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2019 Missouri Western State University

NSM



The Griffon



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Griffon

TRIBE





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The Griffon

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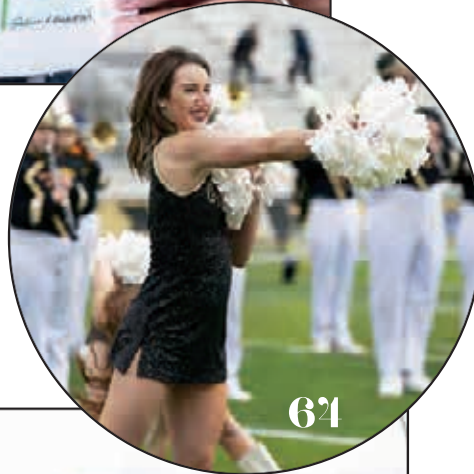
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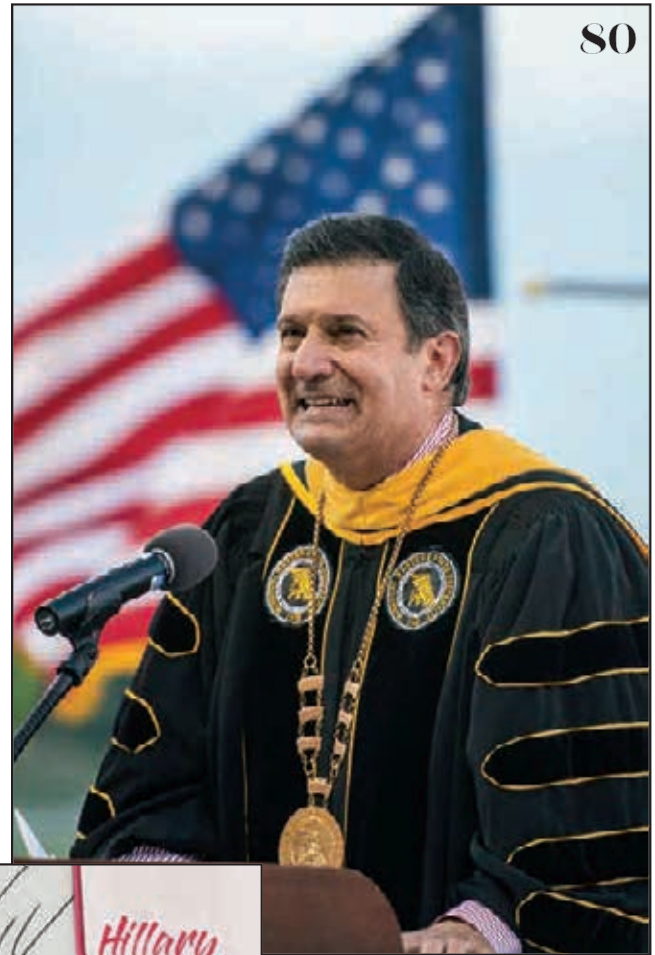
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EDITOR'S NOTE



I never saw myself working on a publication. Now, I couldn't have imagined my college career without this book or my colleagues. ”

Bethany Vonsegger

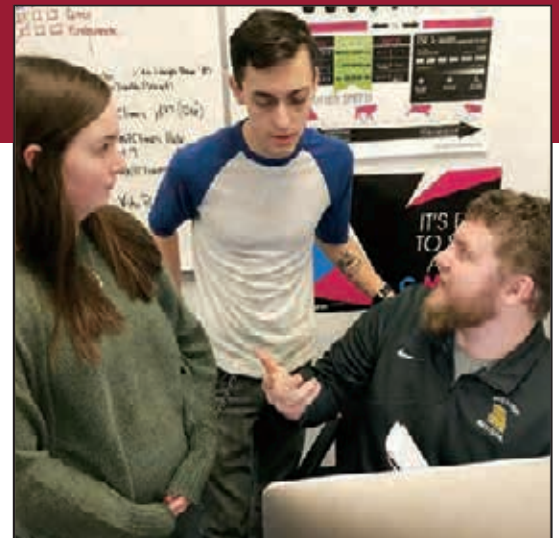
Editor-in-Chief

As students we tend to get inundated with our schedules: working long hours, cramming for tests, practicing for the big game and taking care of our loved ones. In the process, we forget to feel our moments, to embrace our experiences and to acknowledge our progress because we are so focused on getting to the finish line. We tend to forget our journey is molding us, we forget straying from the norm or letting go of what we think should happen is an experience we should invite into our lives.

If my experiences as EIC have shown me anything over the last two years it's that life is ever-changing and embracing the moments laid out in front of us are the utmost important. In the case of our team it's not only for us, but for our fellow students, faculty and staff. We are the historians of your legacy. We help you remember your favorite moments, the historical landmarks and the people who surrounded you during your college experience.

As we developed the theme of this book we struggled on selecting a name. Collectively we didn't want to name it; we felt it was important to keep it organic and fluid. However, as we read through the stories and scanned through the photos, we thought - Griffon TRIBE. This is who we are as a university; we are a tribe of incredible, unique, creative and intelligent individuals who have the ability to come together and create greatness. This group of individuals range from students who will one day become scientists and leaders to faculty members who throw fire and publish books. We, as a publication, wanted to highlight the passion that drives our Griffon TRIBE to making the decisions they do and what they hope to do to change the world.

This publication was also an opportunity for *The Griffon* team to leave their legacy. Highlighted throughout you will see stories, photographs and designs all of which have been done by Western students. Each student member of our team strayed from their norm and challenged themselves - and each other - to become stronger individuals, professionals and humans. As I leave *The Griffon* and Western, I challenge you to: feel your moments, embrace your experiences and acknowledge your progress - because if you don't - you may miss it all.



Augmented Reality

The Griffon has joined forces with Walsworth Yearbooks to create an interactive experience for our readers. With the help of executive producer Mackenzie Boos from *Griffon Update* we have overlaid digital content onto some of our yearbook pages. This doesn't replace content, but adds an additional edge to our stories.

To watch these stories first download the 'Yearbook AR' app from the App Store or Google Play. Next, scan the primary (largest) image on the pages which contain a triangle marker on the corner of the page.



Reflection of a Legacy

Dear members of the university community,

It is my pleasure to write an introductory letter to this year's Griffon Yearbook.

Our award-winning yearbook has been a major point of pride for our University for many years. In my 11 years here, I do not think that there is any single publication that chronicles our year more effectively than our yearbook.

What impresses me even more is that it has been consistently done with a wonderful sense of artistic flair. I always look forward to seeing its content and its creativity every year.

This is a special year for me as it is my last one as president of Missouri Western. I have many fond memories of my years here. Without question, my best memory will be that of our dedicated students who reflect so well on Missouri Western. That is certainly the case with our yearbook staff.

As I look back on the great Missouri Western students and events over the past 11 years, the Griffon Yearbook has done an impressive job of capturing all of this. Events such as our commencement celebrations, our annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues, the first Kansas City Chiefs training camp here in 2010, the opening of the Walter Cronkite Memorial in 2013, our centennial celebration in 2015, and much more have been vividly brought to life in our outstanding Griffon Yearbook.

My thanks to the Griffon Yearbook staff for producing such an excellent historic and artistic publication for posterity.

Sincerely,

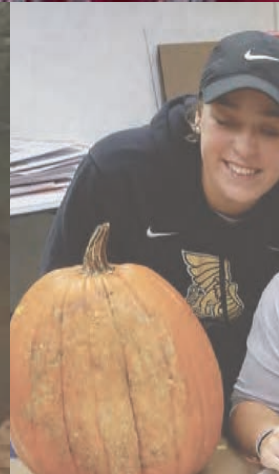
Robert A. Vartabedian, President



GRIFFON LIFE



Photos Shelby Berkemeier, Malik Bryant, Kaitlyn Doolan, Lance Lawton, Alicia Otto, Trasean Stepney, Chandra Traxler, Sourced







CAMPUS DIGS

By Kalee Black

Meeting your roommate can create life-changing experiences.

Campus community is a huge part of the impact one gets from their college experience. One way to feel more connected is to live in the residence halls.

No matter which of the seven residence halls one stays in, there are many experiences and advantages. Lots of students like living on campus, because they only have to wake up 20 minutes before class. However, there are more exciting things that happen around campus than sleeping a bit more.

Keifer Steeby is a junior and lives in Griffon Hall.

“I really enjoy snow days where I can get a group of friends and go sledding and snowboarding down a couple hills around

the campus,” Steeby said.

Sophomore Elora Maxwell lives in Leaverton. She enjoys going to movie nights and painting activities.

Sophomore Lyndsay Grubb, who lives in Scanlon, enjoys activities that the residence halls put on, especially the watch parties for the Chiefs.

There were a couple of things that the students would really like to add to the residence hall: an in-room kitchen or at least a stove. Currently, some residence halls have in-room microwaves and stoves, but most residence halls only have community kitchens.

Nonetheless, the students have enjoyed their experience in the residence halls so far.



“...it’s rewarding in the fact that I can meet new people, create new relationships with them and help them out in any way...”



When Bertram isn’t studying or pulling a duty weekend, she loves to engage in physical activities, spend time with family and participate in BSU.

Knock-Knock

Res Life!

A busy little Bertram bee. RA life isn't only about knocking on doors. Rachel Bertram studys hard, stays involved with the Baptist Student Union and keeps physically active. *By Lance Lawton, Photo Alex Richardson*

Handling around 40 students in a residential life hall while studying for classes can sound very challenging, and Rachel Bertram felt the pressure her first semester as a resident assistant (RA).

"Last fall, it was horrible," Bertram said. "I was receiving C's and D's on homework and tests, when I know I could do better than that. I didn't know how to study and balance my work with my classes."

The junior public relations major from Cameron, Missouri, struggled to find that perfect harmony in the fall of 2017. However, after much focus and determination, Bertram finally mastered her plan.

"I worked at it every day and finally figured it out," Bertram said. "I learned how to quit stressing so much, how to study properly and now I'm here in my second year, going strong."

Bertram became interested in becoming an RA at Western after listening to her sister's experience as one at Park Hill University.

"It was the idea that I could become involved with campus life and helping others," Bertram said. "I enjoy living on campus, where people can come to me with issues that they have, or they come to me just to start a new relationship, to get to know me better."

She claims that her job as an RA can be very rewarding, due to the quality of relationships she has with her residents.

"I have some of the same residents I had last year, with a few new ones this year," Bertram said. "I'm on the second floor of Vaselakos Hall, which is the International Floor, and I'm thrilled to meet all the internationals that we get every year and just talk to them and learn about their cultures."

Although she was able to adapt to the RA lifestyle, Bertram says that the worst part about the job are duty nights; more specifically, duty weekends.

"Those can drain you sometimes," Bertram said. "Especially when people are having fun against residential life policies. RAs have to stay up late, go out on rounds and you might have to answer the duty phone and walk out in the middle of the night in your pajamas to resolve a problem."

Bertram says that she has had to be on several police reports due to residential situations. She's also had to call a few paramedics to campus.

Despite the ups and downs that an RA can deal with at Western, Bertram still believes that this is one of her favorite jobs she's ever had.

"It's just a great feeling. I'm basically someone who can be highlighted as who you want to have a desirable friendship with," Bertram said. "Like I said before, it's rewarding in the fact that I can meet new people, create new relationships with them and help them out in any way, and I get to do all of this as a job."

“
My biggest goal is to be a mentor not only to my staff, but the students who work and live in the residence halls.”



Moutrup has had school pride since day one. He still represents all the universities he's worked at. Photo Lance Lawton.

The People Make Place

By Lance Lawton

He's ready to make connections and help students succeed. Mark Moultrup, the new resident hall director (RHD) for Griffon, Juda and Beshears Hall, knew he wanted to become part of residential life ever since he was a college freshman at Central Michigan University, hoping to become a high school teacher. However, Moultrup said that it wasn't until after a rough patch in his life that he became inspired.

"I didn't believe my resident assistant was listening to my concerns that I had," Moultrup said. "I also had a rough roommate situation; he would talk behind my back, which led to me not creating friendships throughout my hall."

Moultrup wanted to drop out of college due to his struggles, until one night someone finally noticed and listened.

"It wasn't until one night a different RA sat and talked with me about my problems into the early morning," Moultrup said. "At that moment, I realized that I wanted to become involved with residential life."

After four years as an RA, Moultrup wanted to stay in residential life "forever." That's when he found out about becoming a residential life professional, and he decided to attend grad school for a master's in education leadership studies at Oklahoma State University. Although he thoroughly enjoyed his stay at Oklahoma State, he was thrilled to start his new job at Western, mainly because of the people.

"To me, the people make the place," Moultrup said. "When I arrived here, the

people were down-to-earth, they were willing to talk with me and the students were awesome. I knew this is where I wanted to be."

For some people, the transition to a new institution can be easy, but it was a slight challenge for Moultrup to transition to Western from a large university.

"One big challenge I found was that there are less people at Western to do the same amount of work than there was at OK State," Moultrup said. "However, OK State had budgets large enough to sustain certain offices that we didn't need campus partners. At Western, although we don't need to heavily rely on our partners, we still hold a strong connection with them, since we are a smaller university."

After adjusting to several Western transitions, Moultrup feels right at home in the residence halls and is ready to create a successful future for his staff and other on-campus students.

"My biggest goal is to be a mentor not only to my staff, but the students who work and live in the residence halls," Moultrup said. "Whether it's talking about what students want to do after graduation, what they want to do while they're here, what types of organizations they belong to, etc.; I just want to make a connection with everyone I meet. With the residential life access, it really feels like we're making a difference in someone's life."

By Trasean Stepney

Brotherhood and community are what fraternities at Western stand by. There are multiple fraternities that bring young men together with common interests and values.

Phi Delta Theta fraternity member Jack Taber sees his fraternity as a group of individuals with a common goal.

“We’re more like a group of guys that strive to become better versions of ourselves,” Taber said. Along with being able to grow as a person, Taber enjoys the company of his brothers.

“Whenever you are just bored, you have 40 other guys that are there if you want to hang out,” Taber said.

With brotherhood and a family-like atmosphere, fraternities on campus find a way to connect with all types of individuals.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. adds a layer of culture to Western. As a fraternity associated with the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the council for historically black-founded Greek organizations, members of the fraternity focus on supporting everyone in their community.

President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. MonTra Qualla-Woods explained that Alpha Phi Alpha men do not turn away from their community.

“No matter who you are or where you are from, we are here to provide that service for you” Qualla-Woods said.

Alongside Alpha Phi Alpha, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is also chartered as a historically black-founded fraternity that increased diversity.

Fraternity Phi Mu Alpha brings men and their community together through music. Member Jalen Redmond said that their fraternity is pretty unique.

“We like to spread music around the world as much as possible,” Redmond said. “Not too many fraternities are musically-inclined. We are strictly a music fraternity,”

Through the art of music, the Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity makes sure that the arts are never forgotten.

With all the differences between these three fraternities, they all have one thing in common. They all believe that being part of a fraternity gives individuals a great support system and a second home.



Photo Trasean Stepney

By Keleigh Price

GO G



Photos sourced from McKenzie Blystone, Kaitlyn Schmille, Kaleigh Pryor



By Kaleigh Pryor

When it comes to sorority life and sisterhood, the bond between members is extremely important and is the foundation that holds the group together. But arguably no relationship is as influential and impactful as the connection between big and little.

A big-little relationship is a mentorship program for new members to cultivate a strong connection with an older member. Bigs are responsible and reliable initiated members who are willing to be a resource to younger women who are trying to balance the newness of college and Greek Life.

Two Tri Sigma women, Annie Allgaier and Austin Hoverder, have been extremely involved within their chapter -- on campus and in their community. Allgaier, who is a nursing student, has held multiple leadership positions within sorority life while also being involved with new-student orientation. Hoverder, who is a public relations major, is a Western cheerleader and is the founder of the Water Project on campus.

As diverse and extensive as their interests might be, both Allgaier and Hoverder agree their relationship with their big has been the greatest take-away while at Western, and the opportunity to become a big has been rewarding and fulfilling. Allgaier learned about being a great leader from her big.

“Your big is the person you go to with your problems and

the member you look up to,” Allgaier said. “That’s how you learn what’s expected of you, and they teach you how to better yourself.”

Although littles don’t technically need to be best friends with their bigs, a strong connection always helps establish a successful partnership. What is most important is that a big is a support system -- someone who checks in with a new member to provide clarity and assistance throughout their initiation process and beyond. Hoverder explained that the relationship can develop into much more.

“Bigs are your mentors,” Hoverder said. “But most of the time, they end up being your best friend.”

The relationship that is established between big and little encompasses how many sorority women feel about their experience as members of their organizations and the bonds that they have created with all the members. Big-little pairings are influential to both companions and can develop into lasting friendships that go far beyond the women’s years in college. Allgaier believes this will be the case for her and her big.

“My big has always been there for me no matter what,” Allgaier said. “She has been my rock, and that’s what being a big means to me.”

GREEK

Finding Success



By Beau Baker

Some may know Melia Richardson as simply the point guard for Western's women's basketball team, but Melia Richardson brings more than just her basketball skills to the table.

Over the past four years, Richardson has developed from being a shy little freshman into a senior leader whom the team needs in order to be the best team they can possibly be. Head coach Rob Edmisson believes it is hard to put into words the transformation Richardson has made from then until now, especially after some of the struggles she had to deal with growing up.



Photos Alicia Otto & John Ellis

"Her life circumstances forced her to be an adult way earlier than most kids have to be," Edmisson said. "Her maturity level is way higher than you would believe it should be."

Richardson grew up around an alcoholic dad throughout her adolescents and teenage years. There were times when she didn't know when he would be coming home or if he would lash out at her mom and brother in a fit of rage when he did come home. Richardson's mom raised her as a single mother during her teenage years.

When she was a senior in high school, Richardson's mother ran into some trouble with the law. Once that happened, a family that Richardson's mom became close with over the years decided to look after her during her mom's absence. They helped her overcome all the darkness she had to endure as child and helped

her decide to make a name for herself at Western.

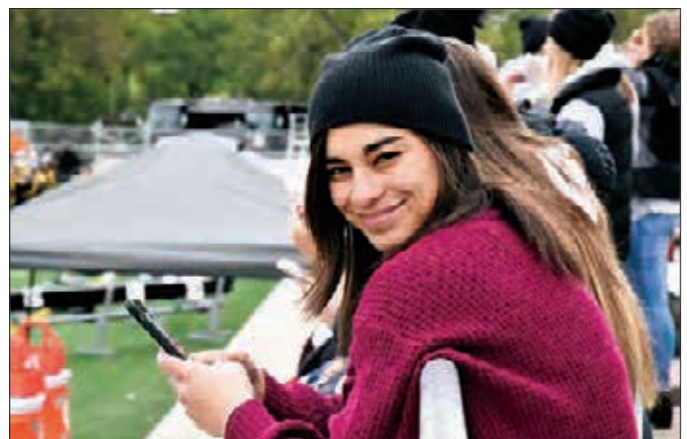
During her playing career, Richardson has had teammates from all over the globe. She has played with people from England, Hawaii, Senegal, Brazil, New Zealand and Fiji. She believes it's a unique thing to be able to surround herself with so many different personalities and hometowns.

Besides having different teammates from every corner of the globe the program hasn't changed much during Richardson's tenure here at Western.

"The goal has always been that we want to win," Richardson said. "When I first came in, coach Ed said that we want to win, so that has always been the motivation from my freshman year until now."

Richardson brings leadership to the team that her teammates and coaches greatly appreciate. Senior forward Cera Ledbetter believes that Richardson brings a unique form of leadership to the team, especially since she is the only player on the team that has been here for all four years under coach Edmisson.

"She knows his [Edmisson's] expectations better than anybody else on the team," Ledbetter said. "She transfers that to all the players so that we know exactly what he wants. She also pushes us to be our best on and off the court."



Knowing the Journey

By Paige Griffiee, Photo Paige Griffiee

Some people know from the day they are born what they were destined to do in life. Senior, Kaley Dittmore, is one of those people.

Dittmore said she's always known she wanted to be a nurse. This could be due to the fact that both of her parents, aunts and uncles are all nurses.

It's safe to say her family has a long history with Western. Not only did her grandfather graduate in 1959 from the nursing program, but her mom graduated in 1989 in the first BS nursing program.

"My grandpa was super involved in the medical field. My sister and I are in school to become nurses; it's like a family gig," Dittmore said.

Dittmore is grateful for the well-known nursing program at Western and all the experience she has gained from it.

"We have a wonderful nursing program," Dittmore said. "I feel like I'm very prepared for my

future career, and I'm going to have my dream job."

Dittmore is the definition of an outgoing and involved student. Not only is she a nursing major, she is also co-captain of the cheer team and a member of the sorority Tri Sigma.

She describes her cheer experience as unforgettable, incredible, and life-changing. She has made many memories due to dedicating all of her college career to cheering. Friendships, new opportunities and life skills are a few things that Dittmore feels have changed her life over the past four years.

Dittmore has had many memorable experiences whether it was at games where her team would rush to the court after a win, getting the chance to ring the bell or finishing her career with the first bowl game since 2012.

Through all of her involvement and experiences, she said Western has truly been like a home for her.





Photos Sourced

Western Takes Washington

By Yong Chong

The self-guided trip to Washington D.C. was a transformative experience. Learning about American history and the U.S. government, along with seeing many of the iconic places of the country (including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, Kennedy Center, and the Capitol Visitor Center) gave me a compelling opportunity to deepen and expand my knowledge of the diverse histories of American people.

Creating memories and sharing beautiful moments with other international students made the trip

much more special to me. Together, we explored multiple captivating historical landmarks and experienced some of the best local food we have ever had. Not only is traveling in a pack safer, it's also much more fun to experience new places, cultures and cuisines with other people who see the world differently.

Public transportation is accessible everywhere with the metro and buses taking you everywhere you need to go. No trip to Washington D.C. is complete without some retail therapy; some of us decided to bike around Georgetown to

check out some of the local boutiques and upscale second-hand stores in the neighborhood. Although Georgetown is most known for its shopping area, we also explored much of the 18th and 19th-century architecture and Georgetown University.

My favorite part was volunteering at the marathon event on Thanksgiving Day. The volunteer perspective and the feeling of everyone working together for the benefit of the runners was rewarding. Despite the cold, foggy morning, being part of the experience was inspiring.

“Creating memories and sharing beautiful moments with other international students made the trip much more special to me.”
-Yong Chong



AROUND *The* WORLD



*I. Guambe
Mozambique*



*H. Anedal, S. Mandadi,
D. Doraiarisan - India*

Photos Shelby Berkemeier, Trasean Stepney, Autumn West





A. Cavino
Nigeria

ITALIAN HERITAGE

By Autumn West

You can't choose your family, but you can choose how well you get along with one another. In Italy, family is one of the most important things you can have. Federica Salmaso is a student here from Italy. While she enjoys being in the U.S., she misses her family and home.

"You can always go to your family for anything," Salmaso said. "it's not like you turn 18 and you're no longer important."

In Italy, there is a big difference between the north and south sides and the north side isn't as open-minded as the south. The north side of Italy normally has larger families than the south side does.

There isn't a lot of freedom in Italy. They have different clothes for every region, the most popular clothing is Veneto, which is embroidered and colorful pieces of fabric. The other types of traditional clothes are normally just worn during parades.

"My favorite part of being [in the U.S.] is being able to have a lot of opportunities," Salmaso said.

While the most important part of the Italian culture is family, the second-most important is religion. The most common religion practiced is Catholicism. Values are determined by family and religion.



GERMAN COOKING

By Trasean Stepney

The German baking class was a great chance to learn some German culture but in a sweeter way. German native and German professor Carla Kluth decided to share a part of her culture with Western students through baking. In the commons, students met up with Kluth and made hildabrötchens, a signature German cookie with a jam filled-center.

"This is something people do back home in Germany," Kuth said. "They're easy to make, so people should make them here, too."

Along with learning how to bake German cookies, students who attended also learned some German culture. Sophomore Gracy Greener enjoyed the togetherness as much as she enjoyed the cookies.

"I really liked how we came together and learned some German words," Greener said.

At the end of the class, students were able to take some sweet new treats home along with some sweet new knowledge about Germany.



Getting to know Engoma Fataki

Engoma Fataki is an international student, a double major in political science and international studies and the president of SGA. His family left their home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo when he was a baby due to civil war. Fataki grew up in several countries but spent most of his childhood in Mozambique. He came to the United States four years ago and attended his last three semesters of high school in Kansas City. He chose Western because of the belief that “everything is possible.”

What is your favorite international event at this school?

You know I’m going to say International Fair, right? The reason why that’s my favorite event is because many of the international students come together and show the traditions that exist in their countries.

What is your dream job?

My ultimate goal is to either work with the United Nations or the United States federal government. I want to work somewhere where I can be impacting the government.

Who are your role models?

There are so many of them, I can’t even decide. This changes on a daily basis, but I’ll go ahead and say Obama. The reason why I say Obama is because, first of all, I think my name and his name rhyme. Engoma, Obama. But also, his story is something I can kind of relate to. Not completely, but I believe as humans we all can relate to one another. I can definitely relate to his speech about how there is no other country where his story would be possible other than America. That was a very powerful statement. He’s my role model because of the way he has made a difference like I aspire to do in my life. I want to have an impact on humanity. It doesn’t matter if it’s a big impact or if it’s small. The small things that we can do can all come together for huge change.

How many languages do you speak?

I speak Swahili and Kibembe, two of my native languages. I’m fluent in Portuguese because I grew up in Mozambique and I barely speak French. I lost French when I entered into the Portuguese school system. I can also speak a little bit of two other native languages to my country, but it’s been a while since I’ve spoken them. I can also speak a little bit of English.

What language do you dream in?

It depends -- this is kind of crazy. When I’m here on campus, I dream in English. Before, when I was in Mozambique, I used to dream in Portuguese because it was the environment I was in on a daily basis. When I’m at home, most of the time I dream in Swahili or Kibembe. My siblings and I mix languages. We literally switch words from Swahili, Portuguese and English at the same time, blending everything together.

Do you have any hobbies?

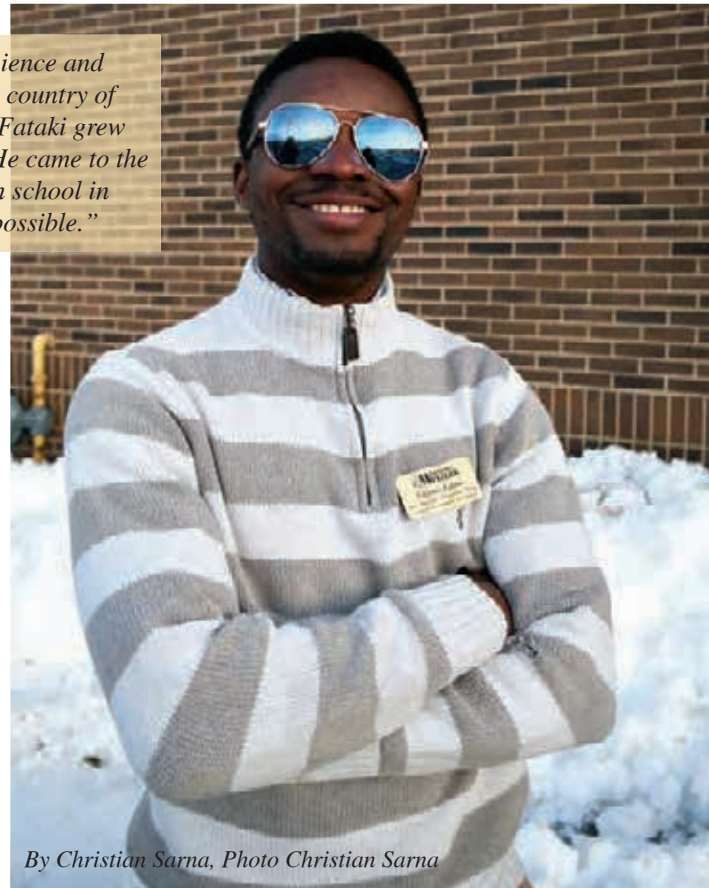
I am involved with the intramural soccer club, it’s something I do for fun...It’s the only sport I grew up playing, so every time I feel down or tired, it’s something I have to do...Sometimes when I just want to reflect, I go for a run. Meeting new people is also one of my hobbies.

What’s a piece of culture you’ve gained from Western?

The first time I ate Chik-fil-A was on this campus.

What’s something from your home culture that you would like to bring to Western?

Friendship. Not that the people here aren’t friendly or that there isn’t friendship, but I think friendship goes beyond just saying hello. I’ve lived in a lot of countries and have met a lot of people from different cultures, different backgrounds and different stories. Something that I’ve learned from my journey is to not make assumptions just by someone’s appearance. By getting to know them, by creating that friendship, you get to know who they really are as a person and not just on the outside. I literally go up to groups of people and introduce myself -- and if I were going to get in trouble for this, I probably would have already been in trouble several times. It’s important that, as small as our campus is, we stay connected. We might not be best friends, but at least I’ve talked to you and learned your name instead of assuming who you are by your appearance. That’s something I want to bring to Missouri Western.



By Christian Sarna, Photo Christian Sarna

Finding Home 4,714 Miles Away

LISA LAURENT IS A SENIOR MODERN LANGUAGE AND BUSINESS MAJOR FROM SAINT-ÉTIENNE, FRANCE.

Tell me about your hometown.

Monistrol-sur-Loire is a big city. Well, for me, it's big...I'm from a tiny village near there, and I mean, village -- no city council: just houses, hills and cows. For me, St. Joseph is huge.

How did you go about choosing Western?

Right now, I am in an exchange program. So basically my school narrows down every possible school that has my same major, and Missouri Western was the only choice for my major if I wanted to come to America.

Why did you know you wanted to come to the U.S.?

I love the U.S.; I don't know why, but I've always wanted to come here. And now that I'm here, I don't want to go home. I want to stay here. It's way more open and exciting. It's not all about rules.

Did you always want to do an exchange program?

Maybe since I was 12. I was like, 'I want to live in the U.S. someday. I don't know how. I don't know when, but I want to go there.'

How did you prepare to come to Western?

I made sure before I left that I was into it. I wanted to make sure that I knew what to expect. For me, it's the worst if I am expecting something and it is the complete opposite.

What were your expectations of Western or the U.S.?

I have always been attracted to the U.S., but there are some things that I discovered after I came here -- things that are different but in a good way. The French culture is very individualistic. In America, everything is mixed together, and everything is super close. For me, it's good, though. The U.S. is more based on being a community. When I go home, I think I might cry, because for me, it's sad to think about not living like this.

What are the main differences that you see between French and American culture?

French culture has a lot of rules. French people also get offended so easily. American people rarely get upset. It's so hard to make Americans angry about anything. I feel like I am [American]. France will always be home for me, but I feel closer to American culture. I feel more myself here.

What are your future plans?

I will be graduating right when I go home this May, and I am planning on coming back to Missouri Western for my master's degree.

Tell me about being an international student.

Missouri Western has a lot of international students. It's great, but I really wasn't expecting it. So since I was always with international people, I always had help.

I never had to struggle on my own. One struggle though was the culture shock. I didn't know how to behave at first, but after breaking the ice, it was fine. I like this school, because it's small but not too small. I am used to the accent and the pace now. I really love it here.



THIRD THURSDAYS

#GRIFFSGODOWNTOWN



DOWNTOWN ST. JOSEPH
MOWEST PROMOTIONS AT
PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES
FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM 5-11PM
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When It *POPS UP* Pop-By

By Christian Sarna

With temperatures plummeting below zero, a warm winter coat can mean all the difference to a student in need.

The Griff Pop-Up Closet is an on-campus thrift shop with no price tags. It was initiated by Drea Gordon who is the director of GriffsGiveBack, creator of the Power Organization and president of the Western chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority incorporated.

“I wanted a way to use everything to give back,” Gordon said. “I felt this would be a perfect opportunity to get things moving, I had a better platform to do so.”

Students looking to use the closet must simply present their student ID to volunteers. On every visit, students are allowed to pick out up to six tops and six bottoms. Like the Campus Cupboard, an on-campus food pantry, students can visit the pop-up closet up to two times a month.

“Not only are people taking this clothing, but people are also realizing, ‘Hey, I do want some new clothes, but I also have these clothes I don’t wear anymore,’” Gordon said. “That’s how we’ve literally kept clothes in here the entire time since we started.”

According to Gordon, the pop-up closet has received a steady flow of donations of varying styles and sizes.

“We actually have some name brands,” Gordon said. “We have Nike; we’ve got some Adidas stuff.”

While they receive a wide variety of donations, there are some items that are still needed.

“We get a lot of women’s clothing,” Gordon said. “If we could get more men’s clothing, that would be amazing.”

“I wanted a way to use **everything to give back,**” Gordon said. “I felt this would be a **perfect opportunity to get things moving, I had a better platform to do so.**”

She says that students who are looking to donate any gently-used clothes can simply drop them off during the pop-up closet’s open hours or contact her directly.

Gordon says that her long-term goal is to expand the pop-up closet to help the surrounding communities in St. Joseph. Instead of throwing away unwanted items or keeping excess clothing, the pop-up closet rotates items through Western students and donates what is left.

The future of the Griff Pop-Up Closet is still yet to be known. Gordon and GriffsGiveBack are currently working to find a more permanent space for the pop-up closet. To see this goal realized, the pop-up closet is going to need some help.

“We definitely need volunteers,” Gordon said. “For us to get where we need to be in order to get our own final spot, we need students to come out. We need students to talk about the closet, come visit, donate.”



Photos Maddisyn Urban

You Name It. He Does It.

By Jake Meikel

To work around the clock, balancing a schedule is the most important aspect of making ends meet with such a busy agenda.

Meet Elijah Todd, one of the busiest students on campus. You name it, the senior set to graduate in the spring of 2019 probably does it.

He is the president of Western Activities Council, a chairman of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, pursuing a senator position in SGA, a member of Black Student Union, and, of course, the President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. The bond that the fraternity shares is something that Todd believes cannot be broken and is what makes their organization strong.

“We talk everyday and check on one another all the time,” Todd said. “We are well-acquainted with each other’s families outside of school. Whenever we need something we aren’t afraid to call.”

Aside from those activities, Todd has classes and also a part-time job. However, there is a key to balancing the agenda.

“My life is very blocked; I’m always on the go,” Todd said. “But I do find time for myself, because it is very needed.”

To make life even more challenging, Todd is a soon-to-be spring graduate with hopes of earning a degree in engineering technology. The ways in which he is able to see the process of



Todd isn't shy about much. He let his personality shine during his campus photoshoot outside the Western Dorms. Photo Bethany VonSeggern

what it takes to make innovative products is what excites him the most. 3-D printing is one of the ways in which Todd can watch his ideas become reality.

“I get to see something I designed on a computer come to life. I can really hold in my hand and I say I made that from scratch,” Todd said.

Like most students involved in fraternities, Todd has developed many skills along the way. Many of which become



very practical in the workplace, according to Todd: marketing, which helps him reach students rather than just a certain group of people; networking, which allows him to connect with others; and communication, because he's "always in someone's face."

Todd, a St. Louis native, is very close to his family. He often misses them. He makes time to see them during the holidays, and he FaceTimes them on Sundays to stay in touch.

His outgoing personality can actually be accredited to

someone within his family: his grandfather, who was a gas station owner and a horse race track owner.

"He was so outgoing," Todd said. "He was always in front of new people, seeing different people -- just knowing people on a first-name basis, smiles and greeting people. I learned everything from him."

Todd is all about business. The sky's the limit, and if anyone wonders if his family is proud of him, "they really are."



Stand Together - *Out & Proud*

By Kay Siebler

I was six years old when the Stonewall Riots, the event that kicked off the Queer Rights Movement in the U.S., began. I had no awareness of the event, but Stonewall affected our culture in profound ways; it allowed me to grow up in a time that was beginning to accept various expressions of sexuality and gender. I didn't come out as queer (I like the umbrella term of queer) until I was in my late 20s, but by then (the 1980s), there were queer communities everywhere I lived. Coming out -- publicly stating one is not heterosexual -- is a political act. As a teacher, I always announce within the first week of class that I am not heterosexual. I want students to know that there are adults in their world who are healthy, happy, educated and "normal" who are queer. I have seen the effects of queer people who live in the darkness of a closet. They suffer from depression, anxiety and loneliness. No one can be a happy, fulfilled and complete human if they are trying to hide whom they are. It is exhausting and unhealthy; it kills one's psyche and ability to love oneself.

Coming out is not a single act or announcement. Anyone who identifies as queer will come out thousands of times in their life. Every time they meet a new friend, every time a new family member is introduced through marriage or birth, every time they enter a new community or job, they have to come out again ... and again ... and again. It can be exhausting. But it is essential. The more people who announce they aren't heterosexual, the more the dominant culture has to adapt and accommodate to queer identities. The dominant culture and the compulsory heterosexuality of the dominant culture can change and has changed. But our work is not done. And so we must come out, and we must work to make sure others feel safe and loved being whom they are, loving whom they choose.

We come out to honor those who have experienced violence and died because of homophobic attacks: Stonewall, Matt Shepard, Brandon Teena and the Pulse Nightclub. We come out so our families and friends can love us as we are, to give our friends and family a chance to grow and change. We come out so we can be fully engaged with people instead of hiding whom we are. We come out to offer a community to others. We come out to change laws. We come out to change the world. We are here. We are queer. We are strong. We stand together. Out and proud.





Kaleigh Pryor interview with Alex Richardson (identifies as bisexual) and Valerie Nierman (identifies as lesbian).

Describe what your sexuality means to you.

Richardson: Personally, it means I get to love who I want to love. It's a freedom thing. I can love literally anyone I want to.

Nierman: Comfort. It's one of the only things in my life that I'm sure of, which is nice. You don't know where your future is going after college; you don't know if you're always going to keep your friends. But damned if I don't know who I love.

When did you first realize that you might be gay?

Richardson: In the beginning of high school.

Nierman: Yep. Same.

Richardson: But I didn't actually experiment until college. I definitely saw it in myself, and I saw that I had interest in other guys starting through high school.

Nierman: Same. Literally same. Sophomore year.

What did the realization of your sexuality feel like?

Nierman: Comfortable.

Richardson: Yeah.

Nierman: You're suddenly like, "oh! This makes sense."

Richardson: An eye-opening experience. You're like, "oh!," then you're like, "now what?"

Nierman: For me, it was like, "so this is why I didn't really want to kiss my boyfriend when I had one."

What was your experience like when telling your family and friends? Do they know?

Nierman: I came out to my extended family this year in a really stupid way, and it turned out great. We were playing the board game Life, and we got to the point where you had to pick a significant other, and I picked a girl. I just popped a girl in my car, sat it down, leaned back and waited.

Richardson: I put no rush on it, because I am not a confrontation kind of person. I had the mindset of "they can hate it or they can like it and I won't care." It is what it is, and that's that. They'll find out when I start dating someone.

Nierman: That's what I was gonna do! I was gonna wait until they found out.

Richardson: At one point, I told my grandma, "I'm bringing someone home this weekend." And she said, "oh, is she cute?"

And I just said, "I don't know. You'll find out." I walked in the door with a boy, and she was like, "Hi! My name is Shirley! How are you?" Later, I asked her if she picked up on the fact that he was more than a friend, and she said, "well, yeah. I'm not stupid."

Nierman: What if instead of a baby gender reveal, you do a significant other gender reveal for your family?

What's something you love about your sexual identity or the most positive experience you've had since coming out.

Nierman: I love the family. So if you identify as any part of queer, queer people tend to stick together. We create families and friendships because a lot of queer people don't have families who support them, and so we become a support network for each other.

If you could talk to your younger, closeted self, what would you say?

Richardson: Just come out. It's all positivity surrounding you and there is nothing to be afraid of. Also, men are trash. Don't get your hopes up.

Nierman: Research more. Get more friends in the queer community, and find people who are accepting of you.

What's your advice to anyone who is currently struggling with their sexual identity or exploring their sexual orientation?

Richardson: To someone who is thinking about wanting to come out and is afraid, just know that you have so much positivity around you. The positivity is going to outweigh the negative, by far.

Nierman: You can choose your family. If you have someone who gives up on you or leaves your life, it was meant to be. They are not your friend, and they should accept you for who you are. Go find some better friends that will like you for exactly who you are and who will like that you love who you love. If your family isn't accepting, make a new one. Make your friends your family.



I AM I.

Rain Dove, androgynous model and activist, went from homelessness to international success.

By Christian Sarna

“My name is Rain Dove and my pronouns are just a sound,” Dove said. “You can use whatever you want. You can use she, it, one, they. I don’t really care. I just want to hear good intentions.”

Dove has appeared in both menswear and womenswear shows, in *Vogue*, *Elle* and *Cosmopolitan* and has appeared on Calvin Klein and Victoria’s Secret runways. Dove has no preference of pronouns, but most of the people in attendance referred to Dove with the gender neutral pronouns they/them.

Students might have been initially intimidated by the model, towering over most of the crowd at six feet, two inches and wearing a bright neon-pink shirt emblazoned with cats, but Dove proved to be a relatable and down-to-earth figure seeking to do good.

Facing a lack of familial support for their attraction to women, Dove left home at an early age and joined what they believed to be the Conservation Corps. In reality, they had joined a Wildland Fire team.

Dove identified as a butch lesbian at the time and was mistakenly read as a man by the other firefighters. Dove decided to fly under the radar for a day, but that day turned into 11 months.

“I had to think, did I want to be the ugly girl again,” Dove said. “Do I really want to be on the bottom of the pecking order?”

While on a fire, Dove and two crewmates were involved in a life-threatening accident. As the only “man” not facing immediately fatal injuries, Dove was left behind by the first rescue helicopter so that a female crewmate could be airlifted. While Dove would have gladly given up their space on the helicopter to save their crewmate, the lack of choice they were given led them to a realization.

“Men, we ask them to take lives, and we ask them to give their life in a life or death situation,” Dove said. “Because men give and take lives; men control lives.”

Dove left the fire crew after this event and began using their ability to pass as male or female to their advantage, depending on situation. This approach worked out for a while, but Dove found it exhausting.

“I ended up having to constantly contort myself into what other people wanted,” Dove said. “I kind of gave up on myself.”

Around this time, Dove became homeless. They lived in their car and in bathrooms and panhandled for food.

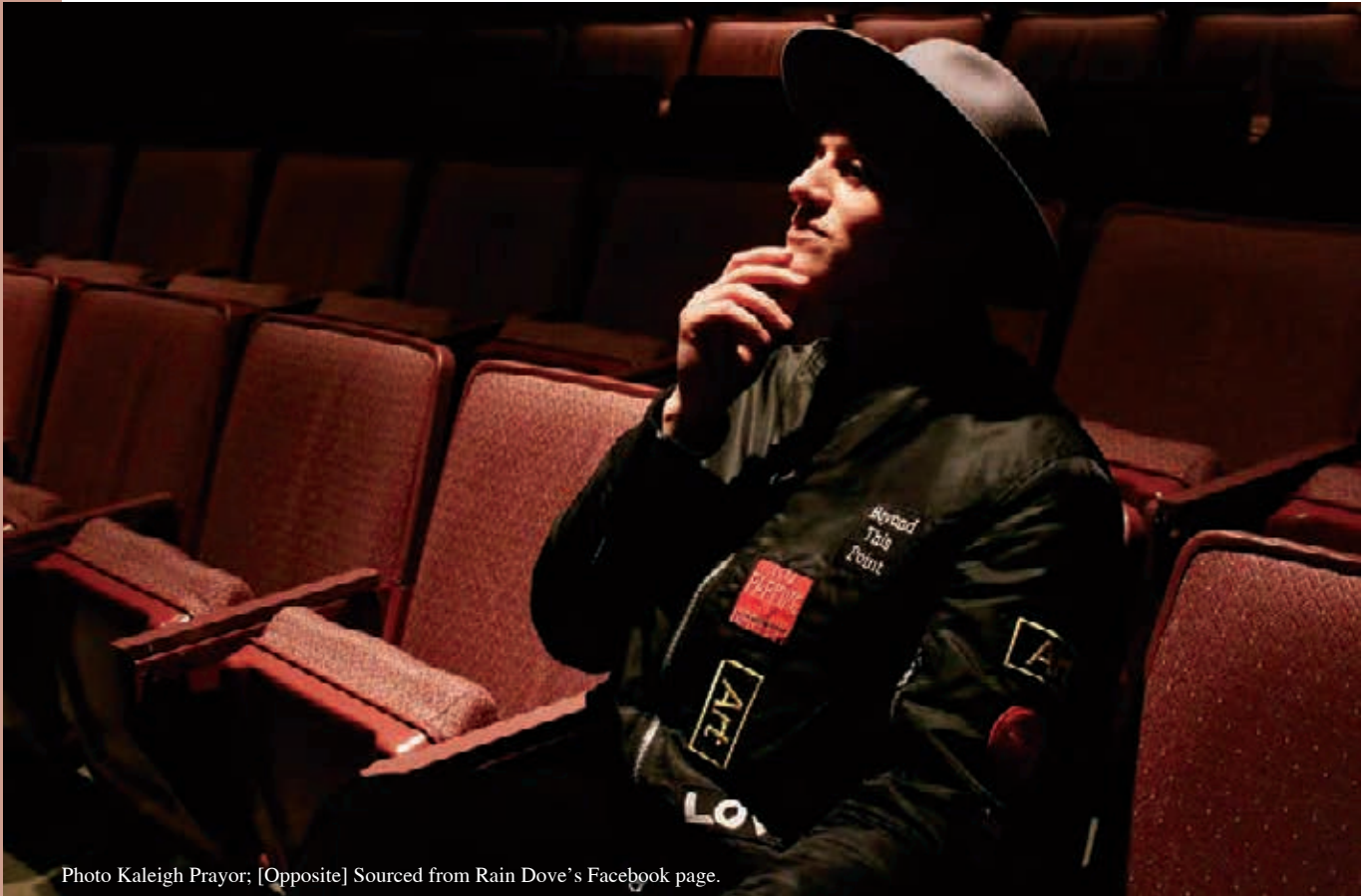


Photo Kaleigh Prayor; [Opposite] Sourced from Rain Dove's Facebook page.

One day, overcome by hunger, Dove went to a dollar store and used the last of their money to buy a trowel, gloves, and a pair of clippers. They went door-to-door and asked to trim bushes and trees for a few dollars.

This freelance gardening blossomed into a business called the Midnight Gardeners. Dove used the business to earn a scholarship to UC-Berkeley and received a degree in bioengineering and genetic studies.

Then, Dove lost a bet over a football game and was forced to attend a model casting call. They arrived and were told they had shown up a day early. When they came back the next day, Dove was mistakenly cast in a men's underwear show. Instead of correcting the casting director and leaving, they chose to walk the runway anyway.

The show sparked interest in Dove, but even with that initial interest from the industry, they were not an instant success. They moved to New York and signed with an agency but were still facing poverty.

"My very first runway show, I was in Vogue," Dove said. "I was reading this on my super cracked phone in the basement of a Planet Fitness in the shower stall."

After a difficult year, Dove decided to give up on the industry. They took one last event as a bartender and met a journalist who wanted to publish their story. The story went viral.

Dove gained hundreds of thousands of social media followers, received interest from major campaigns and

met people like Ellen and Oprah. Dove expressed gratitude toward the power of the internet.

"For the first time ever, we're being heard," Dove said. "We're raising up people who had never been risen up before."

At the end of their speech, Dove came down from the stage and spoke with nearly every audience member individually. They helped formulate plans with several students to help them achieve their goals. One student they spoke with was Joy Deatherage, a junior communications major and nontraditional student, who hoped to do public speaking about her writing in the future.

"It was very insightful," Deatherage said. "I appreciated the fact that the real message was, 'be true to yourself.'"

Deatherage said that the event exceeded her expectations.

Dove passed around their personal cell phone and let members of the audience promote whatever they wanted on Dove's Instagram story. Dove had over 300,000 followers at the time. They also announced that they would be donating 20 percent of their speaker fee back to an individual or organization on campus that was working towards positive change.

"You have no idea, maybe, where you're going in the end," Dove said. "But the fact that you care at all means that you are the most reliable source for good to prevail on this planet."

Black History Month

What Our Students are Saying



Photos by Trasean Stepney

“It’s more of a recognition of other cultures and ethnicities to acknowledge and portray the impact that African Americans have had on the U.S., this world and society in general. Black History Month is the presentation of what African Americans should be celebrating on a daily basis as a part of our culture and heritage.”

- Ariana Reed

“Africans and African-Americans, to the naked eye, blend. When it comes down to things like personal conversations, we’re able to recognize our differences, but something like this makes us able to bring it into focus.”

- Oganya Agbaji



“Black History Month idolizes all of my superheroes like Spike Lee, W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes. It’s a month to celebrate our idols and people that paved the way for us to have the opportunity to go to school and succeed in life.”

- Kenny Edwards

“A lot of people don’t understand the black culture or the African-American culture, so I feel like if you’re hearing from someone who’s living through that every single day, you can understand us better. Having anything dealing with culture, in general, is very important to have on campus because it allows us to be able to connect with each other.”

- Jashira Bolden



“Honestly, it’s a platform for African-Americans to celebrate and showcase the greatness we’ve done. From slavery to now, we have made good strides and have had great success in not only identifying who we are but making a way for the next generation of black and colored leaders. It’s more than a privilege and an honor to have this time dedicated to African-Americans.”

- Eugenia Wallace

Her Story is Now

By Christian Sarna

In an unapologetic reclamation of space and time, Women's History Month (WHM) speaker Feminista Jones shone a light on sides of feminism that are routinely in shadow.

"Loving freedom is the hardest thing of all, because how does someone love something they have never known?" Jones asked. "If any of us aren't completely free to live unencumbered, facing no obstacles simply because of how we are identified, are any of us ever really free?"

Jones is an author, public speaker, community activist and feminist working to uplift marginalized women. She visited Western as part of a tour for her book, "Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the World from the Tweets to the Streets," which explores the impacts of black women on activist movements.

Jones opened her speech with a startling statistic: the estimated value of enslaved people in Missouri five years prior to the Civil War was roughly \$44 million. In today's money, that number is well over \$1 trillion. If you're wondering what this much money looks like, it's close to the entire U.S. national debt in 1983.

"Their descendants continue to live here, suffering under the oppression of racist tyranny," Jones said. "They have not received a cent."

Jones has recently been featured in Vox and TIME for her writing on the dangers black women face with harassment and domestic violence. She

recommended students looking to make change put their efforts into women's shelters.

"They are sorely underfunded and they don't get items that they need," Jones said. "A lot of those women, they grab their children, and they go."

Jones said that, rather than just donating canned goods, students could donate things like hotel toiletries. With changes to welfare services and education looming, she also encouraged students to oppose cuts to these programs by contacting their representatives at both the city and state level.

"I want people to start fighting back," Jones said. "Let your voices be heard."

Jones' voice was heard loud and clear by many students, such as junior Brenae Tate.

"It was very inspirational for me, personally," Tate said. "She has the background of a lot of black women. For her to be where she is now just shows that we're allowed to do that."

Tate was one audience member addressed during a lively post-speech Q&A session that discussed topics from interracial friendships to reconciling misogyny in hip hop culture. Latoya Muhammad, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, appreciated that the event considered a wide variety of issues facing women and could appeal to a large group of students.

"I love the fact that she focuses on



Photo
Christian
Sarna

More to a *PIN* *OAK* than meets the microscope.

By Jake Meikel

*I*t's not often you see undergraduates working night and day to be recognized for their work.

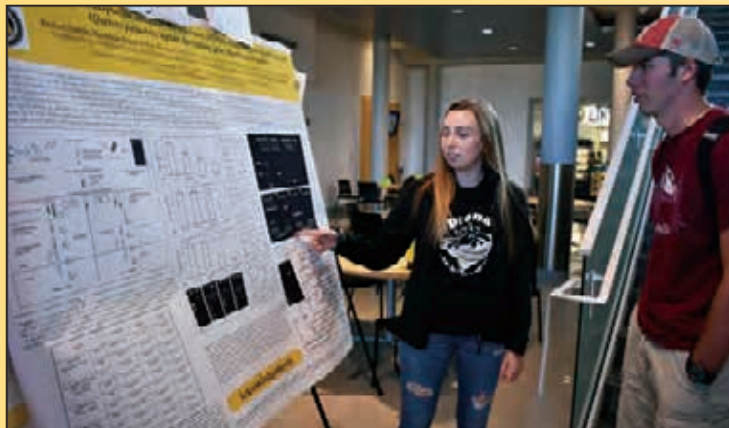
Rachael Prawitz spends many hours in the lab and if it wasn't for staff closing down the labs in the evening, she would spend most of her days there as well.

But before the accolades are awarded, one has to look at what is earned and not given.

In the summer of 2018, a study of isoprene emission (plants are exposed to the chemical isoprene to look for changes in behavior or life expectancy) of pin oaks and velvet beans kept Prawitz in the lab for many hours.

Overall, she was looking to see how isoprene would extend the lifespan of these plants and help keep their leaves for the entirety of the summer. Taking into account the hot weather during that summer, the plants lived longer than expected.

The study of isoprene synthase using the DNA extraction of these plants was probably the most extensive and groundbreaking research Prawitz has done in her short and blossoming career.



[Above] Prawitz presenting her research poster. [Center] Dr. Barta & Prawitz in the lab. Photos Diane Holtz and sourced from Rachael Prawitz.



“Having the opportunity to experience writing the grant, taking on a leadership role in a research project in my mentor’s laboratory, being part of the broader plant science community, and presenting my results at the 2019 Plant Biology meeting have been and will be invaluable experiences for my academic career.”

- Rachael Prawitz, ASPB News 2018



“Over the summer, we got the isoprene synthase gene completely sequenced in pin oaks,” Prawitz said. “It’s been sequenced in other plants, but never in an oak species.”

Prawitz’s work was also awarded the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships of the American Society of Plant Biologists. Only four to five undergraduates receive this honor every year with hundreds of applicants.

Her research results have been presented at several national and international meetings such as the joint Plant Biology 2018 meeting of the American and Canadian Societies of Plant Biologists and the International Photosynthesis Association in Montreal, Canada, this August.

Prawitz and Dr. Csengele Barta have been working exclusively on more research that is potentially in the works of being published. They first met at the Discover Science summer camp at Western when Prawitz was in high school.

Once she made it to Western and was enrolled in one of the introductory courses instructed by Dr. Barta, they created a partnership to do, what would eventually be, impactful work. According to Dr. Barta, the idea of working together was a no-brainer.

“Rachael has worked independently on her own, as well as on her project in the greenhouse,” Dr. Barta said. “But, at the same time, she has worked with the rest of my team on the other projects.”

When she’s not cranking out many hours in the lab, Prawitz also spends time riding horses and is a ski instructor at Snow Creek. She hopes to enroll in medical school and use the applied-learning skills that her time at Western is preparing her for.

Prawitz has been a proud student of the university for her undying dedication to her work, and her work is merely a testament to her love for how the world works and not the accolades.



[Left to Right] Brian Jenkins, Dr. Csengele Barta, Rachael Prawitz & Devon Lindstrom at the portal research presentation.

Daniel Franzese,

You Don't Even Go Here!

By Christian Sarna

From bird syphilis at the airport to LSD in the clam chowder on the set of “Titanic,” Daniel Franzese’s stand up set had a little something for everyone.

Fifteen years after its initial release, “Mean Girls” actor Franzese performed at Western in front of a packed crowd of students most familiar with his small-screen role at years of sleepovers and birthday parties.

Franzese is an actor and comedian best known for his role as Damian in Tina Fey’s 2004 film “Mean Girls.” The film is a coming-of-age high school satire with a star-studded cast, including Lindsay Lohan, Rachel McAdams and Amanda Seyfried.

To say it’s a cult-classic is something of an understatement -- even if you’ve never seen the film, you probably know which day we wear pink. One of the most quotable characters in a wholly-quotable film, Franzese said there’s always a cry of, “She doesn’t even go here!” at the back of his shows -- this show included -- even 15 years after the film’s release.

Franzese doesn’t mind this routine. His character in the film, Damian, is an openly gay high school student whose identity in a comedy movie is never truly played for laughs. Franzese said he never gets tired of talking about this role.

“I lean into it, and I celebrate it,” Franzese said. “I’ve heard from fans how much that role has meant to them to be represented.”

Around the 10-year anniversary of the film and shortly before the legalization of gay marriage in the U.S., Franzese received a letter from a fan who found solace in Damian as a bullied child.

“It said, ‘When I was in eighth grade, I was beat up for being chubby, and I was tortured for being a sissy -- and then your movie came out,’” Franzese said. ““On the first day of my

freshman year, the popular senior girls were like, ‘you’re like Damian, come sit with us.’””

Franzese came out as gay shortly after. For students not yet out of the closet, he advised strength through kindness.

“No matter where you are and what you’re doing, the best way to be an LGBTQ person is to just be an example of love,” Franzese said. “If they look at you and have to say, ‘that person is full of love,’ they can never deny whoever it is that you are.”

The event was sponsored by the Western Activities Council (WAC), a student organization that provides programming and social activities on campus.

Isaiah Collier is the assistant dean of student development and the advisor of WAC. He appreciated the fact that the event gave students the opportunity to see a new comedic perspective.

“I think it’s important that students step outside of their bubble and try something different,” Collier said. “I’m pretty pleased that they decided to bring him in.”

Bayley Talburt, a freshman journalism student, is also a member of WAC. Her front-row view of the event left her a little starstruck.

“It was kind of surreal seeing someone you’ve seen on screen right there in front of you,” Talburt said.

Far from alone in her feelings of surrealism, Western students at all levels of fandom could appreciate the unique humor and views of the comedian.

Many of the jokes in “Mean Girls” satirize the divisive nature of high school cliques and society, as a whole. Exercising the medicinal values of comedy, Franzese gave students the opportunity to laugh at the world from another perspective.





Photo Christian Sarna

A Father's Journey to Justice

By Paige Griffiee
Photo Chase Merwin

“Close your eyes and imagine you’ve lost a loved one whom you can’t say anything to.”

Michael Brown Sr. visited Western on Sept. 27 to speak about not only his son’s death in Ferguson, Missouri, but the injustice so many individuals are feeling in the U.S. at this time.

Precious Hemphill, a senior and cinema major at Western, thinks this is such a prominent and essential message.

“Being black, I know this can affect me, and I could be the next one, or somebody whom I know could be the next one,” Hemphill said, “This message is extremely important, especially because it keeps on happening.”

Brown started off by describing himself as a hurting father rather than a public speaker. After touring to discuss the loss of his son, he prefers the audience ask him questions instead of him having to relive the events over again.

Brown proceeded to answer questions regarding living in Ferguson, the news and media approach and how he handles daily discrimination.

Hemphill said she wants everyone to know that black people hurt just like anyone else, even when they put a brave face on and act like everything is all right.

“Really try and understand why we do what we do instead of having your own opinions.

Be open-minded to what we go through, and see how you personally can make a change,” Hemphill said.

Hemphill said she wants to have her own family someday, to marry a black man and to have babies with her complexion. She says she shouldn’t feel scared to even have kids or even question having kids because of their safety in the U.S.

Diazhane Ellis, a junior majoring in Spanish education, also connected to Brown’s message. Ellis is concerned not only about herself but her close family especially as the climate in U.S. is changing.

“I have a 16-year-old brother and I worry about him a lot,” Ellis said. “It’s scary because it could be my father, brother, or my friend.”

After the loss of Brown’s son, he had to intentionally channel the anger and hatred he had in his heart into change and action through helping his community.

Ellis explained that it is important to understand the reality of all of this and not to sweep it under the rug, but instead spread awareness. Ellis said that shifting hate into action is important right now, just as Brown spoke about in his speech.





“

It's not possible to un-feel a feeling, it's not possible. I think the greatest impact that my work has is it's the ultimate reminder of the human behind the controversy.”

Amal Kassir

Poet for Hope

By Bethany Vonseggern

In a world where society tends to focus on differences instead of familiarity, negativity instead of positivity and hate instead of love there is a solid voice of hope – Amal Kassir.

Kassir, a story-telling activist and international poet from Denver, Colorado, travels the world speaking to groups about her experiences as a Syrian-American Muslim woman in modern society.

As a daughter of a German-American mother and a Syrian father Kassir speaks often of her dual identity that has built her into a human being with profound understanding of what it means to have two different sides of a bloodline. It is with her dual identity that she is forced to see how both sides are affected and how humanity

makes the truth more important than politics.

“When you get these words like ‘war’ and ‘politics’ and ‘religion,’ and you build these words up high like they are walls - like they are walls you should not cross,” Kassir said. “We tend to forget that there are people behind those walls.”

Kassir’s story-telling focuses on the strength of humanity through struggle and how we must understand the person and not just hear the message despite how it may make us feel.

“It’s not possible to un-feel a feeling, it’s not possible,” Kassir said. “I think the greatest impact that my work has is it’s the ultimate reminder of the human behind the controversy.”

Like most, Kassir gets discouraged, but she said she focuses on staying sincere as she tells the stories of her life.

“If you’re trying to please the people instead of delivering the message with integrity, you are going to lose sense of what is important.”

Despite being discouraged at times and facing discrimination because she is a Muslim woman in America, Kassir stays positive and hopeful not only for herself, but others.

“There’s a new generation of young Muslims coming up and I want my little sisters to have the courage to wear their scarves and be proud of who they are,” Kassir said.

Exploration and understanding is important to Kassir. She believes despite negativity we should never settle and always keep learning. Kassir strongly emphasized that it’s all right to be offended sometimes, because we all feel attacked; look beyond the hashtags and headlines and focus on person behind the story.

“I think when you hear the real stories, when you let yourself hear the real stories, you’ll come to learn that your heart has the capacity to expand itself,” Kassir said.

When Kassir visited Western in the Fall she shared a message of understanding and hope. She shared tragic stories of her family being killed in Syria and the discrimination she faces in day-to-day life. According to Kassir, her stories are not meant for one to get lost in the depth of the darkness below but to explore and feel pressure before heading back up to see the stars of hope.

“It would be foolish to say that I think absolute peace is something that can be accomplished,” Kassir said. “That would be very optimistic of me and I believe hope is far more important than optimism in a lot of cases.”

While Kassir influences hundreds, maybe even thousands around the world, who and what is it that influences her?

According to Kassir, the character of the Prophet Mohammed – peace be upon him, her father and his strength in the time of tragedy and the struggles of the survivor who have managed to make it out alive.

Some of Kassir’s most memorable moments have been when people come up to her after her speech to tell her how her words have changed their life. One particular instance Kassir described was when a “middle-aged, white, veteran man” came up to her, a “little Muslim girl,” who has just finished reading poetry about ISIS and told her he would vote for her in the next presidential election.

“I’m just a person and it shows how impactful our words are,” Kassir said. “I think my words have an impact because words have had an impact on me; stories have meaning and I think storytelling is a type of activism because it really does change people.”

“There’s a new generation of young Muslims coming up and I want my little sisters to have the courage to wear their scarves and be proud of who they are.”



Amal Kassir discusses cultural differences with students after her presentation. Kassir is a poet, social activist and public speaker who travels the world talking about her life as a Muslim American woman. Photos Mohammed Alqarni

Center Stage

By Paige Griffiee

Foster the People's song rings true for Western student Kelsey McCluskey when it says, "we're not doing it for the money."

McCluskey is in the physical therapist assistant program and participated in Western's 2018 "The Voice" singing competition.

McCluskey said she grew up singing in choir, theatre and competitions in high school. She said country music and contemporary Christian are her favorite genres of music.

While using her ukelele, McCluskey sang the hit "Riptide" by Vance Joy in the first round of auditions.

McCluskey explained performing on a stage is nothing new to her. However, competing in "The Voice" this year really pushed her out of her comfort zone.

McCluskey said not only did her song choice of "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood push her out of her comfort zone, but so did her attempt to perform at a competitive level during the last round of the competition.

McCluskey had some advice for those who want to perform but are too nervous to do it.

"When you see something like this and really want to do it, just go for it," McCluskey said.

McCluskey explained she decided to participate in "The Voice" because she wanted to have fun and do something that she loved.

McCluskey walked away winning \$1,000 in competition money. She said she plans on using it for school and is saving up to buy a record player because she loves vinyl.

[Below] McCluskey won The Voice.
[Below left] McCluskey & friends with her winning check. Photos Paige Griffiee



Mastering the Mic

By Maddisyn Urban

Western Activities Council (WAC) gave students a chance to display their talents to the campus with the WAC Talent Show.

Elijah Todd, the WAC president, organized the event to accompany the annual fall show fashioned after The Voice. The talent show, which is hosted during the spring semester, brings the opportunity for students to share all types of talents, gifts and skills with the people of Western.

“Some people can’t sing, so we just like other people to showcase their talents, whether it be playing violin, rapping, singing, miming -- anything,” Todd said.

Talent shows are a great way for people to express themselves as best they can. Expression is an important reason why Todd was sure to organize the event.

“It gives the students a chance to be free, be themselves and to showcase what they’ve been practicing in their dorms,” Todd said.

A lot of first-time performers made their way onto the stage, including Valerie Vang, the talent show’s winner.

“I’ve been writing since I was 14, but it’s been really low-key,” Vang said. “It was really nerve-wracking, because it was my first time ever performing. I was super nervous.”

Vang rapped and sang her original song “Cry.” Vang brought a really emotional performance to the stage.

“I was going through a really difficult time when I was writing that song,” Vang said. “I was just really overwhelmed and in the mood to write. When I’m feeling something and I write it down, it’s just natural; a story comes out.”

Despite having an emotional, vulnerable performance, Vang was met with encouragement.

“There were a lot of people hyping me up,” Vang said. “I was surprised the crowd liked it. Even some of my competitors were supporting me.”

The WAC Talent Show shed light on some of Western’s talented artists and most likely will do so for years to come.



Winner of The WAC Talent Show.
Vang rapped and sang an original piece.
Photo Maddisyn Urban

Do This For People

By Bethany VonSeggern

Do this for people. These four words could mean anything, yet everything. For junior Hayden Solomon, they mark a significant day on his journey to share his story of anxiety and depression.

Through the negativity, the multiple tries at counseling and newly-found determination, Solomon has discovered he wants to “be the light” for others. He has created a website with blog posts and mini-docuseries where he sits down candidly to talk about his life of dealing with this struggle.

In the summer of 2018, when his site went live, Solomon said he didn’t have any goals of fame or gaining followers; he only wanted to let others know that they weren’t alone.

“I wrote [in my journal] my motives and what I actually want out of this the very first day I started,” Solomon said. “There’s one thing on there, and it’s ‘do this for people.’”

As a teenager, Solomon started to feel more increased feelings of depression, aggression and had thoughts of suicide. In fact, there was a time in 2014 when he was attempting suicide and his father interrupted.

“I was to a level that I was willing to do anything possible to leave, to end my life. I was recklessly living so I could die,” Solomon said. “It’s a mess. It’s sad. It is so many things that I can hardly explain without tears coming to my eyes, but I lived through it, I got through it, and I am here, alive, to say that everything is going to be okay.”

More recently, Solomon has sought out the help that he recognized he needed. Even though it may have taken him longer to get to this point, he acknowledges that

making this decision on his own is a huge first step.

“Depression isn’t a one day thing. It stays around and sticks around until you are willing to better yourself and willing to get help for your own good, not the people around you,” Solomon said.

On this path, Solomon has become what he calls a “realist” and can see moments for what they truly are and is more honest about the realities of his relationships and life choices.

The changes he sees in himself are noticeable. Solomon is no longer the negative force altering the mood of others; he has more determination than before and is happy for the first time in a very long time.

“Well I don’t really know [whom I am], because I was depressed three-fourths of my life. So now I’m just starting to understand who I am and to understand the things I enjoy doing, the people I enjoy. It’s fun,” Solomon said.

Although he finds self-exploration fun, Solomon still has to make conscious effort to get through some days. He often follows the advice of athlete David Goggins when he says to “embrace the suck.” This is doing something you don’t want to, but you have to just get out and do it. For Solomon, this may be working out, saying goodbye to toxic people, or quite simply getting out of bed.

“You’ll make yourself stronger and become a better person from it. It [the journey] has significantly changed my mindset in a way I never felt possible,” Solomon said.

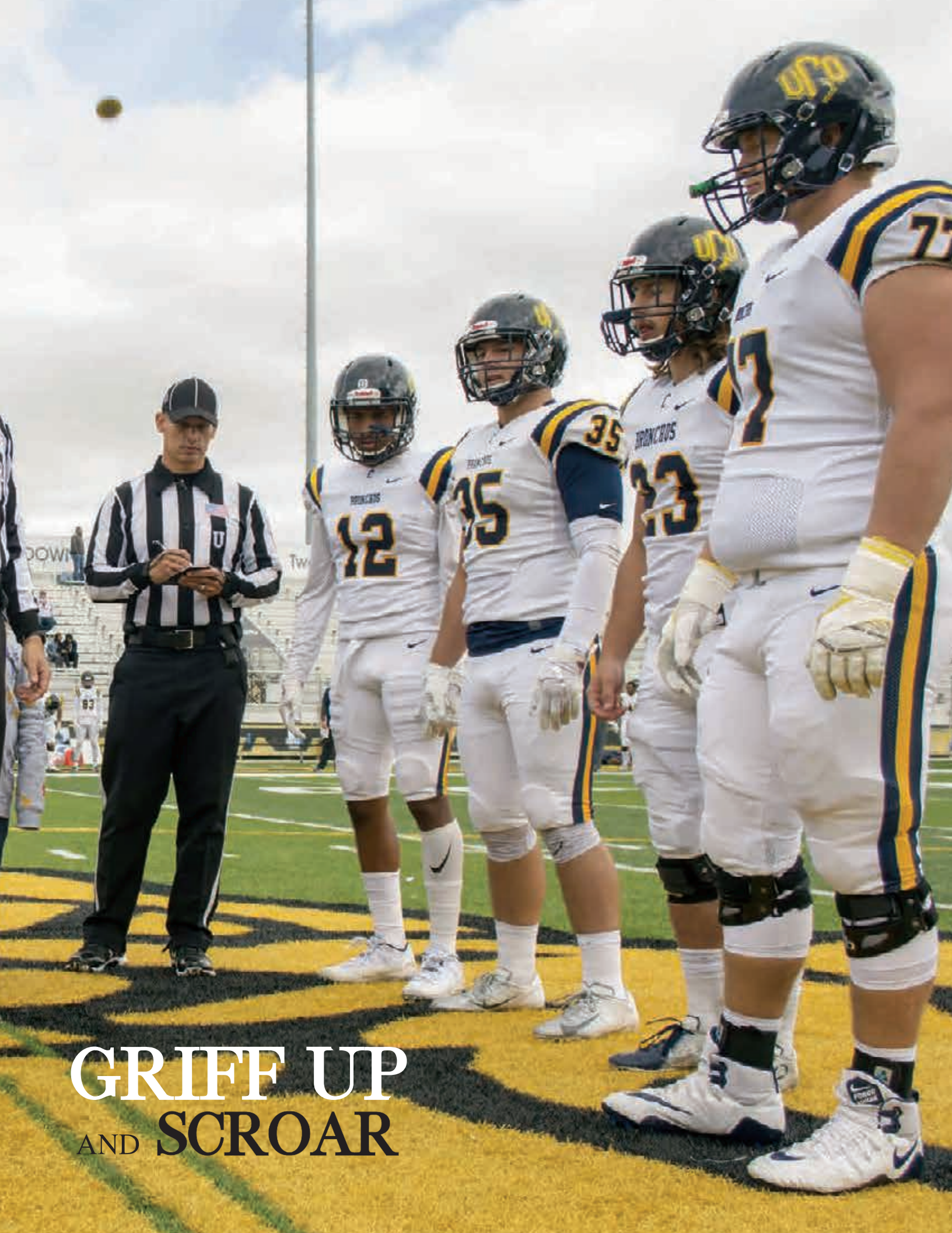
As Solomon continues to share his story and work on his mental health with the help of a counselor, he wants others to take the steps to beat depression.



Solomon in
Kansas City, MO.
Photo Sourced. If
you are in need of
assistance please
contact the MWSU
Counseling Center
(816) 271-4327 for
more resources.



Photo Kaitlyn Doolan



GRIFF UP AND SCROAR



To some students, school spirit means showing up to campus events. For Breanna Baker, school spirit means much more.

Baker participates in all of the homecoming week activities with her sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma (Tri Sig). Some of these classic Western homecoming events involve trivia night, a drive-in movie, the pep rally on Friday night, and the parade Saturday morning.

Baker said being a part of homecoming at Western each year is a fun tradition to her now.

“Homecoming games give me the opportunity to reconnect with friends, hang out with sorority sisters and to see lots of alumni that come to the game,” Baker said.

She said homecoming really brings different organizations together and has brought her closer to her own organization while also getting to show

school pride.

“The spirit at the tailgate and the game is very high; everyone is excited and the crowd is much bigger than usual,” Baker said.

Baker participated in the pep rally this year as the ringleader of Tri Sigma’s routine with the theme of elephants.

“My favorite part of homecoming week is the pep rally,” Baker said. “It’s super fun to go get pumped the day before the game, and so many organizations come up with so many cool dances.”

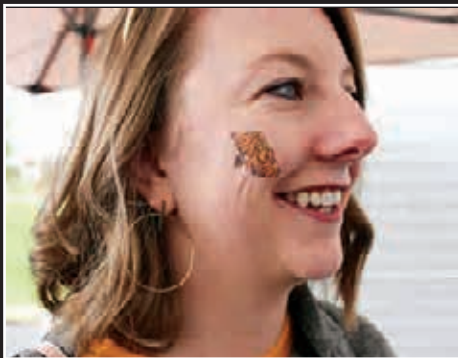
Baker was excited to see who won royalty at the pep rally and watch the game from the new pavilion.

Baker said her game day plans involve eating good food at the tailgate and hanging out with friends before going into the game to cheer on the Griffs.

Baker claims she has no doubt she will return to Western homecomings as an alumni.

By Paige Griffiee

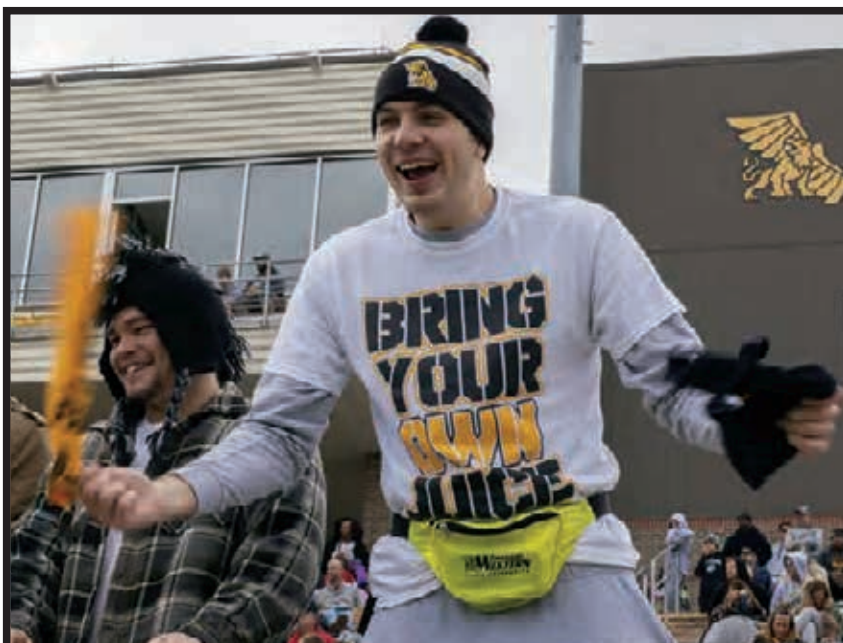




Tailgate festivities. Photos Paige Griffie, Chandra Traxler and Bethany VonSeggern.



Game time. Photos Wil Abeling, Mohammed Alqarni, Kaitlyn Doolan, Lance Lawton, Alicia Otto, Chandra Traxler and BethanyVonSeggern.



Big Top Royalty

Homecoming week is a busy week for everyone, but it is especially busy for the homecoming court nominees and Greek life.

For some students, running for homecoming court is a childhood dream, but for Malik Bryant running for court was more of a social statement. Bryant hopes that him not being apart of Greek like will influence more people who aren't apart of Greek life to run.

"A lot of homecoming is Greek dominated, so it was cool to be able to represent more of the student body who isn't Greek," said Bryant.

To Annie Allgaier homecoming is more about how involved you are on campus and being more involved on campus made the experience so much better. Annie is apart of Greek life,

she has been an RA and a DA and does Griffon Edge, as well as many other things on campus.

"I thought the whole court was amazing with the people that were on it, because they were so involved on campus, which I think is the coolest part of being on court, like, what it means to be a Griffon and active students on campus," said Allgaier.

For Crystal Enciso being nominated for homecoming court was never a lifelong dream, in fact, she never really thought about it. During high school she thought it may have been cool to be a part of it while it was happening but it was never something she was set on.

"The fact that I've never been on homecoming court or prom court in high school doesn't mean that I couldn't have

done it here at Missouri Western. This means that you can be your own person, you can be a different person once you come to college," said Enciso.

Homecoming means different things for different people, but each person who is a part of homecoming loves it.

By Autumn West





Circus pep rally and dance with royalty and fire breathing. Photos Mohammed Alqarni, Chase Merwin, Chandra Traxler, and sourced.



Chance of a Lifetime

By Paige Griffie

Deciding on a specific major can be tricky for many students, however, Jay Alford's path to discovering her calling came very unexpectedly.

Alford, a senior public relations major, has been involved in several areas of school during her academic career such as being captain of the Mystics Dance Team, being a Students of Color Initiative mentor and founding the Missouri Western Dance Company (MWDC).

Alford started her college career at Lincoln University in Jefferson City but when things didn't turn out as planned she returned to her hometown of St. Joseph. After working multiple jobs in areas such as retail, serving and counseling Alford realized that's not what she wanted to do with her life.

Alford, who started at Western in 2015, said she changed her major five times before deciding on public relations. Her interesting journey began with the relationship she has with her grandmother.

She and her grandmother bonded through watching the TV show Wheel of Fortune together.

In 2017, they auditioned to be on the show, having high hopes they would get a call back.

As luck would have it, they got the call and shortly after got on a plane to Florida.

The filming of Wheel of Fortune took place at Disney World, where Alford had the chance to speak to one of the producers of the well-known show about how she got into her field of work.

She realized the producer had also been a public relations major, sparking her interest in career options.

Having this opportunity reminded Alford of whom she is and encouraged her to continue in the field of public relations. She loves talking to people and networking which is a great combination for the field of work she'd like to go into.

She shared some pointers for anyone who is having a hard time discovering what it is that they want to do with the rest of their lives.

"My honest advice would be don't be afraid to ask questions," Alford said. "Shadow people to figure out what it is you love."





Alford is co-founder and captain of the MWDC. She enjoys being a leader on campus and showing her love of dance. Photos Paige Griffie & Latonya Williams Photography. [Opposite] Alford with her grandmother in 2017 Wheel of Fortune, Photo Sourced.

“ My life purpose is to inspire lives through dance. With dance I believe one could truly change lives and maybe even the world. I am a natural performer and my passion for dance continues to grow stronger every day. My dream is that my hunger for excellence will allow me to one day see my name in lights and inspire others to chase their heart’s desires.”



Photos Wil Abeling



Passion, *Style* & Excellence

By Paige Griffiee

Enthusiasm, energy and empowerment are just a few words that describe the environment of a Missouri Western Dance Company (MWDC) practice.

Jay Alford, a senior public relations major, founded MWDC in October 2017, in hopes of creating a safe and positive environment for students to express themselves through dance.

“There’s so much diversity, and I think it’s a good representation of our campus, showing that we work better together,” Alford said. “We have black, white, male, female, Hispanic and even more. It’s just a big dance melting pot.”

MWDC features several categories of dance including STEP, majoret and lyrical praise dance. This gives members a variety of forms to express themselves through many genres.

Alford said the team centers what they do around three main attributes: passion, style and excellence. This can be seen in the way they execute their dance moves, their attitude about being there and the endless hours they commit to working on their dance routines.

“I want us to try and be leaders and engage in our community,” Alford said. “We’re really a family, and our chemistry is incredible.”

This chemistry is clearly visible during their performances as they clap, shout, and move in unison to the rhythm.

Cameron Price, a cinema major, is a core member of MWDC.

“MWDC adds a student organization to Missouri Western that is more predicated toward the arts,” Price said. “It opens the doors and allows people to learn more about themselves and what they love.”

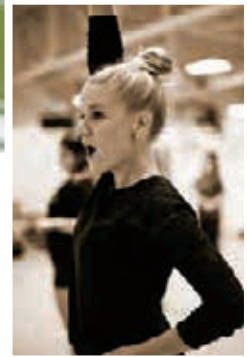
Alford encourages everyone to tryout for auditions, which take place every April.

“When it comes to trying out, the fun of it takes away the nerves,” Alford said. “I would take someone who is a great performer over technique any day.”





Mystic members Taylor Nigh, Arianna Davis-Williams, RaeLynn Hanna, Gabbi George and Paige Crockett perform during half-time at a home game. Photos Mohammed Alqarni; [Small Inset] Coach Gardner during practice, Photo sourced.



A Step Above

By Alicia Otto

Nine Griffons and a Bearcat. That may sound like the opening of a bad joke, but it really is the members of the Western Mystics Dance Team.

In her first year as the Mystics Head Coach and Director, Fallon Gardner spent four years as a Northwest Missouri State University Bearcat Stepper, but the Griffons won't hold that against her. Gardner brings 17 years of dance experience to her first year as head coach and is excited about the future of the Mystics Dance Team.

"I love these girls," Gardner said. "I love the direction this program is going."

The direction Gardner envisions for the Mystics is to continue to build confidence and bring more energy to their game day performances. Gardner feels the team is always ready to work on making each performance better than their last one.

With a leader like Gardner, the Mystics are on the right path. And that path is going to lead the Mystics to national competition next year.

"I'm already already planning things for next season that will be huge for the team," Gardner said.

As one of the oldest traditions at Missouri Western, the Mystics are the University's official dance team. The Mystics specialize in jazz, hip-hop and poms, and perform throughout the football and basketball seasons. They also perform with the band during halftime performances and at local parades.

Gardner runs a tight ship to keep her girls in shape for performances. But she does not just give direction; she practices right alongside her team. It is clear that this group is a team. The Mystics also represent Missouri Western.

"We are first and foremost ambassadors of the university--always," Gardner said. "They are student-athletes, and I want them to represent the university really well."

What does the future hold for Gardner and the Mystics?

"I am 100% coming back next year. I'll more than likely keep returning until they have to start wheeling me into practice," Gardner said.

Keep Calm & March On



Dylan Aspelund
on the mellophone,
Photo Kaitlyn Doolan.
[Opposite] Hayden
Welsh, Trevor
Harrold, Patrick
Bracciano, Michael
Thomson, & Josh
Hegeman, Photos
Mohammed Alqarni
& Alicia Otto.



By Jake Meikel

Face the crowd, stand at ease, let the show begin. The Golden Griffon Marching Band is comprised of roughly 121 students, assembled to entertain.

Their best shows take place during the fall for Western football games. While some may think that it doesn't take much to get this group prepared for Saturdays, think again.

Prior to the fall sports season, the marching band camp calls for 12-hour days of intense practice for a week. This kind of training conditions these students and establishes a good work ethic. Drum Major, Sara Lee, knows how tough those days can be.

"Your freshman year, your first band camp is really tough," Lee said. "A lot of it is just making connections with friends to make the time pass. A lot of it is just a good atmosphere."

According to Director of Athletic Bands, Dr. Nathan Gay, the band buys into the notion that this practice pays dividends.

"These students find ways to juggle work schedules, class schedules and other performances and recitals and concerts and make everything work. So, it's really a high-functioning group of students," Gay said.

This collection of musicians share a bond that is unmatched.

"We had a giant dodgeball game out in the practice field," Lee said. "It's just finding and incorporating large group activities."

"Whenever I see them in the hallways, they're usually clustered around together in their section, so there's a lot of good comradery," Gay said. Frequently, the GGMB will venture off campus to take their talents outside of Missouri Western.

What's even more encouraging is that the total number of members has increased from 88 in 2016 to 121 this year. The buzz surrounding the program will get more students involved as years progress. For now, this group is poised to captivate audiences on any stage.



UP THEIR ALLEY

By Maddisyn Urban, Photo Wil Abeling

The Bowling Club made its debut at Western in the fall of 2015. According to coach and sponsor Monty Smith, it's a vastly growing interest at the collegiate level with colleges adding programs every year.

"One of our new members specifically came here because we have a bowling team," Smith said. "If we didn't have a bowling team, these kids would be somewhere else."

The Bowling Club is more than a student organization to its members. Even during the offseason, members are showing up for practices three times a week at St. Joseph's Belt Bowl. Most of Western's bowlers have been doing this for years. Jacob Dec, a freshman history major, has been bowling nearly as long as he's been able to walk.

Bowling Club has opened doors for many of the club members. Carson Field, a sophomore studying computer science, has received multiple opportunities from Bowling Club. Not only did the Bowling Club bring Field to Western, it's brought him scholarships and the chance to travel around the country.

A good workout can come from bowling too. Ceramics student, Austin Holmes, thinks bowling is a simple way to get fit.

"You're either standing or bowling the entire time, so it really works out your legs, your core, your arms," Holmes said. "It's a really good way to tone your entire body."

The Bowling Club offers a wholesome sense of community. Dalton Cook, a freshman studying engineering, has a deep appreciation for fellow bowlers. He explained that not only are there many great members within the bowling community, but there are other perks, as well.

"This is something you can do until you're old. You can do it to have fun or you can do it to be competitive. There's room for all skill levels," Cook said.

Bowling is undoubtedly up their alley. Check out the club to see if it's up your alley too!



A hobby. A community. A sport. An escape.



[Left to Right] Beauford can make any moment into an opportunity to create new art; She sketches an eye during her interview at a local coffee shop; One of Beauford's favorite sketch is of her grandmother's cookie jar; Beauford brought a painting to life by adding accessories to accent her subject. Photos Alicia Otto.

PTA²

By Alicia Otto

For most people, third-grade curriculum included reading, writing and arithmetic. Some of the lucky ones even had recess. For Jillian Beauford, third-grade lessons included learning how to draw.

When a friend received a “How to Draw Horses” book, Beauford decided to try to learn, as well. However, when her friend’s drawing was better, Beauford found her artist within and determined to draw better. PTA1 = Part-Time Artist.

A native of St. Joseph, Missouri, Beauford attended Central High School and Western after graduation. Now Beauford is set to graduate from the Physical Therapist Assistant program in May 2019. PTA2 = Physical Therapist Assistant.

“It seems so simple what we do, but it really helps so much,” Beauford said. During clinicals, when a patient would come back and say, “I’m feeling better than I have in a long time,” Beauford knew she was on the right path.

Beauford thoroughly enjoys helping others

through the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Western and looks forward to a future in that career. At the same, she feels she is also helping people through her artwork. Beauford works mainly on commissions, and most of her commissioned drawings are of people or animals. Beauford recalls one of her favorite commissions.

“A French Terrier Bulldog, but [the client] wanted to look like a queen,” Beauford said. It was the bust of a queen with a French Terrier Bulldog head. Both the artist and client loved it.

After graduation, Beauford will relocate to Manhattan, Kansas, to be with her fiancé Eric who has two more years before he receives his degree in architectural engineering.

“I saw him the first day of freshman year and I said ‘ooh, I like him,’” Beauford said about first meeting her fiancé.

But then she didn’t speak to him the entire first year. After her mom was tired of listening to her talk about him, Beauford made the first move and texted him. They are now planning their summer 2019 wedding and their future.

As much as she would love to make art a career, Beauford knows it’s difficult to do. She will stick with her love of physical therapy, and hopes to always continue doing art on the side.





Puppies to the Rescue

By Maddisyn Urban, Photos Maddisyn Urban

Western was graced by the presence of both dogs and cupcakes during the event “Puppies and Pastries.”

Hosted by the Student Honors Organization (SHO), an organization focused on leadership and growing campus involvement, “Puppies and Pastries” brought awareness of St. Joseph’s local animal shelter to Western, and they brought some furry four-legged friends along with them. Owners brought their dogs to sit outside Kelley Commons so students would get the chance to love on them as they walked to and from the union, while SHO sold cupcakes.

Many smiles and tail wags were seen during the event while students spent time with the dogs. SHO

member Madelyn O’Connell covered the pastry table during the event. She mentioned how happy and welcoming the dogs were to the students and how the event not only lifted the students’ spirits but helped raise money for the local animal shelter.

“The dogs on campus today are rescue dogs, and a portion of our proceeds goes back to St. Joseph’s local animal shelter,” O’Connell said. “It’s a team effort.”

Many students were surprised by the dogs being on campus. Freshman Delaney Jorgensen loved seeing the dogs as she passed through Blum.

“It was really unexpected and definitely brightened my day,” Jorgensen said. “I really appreciated the event.”

Puppies and Pastries was an uplifting event that helped destress Western’s students and raise awareness for St. Joseph’s animal shelter. Who knew Griffons and dogs got along so well?





Here's What Wheelie Happened

By Shelby Berkemeier

Western athletes gave up the use of their legs to face the Kansas City Predators, a wheelchair basketball team, to raise money for Midwest Adaptive Sports (MAS).

MAS, a non-profit organization, uses competitive sports to help engage people with physical disabilities.

Western student Kevin Caldwell joined the MAS Predators basketball team in 2016. For recreational sports class, they were tasked with raising money for a sport-related program—thus Griffs on Wheels was born.

Griffs on Wheels was a crowd-pleasing basketball game between the Predators and a mixed bag of Western athletes who volunteered to play in wheelchairs.

The wheelchairs seemed to pose quite a challenge for the Griffon athletes. Not only were their mobility and range of motion limited, but their shot was also falling short.

Western men's basketball player Tyree Martin was shocked to learn wheelchair basketball had different rules.

"We didn't know you could hit people," Martin said. "We thought you just rolled around."

Martin got a taste of the everyday struggles that paraplegic athletes face and came to appreciate the sport even more.

"Getting up and down with those guys -- with people less fortunate -- than us was the best part of it," Martin said.

Though the Griffon players may have felt outmatched, their efforts didn't go unnoticed -- at least not by Caldwell.

"If they knew how to work the wheelchairs, it would be a dangerous game," Caldwell said.

Caldwell's fundraiser came together and was even more successful than they'd hoped.

"What I enjoyed most was getting the kids involved," Caldwell said. "I don't care if I ever score another point again, as long as I can be a part of making them happy."

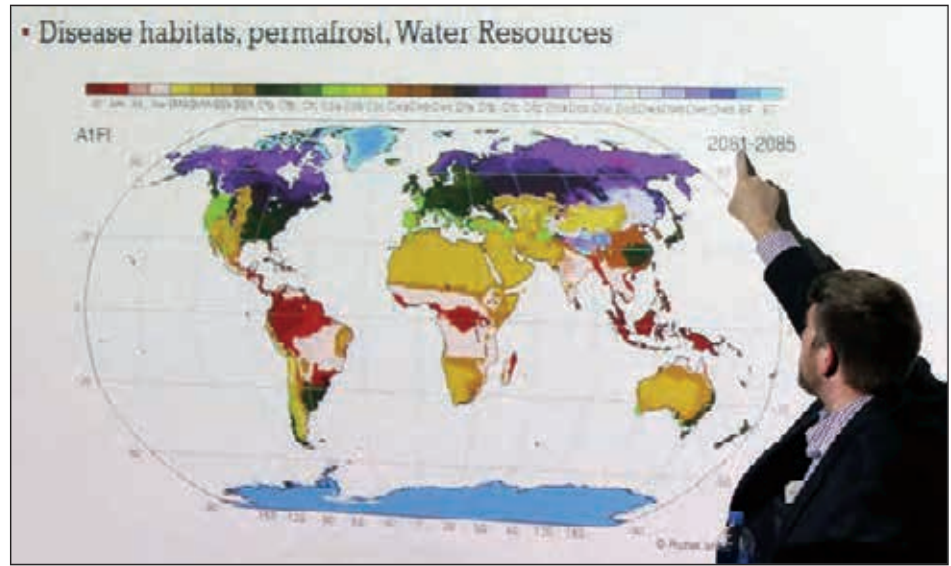
Griffs on Wheels was able to raise over \$1,200 for MAS with the help of the Predators, Western athletes and the supportive crowd.



Photos Christian Sarna

Climate

CHANGE



By Paige Griffie

What comes to mind when you hear the term “climate change?” You might think of endangered animals, extreme seasons or a lack of produce after a drought. It is a term most would prefer to avoid.

Michael Allen, a National Geographic-published author, visited Western on April 8 to clear the air around some common misconceptions people may have regarding climate change. Allen is an assistant professor of geography at Old Dominion University. He used humor and wisdom to put climate change into simpler terms.

Allen said that climate change has become a state of medical emergency as summers are becoming longer and more intense. This doesn't only cause an annoyingly long season, it disrupts pollen distribution, growing seasons,

insect's domains and has recently caused multiple wildfires in dry areas like California.

Climate change often results in catastrophic events that affect the lives of millions of people. Most people may think of hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes as the most deadly natural disasters. However, that is not necessarily the case. In fact, heat waves kill more people than any other natural disaster. The largest ongoing humanitarian disaster today, starvation, is due to severe drought.

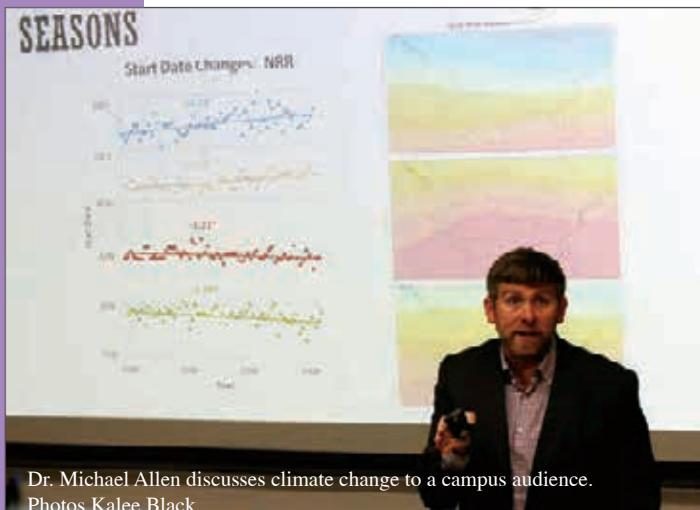
Mark Mills, an associate professor of biology at Western since 2008, said that he has even seen changes in the ponds on campus due to last summer's drought.

“Otoe Creek stopped flowing for the first time since I have been on campus,” Mills said. “Can this be linked to climate change? Possibly.”

While this all seems threatening and impossible to reverse, it does not have to be the end of the discussion. Young people can feel as if they don't have the right to speak up about issues they are not experts on. However, it is vital that they are the ones who start to make a difference. Mills encouraged students to do their part.

“You don't have to be a scientist to understand the basics of weather, climate and climate change,” Mills said. “If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.”

Mills said that young people can start by using less fossil fuels, electricity and paper.



Dr. Michael Allen discusses climate change to a campus audience.
Photos Kalee Black.

Winter Weather/Closures at MWSU

November 13, 2018 through March 1, 2019

2019

Feb. 20 delay start at noon / 3 hours of campus closure	Feb. 15 closed at 3pm / 1.5 hours of campus closure	Feb. 12 delay start at 11am / 3 hours of campus closure
Feb. 11 close at noon / 3.5 hours of campus closure	Feb. 7 closed / 7.5 hours of campus closure	Feb. 6 night classes cancelled; offices opened until 4:30
Jan. 30 closed / 7.5 hours of campus closure	Jan. 23 closed / 7.5 hours of campus closure	Jan. 22 closed at 1:30pm / 2.5 hours of campus closure

2018

Nov. 26 closed / 7.5 hours of campus closure
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There are approx. 36 acres of service drives and parking lots to keep cleared on campus.



Approx. 750 hours of overtime worked by staff to clear streets, service drives, parking lots, sidewalks, steps, etc.

An average of 104 miles is driven in each plow truck to remove or plow the precipitation from the lots and streets.



There were 18 separate calls from our Police Department to address slick street conditions.

Staff ate four dozen cookies and five dozen donuts (donated from several departments/individuals across campus) after each major snow/ ice event.



"So glad I'm retiring in two weeks, then it can snow all it wants!"
Bruce Whitsell, retired 3/29/19

Creative Vision

By Wil Abeling

Every day, we get up and go about our day-to-day routines looking at the world the same way. For some of us, this mundane existence is no way to see the world, especially for the wondrous place it is.

The job of any great photographer is to show the world that life is filled with so much more, and the best part is that no two photographers are the same. Each and every one of them has a uniquely beautiful view of the world.

Although there are many different styles of photography, cinema major Gabriel Barton, is a photographer who enjoys shooting portraits.

“I usually use my Canon 80D outfitted with a 50 mm lens,” Barton said. “I like the way people look on that lens, and I like that the challenge of trying to compose interesting shots using only one lens.”

Every lens can change the way things look. Every choice a photographer makes can change the outcome of a photo drastically.

Thomas Brecheisen, a Western professor, uses the camera to create surreal imagery. He excels at long exposure and high-dynamic-range imaging (HDRI).

Brecheisen favors a wide lens when shooting his HDRI shots. He loves to shoot images of buildings

and tries not to use any lighting equipment.

“First is lighting, not only what will hit your subject but what is going on in the composition of the shot,” Brecheisen said.

Nonetheless, there are other photographers - like computer science major Cecilia Marie Tackett - who do not put as much emphasis on structure. This style of photography is great for just going out and taking photos of whatever catches your eye.

“I’ve never had a process on how to take an image,” Tackett said. “I see something I like and I take the photo. If I try too hard to find structure and processes, I lose my creativity, and my images suffer.”

One of the most valuable resources to a photographer is to observe the styles and techniques of other photographers to broaden our horizons, as cinema major Charles Whitmill says.

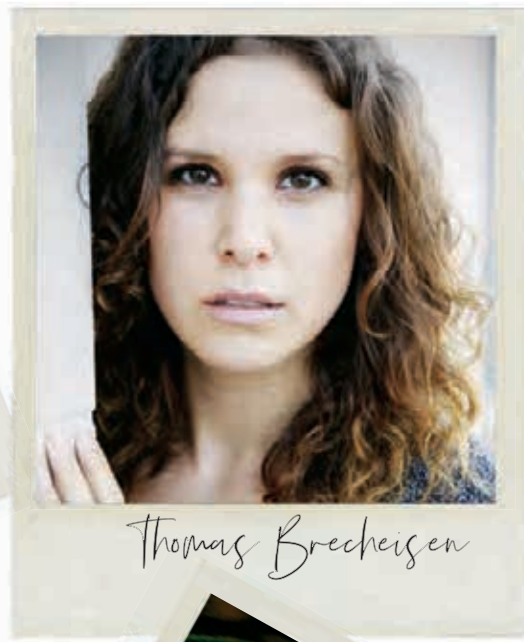
“Looking at what people have done in the past is the best way to widen your horizons,” Whitmill said. “It gives you a building point and a baseline to start from in terms of stylistic choices to pick.”

Photographers across campus use different methods, but they all have the same goal in mind: take the best image possible to show the world for all its beauty. You don’t have to be a photographer to do this so get out there and create!

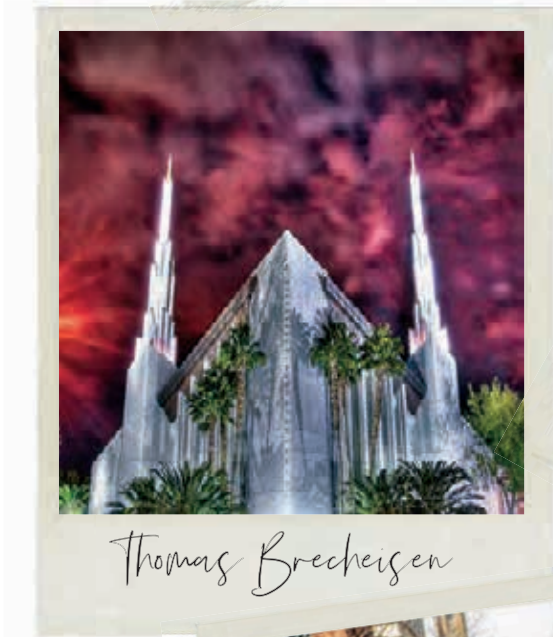




Charles Whitmill



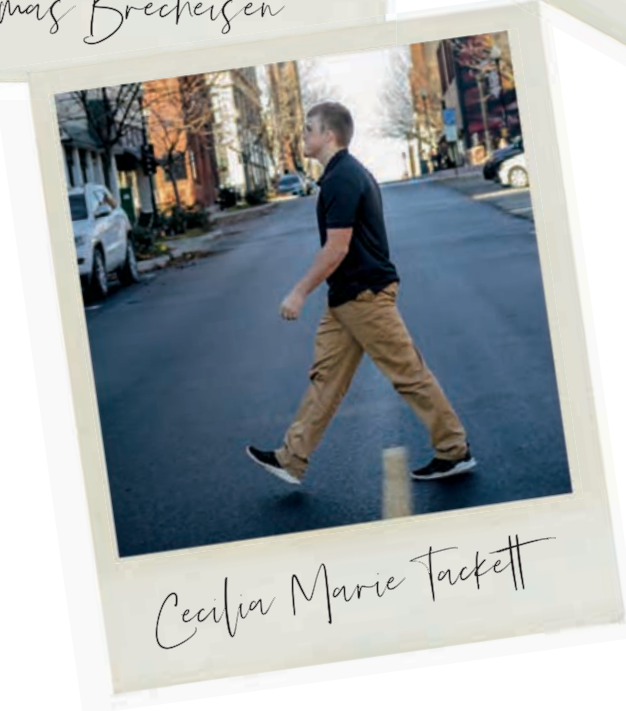
Thomas Brecheisen



Thomas Brecheisen



Gabriel Barton



Cecilia Marie Tackett



Cecilia Marie Tackett

GRIFFON ACADEMICS



Photos Mohammed Alqarni, Wil Abeling, Public Relations & Marketing, James Theriac, Sourced





Creating a Legacy



Vartabedian [Center] spearheaded many beautification projects to include: Spratt Memorial Stadium [left], Spring Sports Complex, Kelley Commons, Agenstein-Remington Hall, Griffon Hall [right] and other features on campus.



By Bethany VonSeggern

In reflection of his first day back in June 2008, Western President Dr. Robert Vartabedian has two vivid images in his memory: the students and the campus. Now, as he retires after 11 years, his dedication to students and his passion for the beautification of the university still holds true.

The veteran professor and administrator said we do a disservice if we lose central focus of students. He thinks there's a direct link between the beautification of the university to how students feel when they are on campus. Vartabedian believes that with an improved

campus and the high level of seriousness Western takes in hiring the right individuals, is what makes the students' experience more enjoyable and have more pride.

"I think that's been our motto throughout," Vartabedian said. "Everything that we do should directly or indirectly trace back to students in terms of improving their existence here and improving their existence after they leave here."

Looking back on his academic career, which started back in the mid 1970s, Vartabedian believes his time as a professor has been his proudest moment. He thrives on interactions



Outstanding achievements under Vartabedian's leadership include: academic accreditations, stellar athletics, strong community partnerships, Eickhorst & Collins Art Collections, and much more.



Photos John Ellis & Jacob Lutes

“Make the best of whatever opportunities are provided to you in your life,” Vartabedian said. “Don’t let habitual nay-sayers stand in the way of your dreams. Treat people with respect.”

with students in the classroom which we was lucky enough to never have to give up.

On occasion Vartabedian would teach a course on The Enduring Legacy of Walter Cronkite and seminars on public speaking. Although his areas of expertise are political communication, public speaking and Walter Cronkite, if asked to teach again, Vartabedian would teach on whatever topic was of interest or needed, because he's ready.

It's not uncommon for Vartabedian to run into students that he has helped over the years. Whether it be an alumni running a restaurant refusing to let him pay or a student

at a football game saying how much their education means, Vartabedian is humbled by the opportunity to impact the lives of students.

A combination of these interactions and his experience as a first-generation college student himself, Vartabedian understands the importance of an open enrollment university like Western.

“I have a great deal of empathy for the mission of our university,” Vartabedian said. “I think that's been the most rewarding thing, is seeing students really improve their lives because of a degree or multiple degrees from Missouri Western.”

He also accredits his understanding and success to the inspirational teachers who stuck with him through the years helping him through college. One professor in particular, Dr. George Diestel whom Vartabedian kept in contact until recent years when Diestel passed away, was a true supporter and mentor.

According to Vartabedian once you were a student of Diestel you were a student for life. In fact, Diestel led the effort to nominate the Cronkite: Multimedia Performance for a Pulitzer Prize which just proved to Vartabedian what a dedicated teacher could mean to someone.

Vartabedian has taken lead from his mentor and is a true believer of the creative process and supporting others. He encourages creativity by being open to the ideas of others and creating an environment where those feel comfortable.

On a larger scale the greatest moments for Vartabedian are seeing how far programs have come. He believes it is about taking the work seriously in terms of what students can accomplish and seeing it in action.

“Anytime I have an experience where they [students] can strut their stuff and make us all proud, I think those are all gratifying moments,” Vartabedian said.

Some accomplishments of note over his 11 years include the Chiefs Summer Training Camp, beautification projects, increase of international students, The Cronkite Memorial, endowment growth and development of online courses. However, he said he can’t take full credit for this work.

“There are a lot of things that I am proud have transpired while I was here. Of course the real work for those things were done by others, but probably the thing that I would be most proud of is just to be part of the process of improving students lives.”

How does Vartabedian want to be remembered? As someone who tried hard and gave it his complete effort and in a humane inclusive manner, despite not everything going well or being accomplished.

“In a job like this there are going to be some people who are probably not sad to see me go, and I understand that,” Vartabedian said. “I’ve tried the best I can, but I haven’t been able to do everything and the biggest challenge has been the financial challenge.”

The tough nature of the unexpected financial free fall his first few years was a struggle and the intermittent

financial hits since have been difficult to overcome. Vartabedian said if he had any regrets it would be the reality of the financial heartache of cutting programs and having people and programs feeling neglected.

As he leaves his career in academia, Vartabedian is continuously grateful and humbled by his journey and those he has met along the way.

“For a first-generation college student like myself to have this kind of a capstone experience for 11 years was a dream come true,” Vartabedian said. “I am the one who needs to be thanking others for this kind of opportunity. I’ve been very, very lucky and have had dedicated faculty, staff, students, board members...”

“I am the grateful one. I couldn’t be more pleased with it [time at Western]. The things beyond our control - like appropriations - there’s not much you can do about that. But the things that were within our control - couldn’t have been better.”



Photo Will and Deni Mcintire Photography

It is said that ‘imitation is the sincerest form of flattery’ but what about creating a museum and legacy for thousands to view? Dr. Robert Vartabedian took his passion and admiration for journalist Walter Cronkite and laid the foundation that led to the Walter Cronkite Memorial in Spratt Hall.

“He was in my opinion one of the most significant figures of the 20th century, his life is worth celebrating, particularly today,” Vartabedian said. “I don’t think we’ll ever see his equal in journalism again.”

The memorial is approximately 6,000 sq. ft. display which includes one-of-a-kind artifacts from Walter Cronkite’s life and career. To further celebrate Cronkite, Vartabedian wrote three one-part artistic multimedia performances depicting important moments in the journalist’s career.

A man with glasses, wearing a white dress shirt and a yellow tie, is seated in a wheelchair. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a dimly lit industrial or factory setting with various metal structures and equipment. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the man's shirt and tie, and deep shadows in the background.

Complete What You've Started

By Alicia Otto

Helping the university better serve adults and become more military-friendly -- these are Dr. Gordon Mapley's greatest achievements at Western.

Dr. Jim Scanlon, who was president of Western at the time, called before Mapley was set to take early retirement from the University of Ohio. "We have an opportunity here that is right up your alley and you should take a look at it," Scanlon said to Mapley.

"I did, and it was," Mapley said. These few simple words changed the focus of several degree programs offered at Western.

The BGS degree was initiated by Mapley. A group of faculty pushed the program forward because, as an administrator, Mapley could not go to the curriculum committee and suggest the degree. The BGS has graduated over 200 people since approval, with 28 graduating in the fall of 2018.

“Some of the ads we have on billboards say ‘Complete What You’ve Started,’” Mapley said. “About half of the people we see are those completing what they started at some earlier point in life and are not currently enrolled.” The other half are largely people that found they were on the wrong pathway. They are current students who realize the degree they were seeking is not what they really want to do as a career.

A career change awaited Mapley in St. Joseph after he was hired by Dr. Robert Vartabedian.

“Gordon’s accomplishments at Western are numerous,” Vartabedian said. “Under his leadership, we have made incredible strides in our offerings/enrollments in online courses and dual credit courses. The increases made in these two areas alone are game-changers.”

Mapley could have retired at 48 from General Motors with a lot of money in his pocket, but, like others in academia, he really does believe in transforming lives through the power of education.



Dr. Mapley tours the 139th Airlift Wing. . Photos Sourced Facebook

“I’ve done what I came here to do, and I’m leaving the place **having done some things that will leave the community better for me having been here.**”

“I’ve chosen to transform adult lives,” Mapley said. “The combination of online courses, the BGS and BST, along with some scholarship money through the BCDAI—all those come together to help those adults move ahead. So, when someone says, ‘what are you proud of,’ that’s what I’m proud of.”

Other accomplishments Mapley takes pride in include the Walter Cronkite Memorial, Western Playhouse, dual credit and the bio bus.

Western Playhouse made a positive difference in the lives of many students who are majoring in various forms of theatre. Many individuals are now out working as actors, stage managers, or working behind the scenes would not have the jobs they have without the resume they built while with the Western Playhouse.

“There are lots of things I can look at and feel pretty good about my role in making that happen,” Mapley said. “But overall, the big thing is helping adults reach their dreams and impact their family and community for good.”

“Replacing Gordon will be extremely difficult,” Vartabedian said. “He is a tireless worker and has a truly vast array of skill sets.”

Mapley would have liked one more year to make sure the programs are where he envisioned them, but he is comfortable with the hands in which he is leaving the programs.

“I’ll be able to leave it behind and look in the mirror knowing that there are going to be some people that are going to be ahead that wouldn’t have been ahead had I not been there,” Mapley said.

“I’ve done what I came here to do, and I’m leaving the place having done some things that will leave the community better for me having been here,” Mapley said with all due humility.

Mapley feels strongly about helping other military personnel because he spent time in the military himself. Mapley said he would not leave campus until it was military friendly.

Dr. Mapley, you can now leave campus having completed what you started. We salute you.

Inspiration from Washington

“*Challenge* yourself and be sure to read or watch something you don’t agree with.”



By Drew Aggus

The 25th annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues gave Western students a chance to see the world from the perspective of a journalist. Fox News anchor Chris Wallace was the guest speaker at the 2018 convocation, which took place on Nov. 13.

Wallace has been working in broadcast for 54 years. He started his career at the Boston Globe and, for a time, worked as an assistant to Western’s own Walter Cronkite.

Wallace’s speech included a wide array of stories. He told stories about awkward encounters with Vladimir Putin, as well as stories about playing basketball with Michael Jordan. Wallace also moderated the final 2016 Presidential Debate between Trump and Clinton and was the first Fox News

representative to ever do so.

Wallace had advice for students growing up surrounded by the current divisiveness that exists in the U.S.

“Challenge yourself and be sure to read or watch something you don’t agree with,” Wallace said.

Thousands of students, faculty and community members showed up to hear Wallace’s speech.

Sophomore public relations major Rachel Bertram remembered Wallace from the presidential debate in 2016.

“I think he’s really quick; I think that’s one of the things that has helped him in journalism,” Bertram said. “He’s not only someone who’s famous now but will be remembered later.”



Wallace inspiring students during his speech. Photo Mohammed Alqarni. [Opposite] Wallace with students at the 2018 Convocation Breakfast. Photo Diane Holtz.

This was the first convocation for senior studio art and painting major Indigo Gaydusek who thought Wallace lived up to the hype.

“I was amazed by the first-person accounts he had with a lot of major players in our country and other countries,” Gaydusek said. “The talks he had with Putin and other people were really exciting to hear about.”

Chris Wallace’s accolades include three Emmys, a degree from Harvard and the experience of following former President Ronald Reagan around the globe for six years.

However, Wallace’s favorite experience was his trip with Mother Teresa. In 1979, he got the opportunity to travel to Kolkata, India, and spend time with Mother Teresa right after

she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Wallace is glad to have the experiences he has had, including his visit to Western, a visit by which he was highly impressed. He is happy to be in the field of journalism, and despite the recent negativity from President Trump, Wallace has great faith in the security of his and his colleagues’ jobs.

“[Presidents] come, and they go, and guess what; I’m still there, and a lot of my colleagues are still there,” Wallace said. “I feel proud and privileged to be a reporter. I’ve gotten to witness a lot of history.”

Wallace has gotten to witness far more history first-hand than most others combined. And as his career continues on, he’s only going to witness more.



By Alicia Otto

Connecting entrepreneurs with one another in the St. Joseph area is at the heart of Cup of Joe. On the radar of Annette Weeks when she created the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) at Western, Cup of Joe was inspired by a Kauffman Center Program called 1 Million Cup in Kansas City.

While 1 Million Cup focuses on startups and tech, research proved that the St. Joseph area would embrace all businesses. Led by Weeks and a group of local entrepreneurs, Cup of Joe was branded.

The Cup of Joe partnership includes the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, the Mo-Kan Regional Council, Farmers State Bank and Commerce Bank.

The Cup of Joe, which is held every Wednesday at the East Hills Library, has an audience of typically 40-60. However, two years ago, when they began to broadcast via Facebook Live, those numbers vaulted to as many as 800 online views.

In just over three years, more than 300 entrepreneurs - including students - have given presentations.



“Cup of Joe is a great example of us at Missouri Western, as well as other organizations in the community, coming together to support entrepreneurs,” Weeks said.

One of the grassroots volunteers leading the Cup of Joe charge was Jomel Nichols, who is the Director of PR and Marketing at Western.

“It’s created a community of entrepreneurs supporting each other, making connections and making friends,” Nichols said. “We hear over and over again how their businesses have grown because of the networking and resources they have found at Cup of Joe.”

Presenters and attendees come from all over the region - from Maryville to Kansas City to Cameron - Cup of Joe encourages and embraces regionality.

It is a lot of work for Weeks, but it is absolutely worth it.

Since most students cannot commit to attending every week, it is an easy way for them to interact with other business owners and community members on whatever Wednesdays it is convenient for them.

“Small business is challenging, and there are not a lot of programs to help small business owners,” Weeks said.

The Cup of Joe program helps to fill that void. The goal of the CFE is to help students cultivate their entrepreneurial dreams. Weeks has met with 514 clients in nearly four years, including both students and community members. Weeks defines a client as someone seeking help to start a business, and the assistance is free.

There is a new addition to the CFE website - Business SUCCESSION - and it is designed to connect entrepreneurs with opportunities to succeed. Whether you are looking for a small business to purchase or have a small business for sale, the Business SUCCESSION page is the place to look. The CFE is there to help everyone succeed.

Fun Facts

Annette Weeks DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Graduated from Western with a teaching degree and taught elementary school in California.

- Moved back to the St. Joseph area after her first set of twins were born (has two sets of twins).

- Her brother pulled her into the entrepreneurial world. They started a small antique shop on the square in Savannah.

- Co-founded and co-owned Jesse James’ Antique Mall, Rusty Chandelier and Jesse’s Last Stop for 16 years.

- A non-profit organization recruited her to come work with small businesses in the rural communities and she did that for 8 years.

- Has been coaching businesses for 12 years.

- Joined the CSB and helped them develop the Center for Entrepreneurship.



Science is Fire

By Lance Lawton

We may not have Bill Nye on campus to entertain us with science, but the Alchemist Club is the next-best thing at Western.

The Alchemist Club is a student science organization that allows students on-and-off campus to come together, execute various experiments and admire all things associated with chemistry. Junior biochemistry molecular biology major Rebecca Prest explained that members of the club do not just perform experiments all day; they also help each other out academically.

“We sit down with one another and look at graduate schools together,” Prest said. “We also look for future career opportunities and tech schools; along with that, we also help each other out with any homework we have. The room we’re usually in is what we call the “Mentor Room,” and there is usually someone in there that can support us whenever we need chemistry help.”

Alchemist Club President Merle Phillips said that the Alchemist Club has been around at Western for almost 50

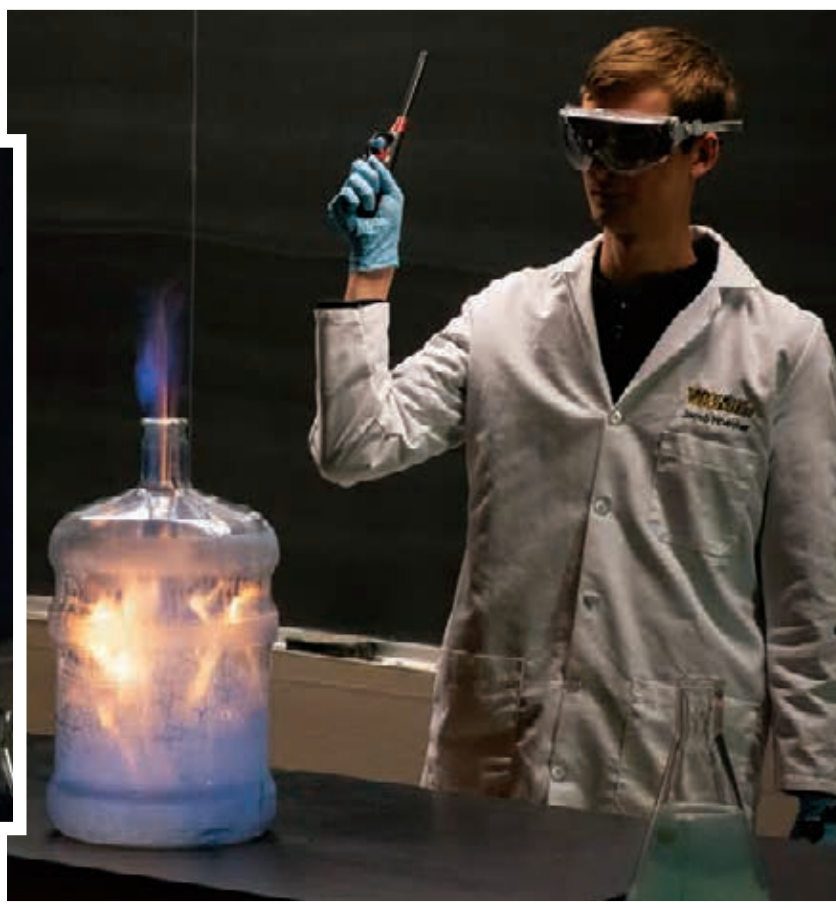
years and is still pushing to provide campus and the community with the opportunity to learn more about science.

“Science should be free and open to the public,” Phillips said. “We love being able to interact with the students and anyone else who is interested in any sort of science.”

The Alchemist Club holds two major events every year: The Fire and Ice Show (formerly known as Pumpkin Blasting) and Super Science Saturday. The Fire and Ice Show, performed on Nov. 1, was filled with grade school-type experiments, from making a whoosh bottle to setting a pumpkin on fire. Super Science Saturday occurred in January 2019, attracting almost 2,000 people from the community to experience various types of science experiments.



Photos Chase Merwin





Super Science

By Lance Lawton

In 1982, Thomas Dolby claimed, “she blinded me with science!” In 2019, visitors from the surrounding region experienced much more as they walked into Super Science Saturday.

Super Science Saturday is a one-day event in which Remington and Agenstein Halls are turned into one big science museum. It is also a fundraiser for St. Joseph Museums, Inc., which has 18 museums all located within St. Joseph. With multiple volunteers from Western, local schools and even the KQ2 weather team, there were several demonstrations, experiments and activities to explore throughout the three levels of the building.

Western Chemistry Professor Dr. Jonathan Rhoad said that the science department on campus loves to help during the event.

“We love to show off science,” Rhoad said. “This event is an exciting time for us, not only for us to demonstrate our skills and love for science to the public, but it’s also for a worthy cause.”

Super Science Saturday did not just feature activities from one or two science departments; instead, they boasted almost all types of science from psychology to biology, astronomy to archaeology, meteorology to chemistry and much more. Visitors were able to dig for fossils, learn how a battery works, watch planetarium shows, create their own slime and other entertainment.

Junior wildlife conservation and management major Kaitlyn Atkins said that volunteering with the Wildlife Society at Super Science Saturday was very enjoyable, as she was able to help kids learn more about science.

“I like watching the kids faces when they walk into the room,” Atkins said. “It’s that little spark you see when they learn something new. It’s really cool to see that.”

While this one-day event lasted around four hours, Alchemist Club President Merle Phillips is proud of the number of visitors that Super Science Saturday attracted.

“I feel like this year we did a really great job of communicating this event to not only the St. Joseph area but also the Kansas City metro,” Phillips said. “Someone told me that we hit around 1,100 people before noon. If that’s correct, then we already have doubled last year’s numbers.”

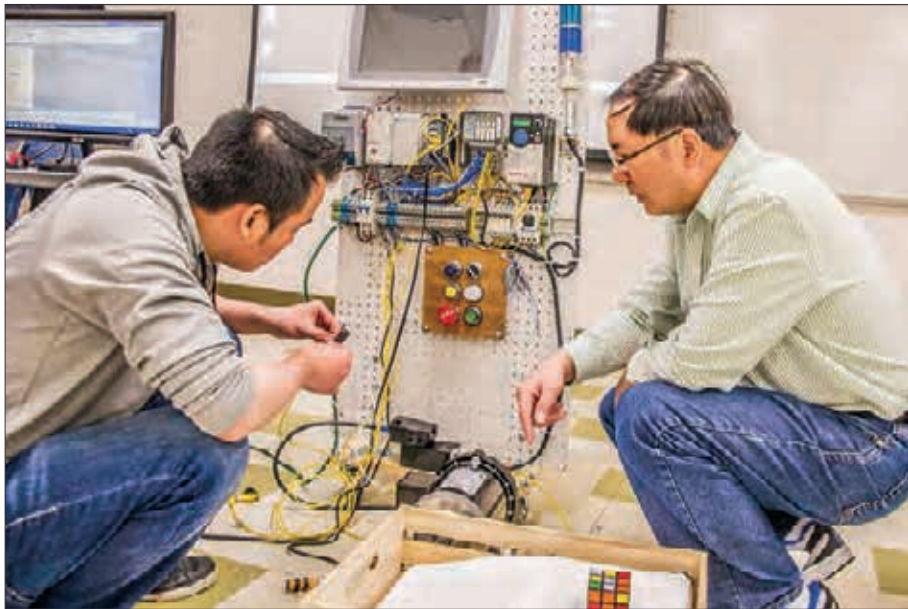
Although Super Science Saturday has ended, people from all over the region are already excited for next year’s science spectacle.



Phots PR & Marketing



Professors and students work on engineering equipment in Wilson Hall. Photos PR and Marketing.





ENGINEERING *the* FUTURE

By Jake Meikel

It all starts with an idea. Then that idea invoked a plan. In due time, what started out as a concept becomes a brand new piece of technological innovation.

The department of engineering technology is very hands-on when it comes to learning. Direct collaboration between students and instructors is why students are just as prepared for their career fields as any other majors are at Western according to assistant professor Wes Moore.

“We do have a really good career path,” Moore said. “They’ve got a lot of opportunities to choose from.”

Companies such as Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.; Altec Industries, Inc.; and Herzog Contracting Corp. offer internships to students and frequently offer full-time jobs once they receive their degrees.

The most difficult challenge that students will face during their tenure is an ever-changing curriculum because technology frequently changes.

“Because technology does change pretty fast, there are certain basic skills that I want students to learn,” Moore said. “Then they’re going to have to keep up with technological changes all throughout their careers.”

Adapting to regular changes in the field have professors on their toes; they are prepared for the best and the worst.

With some of the best equipment one can buy, students are given the best of tools to keep up with the evolution. What is considered “state-of-the-art” equipment is at the disposal for all students in order to troubleshoot and have the best hands-on experience possible.

The most significant aspect of being a part of the program is the recognition students are able to receive for their outstanding work.

Societies such as The American Society of Civil Engineers and The Society of Manufacturing Engineers are welcoming of these students’ groundbreaking work. Students at Western have been recognized nationally by external technical societies through undergraduate awards.

Piecing together how they do it and why they do it isn’t so simple. Their work is complex for the average human being, but the relationships built between student and faculty is as simplistic as it gets. It is being an applied learner that is the core value of being a student at Western.



LINDA OAKLEAF

HER HEART
IS A REFLECTION
OF HER MISSION

By Jake Meikel



Photos: Bethany VonSeggern

“I want to leave the world better than I found it.”

Who would have ever thought that simply going to take a walk and living a healthy lifestyle would be too much to ask for?

In 2005, as a grad student in North Carolina, Linda Oakleaf collapsed from an aneurysm while out for a run.

It turns out the aneurysm was from a brain hemorrhage. The hemorrhage caused her to have another aneurysm, which called for surgery in the summer of 2018. Oakleaf, an assistant professor, recalls the outpour of support from her colleagues and could not be more appreciative.

“I had to be gone for the last week of classes in the spring semester, because they were trying to add coils and stents to fix my aneurysm,” Oakleaf said. “My colleagues covered for me without a murmur about it.”

Oakleaf is an assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation at Western. She studies leisure and LGBT issues. Her most recent study has shown that physical activity in transgender communities “is in the toilet.”

She recently interviewed transgenders in the LGBT community. After talking with them about the time they spent doing recreational activity in parks, Oakleaf found these individuals have a hard time going out to do their normal exercise routines.

“They would say, ‘yeah, we love parks; they are great,’” Oakleaf said. “And then they would say, ‘and then I watch to make sure people don’t kill me.’”

Oakleaf’s research will be powerful for not only the transgender community, but, also potentially, for those who aren’t as openly welcoming of transgenders.

“It was pretty clear that the things that folks were talking about were barriers to physical activity,” Oakleaf said.

Her intelligence and her drive remained untouched after her procedures.



Above all, she is not afraid of any challenge. Her next big milestone is to attempt the Harbor-to-Harbor Trek in San Diego. A challenge like this goes to show how, according to her, she wants to be useful.

“I want to leave the world better than I found it,” Oakleaf said.

Her heart is a reflection of her mission to help others, and her legacy is pretty well-established.

Fuel to the Fire

By Jake Meikel
Photo Wil Abeling

In some instances, diversity is an understatement. Juggling many different activities along with a career is never an easy task. Dr. Christine Ziemer, a psychology professor at Western, is never bored and nothing short of fascinating.

Ziemer does research on child and infant development and has been doing so for quite some time.

Her current study looks at infant perception and how they understand two-dimensional versus three-dimensional objects.

As part of the study, she looks to see how infants of certain age ranges understand touch screens. As a mother of two who has her Ph.D. in child development, this type of study is right in her wheelhouse.

What is more fascinating other than the dedication she has to her work is what's done outside of her normal routine.

Ziemer currently takes part in Pyro Tribe - yes, pyro meaning fire. Pyro Tribe is a local fire-spinning performance group in St. Joseph. Ziemer claims the performances have become more of a community-building event rather than a night of spinning fire.

A concerned parent may wonder if she has had any bad experiences working with fire, but Ziemer affirms that no major mishaps have occurred.

"I've had small burns on my arms," Ziemer said. "My hair has caught fire, but it usually goes out pretty quickly."

Pyro Tribe has done many events for weddings and private events. They also put on a free performance the Monday before the closest full moon each month called Moonday.

Ziemer also takes part in a feminist book club called The Coven.

"I like it, because it's getting to know the other female professors in different departments and kind of supporting each other," Ziemer said.

In addition, Ziemer takes the time to raise chickens. She makes a case for their benefits saying they get along very well with her cats and give her fresh eggs.

All of this and still in the prime of her life, Ziemer has more on her plate than just the fresh eggs from her chickens.



Spinning flames. Ziemer performing at a Pyro Tribe event in St. Joseph.





IN THE THEATRE
WHERE IT HAPPENED





Cast of Characters

One performance hall, multiple casts, crews and lots of personality.

[Top Left] Bonnie Bouc, Dr. Kristin Newbegin, Emily Wyss, Samantha Ogdahl and Kennedy Brock [Top Center] Angel Edwards in "Antigone" [Top Right] Andy Courtts and Elizabeth Adams in "Ferris Wheel" [Top Far Right] Noah Bollow and Abby Wolff in "Tell Them."


[Center Right] Abby Sexton in "Trailer Park" [Center Far Right] Elizabeth Adams, Cole Kurtz and Noah Bollow in "Antigone"

[Bottom Left] Samantha Ogdahl and Bonnie Bouc [Bottom Center] Noah Bollow and Benjamin Smith in "Antigone" [Bottom Right] Lexie Bryson, Cole Kurtz, Abby Sexton and Allyson Bryson

Photos Wil Abeling, Mary Brecheisen, Chandra Traxler







Allyson Bryson,
Julianna McCarrol,
Kennedy Brock, Libby
Denny & Abby Wolff.
Photos Maddisyn Urban

Little Women, Big Connections

By *Kaleigh Pryor*

When most people think of Christopher Columbus, they think of the explorer who sailed the ocean blue in 1492. But to the March sisters, the main heroines of the musical “Little Women,” this adventurer’s name is an interjection used to express excitement, shock, or disbelief.

The tale of the March women is a classic story that has been told time and time again, whether it be by the pages of a book, actors on a screen, or, in this case, through musical numbers live on Western’s Potter Hall Theatre stage.

Although the plotline of this famous narrative is one that is familiar to most, the interesting elements of Western’s production come from the intimate details that might not be known to any given audience member.

Abby “Kit” Wolff, a theatre major with an animation minor, had been a part of “Little Women” from the get-go. Working with the production for nearly 11 months, Wolff’s situation was definitely a unique one.

“I was approached with the opportunity to do the projection design early on,” Wolff said. “I was just fortunate enough to get cast and also create the content for a show I loved.”

Wolff played Amy March, the youngest March sister, who craves a life of status and luxury, while also having a passion for art. Similar to her character of Amy, Wolff has always had a knack for drawing and sketching. Through her artistry, Wolff was presented with the opportunity to create all of the set projections and began work at the end of March 2018.

Wolff’s inspiration and concept for her drawings were to have them look as though they were created by Amy, who later ended up being her character.

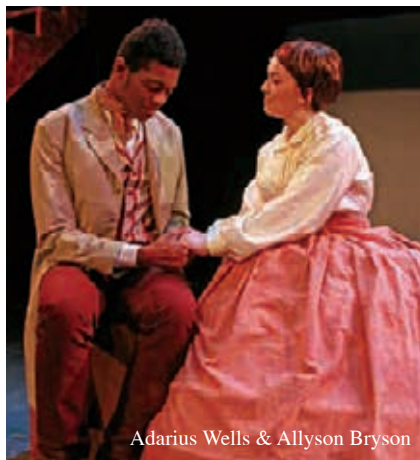
“Acting and performing-wise, I’ve done a lot of musicals,” Wolff said. “But the design aspect really opened my eyes to how collaborative things have to be; this was probably the most character-building experience for me as an actor, designer and a person, in general. I was with the project for a really long time, and it was really gratifying to see my art on stage.”



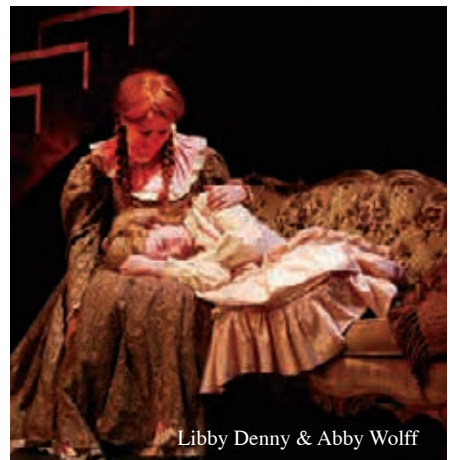
Allyson Bryson



Abby Wolff



Adarius Wells & Allyson Bryson



Libby Denny & Abby Wolff

“No matter who you are, what you do, what you love, how you express yourself, you need to just go out there and own it,” Bryson said. “All the sisters are so different, but they are true to themselves.”

Another actress who had a strong personal connection to her character was Allyson Bryson. Bryson, a sophomore musical theatre major, played the role of Jo March. Jo is the second-oldest March sister whose independence, determination and passion make her a skilled writer, but these same traits can also get the best of her at times.

By the end of the production, Jo’s strong-willed nature and feisty attitude helped make all of her lifelong dreams come true. As the main character of this timeless story, Jo has been a role model to women of all ages for generations. This is evident through Bryson’s own special bond to the character.

“My great-great grandma, who I’m named after had four daughters and named one of them ‘Jo,’ because she loved the book version so much,” Bryson said.

Bryson’s great-great grandmother passed away a few

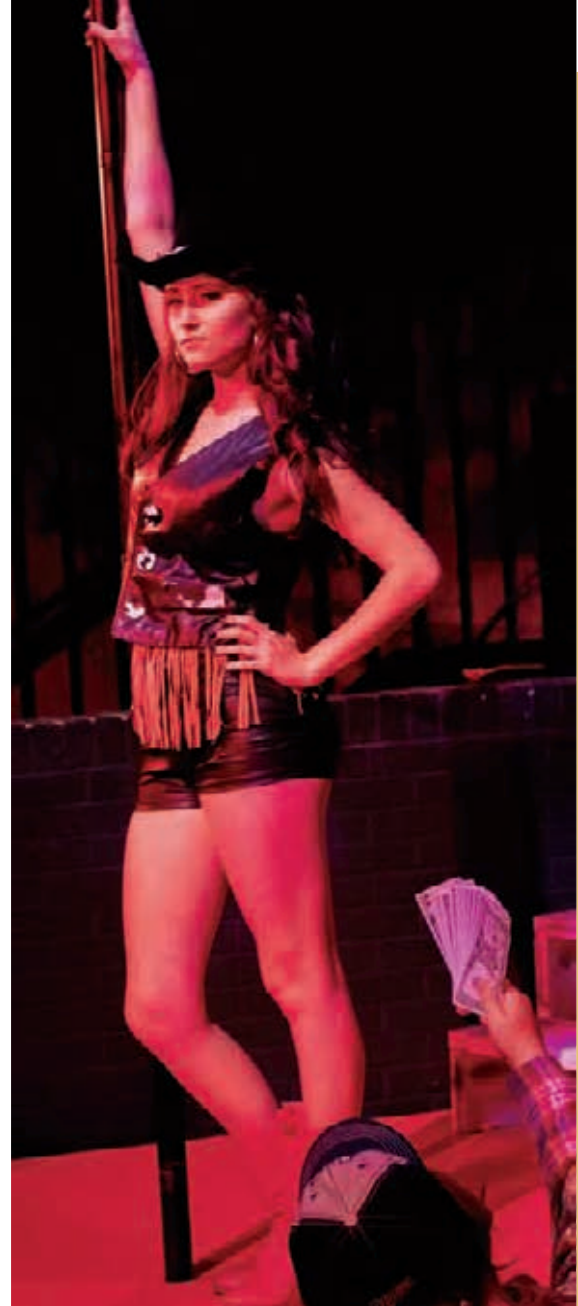
years ago, during Bryson’s junior year of high school. Although losing her was difficult, Bryson said being able to take on the role of Jo was a special way to honor someone who meant so much to her. Some of Bryson’s grandmother’s sisters even came to watch the show.

When asked what the story of the show meant to both of the women, Wolff and Bryson touched on the key points of feminism and empowerment, but they both agreed that the meaning, for them, goes way beyond that.

Wolff identified strongly with the theme of family and supporting one another through good times and bad. Similarly, Bryson related to the representation of self-discovery and confidence that was developed throughout the evolution of the March sisters.

“No matter who you are, what you do, what you love, how you express yourself, you need to just go out there and own it,” Bryson said. “All the sisters are so different, but they are true to themselves.”

Despite the fame that is associated with the story of “Little Women,” each interpretation of the tale carries its own individuality. As for Western’s production, the personal relationships the cast had with their characters elevated the performance to another level. And one thing is for sure; by the end of the show, the audience was definitely joyfully exclaiming, “Christopher Columbus!” right along with the cast.



A Star Emerges

By Shelby Berkemeier, Photos Wil Abeling & Maddisyn Urban

Bonnie Bouc, a sophomore at Western, pushed herself to new levels for the sake of the show, and her efforts paid off.

Bouc is now majoring in musical theatre, but her journey as an actress began when she was in high school. She has participated in a wide array of films and shows and has taken on many challenging roles. At Western alone, she has acted in six films and six plays.

Bouc's favorite filming experience was Western's 48-Hour Film Festival. This film competition challenges filmmakers to condense their creative process and produce their vision within a short time frame. Each team is given a genre, prop, line of dialogue and character at random.

Bouc has participated in the 48-Hour Film Festival twice. In the latest competition, she was assigned a drama called "Rising Star," where she was cast as Jackie Rabbits, a snooty performer.

During the last festival, her team

had to record scenes and immediately "dump" the footage for editing with few breaks and barely any sleep. Though this experience was challenging, Bouc really enjoyed getting into character, singing and the all-around experience.

However, Jackie Rabbits wasn't Bouc's only confident character.

In the play "The Great American Trailer Park Musical," Bouc played a stripper named Pippy.

"That was the most fun I've ever had as a character, because I went to a Catholic high school, and we never would have done something like that," Bouc said.

This role was challenging for her because she not only had to work on her character role development, but she had to work on her confidence. Bouc wasn't used to being so over-sexualized on stage and, at first, worried about the wardrobe.

"Immediately I told the director I'm a self-conscious person, and I don't like to show a lot of skin," Bouc said.

The director eased her mind and assured her that Pippy could be a partially-conservative stripper. The daytime outfit consisted of high-waisted shorts, a cropped flannel and red cowgirl boots. For the evening outfit, Bouc wore leather shorts, a fringed bra and a leather button-up jacket.

But the wardrobe was only the beginning of Bouc being pushed out of her comfort zone. She also had to learn and perform a pole dance and striptease.

Bouc knows this won't be her last challenging role. She enjoys how theatre pushes her boundaries and allows her to make new friends and grow as a person, as well as an actress.

GOLDEN TICKET

By Christian Sarna

For some students, the simple yellow room and ticket slot of the Western Box Office are the window to a world of possibilities.

The Potter Hall Theater hosts productions put on by the department of theatre, cinema and dance. The box office organizes ticketing and seating for these productions. A senior business major, Natalie Lombardi, said her involvement with the box office has helped her develop human resources skills while doing something she loves.

"I'm just really involved with customer service, and these are all things that I am going to need for my future career," Lombardi said. "It's been really helpful, and it also allows me to get involved in theatre."

Lombardi, who has been a student-employee in the box office for over two years, said that students of any major can be involved if they are dedicated.

"You could just be a well-rounded student and person," Lombardi said.

Libby Denny is a senior theatre major. She has worked in the box office since she was a second-semester freshman and encourages anyone, regardless of their association with Western, to get involved in theatre.

"You don't have to be in school to audition," Denny said. "We've had people from the community; we've had high schoolers come and audition and get roles."

Denny has performed in several productions at Western, such as "Little Women," "Spring Awakening" and "Blithe Spirit."

She said that her experiences on both sides of the box office helped her become more well-rounded and knowledgeable about what goes into a full production.

"It's just a really good way not to limit yourself," Denny said. "It's just good to see all sides: on stage, off stage, behind the scenes."

The box office provides many services besides ticketing. Denny explained that students interested in more short-term involvement could help as ushers.

In addition to taking tickets and greeting patrons, ushers help theatergoers with mobility devices like walkers or wheelchairs get to their seats. For patrons who are hard of hearing, the theater provides hearing devices that directly connect to the sound system for a more enjoyable experience. Denny's experience has certainly been enjoyable.

"I've never worked with someone in the box office that I'm just like, 'I can't stand this person,'" Denny said. "When you work together, you have one common goal; this is what we're gonna do; this is our procedure. We're all on the same page, and it's great."

For students on the fence about getting involved with the box office or theatre, in general, Denny had one simple piece of advice: do it.



Natalie Lombardi arranges seating for an upcoming production. Lombardi has been a student employee of the Box Office for over two years. Photo Christian Sarna.



The Eclipse

DIRECTED BY TOBY LAWRENCE
SCREENPLAY BY JAMES THERIAC
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JASON CANTU



Photos James Theriac

A LOOK INSIDE

By Chandra Traxler

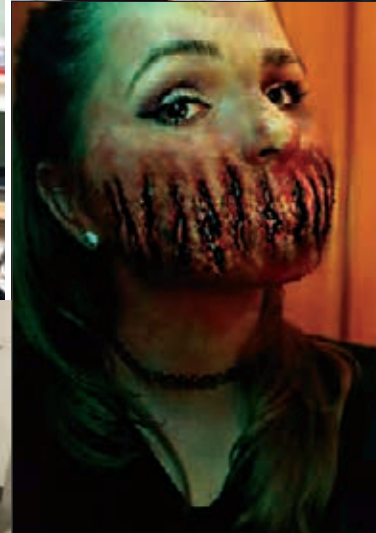
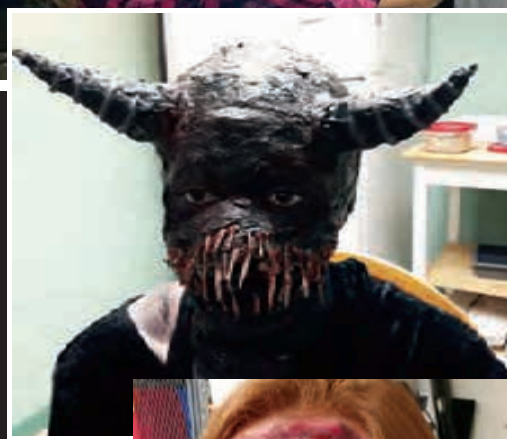
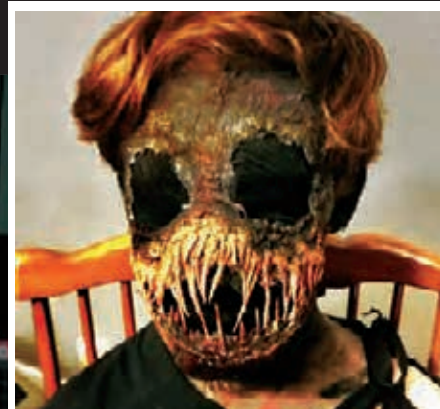
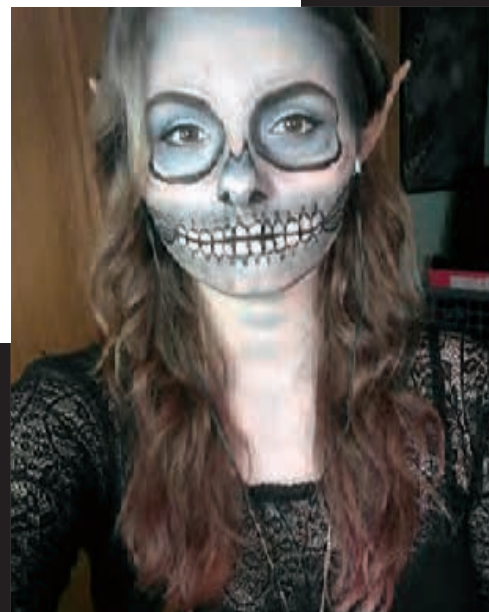
I've had some amazing opportunities to do makeup for a ton of different film sets while at Western. Projects have ranged from basic beauty makeup to heavy prosthetic usage. Working as a makeup artist my skills have grown tremendously as I've learned new techniques to make the best product I can for the screen.

One of the coolest experiences I had was on the summer internship film, *The Eclipse*. I worked under an art director to help make their vision of the characters come to life.

During the making of this film, the actors had to undergo tons of movement and extreme heat and the makeup team had to find ways to work around it. I worked with mediums like gelatin prosthetics, latex paste and homemade fake blood.

Over time I've developed and built the "kit" I use on location. Think of a giant box filled with anything and everything to be prepared for any situation: latex, spirit gum, tons of eyelashes, 20 shades of foundation, dozens of lipstick shades, powders, fake teeth and nails, paint, glitter, blood, and tattoo cover just to name a few of my "must haves."

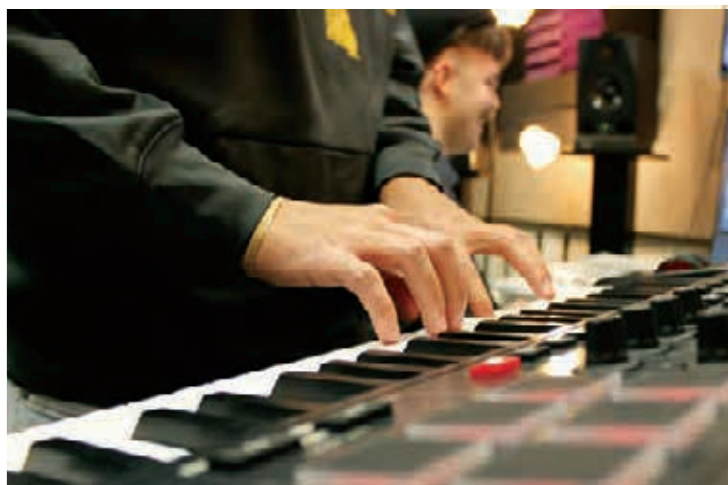
I've always loved the creative outlet that makeup allows me to have and seeing my work on screen is surreal. I can't wait to see what else I can create while I'm here.



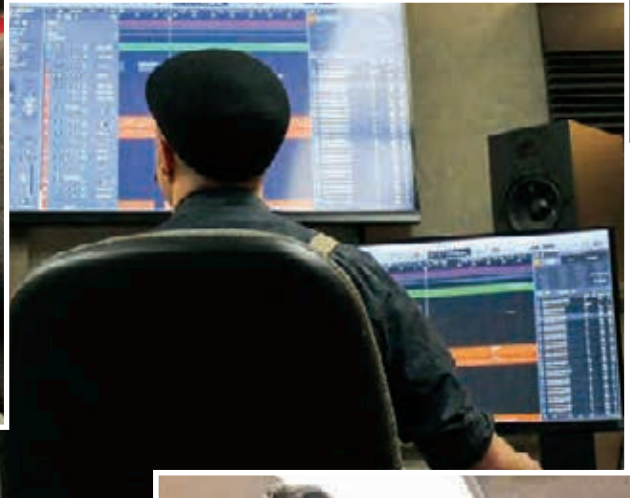
RAISE THE **L**evels



“When it comes to making music, it’s very **free.**”



Danny Campos



By Paige Griffiee

Choosing an individual path in life is everyone's dream. For senior Will Doyle, his path is music, and with the help of Western's music tech program, he's achieving just that.

In fact, Doyle said one word comes to mind when describing the music tech department: opportunity.

"Music tech is such a broad field, but here, you are really allowed to apply it however you want and need to," Doyle said.

The music tech program focuses on working with sound such as producing music, collaborating with other departments and working through various programs (e.g Logic, Livestage, and Ableton).

It also allows students to partner with the art, cinema and theatre departments. Doyle said he has scored multiple songs for films that cinema students have created.

"Collaborating is a great opportunity and opens the doors for different fields to go into," Doyle said.

Doyle who found his passion for music tech his freshman year of high school came into Western eager to learn.

His most rewarding project was his collaborative work with game developers. This encouraged his dream to one day go into the field of music technology for virtual reality or augmented reality.

Danny Campos, another music tech major, grew up in a Hispanic home constantly surrounded by music which played a large part in him developing his passion for music.

"When it comes to making music, it's very free; I never know what I'm going to do," Campos said.

Campos has created different genres of tracks from hip hop to pop and even EDM. He finds his experience as a music tech student very rewarding.

"You put all this blood, sweat and tears into the work and then put it out there and get feedback," Campos said. "You get what you give."

The music tech program gives students an opportunity to perform some of their work at The President's Holiday Gala, which occurs every December.



[Above] Doyle mixes sound in his latest LoFi music project; Doyle and Campos collaborate and use the program Logic to make music together. [Opposite] Campos creates and selects music for one of his songs. Photos Paige Griffiee.



Follow Your *Art*

By Alicia Otto

No, it's not a science experiment gone wrong. It is an octopus tentacle, named Cybernetic Octobrass, made from old clock parts being created by Indigo Gaydusek.

Set to graduate in May, it is safe to say Gaydusek loves the work she has produced as an undergraduate and respects those who have guided her.

Kathy Liao and Eric Fuson are two of Gaydusek's professors, both of whom she respects as artists and instructors.

"They are just really good at helping you when you need it,"

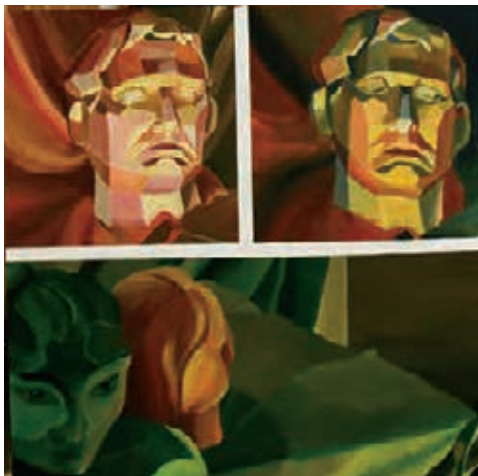
Gaydusek said. "But they don't make the project too specific that you can't use your own approach to it."

Liao recently submitted Gaydusek for a downtown project for which Gaydusek was selected.

"It's going to be a mural with wings," Gaydusek said. "It will be used to help brand St. Joseph and will be a photo op." Gaydusek will use a form of Griffon wings, which will be positioned so that visitors can have their pictures taken so it looks like they have wings.



[Opposite] Mystery Room. [Counter Clockwise from Left] Self Portrait; Indigenous; Indigio making a sculpture *Cybernetic Octobrass* out of old clock parts, Photo Alicia Otto; Geo-Heads; Twisted Nature. Original artwork Indigo Gaydusek.



Gaydusek will complete the mural as a project for her honors class and it will replace an old mural on a downtown St. Joseph building. Gaydusek will submit drawings to the Downtown Strategic Planning Committee for final approval.

The fine arts department does a great job of getting students' artwork out into the public, but most of the students' artwork is displayed on campus in Potter Hall. Other buildings on campus have displays as well, with more being created.

"We have a mural in Eder Hall," Gaydusek said. "My painting class did that two semesters ago, and we are working on projects in other buildings."

Artwork is not only displayed in buildings on campus but is also submitted for juried shows. Gaydusek has received several awards at juried competitions. In 2017, Gaydusek's *Mystery*

Room received a juror's choice award. Two pieces were selected for the juried show in November of 2018-Twisted Nature and Orca School Pool. At that show, her sculpture, *Twisted Nature*, received one of only five juror's choice awards.

Fine arts students, along with their works, were recently displayed at the Western Arts Society's Annual Meeting. The Western Arts Society is comprised of Western faculty, staff and community members. The Arts Society supports fine arts students by providing funds through requests to the board.

Gifts from the Arts Society are used by Gaydusek all the time. Every time Gaydusek picks up a new piece of equipment, she knows it is a benefit from the Arts Society funding.





Behind the Mask

By Wil Abeling, Photos Wil Abeling

It is said that if you have a job you love, you don't work a day in your life. Unfortunately, that's not the case for most people here on this big blue marble. But for Michael Scroggs, it couldn't be truer.

Since he was young, Scroggs was always around tools and has been worked in a shop. He learned most of what he knows from his father who builds small aircrafts and his grandfather who had a small woodshop.

Scroggs has taken his passion a step further and operates his own woodworking business, Mike's Sawdust Factory. His business started when he was tired of constructing sets that were built to last for short periods of time before being torn down.

He first started by tinkering around building small cabinets and things for himself, and that turned into doing small jobs on the side and then came building furniture. He enjoys the challenge of learning to build things that are beautiful and elegant yet can support a 200-pound man without breaking.

Scroggs is the technical operations coordinator for the theatre department and technical director for the school of fine arts, but he doesn't stay within the confines of his title. He goes above and beyond running the shop.

Some of the many things he does include coordinating events in the theatre, building sets, setting up the sound system, maintaining the theatre itself and, by association, teaching students how to perform the necessary tasks required to be an avid techie (theatre technician). Scroggs' diverse skill set allows him to help the fine arts department in a lot more ways than just building sets.

It is said if you have a job you love, you don't work a day in your life. And we should all strive to work in a field we are passionate about. We should all dream big like Scroggs.



Poetic Voice of

Marianne Kunkel

WRITER.
PROFESSOR.
FEMINIST.
LEADER.

By Alicia Otto

Turning negative into positive came easy for Dr. Marianne Kunkel as evidenced by her collection of poems about the first major-party female presidential candidate. Poems aren't a new thing for Kunkel.

"I guess I would say I was four or five," Kunkel said of her first efforts. "I remember writing songs."

Kunkel's mother was able to stay home with her and would help with the songs.

"I remember coming up with the rhymes, and my mom would help me with the words," Kunkel said. "My dad actually wrote songs on guitar, and my mom was very musical."

"My mother passed away a few years ago, and of course I miss her terribly," Kunkel said. "Some days I ache to talk with her, but politics isn't something we were able to talk about easily—our political views were pretty different to the point that it sometimes hurt our relationship. But my mother was an extremely principled woman; she had no patience for people who didn't feel strongly about issues, so even though her and my political views were different, I see in myself the passionate woman she was."



Photo Wil Abelung [Opposite] Sourced

How did you discover Hillary had received a copy [of the book]?

MK: I received a sealed envelope in my campus mailbox on really nice stationery, which was my first clue! There was a personalized message signed by Secretary Clinton, her hair stylist had passed along the copy of my book I mailed there. My heart started pounding when I saw the letterhead. When you research anyone as heavily as I researched Secretary Clinton to write my book, you, of course, would love to know that that person has a copy. But I'd honestly given up on reaching her.

How many copies did you send to Clinton?

MK: I mailed Secretary Clinton two copies at two different addresses but I'm not sure any reached her. Some advice I got is not to be stingy with complimentary copies, so I sent out at least 15 free copies to influential writers, poets, politicians, etc. I am forever grateful to her hair stylist for putting a copy of my book in her hands!

Do you feel it is synchronistic that her hairdresser is the one who was able to get the book to Hillary?

MK: Given the subject of my book, it *is* funny. Isn't it? I sent out a lot of my complimentary copies last fall, and it wasn't until February that I thought to mail a copy to her hairdresser. With the copy, I included a note explaining that the last poem in my book takes place in my imagined version of the salon. The staff could have tossed my package, but instead they chose to pass it on -- wow!

“I was intrigued by the women that came before me and wanted to understand their impact on my present time,” Kunkel said.

Kunkel did not write a lot after her first poem at three, but really began focusing on English and writing in high school. In college, she received a B.A. in poetry from Auburn University, An M.F.A. in English (poetry) from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

A Google search shows one of Kunkel's most popular poems, “A Sloth First Hears Its Name.” “Who doesn't do a Google search on themselves now and then?” asked Kunkel.

Written by Kunkel was around ten, the poem speculates what it means for someone to be called something that also means something else - in this case - one of the seven deadly sins. But the sloth just thought he was a sloth.

As a teenager, Kunkel read a lot of second-wave feminism, specifically Gloria Steinem, but did not associate with that time.

“I was intrigued by the women that came before me and wanted to understand their impact on my present time,” Kunkel said. Kunkel feels that now is an exciting time to be a feminist. “... more than ever, feminists are thinking

about gender equality in relationship to many factors of ethnicity, race, age, sexual orientation, physical ability and more--though feminism could always be doing more to support these intersections.”

Kunkel's most recent publication, “Hillary, Made Up,” has gotten more attention than her last book. It is a collection of creative poems from the perspective of makeup and hair products speaking to Hillary Clinton.

“The book is political because Hillary is very political,” Kunkel said. “But at the heart of it was me kind of thinking about makeup and these rituals that women and some men go through to be taken seriously in the work place.”

Hillary Clinton was an obvious choice for the comparisons because she is an aspirational woman who has tried to be President of the United States twice.

“I tried to talk to [Clinton] directly, but I could not, so I thought the poems were interesting, because makeup could get this direct access to her,” Kunkel said. From all that Kunkel has read or can read between the lines, Clinton is not one to “dream about the next lipstick color.”

“Around the time I started writing the book after the election, there were some things coming out about Clinton making public appearances and whether or not she was wearing makeup,” Kunkel said. “I wasn't the one to create the correlation, but I took it and ran with it.”

Even if politics aren't your eyebrow pencil, hopefully these words help draw a clearer picture of both Clinton and Kunkel.

“Thank you. Thank you for helping women dream big,” Kunkel would say to Clinton.

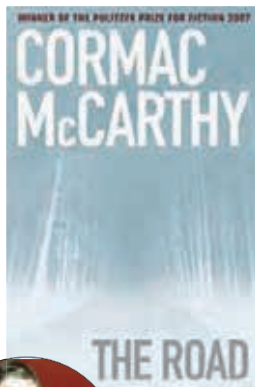


PAGE TURNERS

Lora Kroush

Assistant Manager

The Road by Cormac McCarthy is dystopian novel about a father and son surviving in a post apocalyptic world. This novel is raw, emotional and makes us question how people in our society could survive under stressful circumstances. It's both disturbing at points and beautifully graphic with its vivid images and language.

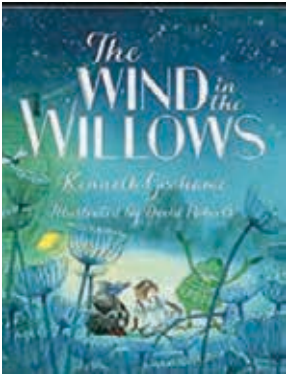


Huey

Managing Editor

The series, *Gone* by Michael Grant is centered on the fictional Southern Californian town of Perdido Beach, in which every human aged 15 and older vanishes. The remaining population begins to develop supernatural powers and must find a way to survive without adult supervision.





Anne Davies-Speer
PR & Community Outreach
Coordinator

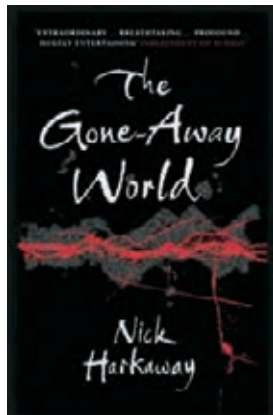
The Wind In The Willows by Kenneth Grahame. The book that first inspired my real reading. So much more than a children’s book, it is has everything in a good read. True friendship, spirituality, the true

meaning of “home” and standing up to violence and oppression. It also has canal barges, talking mice, amazing meals, steam trains and everything British. I suggest reading on a cold winter’s day, wrapped in a blanket, a cup of hot tea in hand and perhaps a buttered scone.



Heather Daugherty
Social Media Coordinator

The Gone Away World by Nick Harkaway is a great sci-fi novel with a lot of great twists and turns. I don’t want to spoil the ending, but it has one big twist that you seriously don’t see coming and when it drops, it blows your mind.



Miranda Poulson
Copy Editor

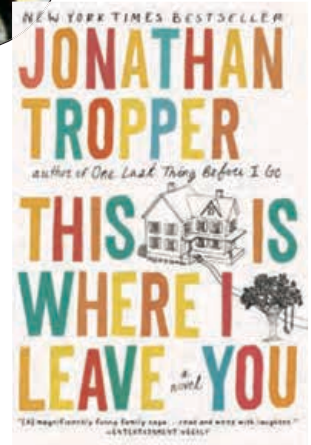
Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult is a wonderful book about modern-day racism and prejudice. It makes you stop and think about your actions - no matter your background. Picoult conducted extensive research while writing this novel to make it as accurate as possible, and it shows. I recommend this book to everyone.



Skylar Nichols
Bulletin Board
Designer



Where I Leave You is a great story about a family sitting shiva after their father’s death. Seven days together leads to many arguments and the reveal of many family secrets. Tropper writes with a perfect mixture of serious, funny and sad moments.



Brooklyn Lance
Campus
Outreach
Coordinator



One of my favorite books is *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven. It’s haunting because we connect with the characters. We laugh when they laugh; we cry when they cry, and by the end we’re left with a sense of their brokenness.



Allyson Moore
Social Media Coordinator

Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie. Everyone knows the classic tale of Peter Pan, but not many people have read it. It’s a wonderful (and at times, haunting) story that is great to hear as a kid, and makes you appreciate childhood as an adult.



the GREAT ESCAPE

*Western goes wheels
up to give students
the opportunity to
gain field experience
in other countries
around the world.*



The Colosseum in Rome, Italy. Photo Lance Lawton.





Photo Lance Lawton.

Chillin' in Croatia

By Lance Lawton

For three weeks in May, I was lucky enough to travel to Europe and visit seven countries within three weeks. Along with seven other students and Dr. Bob Bergland as our trip advisor, I toured through Greece, Ireland, Scotland, England, Italy, Vatican City and Croatia. If I were to recommend one country that everyone should put on their bucket list, hands down I would choose Croatia.

After stepping off the bus just outside of Dubrovnik's Old Town walls, I realized that this place was gorgeous. Walking with the tourist mob inside the Old Town walls, I came across the "main street" where historic buildings lined each side of the street and plenty of shops and restaurants boasted a treat for everyone.

Before the trip, the only thing I knew about Croatia was that the show "Game of Thrones" had filmed multiple scenes in Dubrovnik. I searched and found the "Walk of Shame" stairs and various other scenes within Old Town. I also found a shop in the middle of Dubrovnik that had various Game of Thrones memorabilia, including an opportunity to take a photo on an Iron Throne replica, which, of course, I did immediately.

Besides geeking out on Game of Thrones, we were able to go on a sea-kayaking tour, visit a secluded cave, paddle

around Lokrum Island and finished the trek with a wine-tasting. My group also took a ferry to nearby Lopud Island and visited its famous Sunj beach.

Although this three-week trip seemed like it was just a fun trip to go on, it was also beneficial because we could see how journalism affects other countries and what these countries report about and how they report it. The main reason we went to Croatia was for the International Conference on Information Technology and Journalism where I presented research about how the NFL uses Twitter.

To go on this trip, we had to create a research paper and presentation, have it approved by our professor and then sent to the people in charge of the overseas conferences. This let me get creative with my project, and made me realize that I am capable of writing a ten-page research paper with a PowerPoint presentation with ease. It also made me feel even more confident that I was able to present my hard work to a group of intellectuals from around the

world at the Dubrovnik conference.

Studying abroad is a fantastic idea for anyone on campus. If you are unsure about it or are interested in the slightest, go to that informational meeting; ask the professor or whoever is in charge of the trip. It is well worth the time.



TEACHING IN BURMA

By Britane Hubbard

Studying abroad expands your horizons. Exposure to different people, cultures and ideas helps develop a better understanding of views different than our own.

My trip consisted of teaching university law students clinical-education English for two weeks in Taunggyi, Myanmar.

On our last day of teaching classes, some of the students took us on a tour of the city markets. We went to a store that sold traditional Burmese dress. They explained to us the different outfits for different occasions.

At this point, one of the students picked up a formal hat and placed it on my head. All of the students loved it. They appreciated that I had showed an interest in their culture and enjoyed seeing me wear a piece of traditional clothing. It was a very sweet gesture, and their enthusiasm to share their culture with us was very meaningful.



Wonder of Belize

By Chris Watson

I think that studying abroad is an invaluable experience. It allows you to not only experience a different culture, but to see and understand the commonalities between cultures.

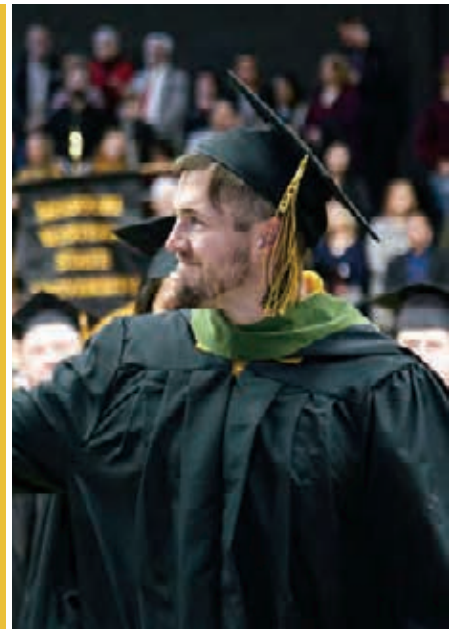
We tend to think of other areas and cultures of the world as being radically different from our own, but truthfully, that is far from the case. While there are certainly many aspects of each country that are unique, we often share a surprising amount of common ground.

We went to Belize over spring break in 2018. We spent the first half of the trip inland, near San Ignacio, and the second on the island of San Pedro.

It's very difficult to narrow down just one moment, since frankly every single day of the trip was filled with incredible experiences. If I had to pick just one moment, however, it would probably be when we went on a nature walk around Clarissa Falls near San Ignacio. We were able to see so many unique species of flora and fauna, including a spiny-tailed iguana that I was able to catch and teach the group about.



WE
DID
IT
Griffs!



Photos Wil Abeling and Mohammed Alqarni

Confessions of a Graduate

Enrolling at a university may or may not result in the following experiences: spending countless late nights studying, working on projects, writing papers and pondering theories you will most likely forget after the test; lacking sleep from pondering those theories and fueling yourself with coffee while rushing to your 8 a.m. class; questioning whether or not you are in the right degree program; changing your major multiple times; seriously considering dropping out of college; realizing dropping out is a bad idea; procrastinating; scrambling to finish five papers, two group projects and wondering why you procrastinated in the first place; forgetting about a social life; wondering if your friends still know you're alive, and finally, wondering if you are ever going to walk across the stage to accept your degree.

The hard work, stress and tears will end in celebration as you walk across the stage and touch your degree for the first time.

That sounds daunting, but those of us graduating this winter have been there and genuinely laugh about the stress we faced during our time at Western. The hard work, stress and tears will end in celebration as you walk across the stage and touch your degree for the first time. Suddenly, all the hardships you faced as a Griffon melt away into joyous memories of accomplishment, because you, little Griffon, did it.

You will take one final look at the clock tower and see it in a new light. As a student, it was a beacon of time management chiming along to songs as you strolled along the path to class, but as a graduate, it is a monument of Western, your alma mater.

Those of us graduating this year will say goodbye to friends and professors we became close with throughout the years. I never imagined myself as an editor for a college newspaper, let alone winning a Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle award, but I did. I never imagined writing stories, designing layouts or editing video news packages for The Griffon yearbook, Griffon Update or The Griffon News. I did, though. I did all of that, and I will always remember those experiences. I will always remember my fellow editors, reporters and professors who shaped the person I am today.

Although college is hard, there are bountiful positive memories and opportunities that overshadow the rough times.

As I reflect on everything I did at Western I realize this is a wonderful university I can now call my alma mater. I never felt like a stranger among hundreds of people in any class at Western, because my professors always knew my name. They always strive to bring out the best in their students, and that is a quality Griffons should never take for granted.

Although college is hard, there are bountiful positive memories and opportunities that overshadow the rough times. The best advice a senior can give to another student is this: never give up.

It was only what feels like moments ago when I logged into my Griffon GPS and felt discouraged by the unchecked boxes reminding me that I had a lot to accomplish in order to graduate. All my boxes are checked, and now that I'm at the end of my college journey I realize how quickly time flies as student.

Take advantage of the opportunities Western offers and truly enjoy your time as a college student. Under your piles of books, amidst your scattered notes and on the other side of that computer screen is a person with a bright future. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, a cap with a gown and an official document with your name on it.

-Kelsie Hall



The Path

Less Traveled

By Drew Aggus

Most students take a very similar path to and through college.

Many who go to public high schools are recruited by countless colleges and get dropped off at their four-year universities by their parents.

Once these students are at college, they often join fraternities, sororities, or other organizations; they live on campus, and they go to countless parties. A lot of them really try to make the most of their college experiences and kind of let academics take a back seat in their first couple of semesters.

I took a less traditional path to begin my journey through higher education, as I was homeschooled from ages 4 to 17.

I was not recruited by any colleges while I was in high school. However, because I was homeschooled, I was able to start college full-time when I was only 16 years old. I did dual-credit, but since I was homeschooled, I just went to class with traditional college students.

The reason I share this story is so that **others** may open their eyes to how many **different paths** are being taken around them.

I started my collegiate career at a junior college near my hometown, which eventually allowed me to transfer to Western with over 60 credits under my belt. Starting at 16, I felt I had a higher standard to live up to, because I did not have to deal with other distractions that many experience. I also felt that I needed to prove myself, being in classes with students at least two or three years older than I was.

In my first year at Western, I only joined one organization: the Baptist Student Union, which opened my eyes to how many great people there were on this campus outside of my department.

I joined a few more during my second and final year. This helped me get even more involved on campus, and I finally understood why so many other students wanted to join numerous organizations.

During college, **I never attended a party.** This forced me to **focus on academics** even more than I would have otherwise.

I made academics my main focus during my early years of college, and I am so glad that I did. This focus carried over as my classes got harder and I started getting involved in more organizations throughout my time in higher education. I was able to balance my time well between homework and on-campus activities.

There are lots of students, many nontraditional, who are working

their way through college. Some even have their own families. There are some students who are here based on their academic merit from their high school.

There are student-athletes; students who go to parties every night; students who aren't involved with any organizations; students who only take night classes; students from various countries with different cultural and socio-economic back-

grounds; and even a few students who are 16-year-old homeschoolers taking dual-credit classes on campus.

There are over 5,000 people from all over the world taking 5,000 different paths to get their degree at Western. Those of us who are graduating are about to continue on paths that are even less alike as we move all over the globe to gain new knowledge, have new experiences and earn new opportunities.

As a number of us are about to get the bittersweet experience of walking across that stage, more hard-working students are going to be lucky enough to continue getting their education through Western. And as the many of us graduates say our goodbyes, we will never forget the experiences that Western has allowed us to live through.

Your college years really are the best years of your life, especially if you are lucky enough to experience them as a Griffon.

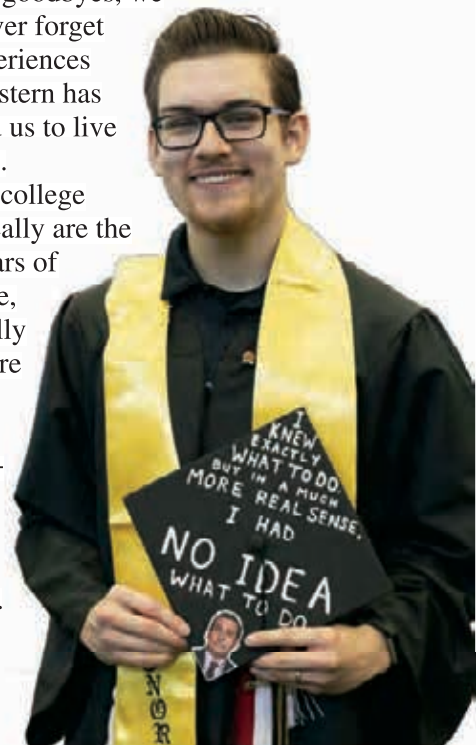
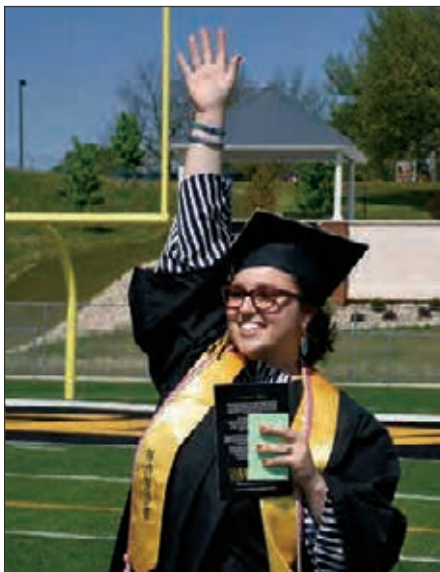


Photo Wil Abeling



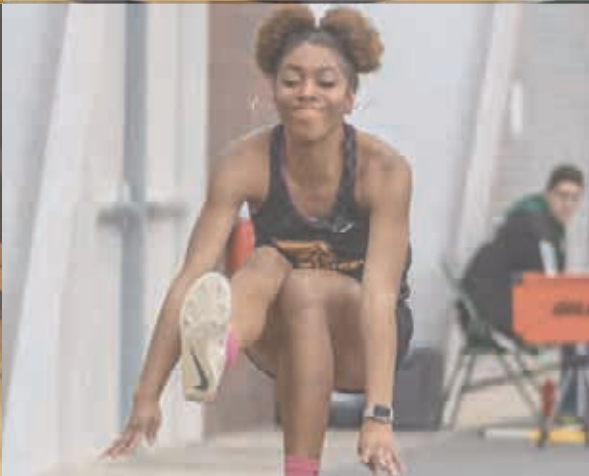
Photos Wil Abeling and GradImages

GRIFFON ATHLETICS



Photos Mohammed Alqarni, Kaitlyn Doolan, John Ellis, Lance Lawton, Alicia Otto





Ultimate (adj.): the best or most extreme of its kind. Fan (noun): an enthusiastic devotee devotee (as of a sport or a performing art) usually as a spectator. Photo Alicia Otto.



Bo Knows

By Alicia Otto

James “Bo” White fits the description of the ultimate fan perfectly. A spectator now, White was once a part of the teams he now supports from the stands. Originally from Carrollton, Missouri, White came to Western in the fall of 1979 as a basketball player.

“I came up here as a slim man to play basketball,” White said. “Back then, they had a freshman team, and I played on that.”

When told by coaches he was not quite tall enough for basketball, White switched to football. Even though White played for coach Rob Hicklin for four years, graduation was not in his plans.

The lure of money was too much to resist and White started working at Johnson Controls, where he stayed for 18 years.

But Griffon pride runs deep. White returned to campus in 2007 and can be found working in the Western dining hall where he is recognized by students all the time.

Athletes are always excited to hear that White is going to their games. He even travels to most away games with another football alumni.

“We even went to their first playoff game,” White said about last year’s football team. “We drove down to Texas and stayed in the hotel with the team.”

As a Gold Coat member, White can be seen—if not heard—at nearly all home games.

“If I miss a game, it’s only because of a family emergency,” White said.

Several years ago, Ryan Menley, communications director for Griffon athletics, asked White to make appearances on Griffon Sports Insider (GSI). “Bo Knows” is now a regular feature on GSI. White also enjoys recording segments or just gestures that are then featured on the video board at Spratt Stadium during games.

“Bo’s transition into a recurring character was organic,” Menley said. An impromptu interview during a tailgate where White offered his insight into a Griffon football game led to his GSI career. And he was so naturally funny. Just because of his personality and his stature, White evolved into more of a caricature. “Jimmy Fallon has Guillermo - we have Big Bo,” Menley said.

Bo knows sports, and sports fans know Bo. He is the ultimate fan.



Photos John Ellis & Alicia Otto

Dribble, Pass, Shoot





Katrina Roenfeldt
16.2 PPG
5.2 RPG
80% FT%



Melia Richardson
8.8 PPG
2.5 APG
43% FG%

Record	Conference	Home	Road
14-16	8-11	8-6	3-11



Bring The Juice



Record
12-18

Conference
6-13

Home
2-9

Road
7-7



Lavon Hightower
18.7 PPG
7.7 RPG
47% FG%



Tyrell Carroll
14.3 PPG
3.5 RPG
43% FG%



Photos John Ellis



WANT YOU
D BE NICE
L IT'S T
NOT BE N
-DALTON



The sundance coach

By Drew Aggus, Photo Wil Abeling

Sundance (Sunny) Wicks has one of the most unique names on campus. To go right along with it, Wicks, the men's basketball coach, also has one of the most unique personalities on campus.

With a name as uncommon as Sundance, one may think that his parents did it for a very particular reason. Instead, he claims it comes from a combination of numerous things, including Sundance Sparkling Fruit Juice, Robert Redford's role of "The Sundance Kid," nearby Sundance Mountain and neighboring Sundance, Wyoming, and even the fact that his dad's car had a sun painted on top of it, which he called "the Sundance mobile."

"I got picked on as a kid [for my name], but now, it's a cool talking point," Wicks said. "I always tell my parents that they need to come up with a better story for why they named me Sundance."

Wicks, a native of Gillette, Wyoming, played high school basketball under Wyoming high school's winningest basketball coach of all time, while playing against big-name players, such as Jamal Crawford. Subsequently, he played college basketball at Division-II Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Following his exceptional career there, he played professional basketball in Sweden's top basketball league for a year.

Wicks described himself as a "junkyard dog" during his playing days.

"I shot threes, rebounded and played really hard," Wicks said. "You couldn't slide a cardboard pizza box under my feet when I took a jump shot, so I wasn't extremely athletic, but I thought I played the game the right way. I respected it, and I played really, really hard every single possession."

One of Wicks' bigger attributes, as a coach, is his ability to help players develop their game, but Wicks remains very humble in this regard.

"I can push them, and I can help them find a different, better, or more efficient way to do something, but the guys who make themselves great have something special inside of them," Wicks said. "I always say that I've never made a player great, because at the end of the day, they made the choice to come in to the gym every single day."

Wicks has helped many big-name players develop their games. This includes basketball stars like Kawhi Leonard, Isaiah Thomas, Marvin Bagley III and Xavier Silas, who recently made his NBA debut.

"Those guys were so good already," Wicks said. "They push you so far out of your comfort zone, because you're trying to find ways to make them better."

Wicks enjoys coaching at Division II more than Division I, simply because of the "purity" of the game.

"I love Division II, because, not that it's impossible, but there's no pressure for a kid to go to the NBA," Wicks said. "You can still win championships, and a championship is a championship at any level."

Not only does Wicks aspire to be a large mentor in his players' lives, but he claims that all of his coaches played huge roles in his life. He can still name every coach he's ever had, dating all the way back to middle school, and he said that he has learned something from everybody who has coached him.

"I can learn something from anybody at any stage in time," Wicks said. "If you really are open to learning, it's insane to think about how many people can impact your life."

Sundance Wicks is a unique person, one who is well-liked all over campus. If Western's men's basketball team is as open to learning and remaining humble as Wicks is, the program has a Sunny future.

Kicks, Tricks, Assists





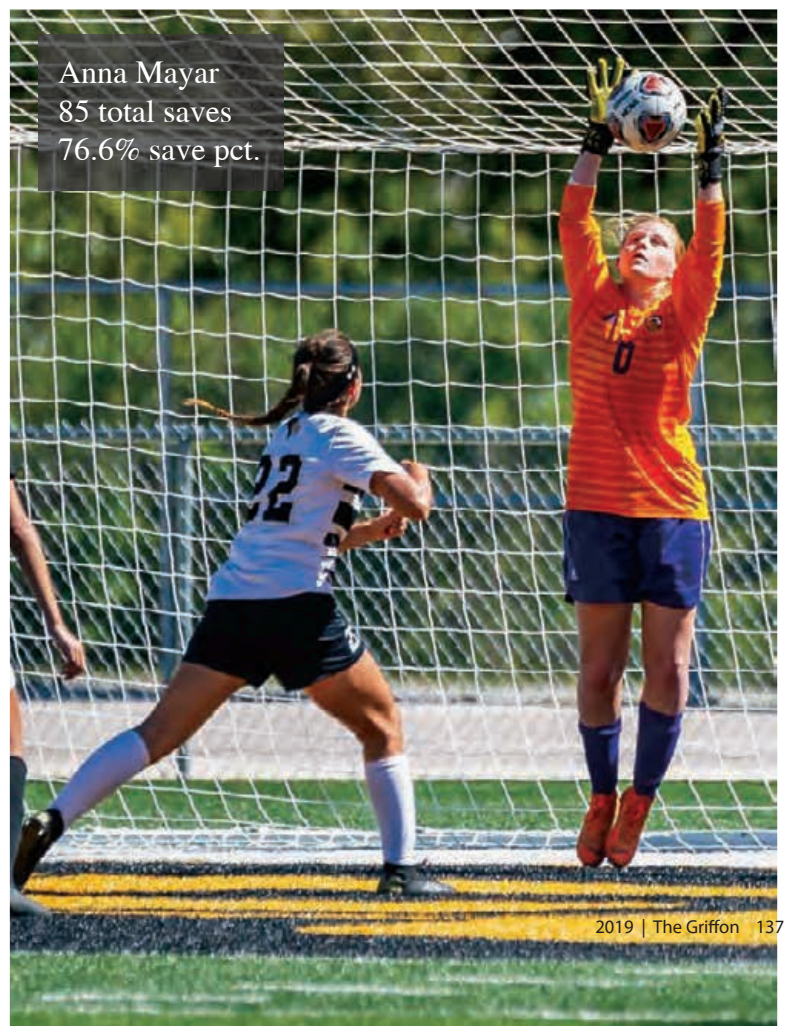
Cassidy Menke
11 goals, 4 assists

RESULTS

@ Ouachita Baptist	L (0-4)
@ Harding	W (2-1)
@ Augustana	L (0-1)
@ Sioux Falls (S.D.)	W (2-1)
@ Lindenwood	W (3-1)
@ Northwest Missouri State	W (4-0)
vs Central Missouri	W (1-0)
vs Lindenwood	L (0-1)
vs Emporia State	W (4-3)
vs Washburn	W (3-2)
@ Fort Hays State	L (1-2)
@ Nebraska Kearney	W (2-1)
@ Southwest Baptist	W (3-1)
@ Missouri Southern State	W (1-0)
vs Northeastern State	W (2-0)
vs Central Oklahoma	L (0-4)
vs Northwest Missouri State	W (1-0)
@ Central Missouri	L (0-4)
@ Fort Hays State (MIAA Championships)	L (0-3)



Photos John Ellis



Anna Mayar
85 total saves
76.6% save pct.



Photo Lance Lawton

Griff Up

AGENT BARRY LIVE UNITED
BOWL CHAMPIONS 2018





Photos John Ellis

FINAL

@ Northwest Missouri State	L (6-28)
vs Fort Hays State	W (23-13)
@ Central Missouri	L (14-51)
vs Northeastern State	W (66-16)
vs Washburn	W (38-7)
@ Missouri Southern State	W (33-10)
vs Central Oklahoma	L (16-17)
@ Emporia State	W (28-42)
vs Pittsburg State	L (14-34)
@ Nebraska Kearney	W (17-25)
vs Pittsburg State	L (14-34)



James Bailey Jr.
720 Yds
11 TD
58.8 Yds/G



Dom Marino
53.7 % Comp
1,817 Yds
9 TD



Anthony Williams
54 solo tackles
40 assisted tackles





SNYDER PAVILION

By Diane Holtz

In July, Missouri Western dedicated the Bill Snyder Pavilion in Spratt Memorial Stadium to honor the longtime Kansas State University head coach.

The pavilion was built and donated by Steven L. Craig, the benefactor for whom Craig Field and the Craig School of Business are named. It was Craig who proposed naming the pavilion for Snyder.

Craig said he wanted to honor Snyder, a native of St. Joseph who attended the St. Joseph Junior College (predecessor to Missouri Western), because the coach was responsible for the most remarkable turnaround in all of Division I.

In 1989, Snyder took over a struggling Kansas State program that had just become the first Division I program to lose 500 games and had gone winless in two consecutive seasons. In a short time, he turned the Wildcats into a national championship contender that advanced to 11 straight bowl appearances and tallied six 11-win seasons over a seven-year stretch. He retired in 2005, but returned to the Kansas State sidelines in 2009, adding his seventh 11-win season and second conference championship in 2012. Overall, his record stood at 210-110-1 at the end of the 2017 season.

“I am truly humbled,” Snyder said at the dedication ceremony July 12. “I know it’s what everyone says, but I mean it. The St. Joseph Junior College was truly the springboard and the foundation for the entirety of my undergraduate education and through my lifelong career.

Snyder said he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia his first semester of college, but came home to the junior college, which gave him a “re-start.”

“It opened doors for me to have the opportunities I’ve had. St. Joseph will always hold a special place in my heart, and Missouri Western likewise. I am so proud of this university.”

The pavilion, on the west end of Craig Field opposite the video scoreboard, features two different levels for hosting outdoor events and an 80-foot flagpole displaying a 30-foot by 20-foot American flag. The pavilion features a bronze plaque honoring Snyder, as well as a plaque to honor students and alumni who have served in the United States military.

“Several years before the video board (completed in 2016), I envisioned a grand gathering space on this hilltop,” Craig said at the dedication ceremony. He said the pavilion creates a “bookend” to the scoreboard.

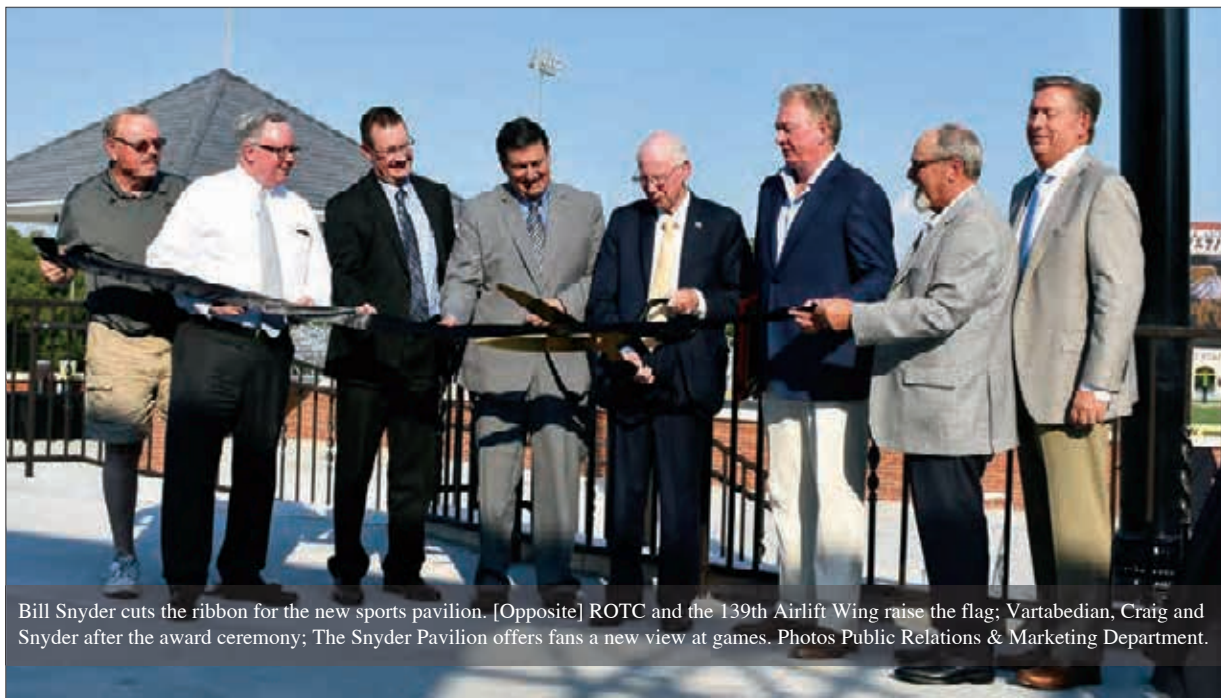
Snyder is the son of Marionetta Snyder and grandson of George and Marie Owens. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1958. After attending St. Joseph Junior College, Snyder received his bachelor’s degree from William Jewell in 1963. He earned his master’s from Eastern New Mexico in 1965.

Snyder is a member of eight Halls of Fame: the College Football Hall of Fame, Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, William Jewell Hall of Fame, Lafayette High School Hall of Fame, Austin College Athletic Hall of Fame, Holiday Bowl Hall of Fame and Kansas State Hall of Fame. He received Missouri Western’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

He has been active in many organizations and has returned to St. Joseph many times for fundraisers and events supporting education and the YMCA.

“Coach Snyder has never forgotten his humble beginnings or his hometown, and he has continued to give back to this community over and over again,” Craig said.

Snyder and his wife, Sharon, have two sons and three daughters. They also have eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Bill Snyder cuts the ribbon for the new sports pavilion. [Opposite] ROTC and the 139th Airlift Wing raise the flag; Vartabedian, Craig and Snyder after the award ceremony; The Snyder Pavilion offers fans a new view at games. Photos Public Relations & Marketing Department.



Hole In One



TEAM STATS

10 Tournaments

314.48 Avg. Score

+27.24 Versus Par

+27.28 Adjusted

7 Top-5 Finishes





Shi Qing Ong

2015-2016

- MIAA Freshman of the Year
- First Team All-MIAA
- WGCA All-Central Region
- 34th at NCAA Division II National Championships

2016-2017

- MIAA Scholar-Athlete Award
- First Team All-MIAA
- WGCA All-Central Region
- Won five tournaments

2017-2018

- MIAA Women's Golfer of the Year
- MIAA Scholar-Athlete Award
- First Team All-MIAA
- Tournament winner at MIAA Championships
- Won three tournaments

2018-2019

- MIAA Women's Golfer of the Year
- First Team All-MIAA
- Tournament winner at MIAA Championships
- WGCA All-Central Region
- Second Team WGCA All-American
- 19th at NCAA Division II National Championships

Photos John Ellis

Reaching The Green



Photos John Ellis





Lucas Horseman
75.70 Avg. Score
4.35 Versus Par
3.89 Adjusted



Patrick McCarthy
72.54 Avg. Score
1.23 Versus Par
1.02 Adjusted

TEAM STATS

10 Tournaments

296.85 Avg. Score

+11.62 Versus Par

+10.76 Adjusted

3 Top-5 Finishes



Bump, Set, Spike



15-17 Record



Photos John Ellis



Stephanie Doak
421 Kills



14 Rachel Losch
115 Blocks



Lauren Murphy
849 Assists



Cheerleaders: Front row seats to every game!

By Autumn West

Throwing teammates, yelling and getting audiences hyped up is a big part of what it means to be a cheerleader. However, to captain Arika Ziegler and flyer Sydney Cobb, cheer is more than that.

Ziegler, along with the rest of the Griffon Cheer Squad, practices twice a week, but during homecoming week, they practice three times a week. The squad works hard to perfect their cheers and stunts by game day every week.

Cobb has been cheerleading since she was six years old. In high school, Cobb didn't think she would continue doing cheer in college, because she was uncertain if she would be able to juggle school and cheer. But as graduation rolled around, she realized cheer was such a big part of her life and she wouldn't be able to avoid it in college.

"A big part of cheer is game days, which are really fun, but my favorite part is the homecoming routine that we have every year," Cobb said.

Between practice, game days, school and work, the cheer squad still finds the time to bond. Every summer, the squad goes to a Royals game, and this summer, they worked at a Kenny Chesney concert.

While the squad works hard to hype up the fans,

the fans hype up not only the football players but also the cheerleaders.

Ziegler talked to parents who have attended football games specifically so that their kids could watch the cheerleaders.

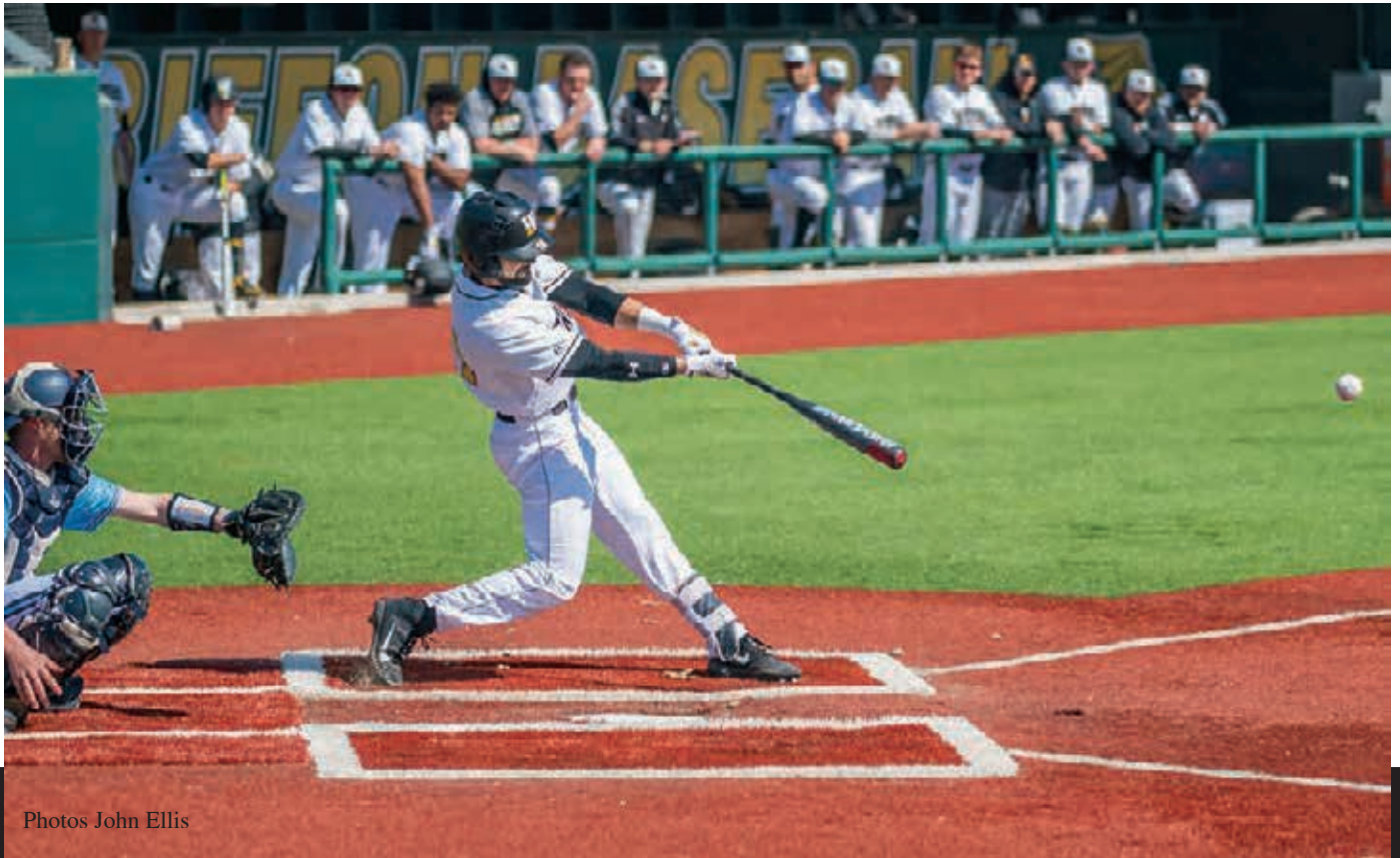
"It does make me feel pretty good when a little girl runs up and says, 'Oh my gosh, I love you! I want to be like you,'" Ziegler said.

The Griffon cheerleaders work hard to balance school, work and cheer, but since the sport means so much to them, it's worth it.



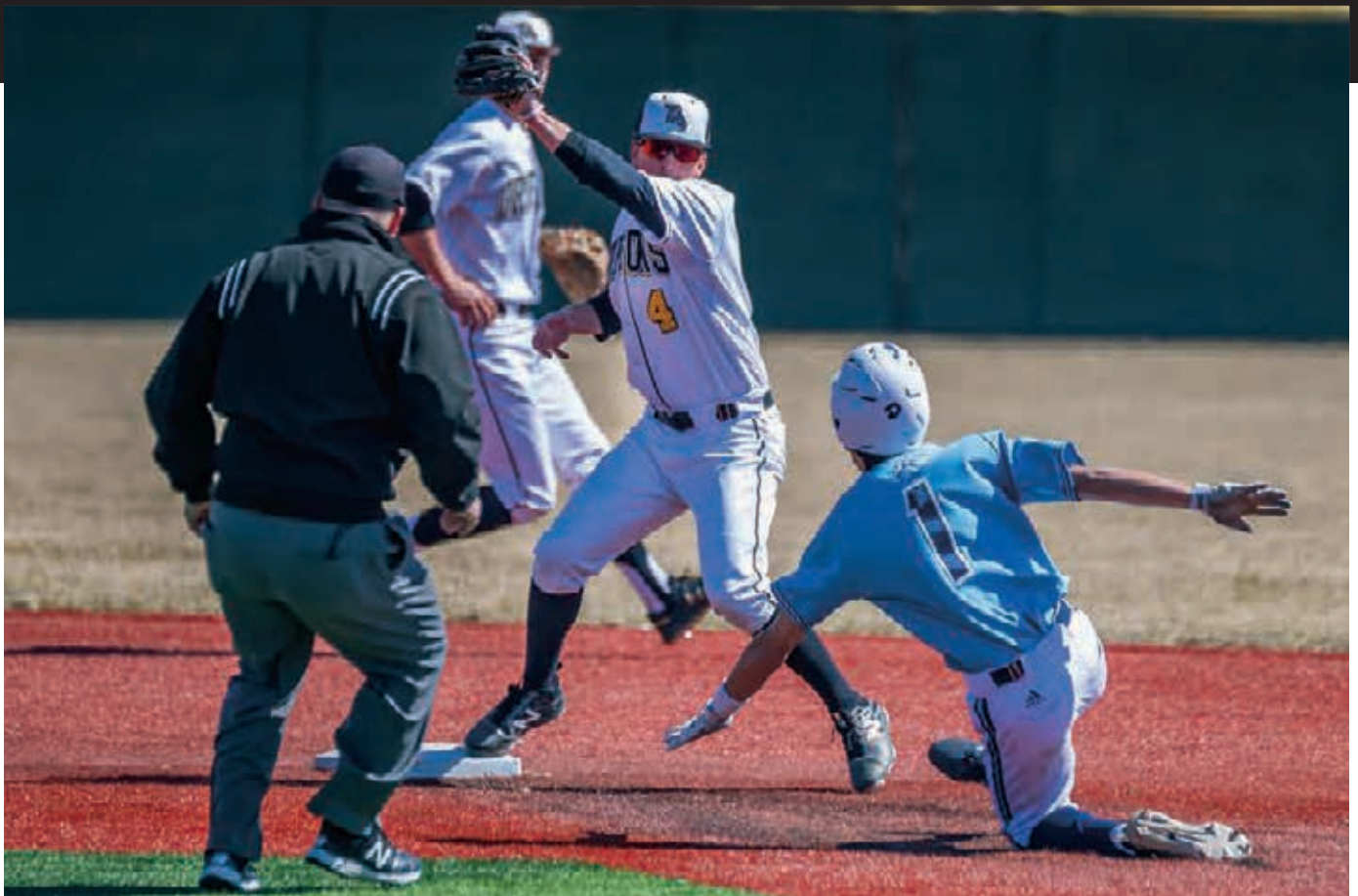


Photos Kaitlyn Doolan,
Lance Lawton and
Alicia Otto



Photos John Ellis

Swing, Batter, Batter





Casey Danley
.302 Avg.
38 RBI
12 HR



Anthony Castaneda
2.81 ERA
6-2 Record
3 CG



Dusty Stroup
.311 Avg.
35 RBI
6 HR

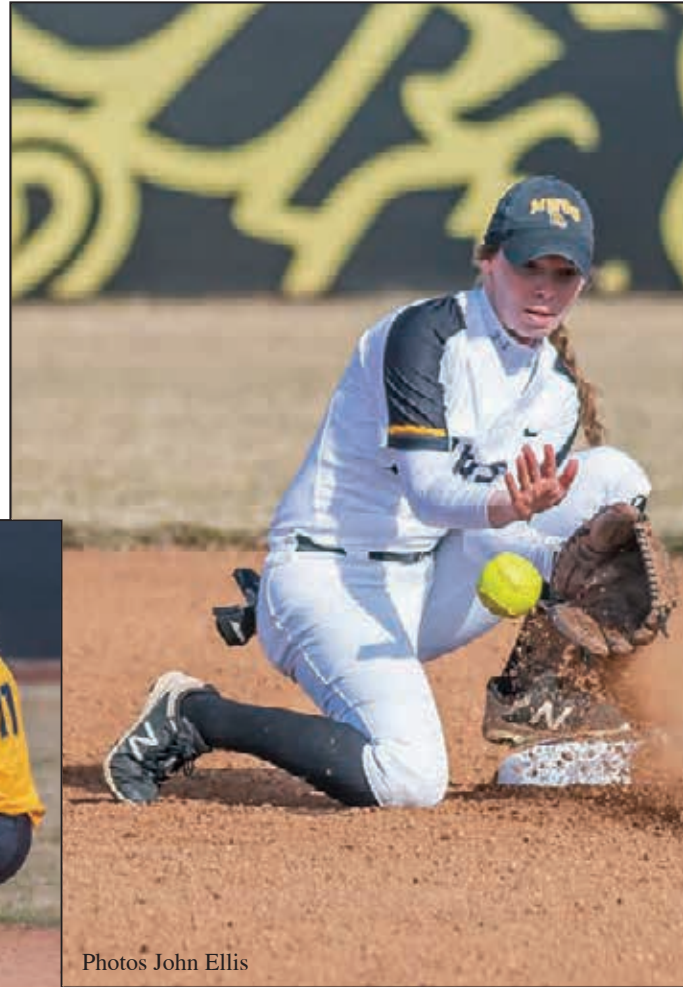
21-24
Overall

17-16
Conference

7-9
Home

9-11
Away

Catch, Swing, Slide



Photos John Ellis



Kaili Hinds
3.25 ERA
16-5 Record
11 CG



Brea Blanton
.377 Avg.
58 H
38 RBI



Morgan Frost
.393 Avg.
70 H
42 RBI

IN THE BAG

Congratulations to Head Coach Jen Bagley Trotter, who became the winningest softball coach in MIAA history when she conquered her 615th career win in a 1-0 victory against Winona State University on March 23, 2019.



38-18
Overall

21-5
Conference

14-3
Home

13-7
Away



MATCH POINT

Overall record
11-12

Conference
2-7

Region
0-3

Home
6-5

Away
2-6

Neutral
3-1

vs National ranked
0-2

vs Regional ranked
0-3





Photos John Ellis



BEHIND *The* TEAM



By Beau Baker

Being an athletic trainer has many perks, and some of them stretch beyond just the things the average person sees. An athletic trainer's job consists of many things such as treating injuries, stretching athletes, making sure athletes are hydrated, helping them when they are sick and being there for comfort and moral support. Relationships are a big part of being an athletic trainer, and women's basketball trainer Rachel Petty believes that is the best part about her job.

"It's so rewarding to get to know a student-athlete as a person," Petty said. "When you get close to a student-athlete and build a relationship with them, it's so much easier to care for them as not only an athlete but as a person, as well."

The typical day of an athletic trainer usually starts at around 7:30 a.m., but some days can start as early as 5 a.m. for the trainers whose teams wish to practice in the morning. The day will usually end at about 7 p.m. with the last practice of the night finally wrapping up.

Blaise Kriley, the head athletic trainer of Western athletics, is all too familiar with the daily schedule.

In the mornings, athletic trainers focus on treatment and rehab, which usually take longer than 20 minutes. After lunch, athletes will come in the training room for pre-practice things such as modality usage and heat.

Even though the biggest part of an athletic trainer's job is to take care of injuries, they wish that players didn't get hurt. It takes patience and sympathy to deal with an athlete being hurt

and letting them know that even though they want to compete, they are not physical ready. According to Devon Schmitz, the athletic trainer of track, cross country and tennis, you have to be ready for the different reactions an athlete can have to injuries.

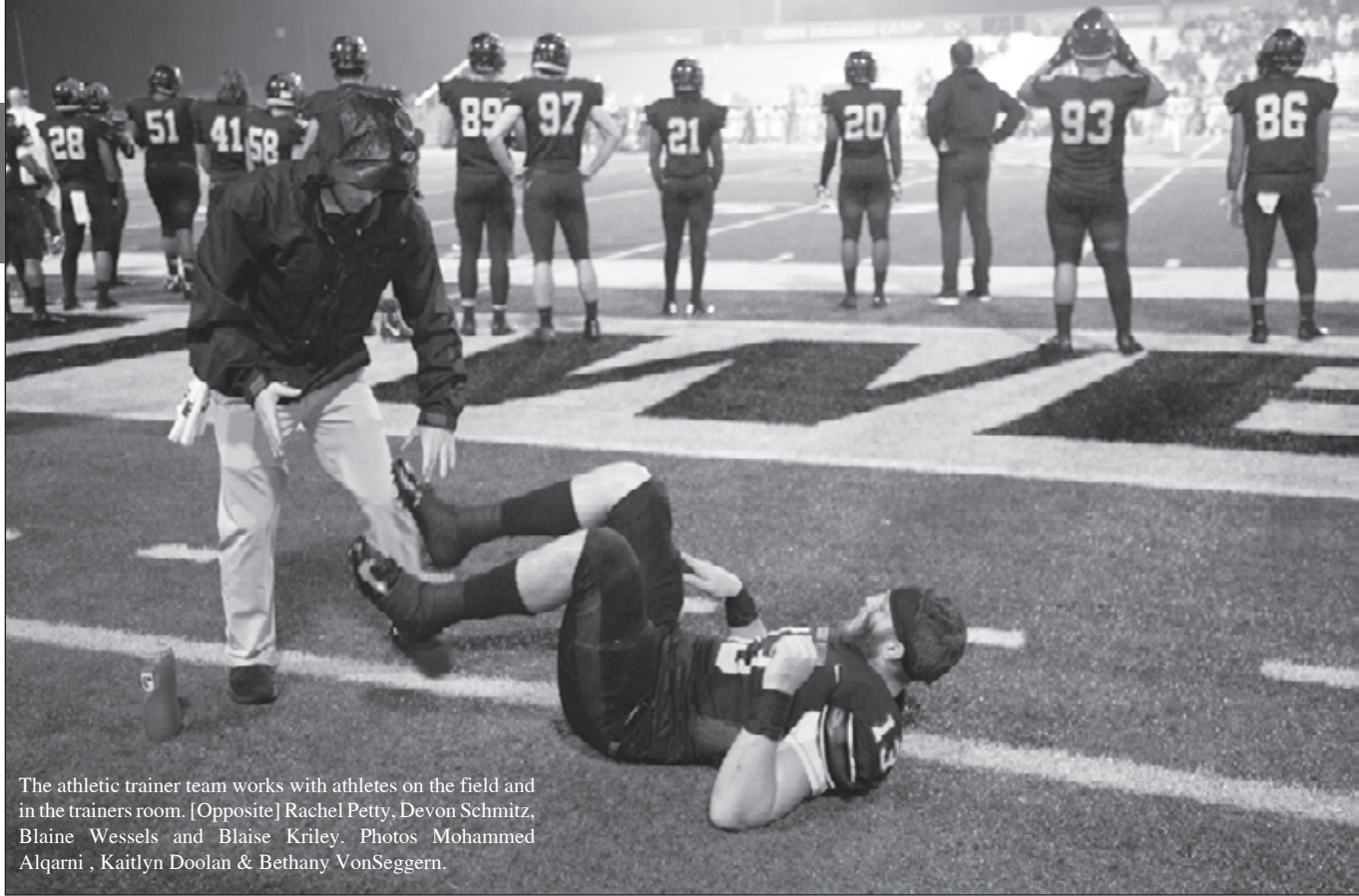
"There are so many different people that come from so many different backgrounds, that you have to be able to adjust to whom you are talking to," Schmitz said. "You have to be able to think on your feet, because you never know what is going to happen."

Some of our athletic trainers may never have chosen their career path if they had never gotten hurt while playing sports in high school. Petty, Kriley and Blaine Wessels, who is the main athletic trainer for men's basketball, are amongst those athletic trainers who had serious injuries in high school.

Wessels didn't have an athletic trainer at his high school. He suffered a broken arm, and all they did to treat it was give him some ice. Two weeks later, he tore his MCL.

"Nobody was there; nobody knew what they were doing, so that's why I chose to become an athletic trainer," Wessels said.

Petty suffered a severe ankle injury in high school, and she also didn't have an athletic trainer at her high school. She tried to come back after a couple of weeks of rest but the rest time still wasn't good enough. Petty believed that athletic training suited her because she wanted to make sure future athletes got the treatment she never received.



The athletic trainer team works with athletes on the field and in the trainers room. [Opposite] Rachel Petty, Devon Schmitz, Blaine Wessels and Blaise Kriley. Photos Mohammed Alqami , Kaitlyn Doolan & Bethany VonSeggern.



“ When you get close to a student-athlete and build a relationship with them, it’s so much easier to care for them as not only an athlete but as a person as well.”

- Rachel Petty



Run, Griffs, Run



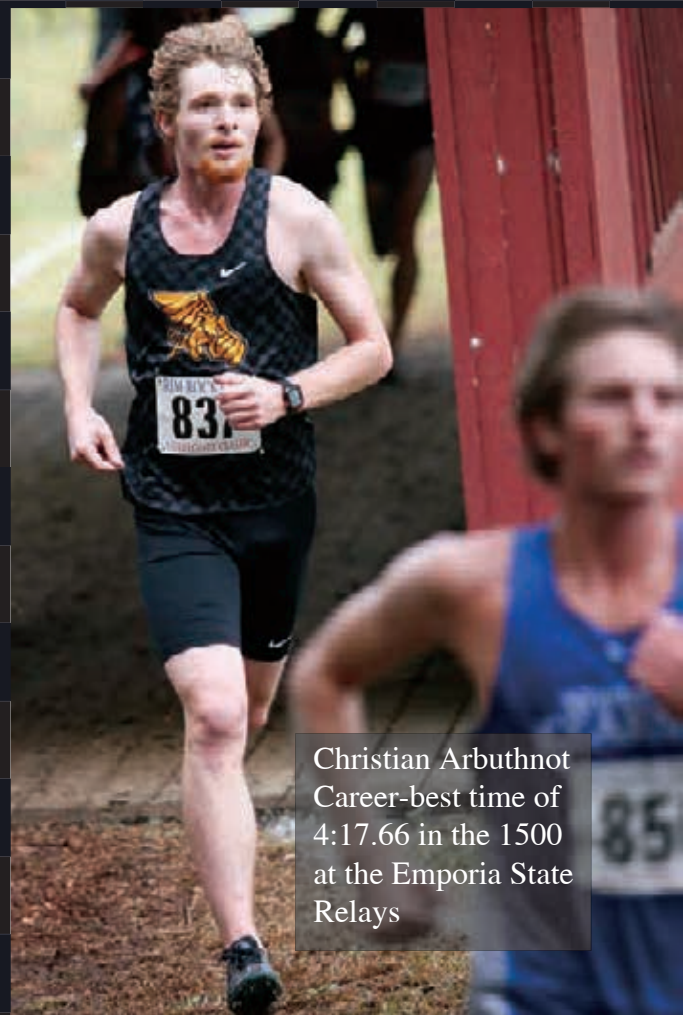
Men's

Griffon Open	1st (7K)
Missouri Southern Stampede	23rd (8K)
Rim Rock Collegiate Classic	10th (8K)
ESU Invitational	5th (8K)
Central Missouri Mule Run	6th (8K)
MIAA Championships	11th (8K)

Women's

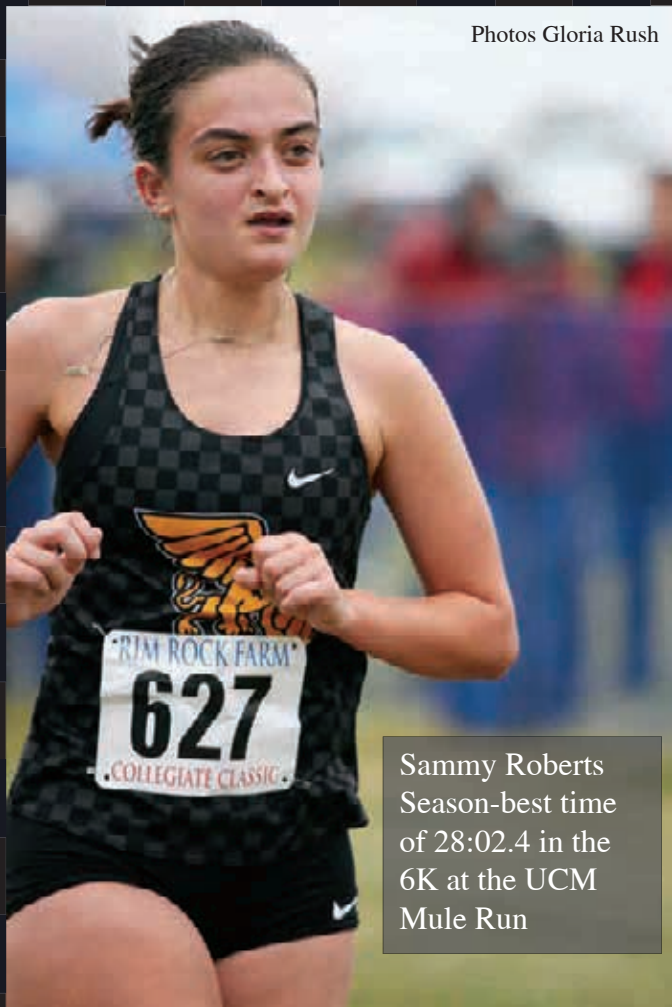
Griffon Open	1st (5K)
Missouri Southern Stampede	18th (5K)
Rim Rock Collegiate Classic	8th (6K)
ESU Invitational	3rd (5K)
Central Missouri Mule Run	6th (6K)
MIAA Championships	8th (6K)





Christian Arbuthnot
Career-best time of
4:17.66 in the 1500
at the Emporia State
Relays

Photos Gloria Rush



Sammy Roberts
Season-best time of
28:02.4 in the
6K at the UCM
Mule Run





Photos John Ellis



Run Jump Throw





Hanna Williams Second Griffon ever to qualify for NCAA Division II National Championships



GRIFFON ORGANIZATIONS



Photos Shelby Berkemeier, Alicia Otto, Trasean Stepney, Lauren Stuck, Chandra Traxler, Bethany VonSeggern, Sourced





Active Minds



The Active Minds organization at Western is seeking new members by opening their doors to any Griffon in need and offering peer support meetings. Active Minds is a mental support organization that offers peer support for students trying to balance a busy schedule, as well as a busy mind.

The organization, which first started off as a group-therapy project for a social work class, was developed last semester. The Active Minds organization offers a unique service - peers with similar struggles lending an ear and offering constructive feedback-compared to Western's Counseling Center, which offers support exclusively from administrators.

Vice President Kati Wertz stated, "We want [students] to start talking to each other, and getting the help they need". Active Minds hopes to be viewed as a separate yet cooperative entity to the Counseling Center.

Though Active Minds has room to grow, the founders know this is the start of an advantageous organization that will help many students open up and possibly overcome common mental health struggles.

Alchemist Club



Alpha Gamma Delta



Alpha Phi Omega

Front Row: Kennedy Brock, Abby Sexton, Rachel Segbawu, Mycah Williams, Jamie Tolia, Lexie Bryson
Second Row: Autumn Moore, Cole Kurcaz, Amanda Schroeder, Allyson Bryson, Nick Todd, Lindsay Mosher, Harry Dunn, Megan Hanley, Libby Denny, Jonathan Bogart, Sarah Acuff, Abby Wolff, Aric Gray, Elizabeth Adams
Third Row: Benton Balley, Nathan Gonder, Angel Edwards, Bonnie Bouc, Ben Smith, Derek Drury





Alpha Sigma Alpha

Front Row: Kelsy Sparks, Hannah Miller, Jordan Guffey, Sarah Goslee, Sara Watson, Gill Armfield, Mackenzie Craven, Mikaela Vail, Jazmyn Weston, Marissa Wiederholt

Second Row: Lilly Young, Mickayla Fenimore, Lacey Hawkins, Hollie Yurkovich, Sammy Ogdahl, Lydia Reynolds, Isabel Lima, Avery Borron, Hailie Lewis, Halyn Gillette, Sam Feaker, Darby Webb, Chloe Simmons, Savannah Sanai, Tiffany Mabery, Kenzie Blystone

Third Row: Jenna Sorensen, Madisun Conard, Crystal Enciso, Mandy Curran, Faith LaForge, Ashlee Topping, Mason Peynado, Brooke Baird, Ashley Hill, Kaylea Frye, Hallie Wilcoxson, Tessa Schenkelberg, Karissa Lovekamp, Morgan Barnett, Emily Griffin, Sam Bullock, Antanette Ray

Fourth Row: Abbi Lueders, Kairstin Snyder, Frankie Lemar, Sadie Wuerfele, Mallory Gonzalez, Maggie Palmer, Nayeli Romo, Cheyanne Kitchen, Medeya Granado, Abbie Herman; Not pictured Elaina Jones



Art History Club

Liz Whitehorn, Sheridan Mounce, Alexis Carr, Dr. Rislow (Advisor), Madison Mckinley, Ally Ockenfels, Acacia Richardson, Chole Oyler

Baptist Student Union



First Row: Josh Taylor, Annabelle Brooks, Grace Kappler, Morganne Sweat, Delaney Jorgenson, Tori Vaughn, Jaren Fjellman, Ecy Bullock, Tayler Myers, Bree Barnett, Sydney Orton, Lindsey Davis,
Second Row: Adam Le, Abby White, Kaitlyn Barnett, Hayley Bothun, Christine Koterman, Caitlyn Glenn, Sarah Williams, Rachel Bertram, Kaitlynn Krambeer, Abbi Brown, Abigail (Abby) Rinehart, Maddie Lee, Taylor Orton, Michael Adams
Third Row: Paul Damery, Sammy Duong, Josiah Moore, Anthony Wallick, McKenzie Redington, Kadie Willis, Maelea Coulson, Jessie Wright, Emma Testorff, Katherine Moore, Corbin Menke, Brennan Weed, April Adams, Aaron Green, Marcus Triplett, Praise Murphy, Miranda Durr
Fourth Row: Zach Maggart, Ian Matlack, Hagen Kimsey, Robert (Robbie) Kaufman, Landon Worstell, Isaac Whitman, Calvin Tabor, Brady Worstell, Adam Woodrum, Brad McClintick, Alex Davis, Andrew Schallert; Photo Marcus Triplett



Beta
Beta
Beta

Front Row: Kaitlyn Warden, Gaby Lammoglia, Savannah Lewis, Audrey Lindsteadt, Esther Par, Amanda Sims, Mallori Berry
Second Row: Laney Hayward, Jereme Nute, Jacob Wagner, Dr. Mark Mills



Bowling Club

Jacob Dec, Dakota Kessler, Dalton Cook, Carson Field, Isaiah Mackley-Boone,
Austin Holmes, Kris Neill



Catholic Newman Center

Front Row: Kimberly Green, Isabelle Malita, Elizabeth Huey, Francielie Quinn, Brianna Wieberg, Alyssa Gossen, Kimber Cordova, Katie Joe, and Sarah Aberer.

Second Row: Leeds and Claire Haroldson and children (Director), Kalie Massman, Megan Jensen, Olivia Goodale, Kaleb Wagner, Matthew Ball, Donald Kandlbinder, Sean Peters, Patrick Trapp, Duncan Ottinger, Nicholas Kempf, Fr. Joshua Barlett (Chaplin), Cheyenne Dewey, Dr. Justin and Sarah Kraft (Faculty Advisor), and Dr. Jason Costanzo



Chamber Singers

Front Row: Kennedy Brock, Maddie Dryer, Jasmine Poplin, Morgan Larrison, Sarah Stella, Praise Murphy, Jules McCarroll
Second Row: Dalyn Le Grand, Dallas Garber, Jennifer Cobb, Samantha Feaker, Bonnie Bouc, Mashel Keplinger, Lexie Bryson
Third Row: Matthew Bobela, Adarius Wells, Brandon Birch, Robert Vardiman, Dylan Walker, Joshua Goble, Luke Armstrong
Fourth Row: Grant Poage, Jackson Connors, Garrett Peterson, Jalen Redmond, Nicholas Gnuschke, Jack Pearson, Cooper Bald



Chess Club



Christian Campus Fellowship

First Row: Julia Beier, Anna Randleman, Lex Randleman
Second Row: Leci Randleman, Chase Ford, Caleb Kelley, Rikky Hunt, Rick Randleman
Third Row: Austin Prince, Greyson Trueblood, Madison Adams, Jillian Rumpf
Fourth Row: McCabe Davis, Isaac Sykes, Abigail Strokes, Hunter Scaggs,

Communication Club

Front Row: Chyanne Curtis, Bethany Vonseggern, Madison Rounkles
Back Row: Kori Medsker, Chandra Traxler, Maria Selby, Jordan Atkinson





Computer Science Club

Spencer Frazier, Jacob Blessing, Cecilia Tackett, Trey Scarborough, Antonio Cristobal, Byran Emery, Steven Prine

Creative Writing Club



Front Row: Shaya Force, Brooklyn Lance

Second Row: Huey, Brenda Martin, Matthew Ball, Connor Lindsay, Dr. Marianne Kunkel
Not Pictured: Jillian Whitehead

Griffon Film Society

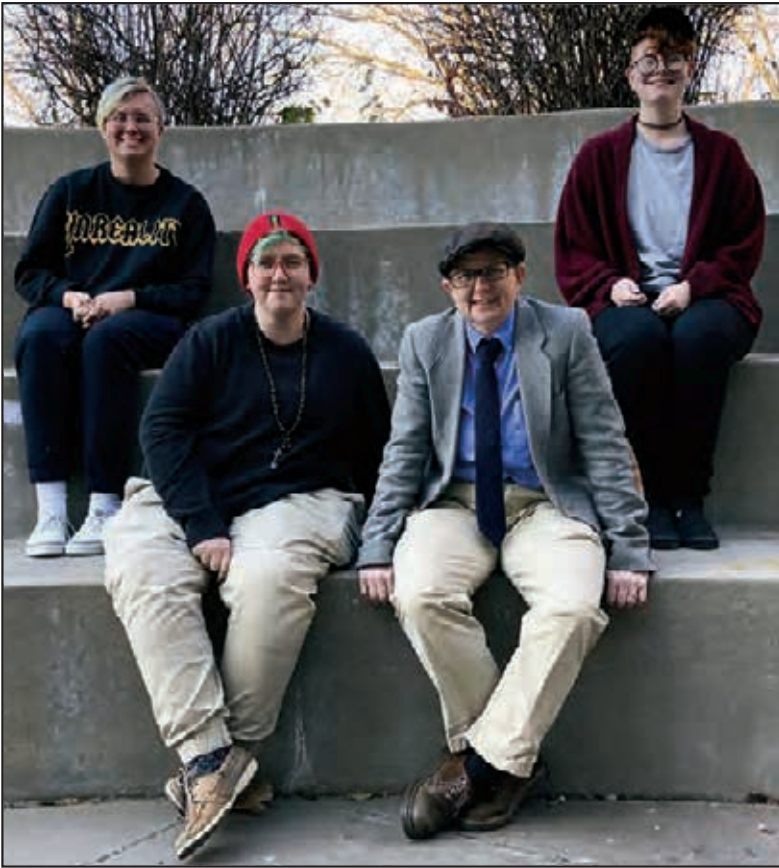


Front Row: Angel Edwards, Nathan Gonder, Andy Coutts,
Second Row: Kennedy Brock, Allyson Bryson, Josh Pearson, Abby Wolff, Sarah Acuff, Danielle Bauman, Jacob Loftin
Third Row: Ben Smith, Andrew Oeth, Dalyn LeGrand, Benton Bally, Jozua Bennie, Brendan Carney
Fourth Row: James Theriac, Charles Whitmill, Harry Dunn, Frank Wyatt, Noah Bollow

Griffon News

Front Row: Chandra Traxler, Brett Howery, Zoe Jones
Second Row: Devored Horton, Danyelle Myers, Tanner Cobb, Christopher Tenpenny, Rose Cadden, Rachel Bertram, Patricia Milfort, Jalen Pauley, Jasmin Puente
Third Row: Kenneth Guzman, Caleb May
Fourth Row: Jacob Hudanick
 Not Pictured: Gannon Cornley II, Miles Kilgore, Bob Bergland





Griffon Trans Alliance

Samuel Cherry, Leo
Grantham, Dr. Linda Oakleaf,
Ryan Handley
Not Pictured: Christian Sarna



Griffon Update

Front Row: Jessica Stallard, Mackenzie
Boos, Bailey Ketcham, Jake Meikel
Second Row: Beau Baker, Sydney Durbin,
Tanner Cobb, Christian Sarna



Indian & Nepali Student Association

P. Hemasagar, Mujahed Mohammed, Sauhith Chinta, Srinitha Mandadi, Oveya Durairasan, Khaja Moinuddin Syed, Pujan Tripathi, Akshay Kumar Minare

Missouri Western Dance Company



Front Row: Danielle Nave, Jerneisha Cooper, Lloyd Evans, Jashira Bolden, Cameron Price, Briana Reed, Ariana Reed, Trase-an Stepney, Mya Riley, Jordan Alford, Ember McCauley, Al'Eysha Byrd, Jason Holliman, Diamond Carroll, Kyra Smith-Jones, Jayde Doporto, Martel Stewart, Aliya Ali, Kelby Robinson-Willson

Second Row: Daraja Scott-Pollard, Arianna Davis-Williams, Myranda Swearingen, Chanice Essex-Clark, Stephanie Charles, Paige Crockett, Nyachang Duoth

Not Pictured: Chaniya Alioth, Brittany Alsup, Alisse Myers, Austin Willis



Mochila Chat

Caitlin Dillon and Heather Daugherty;
Not Pictured: Justin Janorschke, Janae
Boykins, Dr. Bob Nulph



Mochila Review & Reach



National Association of Music Educators



National Society of Leadership & Success

Front Row: Savannah Lewis,
Nicole Mills

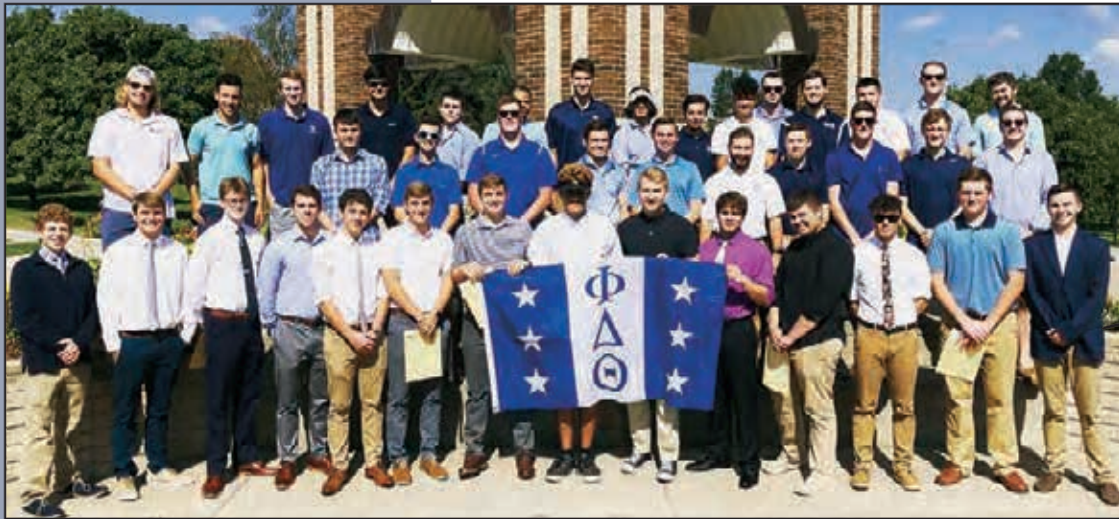
Second Row: Derek Evans,
Jeremy Peiter, Jakob Durham

Student Social Workers



Panhellenic

Alexie Davis, McKenzie Blystone, Annie Allgaier, Dakota Jones



Phi
Delta
Theta



Psi Chi

Dallace Hamel, Kaitlynn Rhinehart, Isaac Zenil, Roxana Perez Lara, Federica Salmaso, Oganya Sharon Agbaji, Teddi Deka, McCown Leggett, Sara Wyss, Lauryn Muir, and Karl Zubiri.

By Jake Meikel, Photo Chandra Traxler



Soccer Club

Kicking & Screaming



Society of Collegiate Journalists

Front Row: Lance Lawton, Beau Baker, Chandra Traxler, Drew Aggus

Second Row: Wil Abeling, Suhil Almazroua, Chase Merwin

Third Row: Dr. James Carviou, Bethany Vorseggern, Mohammed Alqarni

Think back to the days when a kid's first love was the sport of soccer. It's a sport where they first learn the importance of good sportsmanship, communication and most importantly, having fun. Time moves forward, and in the blink of an eye, they grow older and witness their last game ever; or so they think. A story like this isn't the end-all-be-all for a group of men at Western who make up the soccer club.

Soccer club is comprised of a bunch of guys who share the same passion for the sport and come together frequently to play since Western does not have a men's soccer program. Every fall, these men rally the troops against other universities for league play on weekends.

Frantz Sanon, a member of soccer club, personally feels his time with the team is heavily valued.

"I view soccer club as more than just a club; I view it as a brotherhood," Sanon said.

According to Sanon, It's considered the "champions league in the northwest." When he was a freshman in 2016, it was Engoma Fataki who had the noble idea of making the soccer club a competitive team that would compete against other universities.

"I wanted it to be more than just a pick-up-game team, and we started coming up with other games that we could play to the point where we play with other universities," Fataki said.

After four years, the men's soccer club has people buzzing. Other students welcome themselves to their open GISC practices to scrimmage with the team to help them prepare for their upcoming matches.

If one were to take a ride on the bus with the team, he would get exclusive access to the brotherhood. They travel on a bus together talking about their lives and listening to good music. The chemistry they are building undeniably and inevitably has them winning in more ways than one.



Student Honors Organization

First Row: Madelyn O'Connell, Megan Drannan, Hailee Fitzgerald, Mady Lytton, Madison Spath

Second Row: Kelly Oliphant, Raechel Tittor, Shelby Wisner, Maelea Coulson, Taylor Brewington, Paige Donnohue, Kaitlyn Lux, Ashlyn Voetberg, Sam Feaker, Jay Teer, Logan Cutler

Not Pictured: Leo Derr, Breanna Hancock, Shae Delancy, Mary Couture, Matthew Bobela



Wildlife Society

Back to Front: Ethan Hart, Robert Bremer, Madi Deshazo, Chase Thorne, Hager Kinsman, Nick Darling, Isaac Whitman, Anthony Rademann, Christ Watson, Nathan Barnett, Brian Lee, Cary D. Chevalier, Konner Larkin, Caitlin Glore, Matt Poolo, Guthie Ziebarth, Josiah Boothe, Samuel Miller, Marissa Gruetze, Jason Kusilek, Jack Deshon, Rhys Yarbrough, Sondi Hunter, Jackie Herron, Kaitlyn Atkins, Amanda Schroeder, Lex Hersh, Rose Priuett, Tyler Flowers, Stephanie Sedlock, Aaron I. Briscoe



Western Activity Council

Elijah Todd, Malik Shelton, Malik Bryant, Myia Kelly, Erin Richards, Nah Ryan Reed-Crawford

GRIFFON PORTRAITS



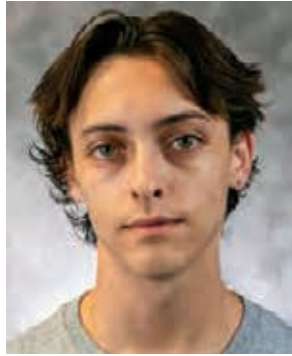
Photos Shelby Berkemeier, Malik Bryant, Kaitlyn Doolan, Paige Griffie, Myleigh Lanham, Chase Merwin, Alicia Otto, Chandra Traxler, Bethany VonSeggern, Sourced







Kenneth



Wil Abeling



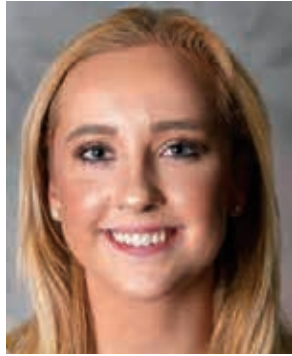
Seth Abels



April Adams



Eleanor Adams



Nicole Adams



Oganya Agbaji



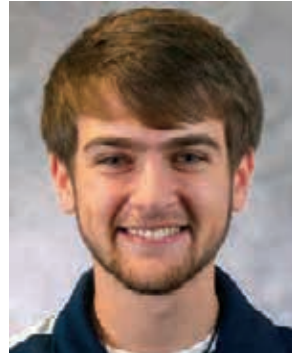
Drew Aggus



Phillip Agney



Angel Aguirre



Cade Alden



Aliya Ali



Mohammed Alkhatib



Monita Allen



Chaniya Alloth



Ibrahim Alqhtani



Mohammed Alqarni



Arianna Ames



Jean Anderson



Zach Anderson



Miya Andrews



Alex Angeles



Maggie Archer



Amberly Armstrong



Cheyenne Armstrong



Luke Armstrong



Mackenzie Arnold



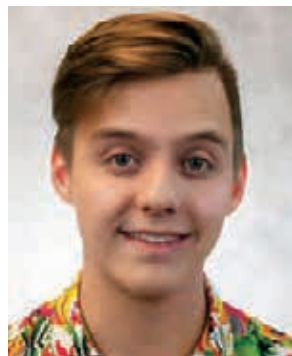
Mallory Ashworth



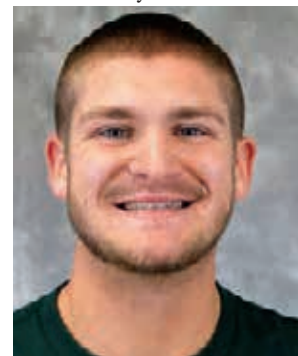
Andrew Axmacher



Abdul Aziz



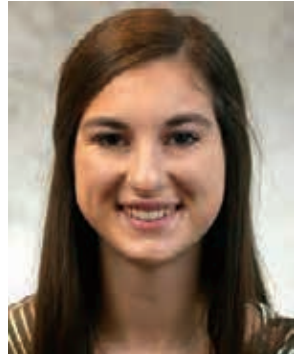
Ben Bally



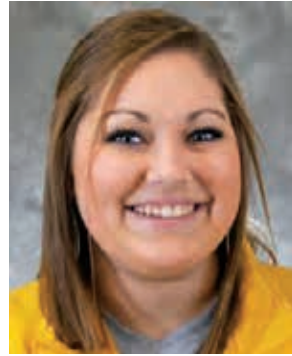
Alex Bangert



Evan Banks



Kaylee Banks



Breanna Barnett



Victoria Barrett



Jeffery Barry



Tiffani Bates



Judah Beasley



Mitchell Begley



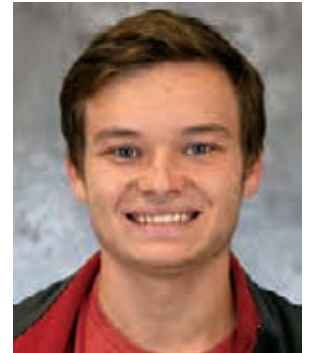
Julia Beier



Hayden Belgrave



Jayuise Benjamin



Jozua Bennie



Nathaniel Bentrup



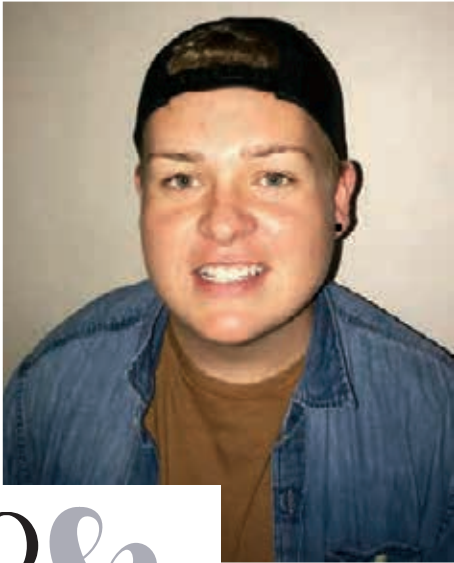
Nathan Bentz



Alexis Berger



Hannah Berry



Q&A

DYLAN BISHOP

Major: Business Management

Describe yourself in 3 words.

Happy, enjoyable and energetic.

Are you involved with activities on campus outside of academics?

Yeah, I'm actually on the cheer squad and I'm in this club called PBL. It's like the college level of FBLA.

What kind of stuff do you do with PBL?

We started last spring and only have six members at the moment so we're trying to recruit people and get them involved.

As a business major, what kind of a job would you get?

At some point I'd like to own my own business but I'm not really sure what type. I've been looking at the entrepreneurship class you can take when you're a senior; then it would be nice to compete and win my own franchise. Normally it's a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory that they grant someone and then you pay it back over the course of a couple years. You can also win Auntie Anne's or a Golden Corral, there's a list of opportunities.

Do you have a favorite professor?

Janette Holland and she teaches Principles of Macro and Micro economics.

Do you know of any other clubs that are for incoming business majors?

There is actually an economics club and professor Holland is the one in charge of it. There's also a professional fraternity you can join for business majors.

You said you're on the cheer team, what is the craziest game you've been to?

It was actually last fall at home against Northwest. The two mascots started having a play fight and all of a sudden the mascot from Northwest tackled Max the Griffon and then his head came off so all the fans saw. It was pretty crazy.



Mikayla Bertels



Rachel Bertram



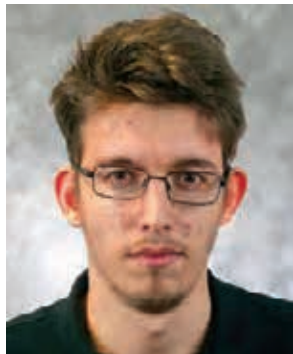
Brittany Beshears



Mackenzie Billings



Julia Bishop



Kenan Bjelevac



Reed Black



Davione Blaise



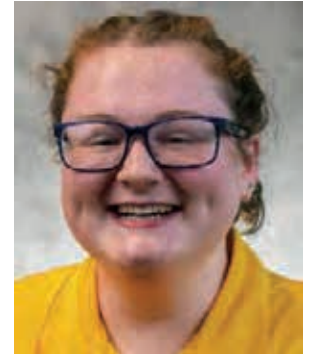
Celeste Blakely



Autumn Blanchard



Ava Blessie



Lydia Boatright



Matthew Bobela



Danell Bonam



Clayton Bosch
&
Andrew Richardson



Mazzie Boyd



Da'Von Boyd Jackson



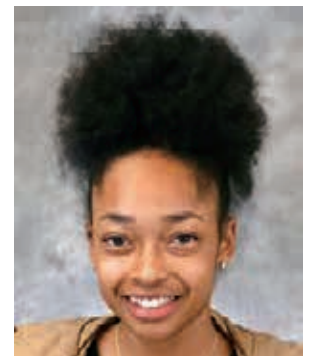
Robert Bremer



Annabelle Brooks



Alexa Brown



Aryial Brown



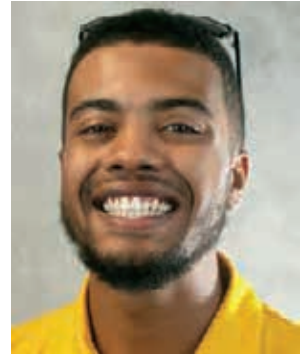
Destiny Brown



Serenity Brown



Grace Bryant



Malik Bryant



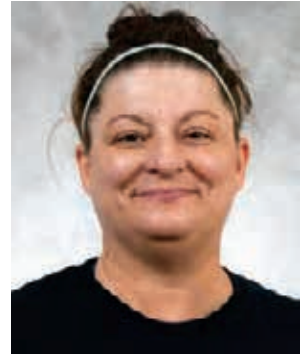
Alexandra Bryson



Jennifer Bufkin



Megan Bukosh



Mandy Burkett



Nylicia Burley



Alysha Burney



Ryley Burns



Terry Butter



Meghan Byous



Rose Cadden



Jack Callaghan



Destiny Cantrell



Ondrea Cardwell



Emily Carney



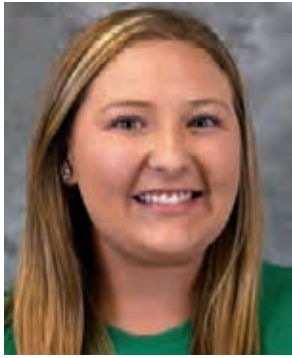
Austin Carter



Taylor Carter



Racquel Chambers



Kourtney Chaney



Stephanie Charles



Carissa Chatman



Jonathan Chittum



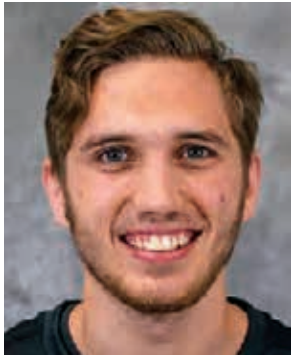
P.J. Churn



Brooklyn Clark



Carter Clark



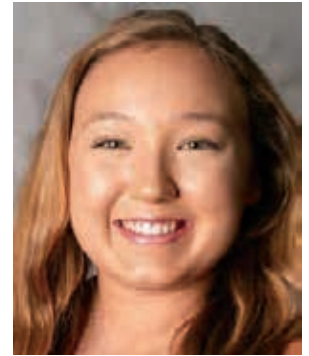
Tanner Cobb



Gabe Coello



Isaiah Colbert



Kierston Cook



Alexis Coon



Jerneisha Cooper



Kimber Cordova



Maelea Coulson



Kassidy Courter



Te'a Cowan



Erin Cox



Mackenzie Craven



Dori Creekmore



Emiley Cross



Devon Crowell



Kalon Crump



Michael Cullinane



Darius Cuzzo



Airik Davis



McCabe Davis



Q & A

KEYANNA DEBOSE

Major: Physical Therapy

Do you have time for a couple of questions?

Sure.

I stopped you because you look very cute today. I love those pants.

Ten dollars.

What brings you to the Walter Cronkite Memorial today?

Actually, I was passing through. I had to pick up a t-shirt that I won at the back to school fair [Western Warmup] that they gave on the first day.

What are you doing after you graduate?

Hopefully attend PT school. I'm filling out applications right now.

So you're going to be a doctor?

Yes.

Dr. DeBose?

Yeah, it has a ring to it.

So where do you come from?

I'm from Kansas City. I was originally born in California but military brat.

So what do you like best about Missouri Western?

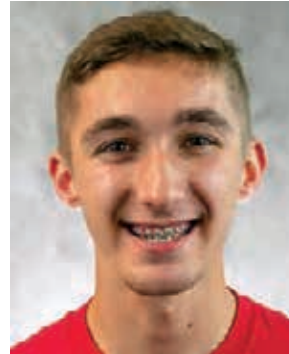
All the free stuff honestly. Free printing. Free entry to the games. Free hot dog and pop.

If you had one thing that you could only do every night for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Binge watch Grey's Anatomy.

McDreamy or McSteamy?

McDreamy.



Jacob Dec



Kailynn Denson



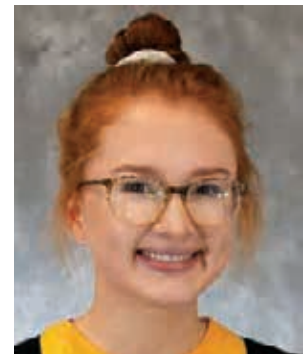
Kaitlyn Derr



Andrew Deth



Jasmine Dixon



Megan Drannan



Michael Duhn



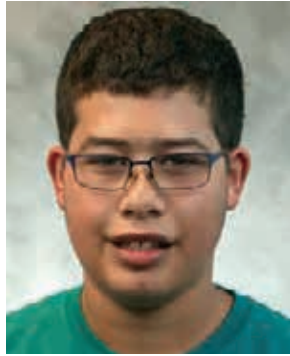
Rebecca Dunaway



Oveya Durai



Will Eames



Adam Ebrecht



Cam Edmonson



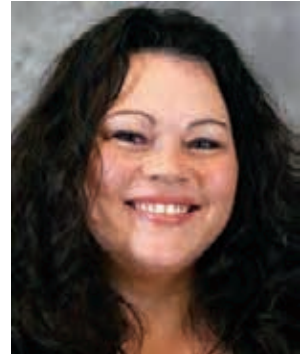
Leah Elisabeth



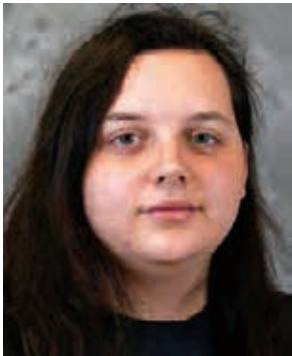
David Elksan



Rylee Ellis



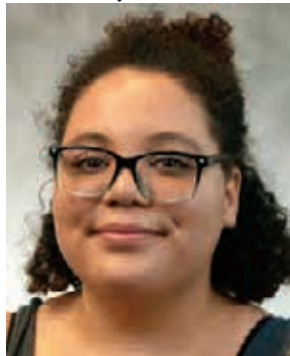
Shawnda Embrey



Dana Eplett



Brianna Erazo



Trishanna Espericueta



Kendra Estes



Lloyd Evans



Katie Farr



Engoma Fataki



Bobby Feller



Griffin Fisher



Ben Fiste



Ian Fletcher



Austin Foster



Allen Franken



Donald Franklin



Xavier Free



Kameron Freemyer



Meade Fry



Jay Fude



Erica Gahn



Alexis Gaines



Emily Gaines



Jordan Galietti



Ross Galler



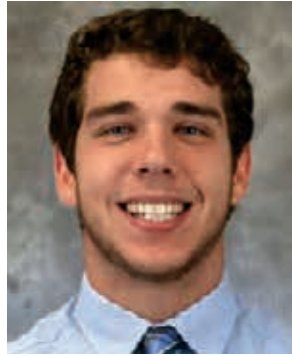
Lacey Galloway



Jalen Gant



Rheanna Gardner



Braden George



Mariah Gilgour



Shane Gill



Halyn Gillette



Joshua Goble



Carson Goerlitz



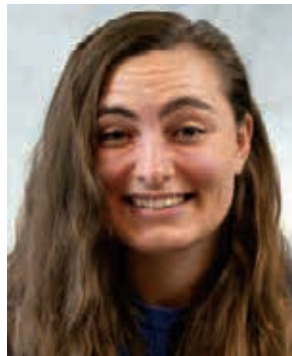
Lindsay Gomez
&
Bethany VonSeggern



Andrea Gordon



Mike Gott



Indigo Gaydusek



Maxwell Grace



Tayonnie Granberry



Aric Gray



Chandler Green



Paige Griffie



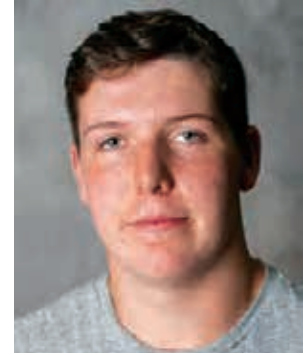
Devin Guerrero



Kenneth Guzman



Deandre Gwynn



Nathan Haggerty



Justin Hardin



Kelsey Hardwick



Logan Harlan



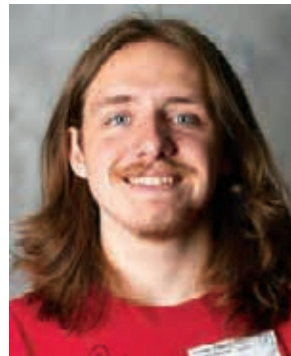
Dayne Harman



Arianna Harrell



James Harris



Trevor Harrold



Bobbie Haskins



Courtney Hazelwood



Jaime Heine



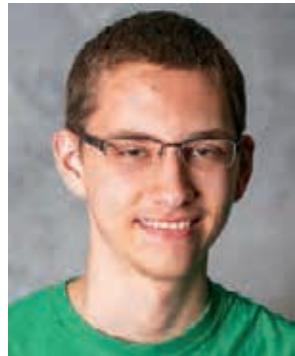
Madison Helm



Madie Helsel



Hayley Henderson



Ian Henggeler



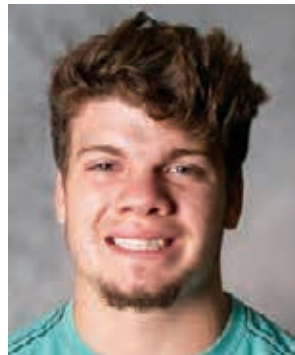
Gabriella Herrington



Kory Heustis



Oakland Hicks



Hunter Higgins



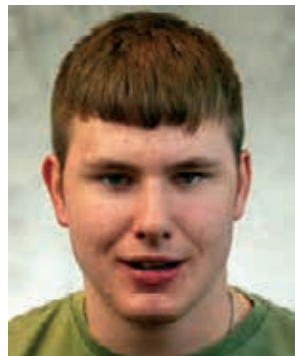
Andre Hill



Eisley Hinton



Jennifer Hitchcock



Lukas Holladay



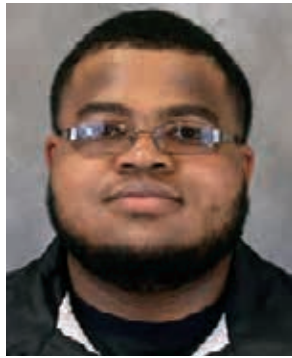
Evelyn Holtzclaw



Mike Honcho



Logan Hopper



Devored Horton



Brett Howery



Evie Huber Ramsey



Jacob Hudanick



Jennifer Hughes



Gabryelle Hummer



Sondi Hunter



Kiara Huskey



Michael Huynh Le



Shune Itarv



Garrett Jackson



Jasmine Jackson



Tyler Jadwin



Minjung Jang



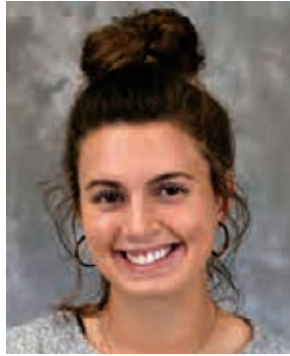
Jordan Jay Alford



Kylael Jefferies



Samantha Jeffers



Jordan Jennings



Elliott Johnson



Lakota Johnson



Elaina Jones



Quadray Jones



Zoe Jones



Sam Judah



Yolanda Kalenda



Cadence Kamler



King Kay



Myia Kelly



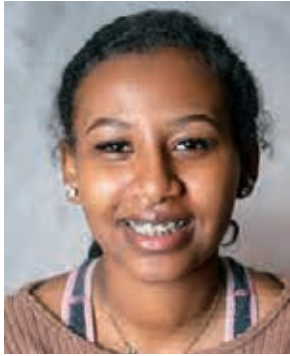
Nathan Kelly



Amy Keltch



Nicholas Kempf



Nabila Khalid



Aaron King



Brandon Kinney



Echo Kirkwood



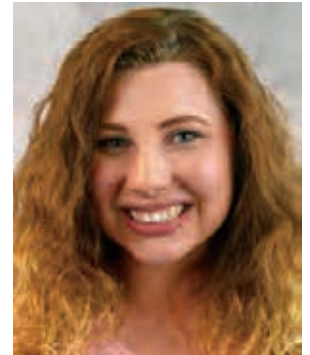
Sophia Kish



Kelsee Kissick



Emily Klundt



Makayla Koester Farner



Daniel Kremer



Nick Kruse



Annaleece Lackey



Kayleigh Lafaver



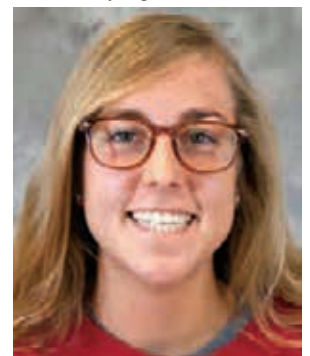
Daphne Latcher



Pablo Lax Ibanez



Christian Lee



Madelynn Lee



Sarah Lee



Hailie Lewis



Lindsey Lewis



Savannah Lewis



Austin Lewis Craig



Denitra Like



Mya Like



Daylan Lloyd



Jacob Loftin



Paul Lombardi



Angelica Lozano



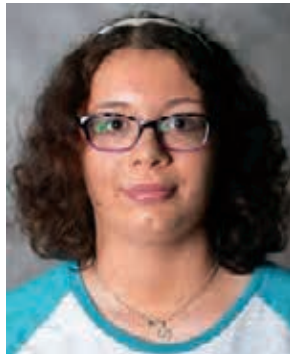
Kaitlyn Lux



Madyson Lytton



Bailey Mace



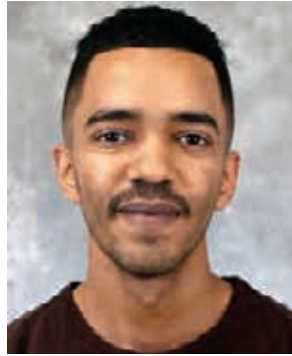
Cecilia Machon



Isaiah Mackley Boone



Izzy Malita



Aziz Mallawi



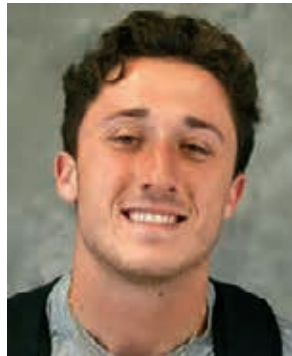
Madelyn Malotte



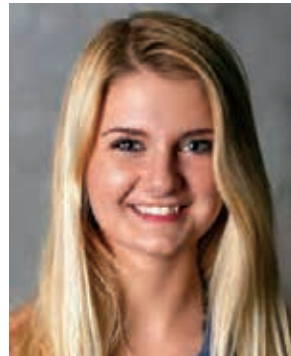
Srinitha Mandadi



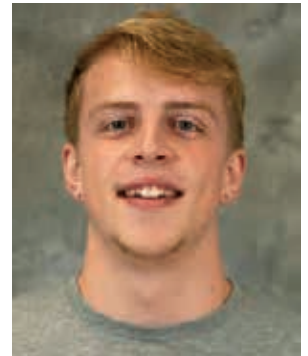
Fernando Manrro



Dom Marino



Madison Marshall



Alex Martin



Alyssa Martin



Tyree Martin



Kal El Martinez



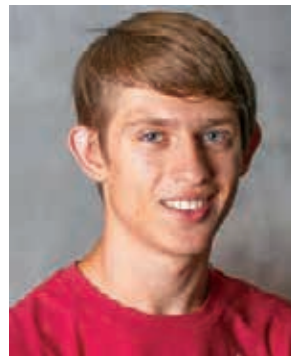
Ashley Mathis



Devin Mattoon



Katherine Mauricio



Nelson Maxey



Caleb May



Krystene McCamy



Ember McCauley



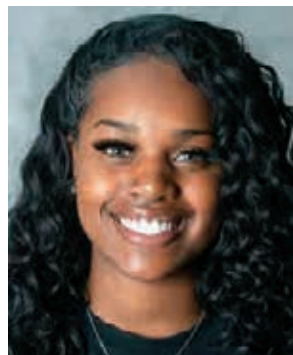
Tiffani McCay



Nazir McClain



Kelsey McCluskey



Deja McGhee



Jacob McKinney



Q&A

RILEY MCNEELY

Major: Electrical Engineering

Where did you come from?

Kearney, Missouri.

What brought you to St. Joe?

Firstly, my dad came here whenever he was in college and just that attracted me here. I, too, just enjoyed the campus. It's nice to get out, walk around.

Are you staying on campus?

Yes. Scanlon.

Are you curious as to which Chiefs stayed in your room?

No, not really. I've heard some of the horror stories and I'm better off not knowing.

So what do you do when you're not studying?

When I'm not studying? You actually commented on my notes and stuff - it's Dungeons & Dragons.

That's funny. So those aren't actually class books?

No.

Are the note cards actually for your Dungeons & Dragons?

A mix actually. Some of those are notes, some of those are notes for this. it's just a matter of sorting through later.

So you can balance both at the same time?

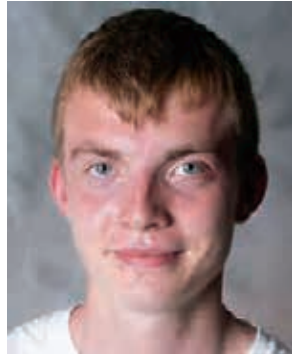
Oh yeah. It's just like a nice break in between studying. Jump over to this for about an hour and jump back in studying.

Does it help you refocus?

Definitely. It's just like hitting a reset button. Not necessarily losing all the information. But it just lets it sink in, settle and I can immediately go back in with a fresh outlook.



Rachel Mckeighan



Noah Mckinnon



Jake Meikel



Melly Mel



Tanner Merwin



Alexis Meyer



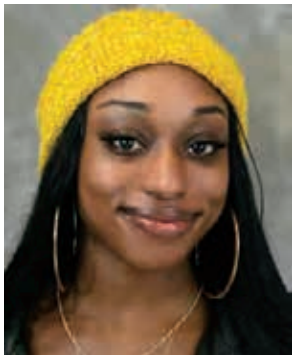
Tayler Meyers



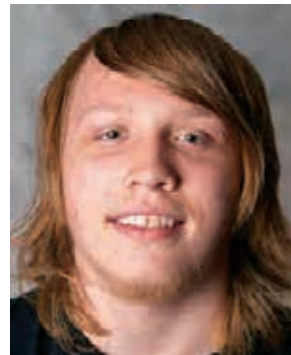
Ji Miguel



Jacob Mikesch



Patricia Milfort



Preston Millard



Hannah Miller



Kendall Miller



Lynzi Miller



Samuel Miller



Anna Milsap



Autumn Moore



Katherine Moore



Samantha Moore



Kaleb Morcha



Alex Morehead



Lindsay Mosher



Kayelee Mosiman



Matthew Mosky



Sara Mosley



Ben Murphy



Caleb Murphy



Hannah Murphy



Megan Murphy



Skyler Murphy



Danyelle Myers



Gabrielle Nabors



Jalen Nash



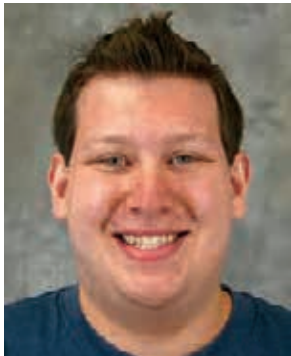
Danielle Nave



Derek Neupauer



Nalerie Nierman



Shawn Nitchman



Anika Nobs



Madelyn O'Connell



Johanna Ocallaghan



Hope Ogle



Kevin Orange



Halee Orr



Ashlen Ortiz



Kayla Ousley



Deshon Outley



Elizabeth Owens



Megan Parmer



Turner Parsons



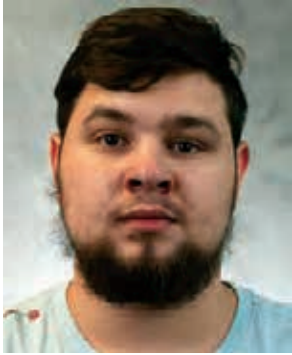
Caleb Patterson



Jack Pearson



Isaac Pennington



Dan Penrose



Gabe Penrose



Austin Peregrin



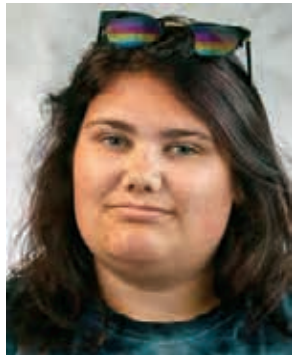
Jaylyn Perez



Gabriele Phillippe



Bayley Pickering



Carley Pike



Andrea Pinaire



Dahnavon Pippen



Caleb Pitcher



Joshua Pohl



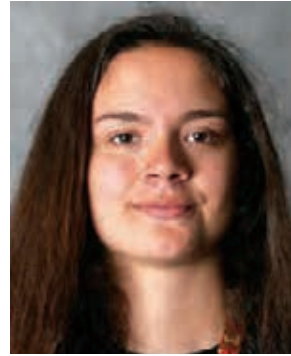
Caleb Poku



Daraja Pollard Scott



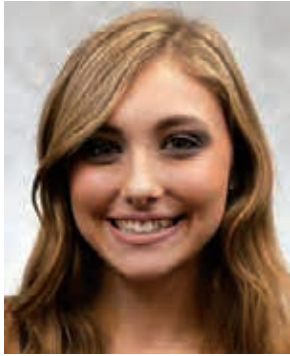
Claire Popp



Jasmine Porter



Logan Potts



Brittany Price



Cameron Price



Austin Prince



Jasmin Puente



Q&A

TYLER REED

Double Major: Marketing and Graphic Design

Why did you choose to come to Western?

I grew up in St. Joe and it's kind of just what I've known my whole life and also the tuition is relatively inexpensive compared to other colleges. So, I figured, stay in town, live at home, cut down on cost as much as possible and graduate with little to no debt.

What's the biggest adjustment you have to make moving from the summer to the school year?

Definitely waking up at the same time every single day. Because during the summer I just have a part-time job so my hours aren't regular so I just kind of wake up whenever during the mornings but just getting in that routine from summer into like a set routine getting things done in time.

Do you do any extracurricular activities outside of class?

No not really. Not through school anyway. I golf occasionally. I like to play Fortnite, but those aren't really extracurricular.

Are you in a fraternity or anything?

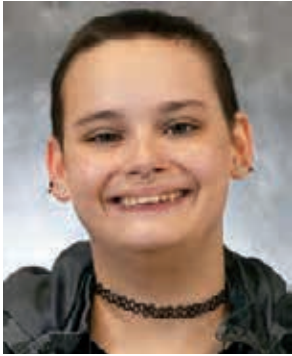
Yeah so I'm in Phi Delt and I joined about a year and a half ago.

What's the best part of being in Phi Delt?

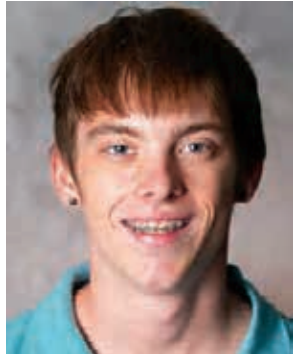
Having stuff to do I would say is the best part of being in a fraternity. Before I joined, I didn't really do a whole lot. Like I just went to class, went home and got my homework done. Hung out with friends like once every two weeks maybe. After I joined the fraternity I was a lot more involved around campus. We do community service stuff and we like to hang out, so it's got me a lot more involved definitely.

What do you plan on doing once you earn your degree?

Hopefully, do advertising for I don't know what company exactly. But, it would be cool to do like an athletic company. I don't know maybe a golf company or something doing advertising or promotion which would be like my main goal.



Michala Pulliam



Skyler Pummill



Tra Qualls



Aneshea Quarles



Kaitland Quimby



Emily Ramsey



Kennedy Ray Brock



Nah'Ryan Reed Crawford



Paulina Regalado



Gabriel Relaford



Zoie Reynolds



Alex Richardson



Abigail Rinehart



Zinnia Roach



Alise Robinson



Brianna Robinson Perry



Kelby Robinson Wilson



Kelsey Roe



Moriah Rogers



Jusson Roush



Kyra Rudel



Gabrielle Rumsey



Deon Russell



Hema Sagar



Daniel Salcedo



Erika Sandridge



Christian Sarna



Tessa Schenkelberg



Kaitlyn Schmile



Kendall Schubert



Taylor Schubert



Jeffrey Schultz



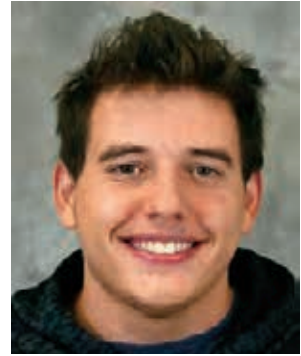
Nic Schultz



Taylor Schwartzkopf



Kinsey Scroggins



Jonathan Sculley



Stephanie Sedlock



Maria Selby



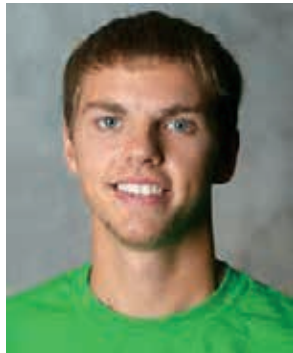
Trevor Sell



Maggie Sharp



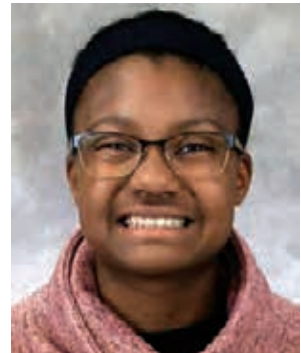
Sid Shelby



Jaron Shellenberger



Yesd Shin



Savannah Simmons



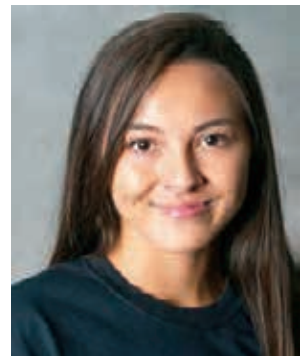
Ciara Simon



Courtney Simpson



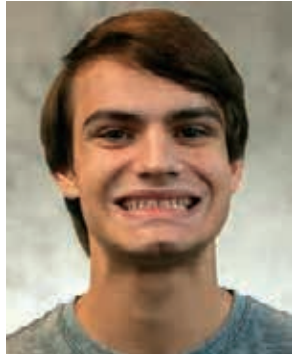
Jake Simpson



Heaven Singian



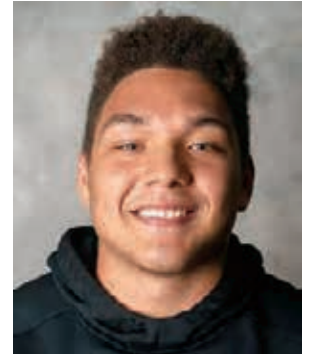
Brooke Sip



River Sisk



Robin Skaggs



Michael Small



Kaden Smith



Kairstin Snyder



Madison Southard



Hunter Spicer



Hannah Spiegel



Mickeylla Sproat



Courtney St.Clair



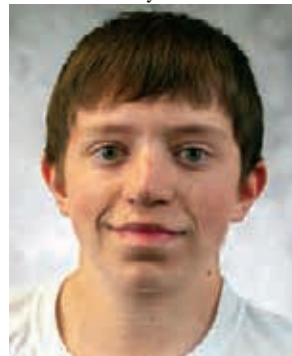
Julia Stahlhuth



Megan Standley



Regan Stanley



Sam Steinmeyer



Tresean Stepney



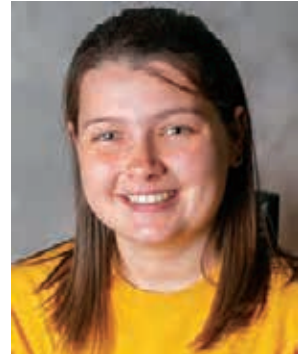
Sam Stevenson



Jillian Stock



Jessie Stockton



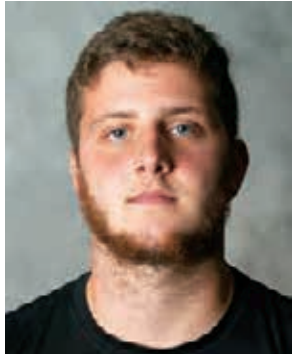
Lexi Stockton



Abigail Stokes



Brady Strait



Lance Streeby



Dakari Streeter



Craig Strong



James Swofford



Bayley Talbort



Calen Taylor



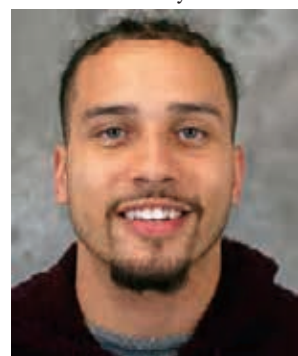
Kassie Taylor



Gabrielle Temple



Christopher Tenpenny



TJ The Don



Sidney Thomas



Grace Thompson



Grant Thompson



Michael Thomson



Elijah Todd, Daniel Roberson
&
Sly Brewster



Kylah Todd



Taylor Trask



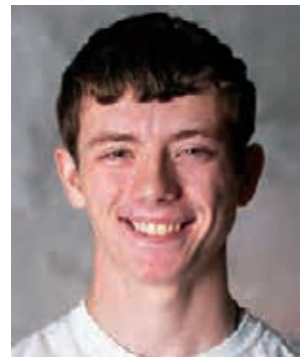
Marcus Triplett



Geron Turner



Vanessa Valenzuela



Christyan VanFosson



Austin Vance



Kenya Vance



Kristen Venneberg



Rachael Vitale



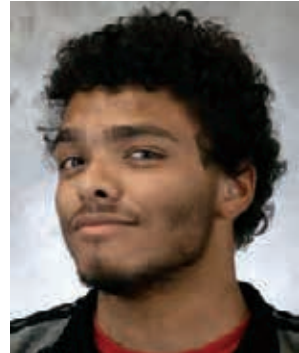
Ashlyn Voetberg



Ashlie Von Barga



Olivia Wabski



Anthony Wade



Kaleb Wagner



Justin Wagoner



Nathan Walker



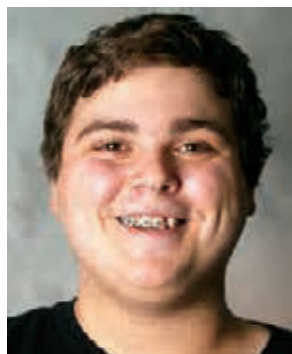
Shay Wallace



Danny Walsh



Madison Walters



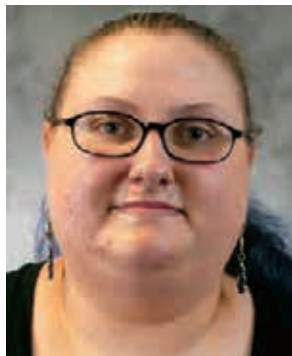
Garrett Wasson



Sydnee Weigart



Erin Welch



Lara Welch



Autumn West



Rebecca Wheeler



Abygale White



Elajha White



Mariah White



Hannah Whitmire



Joel Wiegand



Eric Williams



Sara Williamson



Konner Wilson



Jeremie Wing



Harley Witter



Sean Wolenski



Abby Wolff



Andrew Wright



Whitney Wyckoff



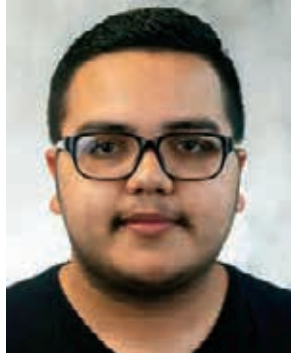
Taylor Yandell



Hazel Years



Kafayat Yusuf



Saad Zaheer



Ryan Zepeda



Cassandra Zerr



Wei Zhang



Olivia Wabski

Major: Undecided



Since you are undecided, what do you think you might be going into? I really don't want to do anything when I grow up, I just kind of want to be rich without doing anything. But, like, I'm leaning towards journalism right now, that sounds cool.

Why journalism? I really like writing and I also like social media, so I figure journalism would be a cool career to have within the two realms.

What platform of social media do you use the most? Twitter.

How would you describe yourself in one word or phrase? Interesting.

Do you have anything interesting that brought you to Western? It's really close to home and my mom works in Saint Joe but like I can still be my own person because I don't see her every day and I don't come home every day but like on weekends if I want to go home and do laundry I can.

If you have a couple extra hours in the day, what would you do? I would probably be doing nothing in those hours, I'm not going to lie.

What is your favorite thing to do? My favorite thing to do is nothing. I like listening to music and being on Twitter.

You have the next 24 hours completely free, you can do anything you want, what would you do? I would go home and do my laundry.

FACULTY & STAFF



Photos Kaitlyn Doolan, Paige Griffiee, Alicia Otto, PR & Marketing, James Theriac & Bethany Vonseggern







Ryan Addington



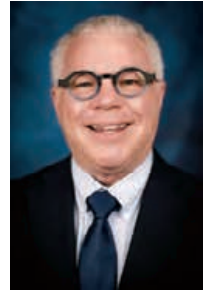
Bryan Adkins



James Adkins



Kaye Adkins



Perry Adkins



Patricia Adkisson



Jessica Agnew



Shaun Agnew



James Albright



Jimmy Albright



Allison Anderson



Kevin Anderson



Jennifer Atkinson



Jordan Atkinson



Claudia Baer



Dawn Baker



Jason Baker



Julie Baldwin



Tyler Ball



James Bargar



Csegele Barta



Cynthia Bartels



Stacia Bensyl



Robert Bergland



Christopher Bond



Melody Boring



Vincent Bowhay



Thomas Brecheisen



Lisa Breckenridge



Jeanna Bridgman



Peter Britton



Connie Brock



Steven Brooks



Carolyn Brose



Patricia Brost



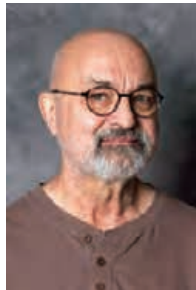
Dave Brown



Rhonda Brown



Laurie Bryant Coe



Marshall Bucher



Brian Bucklein

MURRAY NABORS

Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences



“My Legacy as dean includes three things: (1) Making MWSU an All Steinway School for piano teaching and performance. (2) Starting a Dance Minor and a Leadership Minor. (3) Shepherding the initiation of teaching Chinese at MWSU and initiating an exchange program with Xidian University in China which has brought over two dozen students to our campus for a year of study.”



Michael Buckler



William Burnich



Christa Byer



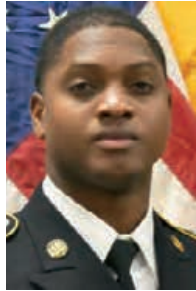
Mike Cadden



Ben Caldwell



Cristi Campbell



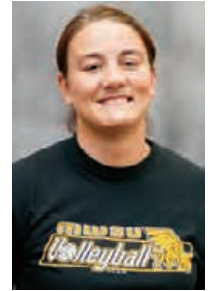
Lauren Campbell



Elizabeth Canon



Greg Carbin



Marian Carbin



Aubry Carpenter



James Carviou



Eduardo Castillo-Ortiz



Carol Cervera



Michael Charlton



Brock Chartier



Fumi Cheever



Lori Chester



Cary Chevalier



Michael Chiao



Paul Choi



William Church



Susan Claffin



Gary Clapp



Pam Clary



Debra Cole



Andrea Collins Keller



Aaron Coombs



Jason Costanzo



Jeanie Crain



Andre Crenshaw



Debbie Crisler



Brian Cronk



Noel Cross



Jeanne Daffron



Melissa Daggett



Douglas Davenport



Dominic DeBrincat



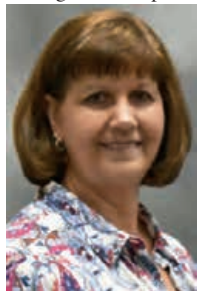
Teddi Deka



Lane DesAutel



Greg Dillon



Janice Dillon



Regan Dodd



Dawn Drake



Mike Ducey



Todd Eckdahl



Chad Edwards



Matthew Edwards



Douglas Eicher



Chad Elifrits



CALE FESSLER

Vice President of Financial Planning and Administration

“I think we’ve accomplished a lot with respect to the physical part of the campus and some of the things we’ve been able to do from just a repair, renovation and construction standpoint. Working with the state and the city and the county and finding ways to fund projects has been sort of a point of pride, with the Spratt Stadium and the Eagleton Pool. Even partnering with the students to help fund that renovation. That’s been very satisfactory and something I’ve really enjoyed.”



Brett Esely



Jonathan Euchner



Rebecca Foley



Charles Ford



Tim Ford



Phillip Frank



Doug Freemyer



Derek Frieling



Jack Frogge



Jessica Frogge



Jana Frye



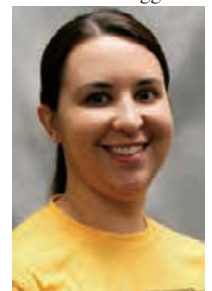
Eric Fuson



Aaron Gann



Carissa Ganong



Emily Garcia



Jacklyn Gentry



Dana Gertner



Danielle Gibson



Emily Gioelli



Sue Godbolt



Christopher Godfrey



Damon Graham



Aaron Grant



Michael Grantham



Rachel Graves



Beth Gregory



John Gregory



Scott Groner



Theresa Grosbach



Traci Grove



Konrad Gunderson



Angela Haas



Amber Halstead



Reza Hamzaee



Julie Hansbrough



Lee Harrelson



Barbara Harris



Crystal Harris



David Harris



Shawna Harris



Teresa Harris



Evan Hart



Connie Hecker



Jennifer Hegeman



Kent Heier



Kelly Henry



Matt Hepworth



John Hewitt



Shauna Hiley



Sybil Hillyard



Jeff Hinton



Kathleen Holeman



Jeanette Holland



Mike Holloran



Teri Holt



Cassie Hoppas



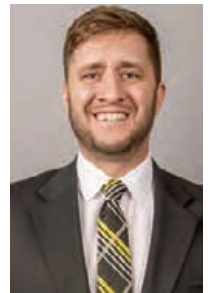
Scorpio Horn



Chelsea Howlett



Peter Hriso



Cody Ingold



Debby Irvine



Jennifer Jackson



Julie Jedlicka



Deborah Jeffries



Adam Jelovic



Adrienne Johnson



Becky Johnson



Britton Johnson



Logan Jones



Ellen Jordan



Ali Kamali



Kathy Kelly



Robin Kelly



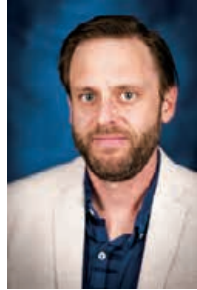
Joseph Kenall-Morwick



Heather Kendall



Debbie Kerns



Michael Kimmel



Jody King



Suzanne Kissock



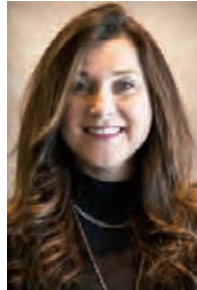
Timothy Kissock



Steve Klassen



Pam Klaus



Gladys Kline



Joshua Knight



Brady Kopek



Karen Koy



Justin Kraft



David Kratz Mathies



Greg Kriewitz



Patty Kuecler



COACH LITVINSKI

By Beau Baker-Vaughn

Western athletics has seen its fair share of coaching staff changes over the past couple years, and the track and field team was no exception.

In July 2018, Yuriy Litvinski was named the new head coach and immediately hit the ground running with a program that didn't even exist two years ago.

Litvinski's goals for the future as the new head coach are to change the way other teams look at Western's track program, especially in the MIAA.

"The goal is to do better and climb up that ladder," Litvinski said.

No matter what goals a coach has, those goals will never get accomplished if a coach and his or her players are not on the same page. No two coaches ever coach the exact same way, so athletes have to adjust to Litvinski's expectations and style. Sophomore Hanna Williams understands what Litvinski is asking of all his athletes.

"He pushes us like we need to be pushed," Williams said. "We have our own goals, and he wants us to meet those goals before we meet his."

Even though Litvinski doesn't spend much time with throwers, sophomore thrower Simone Baldeh has been able to catch a good vibe from Coach Litvinski.

"He makes it easy to be around him," Baldeh said. "You're going to show up and have fun, but you are going to work hard at the same time."

Coach Litvinski expects the team to do more than just run fast, jump high and throw far. He wants them to be great in the community and as students who represent Western.

"He expects us to be a team and be respectful no matter where we go," Baldeh said. "He expects us to represent Missouri Western to the best of our ability."

With all these expectations Litvinski has of the team, he really wants his athletes to enjoy being a member of Western's track program.

"I like to have fun, but I also get things done," Litvinski said. "It's a happy balance between how much fun you can have at practice and how much you can accomplish."



Marianne Kunkel



Yipkei Kwok



Bob Lance



Catherine Lawson



Greg Lawson



Larry Lawson



Peggy Leland



Jay Lemanski



Mark Lewis



Kathy Liao



Greg Lindsteadt



Sherry Lisenbee



Tony Loeffler



Bob Long



Patti Long



Josh Looney



Jeanette Lorimor



Steve Lorimor



Christina Lund



Rachel Lundy



Brett Luthans



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Craig Malita



Morgan Mallory



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Gordon Mapley



David Marble



Joe Marmund



Susan Martens



Will Martin



Mike Mastio



Jones Matua



Nathanael May



Chrissie McCan



Lori McCune



Nick McCutcheon



Dana McDaniel



Jennie McDonald



Kurt McGinnis



Adam McGowan



Cheryl McIntosh



Erin McLaughlin



David McMahan



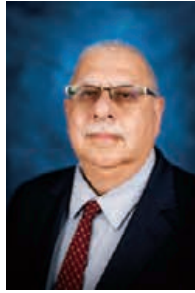
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David McWilliams



Ryan Menley



Dennis Merritt



Shana Meyer



Tyler Meyer



Jay Meyers



Natalie Mikita



Amy Miller



Toni Millis



Louise Mills



Mark Mills



Sergio Molina



Andrew Molloy



Gaywyn Moore



Wes Moore



Jill Morsbach



Mark Moultrup



Latoya Muhammad



Jim Mulder



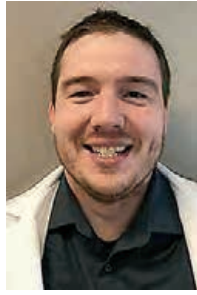
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Shiva Nandan



Josh Naples



Peter Nelson



Kristin Newbegin



Jomel Nichols



Laura Nold



Tammy Norris



J. Evan Noyaert



Robert Nulph



Linda Oakleaf



James Okapal



Paul Orscheln



Alicia Otto



Alex Owens



Madeleine Pasco



Kassie Payne



Chase Peoples



Sandra Pennock



Jerry Pickman



Lawrence Pilgrim



Jeffrey Poet



Jessica Poet



Elizabeth Potts



Sandy Prescher



William Puett



Long Qiao



Bin Qiu



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Thomas Rachow



Maureen Raffensperger



Ann Rahmat



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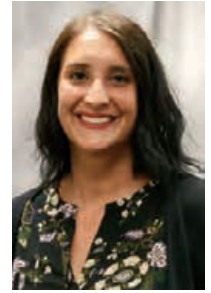
Jonathan Rhoad



Glenn Rice



Justin Richter



Stacey Rieck



Jennet Riggs



Madeline Rislow



Mike Ritter



Miguel Rivera-Taupier



Annie Roberts



Nicki Robertson



Dennis Rogers



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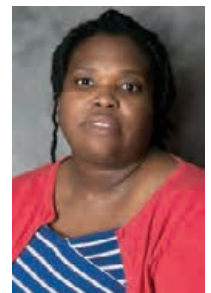
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Gary Salgado



Victoria Sample



Casandra Samuel



Angela Sanders



Fiona Sansone



Laura Sapp



Stephanie Scharrel Dunn



Carolyn Schindler



Kendy Scudder



Tracy Sharp



Daniel Shepherd



Jenny Sherlock



Brandt Shields



Kay Siebler



Paula Sigman



Kim Sigrist



James Sipes



Alec Sithole



Mabelle Skinner



Kira Slater



Kelly Sloan

DIXIE WILLIAMS

Director of Admissions

“I think my legacy in Admissions was opening up the office for change in New Student Orientation and First Year Experience program. This was in no means achieved by me alone, I think I was just a conduit for the change.”





Kipton Smilie



Deb Smith



Melody Smith



Michael Smith



David Snodderly



Jason Soper



Jennifer Soper-Wilper



Shaina Spooner



Patrick St. Louis



Anna Stasko



Debby Steinman



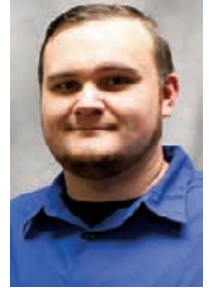
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Jeff Stover



Keith Studderheim



Nicholas Sutton



Stan Svojanovsky



Elliot Swope



Alana Tackett



Shensheng Tang



Prashant Tarun



Alecia Taylor



Dawn Terrick



Elizabeth Thorne-Wallington



Yen To



Jeremy Traas



Deb Treat



Daniel Trifan



Stacy Turner



David Tushaus



Deatra Tyler



Latha Varghese



Robert Vartabedian



Gregory Vecchi



Amit Verma



Sharon Vest



Barbara Voigt



Christi Waggoner



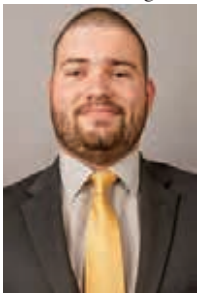
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Kristen Walton



Dongni Wan



Ryan Watts



Kim Weddle



Annette Weeks



Brett Weiberg



Kristy Weiberg



Sam Wemple



Matt Whipple



Corey White



Jesse White



Caroline Whiteman



Sundance Wicks



Vicky Widner



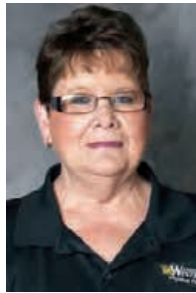
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Tammy Wiley



Robert Willenbrink



Anna Williams



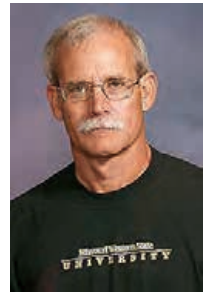
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Matt Williamson



Tom Williamson



Kip Wilson



Jeff Woodford



Pam Woodruff



Betsy Wright



Aliaksei Yakimkou



Baoqiang Yan



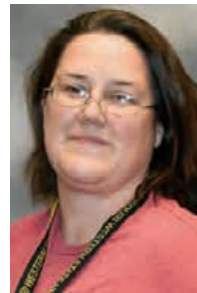
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Nichola Yeager



Bill Youtsey



Melanie Youtsey



Kirill Yurov



Mei Zhang



Zhao Zhang



Jinwen Zhu



Christine Ziemer



Mark Zuptich

BENJAMIN CALDWELL

Dean of Graduate Studies

“I prefer not to think of leaving behind a legacy so much as the relationships I have built over the past 20 plus years. When I first came to Missouri Western as a faculty member I came into the Chemistry department which was already strong academically, and we were always building relationships with our students and doing our best to help them succeed. As I developed as a faculty member I had the opportunity to work with faculty in other departments and across campus on research, in developing new programs, as part of the Honors program, and lost of other things. Although I have been involved in building a number of different programs on campus such



as the Summer Research Institute (now the PORTAL summer research program) as well as new graduate programs and the Graduate School, it was always a team effort of faculty and staff. No one person could have done any of those things alone. And it’s only possible by forming strong relationships based on honesty and trust. So, the things that I am most proud of are the relationships I’ve built with the students, faculty and staff here at Missouri Western. That is the what I will miss most.”

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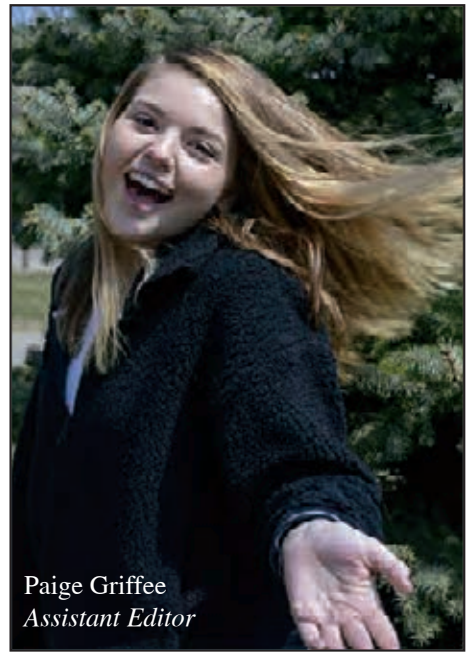


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ADVISER'S NOTE

By Dr. James Carviou

I came to Missouri Western six years ago to take over as yearbook adviser for The Griffon. This position granted me the privilege of working with students that are the visionaries of the future of media. This publication is always evolving which is emblematic of how fast the world of publishing is changing. Upon my arrival in 2014, we introduced the first full-color yearbook at MWSU. We also switched portraits to being in-house which gave students hands-on experience with studio photography. In 2015, we added the augmented reality video app which has continually evolved. In 2016, we launched an official publication logo which has made us identifiable around campus. And each year since I have challenged the staff to continue to innovate how we serve the MWSU community.

Students have told me they found community and made friends for the first time at MWSU after joining the staff. Similarly, they have often mentioned not being included in their high school yearbook staff, but feeling welcomed by The Griffon staff. I look forward to the end of every semester when the staff reporters present their work to the editors and reflect on what they learned. I find myself filled with a sense of pride as a student mentions becoming confident in their writing for the first time or being so excited and/or sometimes surprised to have learned how to take such beautiful photos. This culminates with their own transformation as storytellers.

It is my hope that we have cultivated their ability to be dynamic storytellers that understand how to connect with an audience. Whether they know it or not, their stories have multiple lives (in print and online) and the evidence is an actively engaged audience. The yearbook staff has been a diverse kaleidoscope of



perspectives of the student experience at MWSU. The Griffon is the historical platform that will outlive us all. It serves as a significant snapshot of the past while illustrating how great it is - and always has been - to be immersed in the Western community.

I enjoyed working with Bethany VonSeggern over the past two and half years. She is a force of vision and empowerment that influenced the yearbook staff each semester. Her perspective brought a necessary and complete cultural change to what we do with the yearbook at MWSU. I like to think of it as the period of evolution that we didn't know we needed but we did. VonSeggern has a talent in leadership that I have never seen before and likely will not see again in my career. I am so proud of what she has accomplished through her work with the last two editions of the yearbook. I honestly cannot wait to see where her career takes her!



Special thanks to Suhail
Abdulaziz Al-mazrou.

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