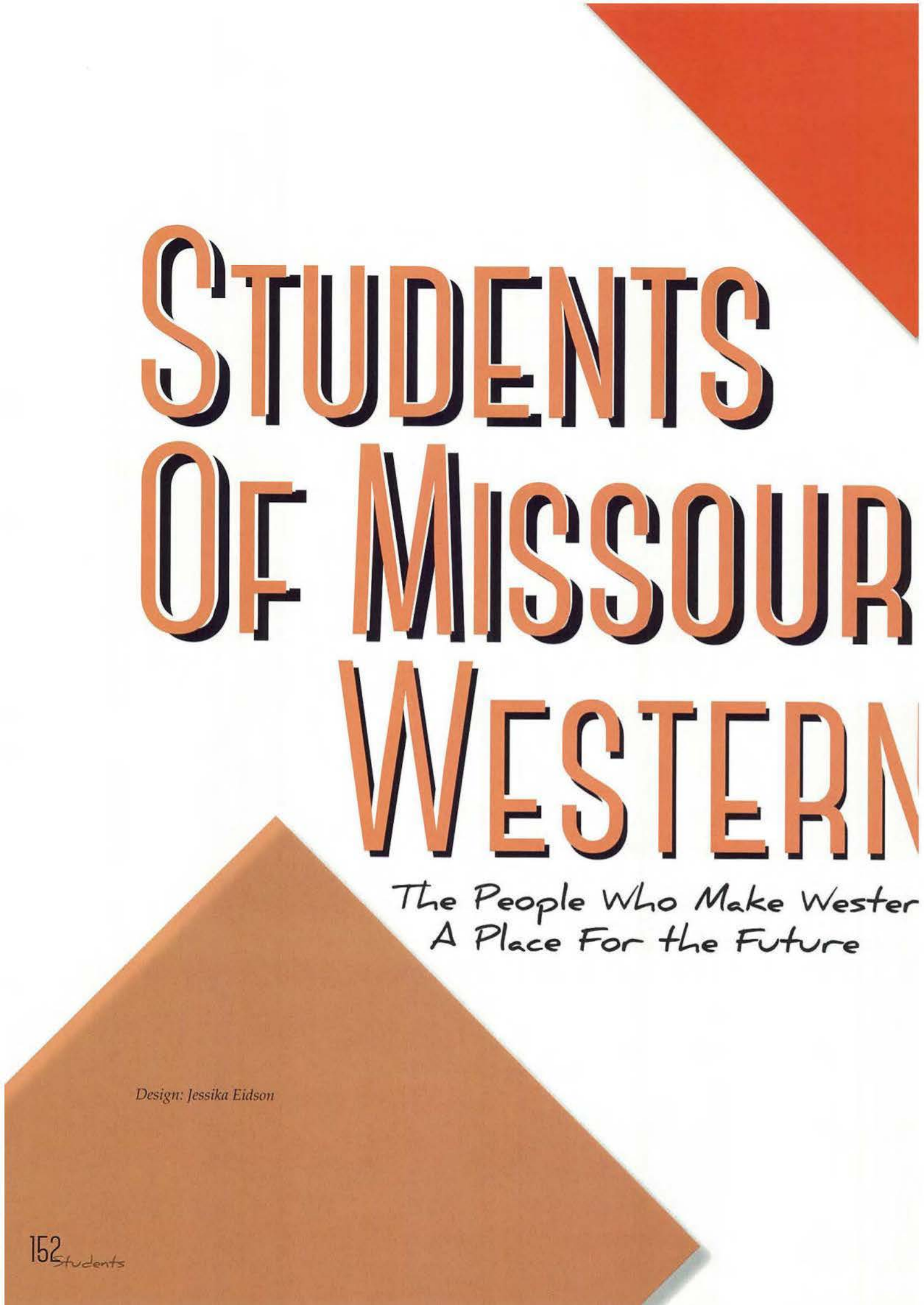


Photo: Blair Russel



Plant life begins to bloom
as students leave campus.
Summer classes would
begin soon.

MAY



STUDENTS OF MISSOURI WESTERN

*The People Who Make Western
A Place For the Future*

Design: Jessika Eidson





FRESHMEN



A
 Adrianna Aarons
 William Abeling
 Sofia Aguilera Tovar
 Saud Alanazi



Brianna Albertson
 Stevie Allison
 Mohammed Rakian M Alrakian
 Ibrahim Jamal I Alsugair



B
 Brittany Anderson
 Elijah Aparicio
 Mary Archer
 Cooper Bald



Morgan Barnett
 Aaron Bass
 Bharath Bhimini
 Logan Blake



Skylan Bolin
 Natasha Brown
 Tanner Browning
 Janera Bullock

C

Katelin Burchett
Bradley Burkhardt
Anthony Caldwell
Fisher Capps



Caroline Carlton
Ryan Carrel
Nicole Chandler
Mia Cheatem



Danaesha Chiney
Tayshawn Clayton
Chasiti Clayton
Steve Cline



D

Kevin Cokeley
Tamarra Cox
Cheyenne Curley
Alexis Davis



Tylor Deatherage
Lonnie Dobard
Aaron Dodge
Branden Doering





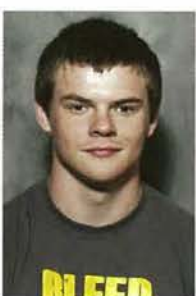
E
 Shyan Dredge
 John Dunkle
 Kaitlyn Ealley
 Byran Emery



F
 Brinden Ewing
 Abigail Farr
 Kyle Fuson



G
 Dominique Gilbert
 Kierston Gilmore
 Amanda Glise
 Marshawn Gordon



H
 Paul Granberry
 Emma Griffin
 Kenneth Grubb
 Corey Guinn



I
 Jhonny Guzman
 Cynthia Hall
 Jarrett Hamilton
 Kara Harrison

Amanda Hart
Jennifer Hart
Cooper Herrington
Michael Hicks



Michael Hodges
Ty Hodges
Jacob Hoecker
Devored Horton



Ashley Howery
Casey Huffman
Brad Hutton
Allen Irving



Taylor Jackson
Caitlyn Jadwin
Dillon Jeffers
Traejun Johnson



Mary Jones
Emma Justice
Rebeca Kearns
Scott Keegan





Nicholas Kempf
Sadie Kerr
Bailey Ketcham
Jenna Kosmatka



Baxter Krumme
Jacob Ledger
McCown Leggett
Laura Rosa Lolobrigida

L



Rachel Ludwig
Alexis Luke
Madilyn Madriga
Christopher Maguire

M



Claudia Malott
Marianne Martin
Jensen Masoner
Taylor McCloud



Jacob McFarland
Hunter McPherson
Cody Mccray
Cortez Mcdonald

Erica Mcfeeters
 Parker Mertz
 Maria Messer
 Helaine Mills



Jonathan Monarrez
 Jessica Monden
 Don Monroe
 Sierra Montee



Dallas Monticue
 Autumn Moore
 Bayleigh Moore
 Chris Moran



N

Tyler Munden
 Benjamin Murphy
 Andrew Neumann
 Tyler Noble



O

Alexandria Null
 Kelsea Nx
 Shi Qing Ong
 Alexander Osborn





P

Jenna Oswald
 Jeremiah Overly
 Briahna Paige
 Claire Palmer



Christian Payne
 Garrett Peterson
 Cameron Price
 Connor Pritzel



R

Andrew Pruett
 Jacey Redding
 Ryanna Rempel
 Zachary Rever



Lydia Reynolds
 Melia Richardson
 Jackson Riddle
 Thomas Ritter



Cole Roberts
 Gabriel Roberts
 Dalton Robinson
 Manuel Rocha

S

Nicole Ruppe
Crystal Ruth
David Sanchez
Monica Sansoucie



Alexandria Satterley
George Scarborough
Sam Schacht
Grant Schmidt



Megan Schmille
Mikayla Schmitt
Lane Schuman
Evann Sells



Michael Sherman
Max Shores
Colton Shultz
Breana Simpson



Miranda Sims
Charles Skyles
Rebekah Smith
Timothy Spease





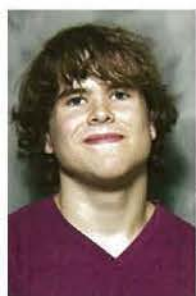
James Spease
Caden Springs
Britni Steele
Nicholas Stock



T
Rebecca Sullender
Sean Taylor
Luke Theis
Mattison Thomas



Gabe Thomas
Tyler Thompson
Tara Thygeron
Vincent Tinoco Nieto

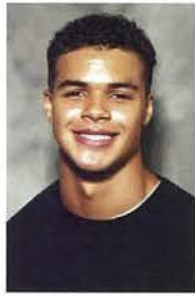


U V
Kanon Trautman
Shelby Uhl
Court VanCleave
Candi Vance



W
Marcos Vasquez
Carly Wagner
Nicholas Walling
Tyler Ward

Kierra Washington
Lorna Webb Webb
Adarius Wells
Miles Wentzien

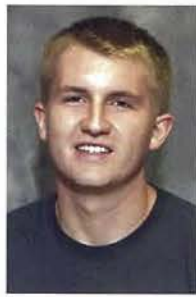


Jeremy Whitaker
Nick Williams
Suzanna Wilson
Kerstin Wilson

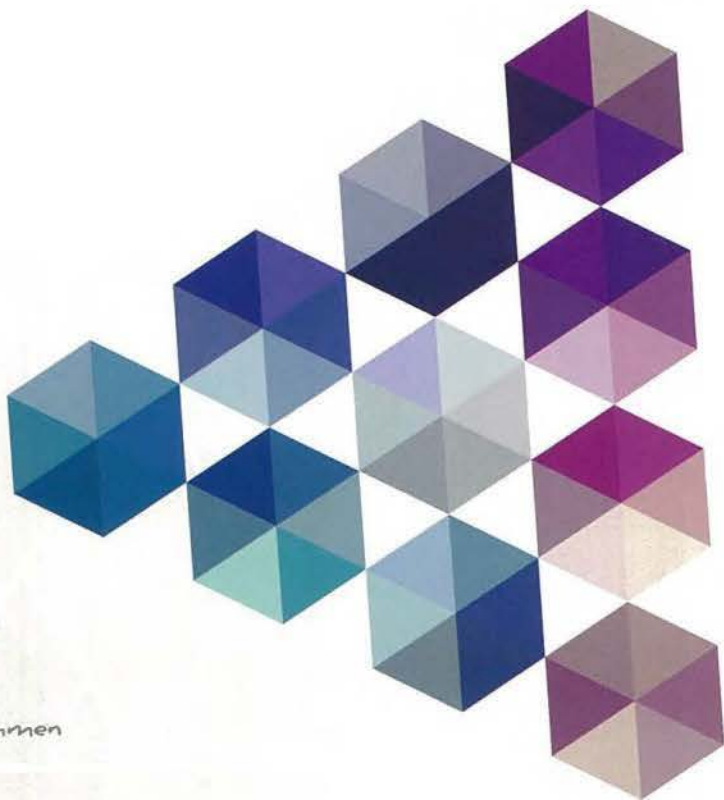


X Y

Brendin Wood
Chase Wutke
Shan Xiong
Ntsaisntsia Yang

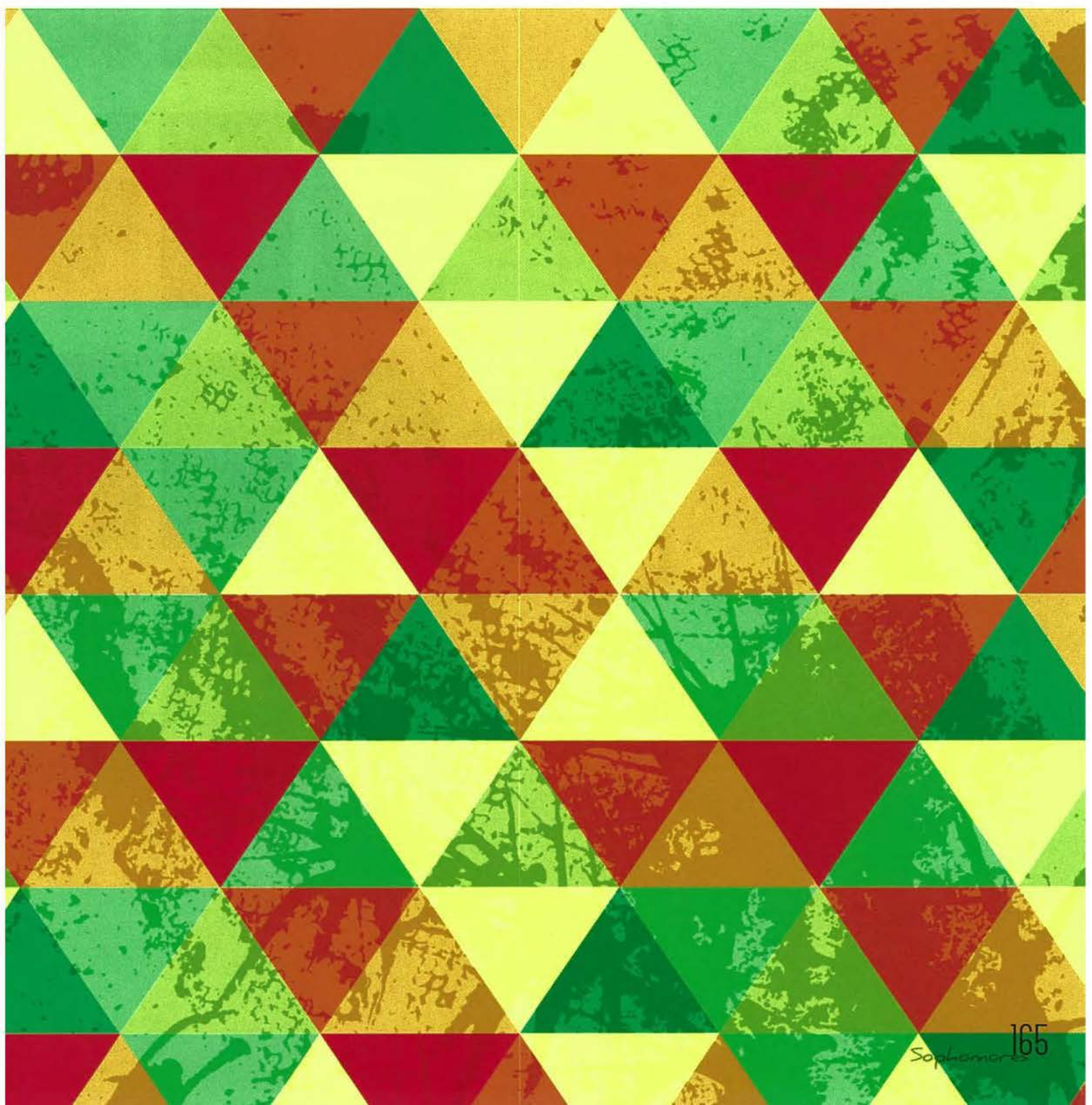


Cody Young





SOPHOMORES



A

Devon Adkins
Mohammed Albarjas
Tealjoy Berry



B

William Boeh
Shiloh Boles
Jordan Butler



D

Kennedy Byers
Currie Byrd
Desirae Daken



E

Amanda Dalbey
Maria Dewey
Crystal Enciso





E

Robert Evilla
Ali Fowler
Briena Frost



G

Grace Galbreath
Karlie Grippando
Jamauryae Hall



H

Tannis Hamilton
Ravyn Highsmith



Jaylynn Hoffman
Emily Howell
Yeseul Hwang

J K

Justin Janorschke
Christopher Kelley
Cheyanne Kitchen



Jessica Kopp
Nikolas Alexandre Martinez
Samuel Miller



M

N

A

Prince Mosley
Jeremee Nute
Mariam Riddle



S

Amadu Shaw
Kyra Smith-Jones
Megan Standley





T

Natalia Timm
Nicholas Wright
Whitney Wyckoff

W



Wei Zhang

Z





JUNIORS



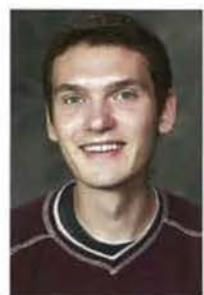
A

B

Abdulelah Algahtani
Rasha Andrews
Autsin Bauer
Christiana Bays



Dylan Blackwell
Raymond Bogan-Clay
Jordan Booth
Garrett Brooks



C

D

Adam Carroll
Bryttanee Davis
Bailey Dervin
Terrance Duff



E

F

G

Jessika Eidson
Gillian Evans
Sefulu Faavae
Jesse Graham

A decorative horizontal band at the top of the page featuring a repeating pattern of interlocking triangles in various shades of green, outlined in black.

SENIORS



A B
 Ibrahim Al Qahtani
 Rachael Bergeron
 Lachelle Billups
 Aaron Bradshaw



C
 Roderic Byrd
 Cortrez Colbert
 Krystal Corhn
 Tyree Cullors



D
 Jacob Cunning
 Darian Cunningham
 Ravi Kiran Dharni
 Tony Dougherty



E G H
 Payton Finch
 Sarah Giraldo Betancourt
 Megan Helt
 Tyler Hughes

JK

Rachal Jackson
Laquinta Jefferson
Johnathan Jenkins
Melissa Kaster



M

Brady McIntosh
Bulou Miliakere
Hannah Montgomery
Candace Moon



N P R

Corey Myers
Han Nguyen
Tobias Pointer
Abbey Resler



S

De'Ondre Ross
Blair Russel
Carter Sansone
Bryant Scott






Brian Shewell
Larry Smith
Elliot Swope
Jeni Swope



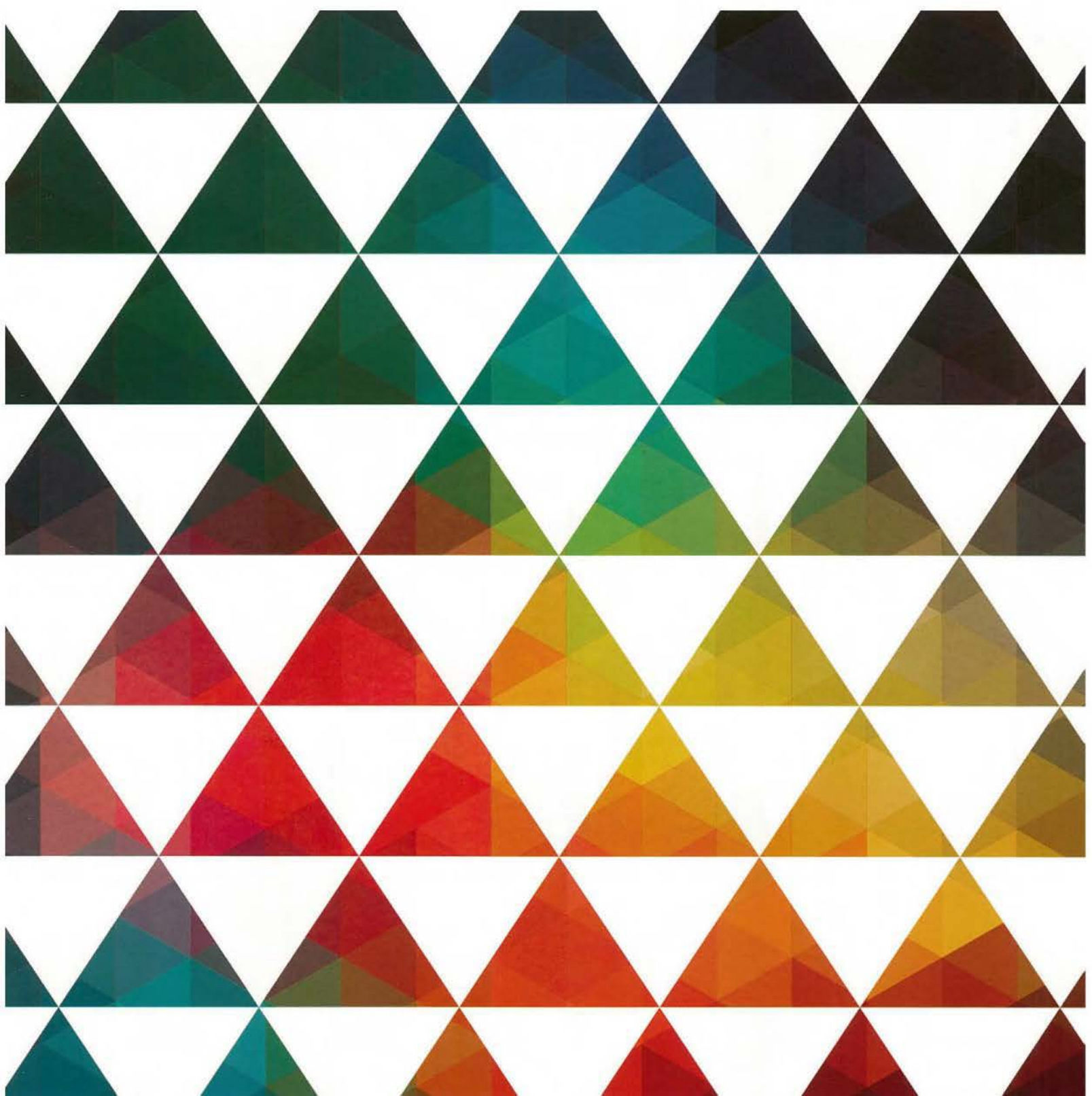
Jacob Teasley
Barbara Timothe
Christina Wade
Byrson Wooden

T W





GRADUATES





Kia Abhari
Sai Ram Reddy Bhoomireddy
Venkateshwarlu Egurla

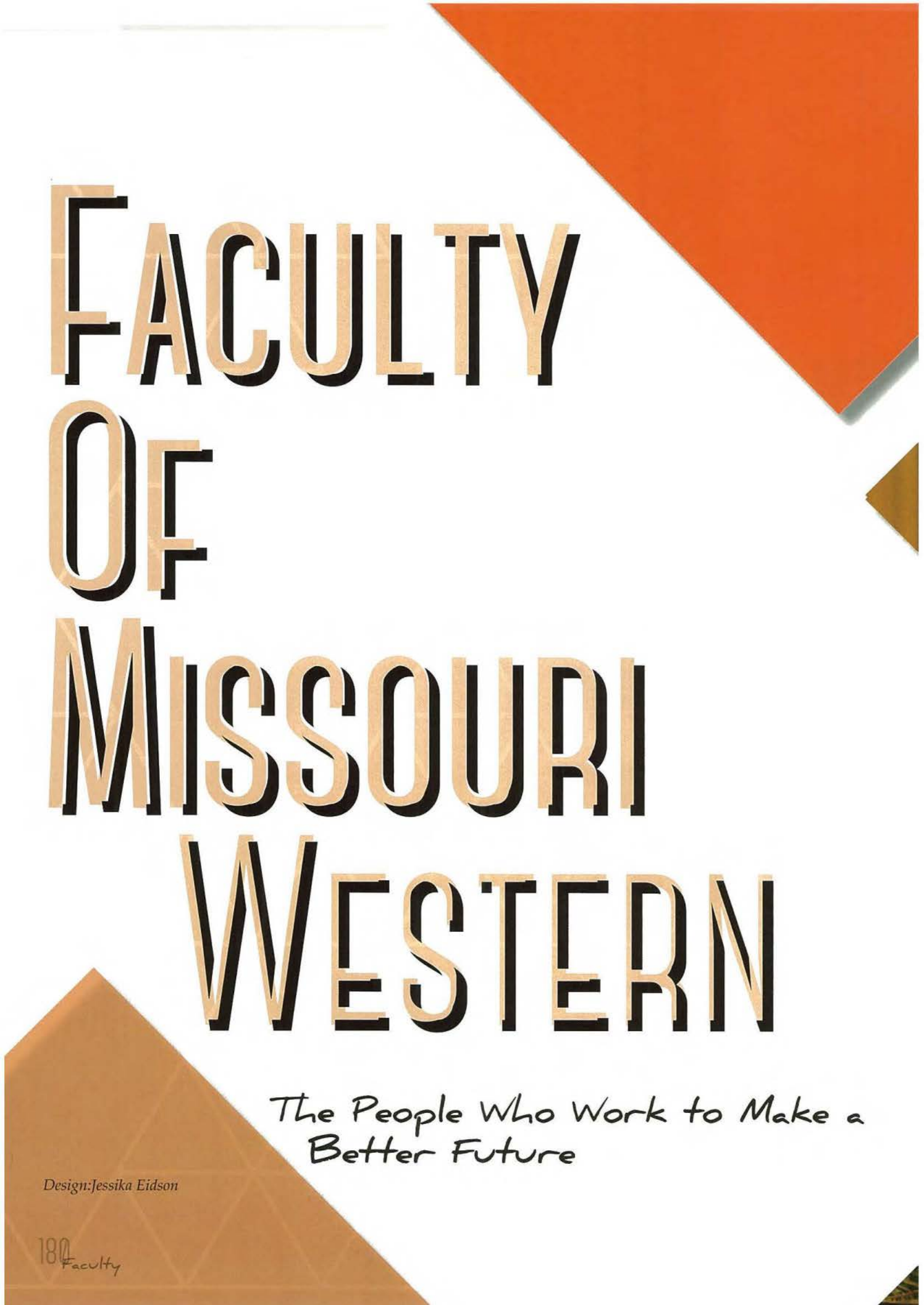


Sarika Gongalla
Arun Prasath Mailappan Saravanan
Sunny Reddy Medapati



Bharath Raj Puli
Abhash Shrestha
Violetta Valeeva



The cover features a white background with large, stylized geometric shapes in orange and brown. The text 'FACULTY OF MISSOURI WESTERN' is prominently displayed in a bold, outlined font. Below the main title, a subtitle in a handwritten style reads 'The People Who Work to Make a Better Future'. At the bottom left, the designer's name 'Design: Jessika Eidson' and the year '180 Faculty' are visible.

FACULTY OF MISSOURI WESTERN

*The People Who Work to Make a
Better Future*

Design: Jessika Eidson

180
Faculty



A

Kevin Anderson
Sybil Archdekin
Susan M. Bashinski



B

Ana Bausset-Page
Deborah Becker
Robert Bergland



Christopher Bond
Peter Britton
Connie Brock



C

Brian Bucklein
Matthew Burns
Mike Cadden





Elizabeth Canon
James Carviou
F. Eduardo Castilla O.



Michael Charlton
Fumi Cheever
Ronda Chesney



Michael Chiao
Will Chuber
Joyce Clark



Pam Clary
Jason Costanzo
Brian Cronk

D

Noël Cross
Sunil Dahanayake
Dominic DeBrincat



Jeffery DeVaul-Fetters
Saundra Dibella
Dawn Drake



E

Mike Ducey
Jason Edgar
Claudine Evans



Latoya Fitzpatrick
Rebecca Foley
Charlotte Foster

F





G
 Jana Frye
 Eric Fuson
 Sue Godboldt



H
 Christopher Godfrey
 Angela Haas
 Barbara Harris



David Harris
 Shawna Harris
 Teresa Harris



Connie Hecker
 Jennifer Hegeman
 Dana Heldenbrand

Susie Hennessy
Kelly Henry
Matt Hepworth



Shauna Hiley
Teri Holt
Peter Hriso



J

Deborah Jeffries
Adrienne Johnson
Logan Jones



K

Meredith Katchen
Joanne Katz
Catherine Kendig





Jody King
 Suzanne Kissock
 Steve Klassen



Gladys Kline
 Michael T. Knuchel
 Melinda Kovacs



Kisi Krishna
 Marianne Kunkel
 Yipkei Kwok



Michael Lane
 Peggy Lane
 Neil Lawley

Jay Lemanski
Kathy Liao
Greg Lindsteadt



Matt Loehr
Steve Lorimor
Brett Luthans



M

Dalong Ma
Jon Mandracchia
David Marble

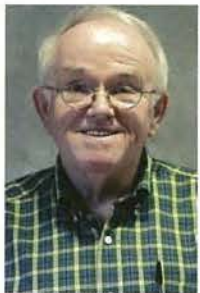


David Kratz Mathies
Kevin McCullagh
Lori McCune





David McWilliams
 Hillary Mellema
 Shana Meyer



Tim Miller
 Susan Montee
 Gaywyn Moore



J. Evan Noynaert
 Robert G. Nulph
 James Okapal

N O



Jeffrey Poet
 Long Qiao
 Ann Rahmat

P Q R

Jonathan Rhoad
Glenn Rice
Madeline Rislow



S

Miguel Rivera-Taupier
Stephanie Schartel-Dunn
Daniel Sheperd



Daniel Shepherd
Kay Siebler
Alec Sithole



Deb Smith
Mike Smith
Monty Smith





Daniel Stasko
 Mary Stone
 Aaron Stutterheim



T
 Stan Svojanovsky
 Orion Teal
 Lesley Tener



Janelle Torres
 Daniel Trifan
 David Tushaus



V
 W
 Robert A. Vartabedian
 Debbie Vaughn
 Bin Wang

Gavin Waters
Ray Wells
Kip B. Wilson



Y

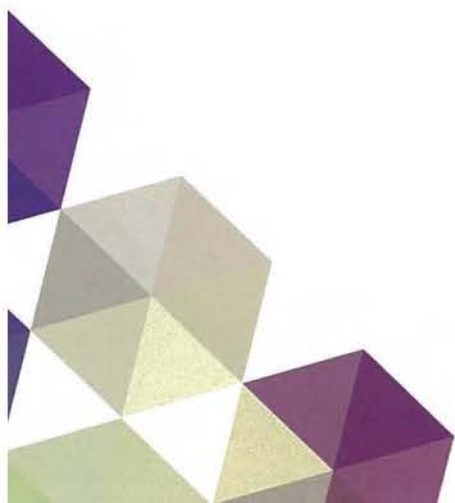
Michelle Wolfe
Jeff Woodford
Baoqiang Yan



Z

Kirill Yurov
Christine Ziemer



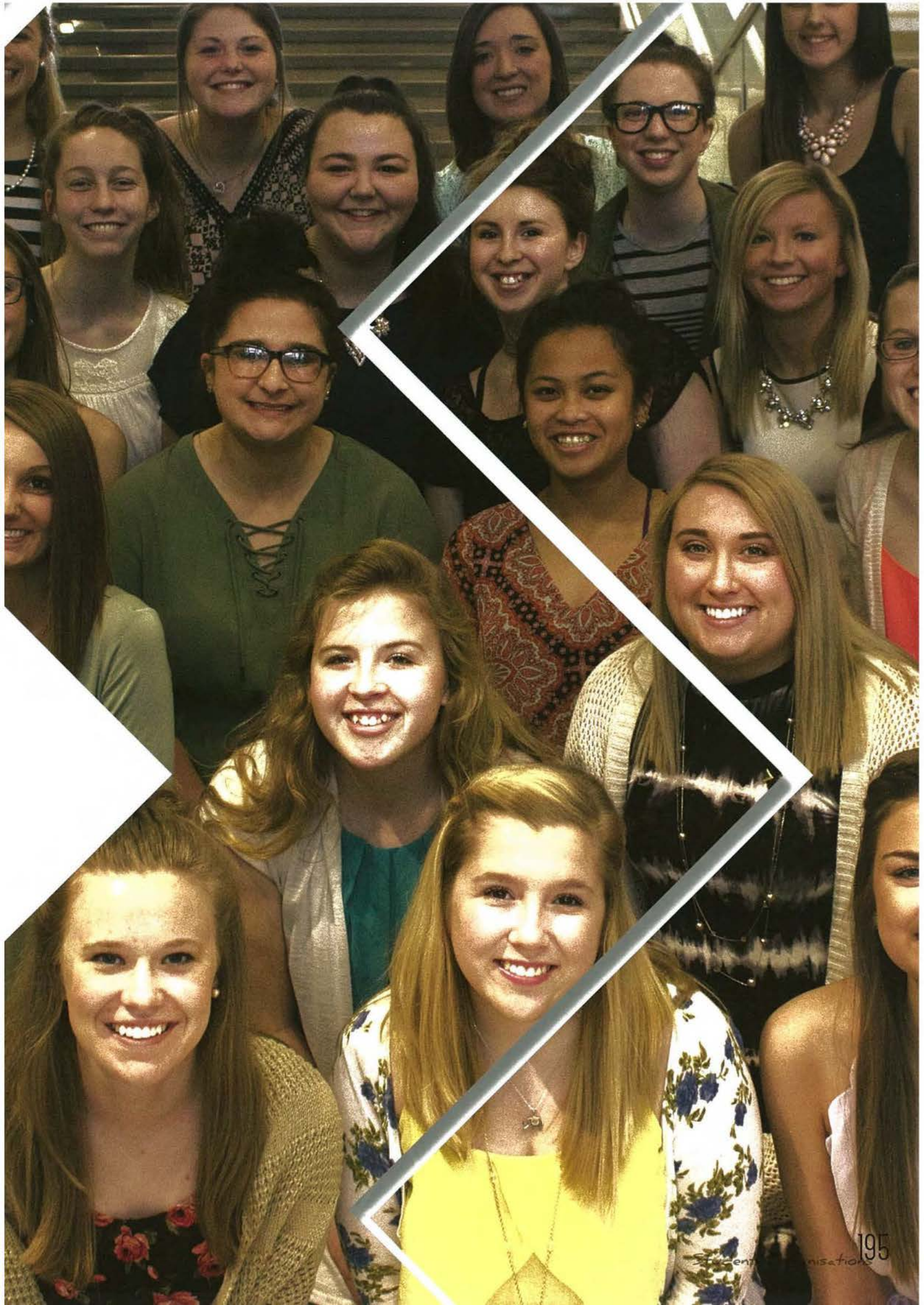




STUDENT GROUPS OF MISSOURI WESTERN

*The People Who
Create Friends and
Families for the Future*

Design: Jessika Eidson





[Front] Monica Sansoucie, Ashley Holoubek, Sireena Hazen, Ashley Schwertel, Melania Palmer
 [2nd] Malloree Arn, Rylie Bachman, Maddie Bradley, Brittany Snyder, Kalynn Copenharve,
 Morgan Dowell, Lynn Jordan, Taylor McCloud
 [3rd] Molleigh Arn, Shannon Nolan, Alayna Mazzeffe, Ashley Filipelli, Taylor Mathias, Abby Davidson,
 Nina Gray, Chandler Gossett, Shelby Dier, Kaitlyn Doolan
 [Back] Kacie Oberkramer, Desiree Brown, Emma Justice, Chevy Ingebritson, Candice Jenkins, April Smith,
 Taylor Porter, Megan Lamport

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA



[Front] Rachel Lau, Heather Stobbs, Ashley Gardner, Kaitlin McLeod, Hannah Herrick, Abbey Williamson
[2nd] Devin Braley, Crystal Enciso, Julie McDaniels, Andrea Denton, Mika Cummins, Hollie Yurkovich,
Kenzie Berten, Savannah Sanai, Kaylee DuVall
[3rd] Lacey Hawkins, Sunnie Helmer, Tiffany Maberry, Katie Chamberlin, Brenna Smith, Bailey Barron, Joni
Thomas, Ashlea Schmitz, Ashtyn Ideker, Katie Bruce
[Back] Briana Burgess, Brooke Jones, Katie McLachlan, Jessica Hoffman, McKenzie Blystone, Samantha
Gonzalez, Mickalya Fenimore, Gabrielle Moravec, Hannah Kruse, Mallory Saladen

ALPHA SIGMA IOTA



[Front] Holly Leslie, Cheyenne Knecht, Abby Sexton, Kara Harrison, Courtney Carter, Amanda Estep, Skyla Booth

[2nd] Logan Lawson, Hannah Adams, Sarah Lee, Alexandria Null, Kyah Minner, Raven Reed, Madeline Marx, [Back] Sydnie Holzfaster, Katie Gregory, Erin Bua, Samantha Schroeder, Marissa Sunderland, Mandy Snell, Carol Hare, Dr. Elise Hepworth



[front] Kori Trautloff, Maria Dewey, Kay Falterman, Isaac Sykes, Marie Bacon, Sarah Gibler, Courtney Kipping
 [2nd] Sarah Williams, Morgan Brown, Aubrey McCamy, Abby Lowe, Matthew Mullins
 [3rd] Paul Damery, Stefanie Fink, Shannon Stewart, Haley Binder, Kelsey Taylor, Michael Adams, Caleb Sapp,
 Amelia Cribb, Ryan Welliver
 [Back] Matthew Rinehart, Lukas Kiefer, Donald Pierre, James Filley, J.D. Scrivens, Shea Stacy, Matthew Howe,
 Daniel Waters

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION



[Front] Brayden Beauford, Mikey Turner, Krystal Hicok, Chris Plank, Kelsi Roebing
[2nd] Rick Randleman, Marisa Jordan, Alexie Davis, Trevor T, Garrett Durbin, Skylar Nichols
[Back] Kara Streebin, Shelby Hicks, Sydney Andrews, Dayton Zirkle, Chase Ford, McCabe Davis, Joy Ear
Ryan Heldenbrand, Alyssa Heldenbrand, Josh Hughart

CHRISTIAN CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

THE GRIFFON NEWS



[Front] Kaitlyn Doolan, Michael Penn, Brendon Welch, Mika Cummins

[2nd] Gillian Evans, Lauren Brunner, Jessie Johnson, Brent Rosenauer, Jessica Kopp, Sydnie Holzfaster

[Back] Anthony Crane, Brooke Anderson, Bob Bergland, Austin Bauer

GRIFFON UPDATE



[Front] Jeni Swope
[2nd] Tommy Marshall, Brent Rosenauer, Mika Cummins, Amareé Martin
[Back] Cortrez Colbert, Christina Wade, Heather Groenke, Jasmine Taylor



[Front] Kia Abhari, James Carviou

[2nd] Joni Thomas, Tommy Marshall, Violetta Valeeva, Heather Groenke, Jasmine Taylor, Jessika Eidson, Blair Russell, Abbey Resler, Rachel Gough

[3rd] Bryant Scott, Rachael Bergeron,

[4th] Alicen Fowler

[5th] Stephen Solomon

[Back] Bailey Ketcham, Justin Janorschke, Colbert Cortrez

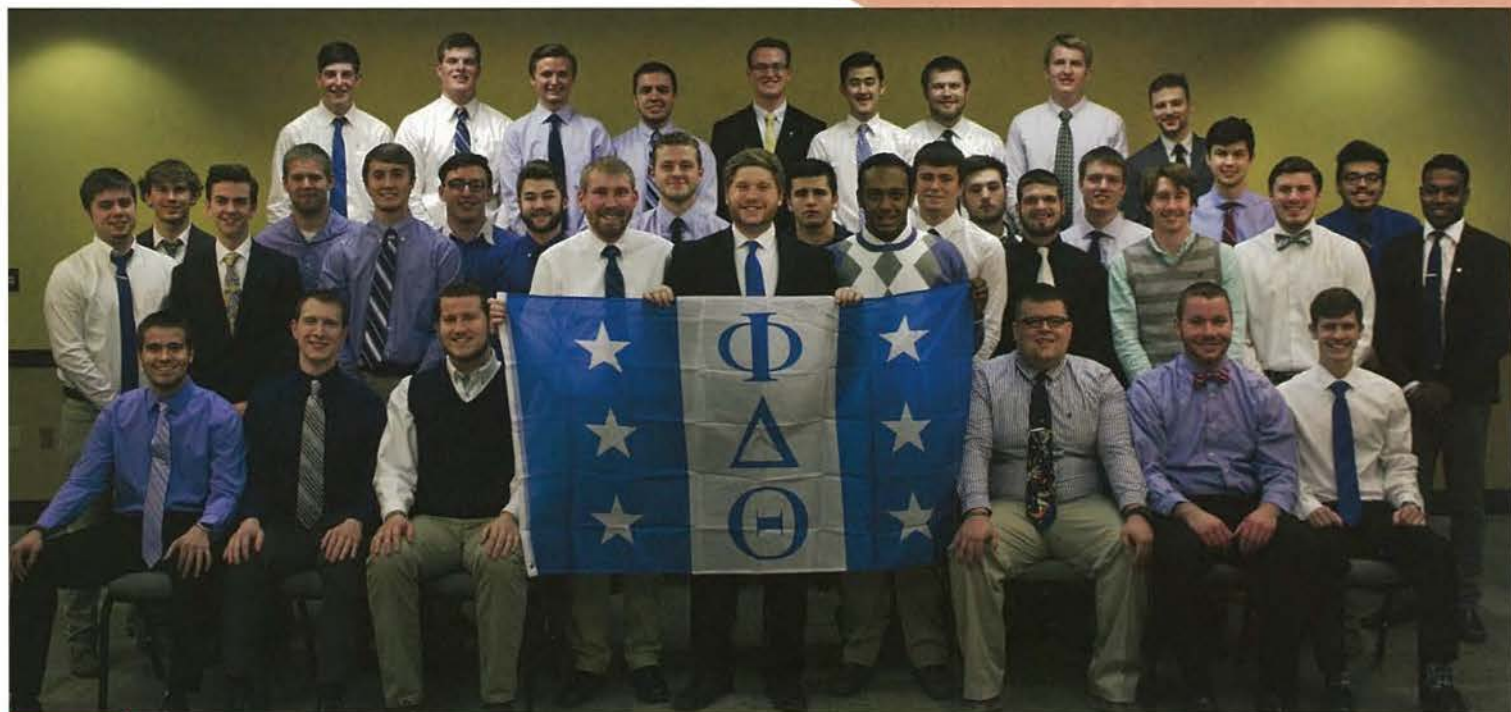
THE GRIFFON YEARBOOK



[Front] Zach Evans, Crystal Crawford, Casey Leslie, Dr. Marianne Kunkel, Mary Stone, Janelle Anders
[2nd] Brett Kiser, Lindsey Lucas, Arniecea Johnson
[Back] Chris Pankiewicz, Matthew Kurtz, Cameron Pike, Darius Griffin

MOCHILA- CANVAS

PHI DELTA THETA



[Front] Ross Pascal, Eli Doge, Bert Hale, Alec Guy, Connor Samenus, Reyhan Wilkinson, Zach Stark, Mitch Large, Alec Smith

[2nd] Hunter McPherson, Nathan Nold, Joseph Kellogg, Mitch Sanders, Chandler Peterson, Mike Smith, Kody Piper, Weston Pool, Anthony Curiale, Tyler St. Denny, Landon Houghton, Trent Pickett, Jacob Robertson, Colin Rosenow, Jacob Hoppe, Gabe McKnight, Jalen Redmond, TJ Duff

[Back] Baxter Krumme, Briley Krumme, Curt VanCleave, Logan Zorn, Logan Meyer, Derrick Pham, Lucas Diefenbach, Brendin Wood, Keegan Cathcart

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM



[1st] Katey Kohl, Shelby Newcomer, Whitney Williams, Lauren Baumhoff, Cali Slaughter
[2nd Row] Michelle Johnson, Sarah Garver, Kayla White, Sarah Schoonover
[3rd Row] Laura Adams, April Smith, Janey Smith, Courtney Eisman
[4th Row] Melissa Ferbert, Chrissie Neely, Stephanie Hughes, Erica Rottinghaus
[5th] Ben Bentley, Nathan Whitmer



Matthew Glover, Jordan Booth, Chris Miles, Austin Edwards

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

SPANISH CLUB



[Front] Ana Baussett
[Back] Gage Williams, Grace Galbearth, Christian Mangual



[Front] Riley Wilson, Shelbie Atwell, Katie Klosterman, Jenna Kosmatka
[Middle] Meara Smith, Anna Kloepfel, Jordan Chohon, Sydney Andrews, Bridget Blessie, Blaine Werth,
Madison Romjue, Signe Coombs
[Back] Natasha Oakes, Skyler Windmiller, Hayden Eatinger, Weston Caindec, Ryan Menle

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



[Front] Sara Murphy, Cheyenne Curley, Angelica Barnette, Taylor Dowell, Garren Howard, Jianfeng Huar
[Back] Lexei Cook, Jessica Salcedo, Oganya Abaji, Charles Skyles, Megan Oilar, Anna Kirkpatrick

STUDENT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

BETA BETA BETA



[Front] Kelly Cochran, Tyler Hughes, Joshua Wilcoxson, Kara Violett
[2nd] Jeremy Lord, Athena Davis, Han Nguyen, Krista Hughes
[3rd] Chris Watson, Danielle Edelman, Brittney Pauley [
Back] Tony Erickson, Hailey Babcock, Csengele Barta

WESTERN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL



[Front] Kyle Fuson, Anthony Curiale, Melissa Pugh, Garren Howard, Candice Jenkins, Ashley Filipelli,
Annie Allgaier, Aleesia Thompson, Natalie Miller and Kaitlyn Caldwell
[Back] Chris Maguire, Court VanCleave, Logan Meyer, Dylan Barnes, Charles Flemons, Chevy Ingebritse,
Chuck Mosley and Gabe Thomas



[Front] Lauren Bergman, Grace Galbearth
[2nd] Courtney Carter, Shian McBee, Logann Lawson, Erin Bua, Mary Beth Rosenauer, Mariatul Dianah
Hidzir
[Back] Hannah Adams, Garrett Peterson, Garrett Brooks, Matthan Mrkvicka, Nick Grable, Kamela Becker

WESTERN APPEAL

THE NEXT GRIFFON SCAVENGER HUNT

Use the hashtag #GriffonBHunt on Twitter and Instagram to have some fun on campus!

1. Take a selfie with one additional person in front of the Yearbook office.
2. Find and take a photo of a copy of the first issue of The Griffon News for the 2016-17 school year.
3. Use pictures of letters from around campus signs, building names or street signs, to spell out your first name (this may require the use of photoshop, layout app, etc.).
4. Take a selfie with a Resident Advisor.
5. Find a cactus on campus, take a photo.
6. Take a photo with a student athlete in uniform.
7. Take a photo with your "Fancy Ramen" creation.
8. Screenshot a Snapchat containing 3 or more people containing campus landmark.
9. Get a selfie with Max the Griffon.
10. Take a selfie while watching a movie about college life.
(Revenge of the Nerds, Animal House, Old School, Road Trip, E


- Take screenshot of a Griffon Update episode.
- Take a photo with a student actor in costume before or after a play.
- Take a photo in the mock CBS studio.
- Take a photo with your advisor.
- Take a selfie while getting coffee at Java City or Einstein's gels.
- Take a video of a random act of kindness
- Video the clock tower playing a Christmas song.
- Take a group photo with 5 or more people in Halloween costumes.
- Take a photo with a professor "dabbing" (THE DANCE MOVE).
- Take a selfie in Missouri Western apparel

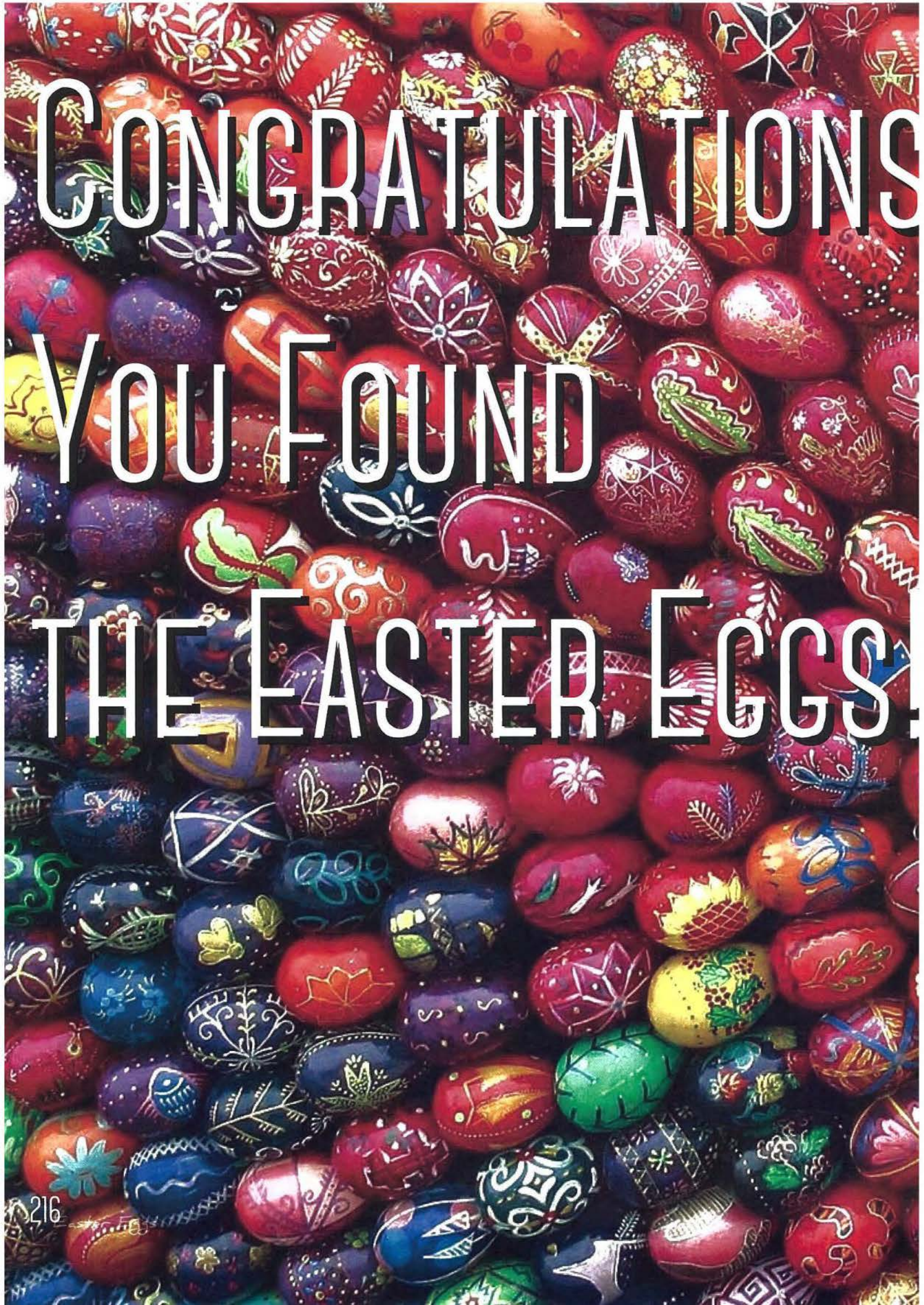
WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL 20 TASKS SEND A TWEET TO @MWSU_YEARBOOK WITH THE HASHTAGS #GRIFFONYBHUNT AND #IWIN. WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE WINNER ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, TWITTER ACCOUNT AND INSTAGRAM! THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$20 AMAZON GIFT CARD!

BE SURE TO LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON ALL OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES!

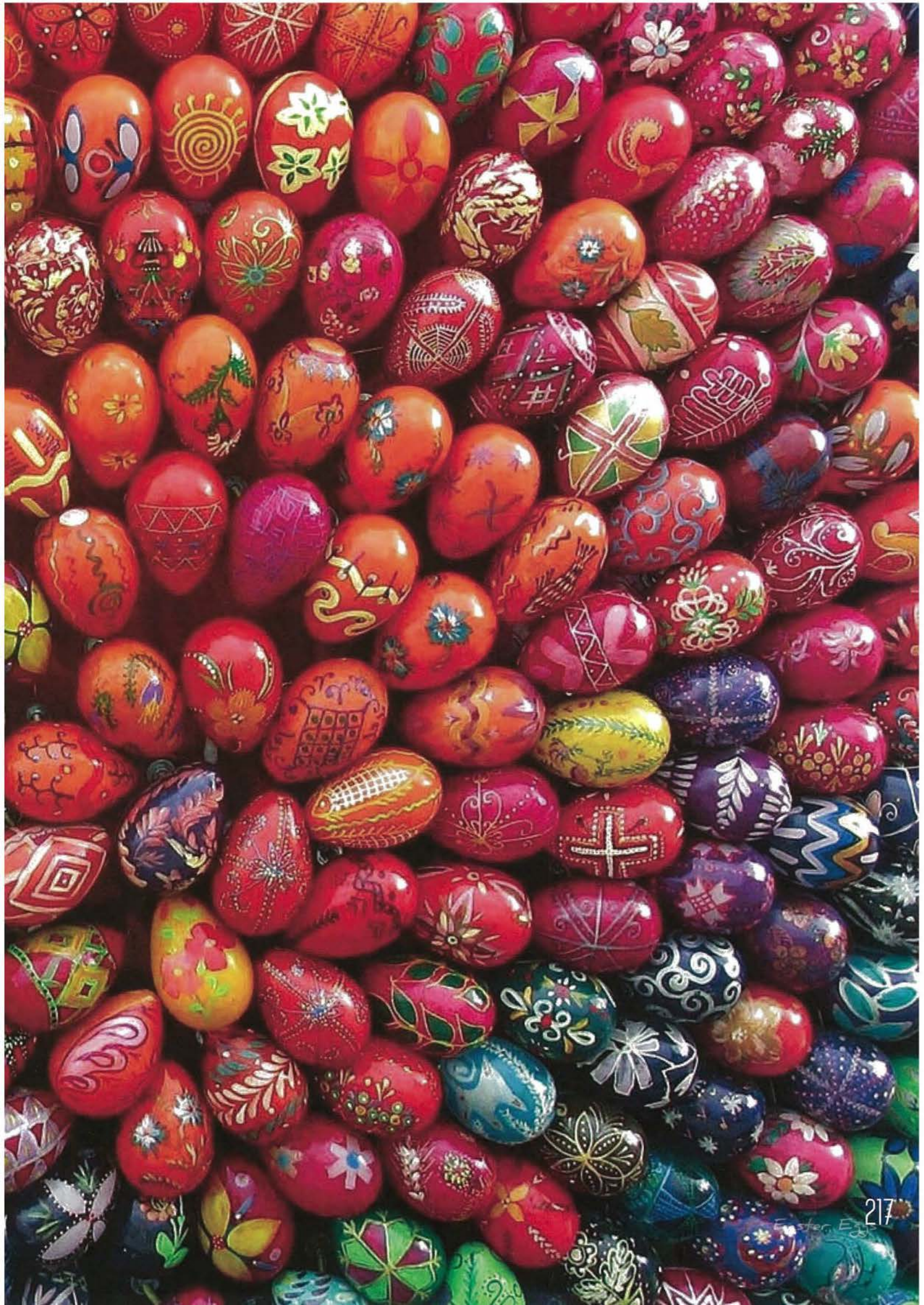
 www.facebook.com/GriffonYearbook

 @MWSUYearbook

 @MWSU_Yearbook



CONGRATULATIONS
YOU FOUND
THE EASTER EGGS!



THE NEXT YEARBOOK

The Griffon steps into the 21st century, adding video to your memories

This year Missouri Western kicked off its school year celebrating its 100th anniversary. The milestone brought many celebrations and events to commemorate the event. One way the students honored the century-old school was with a Centennial Edition of *The Griffon*, the student-created yearbook for Western.

In the Centennial Edition *Griffon*, a section dedicated to the first 100 years of Western, tributes to retiring faculty and those we lost along the way.

New for the 2014-15 Centennial Edition was the integration of video to bring new life and new angles to the stories chosen to go into the book.

The Editor in Chief of the 2014-15 *Griffon* Jodi Stambach said, "Part of the reason we decided to incorporate the Aurasma app into the Centennial Edition of the yearbook, was, it was a way to take the yearbook and encapsulate everything we had done from the past, and remember the history. But, also, give it a bridge into the future."

Jodi helped facilitate the use of 10 videos; in cooperation with Jeni Swope, *Griffon Update*, the intro to video class and *The Griffon News*, the videos were synced with the pages of *The Griffon*.

Students, for the first time ever, were able to scan and view videos to accompany the 10 stories that were chosen. The videos included new and expanded looks at the stories they were synced with.

As *The Griffon* started looking forward to another year, a new staff and another century, they knew they had to continue the forward thinking and innovation that helped Western wrap up the last century.

Jessika Eidson, Editor in Chief of *The Griffon* 2015-16, decided to take a look forward. She wanted to look at where Western was headed in its next 100 years.

That look forward included Aurasma, the smartphone app that created the video experience for the 2014-15 yearbook. She wanted to continue the multimedia involvement.

"It gets students more involved," Eidson said. "We are in an age where we watch Vines, we watch YouTube videos, and I think that video aspect will draw in more students and give them that extra content that wouldn't necessarily fit on the page. It gives them a different element and different content."

Eidson and her staff, again along with Jeni Swope, *Griffon Update* and *Griffon News*, created 25 Aurasma video connections. The videos synced with the stories will enhance the coverage, and sometimes take another fresh angle on the same story.



Look for the Aurasma logo throughout the book to expand the written story into a video experience to help bring the whole story across many media sources.

Design & Story: Bryn

Your yearbook is interactive with **Aurasma!**



See your yearbook come to life! Here's how:

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play and download the **Aurasma** app.
2. Swipe through the tutorial screens, then press **Skip** on the account setup screen.
3. In the app, tap  and then .
4. Type GriffonYearbook and tap **Search** or **Done**.
5. Select our school and then tap **Follow**.
6. Tap , and then point the viewfinder over the images on pages (page numbers)

OUR TEAM

*The People Who Made
This Book*

Design: Jessika Eidson





LJUBIC BASIC

Although we didn't see her in the office much because of her busy schedule, Ljubica gave us a lot of stories that offered unique perspectives on subjects. Ljubica was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha and was the Homecoming Queen in 2015.



CORTREZ COLBERT

Cortrez was a senior when he came to us. He was an experienced reporter who helped us write many sports and event stories for this edition of the Griffon Yearbook. Cortrez was also a student athlete during his time at Missouri Western.



RACHEL GOUGH

Rachel was new to our staff during the spring semester, but we instantly saw that she was ready to be a team player. During her time with us, she photographed many events and even won a photography contest. Rachel worked for the Public Relations office during her time at Western.



HEATHER GROH

Heather came to us early in her journalism career. Over the course of the semester, she learned how to navigate interviews and photography. Heather will be the Executive Producer of Griffon University Western's broadcast team, next year.

BAILEY KETCHAM

Bailey was a very reliable student throughout her semester with us. She was always in class and always turned her content in. This might sound small, but for editors this means the world. Bailey was always willing to chime in when we were looking for a source or trying to think of ideas for content. We're very glad she joined us and predict she will thrive at both Missouri Western and in life. Bailey was also a student athlete during her time at Western.



RACHAEL BERGERON

Rachael came to us as an art major who was interested in getting experience in photography and design. She always went above and beyond to deliver us professional content. Rachael will be coming back to The Griffon as the Design Editor in the 2016-2017 school year.



ALICEN FOWLER

Alicen began working with us this semester. We saw her quickly improve in both photography and writing. She was one of the sweetest people we've worked with, and we believe this kindness will take her far in life.



HANNAH MONTGOMERY

Hannah joined our staff this semester and was a reliable part of the team. Even when her stories weren't going well, she never complained. Hannah juggled being on staff and being the mother a toddler for which we applaud her.



JUSTIN JANORSCHKE

Justin was with us for both semesters this year. He had just transferred to a major in journalism and had to start with the very basics. We've seen him improve tremendously in both writing and photography and are very grateful for all the times he went the extra mile for the yearbook. Justin was always fun to have in the office, even if it was just for the distraction from work.

ABBEY RESLER

Abbey came onto our staff during the spring semester. She was always willing to do what was needed to get her work done and offered a lot of ideas for stories throughout the semester. We wish she could have come back for another semester, but she graduated from Western in May.



COREY MYERS

Corey had worked in the Communications Department for a few years before joining us. He was able to take that experience and expand upon it during the spring semester. He provided the book with some really great photos. While at Missouri Western, Corey made a name for himself as a drummer on Instagram.



JASMINE TAYLOR

Jasmine was on our staff for both semesters this year. From her first day at The Griffon, Jasmine gave 110 percent. Over the past year, she blew us away with her hard work and talent. If she ever needs a job recommendation, she has one. Jasmine will be the Social Media Editor for the Griffon in the 2016-2017 school year.



STEPHEN SOLOMON

Stephen was another reliable staff member. There was hardly ever a time when he didn't show up to class or turn in his work. Stephen was a great addition to the staff and definitely a team player.

Design: Jessika Eidson

THE EDITORS

KIA ABHARI DESIGN ASSISTANT

Kia joined our team this year along with his better half, Viola. As a graduate student, he was able to provide an experienced point-of-view that we needed for our designs. Kia was also a music producer and native of Iran.



BLAIR RUSSELL PHOTO EDITOR

Blair began working with the Griffon last year. Her skills in photography made her stand out immediately. She provided a lot of unique and powerful photos for this book as well as plenty of laughs. Blair also played for the Griffon Volleyball team during her time here.



ANDY GARRISON WEB EDITOR

Andy was the Web Editor for all of Griffon Media. It was a huge job, but Andy more than succeeded. Andy was a hard worker and always willing to go the extra mile when it came to his job. He left Missouri Western after earning his bachelor's degree to spend more time with his family.

SSIKA EIDSON EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SSIKA came to The Griffon in 2013 during her freshman year. She began as a staff writer, became the Managing Editor, and finally the Editor-In-Chief. She has enhanced her skills in photography, writing and design over time. She plans on joining the staff of the Griffon News and the Griffon Update during her senior year.



MIKA CUMMINS COPY EDITOR-SPRING

We'd all known Mika for awhile, but she had been a part of the Griffon News Staff. She joined us during the spring semester after our former copy editor graduated. Mika was always a lively, hard-working editor. She was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha during her time at Western.

BRYANT SCOTT DESIGN EDITOR

Bryant has worked for the Griffon since 2014. He started off as a staff writer and a public relations major. Within the past two years he became our Design Editor and decided to pursue a degree in journalism. He put in long nights and early morning this year to make this book a reality. Bryant will be the Editor-in-Chief during for the 2016-2017 edition of The Griffon.



THE EDITORS

TOMMY MARSHALL MANAGING EDITOR

Tommy came to the yearbook in 2013. He was a staff writer for two semesters but moved onto Managing Editor this year. He was very organized and willing to do whatever was needed—be it writing, design or just filing paperwork. He always played great music in the office and was great to have around. Tommy plans on joining other publications on campus next year.



VIOLETTA VALEEVA DESIGN ASSISTANT

Viola was the second half of the Kia/Viola power couple. She spent many hours working on portraits and designing spreads. She was able to create interesting infographics and art for this edition of The Griffon. Viola was also a singer and native of Russia.

JONI THOMAS

DESIGN ASSISTANT

Joni came on this semester as a design assistant. She was originally an art major, but wanted hands-on, practical experience. She has provided some beautiful spreads for this book and has been our go-to person for design questions. Joni was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha during her time at Western.



JENI SWOPE

VIDEO EDITOR

Jeni was the Executive Producer and Director of Griffon Update, Western's on-campus broadcasting team. She spent time making sure that this yearbook would have companion video packages and submitted many photos that were used throughout this book. Missouri Western and The Griffon are definitely going to miss this woman since she is graduated in May.



JESS VOELK

COPY EDITOR-FALL

Jess joined our team for the 2014-2015 edition of the yearbook. She worked many hours adding commas and tearing through the AP stylebook. She was quiet at times, but a very reliable person. Jess graduated during the Winter Commencement ceremony.

THANK
YOU

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bryant

Thank you for all the long nights you spent designing. I know it was a sacrifice to be away from your family, but I hope you've been able to create things you're excited to show them when this book goes to print. I know you're going to be a great editor, and I hope you're able to take this book further than I was able to.

Tommy

Thank you for all your hard work and for doing all the grunt work like running around campus to get paper work. Thank you for playing good music in the office and for all the entertaining conversations. You really do look like Brendon Urie in your profile photo.

Air

Thank you for being my go-to gal when it came to design. You never disappointed. Thank you for your patience, random outbursts of anger. I'm glad I'm the only person who screams at Photoshop.

Thank you for working with us, even after you moved to bigger and better things. We wouldn't have been able to incorporate videos into this book without you, especially since we almost forgot to put Aurasma logos on the designs. You're extremely talented, and I look forward to seeing what you'll do in the future.

Justin

Thank you for keeping Jeni sane. And thank you for all the hilarious snapchat stories that provided plenty of entertainment for the days I felt like procrastinating.

Justin & Jasmine

Thank you for all your hard work during both semesters. Seriously, I don't know why you came back after the first semester, but I'm glad you did. You both really improved in photography and writing, and I felt like I was working with you as equals more than an editor.

James

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to work with the yearbook and for being our mediator with the big wigs of campus.

Joni

Thank you for all the hard work you did for us this semester. You are a super sweet person and did some amazing designs. I hope you enjoy working as the design editor next year.

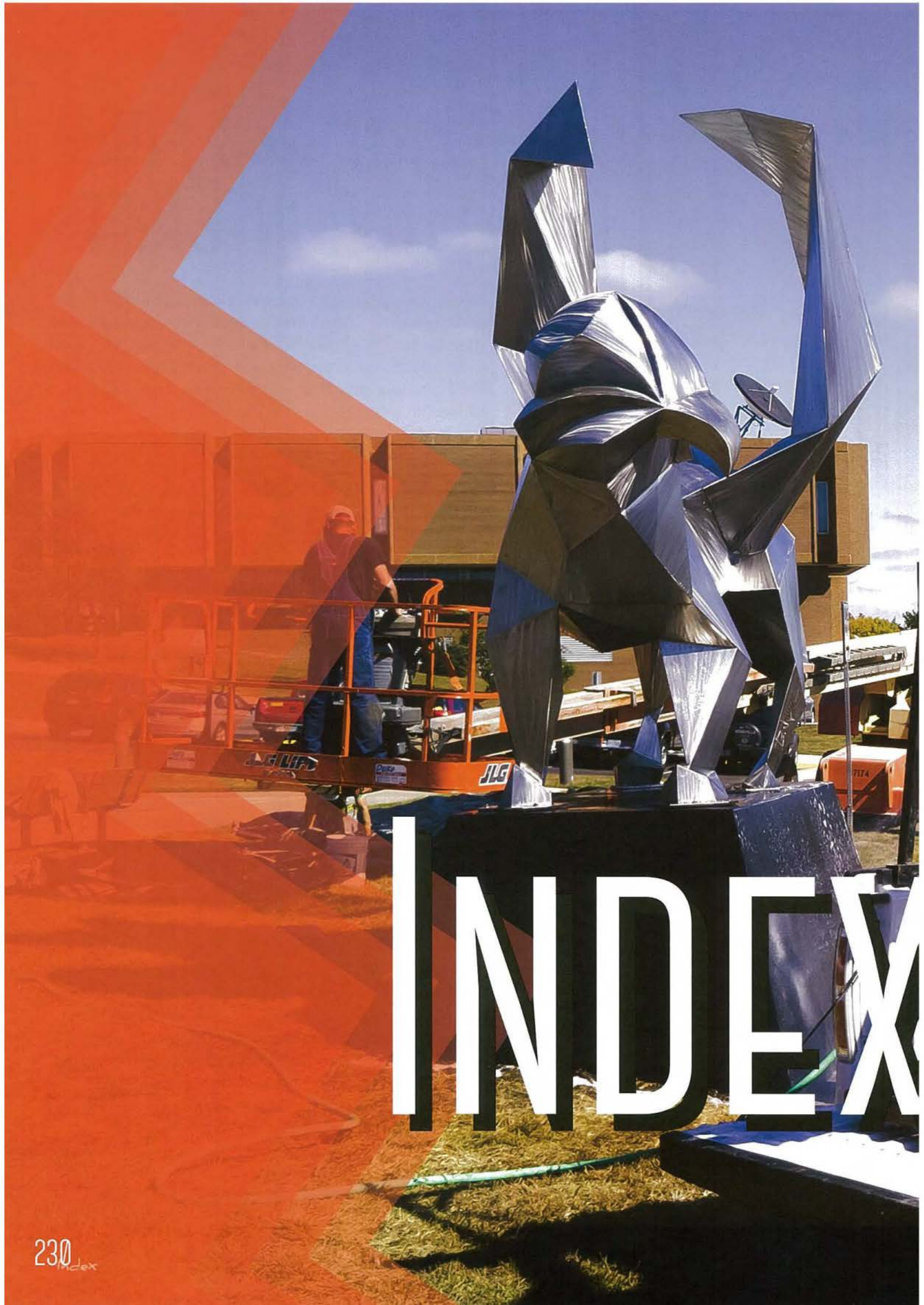
Kia & Viola

First of all, sorry for always lumping you guys together as a couple. You are both very talented people on your own, but you two really thrive together and it's hard not to think of you as one kick-ass entity. You both did a lot of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into this book, so I want to publicly thank you for all of it.

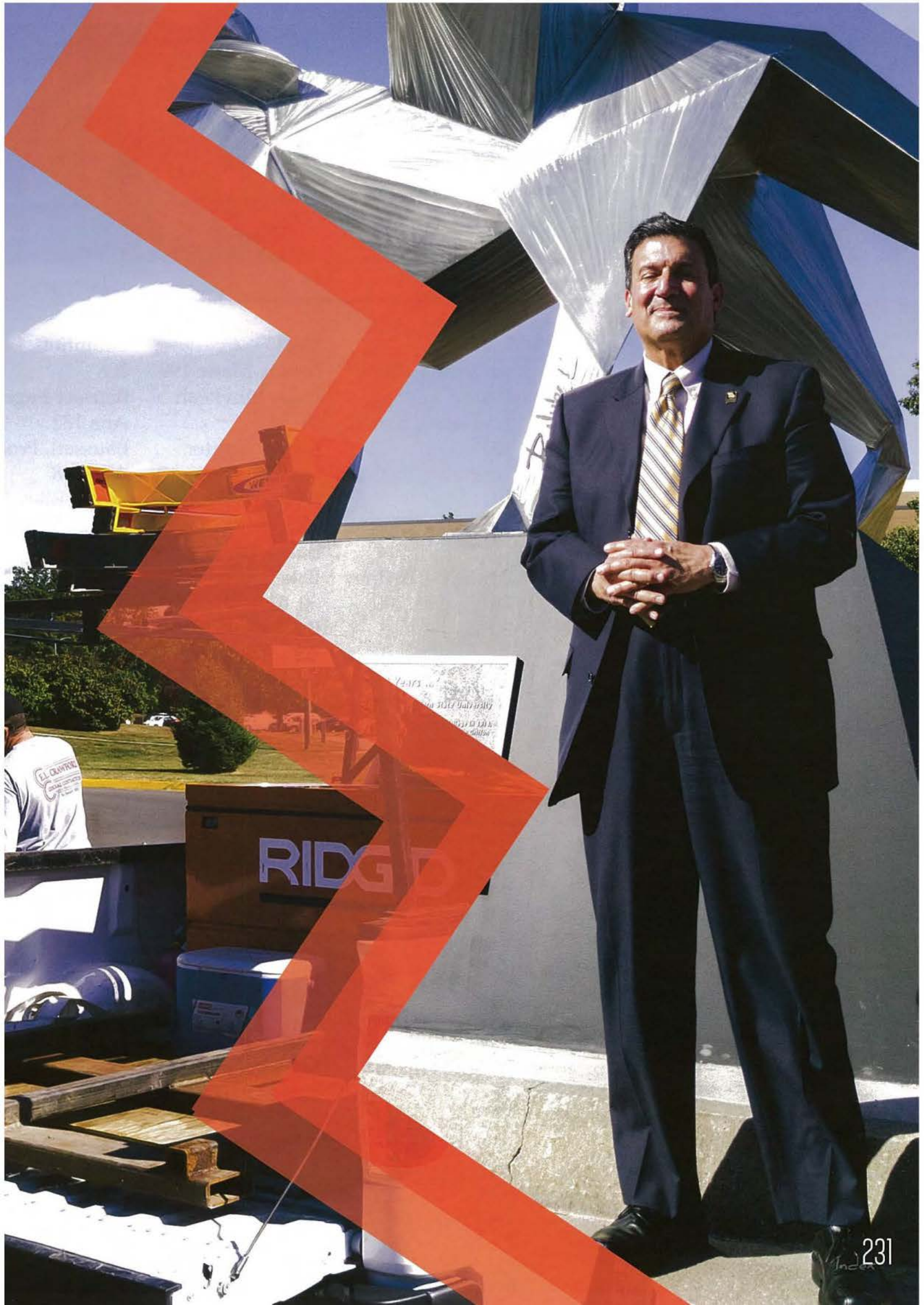
My mom, my sister, my best friend & my love

As a note, these are not all the same person, but you all helped me in the same way. You helped me stay sane by letting me vent and providing me with advice or alcohol or both. Thank you all for being part of my life and helping me get out of the black hole that being an editor-in-chief can be at times.

Design: Jessika Eidson



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THE NEXT COLOPHON

The staff of The Griffon presents the legal details of the making of the 2015-16 Yearbook

The 90th edition of The Griffon for 2015-16 was printed by Walsworth Yearbooks, Inc. in Marceline, Missouri. The theme for the yearbook was “The NEXT Big Thing” The theme represents moving into the future of Missouri Western State University. After celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2015, 2016 had us looking ahead to what was next.

Our sales representative was Tracy Tuley. Our plant representative was Barb Tschannen. Portraits were taken by Kiaresh Abhari and Violetta Valeeva, graduate students attending Western for the 15-16 school year. Student organization photos were taken by Abhari, Valeeva, Andy Garrison and Blair Russel.

The cover was designed by Bryant Scott. It was custom embossed under the Griffon, and debossed under the lettering of the title. The photos, taken by Scott, were coated with a high gloss screen. The design won a second place Apple Award in New York City, at the 2016 College Media Association’s Fall conference. This was the first Apple Award to be awarded to Western, including all media outlets, in approximately a decade.

The book is a 9 x 12 format and is printed on 100# gloss paper. The staff of The Griffon used seven iMac computers and Cannon T5i cameras, checked out from the media cage on campus. The 248 page book was designed in Adobe InDesign. The font families used were Canter bold and bold shadow, Daniel bold and Palatino regular, bold and italic. There were 1,100 copies of the book produced at the Walsworth yearbook plant.

The cost of the book was free to all students who picked one up. This was made possible by a \$5.00-per-semester, yearbook fee included in tuition cost for every student.

