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Be...

THE GRIFFON '20

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



BE...

[**the legacy**]

[**griffons**]

[**authentic**]

[**the hype**]

[**together**]

[**confident**]



beaming
[confidence]

belonging
[together]

believing
[the hype]

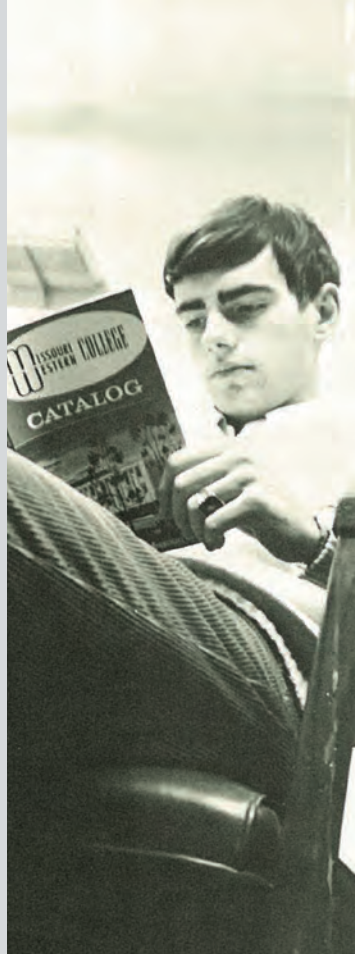
being
[authentic]

becoming
[griffons]

bestowing
[the legacy]

The Griffon

Volume 94 | 2020
Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507
Enrollment: 5,321
missouriwestern.edu/yearbook



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[50 years]



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What's Inside
The Griffon 2019-2020

Under New Management

Since the commencement of my tenure as President at Missouri Western State University in July 2019, I have been grateful to our students, employees, alumni, community members and supporters for helping write Missouri Western's next chapter. Together, we have embarked on an exceptional journey that has made us even more distinctive. We are also excited to attract students, build community, and prepare our students through various new global initiatives and technology offerings related to esports. Student athletes will also benefit from the addition of women's lacrosse in the 2020-21 academic year.

Our primary mission is to ensure our students receive the best experience possible to springboard them to a successful future. Please know that we are going to work harder than ever to accomplish that goal. With innovative degree programs, partnerships and outreach, we are committed to provide opportunities that are one-of-a-kind for our students, employees and region.

Matthew Wilson, President



*Dr. Doug Davenport,
Provost and VP Academic Affairs*

It is my privilege to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. In that role, I am the Chief Academic Officer and responsible to ensure the quality and integrity of all academic programs. At Missouri Western, student experiences inside and outside the classroom are seamlessly integrated in an environment where faculty, staff and students live, learn and serve the broader community. Applied learning is our statewide mission and the foundation for everything we do.

Prior to joining Missouri Western, Morrison was associate vice chancellor for finance at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Prior to that, Morrison served as the vice president for business affairs at Texas A&M University-San Antonio and as the vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. He has also held several administrative positions at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas, including controller, associate vice president for finance/director of financial services and vice president for finance.

Morrison holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Accounting from Henderson State University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

*Darrell Morrison,
VP Financial Planning/Administration*



*Dr. Joel Hyer,
Dean, Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Prior to joining Missouri Western, Dr. Hyer had been at Chadron State since 2001, starting as an assistant professor of history. He served as director of the history and American Indian studies programs, head of the Social Science program and department chair. He began his duties as academic dean in 2011, overseeing the School of Business, Mathematics and Science as well as Graduate Studies.

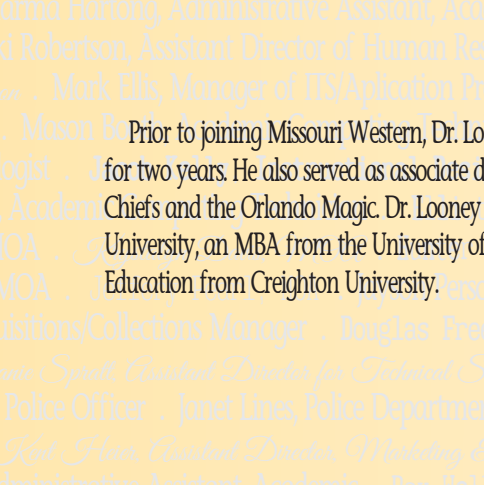
Dr. Hyer received his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Riverside and his master's and bachelor's degrees, also in history, from Brigham Young University. He succeeds Dr. Murray Nabors, who will teach biology full-time beginning next year.



Prior to joining Missouri Western, Cravens was the C. Blake McDowell Jr. Professor of Law at the University of Akron School of Law. She previously served as the vice provost for strategic initiatives and interim dean of the Williams Honor College.

She earned a bachelor's degree in classics from Princeton University, a master's in classics from Cambridge University, UK, and a juris doctorate from Washington and Lee University School of Law.

*Dr. Sarah Cravens
VP Strategic Initiatives/Chief of Staff*



*Dr. Josh Looney,
VP Intercollegiate Athletics*

Prior to joining Missouri Western, Dr. Looney was director of athletics at East Stroudsburg University for two years. He also served as associate director of NCAA Division II and worked for the Kansas City Chiefs and the Orlando Magic. Dr. Looney earned a bachelor's degree in business from Washburn University, an MBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Education from Creighton University.



Prior to joining Missouri Western, Dr. Kennedy had been the dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology and interim dean of the College of Health Professions at the University of Akron.

Dr. Kennedy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Arts in Psychology, Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology, Applied Cognitive Aging, all from the University of Akron. She replaced Dr. Doug Davenport, who became the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

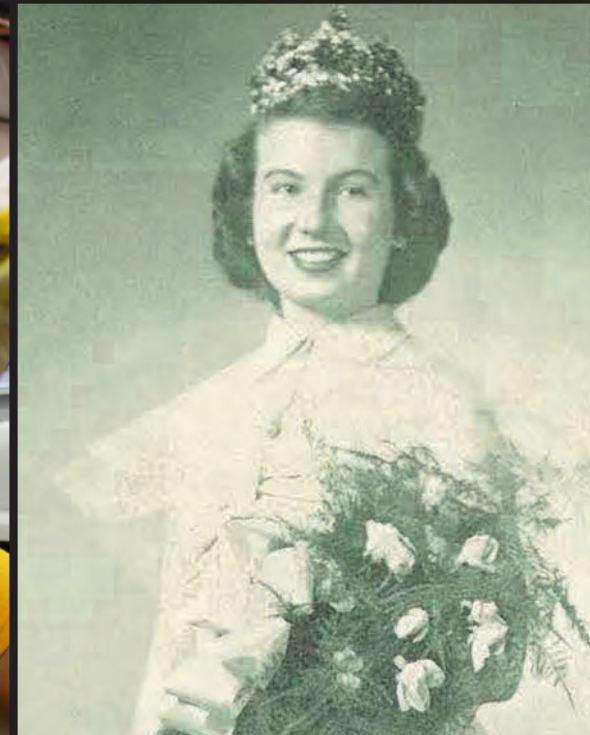
*Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy,
Vice Provost*



*Dr. Hannah Piechowski,
Associate VP Student Affairs, Dean of Students*

Dr. Hannah Rushe Piechowski joined Missouri Western as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students in September 2019. Immediately before joining the Griffons, Dr. Piechowski had served at Transylvania University since 2015, as the Director of Student Transitions and Director of Housing and Residence Life, and taught Research Methods at Bellarmine University in the Master's of Higher Education Leadership and Social Justice program. She received her Ph.D. in Higher Education and Social Change from Bellarmine University, a Master's in Counseling and College Student Personnel from the University of Louisville, and a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology, Piano Performance, and Music Technology from Bellarmine University. She succeeded Dr. Judy Grimes, who has retired.





Editor's *Rate*

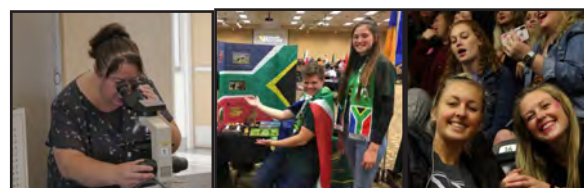
By Alicia Otto

Be... a part of *The Griffon Yearbook*, 2019-2020 edition. It is our yearbook, your yearbook, everyone's yearbook.

This is not the first Griffon yearbook. In fact, it is issue number 94! We feature highlights of the events from this year and snippets from various yearbooks over the years. Enjoy the trip down memory lane – whether it was 50 years ago or 50 days. On the 50th anniversary of becoming a four-year institution – please enjoy the flashbacks, the “then & nows,” the good old days that brought us to where we are today.



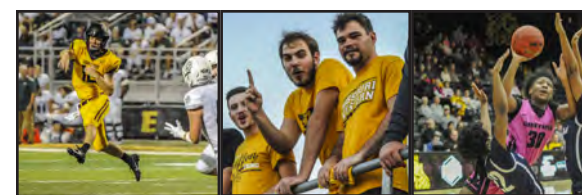
Bestowing the Legacy reflects the Griffon legacy that has been passed down over the years. Enjoy comparing the campus then versus now, the fashions then versus now, the hairstyles then versus now. There are tons of pictures to enjoy from the last 50 years. Some show campus before there was a clock tower while others show campus with the Chiefs Training Camp facility. Whether it's a black & white or color photo, each represents a different chapter in the legacy of Missouri Western.



Becoming Griffons takes you through student life today. Even though the year was cut short, there were still fun activities and some awesome Griffons are profiled. Take your time and really look at the faces in the departments featured in this section. These are the professors and others who cared for you through the year. These are the ones that challenged you and pushed you to do your best. Be proud of the Griffon you are and the Griffons that surround you.



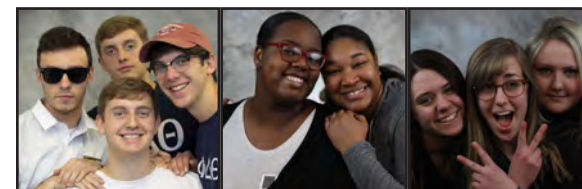
Being Authentic features highlights of the academic year. Maybe you didn't get a chance to attend “Pinocchio” or “Crazy For You.” Or maybe you missed listening to poetry readings from the members of Flavor at Mokaska. In this section, you will be able to enjoy some of the activities that you - and the rest of us - missed.



Believing the Hype – all athletics – all the time! Review a time line of Griffon athletics from 1969 to 2019 as the 50 years of football were celebrated. All-Decade Teams were recognized at the Griffon home games. The other sport seasons are recapped. Even though some were cut short – they were all long on Griffon pride! Check out the new coaches' profiles and learn what to expect next season.



Belonging Together features student organizations on campus. Check out movers and shakers on Downs Drive! Maybe you will find an organization that you want to join. Did you know we have an Associated General Contractors organization? What about Sigma Sigma Sigma - the sorority so good, they used the name three times! Hopefully, there's a group that interests you. If not, strike out on your own and create your own club!



Beaming Confidence is where you will find all the mug shots that you posed for throughout the year. Sprinkled in you will also find portraits from the last 50 years. Are you sensing a theme yet?! The clothes and hairstyles may have changed, but the Griffon smiles still shine through.

To say this yearbook was put together with love is an understatement. Without the help of some alums from *The Griffon Yearbook*, some of *The Griffon News* staff and faculty, this yearbook could not have been completed.

Our whole world was turned upside-down this year. First, we were faced with a financial crisis on campus. As a result, we had an academic review where programs were cut or planned to be phased out and nearly 100 staff and faculty jobs were eliminated.

In the midst of all that, the COVID-19 world-wide pandemic hit. When everyone left for spring break, little did we know that nothing would be the same again. Students did not return from spring break, faculty and staff returned but only briefly. The campus, the city and the world were in quarantine and only “essential” employees were allowed to work outside of their homes.

The campus and city slowly opened back up and faculty and staff were allowed back on campus. We switched to a “new normal” - not quite sure knowing how long that may last. But we are Griffons and we are taking this in stride. We finished the spring and summer semesters online.

We are planning to return to campus in the fall when we will return to a “cautious normal.” But what that will look like is anyone's guess.

One thing is certain: we will do it together with Griffon pride.

Alicia

beaming [confidence]

belonging [together]

believing [the hype]

being [authentic]

coming [griffons]

bestowing [the legacy]



Welcome President #5 and #5½

Story and design by Alicia Otto
Photos Sourced

“Student engagement is my main priority.”

As Missouri Western's fifth president, Matthew Wilson literally hit Downs Drive running. The first activity he participated in on campus was a 5K for Parkinson's Disease. Wilson, along with his wife, Noriko, and sons James and Joshua, all ran and placed in the top three of their divisions.

There are some days that Wilson would probably like to go back to that hot day in July. Even if he could find a way, he can't turn back time.

President Wilson came to Missouri Western with a mission and goals to put students first and the university on a better financial track. With a \$32 million deficit, hard decisions had to be made quickly.

“Any time that you take something away, it is a hard decision,” Wilson said.

What had to be taken away included programs, faculty and staff. After declaring a financial emergency, the administration created an Academic Review Board who evaluated all the majors and minors Missouri Western offered and presented their recommended cuts to Provost Dr. Doug Davenport. Dr. Davenport and then President Wilson reviewed the report, added their own recommendations and then presented those to the Board of Governors who approved the program changes and faculty cuts.

Hard decisions for President Wilson have been more commonplace than most first-year presidents encounter. However there have been some positive outcomes this year as well.

President Wilson was a fixture everywhere on campus. Donors even presented him with his own “Presidential Limo,” a fancy new golf cart he used to give students rides across campus. It was not only rides he was giving students, he was also giving them his undivided attention.

“President Wilson has really become the most student-connected University President in Missouri Western history,” Nathan Scott, student body president, said. “Not only will President Wilson make time in his schedule at the drop of a hat, but he has encouraged his cabinet to do the same.”

President Wilson's main priority of student engagement was a huge success. But wait - that's not all. Not only did COVID-19 strike, President Wilson's administration faced harsh criticism - both internally and externally.

The former administration spoke out publicly against the current one, accusing them of “creating a false narrative.” The detractors do not agree that the university was in a financial crisis and argue that the program, staff and faculty cuts were not necessary.

President Wilson responded with “15 Truths” - facts that refute the former administration's claims and includes a call for a united front.

“As the University moves forward strategically with its financial alignment and new initiatives, we sincerely appreciate the continued efforts, assistance, and consideration of employees and supporters of the University — especially in light of the additional challenges presented by COVID-19,” Wilson said.

As freshmen years go, President Wilson's has not been easy but hopefully he registers for next semester.



Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy 2020-Present

UPDATE: President Matt Wilson announced July 8 that he will not return next semester. He is stepping down to become dean of Temple University's 3,000-student campus in Japan. President Wilson will assist with efforts to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and start of the fall semester.

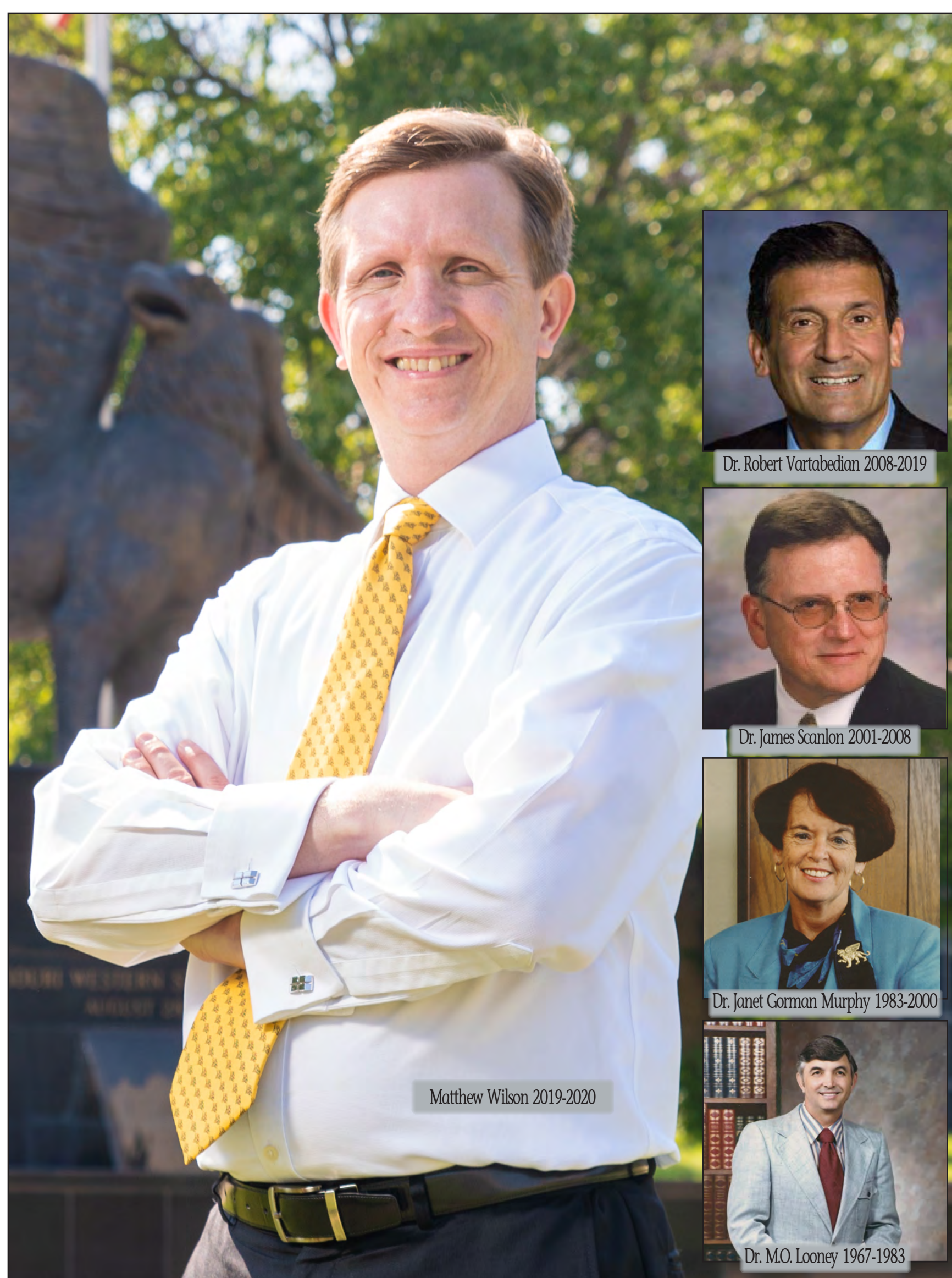
Missouri Western's Board of Governors announced on July 10 that Missouri native Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy will serve as interim president of the university beginning in August.

Dr. Kennedy is currently Missouri Western's vice provost. In that role, she has focused on a number of elements of the strategic plan, Pathways to Excellence, including strengthening student success, creating new partnerships and expanding applied learning.

“I am honored and humbled to be able to serve in this role and to be a part of an institution that makes such a difference in the lives of our students,” Dr. Kennedy said.

Dr. Kennedy grew up in Kansas City and has family in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Arts in Psychology, Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology, Applied Cognitive Aging, all from the University of Akron.

The Board of Governors will announce details on the search for a permanent president at a later date.



Matthew Wilson 2019-2020



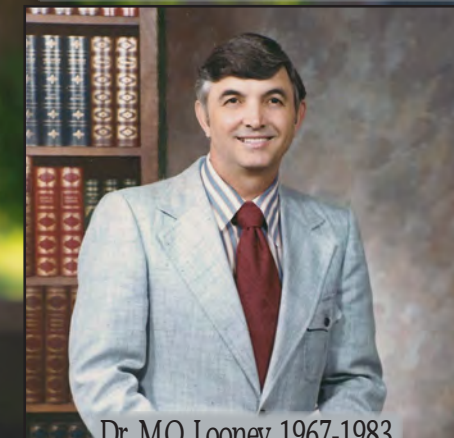
Dr. Robert Vartabedian 2008-2019



Dr. James Scanlon 2001-2008



Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy 1983-2000



Dr. M.O. Looney 1967-1983

The legacy started 50 years ago

Story and design by Alicia Otto
Yearbook photos

Jeanie Kelley Grahl



"I've never been happier - it was a dream come true," Jeanie Kelley Grahl said. It was a question Dr. Looney, Missouri Western's President, asked her. Tears dripped down her cheeks as she lifted a shovel full of dirt at the 1969 groundbreaking of what the current campus is now.

Grahl said it was a no brainer when it was time to choose her college. The two-year Junior College was becoming a four-year institution with outstanding faculty and a fantastic president, "And I helped to make it happen; I have always been happy with my choice," Grahl said.

As an active Griffon, Grahl was editor of the newspaper, *The Griffon News*. She was also actively involved in the development of several new clubs and organizations.

"One of my best memories was being selected to speak with CBS news icon and St. Joseph native, Walter Cronkite when he visited St. Joseph," Grahl said.

"Support your university, remain involved and informed," Grahl says to other Griffons. "Help MWSU continue to grow and survive these difficult times. After all, we are all GRIFFONS!!!"



And continues still today...

Story and design by Alicia Otto
Photos by Bryan Alford, Chase Merwin,
Alicia Otto and Jess Stallard

Jordan "Jay" Alford



Transferring from Lincoln University in fall of 2015, Jordan "Jay" Alford used that opportunity to create her own Griffon legacy.

"It was cool to continue the tradition of being a Griffon," Alford said. Missouri Western is the alma mater for a lot of her family.

After switching majors about six times, Alford figured out her calling.

"I was an education major until shooting my episode of 'Wheel of Fortune,'" Alford said. That convinced her the entertainment industry was for her. She chose the BGS degree in Strategic Communication and Journalism with minors in Dance and Entrepreneurship. Alford was a Mystics dance captain and formed the Missouri Western Dance Company at Missouri Western but winning Homecoming is one of her favorite memories.

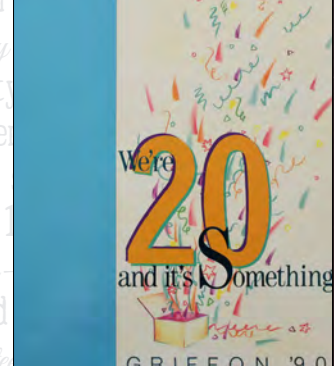
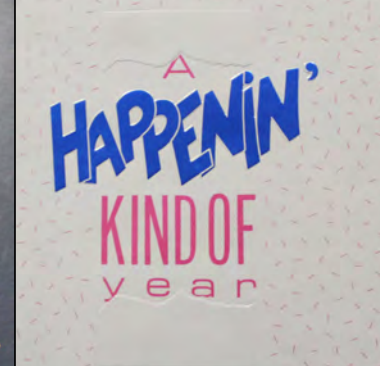
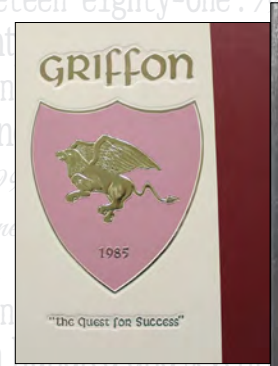
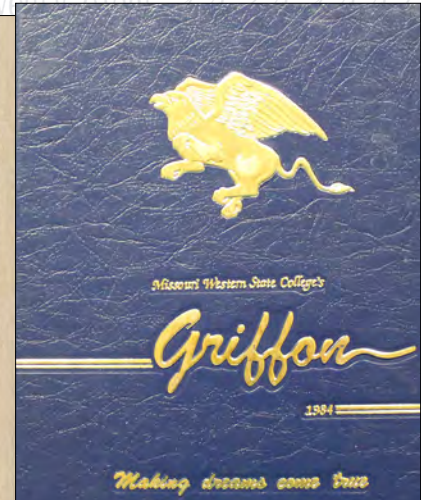
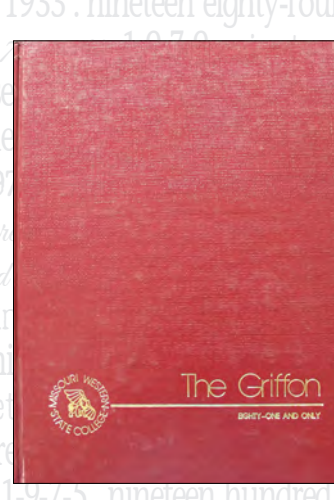
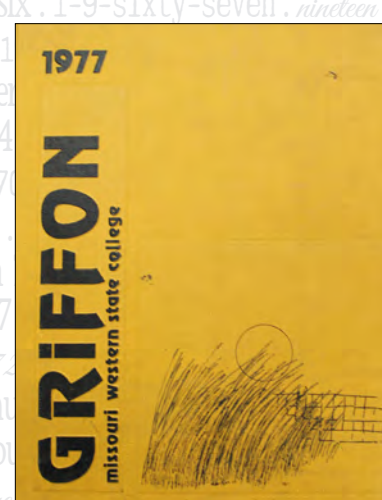
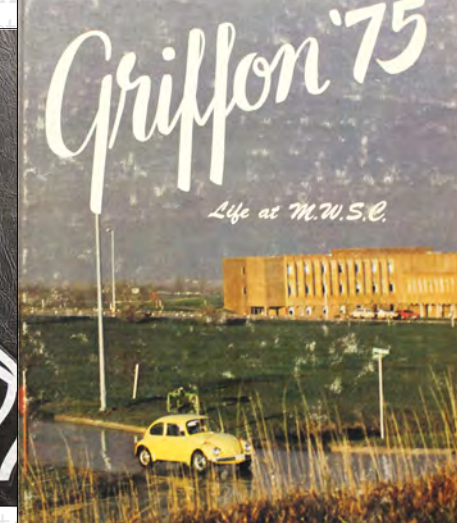
Alford started a podcast using what she learned to produce her show. She plans to use her podcast to help fast track her into the entertainment industry. Before she flies the nest, Alford has some advice for future Griffons.

"Take advantage of every single opportunity that comes your way and find a way for your adversities to help level you up," Alford said.



Yearbook Covers Through The Years

1969 - 1993



Who you gonna call

When Diane retires?

Story, photo and design by *Alicia Otto*

Diane Holtz is a study in perseverance. Born and raised in Iowa, she married her high school sweetheart. After two different colleges, correspondence courses and a lot of writing, she received a bachelor of liberal studies from the University of Iowa in 1993. (It took 12 years to get the last 62 credit hours!)

Diane and her family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri in 1997 and she began working at Missouri Western State University in 2001. She did not have to change her wardrobe much since the Hawkeyes are black and gold, too!

Starting as the Administrative Assistant for Institutional Advancement, Diane was one of a staff of only three. They eventually added Public Relations and Alumni Directors and Diane's time was split 60% Public Relations and 40% Alumni. She steadily moved up from there to her current position as Senior Content Manager and Editor of the Missouri Western Magazine.

In a 2009 meeting with Library Director Julia Schneider, Diane enthusiastically offered to write the next chapter in the University's history. Five years and approximately 1,000 hours later, "Preserving Gold: Missouri Western History 1983-2015" was completed. But it was a labor of love.

Julia Schneider wrote a grant proposal to digitize the yearbooks and *The Griffon News* in order to facilitate updating Missouri Western's history. The committee thought it was a great idea and approved the funds.

"She (Schneider) was floored," Diane said. It was one thing to come up with the great idea, but it was completely another to actually do the work. Diane volunteered to be on the committee but Schneider kind of drug her feet.

Schneider said "I. Do. Not. Want. To. Do. This." And Diane said, "I DO."

Diane was excited to take on the challenge but knew her days were already packed and worried how she could accomplish the research. But they already had the funds so the work would be completed outside of the workday. And so, it began.

There have been so many changes on campus that Diane has not only witnessed but documented in her book. There have been new buildings built and renovated, presidents have come and gone. And Diane has remained the unofficial historian for the university.

"One of the things I really liked doing off hours was the commencements," Diane said. "I would always grumble, grumble, grumble about having to work Saturday but after, I would come home high as a kite."

Another good memory was covering the Center for Franchise Development program where students and alumni compete for a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchise. Over the years, Diane's responsibilities lessened but she continued to make a point to attend the announcements of the winners - and only missed one!

Another good memory is all the

people that she has interviewed. Presidents, students, alumni - too many to count. One student in particular touched Diane.

"When she left my office, I thought 'one of these days I'm going to say I knew her - I interviewed her,'" Diane said. We can't wait to find out who that is!

So many people on campus feel the same way about Diane. We are happy to say we know her, and she is going to be missed. Rachel Lundy, Information Services Librarian, will miss her and could not have done her job without Diane.

"Digitizing the yearbooks was the first large project I worked on after joining MWSU in 2018 and I couldn't have done it without Diane," Lundy said. Diane coordinated efforts across multiple departments to ensure the success of the project that is now an invaluable resource. As is Diane.

"With Diane's help, our collection has grown exponentially over the last two years," Lundy said. "Often times when someone reaches out to me about the archives, it's prefaced with 'Diane told me to contact you,'" We are all grateful for all of her efforts to help preserve our history. A lot of historical research for the book overlapped with preparing for the 2015 Centennial.

"There is no way I could have produced all the Centennial materials and magazines (without having done the research for the book)," Diane said.

In the process of putting together both the book and the Centennial, Diane compiled 264 video vignettes based on interviews that she conducted.

"We have a video of the man who composed the fight song playing it on his piano," Diane said. What an invaluable resource to have. As is Diane and she will be missed, especially by Jomel Nichols, Missouri Western's chief communications officer.

"Diane has documented the people, stories and memories that comprise the fabric of the university," Nichols said. "Diane's writing leaves behind a legacy that will entertain and engage Griffons for generations to come."

What does a writer do after they retire? They write, of course! Diane already has some ideas floating around in her head. Retirement may be Diane's next chapter but it's certainly not her last.

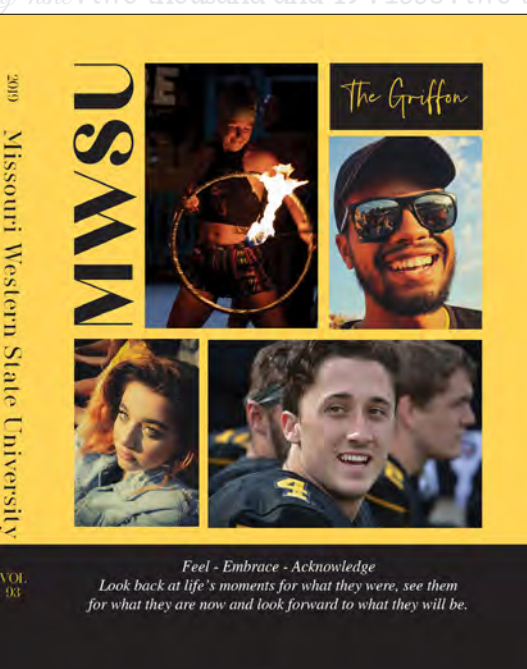
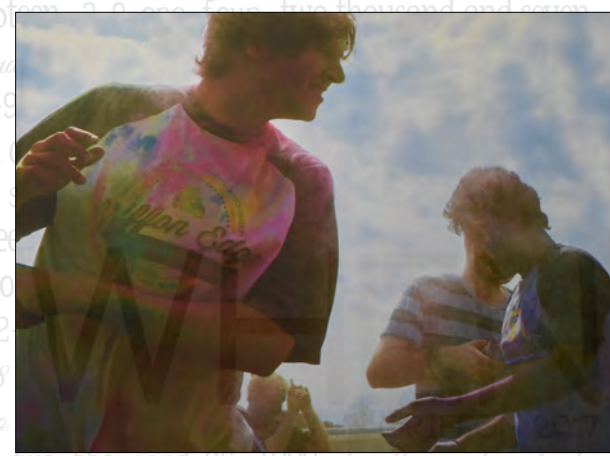
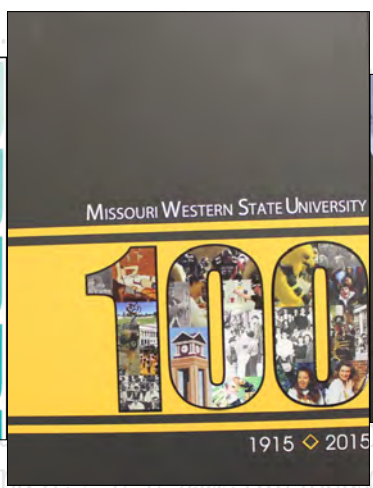
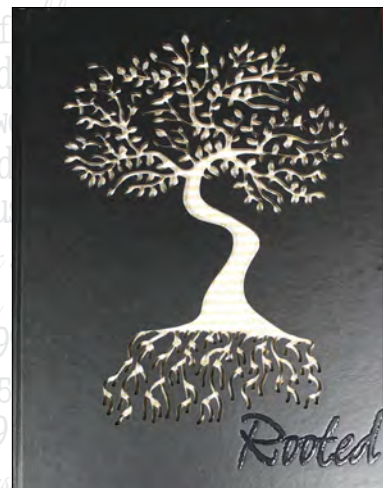
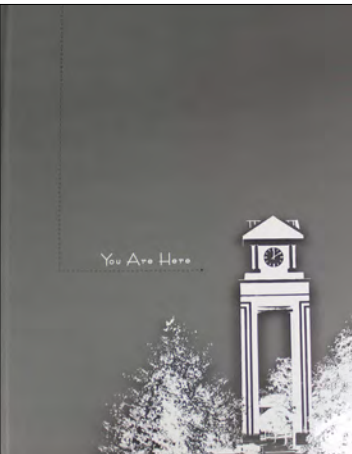
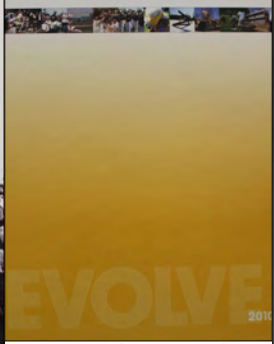
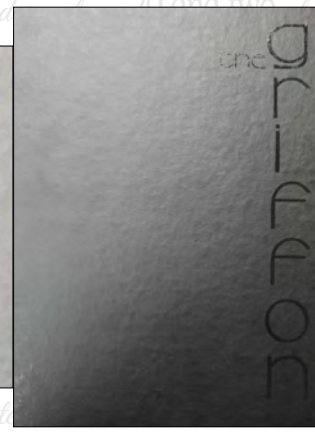
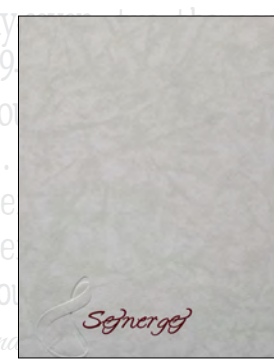
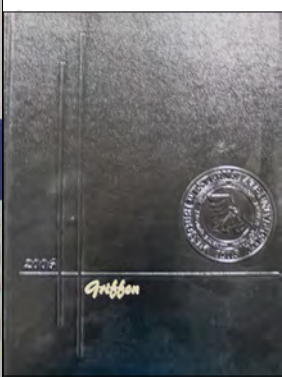
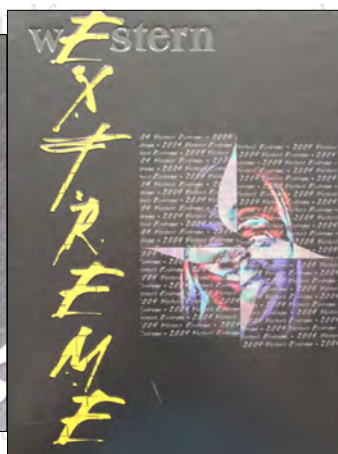
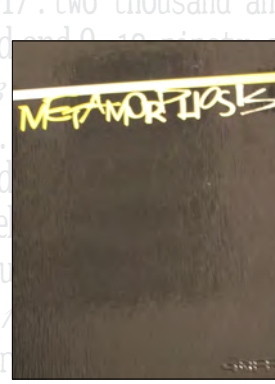
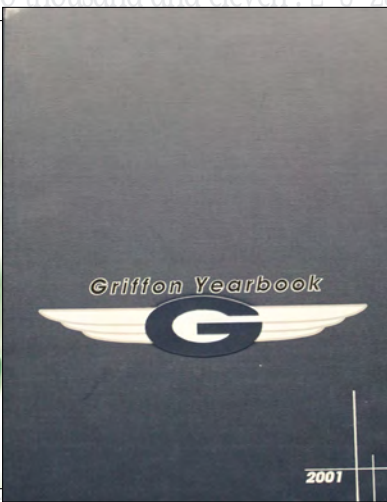
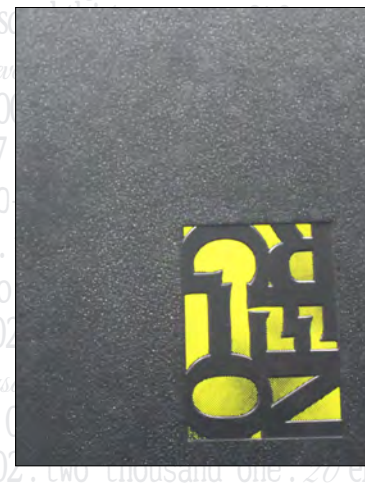
“We will miss Diane more than words can express, but wish her all the best in her retirement.”

- Jomel Nichols
chief communications officer



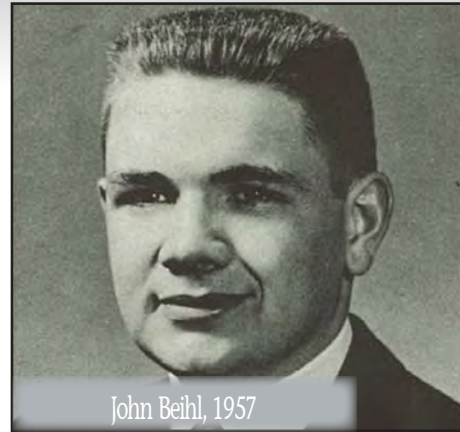
Yearbook Covers Through The Years

1994 - 2019



Be true to your School

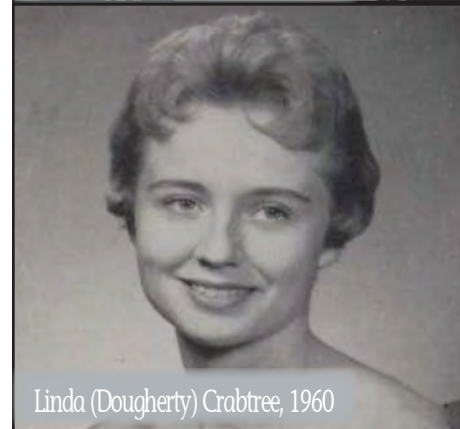
Story and design by *Alicia Otto*
Yearbook photos



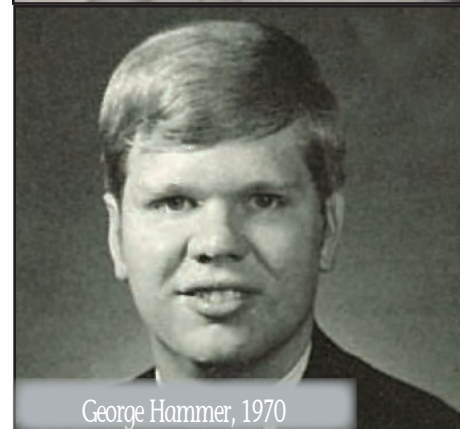
John Beihl, 1957



Janice Wallace, 1997



Linda (Dougherty) Crabtree, 1960



George Hammer, 1970

Fifty years ago, the Alumni Association was created, and the first officers of the Board of Directors included John Biehl '57, president; George Fenner '35, vice president; Marilyn Maxwell '45, secretary; and Jean Andrews Evans '37, treasurer.

In 1970, the board members were Mary Cadwell Brooks '27, Dennis Christgen '62, David Colboch '61, Emma Lee Ficklin '27, Donald D. Folks '48, David Fry '70, Arbie F. German '62, Mercedes Lake Gibson '27, Raymond Gibson '30, Frances Willman Grote '44, George Hammer '70, Dr. George Hopkins '46, Virginia Miller Lacy '28, Milton Litvak '38, Edwin McDonald '26, Victor Modeer '27, Maude Wickam Nold '26, Edna Swafford Pumphrey '33, Leah Spratt '21, Nellie Utz '20, William Wessel Jr. '50, Barbara Wise '60, Herbert Woodbury '29, Margaret Young '20, and Radiance Zollinger '25. Sam Sharp, an employee of Missouri Western, was the executive director.

There has been an Alumni Association and Board of Directors every year since 1970. The Association plans and organizes events that keep alumni involved with the university.

Homecoming is always a big hit that brings alumni back to campus from all around the

country and the world. The Alumni Awards Banquet is held during Homecoming week and recognizes the crème de la crème of Missouri Western's alumni.

Still going strong and supporting the university and its alumni 50 years later, the Board of Directors officers are Tona Williams '00, president; Mary Workman '76, vice president; and Jim Jeffers '73, immediate past president. Members of the board are Emily Baumann '10, Marilyn Beck '77, Linda Crabtree '60, Jodi Deering '01, Brian Gray '90, Jaime Habersat '99, Diane Hook '90, Lai-Monté Hunter '99, Claudia James '89, David Karleskint '90, Linda Kerner '73, Paige Klocke '16, Stacey Lawrence '10, Leayn Losh '88, Dennis Merritt '01, Kendell Misemer '81, Phyllis Myers '56, Molly Pierce '77, Natalie Redmond '00, James Sanders '84, Ralph Schank '82, Angie Springs '02, Janice Wallace '98, Alexis Williams '18 and Reyhan Wilkinson '17.

Once you walk across the stage at graduation, you become a member of the Missouri Western Alumni Association. Just because your classes are done doesn't mean your time at Missouri Western is. Always stay faithful, proud and true.



In 1970, the Alumni Association hosted breakfast for graduates.

Let your Colors fly

Story and design by *Alicia Otto*
Photos by *Alicia Otto & Sourced*

Tona Williams knew Missouri Western was the place for her even before she stepped on campus.

Growing up in St. Joseph, there were quite a few options available when choosing a college. "My dad went to Missouri Western," Williams said. "But I was one of those kids who didn't know what they wanted to do. Missouri Western was right here in town and, with scholarships, I could financially afford to go here."

There were no other choices in her mind. The family moved to Colorado for a while but she wasn't ready to leave St. Joe again.

A graduate of Central High School, Williams knew some people that were going to Missouri Western but none of her closest friends.

"I was kind of on my own when I walked in the doors," Williams said. And she was a little scared. It helped being able to stay at home with her family.

Financially, it was the only choice she had. Williams feels like she missed out on only a few opportunities by living at home.

"Looking back, there were ways to connect that you didn't get when you weren't living on campus," she said.

One of the main ways Williams connected was through Greek Life.

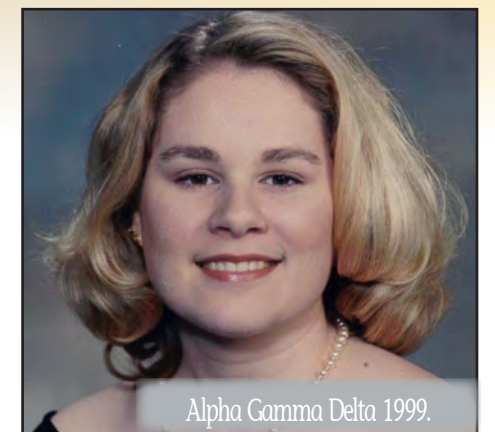
"Greek Life saved me," Williams said. She credits Greek Life with helping her find her voice. She found her voice later in life because of Greek Life during her college years. If she hadn't joined Greek Life, she is not sure where she would be now. Her dad encouraged her to join and it was the best decision she ever made.

As a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, Williams was able to be involved all over campus. She was Panhellenic President, active in intramural activities, went to sporting events with friends, was involved in fundraising and philanthropy, and stayed more involved than she would have otherwise.

She also had the chance to learn to be a leader. And, after graduation, Williams used those leadership skills to her advantage.

As a member of the Alumni Board of Directors, she was involved on the St. Joseph Chapter Committee, Greek Life Committee and was named Vice President and then President.

"If you had told me in high school or even college that I would be President of the Alumni Association, I would have thought you were crazy," Williams said.



Alpha Gamma Delta 1999.



With Kristina Hidy in 1997.



With Martin Luther King III in 2017.



In 2018, the Alumni Association hosts an evening banquet. Williams poses with her sorority sisters.



With Coach Bill Snyder in 2018.

HOMEcoming

Story by *Harry Loomis*
Photos by *Chase Merwin*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

With many past, present and future Griffons in the stands, Missouri Western's football team capped off Homecoming week with its first home win of the season, defeating Missouri Southern, 43-34. The Griffons put on a show highlighted by two interceptions, two blocked kicks and 136 yards by Markel Smith.

The first quarter started slowly for Missouri Western. After a failed Missouri Southern fourth-down conversion and a Missouri Western punt, Missouri Southern went on an eight-minute scoring drive, culminating in a five-yard rushing touchdown with 35 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Griffon Coach Matt Williamson said that this drive lit a spark in his offense.

"Our offense couldn't wait to get on the field," Williamson said. "I can tell you that."

The Griffons got going immediately after the score. Quickly after a 22-yard kickoff return by freshman Trey Vaval, senior quarterback Wyatt Steigerwald found senior tight end Blake Burau, who took it all the way to the end zone for a 66-yard touchdown. Just like that, the Griffons found themselves tied at seven after one quarter.

The Griffons kept their momentum into the second quarter. After stopping the Lions on another fourth down, the Griffons marched down the field to the tune of a seven play, 64-yard drive capped off by a 16-yard rushing touchdown by Smith. The extra point, however, was blocked, leaving the score at 13-7.

This, in turn, set off the Lions' offense, as they responded with a touchdown of their own, only for their kick to also get blocked. With the game tied at 13, the Griffons needed a spark. That was delivered by Smith who scored his second

touchdown, this one going for 44 yards to put the Griffons up 20-13 with under two minutes left in the half.

Before the Lions could start going down the field, their drive was dead. With 1:15 remaining in the half, Sam Webb intercepted a deflected pass at the Missouri Western 46-yard line. The Griffons went down and kicked a field goal to take a 10-point lead into halftime.

The third quarter was fairly unspectacular for the Griffons, but they stayed with it. After falling behind 27-26 with three minutes left in the quarter, sophomore defensive back Kobe Cummings intercepted a pass and took it to the Lion 9-yard line. Sam Aviles drilled a 27-yard field goal - his second of the quarter - to put the Griffons back up by two going into the fourth.

The Griffons wasted no time getting to work in the fourth quarter, as Steigerwald found Eldridge Joyce in the end zone two minutes

into the fourth quarter. The Lions didn't back down and scored one themselves. The Griffons, however, were just too much for the Lions defense to handle, as Steigerwald hit Kyle Berry for a 43-yard score five minutes into the quarter, putting the Griffons up 43-34 with 9:50 left in the game. That's how the game would end. Jacob Park would recover a Lion fumble, and Webb blocked another field goal to go along with his earlier interception. After Steigerwald took a knee, the game was over, the bell was rung and a 12-minute firework show ensued.





Alpha Sigma Alpha showed off their talents at the pep rally. Photo by: Chase Merwin



The Homecoming pep rally concluded with a bonfire. Photo by: Chase Merwin



- ⌘ A friendly game of corn hole at the Homecoming tailgate. Photo by: Paige Griffie
- ⌘ Fraternity participation at the pep rally. Photo by: Chase Merwin
- ⌘ Max the Griffon and Chase Merwin enjoy the pep rally. Photo by: Paige Griffie
- ⌘ Cheerleader Mariah Blackburn cheers on the Griffons. Photo by: Christian Sarna
- ⌘ Mystics dancers wow the crowd at the pep rally. Photo by: Paige Griffie

- ⌘ Fraternity participation at the Homecoming pep rally. Photo by: Chase Merwin
- ⌘ The Golden Griffon Marching Band led off the parade. Photo by: Paige Griffie
- ⌘ Jay Alford receives the 1st Place trophy for Homecoming Court. Photo by: Chase Merwin
- ⌘ One of the '80s-themed floats at the parade. Photo by: Paige Griffie
- ⌘ President Wilson takes a selfie with students at the game. Photo by: Christian Sarna

How 'bout those CHIEFS...Interns?!?!

Story and design by *Alicia Otto*
Photos sourced

Being a Kansas City Chiefs Intern at training camp is not just all fun and games. It is a lot of hard work, too.

For Dr. Regan Dodd, Chiefs Camp in general has been a positive experience.

"For me, working Chiefs Camp, it allowed me to work with other departments on campus and get to know what they did," Dodd said.

From Residential Life to Scheduling to the Physical Plant Grounds Crew, Dodd really got to know her fellow Griffons, giving her a better appreciation for everyone's role in Chiefs Camp.

"It was really valuable to learn how hard our university works to put Chiefs Camp on," Dodd said. There are a lot of people on campus that do so much more during the summer in addition to their regular duties just so we can host Chiefs Camp.

Dodd runs the internship program at Chiefs Camp and students play an important role as well. The students apply for RSM 450 Independent Research Project and must complete a rigorous process to be accepted as an intern.

Students apply from all over the country and seeing college students know what they want to do and go after it is refreshing. Some of Dodd's former interns have gone on to work for professional football teams. Cody Crump is one of those.

A Missouri Western student, Crump was born and raised a Chiefs fan. When he learned about the opportunity to intern at Chiefs Camp, he was excited for the chance.

"I felt the internship went extremely well for me," Crump said. "I was able to make a huge amount of connections that eventually ended in another internship opportunity." Crump interned for the Chiefs during the 2020 season

in the sales department as a Mobile Ticketing Assistant. The process is not a simple one.

"The Chiefs scan the resumes first and forward them to me," Dodd said. She then interviews up to 40 students for 30-45 minutes each. That's a lot to go through but it's worth it when you get "the best of the best."

"I filled out an application and, after about maybe a week or so, I received an email from Dr. Dodd asking to meet for an interview," Crump said. After that it was a waiting game and then he received an email saying congratulations and he was able to move on throughout the process. There are good reasons for the screening process.

Knowledge about football is only the beginning of what these interns learn. Among other things, students will:

- have an opportunity for an in-depth experience to supplement their professional course work curriculum.
- prepare for a particular area of competency in which he/she is interested.
- submit an improved and updated resume showcasing Chiefs internship experience.
- learn about as well as how to engage in networking to benefit future career.
- learn about the traits and competencies needed to be a successful sport manager.
- learn more about their interpersonal skill set.
- learn how to work within a team to achieve a group goal.
- increase knowledge base about the skills needed to be a leader.
- learn to show initiative and problem solve.
- learn the importance of strong oral and written communication skills.

And you thought they just ran the kids zone at Chiefs Camp!!



2019 Chiefs Camp Interns



- ◀ The interns set up for the kids zone at training camp. The preparations are worth it when the kids show up and play. ▶
- ◀ This map shows where all the interns are from. Studying is part of the training camp curriculum. ▶
- ◀ One of the intern perks are sideline passes to a Chiefs game.

And how 'bout those Chiefs?!

Story by *Jake Hudanick*
 Photos by *Faith Perkins*
 Design by *Alicia Otto*

The Kansas City Chiefs impacted the hearts of fans at Missouri Western and around the nation after winning their first Super Bowl in 50 years. Achieving this accomplishment, however, was not easy, as a few injuries impacted Patrick Mahomes and other key players like Travis Kelce and Sammy Watkins. These challenges made the victory even sweeter.

As weeks passed by, the team faced one of their biggest hardships; losing against the Tennessee Titans, 35-32. Throughout the postseason, the Chiefs played their hearts out every single week. History almost repeated itself when the Chiefs were losing in the first quarter of their postseason game against the Titans. One more hardship the Chiefs endured was during the Super Bowl. They were still down 10-20 against the San Francisco 49ers by the middle of the fourth quarter. At that point, the Chiefs had to decide what to do.

But then, in the late fourth quarter, the Chiefs turned the tide when Mahomes threw the ball at Wide Receiver Sammy Watkins and was able to squeeze out a score, contributing to the Chiefs' victory that Sunday night. When the defense came onto the field late in the fourth quarter, it was still a close game. The Chiefs pulled out one final stop and put an end to Super Bowl 54. The Chiefs were able to achieve a long-awaited victory.

Fans were proud that their team managed to achieve a victory that was long overdue. They showed love to one another in the stadium, at home and on the big screen at Kansas City Power and Light District.

One fan celebrating the win was Missouri Western psychology professor and Chiefs fan Corey White. According to White, the win got all kinds of fans to unite as one.

"It didn't matter if you're democrat or republican, or black or white, or whatever you were, we were all Chiefs fans," White said. "We were all wearing red and we were all together."

Some fans were even moved to tears such as freshman Desiree Hufford.

"I cried as soon as it happened because it has made me super proud of my team; I've been with them since the start, since I was pretty much born," Hufford said. "Finally seeing what the guys can do and all their hard work paying off, it just makes me super happy."

Missouri Western itself has been impacted by the win as the institution has hosted the Chiefs Training Camp over the past ten years. Regan Dodd is a professor and faculty athletics representative for Missouri Western. She has seen how the Chiefs camp operated the past 10 years and said that the camp was a source of connection between the team and the community.

"We feel a part of their journey," Dodd said. "I think it's definitely been a positive for the university to feel such an amazing historical moment."

After 50 years of waiting, fans could finally rejoice in the victory. In the end, the Chiefs made history and brought pride to the Midwest.



▲ The Financial Aid Department at Missouri Western partakes in Red Friday as they cheer on the Chiefs before the Super Bowl.

In the library at Missouri Western the staff comes together in their red to support the Chiefs. When asked who would win the big game Sunday, they were all quick to say, "The Chiefs."

▲ Madison, a student at Missouri Western, decorates for the big game at Butchart Flowers and Green House in St. Joe. Not only is the campus excited for Chiefs but so is the whole community.

▲ Rhonda Brown and Julie Hansbrough support the Chiefs on Red Friday. Brown and Hansbrough are both instructors of developmental math at Missouri Western.

What was life like 50 years ago?



President –
Richard Nixon

Vice President –
Hubert Humphrey



Average cost of a new car –
\$3,400



Speaker of the House –
John McCormack from Massachusetts



Average annual earnings for
workers (excluding farm labor) –
\$9,400



Average price of a new home –
\$40,000



World Series –
New York Mets defeated the
Baltimore Orioles 4 games to 1

1969

vs.

2019

202.7

Population of U.S. (in millions)

328.2

3.29

Average Household size

2.52

70.51

Life expectancy at birth (in years)

78.87

Lisa &
Michael

Most popular baby names

Sophia &
Liam

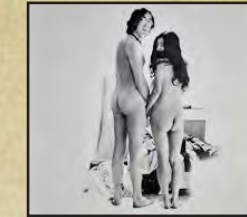
35¢

Price of Gas per Gallon

\$2.60

1969 Notable Events

January 3rd: In Newark, NJ, a nude photo of John and Yoko on the cover of their album, "Two Virgins" violates pornography laws in Jersey. Police confiscate 30,000 copies of the album.



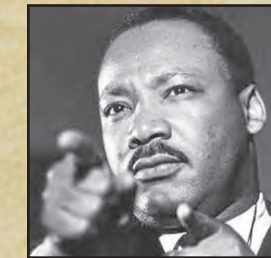
January 20th: Richard Milhous Nixon succeeds Lyndon Baines Johnson as the 37th President of the United States of America.

January 30th: The Beatles give their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Records. The impromptu concert is broken up by the police.



February 24th: The official ruling stating students have the right to express opinions at odds with the government is decried by the US Supreme Court in the Tinker vs. Des Moines School District case.

March 10th: James Earl Ray pleads guilty to the murder of Dr Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee and is sentenced to 99 years in jail.



April 4th: Dr. Denton Cooley implants the first temporary artificial heart in Houston, Texas.



April 23rd: Sirhan Sirhan is sentenced to death for assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

May 20th: Nine days of fighting cease and U.S. troops of the 101st Airborne Division and South Vietnamese forces captured Ap Bia Mountain, Hill 937. It is known as one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.

June 9th: President Nixon meets with Nguyen Van Thieu, President of South Vietnam at a joint press conference announcing the reduction of US troops in Vietnam.

June 28th: New York's Stonewall Inn, an underground gay bar, is raided by police on the grounds the bar refused to pay an increase in bribery. For three days, 400 to 1,000 patrons rioted against police. This clash came to be known as The Stonewall Rebellion, considered the birth of the homosexual rights movement.



July 4th: The California Zodiac killer shoots a waitress in Vallejo. The shot is fatal, adding the woman to the list of victims of the unknown, notorious murderer.

July 7th: Less than a month after President Nixon implements the removal of U.S. troops in Vietnam, the first U.S. troops leave South Vietnam in Saigon.



July 20th: Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon.

August 8th: Cult Leader Charles Manson and a group of his disciples murder five people including Sharon Tate, in her Los Angeles home.

August 15th-18th: In New York, The Woodstock Music and Art Fair opens with over 400,000 young people in attendance. Performers feature Crosby, Stills and Nash; the Grateful Dead; Creedence Clearwater; Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. Two people died: one concertgoer from a heroin overdose and the other from a burst appendix.



September 4th: A report by the US Food and Drug Administration is released claiming birth control pills are safe. There is a concern of possible blood-clotting associated with the pills.

September 15th: Missouri Western State College was designated a four-year institution.



September 24th: Known for their anti-Vietnam War protests, the trial of "The Chicago Eight" begins.

October 18th: Cyclamates found in artificial sweeteners are banned by the U.S. federal government due to evidence they caused cancer found laboratory rat test subjects.

November 15th: 250 thousand protesters stage a peaceful demonstration against the Vietnam War in Washington D.C.



December 6th: At the Altamont Speedway in Livermore, California, The Rolling Stones stage a concert and hire the Hells Angels for security. Four people die, leading to a documentary featuring the events called Gimme Shelter.



December 14th: Michael Jackson makes his first show appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show with brothers and sisters as The Jackson 5.

Diversity

a group of people who are different in the same place

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photos Sourced

Why is it important to have a diverse campus? Latoya Muhammad, Multicultural Education Director at Missouri Western, discusses some of those reasons.

“Diversity is important at any institution if you want to attract a wide range of students and if you want those students to persist to graduation,” Muhammad said.

Having a diverse campus also creates a sense of belonging for students, faculty and staff. If people feel like they belong, they stay – and they encourage others to join them as well.

Word of mouth is one way to attract new students to Missouri Western. The media is another way according to Fumi Matsumoto Cheever, Director of International Student Services.

“Nowadays people rely on media as their source of information,” Cheever said. “People gain information from the media they listen to and watch.”

- Fumi Cheever, Director of International Student Services

Having international students on campus adds another level of media exposure for the campus. It also provides the opportunity to learn more on a personal level from real voices.

There are many platforms for students to share their diverse backgrounds with other students. There is a Center for Multicultural Education, student organizations such as the Black Student Union and the National Panhellenic Council (which are not just for black students), a mentoring program for

students of color, the International Student Services Office, the International Fair, Holi, Diwali, a World Religion Panel and many other activities.

Offering so many diverse services and activities puts Missouri Western in front of a broader audience of potential students.

“Diversity and inclusion bring value and multiple perspectives to the table,” Muhammad said.

Teaching students to be more aware of diversity and inclusion and how it can benefit everyone equips them with the tools to be more marketable to potential employers. It also provides students with great life experiences because of the exposure to many different cultures.

Some students come to college without having had the same life experiences as their classmates. Lai-Monté Hunter, 1999 graduate and Dean of Campus Life and Diversity at Lyon College, speaks to his experiences at Missouri Western.

“Black students didn’t necessarily go away from home growing up,” Hunter said. The college campus is a place where you are expected to grow, to learn, to develop and come outside of your comfort zone. For most black students, just moving away from home and going to college already has them out of their comfort zone.

Cheever has a few goals in mind to make all students feel comfortable.

“Peacebuilding: understanding, accepting and respecting others regardless of differences or difficulties,” Cheever said. And it must start on a personal level if we want to remain a diverse and inclusive campus.



Service

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photos Sourced



“...ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

John F. Kennedy posed that challenge to Americans during his 1961 inaugural address and it still holds true to this day.

Missouri Western has a rich and long legacy of service. There are many service opportunities available to Missouri Western students, staff and faculty. One such opportunity comes during new student orientation every fall. Among the many team-building activities Admissions plans for the week-long orientation, there is a “day of service.”

Students can provide service anywhere around campus or in town. They can be found painting a fence or mural downtown, helping elementary students in classrooms, filling food baskets at Second Harvest – they even helped at the historic Missouri Theater after a fire. During spring break in 2007, students and staff participated in ABC’s “Extreme Home Makeover” working on a home for a family in need in Kansas City.

In 2016, Dr. Elise Hepworth was the adviser for the student organization Rotaract. Together, they opened the Campus Cupboard.

“It’s college – everyone is broke,” Dr. Hepworth had heard people say. She felt that the “rite of passage” of going hungry as a college student was a poor attitude to have as well as an unhealthy perspective. Hepworth was interested in changing the stigma and providing a place for students to access food at no cost.

“Everyone, no matter the age, DESERVES to eat,” Hepworth said. College students are at risk for food insecurity. For Hepworth, it was not only her job to feed their minds but also their bodies.

The Cupboard is supplied with canned goods, and other nonperishable items, along with some personal care products. This is the result of campus food drives, and donations from individuals, business partners, as well as student and community organizations. Students must present an ID and are allowed two plastic grocery bags per visit.

Food is not the only thing that students do not always have while in college. A professional wardrobe is nearly impossible for students who are more comfortable in jeans and t-shirts – and that is usually all they can afford. Megan Raney is the director of the career development center and brought the Campus Closet with her.

“I implemented a career closet at my last institution and it was incredibly well received,” Raney said. Originally, the donations came from faculty and staff members who had professional items to donate. Eventually the donated items also came from the public. Inspired by ensuring that students feel comfortable and successful going into an interview, the Campus Closet provides a wardrobe that is a key part to how that student feels.

“The goal will be to provide the student with a few wardrobe staples as they embark on their career, but also to establish expectations on what professional attire looks like,” Raney said.

“The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it – and the glow from that fire can truly light the world,” President John F. Kennedy said, and again, it still holds true to this day.



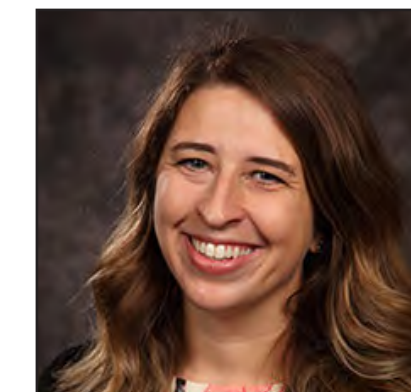
“I hope it (the Campus Closet) will evolve to be a helpful resource to our students who present a need. We’re planning a workshop about professional attire and hope to promote the closet throughout the year - so that even those that don’t need to borrow from it, might be able to learn something new about what to wear at work. In time, I hope our donations include a corporate sponsorship so that we can accommodate multiple sizes and styles - beyond what is available in the office.”

- Megan Raney,
Career Development
Center Director



“The Center for Service is an opportunity to provide a higher profile and view to the students and the community of what Missouri Western students do that they are not getting academic credit for. They can work 120 hours to get three credits. By the time they are done with the project they have hopefully had some type of management experience, something that would allow us to say ‘hey that’s worth a credit’ and it aided in the development of this student.”

- Dr. Gary Clapp,
Center for Service Director



Convocation

Beyond the classroom to the future

Story by Christian Sama
 Photos by Chase Merwin
 Design by Bethany VonSeggern

In times where fear itself can look like a strong opponent, what is worth striving for? According to convocation speaker Jon Meacham, we should strive for impacts of all sizes.

A historian with a diverse range of accomplishments, Meacham spoke about America's historical potential to move beyond division for the 26th annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues.

Missouri Western's annual convocation is an enrichment opportunity for students and the community to consider key issues of the time. Past speakers have included Newt Gingrich, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Martin Luther King III.

Meacham is a Pulitzer-Prize winner, a distinguished professor at Vanderbilt University and the official presidential biographer to

former President George H. W. Bush. His most recent book, "Songs of America" was written with country music singer Tim McGraw and is a New York Times best seller.

Meacham said that while it might seem like we are in an era of extreme chaos with no

clear end, we are not the first to feel that way. He said that this did not negate the severity of current issues such as climate change, economic growth and political unrest, but could serve as reassurance that healing and rebuilding is possible.

"We are in a maelstrom of the present," Meacham said. "The important thing to remember is that we are always in a maelstrom."

According to Meacham, people must strive to create a common ground upon which those across the political spectrum can discuss critical issues. Key to building this common ground would be a focus on honest curiosity and empathy.

"Without empathy, the republican experiment falls apart," Meacham said. "If we don't listen to each other and at least allow a possibility that you might change my mind or I might change yours, no critical issue is ever going to be solved."

R. Dan Boulware, the former president of the Board of Regents and namesake of the convocation, said that he hoped all in attendance would consider their role in addressing the challenges discussed.

"Your education must expand beyond the classroom," Boulware said. "You need to be challenged to be civically and actively involved in your communities. When you leave college, you're either going to be a player or a spectator. We need players to take on the challenges we face today."



Pulitzer-Prize winner and Vanderbilt University distinguished professor John Meacham speaks of tolerance and empathy. Meacham was the 2019 R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues speaker.

Boulware said that students should ask themselves what they aspire to do and make an effort to lift others up.

"It starts with all of us trying to be more tolerant of one another and entertaining diverse views," Boulware said. "It's a matter of being respectful of one another. Respect will go a long way in healing."

President Matthew Wilson said that he hoped those in attendance would come away from the event with a belief that they could create positive change in their communities.

"What we need as a society is being able to come together and have empathy for one another, having open minds and finding out different ways that we can individually impact others," Wilson said. "I think it was just a great message for our students to hear."

As an assistant history professor at Missouri Western, Dominic DeBrincat said that he appreciated Meacham's uniquely optimistic perspective in the face of current crises.

"His message was steeped in the constant quest to find meaning," DeBrincat said. "When we live through a crisis, we live the crisis. What I really liked about his speech is that he said, 'Let's not focus on the crisis as much as how we have gotten out of these crises before.'"

Emily Gioielli, another assistant professor of history, agreed that an optimistic perspective based on America's history of rebuilding was important.

"We may feel a sense of existential crisis now," Gioielli said. "It can help just on an emotional level to put things in proportion. It's an age of anxiety, but other people have felt that before."



Quips and Quotes

Abby Gunn
St. Louis, Mo.
French Education



Abby Gunn plays volleyball for Missouri Western and can't imagine spending her college career doing anything else. "Honestly, putting on a jersey and getting to go represent my school is the coolest thing," Abby said. "I get to play a sport that I've been playing my whole life with my best friends, and I get to do it in a way that gives me competition and pushes me to be a better person, a better athlete, a better leader."

"Missouri Western was great at welcoming me in with open arms," said transfer student Darby Hay. "Right off the bat my Bio 101 professor assured me I had nothing to worry about." The "transfer jitters" he experienced at first went away almost immediately as he developed many friendships with his peers and relationships with his professors. "If you're still contemplating on it, don't hesitate to be a Griffon."



Darby Hay
St. Joseph, Mo.
Political Science & Pre-law

Briana Reed
Kansas City, Mo.
Journalism



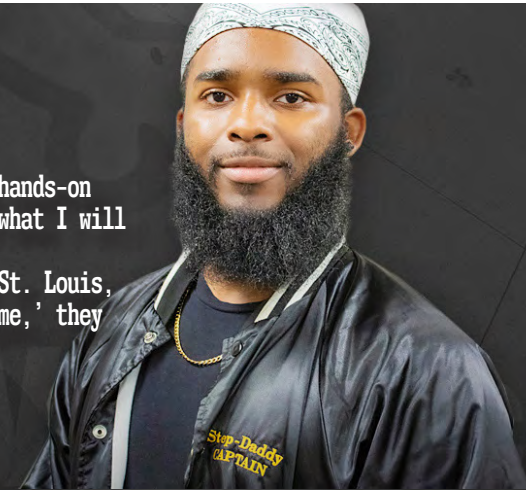
Working for the Yearbook has provided Briana Reed with experiences that she doesn't believe she could have gotten at another university. One of the first stories Briana covered was about a mentalist that performed on campus. After the show, she was able to interview the mentalist and he chose to use some of her photos for promotion online. "I was able to get some of my work shown on Instagram," she said. "It was a lot of exposure for me that I did not know would happen. I'm very thankful for that."

"I've learned a lot about leadership and adaptability, how to handle a situation in the best way possible while still providing a show in the best way possible," he says. "For me, it's a lot more fun and a lot less stressful to be backstage."



Nicholas Todd
Edgerton, Mo.
Theater

Trasean Stepney, a journalism major, said he appreciates all the hands-on experience he has gotten in his classes. "I actually get to hold what I will need to work with and go out and explore what I need to do." He said when he helped out at a radio station in his hometown of St. Louis, they were surprised at how much he knew. "'You're ahead of the game,' they told me," Trasean said.



Trasean Stepney
St. Louis, Mo.
Journalism

Elijah Lombardino
Faucett, Mo.
Marketing and Management



Marketing and management major Elijah Lombardino appreciates all of the help he receives from his professors. "They go above and beyond. It's always good to know that there is somebody you can call to ask for help," he said. At Missouri Western, Elijah sees that professors work hard to do the best they can for you. "Missouri Western is a place where your dreams will come true."

"When I first came into Missouri Western, I didn't think grad school was an option," she said. "Through working with my professors one-on-one, it made me feel more secure. Professors meet with me to go over my portfolio. Missouri Western has made it to where I will be ready for grad school."



Chandra Traxler
St. Joseph, Mo.
Cinema and Convergent
Journalism major
Theatre and
Entrepreneurship minor

Joy Deatherage
St. Joseph, Mo.
Communications



"My time at Missouri Western changed my life. When I came here, I was seeking a piece of paper, any piece of paper would do, so long as I could get a job interview. What I have received is a renewed and revitalized version of myself. A vision for my future, a vision of hope, a vision where anything is possible."

Come for a Visit,

Story by *Lai-Monte Hunter*
Photos Sourced
Design by *Alicia Otto*

History of the Black Alumni Network at Missouri Western

In October of 2010, I was appointed Chair of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sigma Kappa Chapter 20th anniversary reunion. It was at this time that I shared my desire to increase the engagement among Black alumni with former Director of Alumni Relations, Colleen Kowich. My vision was to have the fraternity collaborate with the institution. This partnership was the first of its kind in the history of the chapter. The following March, I met with Jerry Pickman '85, former Director of Development, to discuss the creation of the Alpha Phi Alpha Karl V. Bell Scholarship. And during the chapter reunion, October 21st – 23rd, 2011, the initial scholarship funds were secured through participant registrations.

In May of 2015, I created a Facebook group for Black alumni. Within two months of existence, the group membership was 341. After sharing this excitement with Kowich, we partnered to create a leadership group in response to the established momentum. On July 23, 2015, during the initial meeting, I made a motion to name the group the MWSU Black Alumni Network. The motion was seconded by Kimberly Warren '92. The motion passed unanimously. It was also unanimously agreed that the target audience for the group would be Black or African American alumni and currently enrolled students. The alumni present and recognized as the founding members of the MWSU Black Alumni Network are Lai-Monté Hunter '99, James Sanders '84, Kimberly Warren '92, Robert Warren '95, and Chemia Woods '08. There were also two staff members of the university present, Latoya Fitzpatrick, Coordinator, Center for Multicultural Education, and Colleen Kowich, Director of Alumni Relations. The two goals established were to 1. conduct outreach and engage Black alumni and 2. to conduct outreach and engage current Black students

On July 24, 2015, I hosted a Black Alumni Social hour in Kansas City, Missouri, to celebrate the official naming of the group. There were twenty alumni in attendance. Approximately two weeks later, on August 8, 2015, after nearly five years of conversation, planning, and institution support, the Missouri Western Alumni Association voted unanimously in favor of officially recognizing the MWSU Black Alumni Network!



The following month on September 17, 2015, the first meeting of the MWSU Black Alumni Network was held. James Sanders '84 has the designation of serving as the first Chair of the Black Alumni Network as he was the only person of color on the Board of Directors at that time. It was also at this meeting that I discussed integrating the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sigma Kappa Chapter 25th anniversary reunion with the official homecoming schedule to achieve the network goals.

The first Biennial Black Alumni Reunion was held on October 13th – 16th, 2016, in concert with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sigma Kappa Chapter 25th anniversary reunion. I had the privilege of serving as the first Chairman. The Black Alumni Network raised \$2,500 towards the Alpha Phi Alpha Karl V. Bell Scholarship.

On February 1, 2018, the Black Alumni Network launched the 28 Days of Giving, an annual campaign in honor of Black History Month and Clifford Hughes '55, the first African American graduate of the Junior College. The second Biennial Black Alumni Reunion was held on

stay for an Education

October 11th – 14th of that same year. Again, I was able to serve as Chairman. With the assistance of the Black Alumni Network, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sigma Kappa Chapter became the first Black organization to endow a scholarship at Missouri Western successfully. During the event, it was announced that \$10,302.42 had been raised over the years towards the Alpha Phi Alpha Karl V. Bell Scholarship. Also, \$1,200 was secured to begin the Clifford Hughes '55 Scholarship.

The Black Alumni Network launched Ready – Set – Griffs on August 24, 2019. This annual giveaway is to support first-year students in their transition from high school to college. Kevonn Davis from Kansas City, Missouri, was the first recipient, and Tia Vernon, also from Kansas City, Missouri, was the 2020 recipient.

During a global pandemic (COVID-19), planning for the third Biennial Black Alumni Reunion was underway; however, the event had to be postponed until 2021. Despite the setback, The Black Alumni Network continued to remain steadfast in the face of adversity by

introducing the Black Alumni Think Tank in September of 2020. This monthly forum encourages Black alumni to explore and become engaged in discussions on different topics that will strengthen our community.

I am incredibly proud that the Black Alumni Network exists and look forward to working with fellow Griffons to uphold the mission of Missouri Western State University!

Black Alumni Network Chair

- 2015-2017: James Sanders '84
- 2017-2019: Lai-Monté Hunter '99
- 2019-2021: Janice Wallace '98

Biennial Black Alumni Reunion Chair

- 2015-2021: Lai-Monté Hunter '99

Black Alumni Facebook Group

- July 2015: 341 members
- August 2020: 460 members

Proud to be a Griffon, by Lai-Monte Hunter

I always dreamed of attending college. As a first-generation student, I had to learn how to navigate unfamiliar territory at Missouri Western. Fortunately, awaiting my arrival in the fall of 1995 was a dedicated group of returning African American students who served as mentors to new students. Through this experience, I became familiar with a community of peers who also desired to achieve academic success while demonstrating the importance of collective responsibility. The mentor program served as an extended family that offered support beyond that received from other campus resources. I am truly appreciative to have participated in this program and know that it positively impacted my student experience. Motivated by this example of leadership, I sought out other ways to become an engaged Griffon.

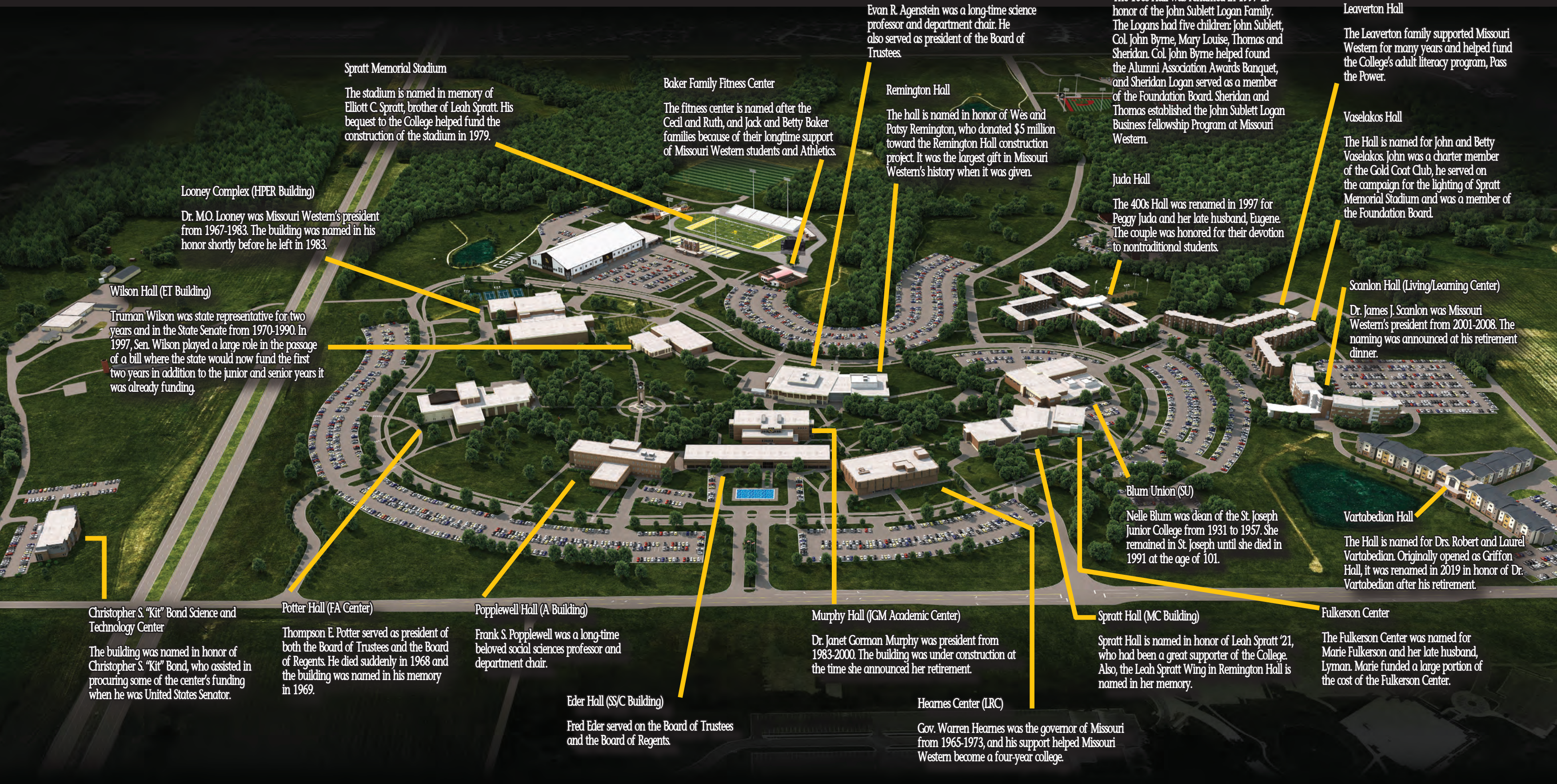
I was a four-year member of the Student Government Association, serving as the Treasurer in my Senior year. Our meetings were held every Monday in the Junior College Room. It was in those meetings that I learned parliamentary procedures, budgeting processes, and how to interpret institution policy. Co-curricular involvement throughout the campus and local community ignited a spirit of servant-leadership for me. I served as the President of both The Ebony Collegians and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sigma Kappa Chapter, and learned to advocate for underrepresented students while encouraging individuals to exercise their right to vote through on-campus voter registration drives. I also used my voice as a member of the Instruments of Praise Gospel Choir during performances at off-campus ministries and community service activities.

When asked why I selected Missouri Western, it was the slogan "Come for a visit, Stay for an education." My campus visit was enjoyable then and continues to be each time I return to my beloved alma mater. Although it was twenty-five years ago that I began an educational journey at Missouri Western, I remain committed to the institution that was the catalyst for my career as a higher education administrator. I am proud to be a Griffon and find it an honor to now serve as the first African American Vice-President of the Missouri Western Alumni Association. Many things on campus have changed, but one thing for sure; once a Griffon, always a Griffon!

The legacy of campus buildings

If these walls could talk...

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photo Sourced



Spratt Memorial Stadium

The stadium is named in memory of Elliott C. Spratt, brother of Leah Spratt. His bequest to the College helped fund the construction of the stadium in 1979.

Baker Family Fitness Center

The fitness center is named after the Cecil and Ruth, and Jack and Betty Baker families because of their longtime support of Missouri Western students and Athletics.

Remington Hall

The hall is named in honor of Wes and Patsy Remington, who donated \$5 million toward the Remington Hall construction project. It was the largest gift in Missouri Western's history when it was given.

Juda Hall

The 400s Hall was renamed in 1997 for Peggy Juda and her late husband, Eugene. The couple was honored for their devotion to nontraditional students.

Leaverton Hall

The Leaverton family supported Missouri Western for many years and helped fund the College's adult literacy program, Pass the Power.

Vaselakos Hall

The Hall is named for John and Betty Vaselakos. John was a charter member of the Gold Coat Club, he served on the campaign for the lighting of Spratt Memorial Stadium and was a member of the Foundation Board.

Scanlon Hall (Living/Learning Center)

Dr. James J. Scanlon was Missouri Western's president from 2001-2008. The naming was announced at his retirement dinner.

Vartabedian Hall

The Hall is named for Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian. Originally opened as Griffon Hall, it was renamed in 2019 in honor of Dr. Vartabedian after his retirement.

Beshears Hall

The 200s Hall was renamed in 1997 in honor of Kelsy B. Beshears, an advocate for civil rights in St. Joseph and the state.

Logan Hall

The 100s Hall was renamed in 1997 in honor of the John Sublett Logan Family. The Logans had five children: John Sublett, Col. John Byrne, Mary Louise, Thomas and Sheridan. Col. John Byrne helped found the Alumni Association Awards Banquet, and Sheridan Logan served as a member of the Foundation Board. Sheridan and Thomas established the John Sublett Logan Business fellowship Program at Missouri Western.

Blum Union (SU)

Nelle Blum was dean of the St. Joseph Junior College from 1931 to 1957. She remained in St. Joseph until she died in 1991 at the age of 101.

Spratt Hall (MC Building)

Spratt Hall is named in honor of Leah Spratt '21, who had been a great supporter of the College. Also, the Leah Spratt Wing in Remington Hall is named in her memory.

Fulkerson Center

The Fulkerson Center was named for Marie Fulkerson and her late husband, Lyman. Marie funded a large portion of the cost of the Fulkerson Center.

Looney Complex (HPER Building)

Dr. M.O. Looney was Missouri Western's president from 1967-1983. The building was named in his honor shortly before he left in 1983.

Wilson Hall (ET Building)

Truman Wilson was state representative for two years and in the State Senate from 1970-1990. In 1997, Sen. Wilson played a large role in the passage of a bill where the state would now fund the first two years in addition to the junior and senior years it was already funding.

Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Center

The building was named in honor of Christopher S. "Kit" Bond, who assisted in procuring some of the center's funding when he was United States Senator.

Potter Hall (FA Center)

Thompson E. Potter served as president of both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. He died suddenly in 1968 and the building was named in his memory in 1969.

Popplewell Hall (A Building)

Frank S. Popplewell was a long-time beloved social sciences professor and department chair.

Murphy Hall (JGM Academic Center)

Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy was president from 1983-2000. The building was under construction at the time she announced her retirement.

Eder Hall (SS/C Building)

Fred Eder served on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents.

Hearnes Center (LRC)

Gov. Warren Hearnes was the governor of Missouri from 1965-1973, and his support helped Missouri Western become a four-year college.

Griffon: Speed like an Eagle

Strong as a Lion

A griffon is a mythical creature that is half lion and half eagle. It was chosen in 1917-18 as the mascot of St. Joseph Junior College, the institution which later became Missouri Western State University.

The Griffon was selected because it was considered a guardian of riches, and education is viewed as a precious treasure.

Its wings are spread in the shape of the state of Missouri to signify the union of the college with the state university system in 1977.

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photos Sourced

1919



1927



1928



1935



1959



1969



1970



1972



1985



1999



1965

Current





Nurse is first COVID-19 death in region
SSM Health: 'She (Judy Wilson-Griffin) was a hero in the truest sense'



STAY-HOME ORDER ISSUE
YAKIMA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ACTION

except when going out for necessities such as food, medicine and medical services...
Teresa Everson, district health officer...
The district also announced that as of Sunday afternoon, Yakima County has 24 confirmed cases of COVID-19...



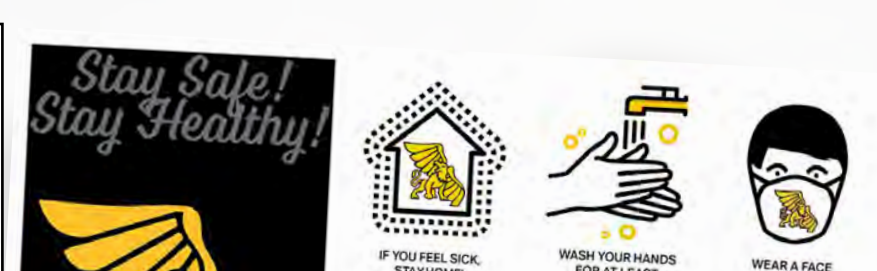
U.S. DEATHS NEAR 100,000, AN INCALCULABLE LOSS
They Were Not Simply Names on a List. They Were Us.



LOCKDOWN
Be good neighbours ■ Support the most vulnerable

SAVE YOURSELF FROM INFLUENZA AND TUBERCULOSIS DIPHTEHRIA SCARLET FEVER WHOOPING COUGH MENINGITIS MUMPS
FOLLOW TWO SIMPLE RULES

SAVE YOURSELF FROM INFLUENZA AND TUBERCULOSIS DIPHTEHRIA SCARLET FEVER WHOOPING COUGH MENINGITIS MUMPS
FOLLOW TWO SIMPLE RULES
RULE 1: Whenever you cough or sneeze, bow your head or put a handkerchief over your mouth and nose.
RULE 2: Don't put in your mouth fingers, pencils, or anything else that does not belong there, nor use a common drinking cup.



550,000 NHS STAFF ONLY 2,000 TESTED

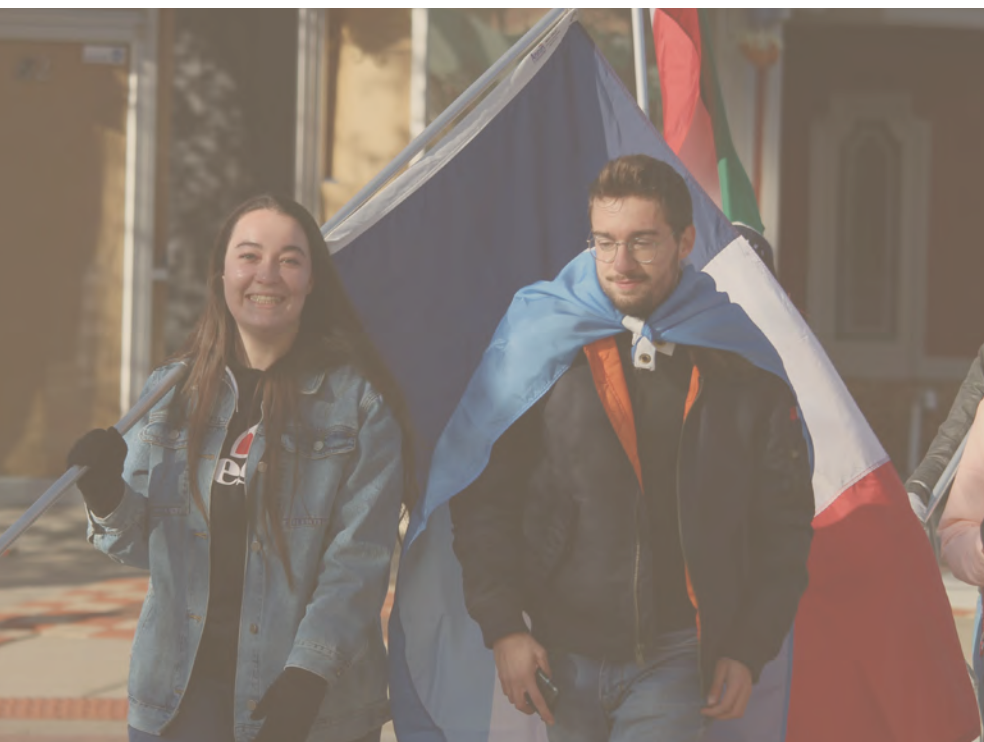
U.S. Cases, Jobless Claims Soar
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 - VOL. CCLXXV NO. 72



ORDER EXTENDED
STAY-AT-HOME RULE TO STAY IN SOME BUSINESSES, STATE PARKS



beaming [confidence]
belonging [together]
believing [the hype]



being
becoming [griffons]
bestowing [the legacy]

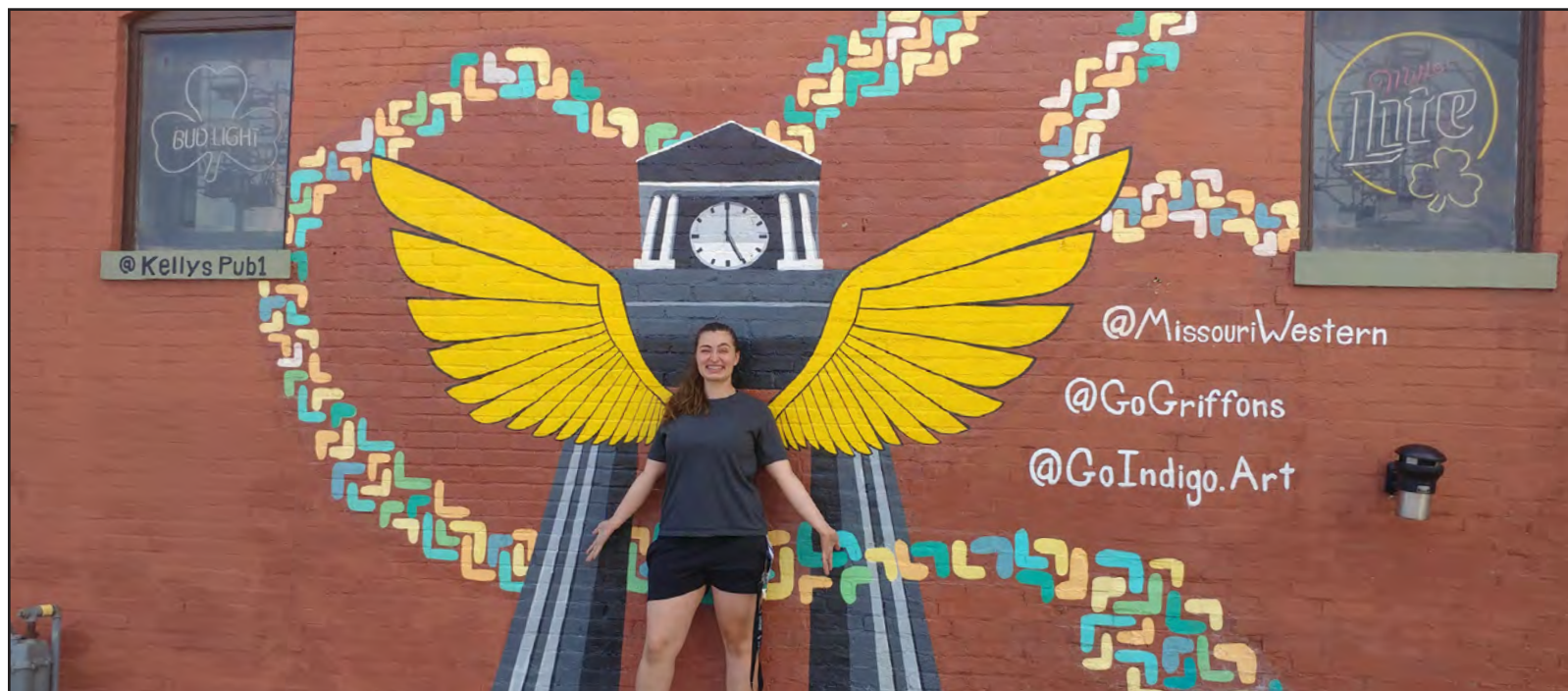
Making Downtown *Great* Again



The making of a mural. Indigo Gaydusek poses with the wall and her rough design prior to starting. Follow the progression as the mural takes shape and becomes a reality.



Gaydusek painted the mural on the wall of Kelly's Pub in downtown St. Joseph. Add your own photo @MissouriWestern #GoGriffons #GoIndigo.Art.



Story by Turner Parsons
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto

Driving towards downtown St. Joseph, there is a mural painted on the side of Kelly's Pub that ties in the life of a Griffon. The mural depicts Missouri Western's iconic clock tower and a set of bright, golden Griffon wings on each side.

The proud artist is Missouri Western alumna Indigo Gaydusek who graduated in the spring of 2019 with a degree in studio art with a painting concentration and minor in printmaking and sculpture.

Gaydusek was approached by Kathy Liao, a professor of painting and printmaking, after Kelly's Pub reached out to Western's art department.

Liao was very excited to get students more involved in the St. Joseph area by adding beauty to the city through Gaydusek's art.

"The mural changes the way people see the community," Liao said. "Kelly's Pub is one of those businesses who was willing to work with Missouri

Western to bring more student body presence to the downtown area."

Gaydusek started the mural in May of 2019. She worked on the piece for long hours every day to perfect the piece. With lots of planning and hard work, Gaydusek finished the mural at the end of the summer.

Kelly's owners know the pub is a hot spot for students and wanted to make them feel more welcomed with this mural. Now students who spend time at Kelly's Pub can take Instagram-worthy pictures with their friends.

In the future, Gaydusek said she wants to continue painting murals and being involved with the St. Joseph community. Gaydusek said she wants other artists to never stop being creative and it is important not to lose sight of art after graduating.

"... When you get out of school, it's hard to keep up with making art," Gaydusek said.

Real Life *Guitar* Hero

Story and Photos by *Turner Parsons*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

Ross Galler, a musician whose music knows no bounds. The Missouri Western sophomore looks like your typical musician with unique tattoos, crazy hair and a guitar case completely covered in stickers.

Galler started down a musical path at a young age. When he was two-years-old he would create his own "instruments" by banging on objects loud enough until they make a sound. He then went on to play in the Allstate Jazz Band where he received an honorable mention for jazz bass. Now Galler plays jazz guitar, jazz upright bass and piano.

Growing up in Kansas city, Galler soaked up the jazz side of the city by going to jazz clubs, watching other musicians perform and being involved in the music scene. At age 15, inspiration struck a chord when Galler went to a jazz club called The Phoenix. He spent late nights jamming out with fellow musicians and friends until the wee hours of the morning.

Galler's mother, Bobbie Bettis, has been a supportive parent since the first time he picked up an instrument.

"What is so beautiful about Ross is that he plays from his heart and his soul," Bettis said. "He does anything that he sets his heart to, and he does so with perfection."

Currently an upright bassist in the Missouri Western orchestra, Galler recognizes the changes he's made in his technique and how his performance has improved.

"It is such a good feeling to get that kind of push and to know that you are improving," Galler said.

While St. Joseph is not as diverse as Kansas City, Galler said that the music scene in St. Joseph is slowly growing. Gigs are very tough to find and connections are limited due to very few venues and people interested in the music industry.

"As more and more people play, the more opportunities there are for people to play," Galler said.

Galler is still undecided on his major, but because of his love of music he is leaning towards a degree in music performance or music business. As he continues down his musical path, he's always reminded it's never too late to pick up an instrument or to stop trying to improve one's self as a musician.



At two years old, Galler created his own "instruments."

Today, Galler has a favorite guitar - that he did not have to make. He chose it for this photo session.

He is most comfortable performing on the stage of Potter Theater.



An open CLOSET

Story by Avery Corkins
 Photos by Nikki Groom & Chase Merwin
 Design by Bethany VonSeggern

Pride festivals and parades are becoming much more common in the world today. These events give the LGBTQIA+ community a moment to celebrate their identities in the face of society. Pride parades help to give a clear visual of the broad community that is represented under the acronym LGBTQIA+. These events bring awareness, love, recognition, remembrance, empowerment and much more to the community.

"I hope this shows people that love is love, and there is nothing wrong with that," said attendee Martha Saley.

The seventh-annual St. Joseph Pride Festival took place on Friday, Sept. 13 with the opening ceremony at 6 p.m. The festival continued on into Saturday with events starting at 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. There was a broad list of things to do and see at the event. Food, art, yoga, live music and more. Contagious smiles flooded the fest throughout the evening.

Friday night, LGBTQIA+ members and supporters walked into the festival with bold strides. This was a night to stand loud and proud and show the world who they are.

Micah Roth, Mr. Gay Pride of Kansas City, gave an insight on how Pride fests impact many lives in the community.

"It is meeting people that need to know it is okay to be themselves, and you can learn stuff from the elders, you can even learn stuff from the new ones, you can learn stuff from the people who are heterosexual because they are so supportive," Roth said. "Back in my day, there wasn't a lot of support. We had to hide it, or we got beat up. Now everything is open and much better."

The diverse crowd was filled with pride flags of all sorts. The LGBTQIA+ community showed up as well as supporters of the community.

Casey Gallagher, a Pride supporter and member of an organization called Free Mom Hugs, was in attendance on Friday night.

"As a whole, I'm hoping this raises a lot of community awareness about being inclusive of the community and providing support and just bringing a mood of acceptance to this community," Gallagher said.

St. Joseph Pride was a successful event with a very diverse turnout. This community is taking big steps in LGBTQIA+ support and it will only continue from here.



Presidents Samuel Cherry and Nicholas Todd ran a booth for their organizations at Pride Fest.



MWSU advisor Derek Evans supports the cause.



Community members and MWSU faculty march in the parade.



Dieter Schnitzel and Burley Esque represent the City of Fountains Sisters at the St. Joseph Pride Festival.



Parade participants line the streets representing inclusion.



Quin leading a dance circle the fellow supporters.



becoming a *Champion*

Story by *Mogran Doyle*
Photo by *Jim Berry*
Design by *Christian Sarna / Alicia Otto*

In 2020, no Chiefs fans had to leave the AFC Championship game feeling heartbroken. Instead, they heard the announcer yell that they were heading to Super Bowl LIV, and watched red and gold confetti rain onto the field, completely covering the grass. In a moment of pure joy, Missouri Western student Aly Viselli laid down and did snow angels in the sea of confetti at Arrowhead Stadium.

The 2019 football season was Viselli's third year of being an official Chiefs Cheerleader. Every home game, she gets to stand on the sidelines at Arrowhead and perform dances, keep fans engaged and cheer on the red and gold. But during her third season, she was able to do all of those things at one high-stakes away game: the Super Bowl.

She walked into Hard Rock Stadium on Sunday morning around 10:30 a.m. As fans began appearing, Viselli realized just how much of the Chiefs Kingdom had made the trip as the teal and orange of the stadium turned bright red.

"When we first started the game, and they played the chop for the first time, there were Chiefs fans everywhere," Viselli said. "I'm sure you could hear it on TV. Everyone was cheering and then, even during the National Anthem, you could hear them all go, 'Home of the Chiefs.'"

As the game went on, Viselli and her teammates would rotate between two corners of the field performing short routines and cheering in front of over 62,000 fans. Despite the big stage, Viselli said she was hardly nervous.

"It was kind of like another day," Viselli said. "It's almost like one of those things where you're nervous before it happens, but then whenever

you get on the field you know what to do. You're just in your element."

Viselli was never nervous cheering, nor was she afraid of losing. As the game got down to the wire, no one was counting out Kansas City. When the Chiefs executed their wasp play from Patrick Mahomes to Tyreek Hill, Viselli felt the stadium light up.

"With the Chiefs, I feel like you have to wait until the clock hits zero until you even believe it," Viselli said. "I always say, you can't watch a Chiefs game without getting a little bit of anxiety."

When the clock hit zero and the Chiefs had won by 11, confetti filled the air once again.

"It was crazy," Viselli said. "Our team couldn't stop screaming, couldn't stop crying, laughing, like so many emotions were going around. We didn't know what to think or feel. It was just incredible."

Friends and family of Viselli knew what a big moment this was and were fascinated to see her on the big screen. One long time friend was student Cydney Ezzell, who became close friends with Viselli when the two began attending Missouri Western three years ago. According to Ezzell, seeing Viselli on the field was unbelievable.

"It just seems like the Super Bowl and things like that are just in a whole other world," Ezzell said. "It doesn't seem like it would ever be real to someone from St. Joe, especially, and it's cool because it's kind of like an underdog-type of thing. You really can do anything you set your mind to, and watching her do that is just really awesome."

After the trophy was passed around and the confetti had fallen, Viselli attended the Chiefs organization after party full of celebrities and

champagne spraying. She didn't get back to her hotel until 4:15 a.m. on Monday morning. She flew back to Kansas City later that day.

Despite already missing an entire week of classes for the Super Bowl and promotional events including Opening Night for the media, NFL Experience, Good Morning America, the Today Show and FOX News, Viselli had to miss just one more day once she got back home. She rode in a red, double-decker bus during the victory parade through Downtown Kansas City. According to Viselli, that was the moment when it finally all began to sink in.

"You're back at home, you're around all of Chiefs Kingdom and there's a sea of red everywhere," Viselli said. "They're holding the Lombardi Trophy two buses in front of us, and there's confetti everywhere. That picture in my mind is like, we just won the Super Bowl!"

When she finally came back to reality, Viselli had lots of school work to catch up on. She had told her professors far in advance that absences would be a possibility, but her accounting professor, Jackie Musick, knew this was an exception to the attendance policy.

"Maybe they'll go again, but you have to treat all of these things as once in a lifetime," Musick said. "She was up front with me and there was no problem working with her because she kept me informed all along."

There wasn't much time off after the Super Bowl for Viselli, however. Four weeks later, she would have tryouts for the Chiefs Cheer team once again. Until then, Viselli would reminisce on the falling confetti and keep letting it sink in that she and the Chiefs are Super Bowl champions.

Aly Viselli performs during Super Bowl LIV. Viselli has been a Chiefs Cheerleader for three years.



I'm sorry isn't enough...

Story by *Turner Parsons*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

As soon as you step into the “tunnel,” you see the walls and floor covered in words. Words that have caused hate and pain over many years to millions of people around the world. The mood instantly changes. Laughter dies off as the room falls silent.

You are quickly presented with a scene full of chaos. Yelling and screaming filled everyone’s ears. The screams belonged to two service members in a heated argument about trans identity and healthcare in the military. The argument continued and one service member stormed off firing back with racist remarks.

Continuing down the path you enter a deportation simulator. Actors dressed as guards scream at you, push you and your group into walls while guards shine flashlights directly in everyone’s eyes. Shock from the experience sets in and everyone freezes in place.

With minimal time to absorb the last couple minutes you are in front of a woman crying on her bed, her sheets covered in bloody handprints. Standing nearby is a man repeatedly apologizing to her before he slams his hands down, screams at the top of his lungs then exits. This moment leaves you all in shock and fear.

These scenes are not meant to be taken lightly. Student Paige Crockett said the sex trafficking scene resonated the most with her.

“... I don’t want it to happen to me, to any friends, anyone that I care about or to anyone at all.” Crockett said. “It’s really scary, and it’s at its peak right now.”

Next you make your way to the exit written on paper on the walls are questions such as: Are you white? Are you a native English speaker? Are you heterosexual?

These questions listed with the intention to make you stop and think about what you have.

Marissa Hunt found the tunnel very impactful.

“... Seeing the words pop out at you in the dark is like a nightmare,” Hunt said. “If I close my eyes, I will probably still see those words printed in the back of my eyelids.”

This interactive experience known as The Tunnel of Oppression is a biannual event where groups of students walk through a series of scenes depicting real life events that students may face.

Latoya Muhammad, Director of Multicultural Education, is responsible for putting on this event.

“We do it every two years because it is labor intensive and we have to wait for things to happen in our world so we have enough information to fill the Tunnel,” Muhammad said.

The goal of this event is to raise awareness of issues regarding privilege and oppression.

Everyone who walks out of the tunnel feels a bit heavier than beforehand, while also having a deeper understanding of what it is like to experience oppression. This includes student Julia Utterback.

“It was definitely eye opening. I didn’t come here with any thoughts or expectations, I was ready to experience it,” Utterback said. “It makes you think of all the privileges you do have.”

The tunnel is meant to leave a jarring impact on every person going through it by hopefully pushing students to be more kind and acting justly to every person they encounter.

Learning to be *Chloe* Again

Story by *Briana Reed*
Photos by *Jessica Stallard / Sourced*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

Life is all about relationships, both good and bad. How a person views the world and themselves is often times based on the relationships they have built throughout their lives. Relationships with family, friends, a spouse and even a spiritual relationship can be at times very difficult to maintain. It's one thing to have a relationship, but it's another to ensure that the relationship being built is healthy. Factors that make a relationship healthy include self-love, open communication, honesty, trust, respect and intimacy.

Unhealthy relationships are based on power and control. Things like intimidation, possessiveness, humiliation, domination, threats, and physical and sexual abuse are undeniable signs of an unhealthy relationship. It can be hard to detect that an unhealthy relationship at times because people tend to automatically defend or justify the actions of their significant other. Recognizing the relationship is unhealthy is one thing but having the courage to leave can be very difficult—especially when physical or sexual abuse is involved. Unhealthy relationships are more common than people might believe, and it's impossible to know who has survived one just by looking.

Chloe Rhein is a Missouri Western student majoring in journalism and has had great success in her field building friendships both professional and personal throughout her academic career. However, many don't know that Rhein is a survivor of a relationship where she experienced possessiveness, threats and sexual abuse at the age of 14 that lasted until she was 16 years old. Two years after leaving that relationship, Rhein courageously decided to tell her story. "Learning to be Chloe Again: A Survivor's Story" is an award-winning documentary produced by the Missouri Western Instructional Media Center. Rhein chose to have it shown with Missouri Western's full support behind her.

"I don't know if the documentary would've happened had I gone somewhere else," Rhein said. According to Rhein, Missouri Western's small size allowed for more community involvement and support than a larger school might have. Missouri Western's Title IX coordinator, Adam McGowan, is someone who advocated for the showing of Rhein's documentary. He believed that the video would help students to know that they are not alone and encourage them to be more open in talking about their personal relationships.

"I think it helps give students a face to these stories and issues," McGowan said. "It's easy for me to talk at Griffon Edge about dating violence, domestic violence and sexual assault, but to have somebody who's a peer... they can look at them to see that this does happen." McGowan is always available for students to talk with about any concerns they have with the relationships they build. Other resources include the free counseling center and support from residence hall assistants, or RAs. Alyssa Cusumano, a junior studying social work and sociology, is an RA at Missouri Western. She chose to watch Rhein's documentary so that she could provide support to her residents who might be going through similar situations.

"I wanted to see what all the other residents were going to see," Cusumano said. "Being able to be present and be in participation with them shows that I think this is valued."

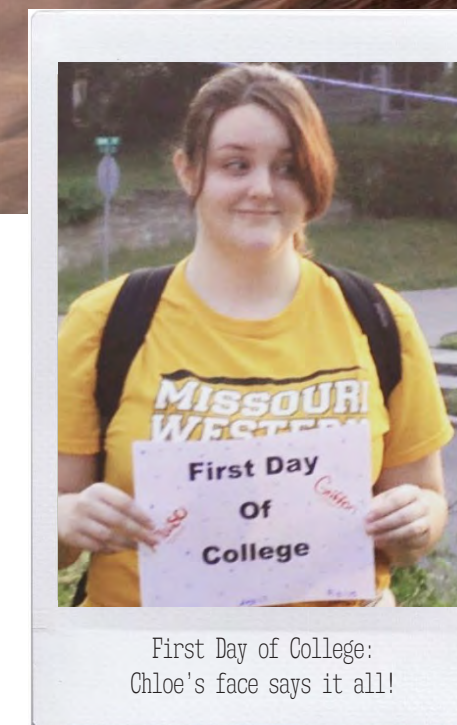
Being a survivor, Rhein has thought about becoming a victim's advocate once she graduates to help men and women who have been hurt. Through therapy, Rhein has found her voice again.



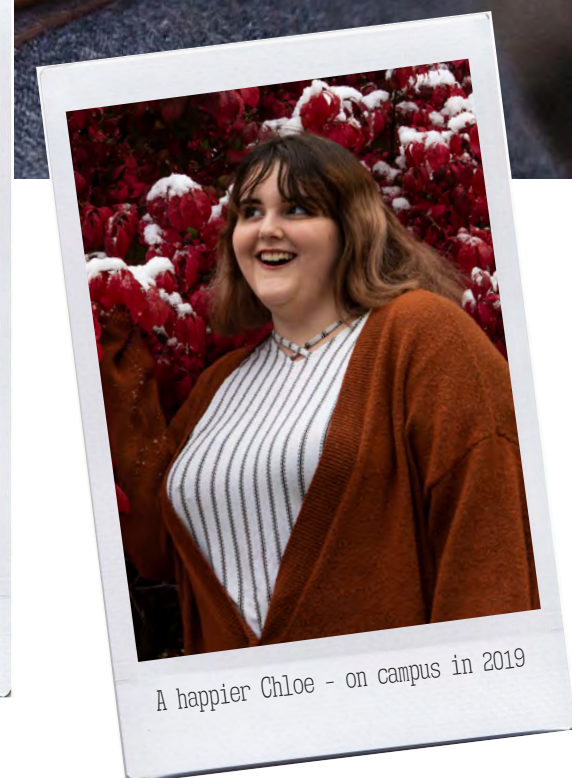
Rhein Siblings:
Sam, Chloe, Cole, and Jacob



Chloe and her parents at her
home-school high school
graduation, 2015



First Day of College:
Chloe's face says it all!



A happier Chloe - on campus in 2019

I am a Drum Major for Social Justice

Story by *Dr. Jennifer Jackson*
 Photos by *Alicia Otto and Christian Sarna*
 Design by *Alicia Otto*

February 4, 1968, exactly two months to the day before Martin Luther King's assassination, was also the day he delivered "The Drum Major Instinct" sermon at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

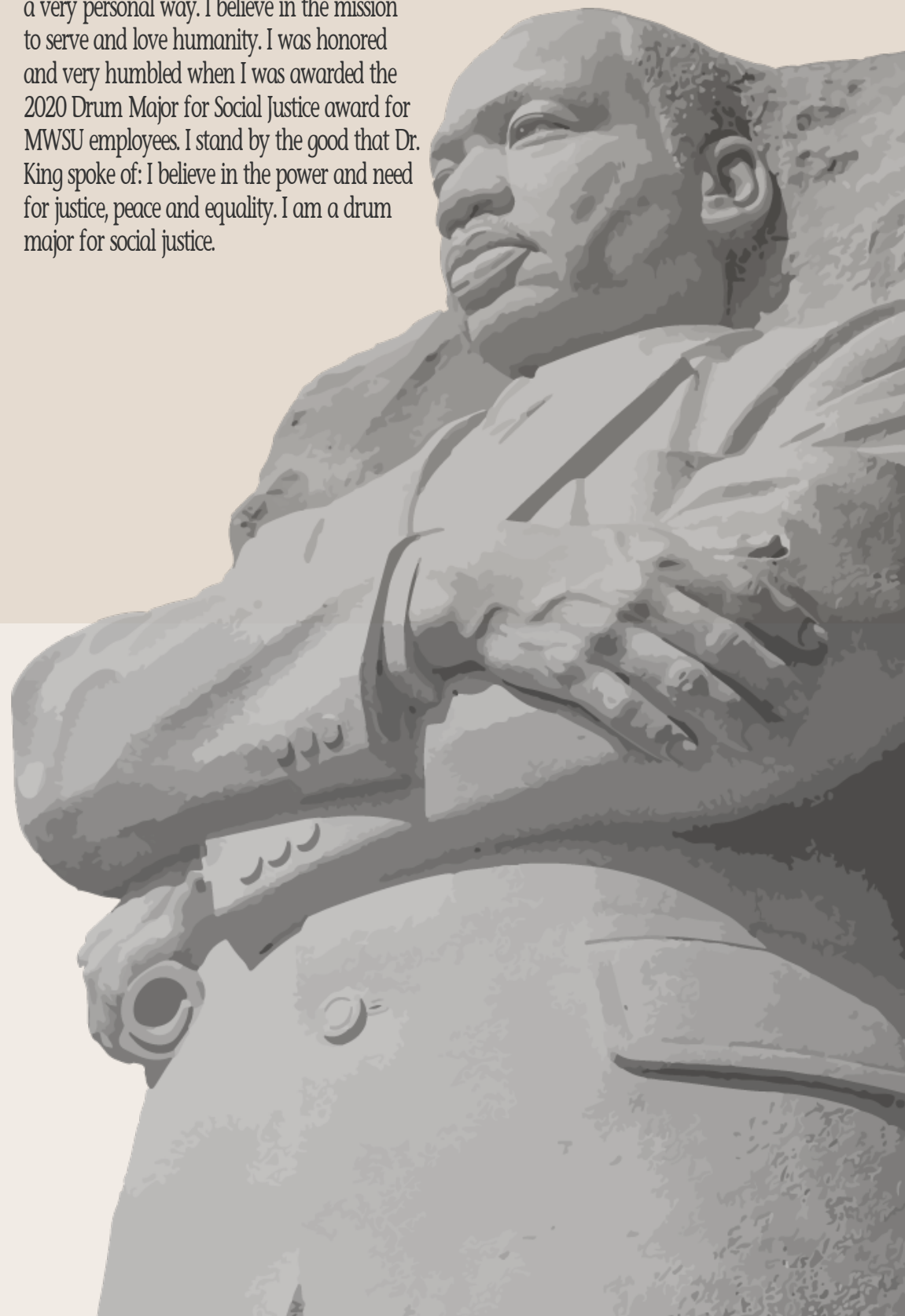
Sixty years later on that date, I sat in a graduate course about King's speeches and sermons in Memphis, not far from the Lorraine Motel where King was assassinated, and read this exact sermon. We listened to the audio and discussed so many of the rhetorical devices that he used that day, and just sat and talked about the meaning of that phrase "the drum major instinct."

King takes his time to explain the concept and how it can be used for evil or for good. He explains "we all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade."

Prophetically, King goes on to address what he wanted to be remembered for when the time came. He did not feel that his education, Nobel Peace Prize, or several hundred other awards were important. Instead he said to tell them that he gave his life to "serving others," "tried to love," "tried to be right on the war question," tried "to feed the hungry," tried "to clothe those who were naked," and went to "visit those who were in prison."

King stated "I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

These words, to this day, ring true to me in a very personal way. I believe in the mission to serve and love humanity. I was honored and very humbled when I was awarded the 2020 Drum Major for Social Justice award for MWSU employees. I stand by the good that Dr. King spoke of: I believe in the power and need for justice, peace and equality. I am a drum major for social justice.



Right: Dr. Jennifer Jackson received the 2020 Drum Major for Justice Award for a Missouri Western employee. Dr. Jackson's award rests atop books about or authored by Dr. King.

Center Left: Guest poet Kyla Lacey and Missouri Western junior Mariah White pose for a selfie at the awards banquet.

Bottom Left: The award for Leo Grantham was also presented at the banquet.

Bottom Right: It is as if Dr. King himself is speaking into the microphone. The flyer on the screen displayed the events for MLK Week.





“Ask for what you want
and be prepared to get it.”
- Maya Angelou

Stay Humble

Story by *Jordan Alford*
Photos *Sourced*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

It's not every day that someone gets to have an international platform, but for one Missouri Western student, it's a reality.

Meet Jashira Bolden, a junior majoring in political science with a minor in legal studies and the reigning Miss Black International U.S. Ambassador.

Bolden is active on campus, holding positions such as the Director of Student Involvement for the Student Government Association, Residential Assistant in Vartabedian Hall and Co-founder of the Missouri Western Dance Company.

Bolden also won the title of Miss Black Illinois U.S. Ambassador before continuing on to claim the title of Miss Black International U.S. Ambassador 2020.

She has used her title to enact change in her community and across the world on a “rise up and conquer” platform that focuses on youth empowerment and homelessness awareness. Even though she holds an international title, Bolden credits Missouri Western with keeping her grounded locally and preparing her to work with people from all walks of life.

“I have to work with a diverse group of people,” Bolden said. “Missouri Western has made it so no one is a stranger to me.”

As a full-time student taking 18 credit hours, working the night shift at a call center, programming events for the student body and making time for friends, she still performs all of her Miss Black International duties on the weekends. Bolden said she works hard to juggle her responsibilities, but her support team makes sure to help her with her royal duties and her daily life.

Best friends with the international queen, junior Ariana Reed believes Bolden's drive has taken her far and will continue to do so.

“She sets high goals for herself and reaches them,” Reed said. “Some people may be intimidated by her, but she is just a bold, confident woman; so if she intimidates you, she's not sorry.”

No matter who she encounters, Bolden leaves a lasting impact. According to sophomore Yasmin Jackson, Bolden's friend and hairstylist, it is clear why Bolden inspires many.

“She actually doesn't really like wearing the crown and sash often,” Jackson said. “She is very humble when it comes to her title. she loves for all the girls to feel like queens.”

Feeling like a queen is more than wearing a crown and sash. Being a true queen requires humility, tenacity and a drive to give back to the community.

And Jashira Bolden embodies all of those qualities.





Happy (Chinese) New Year

Story and photos by *Olivia Wabski* / Sourced
Design by *Alicia Otto*

亲
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乐

As January ends, millions around the world gather to celebrate the holiday. Some celebrate by feasting and shooting fireworks and others celebrate by creating their own traditions. There are many ways to ring in the Chinese New Year, but Missouri Western students celebrate in their own special way.

A Chinese exchange instructor from Xidian University, Feiyan Zhao hosted the event to give a crash course on the myth behind the Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year.

The holiday is based on the rotation of the moon, which is why the celebration is almost never on the same date. Each year in the Chinese calendar is represented by a different animal. 2020 is the year of the rat.

Legend says that before each new year arrived, a creature named Nian terrorized a quiet village. He would destroy the villagers' homes and eat their crops.

One year, an old man visiting during the new year taught the villagers how to scare off Nian. Only three things—fire, fireworks and the color red—were able to keep Nian away.

The event began with an introduction from President Wilson who recounted his years spent living in Asia and how he found his love for the culture. He held a brief moment of silence for those who have died and those afflicted with the coronavirus in China.

During the event, students and faculty performed traditional Chinese folk songs that are generally played during new year ceremonies. These included both singing and piano. According to Zhao, traditional songs performed during the holiday are aspirations for the new year.

"It's a blessing to the people around you," Zhao said.

Students feasted on jerky, rice crackers and pork and vegetable dumplings. One dumpling contained a coin and the student who ate the dumpling was said to be the luckiest for the following year.

Students cut their own red snowflakes, similar to those used to scare off Nian, and attempted to grab marbles using chopsticks. Participating students left with Chinese trinkets as a New Year's gift from Zhao.

According to student Alex Morehead, celebrating different cultures is important to Missouri Western students.

"More cultural experiences will make the community better," Morehead said.

Morehead and fellow student Christi Rinker performed a traditional Chinese folk song together at the event. Rinker said she supports the celebration of different cultures at the university.

"Since America is known as the melting pot, I think we need to prove it," Rinker said.

As Missouri Western opens its mind to different ideas and traditions, many students find it all the more important that those cultures are celebrated.

Top: Chinese paper art is used to decorate.

Center: Exchange Instructor Feiyan Zhao shares an English interpretation of a Chinese New Year greeting in a song. It speaks of good fortune and wishes those that hear it good health.

Right: Students, faculty and staff enjoy the activities.

ZuZu

AFRICAN ACROBATS



Story by Briana Reed
Photos by Faith Perkins
Design by Bethany VonSeggern



Acrobats might only be known for simple flips and small tricks, Secky Hamadi, a professional ZuZu acrobat from Tanzania, says it's about more than that.

"When I'm doing it, I'm doing it from my heart," Hamadi said. "I do it for the love, apart from everything."

Hamadi is part of the group ZuZu African Acrobats who came far from home to entertain and amaze students and faculty at Missouri Western. ZuZu African Acrobats is a group of lively performers, both men and women, who combine acrobatic techniques with African dance, music and style.

People might assume the skills of acrobats are all talent, but that's not the case. When bringing someone new in, it's to help shape their talent and give them the techniques to be independent. Hamadi said by meeting people from different places, he has had the opportunity to learn from them as they have learned from him.

"When you go to the streets, you see the kids just flipping and dancing," Hamadi said. "These kids have talent, but what they need is just a little bit of training."

For Latoya Muhammad, director for the Center for Multicultural Education,

the oohs and aahs from the crowd meant her department hosted a successful show. Muhammad said her favorite part was the audience participation.

"It gets people outside of their comfort zones and makes me feel like I did the right thing by bringing them here," Muhammad said.

She also said that she would be open to bringing the ZuZu African Acrobats back on campus in the upcoming years.

Erykah White, a junior at Missouri Western, enjoyed herself at the event as well.

"The guy spinning on his head was my favorite part," White said. "I would want them to come back because they were super high energy and entertaining to watch, so it kept my attention."

If she were able to do the flips and tricks, White said she would consider becoming an acrobat herself.

Hamidi would advise those interested in becoming an acrobat to always practice. Before every show, the performers come together two weeks prior to practice their craft for hours everyday. While being an acrobat takes practice, it also requires determination, confidence and a little bit of heart.

◀◀ The group ended the show with one man left standing, carrying the rest.

⚡ One dancer took a well-needed break, waiting out the applause of the audience.

⚡ This acrobat danced the night away as energetic beats filtered through the speakers.

▲ The ZuZu African Acrobats opened with a solo member beating a his drum.

The show had something for everyone, from headstands to the limbo, the acrobats from Kenya were a crowd-pleaser. ▶

Becoming the Change

Haiti Medical Mission

Story by Faith Perkins
Photos by Kadie Cottle
Design by Maddisyn Urban



“Medically, there aren't very many resources, especially for children with special needs.”
- Tayler Myers



School, class work, jobs, sports, clubs and hobbies—these are just a few things that consume the time of the average busy-college student. With so much going on, it is easy to lose perspective on the happenings of the other areas of the world. However, the story of Tayler Myers and Kadie Cottle is one that demands attention away from daily duties and towards much broader issues.

Through their church, Cottle and Myers applied for an internship at a Haiti medical clinic in spring of 2019. Both were accepted and left when the spring semester ended. Cottle, a nursing major, spent a lot of her time helping out in the clinic. Myers, a biology major concentrating in health sciences, split her time

between the clinic and an orphanage working one-on-one with children with special needs.

According to Myers, she spent time teaching the children a variety of skills. “Medically, there aren't very many resources, especially for children with special needs,” Myers said. “A lot of them end up getting simply neglected or just tossed in the trash because they don't have the resources or knowledge to care for them.”

In addition to working with children, Cottle and Myers helped patients at the clinic by treating illnesses and wounds while teaching about basic health care. While teaching others, Cottle and Myers said they experienced invaluable teaching of their own during their time in Haiti.

Haitian culture taught them how to truly live in the moment. Instead of the fast-paced environment that is often seen on bustling downtown streets in the United States, Haitian culture emphasizes taking time to enjoy every moment for what it is. According to Cottle, it was a welcome change in pace. “Their culture teaches you that you don't have to rush around,” Cottle said. “It's just a lot slower paced.”

Cottle and Myers' faith was strongly developed during their time in Haiti. Myers said that she not only found much spiritual growth during that time, but it also confirmed her desire to create positive change in the world through serving others.

Now that Cottle and Myers are back in the United States, they are helping spread awareness for the issues in the country of Haiti as well as continuing to strengthen their bonds with people they developed friendships with at the medical clinic and orphanage.

Myers said that while it's easy for students to get caught up in their studies, due dates and every day problems, she hopes that students will become more engaged with the rest of the world when hearing her story.

“I've been able to share my experience with people on campus and they had no idea this was an issue,” Myers said. “It's raising awareness.”

Cottle and Myers hope that others will reach out and spread the word, as awareness is the first step to becoming the change.



Friends in any language

Story and photo by Elora Maxwell
Design by Alicia Otto

Lisa Laurent and Yesol Shin are not your normal Missouri Western students, and you wouldn't call their friendship normal, either. Laurent and Shin are foreign exchange students from completely opposite corners of the world.

Laurent is from a small French village and Shin is from a big South Korean city, but their different cultures didn't stop them from becoming best friends.

This pairing couldn't be more of a coincidence. Both girls found themselves at Missouri Western for completely different reasons. When choosing between going to school in Germany or the United States, Shin insisted that learning German would be too challenging. She chose the US, but Missouri Western became a reality based solely on the recommendation of a voice instructor. Shin is now majoring in music performance.

Laurent, on the other hand, came to Missouri Western for an opportunity to enroll in her final year of undergrad to get a business administration degree. She loved her experience so much that she's now working towards her masters in business administration as a graduate student.

The pair met two years ago when they found themselves at the sushi party of a mutual friend. Extremely shy, the two had a bit of a quiet start, but Laurent remembers the moment like it was yesterday,

"I was so shy," Laurent said. "My English... it was good, but I was not confident."

The two would continue to see each other in passing on campus, but it wasn't until they took an international student trip that they really started opening up to the idea of friendship. Shin cites school sponsored trips as the setting for a majority of their initial growth as friends.

"We love to travel," Shin said, "We just started to get really close last year.

The two became inseparable, a giggly conversation always in their wake. The initial shyness began to fade away and broke into what Laurent described as an explosion of culture. Both girls mentioned the food of the other's nation as being their favorite. Laurent said that she had never been exposed to Korean culture before she met Shin.

"I had never met South Korean people before. I didn't know anything about Korea," Laurent said. "Now I kind of know some words. I love the food and the culture... especially the dumplings."

Now roommates, the girls bonded over a similarity between their cultures. The two share a respect for boundaries they say they don't share with their American friends. They always offer up the bathroom before long showers and knock politely to tell each other when they're going out.

The impact they've had on each other's experience at Missouri Western is immeasurable. Together they've grown as people and their confidence in English has improved. The two mentioned their insecurity with the language in their first few years on campus, but said that together they both look forward to speaking English and making connections with students from around the world. Shin cites other international students as helping her become more confident with her English speaking.

"Two years ago I couldn't speak English well because I always spent time with Korean friends," Shin said. "Now I want to speak English with Lisa and other international students. They helped me speak more English. That's why I'm more confident."

Even if they don't remain best friends for the rest of their lives, both girls said they would make sure to visit one another even after their American adventure is over.



mar·ket·ing (noun)

1. the action or business of promoting and selling products or services, including market research and advertising.

Story by Morgan Doyle
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto

While that may sound boring to some, it is very close to Dr. Phillip Frank's heart.

"When a student finishes their four-year degree, yes that's very, very important, but I need them to have real world experience, too," Frank said. "I try to pull in some type of applied learning application to every one of my classes."

Frank believes strongly in applied learning and pushes students to be their best. In just two years, the assistant professor of marketing and his marketing research students have worked with 15 local businesses in the St. Joseph area. Frank also serves on a number of boards in the area, including Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (NWMEF) and Northwest Health Services.

Originally from North Carolina, Frank fell in love with marketing during a consumer behavior class he took as an undergraduate. He was fascinated with the psychological side of things when it came to connecting products to people. He went on to receive his degree, his MBA and his PhD.

"Businesses are constantly faced with some type of problem in marketing," Frank said. "There are methodologies and approaches that you can utilize to try to uncover information that can address those marketing problems in the business world, and that's what I love about it. It's never a dull moment."

On top of all those things, Frank had always wanted to move out west and see if he could make it. So, he did.

After landing in Missouri, Frank began to make himself aware of Midwestern products. He knew most of his students at Missouri Western wouldn't be familiar with the same products he was used to back in North Carolina, so he began to get involved in the community. Through the nonprofit NWMEF, Frank consults with local businesses to fill whatever need they may have, whether that be helping them develop a marketing plan or create a new logo.

Frank also partners with Missouri Western's Center for Entrepreneurship. The goal of this center is to improve the community economy while bridging small businesses to Missouri Western's students to be utilized in applied learning classes, such as his marketing research class. The center is directed by Annette Weeks. She says that Frank is someone who genuinely cares about his students' success.

"He goes to extreme measures to make sure that the students are learning and challenged in their learning, while also assisting them in any way needed," Weeks said.

Each year, Frank's class of around 25 students is grouped into teams of no more than five to help local businesses. It's a semester-long correspondence between the students and the businesses, and Frank even requires face-to-face meetings between the two. Throughout the semester, students work with their clients to determine a need, develop a research plan and present a final project at the end of the semester in front of their fellow students and their client.

During the Spring 2020 semester, Frank's class partnered with The Axe Factor, East Hills Cleaners, Wire Wizard, College Coupons and The Savannah Reporter. While not every client will end up using the students' research, Frank said that most of the clients usually do.

Weeks believes that both businesses and students benefit from applied learning classes.

"We can see how the businesses are using websites they developed or the marketing research that the students have provided them," Weeks said. "We can also see the improvement in our students."

Weeks believes that by working hands-on with small businesses, students get a glimpse of what it's like in the real world for business owners. One of Frank's clients, The Axe Factor, said that they greatly appreciated the students' involvement in their business.

"The students we had were very helpful in all the material, opinions and insight they gave us," the company said. "We've implemented several already, and if not for the Covid influence, believe they would've helped tremendously."

Every business has a different need and a different set of students working to resolve that need. Naturally, Frank witnesses many different approaches towards the end goal.

"I really enjoy seeing how students come at those research problems from their own specific experience and background," Frank said. "I like to think that my students come out of the class going 'Holy moly he's hard, but I learned a lot.'"



Annette Weeks, Dr. Amit Verma and Frank consult on programs in the Craig School of Business.



Frank presents during Entrepreneurship Week.



Frank and Weeks with Marketing 401 students presenting their marketing research finals to clients

"I like to think that my students come out of the class going 'Holy moly he's hard, but I learned a lot.'"

- Dr. Phillip Frank

DEPARTMENTS: ART



Peter Britton



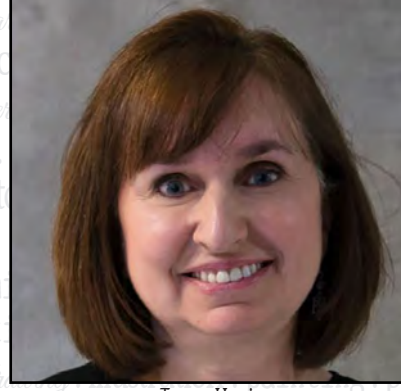
Rebecca Foley



Eric Fuson



David Harris



Teresa Harris



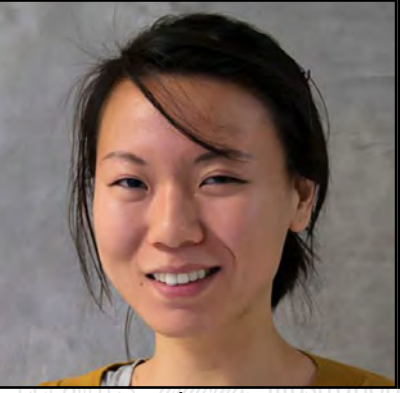
Matt Hepworth



Peter Hriso



Gladys Klíne



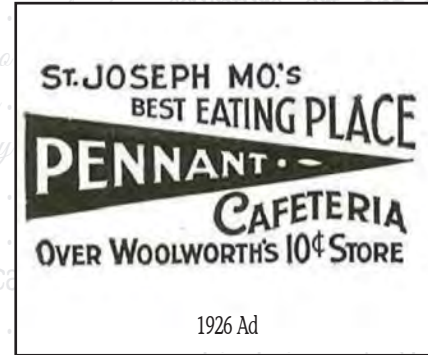
Kathy Liao



Dr. Modeline Rislwo



Sarah Weber



2015: Eric Fuson, Art Professor, positions the Walter Cronkite bust in the Walter Cronkite Memorial in Spratt Hall. The bust was well received by the community and the Cronkite family.

BIOLOGY



Dr. Ashley Elias



Dr. Carissa Ganong



Dr. Michael Grantham



Dr. Julie Jedlicka



Dr. Karen Koy



Dr. Mark Mills



Dr. Murray Nabors



Dr. Aracely Newton



Jessica Poet



Dr. Tilottama Roy



Victoria Sample



Dr. Kristen Walton



1966: Vickie Tanner inspects the still-er, um, biology experiment!

BUSINESS



Perry Oliver Adkins



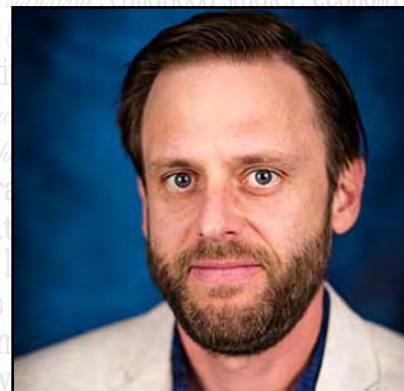
Michael Chiao



Dr. Phillip Frank



Dr. Konrad Gunderson



Dr. Michael Kimmel



Pam Klaus



Peggy Leland



Dr. Mark Lewis



Dr. Brett Luthans



Dr. Cheryl McIntosh



Dr. Erin McLaughlin



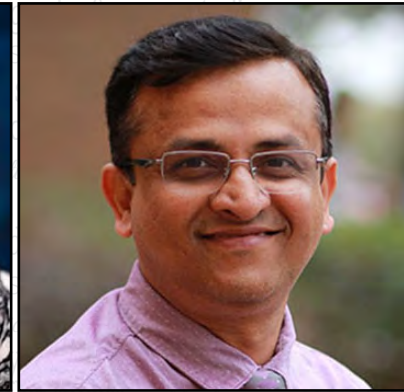
Dr. Shiva Nandan



Dr. Bin Qiu



Cassandra Samuel



Dr. Nitin Singh



Dr. Prashant Tarun



Chris VanHoozer



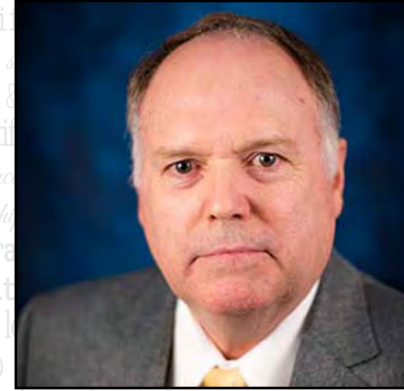
Dr. Amit Verma



Christi Waggoner



Annette Weeks



Tom Williamson



Irene Zhang



1966

Herbert G. Hullinger

BS, Northwest Missouri State College
MS, University of Missouri

Business Professor



1982 Business and Economics

Back Row (L to R): Patrick McMurry, Bill Blankenship, Bob Cunningham, Barry Greenwald, Kevin Elliot and Al Belskus

Middle Row (L to R): Geof Segebarth, Nader Vargha, Mike Septon, John Mitchell and Ken Jolson

Front Row (L to R): Ethel Shrout, Veonika Damnam and Lacretia Kaley



2005: Professor Shiva Nandan

CHEMISTRY



Dr. Jason Baker



Dr. Csengele Barta



Dr. Cary Chevalier



Dr. Todd Eckdahl



Dr. Gary Clapp



Dr. Mike Ducey



Dr. Shauna Hiley



Deborah Jeffries



Dr. Steve Lorimer



Dr. Natalie Mikita



Dr. Jonathan Rhoad



Victoria Sample



Dr. Dan Stasko



Dr. Stan Svojanovsky



Michelle Wolfe



Dr. Jeff Woodford

COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM



Dr. Jordan Atkinson



Dawn Baker



Dr. Christopher Bond



Dr. James Carviu



Dr. Shawna Harris



Dr. Jennifer Jackson



Dr. David McMahan



Dr. Robert Nulph



Dr. Mei Zhang



1975
Nancy Tilton, MWSC production artist, puts away her type after a big job. Nancy designed the logo for the 1975 Griffon Yearbook.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, LEGAL STUDIES & SOCIAL WORK



Dr. Pam Clary



Grey Endres



Jana Fyfe



Dr. Sue Godboldt



Barbara Harris



Suzanne Kissock



Dr. Greg Linsteadt



Dr. David Marble



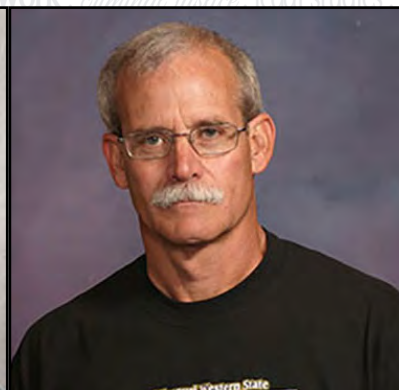
Dr. Monty Smith



Dr. David Tushaus



Dr. Gregory Vecchi



Kip Wilson



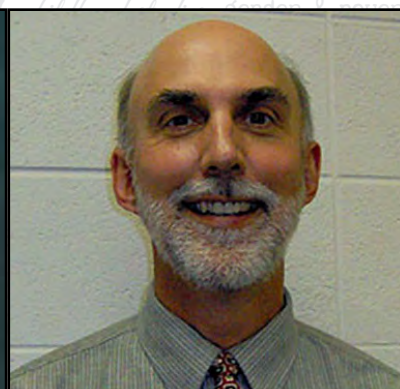
2014: Administrative Assistant Barbara Harris and student Richard Mayse hand out informational flyers at Missouri Western's Career Fair.

CJ/LS Students
Sign-in here
for your classes

ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE & SOCIOLOGY



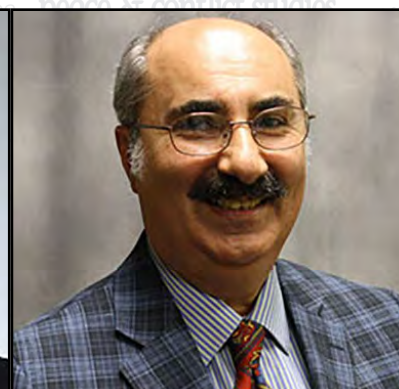
Dr. Alexander Cauley



Dr. Jonathan Euchner



Dr. Kara Grant



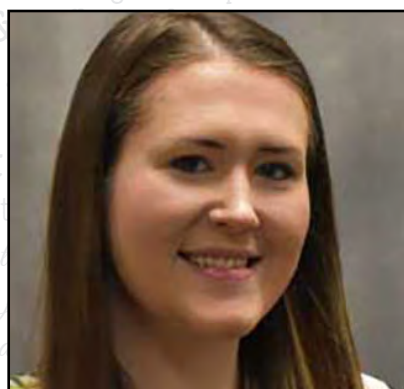
Dr. Ali Kamali



Dr. Joachim Kibirige



Dr. Melinda Kovacs



Sandra Penmook



Dr. Edwin Taylor



Dr. Sathicavane Veeramoorthoo



Dr. Marcus Williamson



2014: Dr. Melinda Kovacs was the director of the Women's History Month events on campus.



1982: After publication of his book, *The Dilemmas of Presidential Leadership of Caretakers and Kings*, Dr. Frank Kessler, political science professor, signs his autograph to a copy.

EDUCATION



Dr. Benedict Adams



Dr. Susan Boshinski



Dr. Ollie Bogdon



Ronda Chesney



Dr. Beth Gregory



Teri Holt



Dr. Adrienne Johnson



Robin Kelly



Dr. Elizabeth Potts



Dr. Kipton Smilie



Dr. Elizabeth Thorne-Wallington



1964: Elementary education majors pay attention in Miss Sutherland's introduction to Education Class.

Jerre - Anne Cafeteria

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1949 Ad



1949: Technique in Teaching Class

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY



Dr. Dennis Merritt



Wes Moore



Dr. Long Qiao



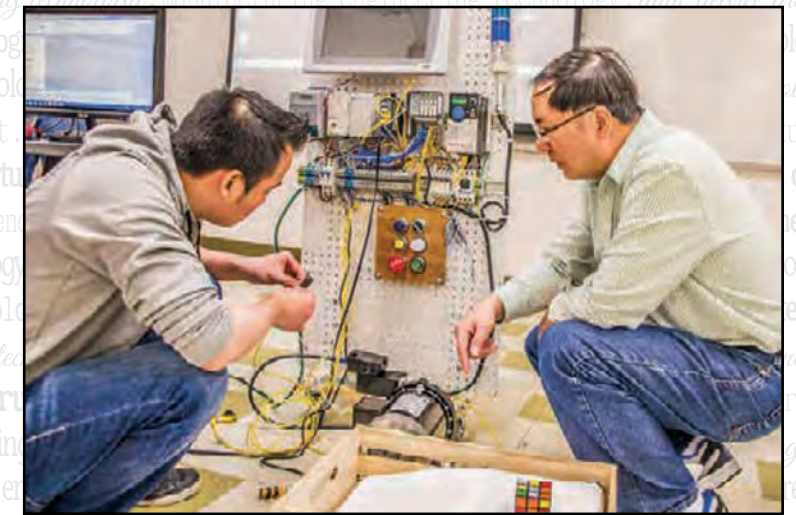
Dr. George Yang



Dr. Zhao Zhang



Dr. Jinwen Zhu



2019: Dr. Zhu discusses the equipment with a student.

ENGLISH & MODERN LANGUAGES



Dr. Kaye Adkins



Dana Andrews



Dr. Cynthia Bartels



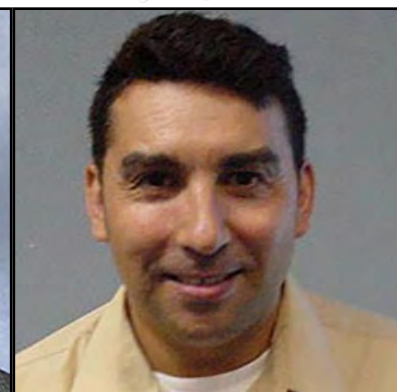
Dr. Stacia Bensyl



Dr. Caroline Burd



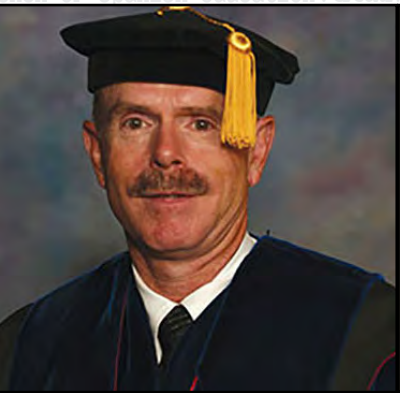
Dr. Mike Cadden



Dr. Eduardo Castilla-Ortiz



Dr. Michael Charlton



Dr. William Church



Dr. Daniel Gilden



Jennifer Jackson



Dr. Cynthia Jeney



Meredith Katchen



Brooksie Kluge



Dr. Marianne Kunkel



Kelly Lock-McMillen



Dr. Susan Martens



Amy Miller



Dr. Gaywyn Moore



Florian Pichon



Dr. Miguel Rivera-Taupier



Dr. Ian Roberts



Dr. Rocio Rubio Moir



Dr. Kay Siebler



Alyssa Striplin



Dawn Terrick



Deb Treat



Feiyun Zhao



Left: 2007: Stacia Bensyl is one of three faculty members to perform in *The Vagina Monologues*

Right: 1973: Conrad Bensyl, Dean, Continuing and Adult Education



HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Kelly Fast



Karma Hartong



Mechel McKinney



2019: Dr. Linda Oakleaf



1983: Health/Physical Education

Back Row (L to R): Jim Long, Jim Greechus, Don Watson, Fran Schwenk, Faye Burchard, Bob Burchard, Sip Shear and Lawrence Sheat

Front Row (L to R): Bonnie Greene, Betty Akers, Vickie Keeegstra, Drew Laudie and Charlie Erikson

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION



Dr. Paul Choi



Dr. Regan Dodd



Dr. Stephanie Gerlach



Dr. Britton Johnson



Dr. Justin Kraft



Greg Kriewitz



Dr. Sergio Molina



1929: Section Divider



Dr. Linda Oakleaf



Dr. William Russell



Gerald Small



Clockwise from left: 2018 graduates stick with tradition and decorate their caps for commencement day; Sean Clarke, Ryan Hand, Otavio Rio, Sarah Gibson with Professor Dr. Regan Dodd at the graduate hooding ceremony. These four students graduated with a master's degree in sports and fitness management; Graduates wait anxiously as their fellow classmates receive their diplomas. Photo credit: Grad Images

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY



Noel Cross



Dr. Dominic DeBrincat



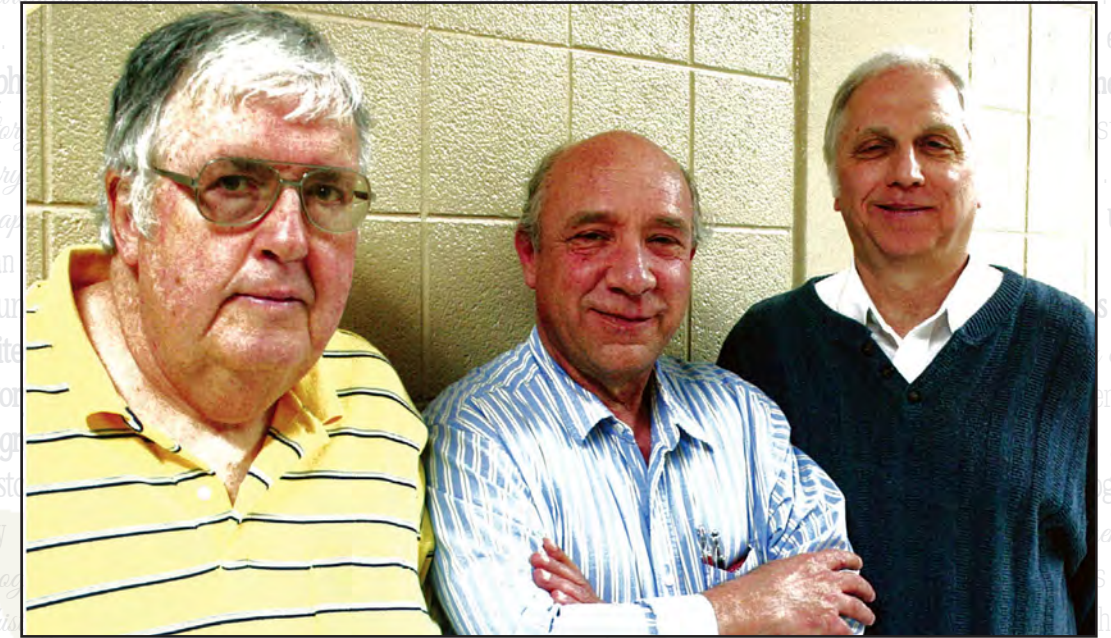
Dr. Dawn Drake



Dr. Emily Gioielli



Dr. Angela Haas



2013: History Professors Dr. Pat McLearn, Dr. Daniel Trifan and Dr. Steve Greiert



Dr. Evan Hart



Dr. Jay Lemanski



Dr. James Okapal



Dr. Marcus Williamson



MUSIC



Edna Christian



Dr. Matthew Edwards



Dr. Nathan Gay



Dr. Aaron Grant



Dr. Lee Harrelson



Dr. Elise Hepworth



Dr. Paul Hindemith



1970: Sharo Groh, Music Department, BS, Park College, Parkville, MO



Jeff Hinton



Dr. Joshua Knight



Bob Long



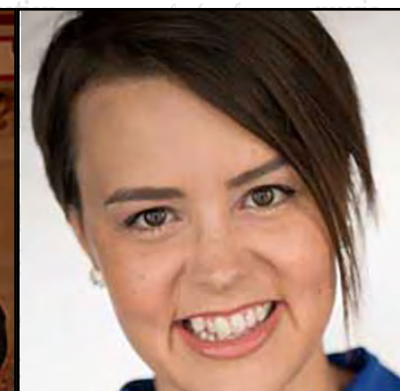
Dr. Nathanael May



Dr. David McIntire



Rico McNeela



Dr. Kristin Newbegin

NURSING



Allison Anderson



Dr. Julie Baldwin



Dr. Cristi Campbell



Andrea Collins Keller



Dr. Jacklyn Gentry



Dr. Becky Gregory



Traci Grove



Dr. Crystal Harris



Karma Hartong



Dr. Heather Kendall



Laura Nold 2019 (above) and 2008 (below)



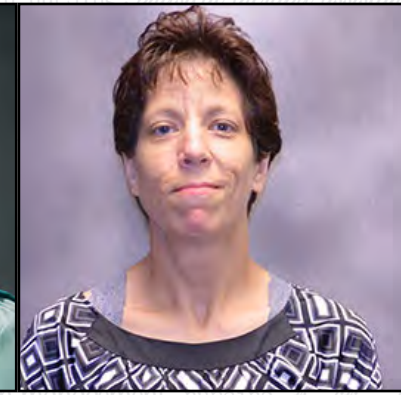
Dr. Gretchen Quenstedt-Moe



Karman Romero



Paula Sigman



Stephanie Stewart



Latha Varghese



Dr. Pi-Ming Yeh



Elissa Zorn



P.T.A. / POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT



Dr. Maureen Holtz



Dr. Maureen Raffensperger



Fiona Sansone



1975: Virgie Bledsoe takes a cloth out of the sterilizer. Having completed her nursing program, Virgie is eligible to write her Missouri State Board Examinations.



1975: Jan Barber, student nurse, works under the direction Susan Mann, assistant professor of nursing.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION



Dr. Jason Costanzo



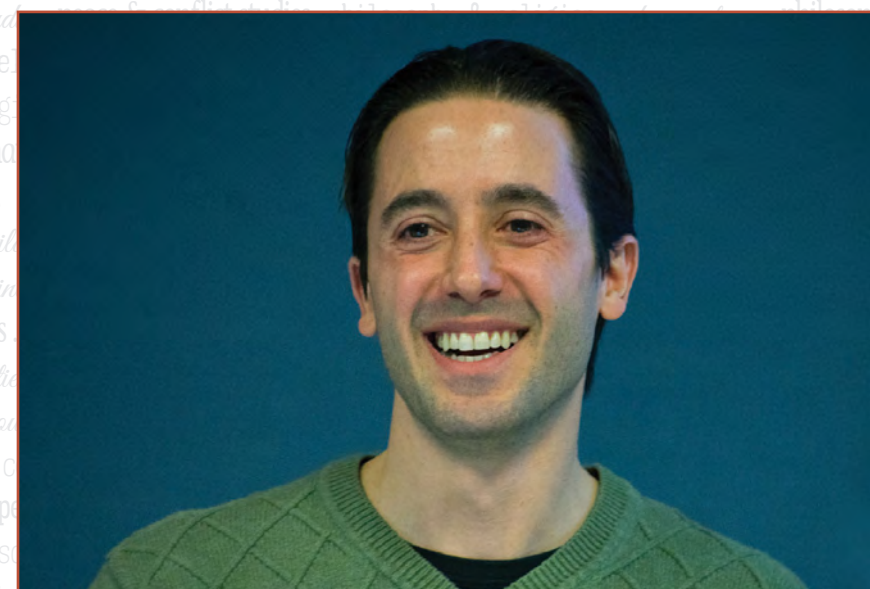
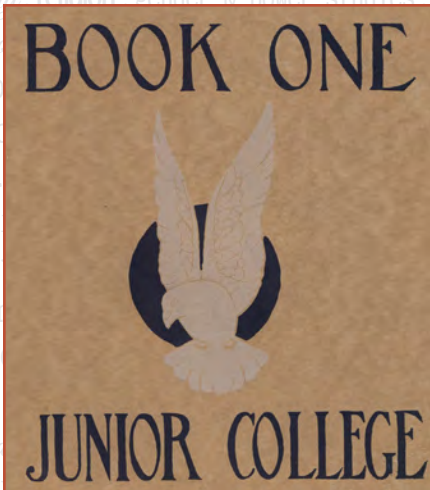
Noel Cross



Lane DesAutels



David Kratz Mathies



2018: Dr. Jon Mandracchia is referred to as the "Dad of the Department"

PSYCHOLOGY



Brian Cronk



Teddi Deka



Angela Grant



Kelly Henry



Jon Mandracchia



Stacey Rieck



Rhimmon Simchy-Gross



Corey White



Regina Young



Christine Ziemer



2019: Christine Ziemer performs at a Pyro Tribe event in St. Joseph.

THEATRE, CINEMA & DANCE



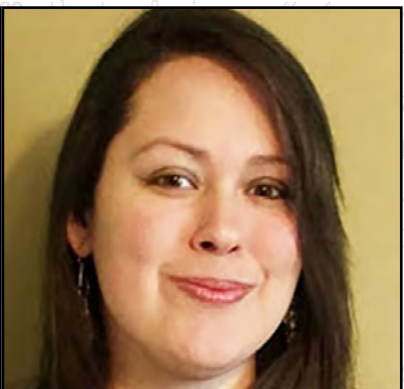
Thomas Brechisen



Manon Halliburton



Marla Heeler



Cassie Kay Hoppos



Toby Lawrence



Michael Scroggs



Jeff Stover

beaming [confidence]
belonging [together]
believing
being [authentic]
becoming [griffons]
bestowing [the legacy]



On My Honors

Story by Dr. Teddi Deka
 Photos Sourced
 Design by Alicia Otto

The Honors Program began in 1987, when three faculty members, Jerry Zweerink (Chemistry), Phil Mullins (History) and Phil Wann (Psychology) submitted a proposal to establish the program to the academic deans, President and Board of Regents. The "Plan for an Honors Program" called for administrative support, an adequate budget, utilization of the most qualified faculty, development of an interesting, innovative, challenging and flexible curriculum, and smaller class sizes. Since then, over 1000 students have participated in the Honors Program. The Honors Program has had four directors: Jerry Zweerink (Chemistry), David Bennett (Music), Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin (English and Modern Languages) and Teddi Deka (Psychology).

The program was uniquely created as a two-tiered program, so students could earn either General Studies Honors, Honors in their Major, or both, and accepts both incoming and current students. In the year 2000, the Honors Program moved to Spratt 202, its own space with office and lounge. In 2014, the Academic Achievement Floor in Vaselakos Hall became a dedicated residence floor for honors and high-achieving students. Throughout, the Student Honors Organization (SHO) provided honors students with a social/academic organization for camaraderie, outings, fundraising and study groups. While honors-specific scholarships have changed considerably over the years, most honors students participate in the program to enhance their education, with only 20% receiving honors-specific scholarships.

Honors students have much to be proud of, both on and off campus.



Fall 2019 Incoming Honors Students



Fall 2018 Incoming Honors Students



Fall 2017 Incoming Honors Students



2014-2017 Pinning of the Golden Griffon Scholars



Top Left: Spring 2018 Great Plains Honors Council conference hosted by Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. Left to right, students Britane Hubbard, Breanna Hancock and Shae Delancy along with Honors Director Dr. Teddi Deka.

Top Center: Fall 2018 Honors Retreat, touring historic 18th and Vine Kansas City neighborhood with students from Dr. Bensyl's colloquium, What Made the 20's Roar, and Dr. Hiley's colloquium, War, Pandemic and Medicine.

Center Left: Fall 2018 Honors Retreat touring the World War I museum with students from Dr. Bensyl's colloquium, What Made the 20's Roar, and Dr. Hiley's colloquium, War, Pandemic and Medicine.

Center: Bottom Fall 2019 Honors Retreat at the Ozark Underground lab, Protem, MO exploring karst landscapes and caves with students from Dr. Mills' colloquium, Extinction is Forever: Topics in Conservation Biology. This picture was taken at the cave entrance, where bats emerge at sunset.



Being Present

while others pass by

Story by Faith Perkins
Photos by Adam Le
Design by Maddisyn Urban/Alicia Otto

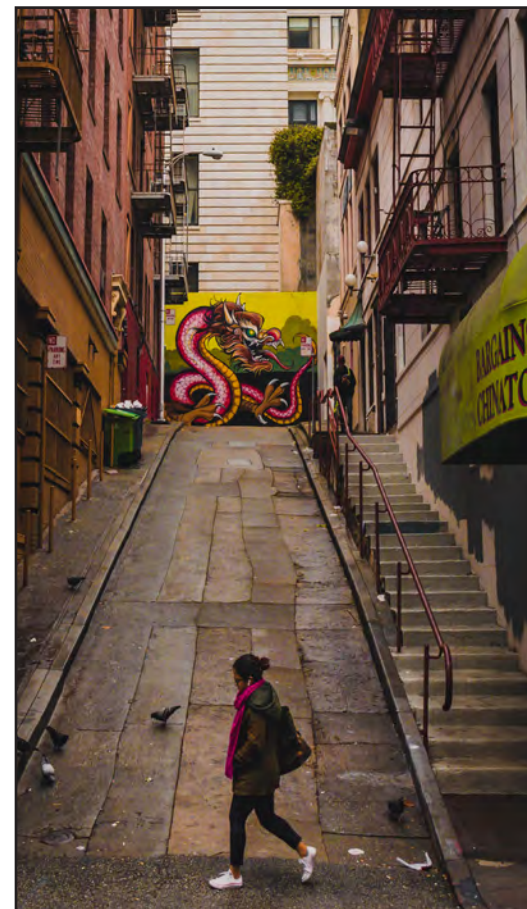
College students are often busy, hustling from place to place, only getting a second to collect their thoughts before something else demands their attention. Despite his busy schedule, senior and photographer Adam Le takes the time to see the world through a different lens. His passion for photography allows him to capture the simple things in life that people often pass by.

Le became interested in photography in high school when he took his first photo. The photo captured a simple moment that might otherwise have gone unnoticed; a grasshopper resting on a bush.

“When I took that photo, I thought it was the greatest thing,” Le said. “It opened my eyes to what I could do visually, and how I could interpret things for others.”

Le said he’s been taking photos to interpret the unique way he sees the world ever since. One of his more recent photos, taken in San Francisco, captures a girl walking past an alleyway mural while wearing headphones. According to Le, the girl seems to be focused on her music and not the art around her as she quickly walks by.

When he took the photo, Le realized that, like the girl, most people don’t pay attention to the art surrounding them every day.



“I am standing here and I’m able to experience that art and take it all in,” Le said. “It’s just interesting; people pass up on those things and don’t pay attention to them.”

He was encouraged by his photography professor, Rebecca Foley, to enter his photo, “Passing By,” in Missouri Western’s Juried Art Exhibit on campus. Foley is an assistant professor of art at Missouri Western and has taught Le in photography for many years. Foley said she encourages all her students to enter their work into galleries or shows because it’s a good opportunity for them to get validated. However, Le, she said, has a different way of looking at things.

“Adam enjoys experimenting with new technology,” Foley said. “He was my first student to use a drone for his photographs and the results were amazing. I’m always impressed that he’s interested in seeing what’s new and trying it for himself.”

Le’s creative means of capturing photos and his technique are two things that make his art stand out amongst the crowd and other contestants. Not having any expectations, Le entered his photo and was surprised to find out it was accepted into the gallery.

Le was even more surprised when his photo received a best of show ribbon. It was a moment of validation for Le, because he knew his hard work was beginning to pay off. Based on his success in the juried show, Le entered his photo in the Albrecht Kemper Student Art Show. The show takes submissions from college students all over the United States.

Adam’s professor Foley said both these shows are highly competitive and an honor to be accepted into.

“In the juried art show on campus, we had submissions in the upper hundreds and only 30 pieces were selected,” Foley said. “However, the one at the museum was a national class and it became more competitive. Typically it’s only about 10 or 20 percent of the submissions that are accepted.”

“Passing By” was one of the few photos selected and is now hanging in the Albrecht Kemper Art Museum downtown St. Joseph, Missouri.

Although the talented photographer has accomplished much through his art, he recognizes that only some people will take time to stop and observe his piece. Others, he said, will simply pass it by.



Giving back means more coming from the *Heart*

Story, photos and design by Alicia Otto



Stephanie Stewart rides around the course of the Sunset Stroll 5K for Parkinson's Disease.



President Matt Wilson, along with his wife and sons, ran the 5K in support of Stewart and the Parkinson's Center.



Stewart and trainer Tara Patterson help Dave walk around the mall.

What do you look forward to at the end of a long day? Do you kick your feet up and watch TV? Do you read a book? Stephanie Stewart doesn't do either of those things. She volunteers her time to help others live their best lives.

Stewart's current teaching load at Missouri Western includes a lecture class in nursing, a clinical class (9-hour clinical), facilitates a research group, an online nutrition class (67 students) and partnering with another professor for an Honors Colloquium. And, if that isn't enough to keep her busy, she's also the Executive Director of the Freudenthal Center for Parkinson's Disease (FCPD).

With thoughts of becoming a doctor, Stewart started pre-med classes at Missouri Western. Shortly after, she married Corey and then they found out they were expecting their first baby. Unfortunately, a miscarriage resulted in losing the baby. It was then that Stewart figured out it was the nurses who were there for them. Just the whole hand holding, caring thing – had her thinking “huh, maybe that's what I want to do.” Stewart changed her major, went into nursing and has no regrets.

Stewart graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing and set out to be an Obstetrics (OB) nurse. Given her personal experience, Stewart wanted to be the one providing comfort to women after a miscarriage. To that end, she accepted her first job in a small critical-care hospital in Falls City, Nebraska. The first obstetrics case Stewart had to assist with was horrible. The patient came in pre-term and it was a bad situation. The mom was sent to Omaha via ambulance versus helicopter and the baby died on the way.

After that experience, Stewart spent time in Shawnee Mission and North Kansas City hospitals – all while living in St. Joe and commuting - mostly working nights. She did

some LPN teaching while at North Kansas City and discovered she loved it.

Stewart returned to St. Joseph and the classroom. “Stephanie's passion for students was not hard to spot,” Elaine Bryant said. As the Director of the Student Success & Academic Advising Center at Missouri Western, Bryant didn't really work closely with Stewart until she applied to be a Freshman Advising, a new initiative for student retention.

“She truly goes the extra mile for her students and advisees, making sure they stay on track and have the answers they need.” Bryant said.

Among the nurses that Stewart has taught, she counts her daughter and son-in-law among them. Her expectations for her daughter were higher than any other student. “And, of course, she was not going to live up to them because they were too high,” Stewart said. One of her colleagues, Maureen Raffensperger, Missouri Western professor and director of the PTA Program, had the opportunity to sit in on one of her classes.

“Stephanie really cares about the students,” Raffensperger said. Stewart also gives her students all the opportunities she can to help them succeed. “Her passion is unmistakable,” Raffensperger said.

In a train the trainer type of module, the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Nurse Faculty Program teaches the teachers the content and then they pass that down to their students. The program brought in people with Parkinson's so the class could work with them and find out what the patients wanted from the nurses. They were also taken to a gym started by former boxer Harry E. Cummins III to keep kids off the streets. One of his students came back at 19-20 years old with a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. Cummins was told to just

keep him boxing for the movements. The whole movement, balance, cognitive: a process that helps them in many ways. It's the training the boxers do that can carry over and help people with Parkinson's.

“Steph came to me and told me she had recently started down a path of ‘specializing’ so to speak, on Parkinson education for nurses,” Raffensperger said.

Research showed that there was nothing north of Kansas City for people with Parkinson's other than a support group led by people with the disease. As part of her part-time work at Freudenthal, Raffensperger had just started an LSVT BIG class. Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) is a type of therapy designed to increase the speaking volume of people with Parkinson's disease.

“Stephanie's favorite line is ‘Do you wanna play with me on this?’,” Raffensperger said and decided to seek special training and things progressed from there.

Stewart also worked with Tara and Garrett Patterson, former owners of Title Boxing in St. Joseph. The gym had to close, but the Pattersons still had all the equipment and wanted to help. Tara Patterson had actually been training four or five of the Parkinson's patients at their gym. When it closed, those patients couldn't just go to another gym like others could.

With the backing of Joe Freudenthal and the Freudenthal Center for Parkinson's Disease official, Stewart needed a location. In the search, a spot at the East Hills Mall was secured. For the first several months, they only had two boxing stands and three bags. They were able to sign a cheap lease and then put up the frame that the Pattersons had available. Now they have around 20 bags up and Stewart wants to do more.

Boxing is not the only program offered at the Freudenthal Center for Parkinson's Disease. Their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FreudenthalCenter4PD/>) shows many

other activities, including a support group, Daytime Empower FitBoxing, Vibrant Voices and BAM! Exercises. Prior to the COVID-19 social distancing order, these classes were all held at the East Hills Mall location. Now, the FCPD is offering livestreaming on Facebook to continue their mission.

Stewart believes that God has a hand in that mission. She believes that the series of events leading up to the formation of the FCPD were all his work. First-class Care is Freudenthal's motto and that continues with a brand-new building under construction where the FCPD will have a home in the basement.

As part of her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, Stewart is also creating a

navigator program for those with Parkinson's Disease in this area. Her goal is to improve their quality of life. If they can stay connected, their quality of life is

better. “If you have diabetes and have lost both legs and can't hardly see, why in the heck am I not letting you have the chocolate cake you want?” Stewart said. It's quality over quantity.

In the last 15 years Stewart has had a feeling of needing to give back to people, especially older adults. “They have nobody – they have no family and have been removed from their home so you kind of become their family. To make one day be good in their life is just amazing.” One of Stewart's goals is to keep these patients at home and out of a nursing home as long as possible.

“Even the greatest of places is not home,” Stewart said. Her goal is to help them live their best life. She wants to help people LIVE with Parkinson's Disease. It's not going to go away but there are so many things that can be done to help them have the best quality of life possible.

And Stewart wants to be the one to help them do that.

“Her passion is unmistakable.”

- Maureen Raffensperger



Stewart smiles as she interacts with a patient.



Dave and Stewart stop to pet a therapy dog while walking at the mall.

Sowing the seeds of success

Story, photos and design by *Christian Sarna*

A rolling stone gathers no moss, but Associate Biology Professor Csengele Barta has seen her fair share of flora while following her love for learning and applied research across the globe.

Barta started her academic career in her home country of Romania. Despite obtaining a dual bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry education, she spent several years outside of academia doing research around the world. She conducted a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Italian National Research Council in Rome, Italy, and was a research plant physiologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

After her time with the USDA, she was a research associate at Texas A&M University and participated in guest lecturing and lab work. She decided to move back towards academia in order to work more closely with student research.

Barta accepted her first full teaching position in 2012 with Missouri Western. According to Barta, she was drawn to the institution because of their focus on applied learning.

"Before even applying, I really loved their mission," Barta said. "The school actually offered so many opportunities to do research for faculty members and do research with students. That was pretty much what I wanted to do in the first place."

Having advised over 45 research projects since her start at Missouri Western, Barta has certainly done her fair share of teaching both in and out of the classroom. Many of her students have won awards for their research and gone on to present at international conferences. In recent years, conference locations have ranged anywhere from Washington DC to Hawaii.

According to Barta, these unique opportunities are what put her students ahead of the curve.

"This is groundbreaking for their careers,"

Barta said. "They presented their work, networked, met with scientists who are groundbreaking and well established in this area of research. They had lots of opportunities to actually experience being a scientist."

Outside of her passion for student research, Barta's love for applied learning is only matched by her love of plant physiology. Her main research interests deal with topics like photosynthesis, air pollution and plant resistance to stress. While people outside of the plant physiology field might not understand the technical details of her research, Barta said that the topics are of great importance for the study of climate change.

"We want to know what we can expect under certain circumstances for plants to do," Barta said. "It's very important for the atmosphere. We want to know how, especially the climate change aspect of it, plants will respond to any change in their environment."

While her work predominantly involves plants, Barta's lab is not closed off to students in different scientific fields. According to Barta, including students with a diverse range of skills and specialties has made her research teams stronger.

"I always have students who are working on the sub-project that best addresses their interests," Barta said. "These studies are generally multidisciplinary and involve lots of different levels of biological organization. There are lots of different aspects that can attract a variety of different students."

For students looking to get behind the microscope, Barta said that they should take full advantage of the opportunities given beyond the classroom. When it comes to advancing their careers, the best time to sow seeds to success is now.

"This is groundbreaking for their careers ... they had lots of opportunities to actually experience being a scientist."

— *Csengele Barta*

Csengele Barta stands in the Aegenstein Hall greenhouse with past projects Barta has worked with dozens of students on research projects since she joined Missouri Western in 2012.

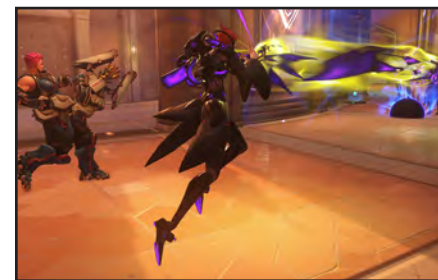


GRIFFON ESPORTS

Story by Turner Parsons
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto



Fortnite



Overwatch



Rocket League

Esports is the new hot topic spreading across campus. Chrsitain Konczal, Director and head coach, wants to answer questions and let students know that esports will be a unique opportunity for everyone and all students to get involved.

Esports is similar to traditional sports such as football and soccer; they are both organized competitive programs for students to be involved in. But esports is different because spectators are able to watch and interact live online. There are different leagues, tournaments and invitationals players can participate in. Students and supporters will be able to watch the game on Twitch, a website designed to watch livestreams.

While traditional sports and esports have many similarities, they also have positive differences. Director Christian Konczal, says that esports at Missouri Western will be open for anyone interested in playing video games regardless of skill level. The program will be comprised of expert gamers and students who have never picked up a video game in their life. There will be

teams made of more competitive gamers. There will also be more casual and social teams. Coaches, Specifically Konczal, will be helping improve gamers skills every day.

Konczal wants all students to feel welcome to join the program and to feel like important members of the team.

"One thing that is very important for this program and very important to me is to make sure we are as inclusive as possible," Konczal said. "Students of any skill are going to have a home in our facilities."

Austin Holmes, one student who is interested in being a part of the eports program, said he has been a gamer his whole life. His love for video games started out by playing competitive Pokemon and evolved into more player versus player and strategy games as he grew older.

Holmes heard about the chance to play with a team and was very eager to join. He was excited when he found out about the esports program because of its broad cultural reach.

"... esports is huge right now," Holmes said. "It's a good opportunity



to hop aboard and see what it's about."

Danielle Bauman is another student who is eager to join the world of esports. Just like Holmes, she has played video games her whole life. She uses them as a way to destress and feel better every day. She believes the program will be a perfect chance for her to make friends with people who have similar interests.

"I think it's a great idea because people who like to play video games competitively can come from different walks of life," Bauman says. "This could be a great opportunity to bring a lot of different types of Missouri Western students together."

Konczal hopes that students are eager to become a member of the esports team. All are welcome to play video games with each other, and all are welcome to join.



SGA President Nathan Scott streaming on the Griffon Esports Twitch channel playing on MWSU's official Minecraft server with other students.



Luke Theis, Moderator for MWSU Discord. This is playing Call of Duty: Warzone, (also on our twitch channel) during our Griffon Quaran-Team event.

The Codes to Success

Story by Briana Reed
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto

Whether it be creating a PowerPoint for class or simply saying, "Hey, Siri," on an iPhone, what seems like the everyday tasks of life involve computer science. In today's world, everything is technologically driven. Computers, smartphones, vehicles and even home appliances have more power than ever before. At Missouri Western, students are even able to submit assignments directly from their phones from the comfort of their beds.

Technology makes it simple for people to go about their everyday lives, but what goes into making this technology possible is much more complicated. Understanding how machines perform, the rate in which they perform and how to write good codes for these machines are just a few examples of what goes into the study of algorithms through computer science.

Alex Morehead, a senior majoring in computer science, said he truly enjoys the work he gets to do on a daily basis with computer science. His favorite part about computer science is artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence; the intelligence displayed by machines compared to the intelligence of humans.

Over the summer of 2019, Morehead had the opportunity to take on an internship with Altec Industries because of his involvement in the computer science department. Other companies such as Herzog Contracting Corp. and Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica also provide students with opportunities for internships increasing students' chances of securing a full-time job after graduating.

Outside of internships, there are even more opportunities for computer science and STEM majors. Research Experiences for

Undergraduates are all-expenses-paid summer research programs where students study science, mathematics or engineering around the world.

With technology constantly changing and advancing, the faculty in the computer science department makes sure to have a hands-on relationship with students to prepare them for the future. Joseph Kendall-Morwick, assistant professor of computer science, teaches a specific program called Python in the department and Morehead says students learn easily from him.

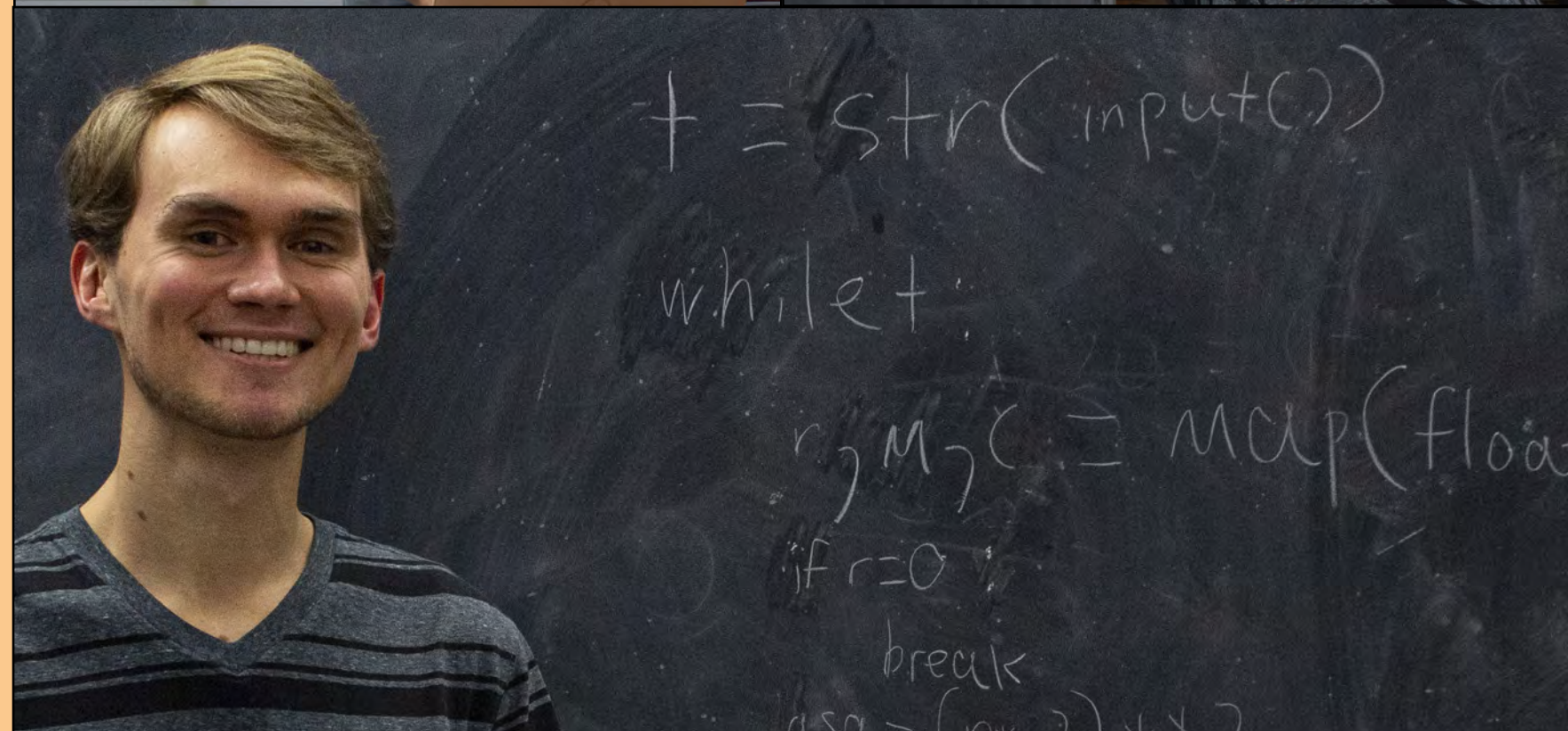
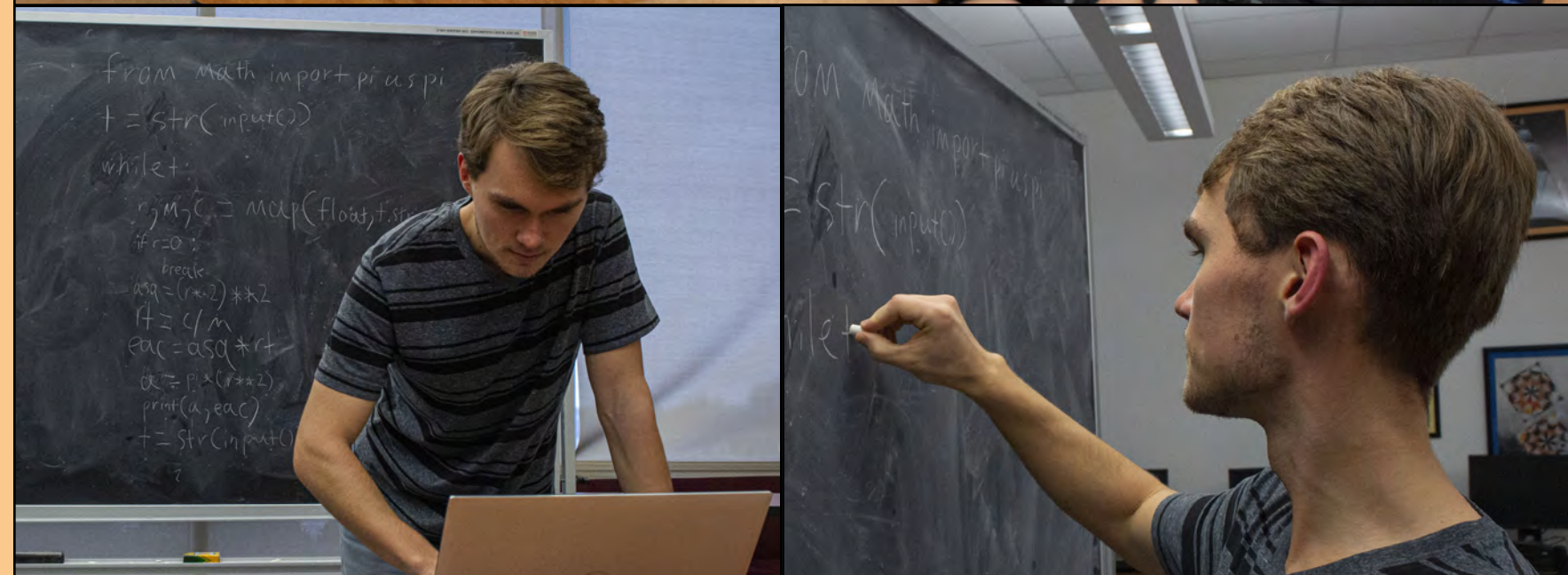
"He doesn't teach material straight to students, he walks students through line-by-line and gives good and bad examples," Morehead said. Morehead believes Missouri Western students are in good hands of the computer science department. He knows what they do is not easy, but with professors like Dr. Morwick, things are easier to understand. Dr. Kendall-Morwick, assistant professor in the computer science department enjoys his job as he has been teaching students about computer science at Missouri Western for 3 years.

"I like feeling like I helped a student out," Morwick said. "The better I can teach them, the better computer science is going to help humanity and I see teaching as the best way to make the most positive ends out of computing.

Working as a computer science or STEM student can be very challenging. The work that is done cannot be learned within a day; it takes years of training to be able to understand the basics of coding and understanding what technology is capable of takes years. What keeps the students ready to learn is their true interest in computers and their willingness to help the average person code through life.



Senior Alex Morehead explains coding and algorithms. Coding comes naturally to the junior computer science major.



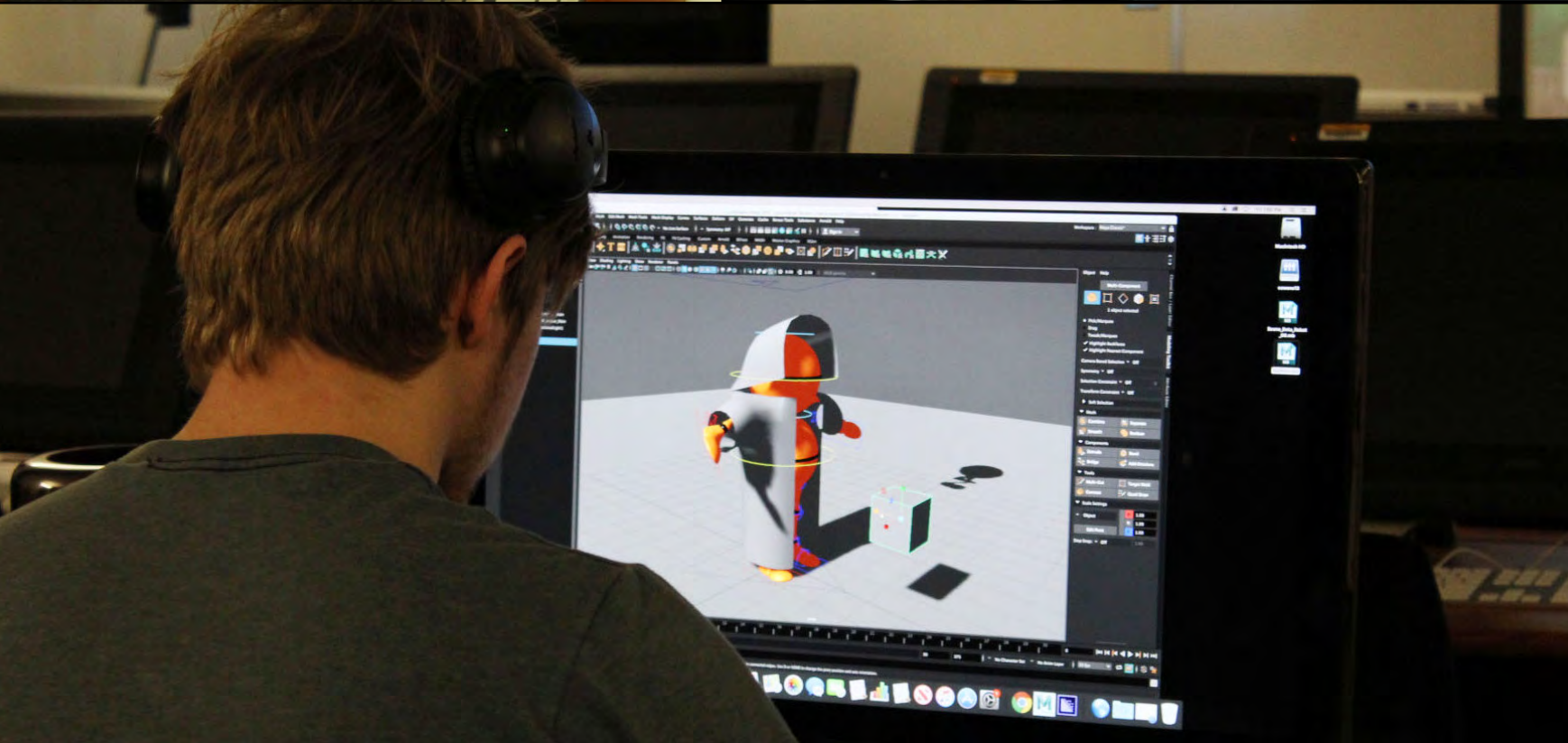


Cartoons +

Childhood = Happily Ever After

Story by Faith Perkins
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto

Missouri Western students are hard at work in their animation and game design class taught by professor Britton.



For some, it's not enough to just watch cartoons and animated films. Some have hopes of creating them, putting their art on the screens in every household in America.

For Missouri Western student Bernice Brown, cartoons and animations are what inspired her to pursue a major in digital animation and game design.

"I've always loved cartoons," Brown said. "But after I saw Disney's *Tangled*, I said, 'Wow, I want to do that!'"

Brown isn't the only student at Missouri Western who fell in love with the art of cartoons and decided to turn it into a career. Fellow Griffon Ashlynn Bohannon said she wants to help spread that love to others.

"I've always wanted to entertain people and make TV shows," Bohannon said. "I like being attached to fictional characters and being involved in their stories."

Brown and Bohannon are seniors at Missouri Western and are set to graduate in the spring of 2020. Bohannon is excited about her future in the career of digital animation and what it has to offer. Brown, however, already has a start to her career thanks to her professors.

"I have an animation job now because of the department," Brown said.

One person who had a hand in Brown's position was Peter Britton, an assistant

professor of art. Britton recommended Brown for an animation position at a local company after working with her while teaching animation and game design.

Britton said that spending one-on-one time with his students prepares them for a career beyond the scope of the classroom.

"The program in itself does not provide opportunities," Britton said. "Working with faculty is where the opportunities lie."

Britton said that the department and the faculty all work hard to give students the opportunities they need to succeed, such as jobs, internships, galleries, and contests. Even though professors are willing to help students, Britton said, it is the students' job to put in the work and achieve these accomplishments.

"I encourage students to work outside of class," Britton said. "If they are planning to do work in class and only classwork, they wouldn't succeed because there is so much needed outside of classwork."

Animation and game design is a competitive field because of its size and the limited number of jobs available. Students, like Bohannon, have to work hard to succeed.

"They have a minimum quality of work and what they expect from you," Bohannon said. "You typically have to go over that bar to get hired."

Even though the animation and game design program is competitive, Bohannon said that professors do everything possible to put their goals of being successful in their field within reach.

"The professors are phenomenal," Bohannon said. "They're such gems in the rough. I feel like they don't get as much credit as they should be given because they really give their all every day. I really hope that they are acknowledged for that."

According to Britton, the animation and game design program at Missouri Western allows students to express themselves and benefit the public through their creations. However, Britton said that even though the program has many assets they are lacking in funding.

"The state has starved education," Britton said. "That's not good for the citizens or the community because we need art. When we start to make art not important, I think society as a whole suffers."

Missouri Western's staff and students like Britton, Brown, and Bohannon hope that the art program gets additional funding. Britton said the more money they raise for the program, the more attention the program can get for the university. In return, the university's enrollment rate could increase.

Each year, Missouri Western hosts a 48 Hour Film Festival. What you might not know is that Alpha Psi Omega hosts its own weekend of chaotic creativity: The 24 Hour Play Festival. The first festival was held in December 2014 with the idea to create an event with similar stakes to that of the popular film festival but with live performances. The teams are made up by a director and writer duo who are given a genre at random. They then must incorporate a character, prop and line that is assigned to all the teams. After auditions are held, the teams pick their actors and get to work. Throughout the course of those 24 hours, the teams write and rehearse their shows and prepare them for the audience that attends at the completion of the competition period.

Benjamin J. Smith, President of Alpha Psi Omega, co-coordinated for the event with Treasurer Abby Wolff. This was the first year the festival was held two years in a row, so it was very gratifying for all those who had been involved in years past. Despite the challenges of pulling together such a massive event, the six new works that were produced were a hit. "I feel it was important because it gave students a chance to create their own completely original plays and work collaboratively to make some truly entertaining as well as thought-provoking works of art that the audience got to enjoy."

Shelby Larsen '17 was one of the alumnas of APO who started the first 24 Hour Play Festival weekend and is happy to see that it lives on. "The conception of the project and the first festival are some of my best memories at Missouri Western, and knowing that others are creating art and memories with their friends and peers just as I did years ago, makes me proud to be a Griffon. I hope that the festival will continue to inspire others to get involved in theatre."

The six teams for this year were as follows:

- Ray Clark IV & Jozua Bennie, actors Professor Manon Halliburton & Maxwell Johnson
- Abby Wolff & Benjamin J. Smith, actors Professor Jeff Stover & Nyachang Duoth
- Angel Edwards & Nathan Gonder, actors Matthew Kline & Memory Black (bottom right)
- Ryan Lewis & Noah Bollow, actors Indigo Gaydusek & Amanda Schroeder
- Chaz Santan & Parker Jahn, actors Devin Eckardt & Dawn Washington
- Jamie Tolic & Matthew Ball, actors Jonathan Bogart & Zoe Dunn (bottom left)

24 HOUR PLAY FESTIVAL

Story by Abby Wolff / Photos Sourced / Design by Alicia Otto



Missouri Western's fall musical might not have been one you're familiar with, but it carries the spirit of classic musicals you have heard of. Crazy For You is a jukebox musical from 1992 with the songs of golden age Broadway. A love letter of sorts, the simple romantic comedy pokes fun at famous musicals while maintaining an upbeat and charming storyline.

Though this is a classic story of boy-meets-girl, there is much more to this jolly cast of characters. Senior theater major Abby Wolff was given the opportunity to play the female lead Polly Baker, a character she felt was misunderstood by many.

"There's that innate desire to be loved by somebody... Polly spends her whole life taking care of other people, so it'd be nice if she had somebody to take care of her," Wolff said. "That was something that I personally relate to a lot, so I brought that into my performance."

Like many musical productions, Crazy For You was filled with complicated dance numbers. Many cast members, including male lead Ray Clark IV, felt that the dancing was the hardest part of the show.

"I never considered myself a dancer," Clark said. "I've never had any formal dance training, so when I heard that I was cast as Bobby, I must admit I was very intimidated... but I learned quickly."

For many in the cast, this was their first Missouri Western production. Journee Bond, a music education major, was one of the freshmen who took part in the show said that even though the underclassmen outnumbered the seasoned cast members, there was a great sense of mentorship on set.

"I managed to get a good circle of friends that I feel like I'll have for a long time," Bond



said. "I got to work with a great cast of people who have been there for a while, so they were able to help me out if they ever saw I needed to improve."

According to Wolff there was an incredible amount of effort that went into this production of the show and on stage all of that work became worth it for everyone involved. While some might have their favorite acting moments or music numbers, senior Abby Wolff said her special moment came at the end of the second-to-last show.

"I remember coming offstage from that, being like, 'This is something that I want to keep doing for the rest of my life,'" Wolff said. "That performance, I just felt on top of the world, and I hadn't ever felt that particular feeling before."

For the newcomers the performance was a learning experience and a chance to bring their energy and ideas to the department. For the more seasoned pros it was a unique experience and perhaps a chance to find a new love for what they do.

Story by Elora Maxwell / Photos Sourced / Design by Alicia Otto





We might all know the story of Pinocchio, but students from the department of theatre, cinema, and dance produced a version of the classic tale unlike our childhood movie memories that takes the story back to its Italian roots.

This production played into the traditional story of Pinocchio which is tonally darker than the animated film, but it's still a children's theater piece so the cast and crew made sure it kept the childlike aspect.

One way this production was able to balance the darkness along with the innocence was that

the play itself used the commedia dell'arte style of performing. Musical theater major Kennedy Brock was the stage manager for the production and said that the Italian style was a challenge to manage as it included many props.

"It's an acting style where the actors are basically acting with masks, so you don't get to really see their facial expressions as much," Brock said. "They'll start off with a mask, and when they change characters they change masks. Basically there's around 15 actual characters, but we only have a cast of about seven or eight."

In true commedia fashion, the cast members played more than one character throughout the show that will often be completely different from each other. Jozua Bennie, a cinema major, enjoyed the challenge of playing three roles.

"I definitely enjoy being one of the policemen because that's where all the slapstick comedy comes from," Bennie said. "We get to be goofy, we get to wear masks and it's just pure fun."

This production might have been created for people of all ages to enjoy, but for theater major Abby Wolff, the thing she looked forward to the most was seeing the kids enjoy their time in Potter Theater.

"I cannot wait to have kids in the audience," Wolff said. "It will all be so worth it"

Even though this production was a children's theater piece, many of the actors described it as the most physically demanding show of their acting careers. This is senior Cole Kurcz's first leading role and, though it is a physically demanding part, he wants to do the character justice for the audience.

"I do a lot of stunt work that I don't normally get to do," Kurcz said. "I'm willing to try whatever because I want to do the part justice. I want to be able to do good in this role just because I know that a lot of people want to come see the show, and a lot of kids who want to see the show have seen Pinocchio. So I want to make sure that I play Pinocchio as he should be."

This unique version of the classic children's tale might not be exactly how you viewed it in your childhood, but the cast and crew managed to capture the essence of fantasy and fun you remember.

Story by Abby Wolff / Photos Sourced / Design by Alicia Otto



Short and Sweet is an evening of short plays and films that has been held in Kemper Recital Hall for the past three years. While there is faculty support and professors Jeff Stover and Toby Lawrence directed two pieces, the rest of the plays performed and films shown were driven by the creative vision of students. There were even two pieces that were written by students: "An Ordinary Citizen" by Benjamin J. Smith and "Not Alone" by Abby Wolff. Nathan Gonder directed Smith's piece, in which Parker Jahn, a cinema major, was part of the comic book cast. A reporter down on his luck, Jahn's character Tim meets Hero (Ray Clark IV) and Fiend (Gabby Ristici), two very odd "super-powered" individuals who help him back on his feet after a job loss. "My favorite part about performing in the show was how it was a new experience for everyone involved even though it was the same show each night." This was Jahn's first time performing in a main stage show at Missouri Western. "That was the moment I really felt like I was a part of the TCD family; I knew that these were the arts I wanted to go pursue."

Jamie Tolia, a musical theatre major, played Trudy in "Trudy, Carolyn, Martha, and Regina Travel to Outer Space and Have a Pretty Terrible Time There," directed by Jeff Stover. The play was a spoof on various sci-fi films and television shows and the four actresses, Tolia, Valerie Neirman, Samantha Simmons, and Trinity Lewis spent the entire performance sitting in chairs, but the hilarity of the show was not lost even though none of the actresses left their seats. Tolia was asked how the structure of Short and Sweet is different and why it's important for actors, designers and directors to do shorter plays. "I think it's important to do short form theatre because it gives more room to have fun with the rehearsals, gives the audience more variety in the show(s) that they are seeing, and gives them more to talk about once the show(s) are over."



This year's Short and Sweet was different as it included its first one-act: "John Hughes Wrote My Diary," directed by Kennedy Brock. The show was outside of typical Short and Sweet fashion, having a 60 minute run time. The show follows a high school girl named Marty (Trinity Lewis) whose best friend, Tommy (Danny Campos), convinces her to try and win the love of her crush, Chet (Devin Eckardt) and help him win over his crush, Claire (Angel Edwards). Throughout the show though, the two best friends end up falling in love with each others' crushes. The show was full of teenage drama, self discovery, and rockin' 80's music. Eckardt, a freshmen studying cinema, was honored to be part of the cast. It was his second time being on stage, having recently been in "Crazy for You" as an ensemble member. When asked about the importance of this show, he said, "Theatre and cinema can reach a wider audience than sometimes we assume. Any show, movie or production can inspire someone that the actor has never met and will never meet." While he is not pursuing a career as a stage actor, he believes that performing at Missouri Western has made him a better person. "If I can make someone's day better, if I can inspire someone or make someone happy by doing nothing but being myself, putting on a show and having fun, then I don't have any other way I'd want to live my life."

Story by Abby Wolff / Photos Sourced / Design by Alicia Otto



Stomp those *Griffon* Grapes

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photos Sourced

“The students winned (whined) a bit about going to a vineyard...”

- Dr. Gary Clapp
associate professor of chemistry



Students get a hands-on experience working in the vineyard.



Even though they are not in the classroom, these Griffons are still learning.



It is acceptable to compare notes when working on organic chemistry.

Wait - what grapes? In a vineyard? Missouri Western has a vineyard? Dr. Gary Clapp, Associate Professor of Chemistry & Director of Workforce Development breaks it down for us.

Tell us a little bit about the vineyard, why we have it, how we got it and what is its purpose.

Kevin Carver (owner of Castle Bridge Events Center) brought the question to Annette Weeks and Melody Smith. Apparently, this small vineyard had been unkempt for a couple of years and Kevin was going to mow or take out the vineyard unless the University would use it for something. Melody knew of my experience working in a vineyard and serving on the Enological Society Board of Directors in Washington State back in the 90s. Melody called me and alerted me to the idea. I contacted Kevin and said I would help him even if the University wasn't interested.

I brought the idea back to the department, and Dr. Ducey, Dr. Lorimor and Dr. Woodford all agreed that this could be an applied learning opportunity that crossed functions (Organic Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry and the business of running a vineyard).

Do you use the vineyard as a classroom?

Yes, we used the Vineyard as a swap for three labs. The first was to actually go to the vineyard for sampling soil, leaves and grapes. Lab work was used to measure sugar (Brix), Various

Metals, Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium (Inorganic Chemistry). Then we harvested grapes and made wine (Organic Chemistry). We also tracked costs and sold the extra grapes to Jowler Creek to offset some of our costs. We made about four trips to the vineyard, one with the class and three volunteer efforts for pruning, more pruning and harvest.

The students winned (whined) a bit about going to a vineyard but by the time the work was completed, and the lab work was done we had very favorable feedback. Once they got out there, they really enjoyed it. They learned about sample tagging, bagging and basically things like evidence gathering and a little about chain of custody.

The Inorganic class was new to their lab work, so we are still evaluating. In the past we have used brown sugar to show the fermentation process and how we can distill alcohol from this biotech process

How many times have you taken students to the vineyard and what do they do there?

We took them there once (two different sections) and had a soft weekend invite three times. Our Alchemist (Chemistry Club) participated every time. They come out Saturdays and Sundays and just basically play in the vineyard.

Are you making wine?

We do make a little bit of wine.

What are the pros and cons of teaching at the vineyard versus in a classroom?

Pros: applied learning, cool chemistry and a real vineyard.

Cons: travel time - we lose that time, and some are just not that into farms. The vineyard is in Faucett, Missouri - about 11 miles from campus.

Are the hands-on experiences - applied learning - more beneficial at the vineyard than in the classroom?

Nothing helps drive the point home like real-world experience.

Are students excited to be in the vineyard learning?

Early pre/post questionnaires indicate they loved getting out of the lab for some applied learning. Missouri has over 200 vineyards and I know some of our graduates work part or full time at a couple of regional ones.

What are the long-term plans and expectations for the vineyard?

Round two has started. We are treating the vineyard for black rot (fungus) and have already done the spring pruning with the Alchemy Club. Dr. Baker (Biology) has a bacteria that he is using to treat two of the rows to see if that will inhibit or deactivate the fungus. (A possible business and entrepreneurship for Biology). Again, more cross functional fertilization and I am treating the rest of the vineyard with traditional anti-fungal agents.

What is the best take away for students?

Probably the same thing I did when I was a student. As a student, I went out to Mary's Peak Vineyard (in Oregon) as a graduate student in 1986 and started working for free. I enjoyed it, they treated me well and it was another day in the vineyard.

Today, we are working on re-training the unruly grapes. Now that we've got them back up and into the trellis, we are going to have a much better experience this year. They are learning social interaction, applied learning, how to help people, and there's also a lot of chemistry and biology in it.

If they take Organic Chemistry this fall, they will see their grape juice and we will have them make wine out of the grapes that they worked on.

We sold 850 pounds of grapes to Jowler Creek Winery. An alum works at Jowler Creek and we took them up on their offer. They even dropped off their tubs, the students filled them with grapes and Jowler Creek returned to pick up the full tubs.

Dr. Clapp has already sprayed three times this spring in the hopes of preventing the black rot from returning. Kevin Carver even helps out by mowing between the rows. Now they wait to see how well Dr. Baker's treatment for the fungus works. Cheers to successful bacteria!



Sometimes you have to get a close-up look at the vines to determine any problems.



The sunshine is great for the grapes but not for students who forget their sunglasses.



This student is going the extra mile to be sure he knows exactly what is going on.

Big Muddy Mini Maker Faire

Story by Olivia Wabski
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto



From Los Angeles to Tokyo, Japan, hundreds of thousands of people across the world visit the Maker Faire in celebration of artistic and scientific creation.

After starting in San Francisco in 2006, Maker Faire has since spread to 190 different locations around the world.

On March 7, hundreds of people interacted with new inventions and technology in person at St. Joseph's Big Muddy Mini Maker Faire.

Different engineers, inventors, entrepreneurs, artists and scientists from the community—including Missouri Western's chemistry and art departments—showcased their art and conducted many types of experiments.

Missouri Western's Artist in Residence Eric Fuson believes it is essential for people, especially children, to understand that art and science is something that they can learn.

"It's great for them to see what we do and realize that is something they can do," Eric Fuson said.

Although making slime and shaving cream art doesn't necessarily require a chemistry degree, Missouri Western chemistry professor Steven Lorimor was happy to help.

"The Chemistry Department really enjoys our outreach to the community, either in going out to elementary schools or doing demonstrations," Steven Lorimor said.

"Science is an activity that we actually do," Lorimor said. "We don't just watch other people do it. We are actually involved."

Assistant Professor Dan Stasko helped attendees make their own shaving cream art. Stasko encouraged attendees to take the information they have learned and conduct these experiments at home.

All of the materials used to conduct both of the experiments can be easily found in a department store. And, many attendees

might currently have shaving cream, food coloring and note cards at home.

"You would have this at home, and they as learners are future scientists," Stasko said.

While the children asked whether they can take the slime in the car, many parents asked about Missouri Western's Griffon Lab.

The Griffon Lab only looks like a bus from the outside. Inside, the Griffon Lab is a fully furnished classroom. It was modeled from the university's chemistry labs, and it also has many of the same instruments that are used by chemistry majors.

The faire additionally features businesses in St. Joseph that many locals have not visited, and educators from many local schools, including Missouri Western's Chemistry Department, were also in attendance.

Assistant professor Dan Stasko said that it is a good opportunity to learn about local entrepreneurs, artists and scientists.

"We don't see what's going on in people's garages, so this is one way you can get a feel for the community," Stasko said.

A big hit at the Big Muddy Mini Maker Faire was a bust of quarterback Patrick Mahomes sculpted by Missouri Western's Artist in Residence Eric Fuson.

Fuson said that because he spends many hours in the classroom, he appreciates showcasing work to the community and showing them what they have completed at the university.

"It's great to get out and show kids what's possible," Fuson said.

Many attendees leave learning about a new form of art, the Clay Club booth and Harris encourages them to express their creativity, whether it be through pottery, sculpting or digital animation.

"If you have the urge to be creative, you should do something, no matter what the media," Harris said.

The public was able to attend an annual event at Missouri Western. Where they could learn, see and touch the power of scientific curiosities for a family friendly event.

The 20th anniversary for Super Science Saturday took place at Missouri Western's Remington and Agenstein Halls. Benefits from this event went to St. Joseph Museums. Students and adults were charged \$3 and children under five were free.

Science fosters curiosity. This event was put on not only to raise money but for attendees to gain interest in what science is really about.

Attendee, Andrea Cole said science is important and should be taken seriously.

"Curiosity is the foundation of science and it's important for understanding the process of our world, science is in everything," Cole said. "It seems to be more vulnerable to attacks and not taken seriously in society as it once was."

Super Science Saturday was a blast for many families. People traveled from all around to experience the fun activities Missouri Western had to offer. Every corner had something new to peak your interest.

Interested in broadcast journalism? At this event you had the chance to step in front of a camera with KQ2 and perform a weather forecast. Or look up into the sky and watch as a total eclipse takes over the moon at the Planetarium.

On the second floor, kids could dig up the remains of fossils that have been left behind. Imagine entering a room where reptiles ran rampant and slithered up volunteer's arms. Where you could peek through glass to see other scaly reptiles.

Even more wildlife was explored at Super Science Saturday with actual animal furs you could touch. A separate room on the wildlife floor showed how to feed trees actual treats

with the Sustainable Advisory Committee.

KNPN showed their audience how to create tornados in a bottle and make golf balls float in mid-air like magic. In the same room you could shrink plastic to make a cute key chain to take home to show your friends.

"Dr. D" lit up the room with a fire show, and left his audience in awe of the chemistry department at Missouri Western.

Chemistry professor at Missouri Western, Dr. Michael Ducey, ("Dr. D"), talked about his fire show and what audiences were to expect.

"They have a lot of excitement about the experiments themselves, there's fire involved in them there's explosions, and the kids love them," Ducey said.

Science can be fun. Especially for the curious child.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, otherwise known as STEM, is always eager for new students.

Attendee Rachel McCoy said science and math are important for her children's future careers.

"It's going to be the future of how they work, the careers they'll have" McCoy said. "I hope it gets kids out of their video game world and more interested in science and what Missouri Western has to offer for their future careers as college students." McCoy said.

Super Science Saturday

Story by Kathleen Woods
Photos Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto



Discovering Ethiopia

Story and Photos by Dr. Dave Tushaus
Design by Alicia Otto

I served as a United States Ambassador's Distinguished Scholar in Ethiopia in the 2019-2020 academic year. Ethiopia has a relatively young higher education system. The goal of the program is to bring experienced academics to Ethiopia to strengthen its universities' capacity to teach and manage undergraduate and graduate programs and enhance research capacity within Ethiopian universities.

Bahir Dar University's Law School has an excellent faculty and work culture. It is common for the faculty to meet over coffee in the morning and discuss the issues of the day, of which there are many. Ethiopia has been struggling to move from a repressive dictatorship to a more open democratic society since April 2018, when Abiy Ahmed became Prime Minister. Human Rights Watch reports that the government has released thousands of political prisoners, including journalists and key opposition leaders, lifted restrictions on access to the internet, admitted that security forces relied on torture, committed to legal reforms of repressive laws and introduced numerous other reforms, paving the way for improved respect for human rights. But I learned this is a process that will take years.

Teaching about the rule of law in an emerging democracy is a challenging and rewarding experience. Faculty and students are drawn to human rights issues in Ethiopia. Issues that many U.S. students are unaware of have been a way of life for Ethiopians. We started research projects on a variety of concerns I plan to continue to help my Ethiopian friends with back at Bahir Dar University and elsewhere. For example, domestic violence is a big problem everywhere. Many countries have orders of protection that survivors can get to protect themselves from the abuser. Ethiopia has no such law in place. I am continuing to help Ethiopia try to obtain funding to create a grass roots campaign to establish a protection order. Other projects we are working on include environmental assessment and advocacy, access to justice for low-income persons and better access to internet content for sight impaired persons.

But our progress on these research projects was slowed by instability in the country. Many freedoms we take for granted create restrictions on movement due to dangerous conditions. Students could not get to class at the start of the semester because roads were closed by protesters. Ironically, once the semester began student boycotts of classes all but canceled the semester for undergraduates. The internet was slow, controlled by the government and still shut down at times to address unrest in parts of the country. This made teaching my hybrid online Advanced Legal Research Methodology class challenging. Extreme poverty also created restrictions. We were advised never to go out alone, never after 7 p.m. and that we could not travel by road to many destinations, including the capital Addis Ababa because of the chance of theft.

The rewards far outweighed the frustrations in Ethiopia. Faculty and students were warm, welcoming and enthusiastic. My hope is by sharing some of my experiences in Ethiopia we can develop a new-found enthusiasm for human rights in this country.



Many people in Ethiopia and other underdeveloped countries are part of the informal economy. Children work the sidewalks after school with scales. They charge a birr (about 4 cents) to weigh you. This is considered a step above begging in Ethiopian society.

The sidewalks are also lined with shoe shiners. Ethiopians will have sandals, tennis shoes and dress shoes cleaned and shined for 10 minutes for less than 35 cents. A cup of coffee from a street vendor costs 15 cents. There's street food, restaurants that are little more than an open fire, pans and plastic chairs, fishers and fish cleaners. Many have or will have access to justice problems.



Around the and Back

Story by Faith Perkins
 Photos by Britane Hubbard
 Design by Alicia Otto

As college students, it's easy to live one day at a time as if in Neverland. Routines are established, class is at a certain time, the clock strikes and the next class awaits. There's a math test tomorrow and an English paper due at the end of the week, that becomes the only focus.

It's time the blinders were removed and the focus shifted farther in the distance. What are your career plans? Are you more qualified than the person that sits next to you in class and probably steals your armrest?

Student Britane Hubbard is taking no chances with her future.

Hubbard graduated from Missouri Western with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice legal studies in 2018. She is now working towards a forensic investigation certificate in hopes of continuing to law school.

According to her professor, David Tushaus, Hubbard has already accomplished more in three years than he thought was possible. Tushaus said Hubbard was a leader in SGA and reestablish the Legal Studies Association.

"To earn excellent grades and be involved in school leadership while working her way through school is most unusual for a student," Tushaus said.

Hubbard was awarded the designation of her hard work in academics and research in 2018 when she received the Honor Student of the Year award.

Hubbard has presented and continues to present her research at numerous peer-reviewed regional, national and international conferences located all around the world.

Two of Hubbard's most recent studies were conducted in Myanmar, Asia. During

both studies, Hubbard was accompanied by Tushaus. While there, they worked for the non-governmental organization, BABSEACLE, and taught at a law school in Taunggyi.

While conducting her first study, Hubbard had the opportunity to teach clinical education and English, which teaches legal concepts and terms through the law school's curriculum.

"Not everything translates from Myanmar to English very well," Hubbard said.

In fact, because of the language barrier, the two conducted a study about the effectiveness of their teaching methods like interactive and experiential learning methods.

During their experience in Myanmar, Hubbard said they noticed that traditional teaching in Myanmar utilized chanting.

While in Myanmar, Hubbard made connections through networking and had the opportunity to go to Myanmar again next summer for research.

During this trip, she taught clinics on topics like environmental law and gender-based violence.

While teaching at the clinics, Hubbard said she was surprised to find out how many people had a hard time grasping the concept of gender-based violence.

Hubbard helped develop a survey that was given to the students.

Hubbard will be presenting the results of the survey later this year in Indonesia during the global alliance for justice education conference.

Hubbard hopes that when she presents the results of the studies, she will be able to apply for grant money which will help to clean lake water or make new legislations for an order of protection in Myanmar.

In the last three years, Hubbard has been to many other countries conducting a multitude of studies. Even though she's already accomplished so much, she's not done yet.

"I'm going to Indonesia in December, and then my next goal is to find another country to go to," Hubbard said.

Hubbard is currently applying to law schools in hopes that she will get accepted.

There's a scene in the Disney movie "Peter Pan" when Wendy is afraid to fly. There is an infamous quote, "What if I fall?" Windy said. Peter responds with, "Oh, but my darling what if you fly." Peter gives her the courage to take flight. To truly get ahead we must first leap.

Hubbard's photos reflect the experiences that she and Dr. David Tushaus had while traveling the world.



Can you *hear* me now?

Story by Marianne Kunkel
Photos Submitted
Design by Alicia Otto

When I arrived as a professor at MWSU in the fall of 2014, I got the ball rolling on a lot of initiatives for our university's two literary journals, *The Mochila Review* and *Reach* (formerly *Canvas*). These initiatives included a spring visiting writer series, a student podcast, a writers' contest, a "tiniest coffee shop" in Murphy Hall's elevators, and more. The journals' staff, a cohort of 12-15 students enrolled in ENG 395, grew to trust that even if my ideas seemed wacky (such as, yes, serving coffee and reading poetry in a campus elevator), they turned out to be a lot of fun and, more importantly, were terrific practice for jobs in the literary publishing industry. Over the years, the staff's enthusiasm grew to the point that they began suggesting their own big ideas, which is what happened in the fall of 2018 when Anne Davies, an English major and member of *Mochila* and *Reach*'s marketing team, proposed a monthly open mic night.

Although Anne wasn't the first to suggest an English department-sponsored open mic (English faculty such as Dr. Bill Church and Professors Dana Andrews and Mary Stone previously organized them), none existed at the time she suggested one. As part of our marketing team, she networked with local businesses in downtown St. Joseph and got a commitment from Mokaska Coffee Company, a new coffee shop at the time, to host a monthly open mic during the fall and spring semesters. Mokaska even offered us a sound system they would set up for us. From there, Anne coordinated with MWSU to enfold our open mic into the university's Third Thursday events—one night a month when downtown businesses open their doors specifically to MWSU students. It looked like Anne's idea just might take off.

I held our last ENG 395 class of the Fall 2018 semester at Mokaska, and there we put the finishing details on our inaugural open mic. Huey, *Reach*'s editor-in-chief at the time, came up with the event's name; we had just changed the campus-wide journal's name from *Canvas* to *Reach*, and what better way to publicize our journal than to call the open mic "Reach 4 the Mic"? Our art intern got busy designing posters, our social media team announced the event, and we looked forward to our first open mic on Feb. 21, 2019, still not knowing exactly what to expect.

What resulted from Anne's ambitious idea was one of the most successful downtown/campus collaborations in MWSU's history. Other local businesses have seen the crowds that Reach 4 the Mic attracts, crowds ranging from 50 to 80 people, and asked us how they could get involved. *Reach* has hosted almost a dozen of these events, and each time we are delighted by the poetry, songs, theatre, and short stories of MWSU students and faculty and local writers and artists. MWSU professor Dr. Kibirige's guitar sing-alongs are a crowd favorite, as is MWSU student Zoie Reynolds' spoken word. My favorite thing about Reach 4 the Mic is that Anne's vision, from the beginning, was to be as inclusive as possible: a different Reach staff member emcee's each month, and the crowd wholeheartedly supports those who perform, cheering on anyone brave enough to stand on stage and speak from their heart.



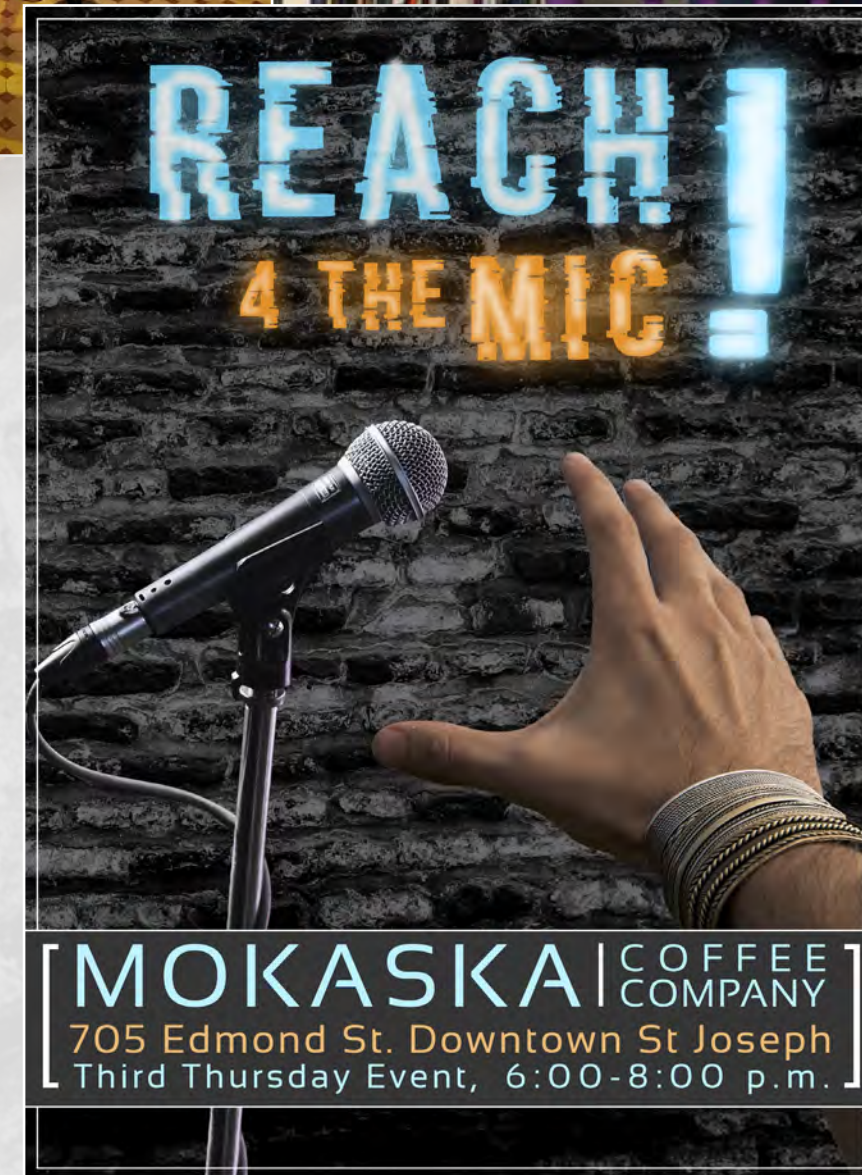
Local author Jay Claywell



Anne Davies was the former marketing manager for both journals



Lara Kroush, former editor-in-chief of *Reach* and managing editor of *The Mochila Review*





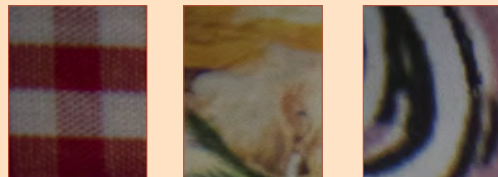
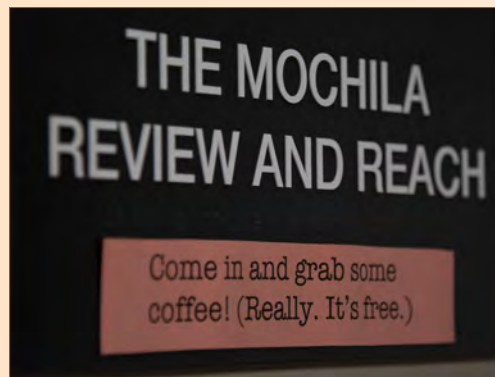
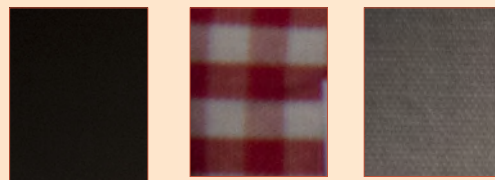
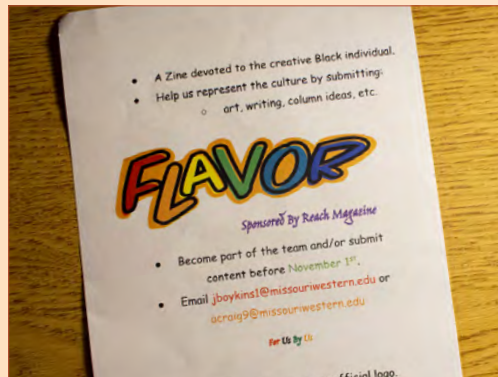
Taste the Flavor

Story by *Olivia Wabski*
Photos by *Alicia Otto and Sourced*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

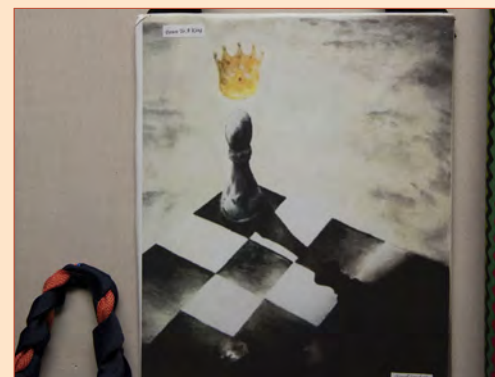
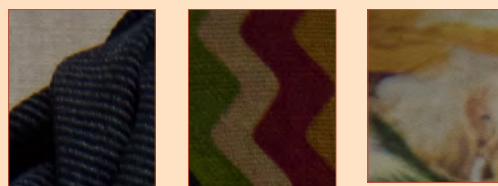
{ zine /zēn/ noun [INFORMAL]

- a magazine; a fanzine; a webzine; a self-published, non-commercial print-work typically produced in small, limited batches; created and bound in DIY ways; easily reproduced by crafting an original, then copying, folding, and/or stapling the pages into simple pamphlets; may also be sewn, taped, glued - or in unbound and other non-folio formats

}



Senior Janae Boykins created the zine "Flavor."



Each year students at Missouri Western celebrate an array of different cultures, but one student introduced a new way to celebrate hers.

Senior Janae Boykins had one goal. She created "Flavor."

"I've always wanted to ruffle the feathers and do something large," Boykins said.

"Flavor" is a zine: a self-published magazine containing works by a single person or a small group of people. Boykins, along with a handful of students, now produce, edit and distribute the zine twice a semester.

The name "Flavor" is inspired by the television comedy *Living Single*. In *Living Single*, Flavor is a fictional magazine that primarily caters to black youth in Brooklyn, New York. The fictional magazine was created by one of the main characters, Khadijah James, who is portrayed by Queen Latifah.

"Flavor" is closely associated with *Reach*, an existing campus literary journal that features writing and art from Missouri Western students. *Reach* is led by Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Publishing Marianne Kunkel. "Flavor" differs from *Reach* for one key reason: *Flavor* exclusively includes creative writing and art from black students.

At times as a creative writing major, Boykins is the only black student in her upper-level English classes. She has personally experienced a lack of representation on campus regarding artistic creativity from black students. However, she wants others to believe that this does not represent the amount of art that black students currently create.

"That is not a testament to the lack of art that black students can promote and produce," Boykins said. "It's very important to shed a light on that."

"Flavor" includes everything from poetry about love to art about royalty. Boykins said she wants artists to create their own personal narratives and show different varieties of black creativity.

"I want the different flavors of black to be represented," Boykins said.

Additionally, Boykins noticed a lack of poems and stories in the media that feature black characters as the protagonists.

"I want to be able to produce characters who are black," Boykins said. "I can't tell you how many stories I've read where the main character is white or somebody who I can't relate to."

Boykins brought "Flavor" to life and reinvented the magazine to include art and poetry by both herself and other black students at Missouri Western.



Go East Young Man!

Story by Zoë Jones
Photos and Design by Alicia Otto

Growing up in Montana, Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Edwin Taylor III, never would've imagined he'd be where he is today.

As a young kid, Taylor dreamt of becoming a lawyer. With his mom working in the clerk record office, Taylor's family has been involved in political elections. The older he got, the more he realized that he liked learning about politics more than the application of law itself. After this discovery, Taylor knew he would major in it in college and let it be a part of his life. He felt that becoming a professor was the next natural step he had to take in his life.

"I could have done lots of things I imagine with a Ph.D. in political science, but I really enjoy being in the classroom the most, because I honestly think that that's where I learned the most because in the classroom," Taylor said. "I see 50 students. All of them are very different from me, and there's different ideas and different perspectives. And that really does help me think about, you know, why I think the things that I do and helps me understand how people's lives affect where they are, and kind of what they believe in."

Taylor decided to take his journey even farther when he decided to come to Missouri Western in 2010. With Taylor's family being all on the West Coast, he questioned if it was the right move. He later decided that it was fate that brought him to St. Joseph.

"Missouri Western and the students really did provide me with basically a surrogate family," Taylor said. "The people here are just amazing and the students, even the ones that drive me crazy because they just don't do their stuff, they're like any member of your family that all you really want to do is see them succeed."

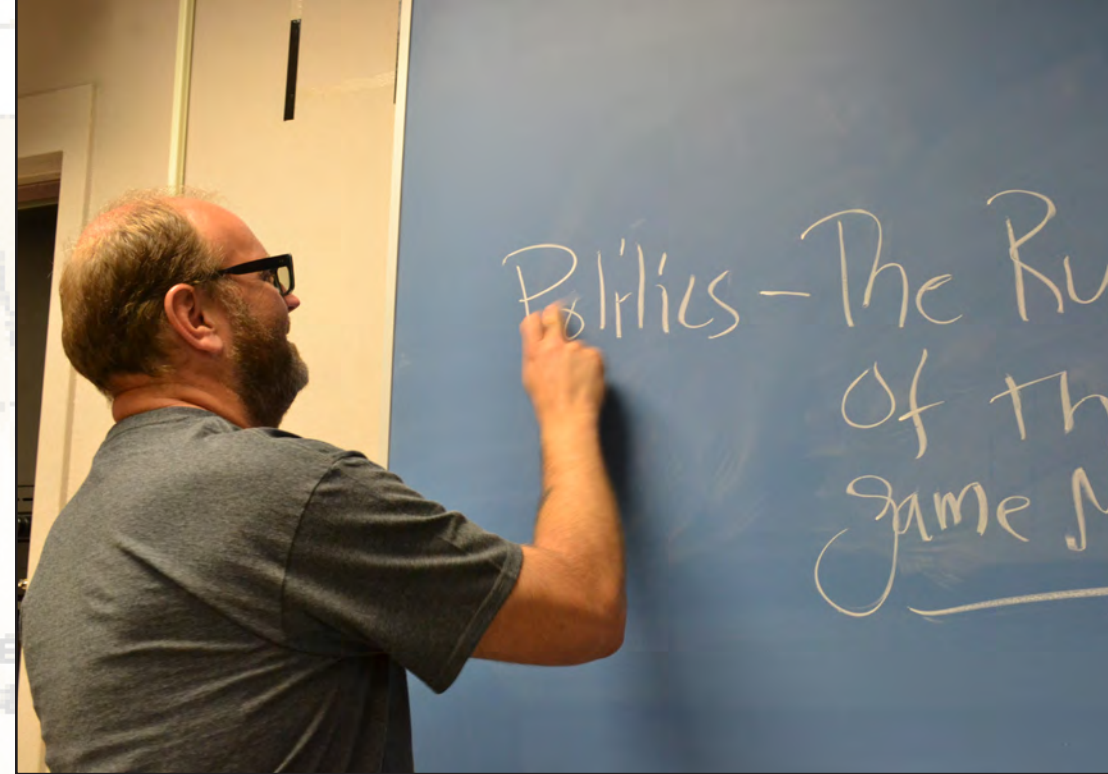
Now, Taylor is the Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities. Since coming to Missouri Western, he's left quite the impact. He's helped create the political science fraternity Alpha Theta Beta, a Politics Club, a Board Games Club, has taken students to conferences, and much more.

Sandra Pennock first met Dr. Taylor in 2012 as a student. Recently she was the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Economics, Political Science and Sociology where she worked closely with Taylor. Pennock said that Taylor plays a huge role in his student's educational careers.

"Dr. Taylor is committed to his students. I believe he is one of the key factors in their path to success. As an alum of MWSU I can say I don't remember everything about my college experience, but one thing I will never forget is the faculty who made an impact in my life, Dr. Taylor being one of them."

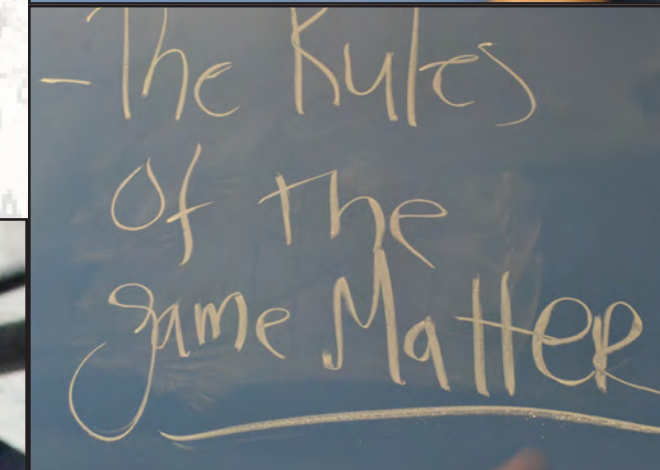
With his office door being open to anyone and everyone, his role in the classroom, and the constant support he shows, Pennock believes that he always thinks about his students.

"He is a hardworking, passionate educator. He always has his student's best interests in mind," Pennock said. "He is the type of person to be overloaded with work, but still make time for his students."



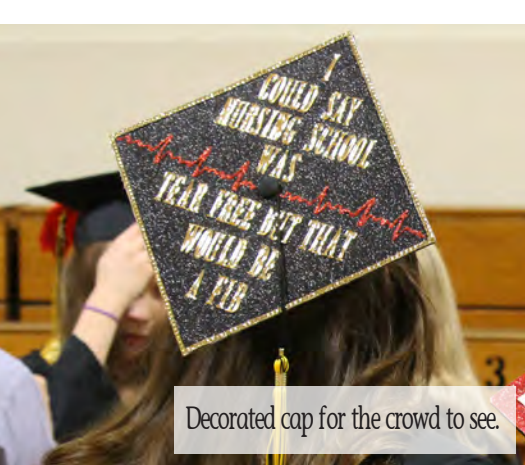
"Missouri Western and the students really did provide me with basically a surrogate family."

-Dr. Ed Taylor



Tanner Cobb signing off

Story by Tanner Cobb, Photos sourced, Design by Alicia Otto



Decorated cap for the crowd to see.



Dr. Jon Rhoad delivers the commencement speech.



President's Ceremonial Mace.



Rub the Griffon for good luck!



Tanner Cobb celebrates graduation with his family.



A perfect opportunity to thank mom!



A packed field house to celebrate the graduates.

Coming from a small town roughly 30 minutes outside of St. Joseph, the thought of going somewhere away from home to go to college was appealing. Looking back now, I'm glad I didn't go far because I met some amazing people and gained some amazing experiences in my time as a Griffon.

I've always loved sports, so studying journalism allowed me to stay involved with the games that I had grown to love. I decided to get involved with student media at Missouri Western as early as my freshman year. Being the lifestyles editor in the Griffon News in the Fall of 2018 enabled me to take a trip to Louisville on a national journalism conference. I was an anchor for Griffon Update in the Fall of 2019 and was a guest speaker on numerous occasions for the "round table segment," where we would discuss various sports topics.

In journalism, it is important to have good relationships with people, so improving my social skills by living in the residential halls was huge for me. I lived in Scanlon Hall my freshman year and was a resident assistant my sophomore and junior years. Part of my job working as an RA was to interact with the students who lived in my hall, to host programs and to help everyone learn how to adapt to the college lifestyle, among other things. I was never a big fan of waking up in the middle of the night to let someone in their room or bust parties, but I met so many great people that I wouldn't trade for the world.

Class assignments had me reporting on many campus events and gave me the opportunity to interview athletes, student leaders and other great members of Missouri Western. Although I had

initially wished that I went to a bigger university, I enjoyed that I knew so many people around campus. I could walk into the food court for lunch and know a majority of the people eating or in line, which isn't something that happens at bigger colleges.

In my final semester, I started working part-time at the St. Joseph News-Press as a sports reporter while also interning with MWSU sports media and Ryan Menley (MWSU's Executive Producer of Video and Digital Media). I attended games at high schools, colleges and even Kansas City Chiefs with the News-Press, while I took highlights at multiple Missouri Western sporting events with my internship. I spent many game days on the sidelines instead of the stands, and I had a great time doing it. Getting these positions before I graduated was a great way to get my foot in the door that led to me getting a full-time job. Plus, I had multiple interactions with Patrick Mahomes and other Chiefs players, which was unbelievable, and I have to thank my connections through Missouri Western for that.

My biggest takeaway from my time as a Missouri Western student was growing as a person. I was overwhelmed, stressed and sleep deprived on countless occasions over the past few years, but that all helped me become who I am today. It might not seem like it when you are going through tough times but learning how to deal with adversity and failure is one of the greatest experiences you can gain in your life. I am grateful for my time at Missouri Western and I will forever be proud to be a Griffon.

Spring Commencement...

Story and Design by *Alicia Otto* / Photos Sourced

Imagine, if you will, you spend four, five, six or more years working towards a college degree. And then you find out that you are not going to be able to walk at Commencement? Or maybe you can but it will be four months or more later?

Does it matter? Your gut instinct might be "hell yes it matters," but your practical brain

- the one you've spent the last four, five, six or more years to develop - tells you "hell no it doesn't matter."

As long as I receive that piece of paper, what does it matter? In the end it doesn't really matter. You still have your knowledge, your experiences, your degree! Isn't that what really matters?

Enjoy these photos of faculty and staff wishing the spring graduates virtual congratulations.

And enjoy the "senior" photos of the spring graduates as they made the very best of a bad COVID-19 situation.

Congratulations Griffons - however you got here - you are here - and that's all that matters!

... the one where we almost graduated!



Jean Foster

Congratulations!
On your graduation, may you always find new goals to meet, new horizons to explore, and new dreams to call your own.
Wishing you all the best!!

Congratulations!
MWSU
Class of 2020

Susan Garrison



Academic Affairs



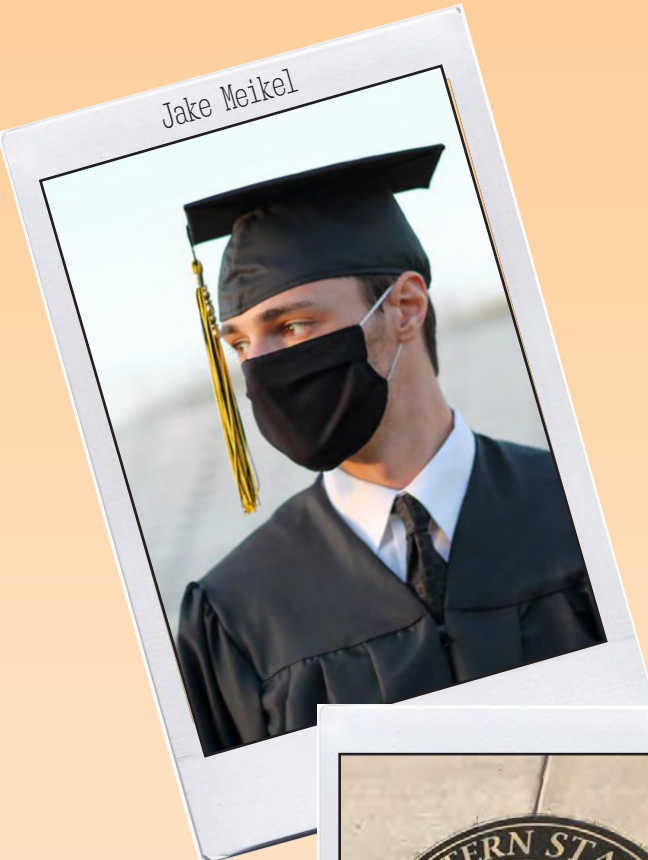
Kim Sigrist



Dr. Logan Jones



Yen To



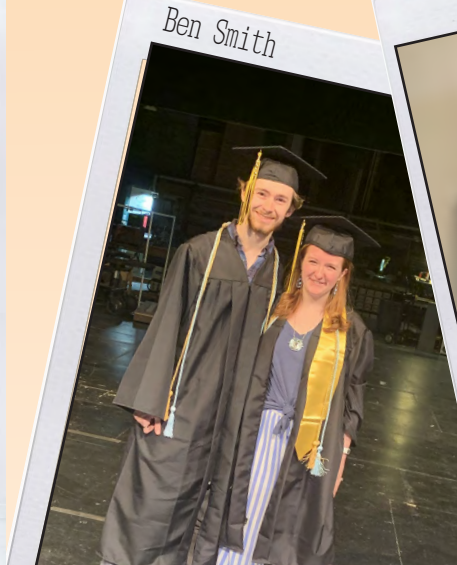
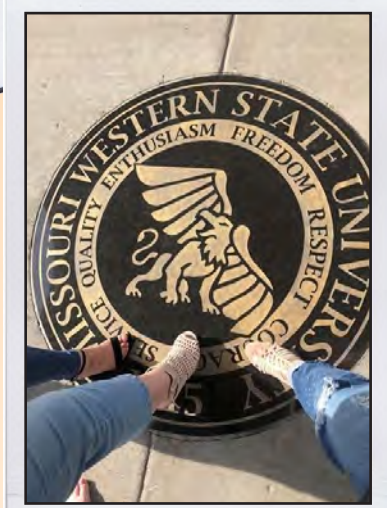
Jake Meikel



Trasean Stepney



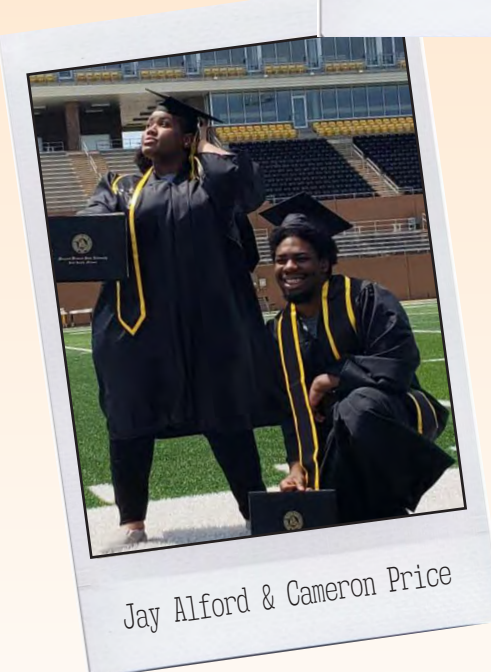
Kailyn Bauer



Ben Smith



Angelica Lozano



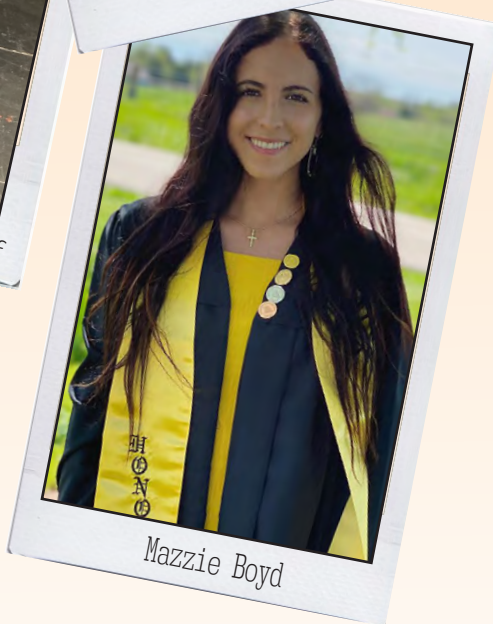
Jay Alford & Cameron Price



Cecilia Tackett



Abby Wolff



Mazzie Boyd

beaming [confidence]
comparing



believing [the hype]

being [authentic]

becoming [griffons]

bestowing [the legacy]

It started with *One*

Story and Design by Alicia Otto
Photos by Alicia Otto / Sourced

#1 - the very first, numero uno, një, eins, yksi, wiehed, ceann - football team at Missouri Western began with a loss at Morningside College on Sept. 12, 1970. The 72-10 defeat still stands as the largest margin of defeat for the program. Come on, give them a break, it was THE very first game of THE very first season! (Remember: Rome wasn't built in a day,)

Zack Workman '74 was a member of that team and remembers that first game very vividly.

"That was our first game, but I've seen games within the last ten years that get really close to that and think 'I don't feel quite so bad,'" Workman said.

They went 1-8 that first season and continued to build by adding one more victory in each of the first four seasons. Apparently, they were doing something right because six of the players; Jack Burgess, Chris Faros, George Hayward, Dave Hedrick, Merrill Masters and Workman, as well as Coach Harold Cagle and Sports Information Director Jerry Meyers have been inducted into the Missouri Western Athletics Hall of Fame ("HOF").

Walking through the new Athletics HOF that was just added to the HOF Room at Spratt Memorial Stadium, Workman reflects on a lot of great memories he had as a student-athlete at Missouri Western. He also remembers details from nearly every game he played as a Griffon.

He remembers great friendships that continue to this day, the games that



Front Row: (L to R): Dave Hedrick, Joe Vigliaturo, Arlie Dienis
Back Row (L to R): Zack Workman, Chris Faros, Jack Burgess

they played and the camaraderie. Most were all good memories, including living in the dorms.

"There were probably 50 of us that moved in to the dorms," Workman said. The team was the first students to move into Logan Hall in December of 1970.

Workman remembers so many great times he and his teammates had, not only living in the dorms, but also traveling to games on the St. Joseph public buses. Workman offers a piece of advice for those who are in college now.

"Don't have any regrets," Workman said. He cautions you to not look back and say 'I wish I would have' because life goes by way too fast. We always think that we have tomorrow, but you may not get that opportunity. Making friends is important because they are the ones that are going to last a lifetime. In college, you really develop meaningful friendships.

Workman was fortunate to be one of six players that started the football program together in 1970 and graduated together in 1974.

Looking up at all the names on the wall, it is humbling to realize they were all part of what Missouri Western is all about.

The HOF would not exist without the leadership of Dr. Josh Looney, Brett Esely, Roger's Pharmacy and Scott Graham '78, committee chair.



Scott Graham '78, a 4-year letterwinner from 1974-1977, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006 and is currently the Chairman of the HOF Committee.

"My role as Chairman puts my name out there more than others but without the efforts of Brett Esely to develop the relationship with our generous benefactor, Roger's Pharmacy, as well as the guidance and support of Dr. Josh Looney there would be no physical HOF space," Graham said.

Graham was surprised when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, as only the second offensive lineman inducted because they do not have stats like players at other positions do. He hopes the HOF outgrows its current spot because that would mean that Griffons will have continued to produce great athletic performances.

Graham believes that Missouri Western Athletics is a family with a family atmosphere. The HOF will be a great place for those family members to enjoy and reflect on their legacy when they return. "This is a tangible tribute to the very best moments of Griffon athletics and belongs to every athlete, coach, administrator and supporter who has ever made a contribution during their time on campus," Graham said.



Workman's first visit to the Hall of Fame felt like a scene from "A League of Their Own." The trip to the past brought nothing but great memories.



Workman's name and Hall of Fame ring.



This original sign is in Workman's house today.



Zack '74 and Mary '75 Workman met as a football player and cheerleader, respectively, at Missouri Western. Both continue to stay involved on campus. He is a member of the Foundation Board and President of the Gold Coat Club and she is President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

As part of the ongoing celebration of the 50th season of Griffon Football, five all-decade teams have been selected to celebrate that respective chapter in MWSU Athletics history.

There were 151 former Griffons selected for the various all-decade teams. The teams were selected by a committee comprised of Missouri Western Football alumni and former Griffon Athletics support personnel.

Thousands have worn the Griffon uniform through the first five decades of this proud football program. For this milestone 50th season, it was appropriate to take a look at the past and honor the contributions of the many players who helped build the program into what it is today. The naming of an All-Decade team for each of the five decades is just one way those contributions were honored throughout the 2019 season.

Honoring each All-Decade team continued throughout the season with in-depth information on each team and Griffon Football history through each decade released preceding each home game of the 2019 season.

All-decade teams were selected by a committee comprised of Missouri Western Football alumni and former Griffon Athletics support personnel.

The committee's starting point was to identify five sub-committees, comprised of former players, coaches and support personnel familiar with the one decade they reviewed. There were people representing both offensive and defensive perspectives and the teams as a whole through each individual decade.

The committees met and discussed the overall goals of their work. The overriding principle of all decisions was that selections were to be merit based. All former players received consideration to be named to the All-Decade teams.

Every player who moved through the program, whether a four-year starter and All-American or a one-year player who saw their career cut short by injury put their own brick in the wall that is Griffon Football. The 50th Season Committee appreciates the blood, sweat and sacrifice of every player who has worn the Black and Gold through the decades.



And grew to Fifty

Story by MWSU Athletics
Photos by Alicia Otto / Sourced
Design by Alicia Otto

1970s ALL-DECADE TEAM			1980s ALL-DECADE TEAM			1990s ALL-DECADE TEAM			2000s ALL-DECADE TEAM			2010s ALL-DECADE TEAM		
OFFENSE			OFFENSE			OFFENSE			OFFENSE			OFFENSE		
Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played
QB	Bob Heimbaugh [^]	1972-75	QB	Joe Reid	1988-91	QB	Kasey Waterman [^]	1998-2001	QB	Drew Newhart	2007-10	QB	Travis Partridge	2010-13
*RB	Bubba Hopkins	1975-76	RB	Rodney Stephenson [^]	1978-81	RB	Tony Williams [^]	1994-97	RB	Jeremiah White	2005-06	RB	Michael Hill	2009-12
*RB	Jay Randall [^]	1975-77	RB	Steve Sullivan	1988-89	RB	Dess Douglas	1993-94	RB	Thomas Hodges	2006-10	RB	Raphael Spencer	2012-15
*RB	Marc Whitacre	1970-73	WR	Tim Hoskins [^]	1978-81	WR	Terren Adams	1991-92	WR	Adam Ziesel	1999-02	WR	Tyron Crockom	2009-13
WR	Joe Henry	1975-76	WR	Eric Hoskins	1984-87	WR	Jerris Evans [^]	1998-2001	WR	Andrew Mead	2005-10	WR	Tarrell Downing	2009-12
WR	Pat Casey	1976-79	TE	Craig Hagel	1983-85	TE	Kris Stites	1990-93	TE	Gijon Robinson [^]	2003-06	TE	Reggie Jordan	2010-13
TE	Zack Workman [^]	1970-73	OL	Bill Stevens [^]	1977-80	OL	Brad Eise	1991-94	OL	Brett Mingee	2000-03	OL	Travis Anderson	2012-16
OL	Mark Storey	1975-78	OL	Jim Ball	1979-82	OL	Kim Sword	1989-92	OL	Nathan Martin	2006-09	OL	Macon Allan	2009-12
OL	Mark Lovelace	1972-75	OL	Jim Brockoff	1984-85	OL	Philip Nelson [^]	1996-99	OL	Justin Montgomery	2002-05	OL	Max Oeser	2014-17
OL	Bill Tharp	1975-78	OL	Keith McVey	1987-88	OL	Mitch Moeckli	1996-2000	OL	Roger Allen	2005-08	OL	Leonard Wester	2012-15
OL	Scott Graham [^]	1974-77	OL	Heath Gregg	1987-90	OL	Mike Vold	1988-91	OL	Earl Jack	2001-04	OL	Hayden Eater	2016-19
OL	Darrell Van Lengen [^]	1976-79	K	Bill Wolfe	1986-89	K	Mike Sierra	1995-96	K	Dustin Strickler	2005-08	K	Greg Zuerlein	2011
K	Ron Parker	1977	KR/PR	Eric Bruder	1982-85	KR/PR	Brandon Burnside	1996-99	KR/PR	Cedric Houston	2007-10	KR/PR	Brandin Dandridge	2015-18
AP/KR/PR	George Blakley [^]	1973-76	A/P	Marc Lewis [^]	1978-81	A/P	John Fisher [^]	1993-95	A/P	Jarrett Brooks [^]	2003-06	A/P	Dom Thomas	2011-14
DEFENSE			DEFENSE			DEFENSE			DEFENSE			DEFENSE		
Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played	Pos.	Name	Years Played
*DL	Kinney Redding [^]	1974-77	DL	Tim Boender [^]	1980-83	DL	Matt Williamson	1993-96	DL	Michael Cobbins [^]	2003-06	DL	David Bass	2009-12
*DL	Merrill Masters [^]	1970-73	DL	Vince Thomson [^]	1983-84	DL	Josh Oylar	1997-2000	DL	Jason Chancellor	2001-02	DL	Austin Baska	2010-13
*DL	Jamie Waldren	1974-77	DL	Steve Marlay [^]	1980-83	DL	Scott Howell	1993-84	DL	Soane Etu	2007-08	DL	Arbanas Elliott	2012-15
*DL	Alan Hensley	1974-77	DL	Mark Jackman	1984-85	DL	Donta Simpson	1993-94	DL	Eric McDowell [^]	2000-03	DL	Ben Pister	2009-12
*DL	Pat Benage	1978-79	LB	Robert Newhart [^]	1979-82	LB	Jered Curl	1996-99	LB	Eric Walker [^]	1999-02	LB	Yomi Alli	2011-15
LB	Keith Evans [^]	1974-77	LB	Tony Franklin [^]	1979-83	LB	Shawn Miller	1993	LB	Sean Whitters	2007-10	LB	Stephen Juergens	2011-14
LB	Doug Holland [^]	1976-78	LB	Bruce Hollowell	1988-91	LB	Matt Gragg	1993-96	LB	John Matthew Fisher	2003-06	LB	Cody Lindsay	2014-17
LB	Mike Lillig	1974-77	DB	Darren Mankin	1978-81	DB	Mitch Mason [^]	1993-96	DB	Pierre Thomas [^]	2000-03	DB	Michael Jordan	2012-15
DB	Walter Wilson	1975	DB	Chris Ball [^]	1983-85	DB	Brent Burnside	1996-99	DB	Desmond Polk	2000-03	DB	Jack Long	2008-11
DB	Dave Hedrick [^]	1970-73	DB	Jewell Stephenson	1984-86	DB	Calvin Johnson	1993-96	DB	Greg Carbin	2003-06	DB	Shane Simpson	2009-12
DB	Dave Carter	1974-76	DB	Dee BrownLee	1987-90	DB	Tyreece Whyte	1998-2001	DB	J.R. Graham	2005-07	DB	Jonathan Owens	2014-17
DB	Neal Spencer	1976-79	P	Bryan Timmermeyer	1984-87	P	Mike Darnell	1997-98	*P	Jamie Hanson	2005-08	P	Scott Groner	2011-14
P	Randy Parker	1976-79							*P	Jay White	2004-05			
SPECIAL MENTION			SPECIAL MENTION			SPECIAL MENTION			SPECIAL MENTION			SPECIAL MENTION		
DB	Tim Skorija	1974-77	QB	Joe Holder	1982-83	QB	Mark Ramstack	1991-92	LB	Tony Matzke	2002-05	DB	Sam Brown	2012-15
TE	Jeff Davey	1974-77	RB	Mike Taggart	1977-80	DL	Hamilton Crowder	1994-98	RB	Derrick Pitts	2000-03	K	Tyler Basch	2016-18
LB	Chris Faros [^]	1970-73	OL	Chris Wright	1986-88				DB	Andre Burns	2001-06			
DB	Jack Burgess [^]	1970-72	DL	Barry Waggoner	1987-88				OL	Patrick St Louis	2004-07			
QB	Mike Solomon [^]	1976-79							DL	Leon Douglas	2002-06			

* - Indicates tie in voting
^ - Indicates MWSU Hall of Fame Inductee

FOOTBALL



Wide receivers Daman Wheeler Jr. and Devon Holmes keep the Griffon spirit high during the game against the Bearcats.



Celebration in the end zone = Griffon Touchdown!



Running Back Shamar Griffith tries to run for the first down.



Quarterback Wyatt Steigerwald completes the pass to move the ball closer to the end zone.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos & design by Alicia Otto

The 50th season of Griffon Football saw the program return to success known for much of the previous two decades. Missouri Western went 8-3 in the regular season for its most wins since 2013 and reached a ninth win with a second consecutive victory in the Live United Bowl.

Missouri Western's three regular season losses all came to teams that advanced to the postseason, two that made at least the second round of the NCAA Division II Playoffs in Northwest Missouri and Central Missouri. The Griffons led in two of the three losses and tied the Central Missouri game late before falling in overtime. The season was highlighted by a dynamic offense that averaged close to 42 points per game. That offense put up at least 43 points in five straight games and six overall. The offense also totaled more than 500 yards four times, including a program-first string of three-straight 500-plus-yard totals.

The Griffons became the only MIAA football

program with postseason wins in both 2018 and 2019 when they drubbed Henderson State 35-14. It was the first back-to-back postseason appearances for the program since 2011-12. Trey Vaval was named MVP of the Live United Bowl with a game-record 225 return yards.

Sixteen Griffons were named All-MIAA, highlighted by first team selections Hayden Eatinger (offensive line), Sam Webb (defensive back) and Vaval (returner). Vaval became the first freshman in program history to be named All-America by the American Football Coaches Association. He picked up four total All-American honors and was named Super Region 3 Co-Freshman of the Year by the Don Hansen Football Gazette. Vaval broke a 27-year old MIAA record by averaging more than 35 yards per kick return and led the nation with more than 1,100 combined return yards. Webb also picked up All-Region and was an honorable mention on the Don Hansen All-America team.

He hopped on a plane at MCI with a dream and his *Football* cleats

Story by *Morgan Doyle*
 Photos *Sourced*
 Design by *Alicia Otto*

For most Missouri Western football players, their final game of their senior season is their final game ever. They hang up their worn-down cleats, put away the sleek Griffon helmets and walk out of the locker room for the last time. No more early lifts, no more tough practices and no more football games.

However, offensive lineman Hayden Eatinger is an exception. When Missouri Western defeated Henderson State University at the Agent Barry Live United Bowl in 2019, Eatinger walked out of the locker room with even more to prove.

In 2019, he was unanimously named First Team All-MIAA and was part of an offensive line that rushed for over 2,500 yards. Professional scouts had been attending games and practices all season to watch Eatinger play.

Head Coach Matt Williamson believes that Eatinger had a great career at Missouri Western and it's his attitude and effort that put him a step above his competitors.

"He's a very talented kid and a very hard worker," Williamson said. "He just shows up every single day and just wants to dominate the day, the practice, the situation, the person across from him; he's a go-getter."

At the end of the 2019 season, Eatinger was expecting an invitation to the 2020 Senior Bowl. He signed with an agent and began training but was disappointed when he found out he hadn't made it.

"I got my hopes up," Eatinger said. "In the end, they ended up running out of spots and I didn't make the cut for that game. I was kind of upset about it, and then I got this call about the Hula Bowl."

Like the Senior Bowl, the Hula Bowl is also a college postseason All-Star game. It dates all the way back to 1946 and takes place on the lush island of Oahu, Hawaii. The game had taken a 12 year hiatus, and Eatinger was invited to play in front of a number of scouts at its re-emergence in 2020.

"They said 'we'd love to have you' and I was just excited," Eatinger said. "I thought I wasn't going to get an opportunity to play in a big national bowl game. It was one of the biggest platforms that I've been able to play on... I was super excited to get an opportunity to showcase my talents."

On January 20, Eatinger hopped on a plane and flew to Hawaii for a 7-day, all expenses paid trip. For the first few days, he was in and out of meetings, practices and interviews with scouts, but there were also opportunities for the Hula Bowl participants to venture outside the stadium.

Eatinger got to see Pearl Harbor, learn about Hawaii culture at the Polynesian Cultural Center and help underprivileged children in Honolulu. He said the food is fresh and delicious, and the culture is very unique.

"The most shocking thing there was, no matter where you went on the island, just how proud they are of



Eatinger sported #72 as a Griffon.



And he was #68 in Hawaii for the Hula Bowl.



He wore his Griffon helmet both here and there.



their culture," Eatinger said. "They're so proud of where they came from and their roots, and everything is so symbolic to them."

Before the game on January 26, players performed the haka, which is a Hawaiian dance that symbolizes pride, strength and unity. Eatinger describes the dance as being very symbolic with many gestures that represent the Hawaiian culture, and said that it is something he'll never forget.

During the Hula Bowl and the many practices leading up to the game, Eatinger was lined up next to big Division I players, including some from LSU who had played in the National Championship two weeks before. Eatinger was one of few Division II players invited and made it a point to prove that Division II athletes are just as competitive as those in Division I.

"Being able to do what I did in that week really helped me personally, but I took it upon myself to try to prove the Division II athletes can compete with those big-time guys," Eatinger said. "That's what I enjoyed the most about it. Just opening up a lot of eyes and proving a lot of people wrong about this kind of stereotype that they have about Division II athletes."

Eatinger's position coach Patrick St. Louis watched the Hula Bowl on TV and thought that Eatinger competed very well while also positively representing the university.

"He not only wants to make him and his family proud, but he wants to put the Griffons out there and show people what we can do," St. Louis said.

"You know, we've got a guy out here holding his own against some of the best competition in the country and they're like, where's this kid even from?"

Eatinger wore his Missouri Western helmets in Hawaii all week, and takes pride in the black and gold.

"It was so much fun representing the Griffons out there and showing what our university is about," Eatinger said.

"Every so often something would happen and they're like, 'Son, where are you from? What the hell is MW?' and I'm like, 'Missouri Western. Check us out in the good ol' Dirty Joe.'

That was the best part about it, because it wasn't just for me, there was so much more.

"It was one of the biggest platforms that I've been able to play on... I was super excited to get an opportunity to showcase my talents."

- Hayden Eatinger



SOCCER



Mackenzie O'Neill dribbles the ball down the field.



Taylor Schwartzkopf displays her skills on defense.



Makenzie Billings deflects the ball creating a Griffon turnover.



Forward Claire Meyers goes head-to-head against her opponent from UCM in a battle to control the ball.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
 Photos by John Ellis
 Design by Alicia Otto

After five straight years of record-breaking win totals for the soccer program, the Griffons began rebuilding in 2019. After losing seven seniors in 2018, including the program's all-time leading scorer, Chad Edwards lined up a team this season without a single senior.

The youth movement resulted in a 4-11-3 overall record that saw the team miss the postseason for the first time in six years. There still were bright spots. After not scoring in any of the team's first three games, the Griffons won three straight to begin MIAA play 3-2-1. The rigors of conference play took their toll on the young squad. While the season didn't end with many victories, the Griffons did show signs of improvement late in the year, scoring half their goals on the season in the final six games. Missouri Western scored at least one goal in each of its final six games.

Three Griffons received All-MIAA honorable mention and Mackenzie O'Neill was named CoSIDA Academic All-District. O'Neill also began a

three-year term as the MIAA representative on the national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was elected vice-chair of the group. For a sixth consecutive year, the team received an Ethics and Sportsmanship Award from the United Soccer Coaches and 20 members of the team were recognized on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

ALL-MIAA PERFORMERS

Anna Mayer

- Honorable Mention Goalkeeper
- MWSU record 18 saves vs Rockhurst
- 3rd most saves in a season in MWSU history (122)
- Ranked second in MIAA in saves

Mackenzie O'Neill

- Honorable Mention Midfielder
- Led team in points (7) and assists (3)

Taylor Schwartzkopf

- Honorable Mention Forward
- Tied for team lead with three goals
- Tied for second on team with six points

WOMEN'S GOLF

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos by John Ellis
Design by Alicia Otto

Like all other spring sports, women's golf found its spring season cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A young squad was off to a promising start before things were cut short.

The Griffons posted top-eight finishes in each of its last four events of the year after 11th and 12th place finishes in the first two events of the season. A season-best 612 total netted the squad a fourth place finish at the Midwest Classic in early October, the best finish for the team all year.

Freshman Allycia Gan paced the team, averaging a 76 per round with a team-low 70 in the first round of the MIAA Fall Preview. Gan finished third at that event and the Midwest Classic and was named All-Region by the Women's Golf Coaches Association. Tammy Lim was just two and a half strokes behind Gan's average with a 78.5 in her first season as a Griffon. Anna Bech averaged a 79.21 in her sophomore campaign and turned in a sixth place finish at the Arkansas Tech Women's Fall Invite and a seventh place finish at the Midwest Classic.



Anna Bech



Caitlin Brinkley



Allycia Gan



Cindy Herrera



Tammy Lim



Farisha Radzi



Madi Vine



MEN'S GOLF



Griffon golf had a good but shortened season.



Lining up the ball just right is key to sinking the putt.



A light chip shot is just what is needed to hit the green.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos by John Ellis
Design by Alicia Otto

The men's golf team was looking good before its season ended after just one spring tournament. The Griffons had recorded two fifth place team finishes, including the Winona State Invitational in Las Vegas to kick off the spring. Overall, the team had three top-seven finishes with a low-tournament total of 602 in Las Vegas and a low-round of 280 in the first round of the Kentucky Wesleyan Fall Invite.

With 2019 MWSU Male Student-Athlete of the Year Patrick McCarthy sitting out with an injury, senior Luke Horseman picked up the lead for the squad.

Horseman competed in all six events, averaging a 73.86. He had a low-round of 69 in the first round of the Winona State Invitational where he finished a season-best fourth place. Horseman was par or better three times. Matt Thoms had a 74.33 average through five events and sophomore Jett Simmons had a 74.65 average through six tournaments. Six different Griffis saw time on the course. None had an average above 77 and five were 75 or better. Thoms, Simmons, Tom Buffington and Preston Ewing were par or better two times each.



Being alone is only brief when you know your teammates are waiting for you on the green.

VOLLEYBALL



Tiana Butler digs the volleyball to keep the play alive.



Ali Tauchen (2) and Sam Duncan (9) work the net against the Tigers.



Lauren Murphy (5) sets the ball for teammate Danielle Moje (16).



Ali Tauchen (2) goes for the kill against the Bearcats while Sam Duncan (9) gets in position.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
 Photos by John Ellis
 Design by Alicia Otto

Career-years from a small senior class and promising performances from some freshmen helped the volleyball team flip its record to the positive from 2018. The Griffons finished the year 17-13 overall with an 11-9 conference record that helped the Griffons finish fifth in the MIAA standings. Three of the four teams ahead of Missouri Western in the standings qualified for the NCAA Championships.

The Griffons got off to a hot start, winning their first five matches of the season. After a challenging start to conference play against the best in the MIAA and several nationally ranked opponents, Missouri Western clawed its way back over .500 and swept traditional power Central Oklahoma in the regular season finale to claim fifth place outright in the MIAA standings and the No. 5 seed in the MIAA Championships.

Six Griffons were named All-MIAA including first team middle hitter Ali Tauchen. The junior earned her third All-MIAA honor by finishing fourth in the conference in kills and blocks per set while finishing sixth in hitting percentage. Tauchen also was named a

finalist for the MIAA Fall Female Student-Athlete of the Year award. A promising future for the program was highlighted by two freshmen receiving honorable mentions on the All-MIAA team; Allie Kerns and Danielle Moje. Lauren Murphy finished her career ranked second in Griffon rally scoring history with 3,898 assists.

All-MIAA selections

- Ali Tauchen
- 1st Team All-MIAA
 - Finalist; MIAA Fall Female Student Athlete of the Year
 - MIAA Academic Excellence Award
 - MIAA Scholar-Athlete
 - 11 Double-doubles
 - Led team in kills and block
- Tiana Butler
- 2nd Team All-MIAA
- Sam Duncan
- Allie Kerns
- Danielle Moje
- Lauren Murphy
- Honorable Mention All-MIAA

CROSS COUNTRY



Riley Gorham (9), Brandon Colner (6) and Jacob Oylar (15) set the pace.



Megan Gillen runs this stretch of the course alone, but only for a while.



Kelsey Cox (2), Mackenzie Miller (5) and Paige Kvale (4) stick together on the course.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
 Photos by John Ellis
 Design by Alicia Otto

Year three of Griffon Cross Country saw both teams improve as Cody Ingold took over as head coach early in the season.

The women's team opened the season with a second place finish in the Bearcat Open and won the Griffon open two weeks later. The squad finished seventh at the MIAA Championships, the highest-ever finish by the Griffons. Megan Gillen earned honorable mention All-MIAA, finishing 11th at the MIAA Championships.

The men's squad finished top-10 in every event before the NCAA DII Central Regional. The Griffons won the Griffon Open in late September and finished second at the Bearcat Open. The team's ninth place finish in the MIAA Championships was its highest in the first three years of the program.



Tyler Meadows (13) and Zachary Lee (12) keep pace with their competitors from Evangel and Park.

TENNIS



Isabella MacGibbon sends the tennis ball back over the net to her opponent.



Karolina Ström puts everything she's got into this return.



Mireia Birosta gets in a good position to put some power in her forehand shot.



Ariella Curci focused on the ball in this backhand return shot.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos by John Ellis
Design by Alicia Otto

First-year head coach Olaya Garrido-Rivas changed the culture and had her Griffon tennis squad winning before the season abruptly came to an end.

Missouri Western was 6-5 on the year, yet to face an MIAA opponent in conference play when the season ended. The team had just won three of its last four matches when the remainder of the spring was canceled after a 6-0 win at Illinois Springfield and just days away from a home match against Southwest Minnesota State.

Karolina Ström reached as high as No.

12 in the ITA Central Region singles rankings. The senior won her first four matches at No. 1 singles and went 6-5 overall. A new head coach brought in new faces as well. With returning senior Federica Salmaso missing much of the spring, the lineup usually featured four newcomers at the six singles positions. Isabella MacGibbon went 7-3 in her freshman campaign, playing both at No. 2 and No. 3 singles, and won her final four singles matches.



Coach Candi Whitaker gives instructions from the sidelines to Katrina Roenfeldt.



Whitaker supports her team 110%.

Coach Candi's Court

Now in session

Story by Morgan Doyle
Photos and design by Alicia Otto



Whitaker near the bench during a game.

Candi Whitaker didn't get a normal introduction to her players at Missouri Western. Due to a late search, she was hired as the new women's basketball coach only two days before the NCAA stopped allowing athletes to work out with coaches. So, her first introduction was just that: putting her players through a workout. Senior guard KT Roenfeldt said their first workout with Whitaker was actually pretty difficult.

"She actually kicked our butts," Roenfeldt said. "It was a little rough, but it was good."

Whitaker's enthusiasm was evident to the Griffons. Roenfeldt said Whitaker's enthusiasm was evident to the team from the energy she brought to games and practices. According to Whitaker, that's just the way she likes to coach.

"I'm very involved in practice," Whitaker said. "I can be a little feisty and get after it, but I think it's always in a very respectful way that I'm just trying to get them to play as hard as they can."

Athletic Director Josh Looney said he could see the competitive fire come out of her during their first game while she was stomping on the sidelines.

"After the first game I said, 'Candi, first half there we were up by 20, and I thought you were going to break your heel,'" Looney said. "She laughed and goes, 'Well, actually I did.'"

That competitive spirit allowed Whitaker to gain the respect of her athletes on and off the court and form relationships that she knows will only strengthen over time. These

relationships were evident in the Griffons' first win at home, when her team wanted Whitaker to ring the bell after defeating Southwest Baptist.

Looney said that Whitaker's approach is what this women's team needed, and Roenfeldt said it's nice to have a coach who really cares about them as individuals.

"All of us always joke around with her and she jokes with us back," Roenfeldt said. "Like, I got roasted today in practice, but it's awesome. It's fun."

Whitaker's plan to improve Missouri Western's women's basketball program during the next few years revolves around recruitment. While neither she nor Looney wanted to put any expectations on her first season (their wins have just been icing on the cake), Whitaker has big plans for the future.

"Long term, we want to recruit high-level student athletes that are great students, that are great teammates and that want to win championships," Whitaker said. "When you recruit that, your culture takes care of itself, and when you go to work everyday, the wins take care of themselves."

Before coming to Western, Whitaker already had a solid basketball background. She grew up in a basketball family and always felt like she had a natural understanding of the game. Her mom, who was previously a college basketball player and had been asked to be on the first USA team, was Whitaker's coach. After breaking her wrist in seventh grade and having to watch next to her mom instead of

play, Whitaker knew she wanted to become a coach someday, too.

Whitaker graduated from Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, where she started and played for the Lady Raiders basketball team for two years. She went on to coach at Valparaiso, became the youngest head coach in the nation at UMKC, coached at Oklahoma State, and then took a job back at her alma mater. Whitaker was the head coach at the Power Five institution for five years.

After Texas Tech, Whitaker took time off to spend with her family. That changed, however, once she received a phone call from an old neighbor: the son of Missouri Western's former president, Robert Vartebedian.

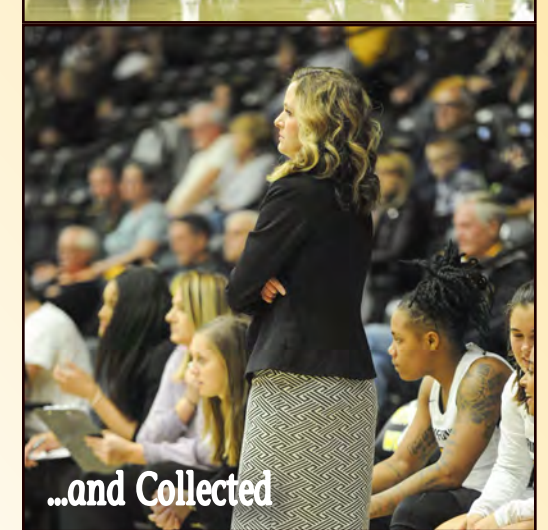
"I wasn't necessarily looking and searching for a coaching job, but I grew up down the street from Dr. Vartebedian," Whitaker said. "When the job opened, his son, Rob Vartebedian, called me and said, 'Hey Candi, I think you should take a look at this. I think you'd like it there.'"

She did just that and jumped in feet-first after receiving the job. She was traveling constantly to-and-from St. Joseph and Texas while also recruiting for her first team.

Even though she didn't have the most normal of introductions, Whitaker still formed relationships and achieved success in her first season. With her passion for basketball, building relationships and recruitment, the Griffons are bound to have more success under Whitaker in the upcoming seasons.

“ I can be a little *feisty* and get after it, but I think it's always in a very *respectful* way that I'm just trying to get them to play as hard as they can. ”

-Candi Whitaker



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Anastasia Johnson rings the victory bell to celebrate the Griffon win.



Corbyn Cunningham keeps her eye on the ball in the hopes she can steal it.



Logan Hughes brings the ball down the court in front of the home crowd.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos and Design by Alicia Otto

First-year head coach Candi Whitaker wasted no time restoring the women's basketball program to its traditional winning ways. Whitaker became just the second first-year head coach in program history to win 20 games by leading MWSU to a 21-8 overall record. MWSU went 13-6 in MIAA play and 14-2 in the MWSU Fieldhouse.

Reaching more than 20 wins for the third time in the past five seasons, the Griffons improved by seven wins over the previous season. Whitaker's first MWSU team averaged a 19.3-point margin in wins and never lost a game by more than nine points. The Griffons went 4-2 against teams that qualified for the NCAA DII Championships, including two wins over top-25 competition in three attempts. MWSU was nearly unstoppable at home, winning 14 of 16 games.

Despite finishing in a three-way tie for fourth place in the MIAA standings, the Griffons entered the MIAA Championships as the No. 6 seed by way of three-way tiebreaker rules. MWSU fell in the quarterfinals of the MIAA's postseason tournament to No. 3 seed Nebraska-Kearney.

Individually, four Griffons claimed a total of five MIAA postseason honors. Newcomer Corbyn Cunningham was named first team All-MIAA as the only student-athlete in the Association ranked in the top-five in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. Katrina Roenfeldt was named third team All-MIAA and was one of two MWSU representatives on the MIAA's All-Defensive team. Chris Wilson received honorable mention All-MIAA and Anastacia Johnson was named to the MIAA All-Defensive team.



Mychaell Gray keeps her eye on the ball against the Rogers State defender

Who runs the world? WE DO!

Story, photos and design by Alicia Otto



"I recruited her because she demonstrated the ability to be an impact player in the MIAA conference. She has the talent to play at some level overseas."

- Coach Rob Edmisson

From Dodge City to St. Joseph and beyond. Katrina Roenfeldt, or KT as she is known, was playing basketball at Barton Community College in Great Bend, Kansas when she was recruited by then-Coach Rob Edmisson. Does being that far from home leave her with any regrets? "I am happy with my decision and I would never take it back," KT said. It is a lot different pace here in St. Joseph than it is in western Kansas. Back in Dodge City, she was always interested in playing basketball, but also played several other sports and nearly went to college to run track.

The Griffon basketball team and their fans are happy she chose basketball. In her three seasons at Missouri Western, KT received numerous awards for her performance both on and off the court. Two years on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, one year as a MIAA Scholar Athlete, First Team All-MIAA, MIAA All-Defensive Team and Third-Team All-MIAA just to name a few. KT also worked at the Baker Fitness Center while she was in college. Now is the time to look toward the future.

Graduating with a degree in Psychology, KT would like to be a sports psychologist. She had good practice while playing basketball.

"I think teammates offer the advice and counseling in a way you don't realize when you're close to them," she said. KT will miss the people, being close to her teammates and always being able to hang out with the people she loves the most. And she will be missed as well.

"KT was an absolute joy to coach. She was the ultimate team player and leader for us, doing whatever her team needed when they needed it," Coach Candi Whitaker said. We will miss her greatly."

KT plans to return home as soon as the virus ends to visit her grandparents. After that, where will she end up? That is up in the air right now, but she has a few agents scouting Europe out.

"I'm planning on going overseas," she said. Where she ends up depends on which way the ball bounces.



MEN'S BASKETBALL



Will Eames, MIAA Freshman of the Year, uses patience when planning his move around his opponent.



Tyrell Carroll takes a deep breath before driving to the basket.



Senior Guard Tyus Millhollin shows the intensity of the game.



Jarob Thames gets higher than his 6'6" to pass the ball to a teammate.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos Design by Alicia Otto

In his second season as head coach, Sundance Wicks guided the Griffons to their most successful campaign in a decade or more. The men's basketball team went 18-14 overall, 13-6 against MIAA competition and had an impressive 12-1 record in the MWSU Fieldhouse.

Wicks' Griffons finished fourth in the MIAA standings and advanced to the MIAA Championship semifinals at Municipal Auditorium before falling to MIAA regular season and postseason champion Northwest Missouri State. After a rocky start to the season, the Griffons rebounded with a seven-game win streak, the program's longest in 18 years to elevate the team toward the top of the MIAA standings. The season's accomplishments included the program's most wins in 10 years; most MIAA wins in 18 years; highest MIAA finish in 10 years; longest home win streak (11) in 17 years; most home wins in 14 years; and a program-record 305 made 3-point field goals in a season.

The fourth place finish since the Griffons to Kansas City as the No. 4 seed in the MIAA Championships. It was the highest seed for MWSU in 10 years. A win over Washburn in the quarterfinals elevated the Griffons to their first semifinal appearance in a decade.

Beyond the list of resurgent team milestones, came some impressive individual accomplishments. Sophomore Tyrell Carroll earned first team All-MIAA honors and second team NABC All-District honors, firsts for a Griffon in 14 years. With a youthful roster primarily leading the team, Will Eames became the first student-athlete in program history to be named MIAA Freshman of the Year in addition to receiving All-MIAA honorable mention. Tyus Millhollin, one of just three seniors on the team, earned honorable mention All-MIAA and broke the program record for 3-point field goals in a season (99) and in a game (10).

New Head Coach

BASKE

TBALL

Graduating

Senior

Story, Photos and Design by *Alicia Otto*

An obvious question to ask Will Martin is what size shoes did Coach Sundance wear, "He's actually a 12 and I'm an 11.5 so I only have .5 to fill," Martin said.

It's easy to kid around with Coach Will Martin, the new head men's basketball coach at Missouri Western. We, of course, are pondering the size of the shoes Martin will have to fill.

"Juice will always remain part of the program - energy, effort and enthusiasm," Martin said. "But we are going to talk a lot about FLOW. - Faith, Love, Ownership and Work." Whether in the court, in the community or in the classroom, the team will have to operate with FLOW. to continue the success that they started.

And this team has indeed had success. Martin believes, from a classroom and

community standpoint, this team has done more in the last two years than it did in the prior ten years. They want to continue that success - both on and off the court.

"More than the GPA, gaining knowledge and stepping forward into life after basketball," Martin said. "Being able to take what you've gained, in terms of that knowledge, then you are successful." Give more than you take is another team motto, but it sounds like they are already living up to that one.

"The thing we love about getting four-year kids is that any time that you can get kids to be here for an extended amount of years, you are going to get them to be more entrenched in our core values and what we stand for," Martin said. They won't close their

doors to transfer students but will be more particular in choosing players that will fit the close-knit family they have built over the last three years.

"After two years, our program build is so far ahead of schedule," Dr. Josh Looney, Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics, said. "We believe the roster and culture are primed for launch and expectations are high heading into 2020-21." Looney believes that Coach Martin has played a critical role in rebuilding the program. Martin was



"We are going to talk a lot about FLOW. - Faith, Love, Ownership and Work." - Will Martin
Head Coach

not only the lead recruiter for many of our athletes, he also comes from an incredible basketball background and has the full 'believe-in' of his team.

Fans need not worry about the transition from Coach Wicks to Coach Martin. Will's character and team will make Missouri Western supporters proud as they expect to continue their upward trajectory.

"We want to be a top-tier team in this league," Martin said. "We want to be a 20-win team and we aren't going to be afraid to talk about that. We have to continue to build to get to that level." If that level is this year, even better! Hopefully, COVID-19 won't interfere with those plans.



Story by *Beau Baker*
Photos Sourced
Design by *Alicia Otto*



The average athletes who go on to participate in college athletics had coaches come to their games and talk to them about coming to play for their schools.

My path to Missouri Western, however, was not the same as the average athlete.

I became a Griffon by doing well in an individual workout over the summer after my senior year of high school with former Missouri Western Head Men's Basketball Coach Brett Weiberg and Assistant Coach Aaron Coombs.

They were my last opportunity to play basketball at the collegiate level. I was tremendously grateful to be blessed with the opportunity to come to Missouri Western.

I came into my freshman year not expecting to play much at all, but after four people were injured, we only had eight healthy players for the first game of the season. As we headed into winter break, I was averaging 26 minutes a game.

My coaches pushed me to become a better player as well as a better person. Even though I did not always agree with the way they did it, they just wanted to see the best come out of me both on and off the court.

After my up-and-down sophomore year, I eventually became a big part of the rotation the last half of the season, and the second half of my college career took a dramatic turn.

Just a couple of days after our last game of my sophomore season, Coach Weiberg called us in for a meeting and told us that he would be resigning. It was shocking; it's just something you never really expect to happen with your own head coach.

I'll never forget how it felt the few weeks without a head coach. Out of the six of us who remained, I was the only one who was positive about staying around, regardless of who the new coach was going to be. It turned out to be a great decision to stay because of how family-oriented and tough-minded Sundance Wicks was as a head coach.

Having Coach Wicks was so much different than having Coach Weiberg. Wicks came in with his slogan, "bring the juice," which spread across the country. Juice is energy, and Coach Wicks brings so much energy to the table that it could scare some people off if they weren't ready.

He brought the juice all of my junior year. The team was truly a brotherhood. We became closer not only as basketball players, but as individuals off the court too.

My senior year was all about trusting the process and being a leader to our young team. My motto for the year was for all my teammates to become a better person today than they were yesterday, and do whatever it takes to win.

CHEER

Photos and design by Alicia Otto



The cheerleaders perform during a time out at a home basketball game.



Max walks along the sidelines before a football game.



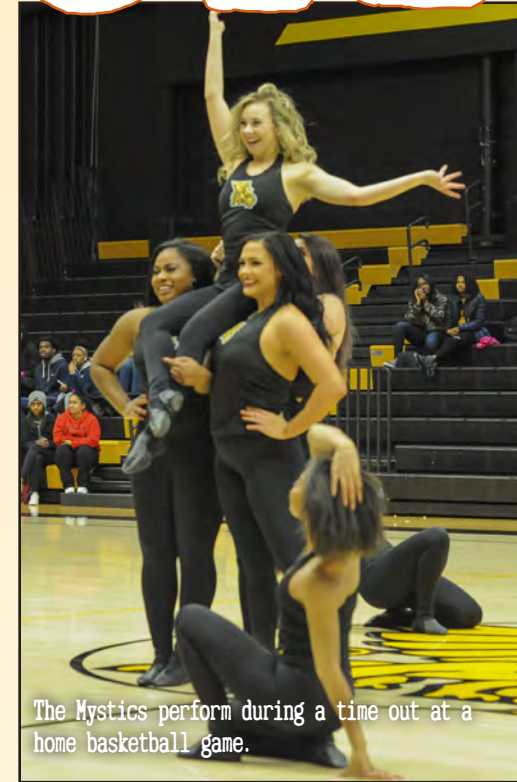
The cheerleaders wore pink in support of breast cancer at a home basketball game.

MYSTICS

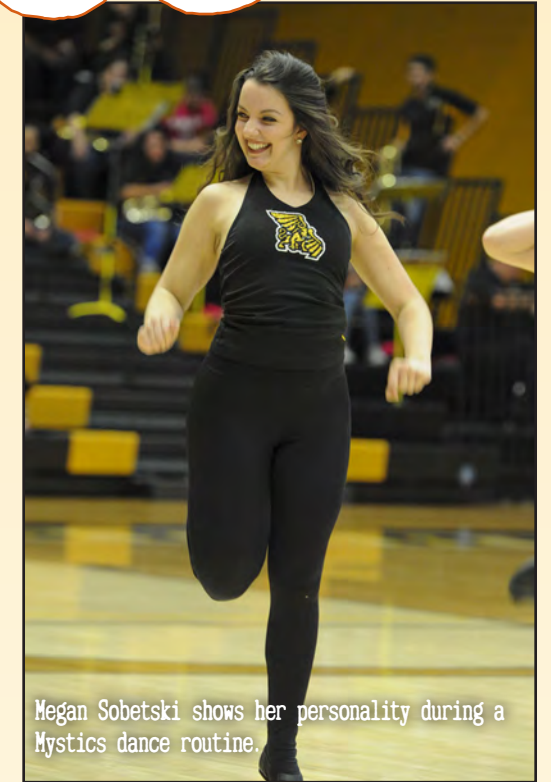
Photos and design by Alicia Otto



Paige Crockett gives her all during a halftime football game performance.



The Mystics perform during a time out at a home basketball game.



Megan Sobetski shows her personality during a Mystics dance routine.



2019-2020 Missouri Western Cheerleaders



2019-2020 Missouri Western Mystics

BOWLING

Story and photos by Rhonda Smith
Design by Alicia Otto



Coach Monty Brown (far right) recruiting bowlers at Junior Gold, the largest youth bowling competition in North America, Cleveland, Oh.



Road trip with the Bowling Club.

There are 186 ranked collegiate bowling ranked in the United States, according to CollegeBowling.com. The MWSU Bowling Club is ranked 153. The team would have been ranked higher, but they only participated in five tournaments this year. Teams are recorded and not individual scores.

Carson Field, junior, has the highest average this year with a 194.5. Field had a season-high game of 245. Field finished 6th, with an average of 198.6, out of 91 bowlers at Andy B's Team Challenge, in Springfield, Mo. He also finished 10th, with an average of 198.7, out of 126 bowlers at the Bronco Open in Hastings, Ne. Field and Jacob Dec were on their way to Chicago - literally an hour away - to bowl in the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Collegiate Singles Championship Qualifier when the tournament was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. This was

the first time the team was able to take bowlers to a tournament to qualify for postseason play.

Jacob Dec, sophomore, had the second highest average with a 174.1. He was a standout at the Jayhawk Classic, in Lawrence, Ks. There Dec averaged 202.7, rolling a 279 in the last game. Dec had ten strikes in a row to close that game out. Dec now holds the record for the club's individual high score. That day he finished 13th out of 184 bowlers.

Carson Goerlitz, sophomore, and Austin Holmes, junior, were named Collegiate Scholar Athletes by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association for demonstrating superior performance in the classroom.

Off the lanes the team participated in the #GriffonsGiveBack drive in the fall.



2019-2020 Missouri Western Bowling Team

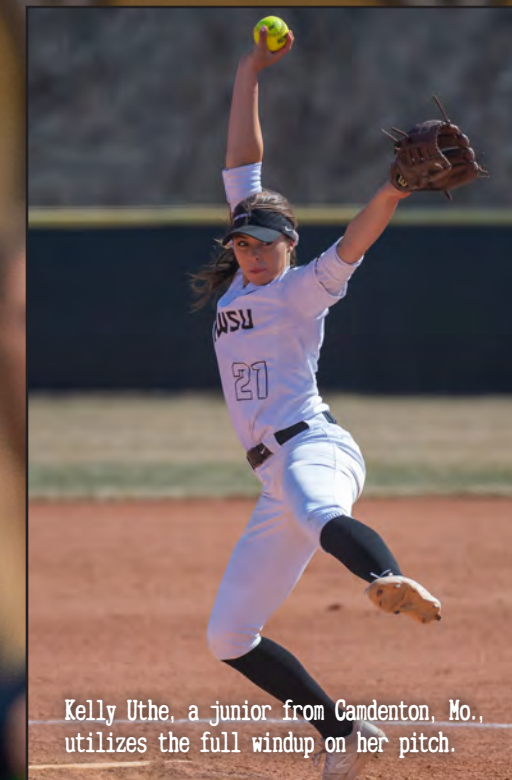
SOFTBALL



Freshman Rian Gere swings for the fences.



Sydni Hawkins focuses on making the catch at first base.



Kelly Uthe, a junior from Camdenton, Mo., utilizes the full windup on her pitch.



Infielder Rachel Stewart keeps her eyes - and her hands - ready for the ball.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
 Photos by John Ellis
 Design by Alicia Otto

Unprecedented times around the globe brought an unprecedented season to the Missouri Western spring sports teams. Griffon softball saw the remainder of its season canceled after just 22 games. The squad was just hitting its stride when the season was lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MWSU had won 10 of its last 12 games, including two rivalry wins at Northwest Missouri in MIAA play before the season was called off with a 13-9 record. After a 1-3 opening weekend, the Griffons went 2-4 at the Emporia State Classic to get off to a 3-7 record. Things started to turn around in Joplin at the Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament where the Griffs won all but one of their five games. It continued with an MIAA rivalry sweep in Maryville then a 4-1 start to the home schedule. It all ended after a three-game series at the Spring Sports Complex with Illinois Springfield. Jen Bagley Trotter had to pull her team off the bus before departing for a weekend on the

road at Lincoln and Central Missouri. A 10-9 victory in eight innings to wrap the Illinois Springfield series proved to be the final game of what was looking to be a promising 2020 campaign.

Sydni Hawkins became one of the final MIAA Hitters of the Week, racking up 14 hits over the final seven games of the season with nine RBIs, including five in what proved to be the season finale. Hawkins ended the year batting .425 with a team-high 31 hits, three home runs and 20 RBIs. Taylor Hoelscher was also off to a hot start, finishing the abbreviated season with a .412 batting average and nine doubles. Emma Hoffart hit 10 doubles.

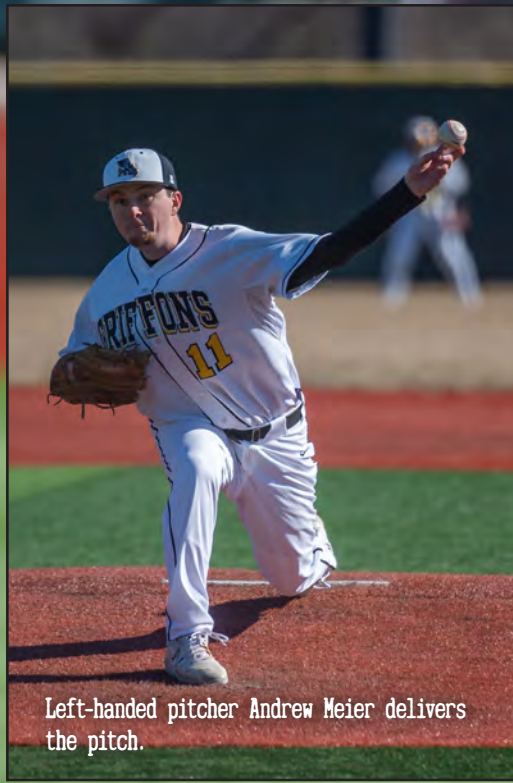
Team Leaders

- Sydni Hawkins: Avg. (.425), hits (31), HR (3), RBI (20), Stolen Bases (6-6)
- Emma Hoffart: Doubles (10)
- Kelly Uthe: ERA (2.58), Wins (6)
- Kaili Hinds: Wins (6), Complete Games (6), Shutouts (1), Strikeouts (42)

BASEBALL



Colby Tam, Junior, keeps his eye on the ball to get a hit for the Griffons.



Left-handed pitcher Andrew Meier delivers the pitch.



Senior pitcher Zach Pych catches the ball and gets ready to lay down the tag.

Story by Nick McCutcheon
Photos by John Ellis
Design by Alicia Otto

Buzz Verduzco's 21st Griffon baseball squad finished the shortened 2020 season 8-15 with a 3-3 record in the MIAA. One of the youngest teams in Coach Verduzco's era as skipper had just swept a three-game series against new MIAA foe Rogers State when the decision was made to cancel the remainder of the season due to COVID-19.

The Griffons won four of their final five games of the season as it turned out. It looked like a season that might be destined for great things. Senior pitcher Roy Robles broke a Missouri Western record with 17 strikeouts in the first game of the season at Oklahoma Baptist. Robles worked around some self-induced trouble in the first, allowing one run, but then struck out 14 of the next 15 batters he faced. A fly out for the third out of the second was the only out Robles recorded through six innings that wasn't by strikeout. The dominant pitching

performance helped the Griffons win 5-3, but it wasn't a sign of things to come.

The mostly new Griffon team lost seven straight games after winning the opener before picking up consecutive wins over Maryville and McKendree in Joplin. A win in the finale of a four-game home opening series with Minot State prevented what could have ended up being an eight-game skid. After being swept at Washburn to open conference play, the Griffons split a doubleheader at Quincy then swept what ended up being the final series of the season from Rogers State.

Andrew Meier led the team offensively. In his first season suiting up as a Griff, Meier had a team-high .390 batting average, 13 runs, 32 hits, eight doubles and 18 RBIs. Ben Tsui, another newcomer, was the only Griffon to outpace Meier in any main offensive category with his four home runs.



Laying down the bunt for the Griffons helps advance the players on base.

TRACK & FIELD

Tanner Butterfield winds up for his hammer throw at the Northwest meet.



Morgan Doyle clears the first hurdle in her race at Northwest.



Logien Franklin, left, and Connor Thom, right, sprint to the finish.



Grace Bryant flies through the air on the long jump attempt.

Story by *Nick McCutcheon*
Photos by *John Ellis*
Design by *Alicia Otto*

Cody Ingold took over the reins of the MWSU track & field and cross country programs in the fall and guided the Griffons through his first season as head coach of the indoor teams.

Hanna Williams continued her promising young career, becoming the program's highest-ever finisher in the MIAA Indoor Track & Field Championships when she took third in the 600-yard. The women's squad turned in three NCAA DII provisional marks, including Bailey Gilbert's 5.75-meter long jump at the Mel Tjeerdsma Classic; Lynzi Miller's 3,279-point pentathlon at the Mel Tjeerdsma Classic; and the 4x400 relay team of Aniyah Mance-Edwards, Williams, Aniya Kollore and Symonne Holland's 3:50.89 at the Nebraska Tune-Up. The men's and women's teams combined to break 10 program records with more than 50 personal records in Ingold's first season as head coach.



Welcome to Missouri Western
Women's Lacrosse &
Coach Benzing

A Field Full of Freshies

Story, Photos & Design by Alicia Otto

By adding women's lacrosse as our 17th intercollegiate sport, we will attract students who otherwise would not have considered Missouri Western. We are excited to showcase our facilities to even more student-athletes who are interested in an exceptional education in a family-like environment with top-notch athletics facilities.

This new addition to our athletics lineup puts us on the front-edge of the NCAA's fastest growing sport in this area of the country. It enables us to attract quality students to Missouri Western, growing revenue while adding even more vibrancy and enthusiasm to our campus.

Rachel Benzing is the perfect person to join the athletics program at Western and coach the Women's Lacrosse team.

"She has the energy and competitive drive to recruit as hard as necessary to get the program up and running," Jennifer Bagley-Trotter, Head Women's Softball Coach, said.

Benzing has the background knowledge of what it takes to have a successful program and will allow her to continue to grow the Griffon lacrosse program

into a respected one. She was part of two different first-year lacrosse programs before bringing her whistle to St. Joseph.

Originally from the East Coast, Benzing played lacrosse throughout her high school and college years. Actually, she participated in several sports in high school, but lacrosse just kind of stuck.

"I've been playing since I was four years old," Benzing said. "Lacrosse in the east is like football in the south." Benzing's mom has been a coach and team mom forever and is already helping recruit. "She has her own recruiting board at home!"

This year will be a celebration of firsts: celebrating the first yellow card, the first ejection, celebrating everything!

"Year one is tough but imagine what your senior year is going to look like," Benzing said. And year one will be tough, but Benzing is prepared and already has her main goal set.

"100% retention rate; I want my girls to come back," Benzing said. She does not want to set goals based off of wins and losses because, again, year one!





Belonging
Belonging
Belonging
Belonging
Belonging
Belonging
Belonging

[together]

[the hype]

[authentic]

[griffons]

[the legacy]

Active Minds



Front Row (L to R): Tori Bonds, Ravin Newton, Roxanne Bade, Lenora Stearns, Jacob Allen and Alyssa Bonnett



Alpha Gamma Delta



Front Row (L to R): Elizabeth Thomas, Madison Danner, Kourtney Chaney, Ashley Holoubek, Jameshia Johnson, Sara DeGarmo, Allison Lorton, Maycee Gardner and Allison DeVoe
Back Row (L to R): Angelica Lozano, Bobbie Haskins, Alyssa Cusumano, Madison Walters, Dariane DeClue, Cecilia Tackett, Kylie Hawes, Logan Alward, Mehreen Tai and Madison Roderick

Alpha Kappa Alpha



L to R: Lauren Patton, Jasmine Smith, Alexis Williams, Tannis Hamilton, Denitra Faith, Taylor Jackson, Jamesha Hill, Mycah Williams, Brady Rodney



Alpha Psi Omega



Front Row (L to R): Kennedy Brock, Jamie Tolia, Rat Clark, Amanda Schroeder, Max Johnson, Rae Segbawu, Trinity Lewis and Devin Eckardt
 Middle Row (L to R): Abby Wolff, Cole Kurcz, Memory Black, Alyx Brooks, Dane Lackey, Kati Dellanos and Lexie Bryson
 Back Row (L to R): Cassie Hoppas, Ben Smith, Libby Denny, Nick Todd, Ben Bally, Zoe Dunn, Nathan Gonder, Angel Edwards and Colton Connors

Alpha Phi Alpha



L to R: Chon Walters, Matthew Brimble, Steven Graves, Josh Rencher, Arnold "AJ" Crayton, Isaiah "Swig" Colbert, Rondale Dunn

Associated General Contractors



Front Row (L to R): Jesse Pierce, Cameron Richardson, Dakota Logan, Katie Owen, Hana Aluha, Justin Lemasters and Shawn Whitmore
 Back Row (L to R): Wes Moore (adviser), Devin Guerrero, Courtney Mann, Mason Richey and Blake Huett
 Not pictured: Conner Jackson, Zac Shipp, Scott Jackson, Lauren Houston, Jesse Pierce, Josh Brown, Chase Simpson, Alex Mehrens, Justin Lemasters and Justin McIntosh

Communication Club



Front Row (L to R): Jordan Miller, Jessica Stallard, Alyssa Braddy, Nicole Bilby and Megan Goens.
 Back Row (L to R): Kalee Black, Chandra Traxler, Chyanne Curtis, Brooke Blizzard and Dr. Jordan Atkinson, Adviser - Not pictured: Kori Medsker

Black Student Union



L to R: Alexa Coleman, Cameron Price, Octavia Riley and Teja Taylor



Melanie Aldridge

Delta Sigma Theta

Fishing Club



Kody Mazur and Gaige Blanton



Griffon News

Griffon Film Society



First Row (L to R): Angel Edwards, Nathan D. Gonder, Ryan Lewis and Noah Bollow (laying down)
 Second Row (L to R): Zoe Dunn, Jozua Bennie, Devin Eckardt, Jonas Crigger, Jacob Loftin
 Third Row (L to R): Mackenzie Osborn, Dani Bauman, Benton Bally, Charles Whitmill and Chandra Traxler
 Fourth Row (L to R): Ray Clark IV, Abby Wolff, Ben Smith, Nicolas Todd, Jonathan Bogart, Trinity Lewis and Braden Hensley
 Fifth Row (L to R): Gabriel Gibbons, Chaz Satnan, Hannah Murphy, Michael Manewal and Adviser Toby Lawrence



Front Row (L to R): Parker Williamson, Derek Zimmerman-Gyer, Christian Sarna
 Middle Row (L to R): Brett Howery, Harry Loomis, Chase Merwin, Ryleigh Reagan
 Back Row (L to R): Kathleen Woods, Zoë Jones, Austin Hoverder, Avery Corkins, Adviser Dr. James Carviou

Missouri Western Dance Company



First Row (L to R): Cameron Price, Trasean Stepney and Nyachang Duoth
Second Row (L to R): Jayde Doportto and Mya Rylie
Third Row (L to R): Ariana Reed, Jordan (Jay) Alford and Briana Brooks-Reed
Fourth Row (L to R): Daraja Pollard-Scott and Al'Eysha Byrd



Mochilla Chat

(L to R): Caitlin Dillon (co-host), Heather Daugherty (co-host), and Laura Kroush
Not pictured: Dr. Bob Nulph (executive producer)



Machila/Reach Staff

Fall
2020



Kneeling: Daniel Holaday
 Front Row (L to R): Jordan Chambers, Lora Kroush, Caitlin Dillon, Clarissa Blakely, Heather Daugherty, Janae Boykins, Jilian Whitehead
 Back Row (L to R): Melissa Miller, Adviser Dr. Marianne Kunkel, Hannah Mullins, Rachael Drenckpohl, Allyson Moore, Nikki Groom, Brenda Martin



Organization of Student Social Workers

Spring
2020



(L to R): Brenda Martin, Heather Daugherty, Connor Lindsay, Janae Boykins, Brianna Wieberg, Rachael Drenckpohl, Caitlin Dillon, Clarissa Blakely, Lora Kroush, Gwen Lack, Dylan Grable, Adrian Dodson, Adviser Dr. Marianne Kunkel, Brittany Venneberg, Jilian Whitehead
 Not pictured: Jay Fude



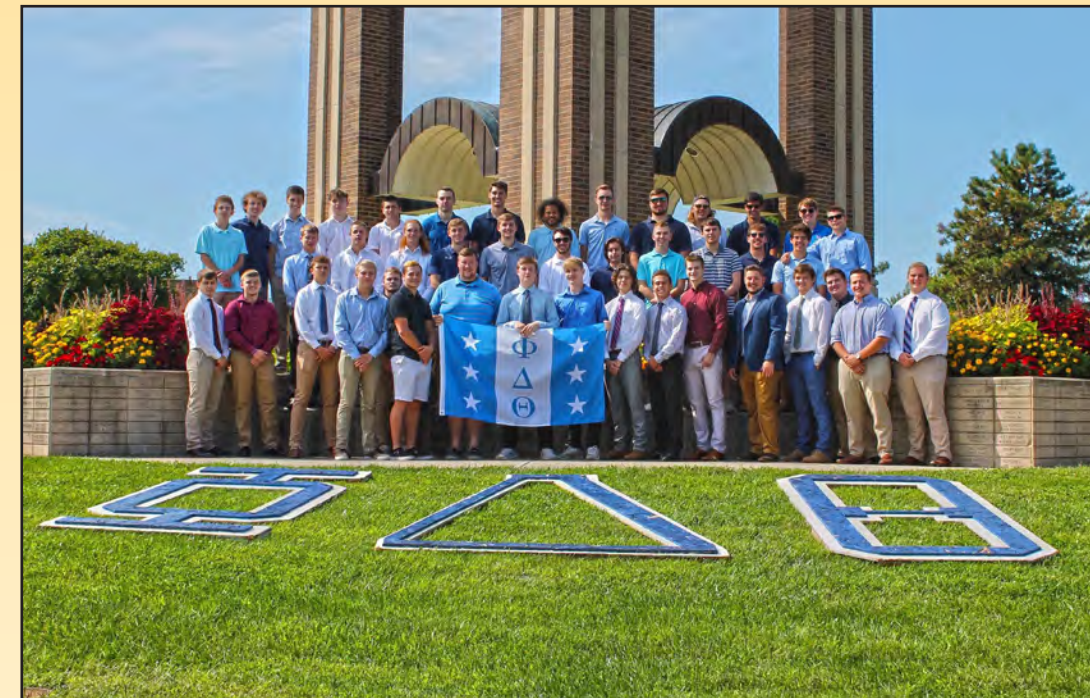
L to R: Kristin Quangvan, Sarah Raynor, Roxanne Bade, Alyssa Bonnett, Tori Bond and Adviser Pam Clary

Phi Beta Sigma



Front Row (L to R): Devored Horton and Sylvester Brewster
Middle Row (L to R): Elijah Todd and Paul Granberry III
Back Row (L to R): Brandon Roberson and Raymond Clay

Phi Delta Theta



Front Row (L to R): Peyton Barbee, Daniel Bucher, Jacob Reiss, Aden Zentz, Dennis Politte, Austin Clawson; Blake Felts, Thomas Murphy, Caleb Schriener, Evan Hadley, Trevor Mull, Dax Driskill, Darby Hay, Cotton McPike, Logan Hovey, Miles Johnson and Jack Sanders

Middle Row (L to R): Tyler Schottel, Luke Jaegar, Caleb Potter, Caleb Lombardino, Gian Lombardino, Derek Neupauer, Andrew Peterson, Cameron Edmonson, Maxwell Grace, Braeden George, Jeffrey (Nic) Schultz and Shayd Chandler

Back Row (L to R): Samuel Stevenson, Logan Dietz, Everett Pautvein, Austin McClure, Anthony Curiale, Jack Taber, Jatyron Pittman-Nichols, Hayden Glaubius, Justin Peterson, Blake George, Jonah Hoppe and Seth Neidel

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Society for Collegiate Journalists



Front Row (L to R): President Alicia Otto, Vice President Zoë Jones, Jessica Stallard, Derek Zimmerman-Guyer, Parker Williamson and Treasurer Chase Merwin
 Second Row (L to R): Brett Howery, Kathleen Woods, Christian Sarna and Adviser James Carviou
 Third Row (L to R): Christopher Tenpenny, Secretary/Communications Officer Chandra Traxler and Morgan Doyle
 Back Row (L to R): Trasean Stepney, Jay Alford and Maddisyn Urban
 Not Pictured: Beau Baker, Tanner Cobb, Rachel Green, Jake Meikel and Chloe Rhein

Sigma Sigma Sigma



Front Row (L to R): Sara Wyss, Kaitlyn Schmile, Cheyanne Thorpe, Ava Blessie, Riley Rasche, Molly Harmon, Emily Svec and Jaihlyn Bratton
 Middle Row (L to R): Brianna Wieberg, Maggie Kendall, Maslyn Allen, Malia Johnson, Emily Zawondy-Walkup, Riley Zimmerman, McKauley Prothero, Haley Kruse, Halee Orr and Raechel Tittor
 Back Row (L to R): Addison Oliver, Megan Parmer, Kaylee Officer, Cassidy Courter, Paulina Regalado, Abby Eaton, Katie Joe, Carla Smith, Sophia Kish, Ashten Yos, Lizzie Lambertz and Caroline Langley



L to R: Nah'ryan Reed-Crawford, Darius Wherry (Cuzzo), Chris Desir and Myia Kelly

Western Activities Council



beaming [confidence]

belonging [together]

believing [the hype]

being [authentic]

becoming [griffons]

bestowing [the legacy]

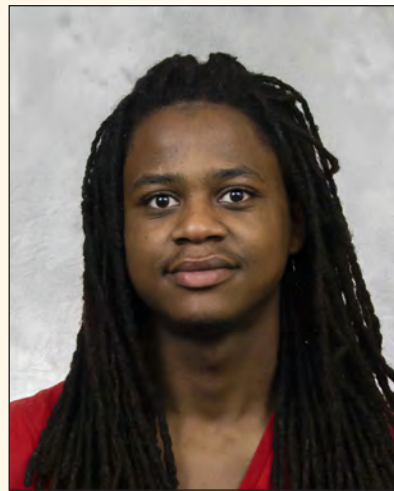




Linzee Adamson



Keshawn Adkins



Jaylen Akins



Britinya Baker



Georgia Ballah



Maddilyn Ballard



Benton Bally



James Alberty



Gage Albright



Ibrahim Alqahtani



Elizabeth Barlow



Christopher Barnes



Kordell Batchelor



Kendra Baum



Anthony Anderson



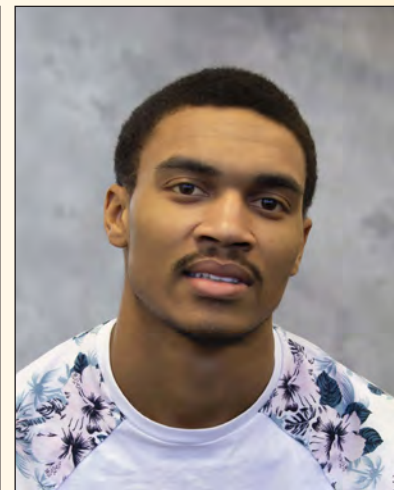
Michaela Anderson



Nikki Anderton



Amyah Beard



Michael Beattie III



Chloe Armstrong



Kaitlyn Atkins



Carson Aycock



Mayson Beneke



Alyssa Bennett



1969 - Top Row: Timothy Adams, Glenda Adkins, Margaret Anderson, Susan Anderson.
Bottom Row: Donald Am, Timothy Ashworth, Rita Atkison, David Awbrey



Jacob Bennett



Jozua Bennie



Hannah Berry



Simya Billingsley



Jonathan Boyle



Alyssa Braddy



Alex Brehe



Rylie Binder



Justin Biondo



Davione Blaise



Kiyah Blake



Robert Bremer



Sarah Bridgman



Taylor Bristol



James Blaylock



Abby Blessing



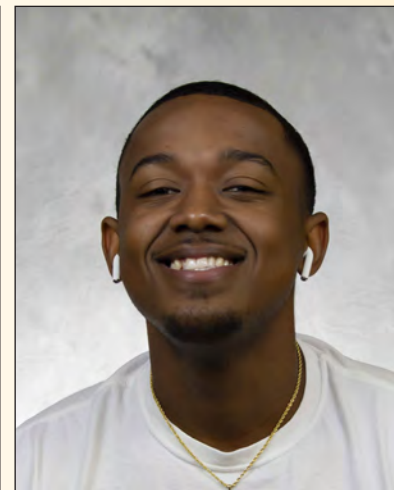
LaShauna Blockwood



Lauren Boeh



Jaden Brown



Jordan Brown



Kay Brown



Jashira Bolden



Shelby Boude



Marquis Bowen



Mazzie Boyd



Brad Browning



Elizabeth Browning



Titus Brumit



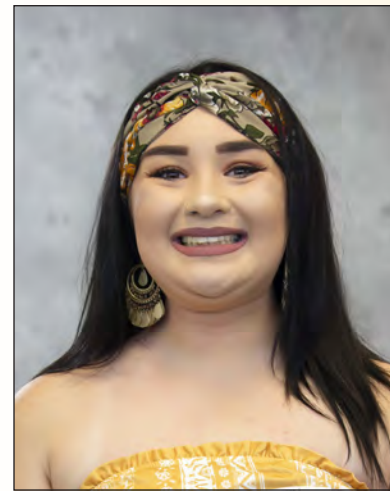
Brandon Bullock



Alysha Burney



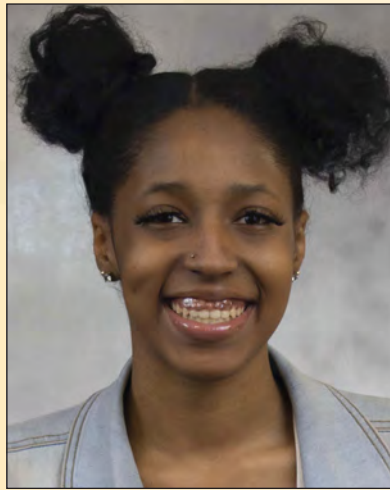
Nicholas Butts



Cheyenne Clark



Raymond Clark IV



Al'Eysha Byrd



Masato Cabalona



Danny Campos



Rebecca Clevenger



Isaiah Colbert



Michaela Carney



Dallen Carrell



Kelli Carson



Kiambra Coley



Deja Collins



Ashley Casper



Kaitlyn Chapman



Nyatuak Choul



Jayme Collins



Ronnie Collins



1970 - Top Row: Ronald Cassell, Kathleen Casteel, Matthew Cates, Deborah Cavan
Bottom Row: David Clevenger, George Clevenger, Sam Coate, Linda Cobb



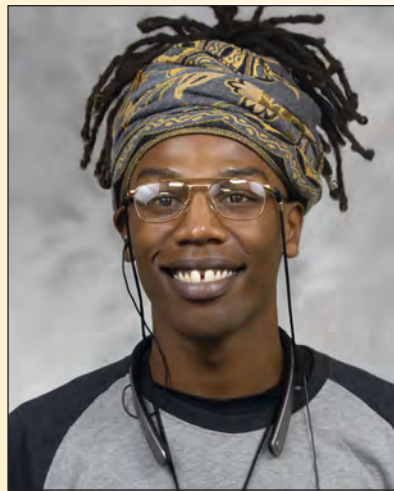
1973 - Top Row: Homer Curtis, Cynthia Delfs, Rick Delis, Marilyn Dweerd
Bottom Row: Daniel Diebolt, Robert Downing, Rhonda Dyche, Neil Ebersold



Gage Coud-Gibson



Maelea Coulson



Austin-Lewis Craig



Melissa Cruz-Jimenez



Rachel Denney



Stephanie Dennis



Kailynn Denson



Maddie Culotta



Alyssa Cusumano



Hailey Davidson



Isaiah Davis



Gabby DeRosier



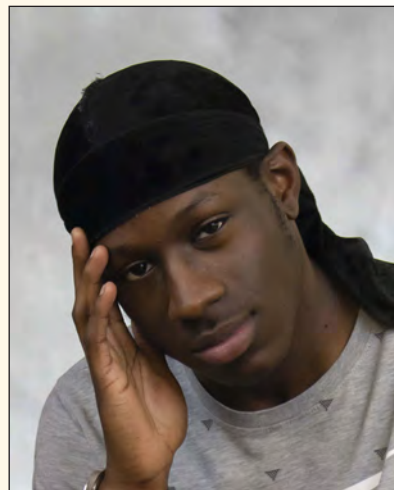
Abby Dickey



Jasmine Dixon



Kevonn Davis



Patrick Davis



Paige Donnohue



Stefani Dorman



Rachael Drenckpohl



Jacob Dec



Kylie DeHook



Abbi Duban



Jacob Duhn



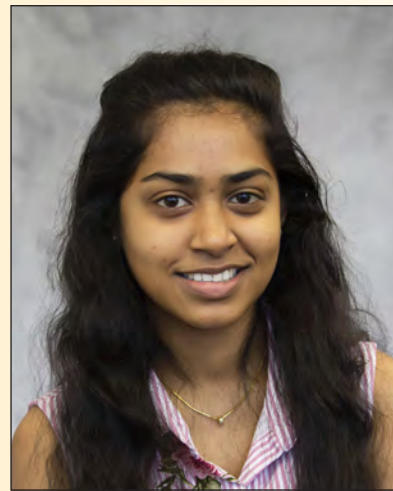
Zoe Dunn



1974 - Top Row: Rhonda Deatherage, Rodney Deeken, Carol Jo Dennis, Beth Denver
Bottom Row: Ruth Dorsel, Tena Rose Dugan, Tom Duncan, Glinda Dunlap



Dillon Dunsmore



Oveya Durairasan



Cameron Edmonson



Peri Fletcher



Fred Flores



Rachel Fortner



Taylor Foster



Taylor Edwards



Logan Elliott



Diazhane Ellis



Karcyn Fountain



Madison Frakes



Brycen Frank



Mardell Frost



Shelly Essary



Alyssa Fanning



Engoma Fataki



Adel Gadi



Daniel Gann



Seth Garrison



Emalie Gerdig



Blake Felts



Morgan Filley



Mackenzie Finney



Rian Gere



Reeceton Giles



Caitlyn Glenn



Megan Goodale



1975 - Top Row: Gail Hertel, Cathy Ann Heyde, Lu Ann Hickman, Deborah Higdon
Bottom Row: Paul Hoffelmeyer, Teryl Holopeter, Galen Holloway, Debbie Hontz



Zach Goodeyon



Drea Gordon



Nicholas Hadley



Mackenzie Hager



Cardell Hall Jr.



Rachel Green



Paige Griffie



Skyla Hamilton



Britney Hamm



Zach Hanlan



Jewelita Griffiths



Nikki Groom



Darrian Herral



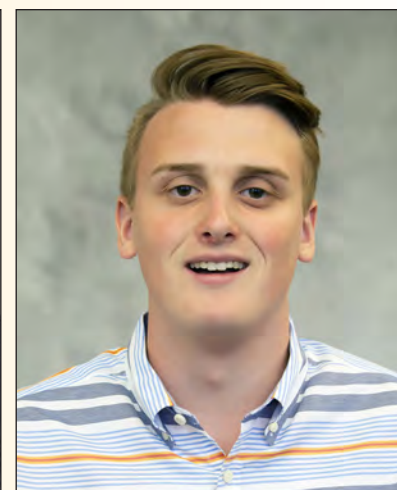
Leslie Harris



Blake Harrison



Amya Gumbs



Kurt Habiger



Salem Heavilin



Hayley Henderson



James Henderson



Katie Henderson



Keli Hendrix



Ian Henggeler



Jaired Huffman



Logan Hughes



Ethan Hunkins



Marissa Hunt



Nicole Henley



Amerikas Hernandez



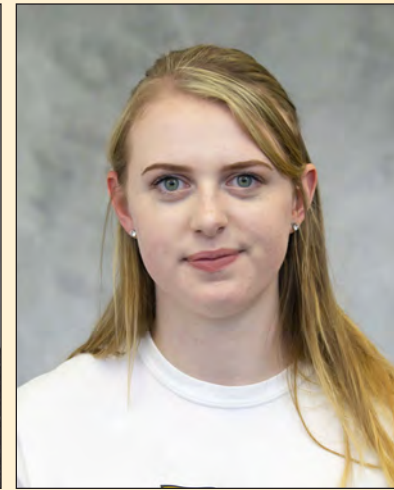
Jennifer Hitchcock



Hailey Isbell



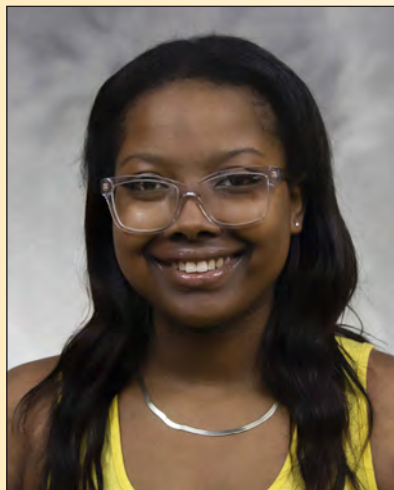
Yasmine Jackson



Abigail Jacyna



Leah Jang



Gabby Hobson



Jada Hopkins



Devoured Horton



Abigail Jeffress



Briana Jenkins



Austin Hoverder



Lilliaunna Howard



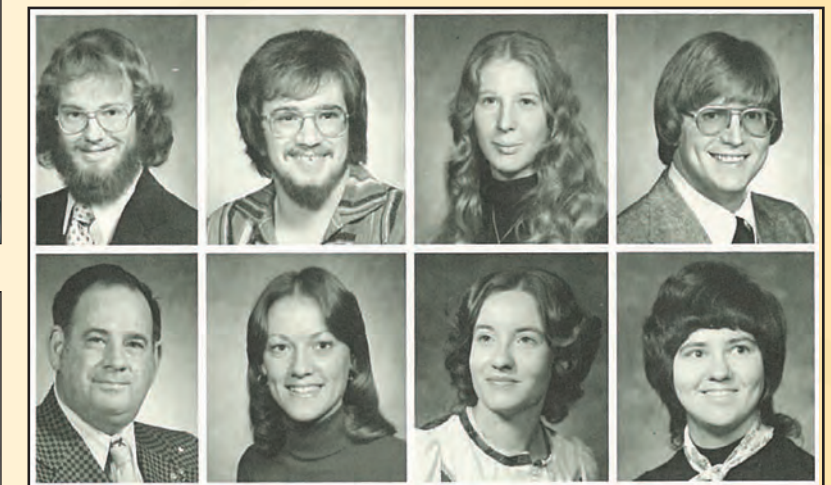
Brett Howery



Jennifer Jensen



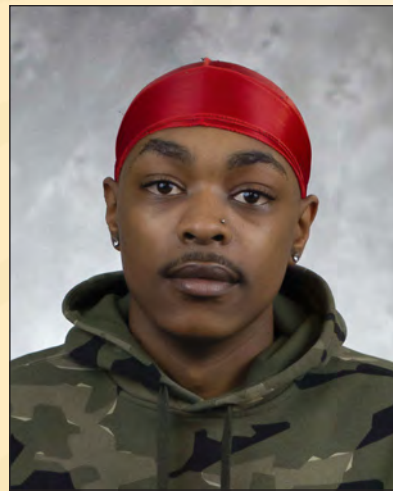
Alisa Johnson



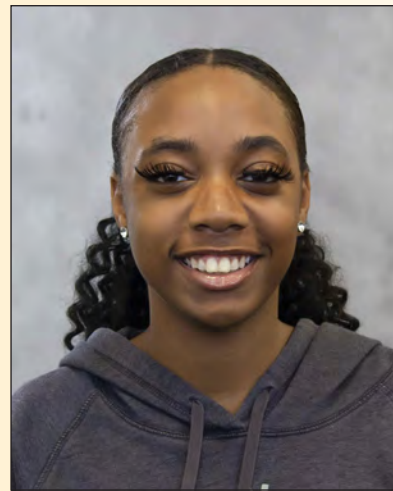
1977 - Top Row: David T. Humphrey, Steven A. Hurst, Cynthia Jefferson, James Jenkins
Bottom Row: Everett E. Jensen, Joyce Keith, Molly A. Kelley, Christina Kelyman



Anastacia Johnson



Domo Johnson



Laila Johnson



Laniya Johnson



Skyler Kent



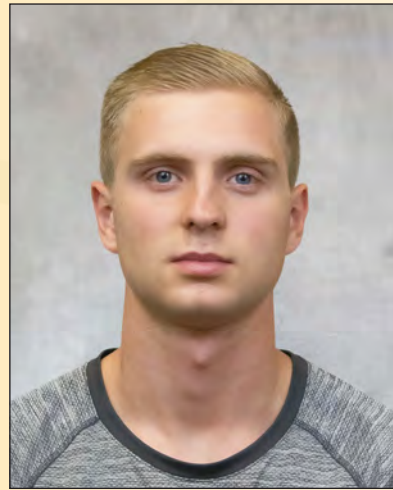
Kylee Kenyon



Kelly Khew



Maxwell Johnson



Remle Johnson



Ashlynn Jones



Hailey Jones



Brianna Kirkland



Matthew Kline



Mitchell Kline



Kaylin Jones



Makayla Jones



Dashiza Jordan



Seanee Kargurth



Tyson Koch



Madaline Kochenderfer



Savana Kowalewski



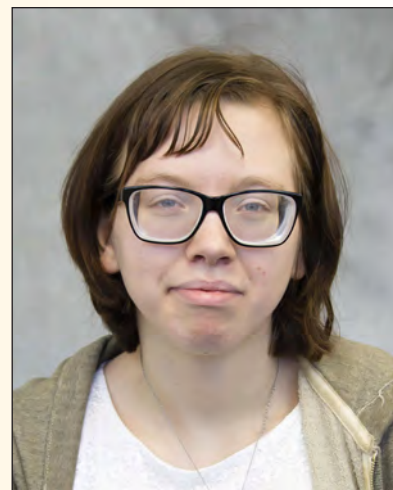
Morgha Keeney



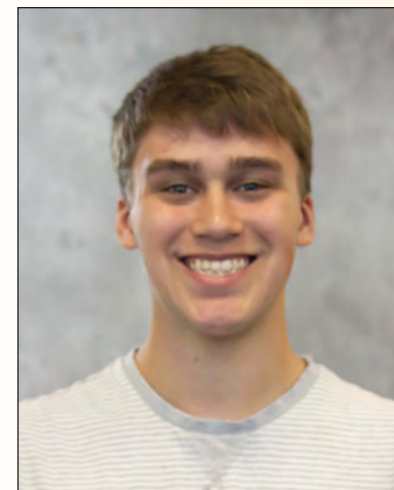
Vernon Kelly



Jalena Kelsey



Jasmine Kennedy



Trevor Krull



Tyler Krull



Seth Lampton



Shaunte Lanham



Jamie Law



Dayon Lawson



Allison Lorton



Andrew Lowe



Zach Leader



Alison Ledford



Madelynn Lee



Amanda Lowell



Eli Luna



Megan Leonard



Maggie Limle



Daylan Lloyd



Diamond Marshall



Ethan Martin



Caleb Lombardino



Gian Lombardino



Harry Loomis



Kylie Mathis



Zavier Mattson



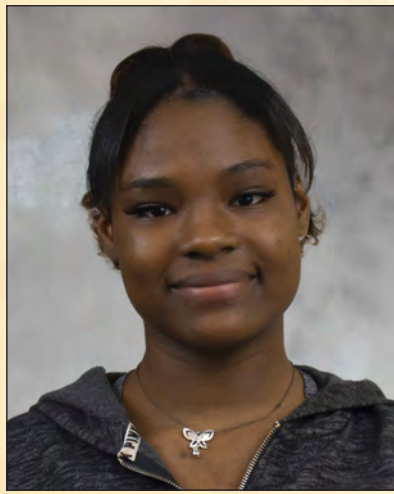
1978 - Top Row: Carol Laramore, Patty Larrabee, Charles Lawrence, James Lee
Bottom Row: James Lindsay, Sharrie Lupfer, Carol Mabry, Debbie Mahoney



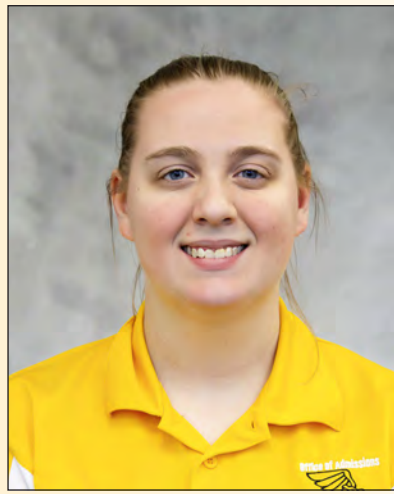
1979 - Mark Maugh, Cathy Mavel, Barbara Jo Mayes, Daniel McConnell
Bottom Row: Rhonda Miller, Willie Montgomery Jr, Dee Neece Moore, Michael Morgan



Malik May



Lovetorius Mayfield



Taylor McCloud



Jessica Meadows



Alex Morehead



Montiana Mosley



Jolie Mpanga



Tyler Meadows



Jake Meikel



Chase Merwin



Patricia Milfort



Hannah Murphy



Kyle Murphy



Thomas Murphy



1980 - Top Row: Christie Miller, Dixie Miller, Kendall Misemer
Middle Row: Kathy Murray, Scott Nelson, Terry Nelson
Bottom Row: Jeanie O'Rourke, Becky Orr, Debbie Ostrander



Erin Miller



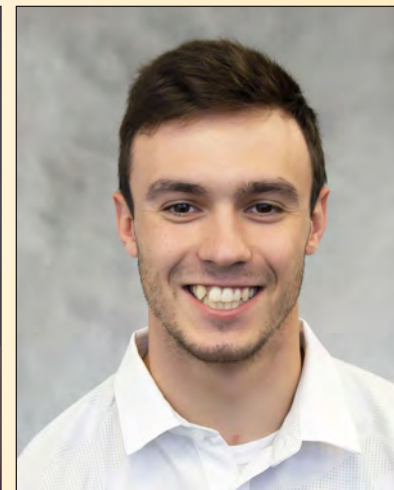
Jordan Miller



Bryce Murray



Ashley Neal



Derek Neupauer



Tina Miner



Hanna Moore



Tina Nguyen



Caprice Nichols



Lexy Nicholson



Madison Norton



Taylin O'Connell



Sofia Ordinteva



Victoria Peck



Bailey Pecora



Desiree Penn



Ashley Perez



Saffron Orr



Caleb Orstad



Cody Owens



Alex Phelan



Travis Phelen



Monet Phipps



Samuel Pickman



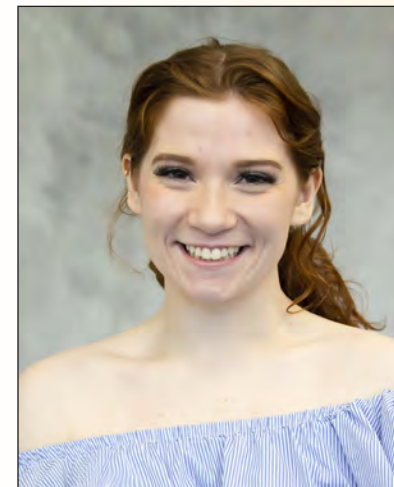
Tina Palmieri



Kaitlyn Panning



Molly Parker



Annalise Pinedo



Demetrius Pittman



Cameron Parks



Angelina Parra



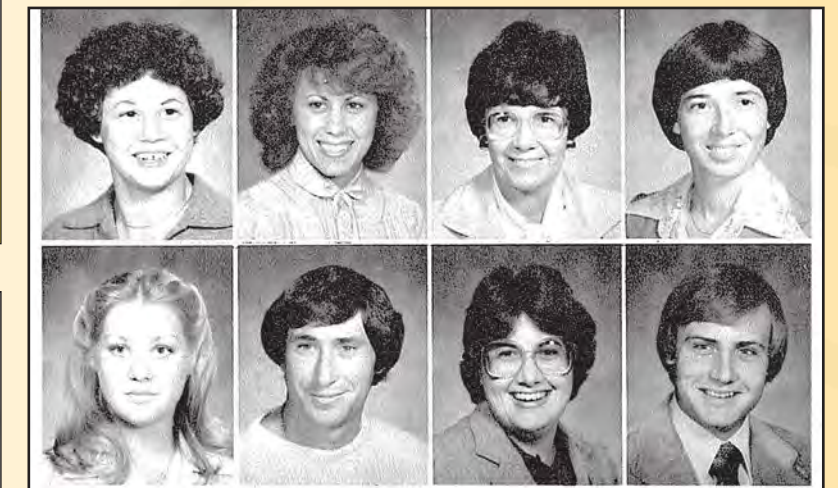
Turner Parsons



Alexis Poirier



Caleb Poku



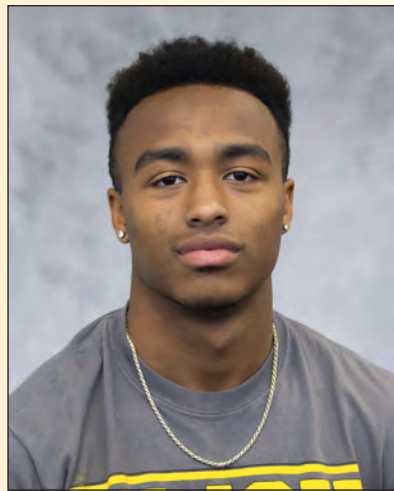
1981 - Top Row: Sarah Pelster, Tyrone Pottorff, Theresa Powell, Julie Pugh
Bottom Row: Lynn Rattan, David Reynolds, Teresa Rhoades, Donald Ritchheart



Gracie Poling



Thoms Portell



DeShaun Powell



Ron Powell



Ely Richardson



Leslie Richardson



Miranda Richey



Cam Price



Randall Price



Sisley Pryor



Cassidy Puckett



Abigail Rinehart



Jennea Robertson



Imani Rogers



Michala Pulliam



Shamnon Purtle



Aneshea Quarles



Alyssa Raulsten



Delayne Ross



Olivia Rotz



John Samuel



1982 - Top Row: Rhonda Ray, Diana Raymond, Doug Reddick, Terri Reynolds
Bottom Row: Patrick M. Roach, Scott Robaska, Chris Roberts, Lori Roberts



Ariana Reed



Briana Reed



Serenity Sanders



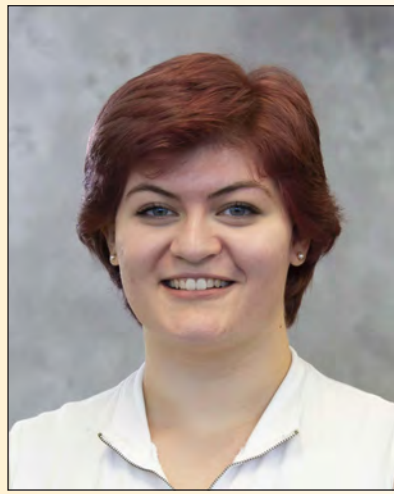
Lonnie Sands Jr.



Makayla Sanford



Christian Sarna



Sydney Schmoe



Dawson Schmutzler



Kaniesha Smith



Terionna Smith



Timothy Speight



Kenzie Sprague



Sophia Schneider



Nic Schultz



Hannah Shoemaker



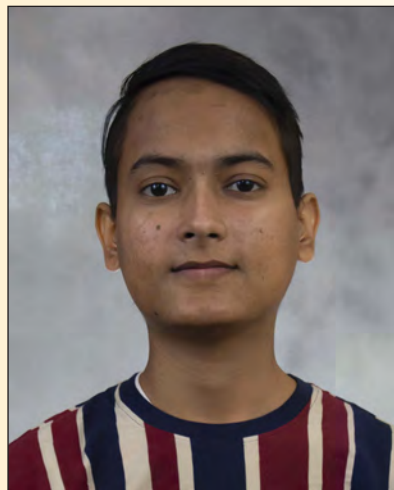
Dai'janise Stano



Joshua Stein



Andrew Sifford



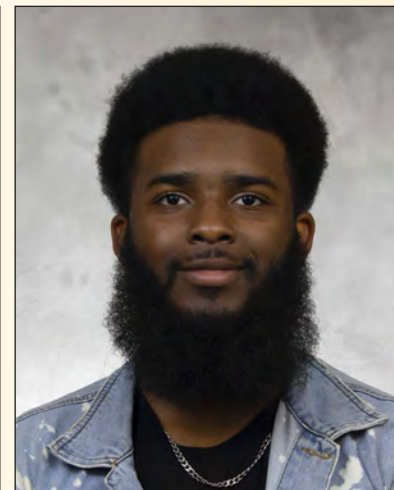
Mandeep Singh



Allison Sisk



Misty Stein



Trasean Stepney



Dakota Skidmore



Addie Smith



Hailey Smith



Adrianna Stevens



Sam Stevenson



1983 - Top Row: Sandy Shatto, Scott Shelkop, Lisa Sherman, Scott Shrene
Bottom Row: Neil Sowers, Kimberly Spicer, Scott Spillman, Chris Sprake



1985 - Top Row: Rond Stephenson, Deb Stewart, Rachel Sullivan, Lynne Sutton
Bottom Row: Karen Swords, Stephen Swymeler, Amy Taylor, Thomas Taylor



Sydney Stigall



Dj Sturgus



Brady Strait



Maddie Swanson



JaRon Thames



Tatum Thomason



Caitlyn Thompson



Summer Swope



Madison Tabor



Cecilia Tackett



Mona Tajchman



Katie Thompson



Tanner Thompson



Samantha Thoren



Nikolas Tanner



Monteze Tatum Jr.



Daja Thornton



Shawna Thurman



Nick Todd



Teja Taylor



Bek Terizzi



Dayven Tolbert



Chandra Traxler



Eli Trimmer



1988 - Top Row: Darren Verbick, Daniel Volz, Marjorie Waller, Mary Warner
Bottom Row: Christa Whitlock, Martha Wille, Cheryl Williams, Tamala Williams



Maddisyn Urban



Julia Utterback



Kelsey VanDeren



Kraig Walker



Briana Ward



Ramone Ward III



Bobby Warner



Natalie Vang



Cara Velazquez



Kristen Venneberg



Dwan Washington



Todaja Weakley



Amber Webb



Destiny Webb



Corbin Vieth



Madi Vine



Brooklyn Von Leggett



Jessica Wegenka



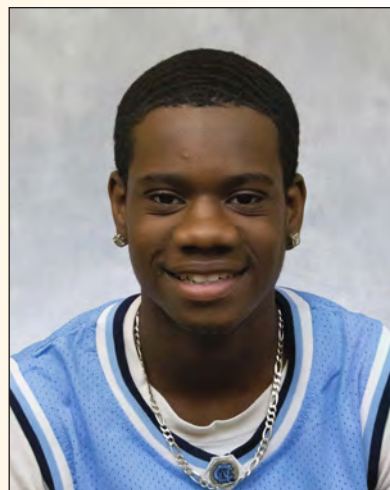
Isaac Wells



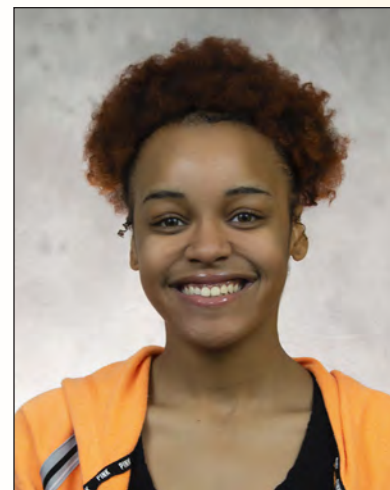
Olivia Wabski



Kaleb Wagner



Jeremy Walker



Aza West



Jacob Wheeler



1991 - Top Row: Lyle Williams, Nancy Williams, Amy Windoffer, Heidi Winkler
Bottom Row: Craig Wolf, Melissa Wood, Derrick Woods, Jones Woods



Kaleb Wheeler



Hannah White



Mariah White



Isaac Whitman



Steven Willis



Keely Wilson



Hannah Wineinger



Shay Whitten



Dalton Whittington



Aaron Whittler



Michelle Wiedmaier



Abby Wolff



Justin Wood



Tyler Wood



Andre Wiggins Jr.



Breona Wilburn



Albert Williams III



Jada Williams



Daniel Wooten



Cathy Wykert-Coats



Cole Ziegler



Kenisha Williams



Mycah Williams



Sasha Williams



Austin Willis



Riley Zimmerman



Luke Zweerink

Adviser's Note

Story by *Dr. James Carviou*
 Photos and Design by *Alicia Otto*

As the adviser for The Griffon yearbook my role is to mentor students as they do the impossible each year. Producing a 248-page book that records the history of the university and also sheds a positive light on Missouri Western and its constituents is not an easy task. I would be remiss if I did not say this has been the hardest year of my professional life. We have faced many challenges as a university and the students encountered adversity in so many unimaginable ways. We are all experiencing history and will show resilience as we work toward the future.

I am blessed with the fact that being the adviser of the yearbook connects me with all facets of campus. I know the names of all the faculty and staff members and countless students each year from departments across campus. I have honestly fallen in love over the years with what it means to be a Griffon and the people that wear that badge proudly each day. It is the people that make me excited to come to campus and do everything I can to provide the best experience for our students and produce the most representative yearbook of our campus body and its infinite legacy.

The past two years I have had the pleasure of working with Alicia Otto in and out of the classroom. Her dedication and commitment to quality combined with a sincere creative spirit have been the driving force of why this year's yearbook is even

a reality. After a whirlwind year of roadblocks and difficulties beyond measure, Otto worked tirelessly to not only complete the yearbook, but also do it justice in terms of representing the impact students, faculty and staff had at MWSU this year. In this book she recognizes the rich Griffon legacy as we commemorated the 50th anniversary of becoming a four-year institution.

I am proud to call Otto a friend and I honestly do not know how I would have navigated this difficult year without her. We have this yearbook because of her and I hope it shines a light for all of us as we continue in this difficult time on our campus and in our world. Otto demonstrates in this book the power of the human spirit and how that gives life to the campus community. The pride of being a Griffon is eternal and forever. I see that in our students and the greatness they bring to the world around them. I am so honored that I had the privilege to work with Otto through this endeavor and witness her greatness in action.

This past year The Griffon has won countless awards, receiving high honors at the state and national level. I received the national honor of Distinguished Yearbook Adviser from the College Media Association and the state honor of Adviser of the Year from the Missouri College Media Association. We traveled to Washington DC in the Fall and New York City in the Spring where we



delivered peer-reviewed workshops for students and advisers across the country focused on the amazing work we do here at Missouri Western. Therefore, The Griffon was represented well across the US in the fabric of collegiate media. Over the years The Griffon has garnered national recognition as a top



Top Center: The Griffon Media crew at the CMA Conference in New York City in March: Dr. James Carviou, Kathleen Woods, Zoë Jones, Christian Sarna and Alicia Otto.

Top: Dr. James Carviou (second from left) poses with his mentor and retired MWSU professor and yearbook adviser Ann Thorne (third from left). Thorne was inducted into the CMA Hall of Fame during the CMA Conference in Washington, DC in October. Pictured are members of Thorne's family including her daughter Dr. Elizabeth Thorne-Wallington (far left), who is currently a faculty member at Missouri Western.



Left Center: Dr. Carviou in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC during the CMA Conference in March.

Bottom: Dr. Carviou is presented the Distinguished 4-year Yearbook Adviser of the Year at the CMA Conference in Washington, DC, in October by CMA Board Member Chris Evans.

yearbook across various categories of awards and honors. There is already widespread buzz about this book and the reach it will have. Otto has so much of which to be proud. I cannot wait to celebrate all year long in reflection of the great response and accolades this book is going to receive. Please give Alicia Otto a shout-out next time you see her for the hard work she put into this publication which has a continued rich legacy in the hearts and minds of all current, past and future Griffons.



A Note from your EIC Alicia

Thank you for sharing this yearbook journey with me. Now I would like to share some of my year with you. The pictures throughout this index are from my year; from Washington, D.C. to New York City just before the pandemic broke loose, it has been quite an adventure.

Be... the legacy, griffons, authentic, the hype, together and confident.



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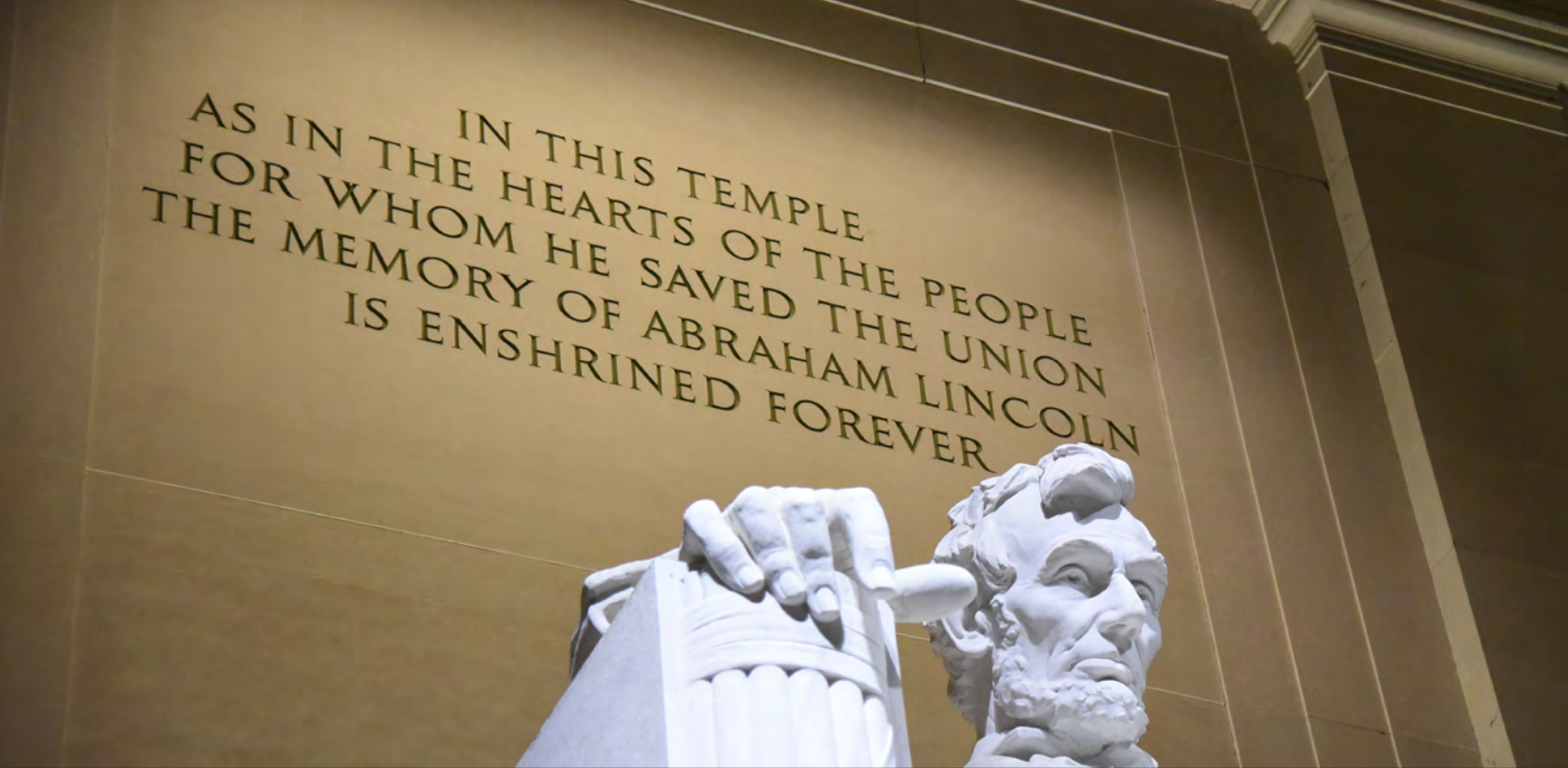
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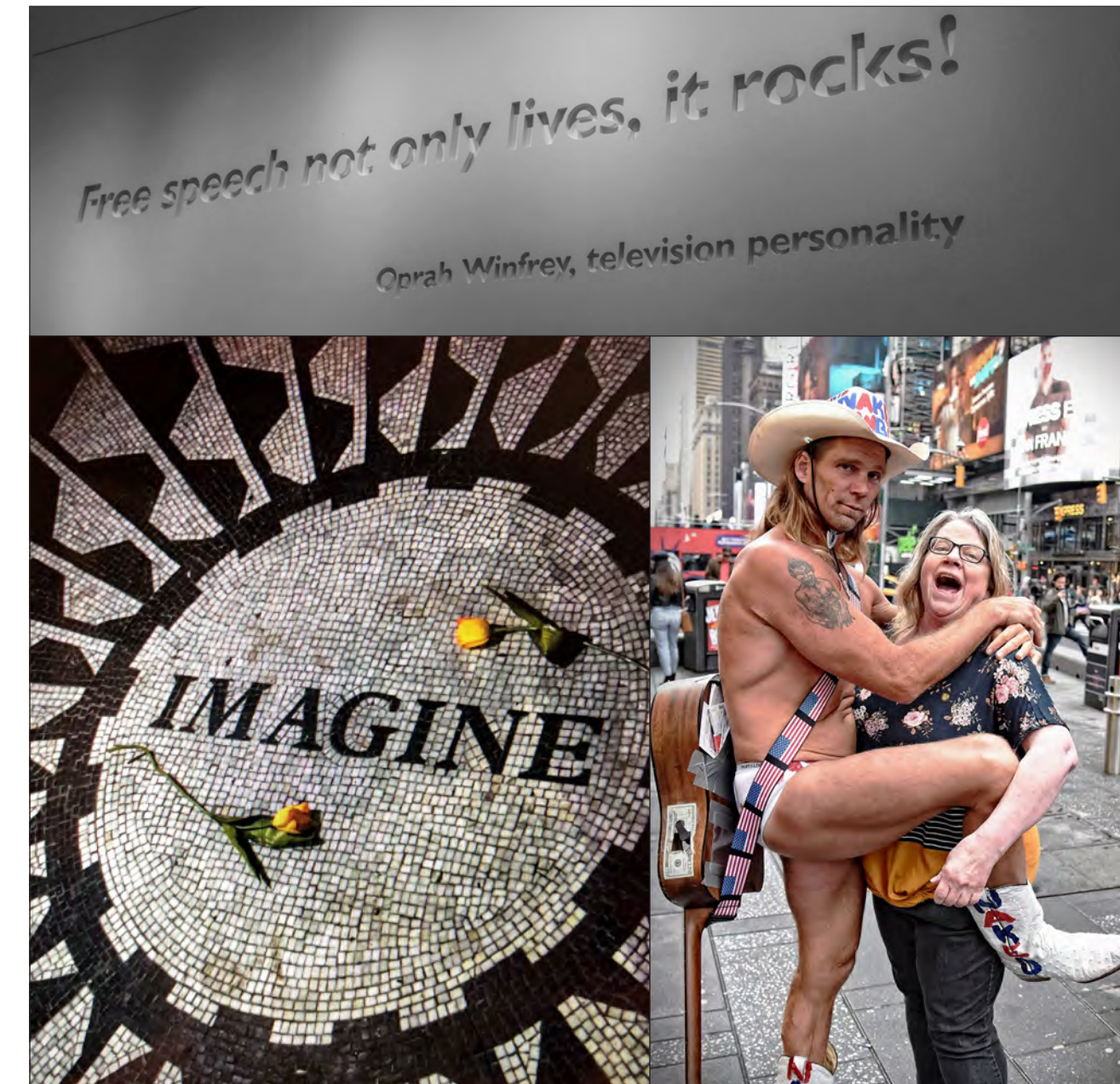


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This publication is the official yearbook of Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri, for the 2019-2020 school year.

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James, I could not have done this without you. You supported me completely and without hesitation. You trusted me to complete this very important yearbook in Missouri Western history and I am proud that we did it! You also drove me crazy, made suggestions that we both knew were correct but I just wanted to be done; and, of course, yours was the VERY LAST spread to be completed. I am proud to call you adviser, professor and friend - *Alicia*

Special thanks to: Dawn Baker, John Ellis, Diane Holtz, Dr. Jennifer Jackson, Nick McCutcheon, the Marketing and Communications Department and Bethany VonSeggern

A big shout-out to every Griffon alumni, former yearbook editor and staff member for paving the way for this yearbook. Including photos from the last 50 years of yearbooks has been a walk down memory lane that has added so much value to this year's edition of *The Griffon*.

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The Griffon is published by Walsworth Yearbooks in Marceline, Missouri, and distributed by the staff of the publication and its representatives. Walsworth Yearbook Representative - Tracy Tuley and Customer Service Representative - Barb Tschannen.

Yearbook Theme: Be... and celebrating the 50th anniversary of being a 4-year institution

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