

*Photo by Robin Usher*



You Are Here

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*Photo by Jeff Meyer*



# You Are Here

The time that you are here must not be taken for granted. As the world spins and the sun will rise and set, more and more memories are made. There are millions of seconds to be spent here, and not one of them is meaningless. While you are here enjoy the time you have. Before long, your there will consume your free time, it will become more than Sunday afternoon card games, Monday study time, or class schedules and lunch breaks. Here is only for the time being, so before it becomes there, you are here.



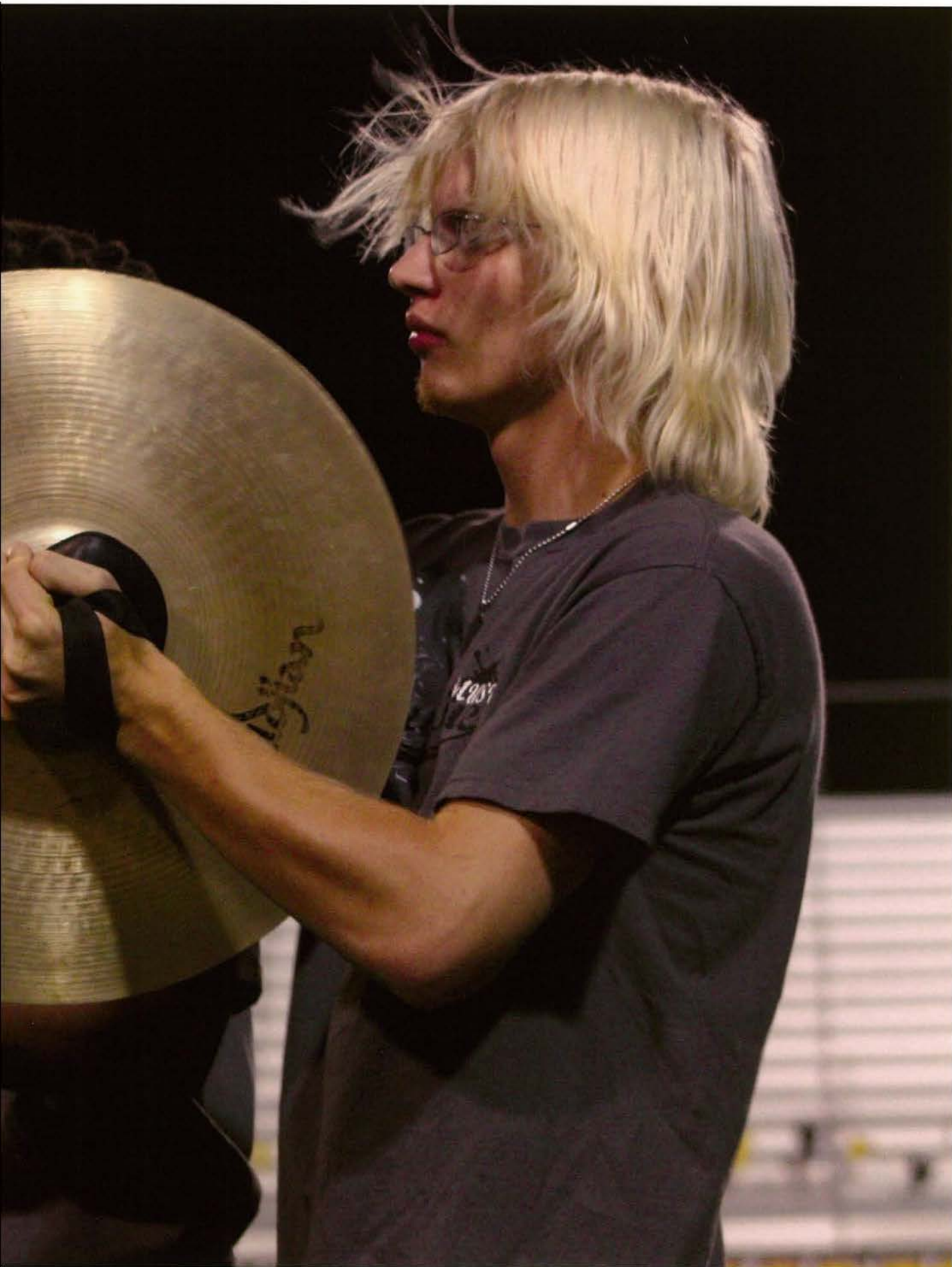
Rocking out to Rockband, a student is in utter concentration. The Rockband event took place during RC Week to inform students of the perks of living on campus. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*







Keeping the beat with the symbols, the percussionists of the Golden Griffon Marching Band are a vital part of the show. The Golden Griffons marched and played for every home football game throughout the season. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



# Student Life

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*Photo by Robert Ussler*

# Stretch the Fun

by Cheyenne Davis

Rubber and neon were in as a new fad swept the nation, showing up on the wrists of college students everywhere. Silly bandz made a mark among students of all ages and took fashionable bracelets to a whole new level.

The bandz were simple in construction, made in China out of non-toxic silicone. Silly bandz were being purchased just about everywhere, from grocery stores to gas stations. Some people found silly bandz to be a wonderful new creation, while others debated their acceptance of the new fad.

"I don't wear silly bandz, but I think it's cool how there are so many different types of silly bandz that people can get," Barton said.

The variation in size and shape was a beneficial factor for a lot of participants in this silicone phenomenon. Some thought this product was something very much worth purchasing.

"I do think it is pretty neat how there are so many different shapes of silly bandz around," freshman Sarah Callihan said.

With so many different shapes, sizes and colors, people could pick just about any type of silly band imaginable. Different styles like nature, pets, zoo, dinosaurs, rock, planets, fantasy and baseball were available for purchasing. Silly bandz usually came in a pack of 24 and were priced at about \$4.95.

"I think silly bandz are a good price

because you can get about 20 for only \$3.00," freshman Ashley Barton said.

The coolest part about the bandz is that they morphed back to their original shape no matter how much they were stretched.

"I like how silly bandz always maintain their shape after you wear them for awhile," Barton said.

Even though some students didn't wear silly bandz or have one bit of interest in the new fad, many agreed that silly bandz were a hit.

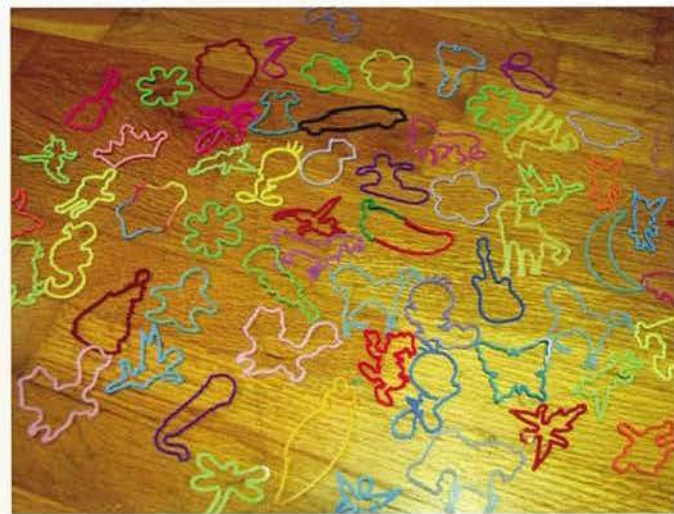
"I don't really have any interest in silly bandz, but for other people, it is fine if they like them," Callihan said.

The silly band craze caused quite a stir. There were even some inexperienced silly banders looking to purchase some in the future.

"I don't have any problem with the new silly band fad, but I don't have any of my own yet," freshman Tyler Drennen said.

Like it or not, this craze took everybody by storm, neon colors infesting the wrists of college students everywhere. It was amazing what a simple creation like molded rubber could do.





TOP: With different shapes, colors and designs, silly bandz are bringing people together. Whether people share or stock up on their own silly bands, the new fad is causing a stir. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

ABOVE: Fashionable and fun, silly bandz are giving people a reason to spend a little money. Since the bandz are inexpensive, people are loving purchasing their own unique bandz! *Photo by Molly Thomas*

LEFT: Taking their original shape after each wears, people can stretch their silly bandz and never change the shape. Animals, nature, girly or musical, silly bandz come in all different designs. *Photo by Molly Thomas*



# Every Girl Deserves to be a Princess

by Sarah Hatten

The members of the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota wanted to give back to the community and help girls in need. Cinderella's Closet is an organization in St. Joseph that raises money and collects prom dresses for underprivileged girls in the area who could otherwise not afford dresses.

Sydney Michelle Spencer, an SAI said, "We all remember prom and would have been crushed if we couldn't afford a dress." The Sigma Alpha Iota's were happy to help.

Hayleigh Albers lent a helping hand to the project. The SAI member dressed in a prom dress to help raise money.

"My favorite part was dressing up. It was like I was headed to prom again, only this time I was helping girls who want to go, but can't afford to," Albers said. "It made me feel like I was doing something good."

The sisters were a little worried with how much



FAR LEFT: This pile of dresses is waiting to put smiles on the faces of young girls heading to prom. The dress drive was a huge success thanks to the sisters of Sigma Alpha Iota. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 TOP CENTER: This teacher carries on normal class time while the stylish Sigma sister types on the computer while wearing a formal gown. The Sigma Alpha Iota's collected money from pledge sponsors every time someone asked them, "Why are you wearing that?" *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 ABOVE: These fancy dresses are hanging on the wall after being collected by the hard-working Sigma Alpha Iota's. These dresses helped girls with financial troubles have nice formal dresses for upcoming events. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 LEFT: The sorority sisters show off the dresses they collected, with big smiles on their faces. They put in a lot of work to make this event a magical experience. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

money they were going to make. They were afraid that not very many people would ask why they were dressed up. Their goal was \$200, but they ended up making more money than they expected.

"I chose to get involved because it was a sisterhood thing. It was a subject that was brought up during a meeting and we all agreed that it was an awesome idea to help."

Kari Tolbert wore her prom dress on campus to all of her classes. The ladies of SAI had pledge amounts and every time someone asked, "Why are you so dressed up?" they put a pin on a ribbon on their dresses and received money for each pin. The Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority wanted to help the girls in St. Joseph have a magical prom and it was such a rewarding experience.

"It all starts with the dress," Tolbert said.

Even though the day of the event was a very warm day outside, the girls displayed their dresses proudly and smiled through the sweat. Tolbert said, "I thought it would bother me that I had to wear my dress to class, but it was more rewarding than troublesome."

The Sigma Alpha Iota's do not really have any formal events so they wanted to do a fundraiser that allowed them to wear formal dresses. It was a

perfect opportunity for them to raise money and look stunning at the same time. Ashlee Ackley heard about "Cinderella's Closet" so she wanted to be a part.

"Why not do it for a charitable cause and donate a portion of our funds raised to an area branch?" Ackley said.

Ackley was the coordinator of the event and came up with the initial idea. She loved seeing all of her members, including brand new initiates, come together and really make the event happen. But her favorite part was seeing the result of all the hard work her sisters put in to getting sponsors, getting asked, and then seeing the end estimate of how much they raised. Ackley said, "I actually cried when I heard the estimate."

Doing the event brought the chapter closer together, brought campus wide recognition to Sigma Alpha Iota, and most importantly it did a good deed. Ackley felt so beautiful and grown up when she went to prom and she wanted every girl to have that same experience. Financial troubles should not be a reason to keep someone from having the time of her life. According to the Sigma Alpha Iota's, "Every girl deserves to be a princess."



# S A I N T J O S E P H M I S S O U R I ----- I S ----- G R I F F O N C O U N T R Y

DONATION CREATION  
BY NOELLY COLLIER

It was a pretty day to be outside in front of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex. Plenty of organizations came out and supported the food pantry drive, mainly Greek organizations like Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omega, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Phi Delta Theta. The Griffon Art Society and the Non-Traditional students were also at the event, making their own canned creations. The fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon brought out their massive barbeque pit, grilling up hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone who participated.

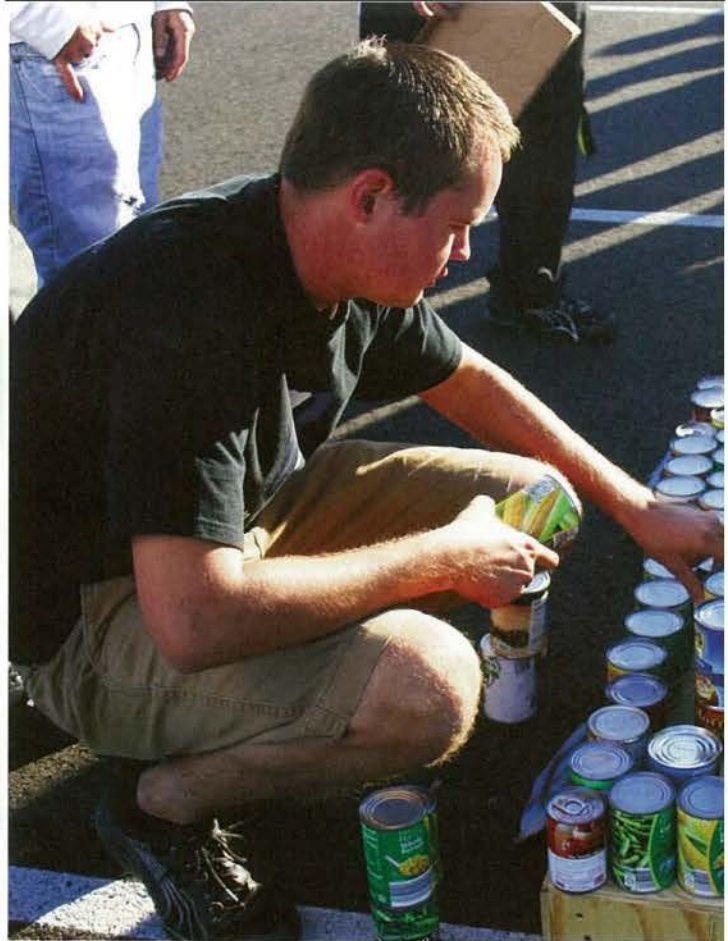
"A true fraternity cooks for their brothers and sisters we provide. And that's what everyone was doing, helping to feed the needy," junior TKE member Zachary Kimmel said.

Participating organizations had to piece together a creation with canned goods based on the homecoming hometown theme.

The AO sorority made a "Cherry Mash Factory" creation, based on the factory in St. Joseph. Member Brandie Elder explained that their theme was accompanied with a bible verse, Psalm 34:8. Alpha Kappa Psi made a car to represent their theme "Lover's Lane," and the Griffon Art Society made an "Etch-A-Sketch" creation. ASA took third place, Alpha Gamma Delta took second place, and Sigma Sigma Sigma took the canned cake, winning first place.

HAPPY HOUR  
BY LAUREN HICKS

"I was the horse that no one bet on," Darryl Colberts said. Colberts opened the Happy Hour contest with a moving story of his struggles with drugs and alcohol. Colberts is now an investigator for the attorney general's office in Washington D.C. where he works in childcare services.



Once Colbert had finished his speech, the students filed out of Pavilion Hall to continue the preparation of the Happy Hour drinks. There were 11 tables, each set up by a different sorority or fraternity from campus.

"Our theme is Lovers Lane. We're going back to the 50s, so we chose our theme song to be Twist N' Shout," senior Alpha Kappa Psi member Jacob Harper said. Their table was decorated with martini glasses, limes topping them off.

The Phi Sigs drink was called the Belt Sunrise. "You know that feeling you get when you are driving on the belt and you see the sunrise with all of its colors, that's the feeling we're trying to incorporate," sophomore Phi Sig member Ryan Piatt said.

Western students all enjoyed this homecoming activity as they rushed around, getting a taste of St. Joseph themed drinks

YELL LIKE HELL  
BY OLIN KINSEY

"Yell Like Hell" is one of the most anticipated Homecoming events. Organizations planned and acted out different skits centered around the theme: "This is Griffon Country." More than 10 student organizations show their school spirit with creative renditions of the Western fight song. Creative catch phrases such as "can't touch this" and "we want tickets" were incorporated in some of the skits played out by the organizations.

Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority centered their skit around the St. Joseph Fire Department and used the cunning catch phrase, "This is a fire drill, cause the Alpha's extinguish the rest."

The Black Student Union entered the "Yell Like Hell" competition for the first time since they have been recognized as a student organization. Their skit was titled "The Young & the Griffons," mocking the "Young & the Restless" soap opera.

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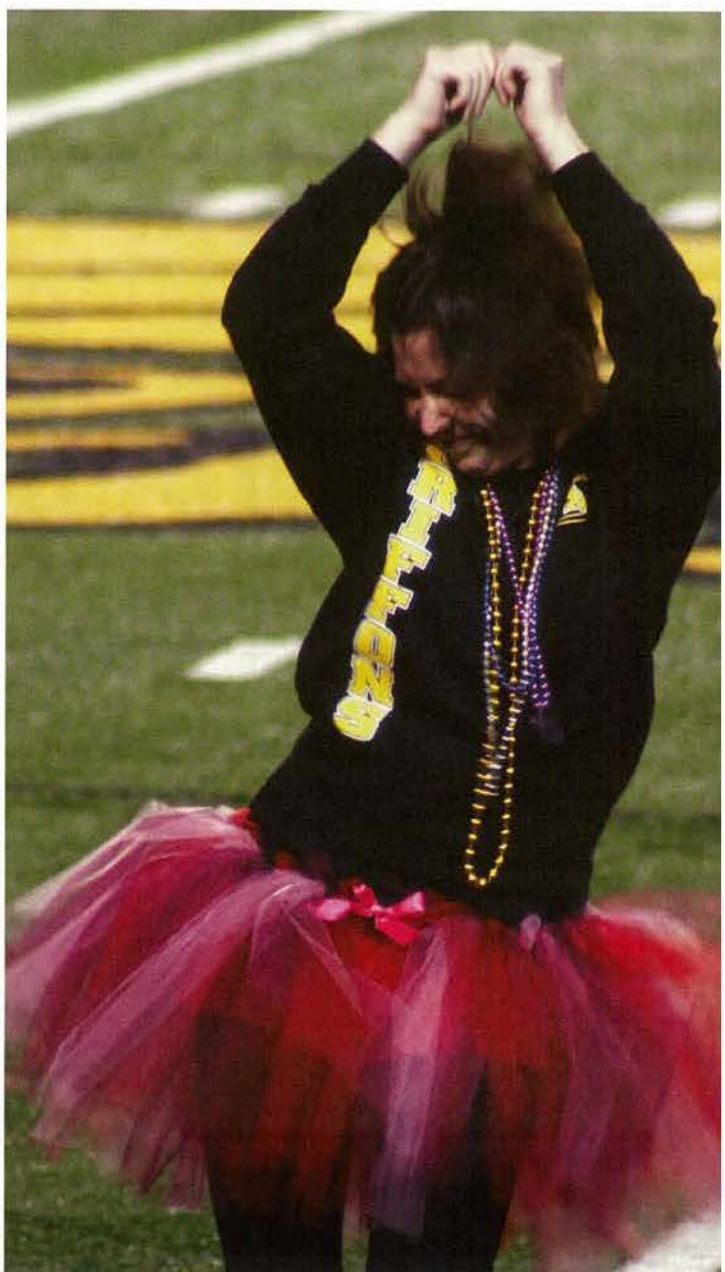


TOP LEFT: The Phi Delta Thetas count cans for the food drive all day in front of the Indoor Sports Complex. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 TOP RIGHT: The Phi Sig's drink was called the "Belt Sunrise at Happy Hour". *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 MIDDLE LEFT: Griffons loved making Saint Joseph inspired drinks at Happy Hour. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 MIDDLE RIGHT: A fake magician and student participate in a hilarious skit in "Yell like Hell." *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Some organizations got creative,

turning the cans of food at the food drive into sculptures. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 BOTTOM MIDDLE: The theme this year for Homecoming was "This is Griffon Country." *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Students love participating in the "Yell like Hell" skits. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

TOP RIGHT: The Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity moved the parade along nicely, driving around in homemade cars. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 FAR MIDDLE RIGHT: The Alpha Gamma Delta sorority got "nutty" at the homecoming games. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 FAR BOTTOM RIGHT: The homecoming court cleaned up nicely, awaiting the results of the king and queen votes patiently. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

MIDDLE RIGHT: One student got all dolled up for the homecoming game, decked out in a tutu and beads. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: This Fraternity got western at Western, a cowboy at the front pulling his "covered wagon" along. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 TOP LEFT: Organizations on campus decorated floats for the whole school to enjoy during the parade. *Photo by Courtney Slater*





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"Our club members really enjoyed it, and we can't wait to do it next year," BSU sophomore class representative Marcell Washington said. "It gave BSU the opportunity to participate and be a voice in an event that not many other ethnic group would try to get involved in."

Alpha Omega's memorable skit centered around the Cherry Mash Factory in St. Joseph. Members of the organization appeared to be working hard in the factory, but were really dancing as the boss left. Talk about working hard for the money.

## THE PEP RALLY

BY MALIA SISK

With goofy acts and unique dancing, the homecoming pep rally and bonfire kicked off an evening of crowd pumping performances. Students and supporters came to watch, thrilled to be surrounded by all of the night's excitement.

Throughout the pep rally, there were various performances. Some of the first acts involved a dance battle between different sororities and fraternities.

"We were basically seeing who could be the goofiest out of each organization. It was so much fun getting up there and dancing," Alpha Sigma Alpha member Kayte Fisetta said.

Other performances included those of the football players, band members, cheerleaders and Mystic dancers.

"I thought the football players' dancing was good. They were pure awesome," freshman Bianca Robinson said.

One participant was recruited for his dancing skill. "I have been dancing since about seventh grade. I just got bored one day and started dancing in my basement to different music videos," freshman Josh Yakovitz said. "The pep rally was a lot of fun. It is cool to see how many people get involved."

The blazing bonfire ended the evening with a bang. "The pep rally and bonfire is a lot of fun there are a lot of people here," freshman Brooke West said.

The pep rally was a definite success, building both team morale and fun.

"It is always good to have pep rallies because it helps us get ready for big games," campus staff member Jay Summers said.

## THE PARADE

BY ROBYN PATTI

The 2010 Griffon Homecoming Parade was an hour-long event of exciting floats and lively band music. With 26 high school bands and the Golden Griffon Marching Band included in the parade there was a lively tune at every corner. The Homecoming Parade was an exciting event in the week of Homecoming, with many Griffon supporters and community members in attendance to watch.

Homecoming theme was "This is Griffon Country" and the participants did not let down. With many floats beaming with pride of our community and school. In charge of putting the parade together, Senior Brandi Glenn was pleased with the outcome of the parade.

"Everything went great. The parade started on time and we had everything run smoothly," Glenn said. Glenn was in charge of putting the parade line-up together and in order and had to make sure all of the participants were in the right spot and moving at the right time.

"Even with so many high school bands, everything was pretty easy," Glenn said. "The [band] members were all well organized too, so I just had to worry about getting them in the right place."

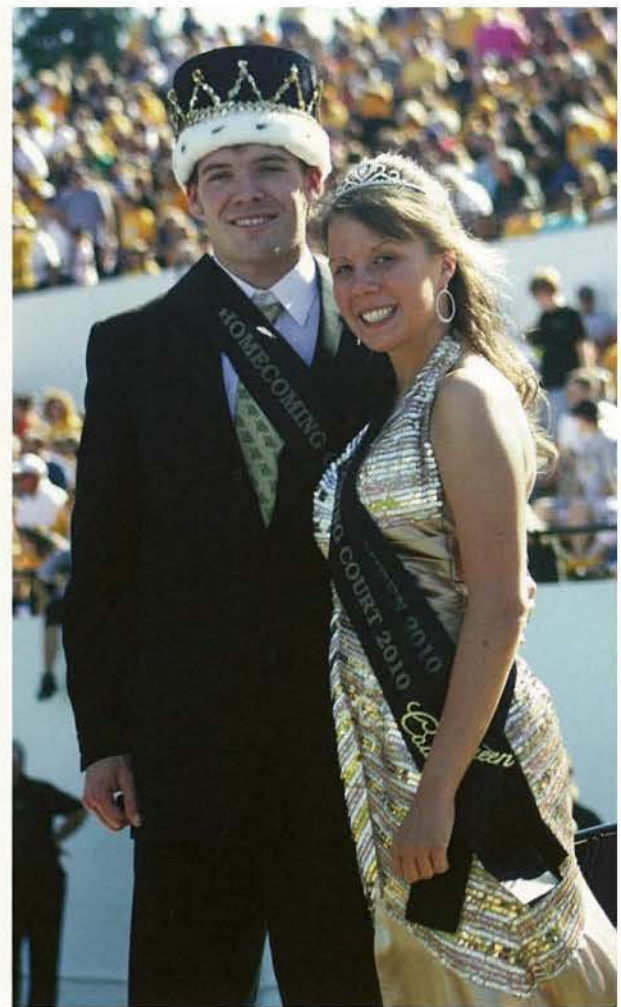
The parade consisted of bands, Griffon Athletics, local community organizations and Griffon clubs. The floats that were in the parade were a part of the float contest between the different organizations on campus for the ultimate Homecoming Spirit Award.

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TOP LEFT: Leslie Sagun cheers the Griffons on at the big game. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
TOP RIGHT: Sophomore Michael Hill makes a break for it during the big game. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
TOP FAR RIGHT: The homecoming court king and queen smile proudly, showing off their crown and tiara. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Junior Adam Clausen slips in and out of his opponents, ball in hand. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
ABOVE: The Griffon fans screams and cheers could be heard for miles on homecoming day. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*



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Within the contest there were small and large organization categories. For the large organizations the first place winner was sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma, second place was fraternity Phi Delta Theta. For the small organization category the first place winner was Alpha Omega and second place was Alpha Kappa Psi.

Junior Taylor Kram was the Homecoming Steering Committee Chair this year, as well as being a part of Student Government. Kram was in charge of all aspects of Homecoming, but helped in getting the parade organized. Kram also was a part of the parade with the cheerleading squad.

"It went really well, there weren't any big problems and it was fun," Kram said. "Being able to walk in the parade and see all the people that come to see it made it seem worth the work put into getting it together."

The parade took place in downtown St. Joseph. The procession began at City Hall and moved east towards the courthouse, made a square and ended back up at the City Hall.

THE GAME  
BY CHEYENNE DAVIS

"Get on your feet, be loud, be proud," Western cheerleaders shrieked. That was exactly what Griffon fans were during the sunny afternoon Homecoming game versus

Truman State University. The weather was warm with a light breeze, but the competition was fierce and frigid.

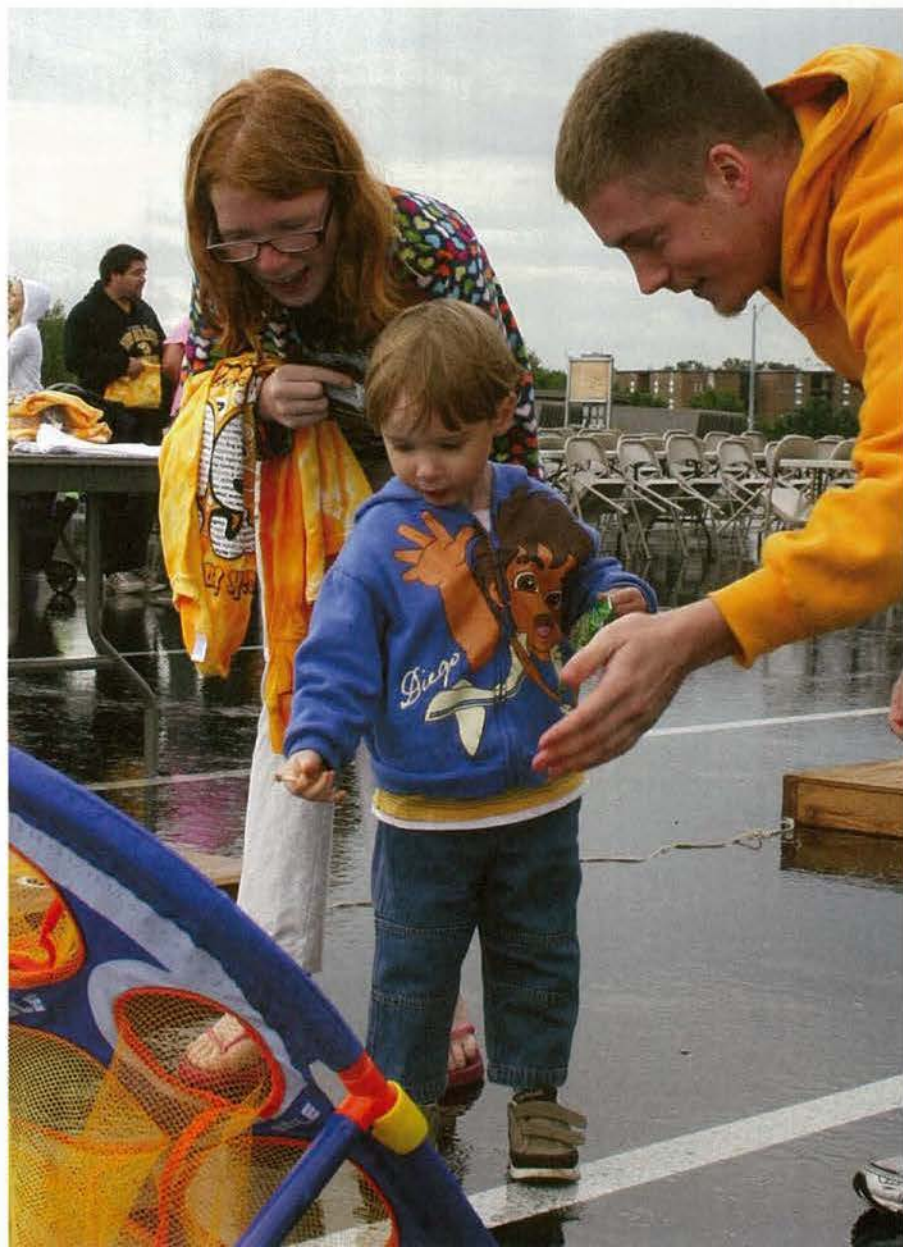
To start off the game, the Kansas City Falcon skydiving team made an appearance. They did so by flying in from the sky and landing in the center of the football field. One of the Falcons even had a huge Griffon banner attached to his parachute to show some spirit.

Shortly after, the homecoming candidates were announced and crowned. Next, the band came marching in with the Mystic dance team. Even Max the Griffon had some dance moves to show off as the band played loudly. The bleachers were stuffed with black and gold as fans kept filing in to watch the game. Their cheers echoed throughout the stadium.

"We get a lot of support and lots of people come out to see us play," Makenzie Hutchcraft said. "It's great to have so many Griffon fans!"

During halftime, the marching band and Mystic dancers performed a routine. Fans also had the chance to go out on the field to catch footballs. There were prizes for their efforts, ranging from Hy-Vee gift cards to \$1000. After the game, the marching band and Mystic dancers performed a different routine.

The final score of the game was 29-7. "I thought we played a great game, I'm glad we won," Bryant Porter said.



TOP LEFT: Western kept Family Day fun and silly. Missouri Western students make the pie-throwing booth a popular event. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 MIDDLE LEFT: Face painting turns into arm painting at Family Day. Face painting was a huge success at the event. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 TOP RIGHT: Missouri Western stadium is completely full on Family Day. Family and community come to cheer on the team. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 RIGHT: There are games all over campus on family day. Families love to get involved. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 ABOVE: The football game is a really exciting part of Family Day. Andrew Mead leaps over a defender to try to get in the endzone. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# A Family Affair

by Lauren Hicks

As families, filled with high hopes for excitement, rolled in, so did the rain clouds. Luckily, these families weren't letting a little rain put a damper on their visit with their Western loved ones.

"This will be the first time I've seen my grandkids in a year," Carmen Roeder said. Roeder is the grandmother of junior football player Matt Speaks. Roeder traveled four and a half hours from St. Louis, MO to spend time with her family and support Matt on the football field.

Roeder didn't participate in the activities due to the rain cancelling most of them out. She mentioned that she wasn't that upset about missing out on the planned activities because the importance of family weekend was to spend time with loved ones and that's what she was looking forward to.

"I told Matthew I'm coming with my pom-poms," Roeder said.

When the rain finally subsided, the families that were huddled under the shelter of the tent filed out in a hurry, rushing out onto the parking lot to participate in the activities of the day. Music blared from the speakers and families smiled as they reunited and checked out the few tables that still remained in the parking lot.

Students proudly paraded their families around the parking lot, introducing them to their newly found Western comrades. Thanks to

the great family turnout, the students weren't the only proud ones.

"I'm proud of him, that's why I came to support him," Shelly Maxon said. Maxon is the mother of freshman Josh Maxon.

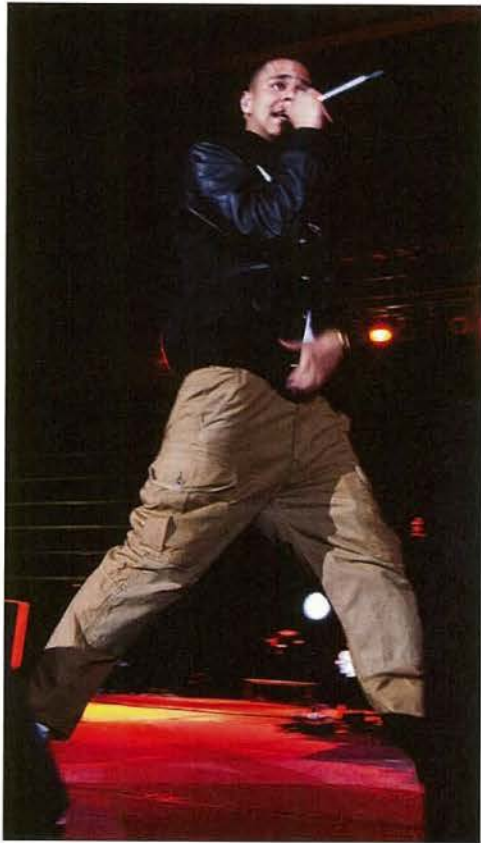
Maxon, along with five other family members, traveled four hours from Lamar, MO. Maxon said that Josh, her son, had called her earlier that week and told her the family needed to come to campus for Family Weekend on Saturday.

"I was told to be here, so we loaded up the car and came," Maxon said. Despite the rainy and dreary weather, Maxon was smiling. "At least I got to see my son," she said. For the Maxon family, the day was still a success.

Family Weekend was a time for families to gather to laugh and play a few creative games put on by groups of students, including sororities, fraternities and clubs.

Despite the rain and cancellations of most table-top fun and some events, the families got what they came for, as they still enjoyed seeing one another. Most of these families traveled from hours away to reunite at this fun-filled event and found themselves in a rainy parking lot, with the sunshine of their Western student all around them.





ABOVE: J. Cole during his performs, the headliner of the concert. Cole worked the stage and really reached the audience. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
TOP RIGHT: The Spring Concert was held in Civic Arena. The concert goers could stand or sit, with most choosing to stand in front of the stage. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
RIGHT: The opening act, Jeremih performing for the crowd. Jeremih had a lot of popular hits that he played during the show. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
BOTTOM RIGHT: The DJ for J. Cole's performance. He was a great mix artist and J. Cole introduced him with a lot of respect. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

# THAT'S A RAP

BY ROBIN GANN

Every year, as the weather warms and the trees start to gain their leaves, Missouri Western puts on a concert for the community. Every year, the musical act is different, based off a three-genre based model: rock, rap and country. This year, the rotation was set to rap and popular recording artist Keri Hilson was set to appear. Unfortunately conflict arose when the date for Western's concert was the same date as a concert Hilson had already scheduled out of the country. With one rap artist down, WAC had to quickly replace the artist with another from the same genre, so WAC succeeded in booking J. Cole and Jeremih to take Hilson's place.

J. Cole was best known for being the first to sign onto Jay-Z's label Roc Nation and recently had worked with big names like Rihanna and Drake. Jeremih was best known for his single "Birthday Sex" that peaked the Billboard Hot 100 at number four.

Even with those accolades, people were still a bit wary of the rap stars. J. Cole has traveled to schools to do concerts, and had been to MU within the same month. Since he was in the state it wasn't much to get him to Western. Some students, though, did not like the change.

"I just have never heard of them. I'm not expecting Kanye, but Northwest got the Goo Goo Dolls and last year, a school got Regina Spektor," sophomore Erin Kempf said.

While Kempf is correct about other large name acts in the area, what she and other students might not know is the difficulty of putting on the annual event. The legwork, the money and the time spent on putting on a concert for an entire student body is not a small task.

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One thing I learned is that you're never going to make everyone happy." Robin Ussher says, speaking about Western's Spring Concert. Ussher is the president elect for Western Activities Counsel (WAC) for the 2011-12 school year and had served as WAC's music chair. She's used to hearing complaints about the musical acts Western gets each year.

Since getting the show underway was such a fiasco, the show itself with Jeremih and J. Cole went without much stress or problems. Lauren Dillon was a WAC member who helped run the show and was behind the scenes making sure it went smoothly.

"Being behind the scenes is cool because I still got to watch the show, but I also got to make sure everyone else enjoyed it, too," Dillon said.

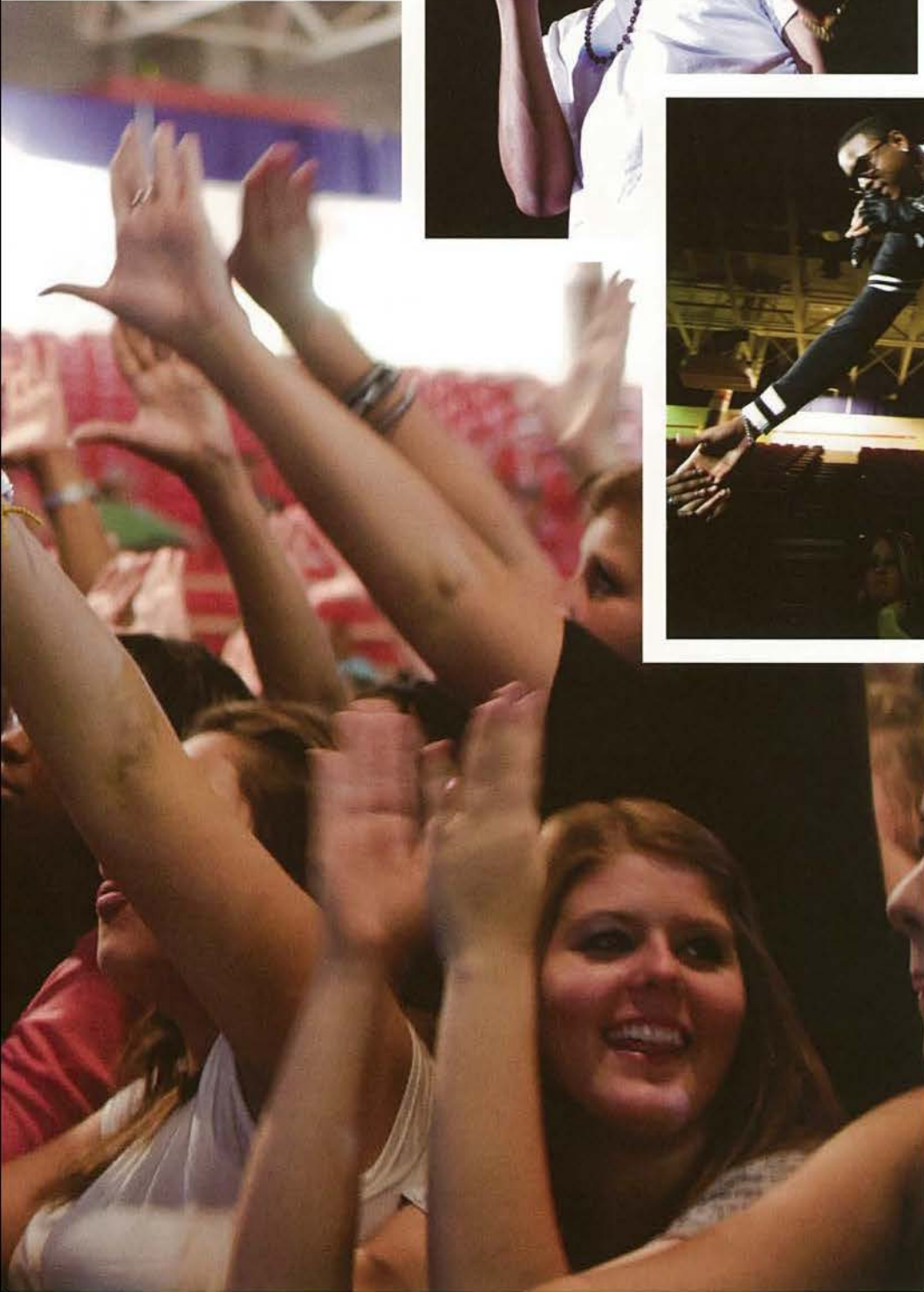
The opening of the show was with Jeremih who sang his most well known songs to a crowd that bumped along to the beat. Jeremih had a beautiful a cappella performance of his popular hit "Birthday Sex" complete with piano and all.

J. Cole was the headliner and brought the crowd down from their seats and onto the floor of Civic Arena to be a part of the show that J. Cole was rocking. J. Cole had a strong performance and the crowd showed it.

It took a lot of hard work from a lot of people, especially last minute, but the Spring concert was still a hit even after switching artists. The legwork time and effort paid off for the WAC members and the student body who got to enjoy the show.

Students such as Petties make the hard work worth it in the end. With a lot of students to please, by having a handful of happy people the show seems like more of a success. The spring concert was yet another event for Western students, with more events and shows to come with the help of the hard working WAC members.





TOP LEFT: J. Cole raps into the microphone. Cole's performance blew away the audience, making those sitting stand and join the fun. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

ABOVE: Jeremih worked the crowd during his opening act. He reached down to slap hands of audience members. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

LEFT: The student's who attended the concert really got into the show. Reaching for hand slaps, the crowd hopes for a touch from the rap artists. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

# It's T-Shirt Time!

by Cheyenne Davis

Have an eye for design? The Student Government Association put on a t-shirt designing contest for the first time. The idea originated from SGA senator, Alison Norris.

"I thought of the idea because I was passing out t-shirts from last year and students were pretty opinionated about them," Norris said.

SGA senators agreed that having a t-shirt contest was the best way to reach out to students.

"It's a great way to get some student reactions and input," Norris said.

Sixteen designs were submitted all together which was a very pleasant surprise for the SGA. When it comes to designs, the senators were happy to view so many submissions.

"I was really open-minded to any colors and designs that we might see. I was mostly excited to have so many students responding and getting involved. Overall, I thought all designs were great!" Norris said.

"First and foremost, it's an outstanding way to get students involved in the university spirit," Kathy Kelly, Student Affairs Administrative Coordinator said.

All t-shirt designs were open for voting on Nov. 14 on the Missouri Western homepage. Students were able to view the designs and pick

their favorite. First place was awarded \$100 with their design to be printed on 1,250 shirts. Second place was awarded \$50.

The shirt with the winning design printed on them was given out on the Dec. 1 basketball game. The shirt was unveiled for the first time at the basketball game and students who entered the contest did not know who placed until the shirt was exposed.

"It was a complete surprise to everyone. We wanted the winning design to be a complete mystery to all," SGA senator Christina Jennings said. The t-shirt contest had several beneficial factors included. "Of course, students get a free shirt but the real idea was the fact that students got to have their voices heard. Plus, it was a project to support the SGA and let students learn what the SGA is all about," Norris said.

"There is so much talent on campus and the time that people took out to get involved is great, especially since this is the first time it was done. We let responsibility lie in the student's hands and it worked out great," Kelly said.





TOP LEFT: Allison Norris hands over some t-shirts to students outside of the campus bookstore. The students jumped at the opportunity to represent SGA. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

TOP RIGHT: Students line up for their 2010-2011 SGA shirts. Students voted to decide what design should be featured on the t-shirts. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

MIDDLE RIGHT: The black t-shirts are a perfect representation of SGA. The creative design contest was open to all students. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

ABOVE: Ellie Green smiles, camera in hand. Green submitted the winning t-shirt design. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

LEFT: The design features the clock tower, a notable monument on Western's campus. Students gravitated to the new idea, picking up their shirts in the Blum Union. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

# Gettin' WAC

by Olin Kinsey

Planning and scheduling events can be a stressful chore. What's even more stressful is not having the manpower to do so. Western Activities Council has been a real driving force for Western students. WAC is responsible for providing co-curricular programming and social activities such as movies, concerts, dances, lectures, performing arts, etc.

WAC held their first annual Membership Drive to refer students to their organization for information and tips to build their own campus involvement.

"The purpose of the membership drive was to promote Western Activities Council to the student body, as well as to recruit new members," WAC president Keisha Caldwell said. "We gave out hand bills that talked about membership information, candy, key-chained wallets that promoted our meetings and flyers for upcoming WAC events."

Members of the WAC Executive Board came up with the idea membership drive in the spring of 2010. The membership drive was necessary, as it was created due to low membership. In 2004, WAC consisted of 55 members. Last year, WAC's membership dropped drastically to approximately 20 members. Currently, there are only seven members of WAC, including the WAC president and E-Board members. There are a total of six prospective members.

WAC worked hard to analyze the reasons behind their low membership retention and thought up ways to attempt to fix the problem.

The E-Board decided they wanted to have more member interaction by incorporating icebreaker group activities in meetings, as well as using member incentives to keep members interested.

Western students made their way to the membership drive to and from class. Many of the WAC members greeted students with information about the organization on the walkway between the Blum Union and Murphy Hall. Some students looked at the membership drive as a stepping-stone to aiding their chosen career path.

"I knew WAC planned the concert, but I had no idea about the other events they did," junior Keronique Thuston said. "I'm glad I visited their booth because they seem to have a lot of things in common with what kinds of things I'd like to do after graduation."

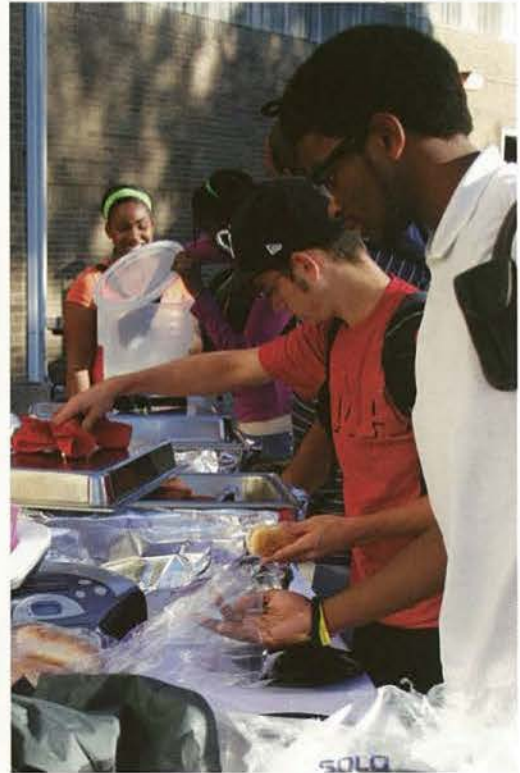
Currently, WAC is planning to launch the membership drive at least once every semester. By doing so, E-Board members are hopeful that the organization will once again gain their large membership status from previous years. After all, WAC members couldn't be expected to plan every concert, organize every movie event, or decoration for all of the dances all on their own.



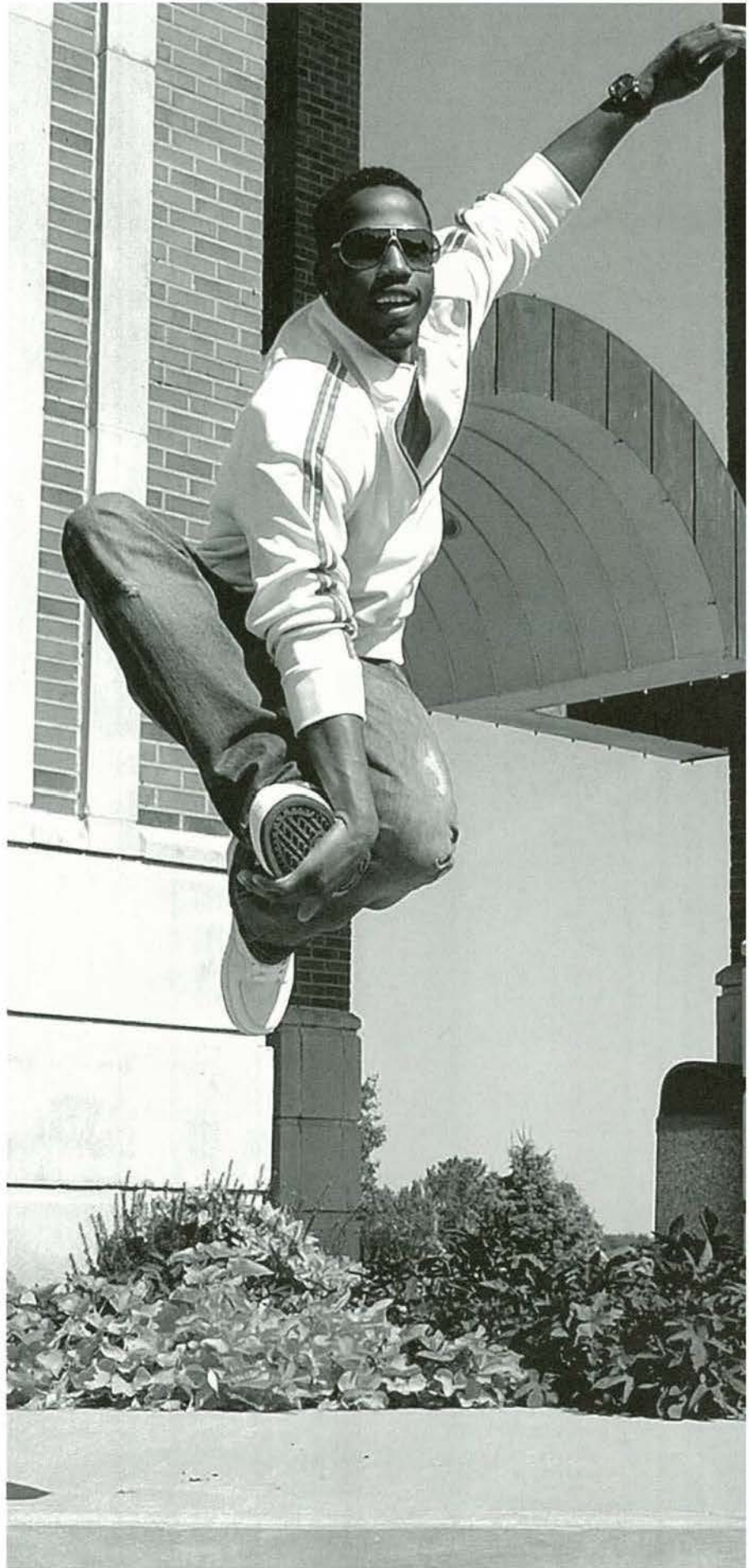
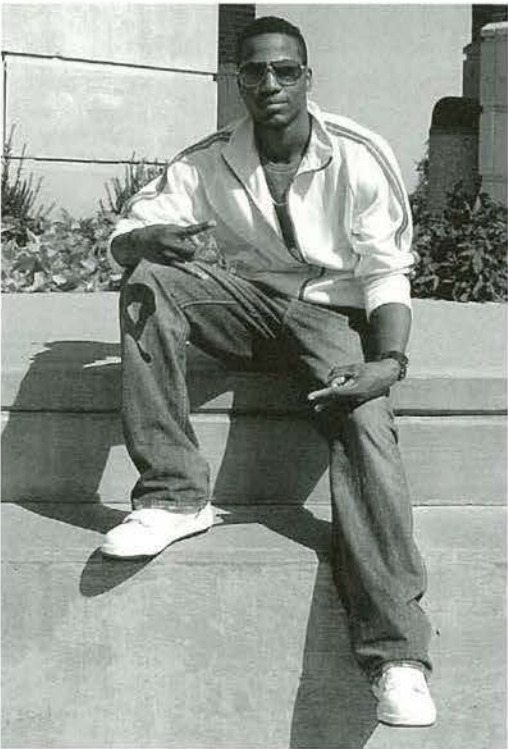
RIGHT: Hula hooping. Cierra Diamonel shows how much fun it is to get involved in Wac activities. During the Wac Drive, there were plenty of social activities to be involved in around campus. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

BELOW: Eating some delicious food, students fill their plates with food provided by WAC. Providing food for students was a unique way to help build campus involvement and recruit new members. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

BOTTOM: A woman gets a relaxing massage. Giving free massages was a way to attract prospective members. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*







*All Photo by Molly Thomas*



# Pop, Lock 'N Salsa

by Sarah Hatten

Missouri Western student Jarrieth Patterson has been dancing since he was three years old and intends to dance for the rest of his life. He competed in the International Dance Championship in Bochum, Germany and was featured in a nationally-televised program in New York.

Patterson said, "Dancing inspires me. It makes me feel free from the cares of the world." He dances every single day. If he thinks of a new move, he stops what he is doing and practices the move until he gets it right.

It is not easy to maintain so much dedication, but Patterson said, "It's like breathing; it just comes natural." He can't imagine what his life would be like without dancing.

Patterson was born in New Orleans, but moved to St. Joseph when he was nine. He graduated from Central High School and chose Missouri Western to further his education. He is proud to live in St. Joseph because he loves the people here and everyone is supportive of what he does. Patterson teaches several kids to dance and he is so pleased they share his passion for dance.

As a computer engineering major, Patterson may not make dancing his career, but he will always find a way to incorporate dancing into his everyday life. He dances hip hop, old school,

poppin' and locking, krumping, ballroom, salsa and technique.

For a dancer, anytime is a good time to dance, but Patterson's favorite place to dance is at competitions. He loves the adrenaline rush and the intensity that comes along with the competition.

Patterson got involved with the International Dance Organization Hip Hop, Electric Boogie and Break Dance Championships while he was competing in Liberty, MO. A local sponsor saw him free styling and nominated him to compete in a national competition in Rhode Island. He placed a spot on the USA hip hop team and won first place which led him to Bochum, Germany for the Dance Championships, AKA the Olympics of dancing. He competed against 4,000 people from 30 countries and five continents.

"I started dancing because it was fun and felt right on the inside, but I never thought it would lead me to where I am today. I know I am blessed," Patterson Said.

# Good Eats on the Saint Joe Streets

by Nick McCutcheon  
Photos by Heather Heater

With the cafeteria not always being an option and dorm cooking capabilities limited, Western students had the opportunity to explore some of St. Joseph's culinary creations.

"When you're living on campus, you really don't have a whole lot of choices on the weekends," senior Dillon Harp said. "I like to go into the community and try different restaurants. I've been trying to go to a different place every week."

"I try to primarily eat at independently or locally owned restaurants because I care about what and where I eat," sophomore Derin McQuiston said. "They typically have more control over the products they buy which usually means fresher, higher quality food."

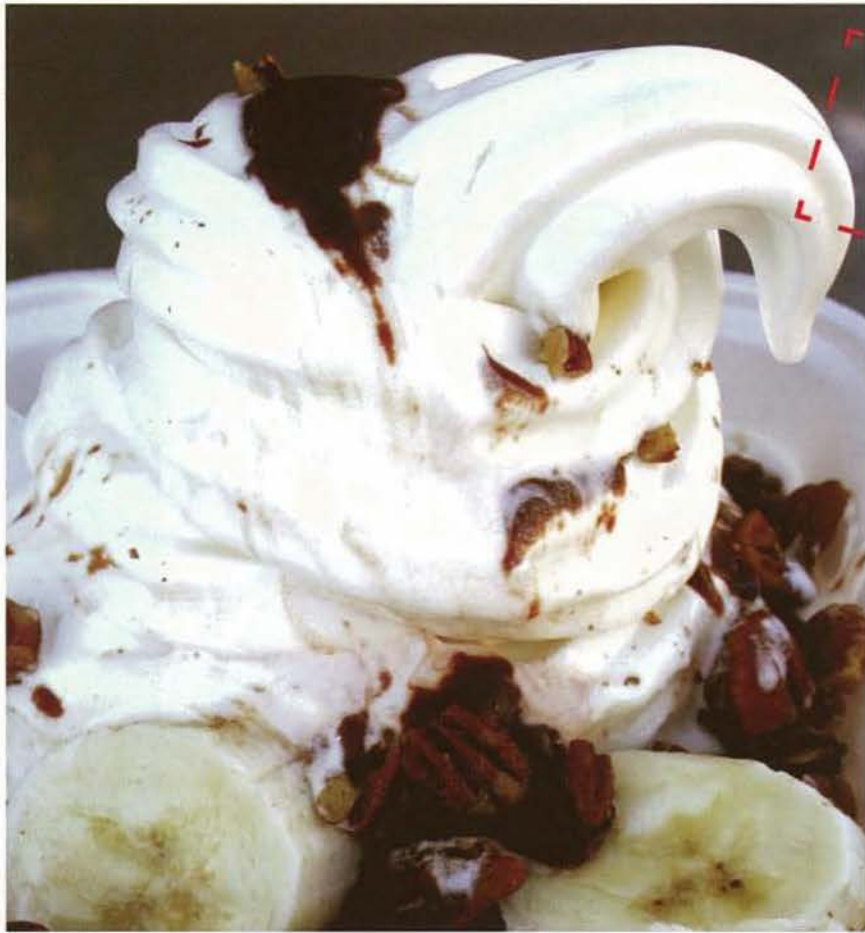
Whether it was breakfast like grandma's at a noisy café, St. Joseph-style hot dogs, or a frozen treat at a giant pink ice cream cone, students had their choice of unique dining destinations. Some students tried to dine at locally owned restaurants instead of chains because it helped support the local economy. With the freedom to choose their own distributors and ingredients, local restaurateurs could offer customers a product they could trust.



**BETTY'S CAFÉ ON KING HILL:** If Western students were looking for a meal that reminded them of home, there was not a better place than Betty's Café on King Hill. The famed biscuits and gravy did not disappoint and spawned memories of mornings at grandma's house. The coffee never found the bottom of the mug and hash browns smothered in sausage gravy were a tasty side. For a great small town atmosphere, a heavy stomach and a few dollars, Betty's was an excellent choice.



**SALSA DOG:** As a restaurant that served everything from pickles to roast beef on hot dogs, located at East Hills Library and St. Joseph Visitor's Center offered an eclectic take on an American staple. Pictured above, the St. Joe Dog featured chili, salsa and cheese. With a menu that featured just about any crazy frankfurter combination from \$1.50 to \$5.25, it was worth trying again.



## OUR PICK FOR BEST LOCAL DESSERT

### KRIS & KATE'S:

It was hard not to notice Kris & Kate's on the Belt. An enormous pink ice cream cone drew in customers for frozen sweets and even hot dogs. The strawberry banana fudge sundae came with just about everything but the kitchen sink and barely fit through the car window. A tower of soft serve vanilla ice cream sat on a foundation of strawberries, bananas, fudge, whipped cream and chocolate chips. At the tip of the tower was more whipped cream and a cherry, of course. It was not a cheap treat, but it was sinfully delicious.



**GENEO'S PIZZA:** \$10 for a calzone, salad and water at an inaugural visit to Geneo's Pizza seemed pretty steep until the seasoned, steaming, perfectly baked amber brown creation made it to the table. Italian sausage, mushrooms and black olives were the chosen three ingredients and did not fall short of the lofty expectations. There was a considerable majority of mushrooms over sausage, but it was a delicious and extremely filling entrée.



**BOUDREAU'S LOUISIANA SEAFOOD:** One step into Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and downtown St. Joe suddenly felt like Bourbon Street. The fried alligator appetizer was delectable. The seafood court-bouillon was a medley of seafood flavors, balanced by bell peppers and a dark creole sauce. Prices for entrees varied and reached upwards of \$20, but for bold flavors that were hard to find this far north of the bayou, Boudreaux's was worth the price.

# Whatever Floats Your Boat

by Sarah Hatten

The women of Alpha Sigma Alpha hosted their annual "Float-a-thon" on campus, and except for the rain at the end of the day, it was a very successful event. Alpha Sigmas rallied together by taking a dip in the campus fountains to raise money for the sorority's national philanthropy, Special Olympics.

The women brought water wings and a wide variety of floatation devices to liven up the pool party. More than thirty members of the sorority showed up to wade in the water and put on a show. They splashed around and entertained the audience all day. This was a very popular event and allowed the sorority sisters to have fun while contributing to their philanthropy. Float-a-thon got a lot of attention from students on campus and drew a big crowd.

The event started at 8 a.m. and was scheduled to last until 8 p.m., but was cut short due to thunderstorms. The members of Alpha Sigma Alpha floated through the day in shifts. The float was held in the reflection pool in front of Eder. Students were encouraged to come watch the float and make donations for the Special Olympics. The lunch was donated by American Gipper, a local scrubs store. All of the money collected from the event went straight to the Special Olympics.

Many students, faculty and people from the community showed their support for the Float-a-thon. Sophomore Morgan Lindgren said, "My

favorite thing about being an Alpha Sigma Alpha is the sisterhood and doing community service."

Float-a-thon is a good way for the sisters to bond and a very effective way to raise money. The ladies were very grateful for the donations and the support that came pouring in for their event. It was a great opportunity for the community to come together and support a good cause.

Kendra Ordnung, sophomore, said, "Float-a-thon is my favorite Alpha Sigma Alpha event. It's really inspiring to see how many people are willing to offer their time and assistance to be a part of this experience."

The Alpha Sigma members did not have to go too far to find supporters for the event. Students were drawn to the event mainly by word of mouth. The buzz on campus was "There are people in the fountains." Even passersby noticed the float and stopped to ask questions. The event was very rewarding for the sorority sisters who had been working long and hard to put it together. Float-a-thon was a great fundraiser, and it also raised awareness for Special Olympics.





LEFT: The ASA Sisters Carli Wright, Kerri Blackburne, Kendra Ordnung and Korutney Lamb hang out around the fountain, enjoying the event. The fountain in front of Eder was the location for the event. *Photo by Robin Gann*  
 TOP RIGHT: Amber Rivera, Sayre Roesle and Cami Solario participate in the event. The event was a big hit on campus. *Photo by Robin Gann*  
 MIDDLE RIGHT: Kourtney Lamb leisurley floats around at the event. The event brought them all together for a good cause. *Photo by Robin Gann*  
 ABOVE: Kendra Ordnung enjoys a relaxing float in the fountain. The smiles from the girls welcomed donations. *Photo by Robin Gann*



# Make it to the Market

by Jourdan Huffman

The sun beats down like its job is to melt those who inhabit the planet below it. That doesn't stop hundreds of Kansas City residents from exploring the sights, smells and tastes of the City Market in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. People flock from booth to booth, picking up fruits and squeezing them to test the freshness. There are flowers everywhere, in every color of the rainbow, blowing back and forth in the slightest breeze.

The City Market was created in 1857, more than 150 years ago. The market has acted as an easy way for local farmers and small business owners to link themselves to the community effectively. The market houses over 40 permanent tenants year-round, making it a hometown favorite for tons of Kansas City residents and visitors alike.

There are children everywhere, some crowding around the Queen, an elderly woman dressed in a sparkly pink ball gown who never breaks character, no matter what she is



FAR LEFT: This vender checks on her produce to make sure it is high quality and ready to sell. These vendors clocked in long hours on Saturdays and Sundays to peddle their products. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP LEFT: This little tot plays with the balloon animal and amuses herself at the market. Balloon animals were a hot commodity among children. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: A vender crafts a balloon animal to make sure the children are entertained. These hands worked quickly because there was always a line of people waiting to grab balloons. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

ABOVE: This beautiful orchid is just one of the many items up for sale at the Farmer's Market. People came to the market prepared to make sales. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

BOTTOM LEFT: A woman and her husband dress up in Renaissance style and bring delight to everyone they encounter. Many use the Farmer's Market as a tool to temporarily escape reality. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

asked. "Do you like working here?" people ask. "My dear, this is my destiny. Now, what is your wish?" she replies, waving a metallic, plastic wand in front of her face.

Just a few feet away from her is Stacey Lynn, otherwise known as the "balloon lady." Kids surround her, eyes wide open, watching as she turns inflatable masses of helium into cats, and dragons, and flamingos.

"I bring my little brother and sister here all the time," Western junior Elizabeth Elder said. "They love the balloon lady."

The City Market brings in massive crowds nearly every day, but the weekends are definitely the busiest. Families, hand-in-hand, walk the length of the market, stopping only to try authentic coconut juice smoothies, or to hear the trumpet player play, his top hat laying upside-down at his feet.

"The atmosphere here is just so unlike any other place I've been," Elder said. "I love knowing that a place this energetic, this beautiful, is so close to St. Joe."

The city market doesn't only offer produce and smoothies, though. Right at its perimeters are tons of local businesses, set up like a miniature strip mall. There are photography studios, souvenir shops and

restaurants. Delicious tenants like Burrito Bros., Bo Lings and Habashi House provide city market goers with top-knotch meal options.

On top of the succulent restaurant choices, the city market has also been a go-to venue for many Kansas City musical performances. The market accommodates up to 10,000 people, and the shows are always packed to the brim. Past performers include big names like Fallout Boy, The Killers, Death Cab for Cutie, Incubus and John Mayer. This summer, the market hosted up-and-coming folk band, Mumford and Sons for Buzz Under the Stars.

"I saw Death Cab for Cutie here," senior Brett Ryan said. "It was an awesome venue for a show, because it's outdoors, and there was plenty of room for everyone to stand, and even though I wasn't too close to the stage, I could see just fine the entire time."

With school pressures weighing down on Western students all semester long, maybe an escape into a 150-year tradition would be a nice change of pace. The city market is open every weekend, offering a plethora of fun, out of the ordinary activities for anyone who's willing to make the hour-and-a-half drive from St. Joseph to find them.





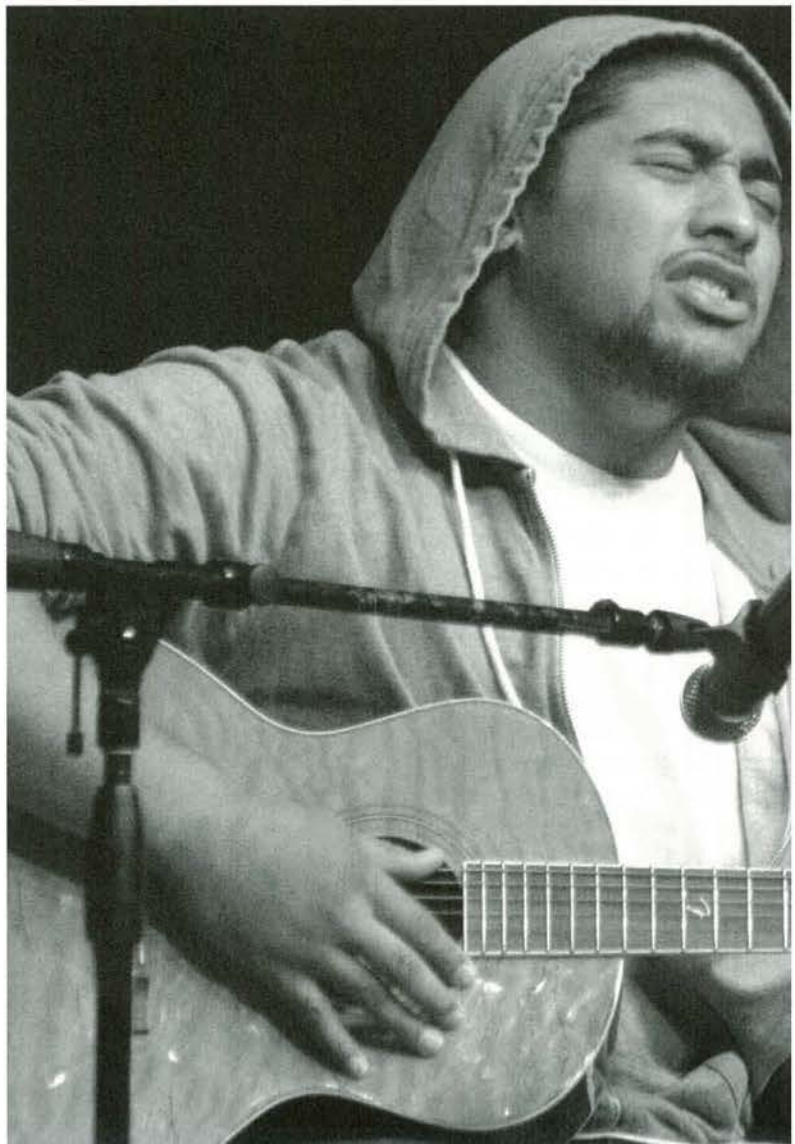
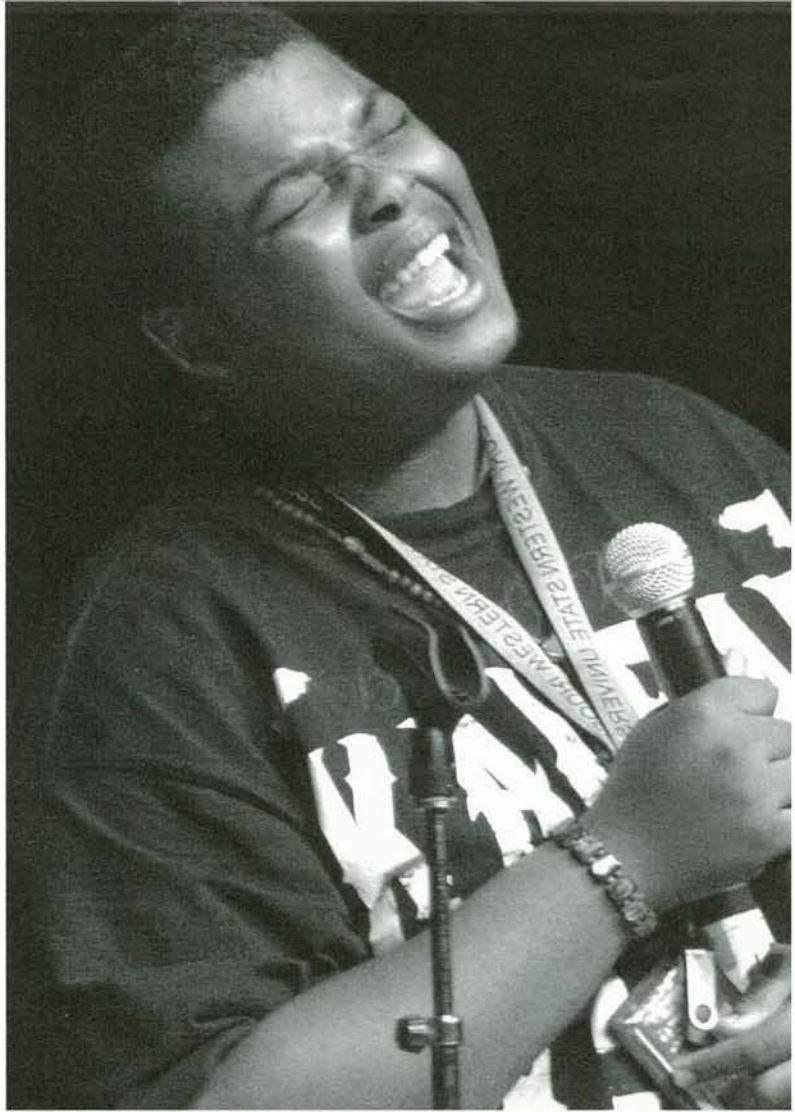
TOP LEFT: Lynn Trefzger is anything but serious in her hosting position. She uses her puppet to get the audience laughing. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

MIDDLE: Clay Rains plays the guitar and harmonica at the WAC Talent Show. He recieved third place. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

ABOVE: Lynn Trefzger gets a little help from two students in her ventriloquist act. Obviously, it was hard for them to keep straight faces. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

TOP RIGHT: Twan Rose belts out sweet music in the WAC Talent Show. He was animated and entertaining. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

RIGHT: Jeshrun Nuu played guitar and sang his way to victory. He was awarded first place in the WAC Talent Show. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



# Griffons with the Goods

by Olin Kinsey

One of the most anticipated events of the fall semester is the Western Activities Council Talent Show. Every year, WAC holds auditions for bands, singers, dancers, comedians, poets and other artistic performers. There were a total of 10 acts in this year's show. Of the ten, nine performances were all vocal and only one was a non-vocal performer.

The master of ceremony Lynn Trefzger was a known ventriloquist with a trunk full of zany characters that had accompanied her to stages throughout the country. This was Trefzger's third appearance at Western. In 2006, Campus Activities Magazine named Trefzger the Funniest Female Performer of the Year. With her kooky puppets Camelot, Judd, Emily and Chloe, Trefzger made it look easy to warm up the Western crowd.

Sophomore Krystea Taylor kicked the show off with her rendition of India. Arie's "Ready for Love." Sophomore Jesse Odom added his talent by accompanying Taylor by piano. Third place winner Clay Rains performed a song he called "Copperhead Road." Rains used a harmonica and his unique guitar to bring a different style of talent to the show. Nevertheless, Rains was still able to pump up the crowd with his southern, semi-baritone vocals.

By the fourth act, crowd members were already beginning to have a strong feel for the show. Junior Leah Hayes attended WAC's previous talent show in 2009 and could already

sense the changes made from the previous year.

"I'm actually glad WAC decided to move the talent show to Potter Hall this year," Hayes said. "There was a lot of great talent in this year's show, especially from the winner!"

Second place winner, freshman Dillon Woolston, performed a song he wrote himself. Using his guitar and catchy lyrics, it was no wonder he placed second. Woolston received a grand applause for his original song. In the end, there could only be one first place winner to shine above the rest. Freshman Jeshurun Nuu had the ladies' vote for the evening with his rendition of Jamie Foxx's "Wedding Vows." His acoustic guitar and sweet vocals definitely had most of the females in the crowd standing to their feet. When he received a standing ovation, there was no denying who the winner of the show would be.

Nuu dedicated the song he performed to his girlfriend who couldn't make it to the show. "This was just something I wanted to sing for her," Nuu said. "I really wanted to go out with a bang. I plan to take her out to dinner with my prize money."

BELOW: Griffon Hall is a mess of debris. Upperclassmen will be able to enjoy it and all of its amenities in the fall. *Photo by Robin Gann*  
RIGHT: The construction workers have started putting in windows and siding this spring. The dorms were looking more complete by the day. *Photo by Robin Gann*  
BOTTOM: The new dorms look less than complete in the Spring. By the fall of 2011, the halls will be immaculate and ready for students! *Photo by Robin Gann*





# Home Sweet Dorm Room

by Nicolette Muller

There's Beshears Hall, Logan Hall, Juda Hall, Leaverton Hall, Vaselakos Hall, Scanlon Hall and now Griffon Hall! Griffon Hall will be Missouri Western's new dorm, opening in the fall coming. See the construction site was worked on daily, getting the dorm ready for students.

These new dorms were made for juniors and seniors, with 60 credit hours or more. They were designed for apartment-style living, rooming four students to a room. If you don't want to use the school's issued twin sized beds, no problem! The student residing may bring their own bed up to any size. Each apartment will be equipped with its own full sized kitchen, with its own stove, sink and fridge. For dining, the rooms have their own breakfast counter with stools provided. Also, each unit has its own lounge with soft seating provided.

In the building itself, there will be large screen TV with soft seating for students to go relax after their long days at classes. The building also will have its own exercise room. These dorms try to provide everything to the students to make them happy and safe as well. There will be security cameras set up around the building with a front desk operation and gated parking.

"I lived on campus my freshman year in Scanlon Hall. Now I have my own apartment, but if I had to live in campus, I'd definitely go look at Griffon Hall next year. They look and sound nice so far. I bet some of the students attending Missouri Western are excited for them to open next year," sophomore Jordan Oldani said.

Students attending Missouri Western, living off campus, drive by Griffon Hall, thinking they look nice. Maybe the new residence halls will bring more and more students to live on campus and get more involved with school and other fun activities going on all around campus.

"They sound really cool," Amanda Ready said. All she knew about them was the 60 credit hour rule and driving by them gave her a great impression! Missouri Western is definitely a growing campus. Everything added is for the better of the school and students.

# They Came, They Saw, They Conquered

by Clifford Petersen

When one thinks of Italy, visions of great food, good wine, beautiful landscapes and romance come to mind. But for journalism and public relations students, the main focus was education and the chance to participate with their peers at international conferences.

Study abroad students attended the International Mass Media Conference in Athens, Greece and Information Technology and Journalism Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia this year.

Students selected from the Journalism 314 class presented research papers on subjects such as: "Interactivity and Multimedia on Newspaper Websites in Spain" by Lauren Dillon and Krysten Lantz, "Sacred Space; Front Page Advertisements on U.S. and Worldwide Newspapers" by Lauren Burbach and Jodi Oliver, "Celebrity Reporting; U.S. vs. World Newspaper Front Page Coverage of Michael Jackson's Death" by Alison Norris and Eboni Lacey, "The Changing Role of the Photographer in the Age of Convergence An Ethnographic Study of a Mid-Sized Newspaper" by Matthew Fowler, "Multimedia for Online Newspapers from Australia and New Zealand" by Kelly Findley and "Multimedia and Interactive Features of French Newspapers" by Krysten Lantz.

Dr. Robert P. Bergland Professor of English/Journalism and Griffon News Adviser attended as faculty advisor. Dr. Bergland said, "The trip was

17 days, with stops in Athens, Greece, Rome, Italy, Venice, Italy, Dubrovnik, Croatia and London, England."

Students were required to pay \$2,250 for the trip, but were able to get a \$300 study away scholarship and \$700 from the student excellence fund.

"I loved Europe I learned that America is very obsessed with clothes, fashion and celebrities," Sophomore Eboni Lacey said. Europe is very political, yet they are not media obsessed, which was very interesting. Something special I will always remember is the nightlife of Croatia. One night we went out and they played Rihanna. It was such an amazing night, I was able to see that every part of the world will get up, dance and just live it up, no matter where you are from or what is playing."

"Though they had some minor setbacks the students were a wonderful group to travel with," Dr. Bergland, professor, said. "Students were well received and able to make a remarkable impact on the conferences, surprising many in attendance that were impressed by the fact that they were Undergraduates."





TOP LEFT: Lauren Burbach Eboni Lacey, Lauren Dillon, and Jodi Oliver take a stroll across Abbey Road. The Beatles would be so proud. *Photo by Matt Fowler*  
 TOP RIGHT: A street performer in Athens, Greece breathes fire to the amazement of observers. Performers like this roamed the tourist-filled neighborhoods, where they could draw the biggest crowds. *Photo by Matt Fowler*  
 RIGHT MIDDLE: Jodi Oliver relaxes on the beach on the Greek island Aegina. It was one of the many stops of the two-week long trip. *Photo by Matt Fowler*  
 ABOVE: Dubrovnik, Croatia was where one of the conferences was held that the students presented their project at. This picture was taken from The Castle Wall surrounding the "Old City." *Photo by Matt Fowler*  
 LEFT: The group was able to visit the Parthenon in Athens on one of their free days. The Parthenon is a monumental temple, created for the goddess Athena. *Photo by Matt Fowler*

# The Gridiron Gals

by Noelly Collier

Whoever said that girls can't play sports as well as boys can was wrong. Western's Powderpuff football participants squashed that myth like they squashed their opponents. Western women were going out on to the field with their "A" game, ready to take down the other team. The powderpuff teams

were comprised of Western women students, all dolled up in the cutest football outfits they could find. Male students acted as coaches and referees, out on the field blowing whistles and running drills with the women.

Powderpuff football took Western by storm this year. This sport is a variation of flag football, created for women. All season long, the women were running up and down the field, snatching flags left and right.

The competition was fierce. Both teams lined up to face off, some of their faces already dripping with perspiration, the black paint of the eye black below their eyes caked on like mascara. After the first snap of the ball, the action took off like the feet of the participating players.

Quarterbacks were throwing balls to their teammates as if they had been doing it all their lives. Other girls were tackling and running into each other, disregarding the fact that this might leave them with a swollen lip or scraped up knee the next day. The ice packs and bruises that followed the games didn't matter. It was the competition running through their blood that

kept the girls going, and a few weren't afraid to show just how tough they really were.

Overall, the dynamic was friendly and the women grew both educationally and socially. "It was a lot fun; it helped me understand football when playing it," freshman Emily Thomson said, a member of the She-Unit team.

A lot of fresh-faced freshman students took part in this event, which proved beneficial for them, as they gained a lot of new friends, learning that those who play together stay together.

Sophomore Sondra Oribhabro lended her fancy footwork to her team, "The Gems." Oribhabro had so much fun this season that she will gladly take part in next year's rehashing of this intramural sport. On top of being inspired to take part again, Oribhabro gained the drive to get involved with intramural volleyball as well.

Oribhabro and her teammates made it to second place in the finals, while the "Bumble Bees" took home first place this fall.

When it came down to it, these Powderpuff women were tough, and they truly lived up to the old adage, "Anything you can do, I can do better."





TOP LEFT: A team comes together to return a kick-off. The girls wore flag football gear to avoid full contact hits. *Photo by Heather Heater*

TOP RIGHT: A powerpuff player gets the ball and runs like crazy to avoid other players. The games required some mad dashes to the player with the ball. *Photo by Robin Gann*

ABOVE: Team Fumblebees lines up for a team photo. The Fumblebees were one of many all girl teams to play this season. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

LEFT: A player from team Show Out runs a route for the ball. This year, many freshman women participated. *Photo by Heather Heater*





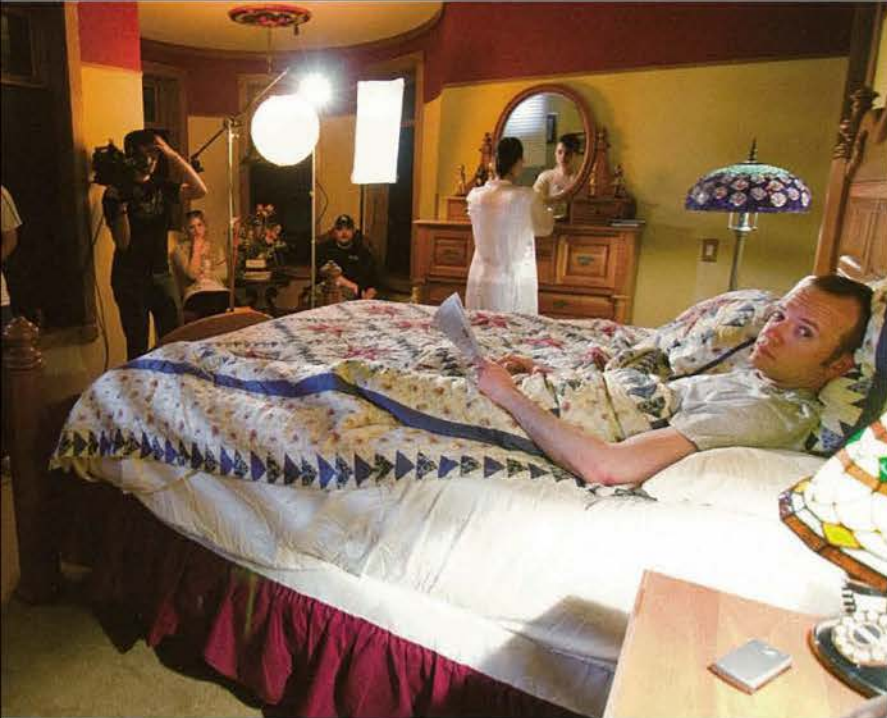
# Quiet on the Set

by Clifford Petersen

"Barenaked Ladies" have invaded the communications studies and theater department, affording a once in a lifetime opportunity. Assistant Professor Dallas Henry set the wheels in motion after contacting his friends and rockers "Barenaked Ladies". Having previously worked with them on the video "Wind It Up," Henry was able to bring to students studying communications and theater, the chance to produce, direct and write their own video for the band. Students wrote, submitting their concepts and storyboards to the band, out of which five were chosen to compete further, for the right to become their next music video.

"This is my first national level project. I have had experience doing commercial work for local musicians, but never a band with a national recording contract," said Michael Nelson, producer of Sarah Noe's video. "It was really cool to be able to work on something at this level and Professor Henry did a great job organizing the project."

Students learned a lot from this challenge that they



FAR LEFT: As the makeup artist on the set, Jeanna Ross works on making a complexion a bit darker. Jonathan Hobbs was an actor in the music video, after a bit of transformation. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 LEFT: The cast of one of the short films made in Prof. Henry's class awaits the roll of the camera. The class made a number of short films create portfolios. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BELOW: Hiding in a coat rack, Ian Quillin played a part in the music video as well. The boy was a fun part of the video. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 CENTER: One student director rolls the camera to have an action shot of volunteer actor David Allison. The students of Dallas Henry's class had a lot of hands on experience with this project. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



were presented with. "I learned so much that would help me later in life. It was wonderful to have Professor Henry on set guiding the directors when needed, but allowing us plenty of room to make our own mistakes," Sarah Noe said. "Never has a professor been that dedicated to helping his students. Working for the Barenaked Ladies only motivated us more! Knowing someone famous not only read what we wrote, but will be watching how we interpreted their song gives us so much pride and excitement."

One student director felt nothing but star struck. "I feel that we have had a wonderful opportunity given to us this semester that has never happened before, as Professor Henry has given us the possibility of creating something that may be used as a real music video in the months to come," student director Carlos Gomez said. "This is unheard of at MWSU. The department was working on a project that may well be seen by a very large community. The experience itself has tested my professionalism and forced me to do things as they're done in the real world, taking the applied learning that is Western's mantra and taking it up another notch."

Many of the Western participants were filled with pride after all the hard work was over. "I feel the work we

have done is something we can be proud of. The theme for our version of the music video was a game of hide-and-seek in an office setting. I learned so much of what it takes as both director and producer, or even crewmember on set of a music video," Erin Williams said. "My favorite part of the whole experience was how everyone on set seemed to work together as one big family. We had about six or seven crewmembers from the theatre/cinema department helping us throughout the entirety of our 1 day, 18 hour shoot."

Not only did the students of the film and theater classes get to work on a music video, but within a few different classes put together a variety of short films. Henry's Screenwriting class wrote the short films' scripts. The films were shot and directed by the Film Studies and Directing class and then edited by the class enrolled in TV Editing and sound checked by the students with the Sound and Audio class.

With all this team work the Western Film and Communications department put together short films and music videos like they were professionals. With all of this experience with writing, producing, and filming these students will be well prepared for what comes next.

BELOW: This jack-o-lantern's smile might have sunk but he had a lot of fun. Pumpkin carving was just one of the many fun activities. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 TOP RIGHT: Sigma women make halloween dreams come true. The women brought candy and fun activities for the kids. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: The kids sit in a circle, ready for a rousing game of Pterodactyl. For this game, participants had to try to say "Pterodactyl" without moving/opening their mouths. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



## Corn Maze

by Robyn Patti

A spirited autumn touch was added to St. Joseph and Missouri Western in the form of a large field of corn cut into the shape of our mascot, Max the Griffon. Brad and Amy Grooms made a corn maze out of their personal cornfield for the second year in a row.

The maze was cut by a professional who used a GPS tracking system to recreate Max into the corn, which was done when the corn got to be two to three feet tall. The maze took two hours to get through completely, and had different stations throughout that guests could stop at and stamp the tickets they received at the entrance in order to enter into a drawing if they made it all the way through. For Halloween weekend, the last weekend the maze was open, there was a Flashlight Night where guests could go through the maze after dark.

Max the Griffon was chosen to represent Western because he is an iconic part of Western pride, but he was also a part of the Grooms family. Brad Grooms' father, Max Grooms, was the founding member of Missouri Western's Gold Coat Club, and a huge fan of Griffon Athletics. Max the Griffon was named after Brad's father, so it was only appropriate to dedicate their maze to Max.



# Halloween Helpers

by Lauren Hicks

The Noyes Home mess hall was taken over by cowboys, clowns, princesses and Sigma girls?! For Halloween, the Tri-Sigma sorority made it to the Noyes Home to give the kids housed there a thrill full of candy, cupcakes, cookies, games and activities.

The sisters covered the tables with decorated tablecloths and spread a plethora of candy that came along with them across each table. The kids jumped around joyously, letting the girls know how appreciative they were.

"This is our first Halloween party at the Noyes Home but not our first time working with the kids," sophomore member Sarah Stranake said.

"Our plan is just to play games and make sure everyone has fun," junior member Monica Jones said.

The women did just that. Stranake suggested the game Pterodactyl which started off the activities for the evening. Everyone joined in a large circle in the middle of the mess hall and they began the funny game. Each person had to say "pterodactyl" to the person next to them. The catch was saying the word clearly without showing your teeth. Kids laughed as they attempted the task.

Once the exciting Pterodactyl game was over, they moved the activities to the tables. The women brought a couple popular games to play, such as Apples to Apples and the card game Blink. One girl who was dressed as a princess was asked if she was enjoying herself and she replied with a quick, "Yes!"

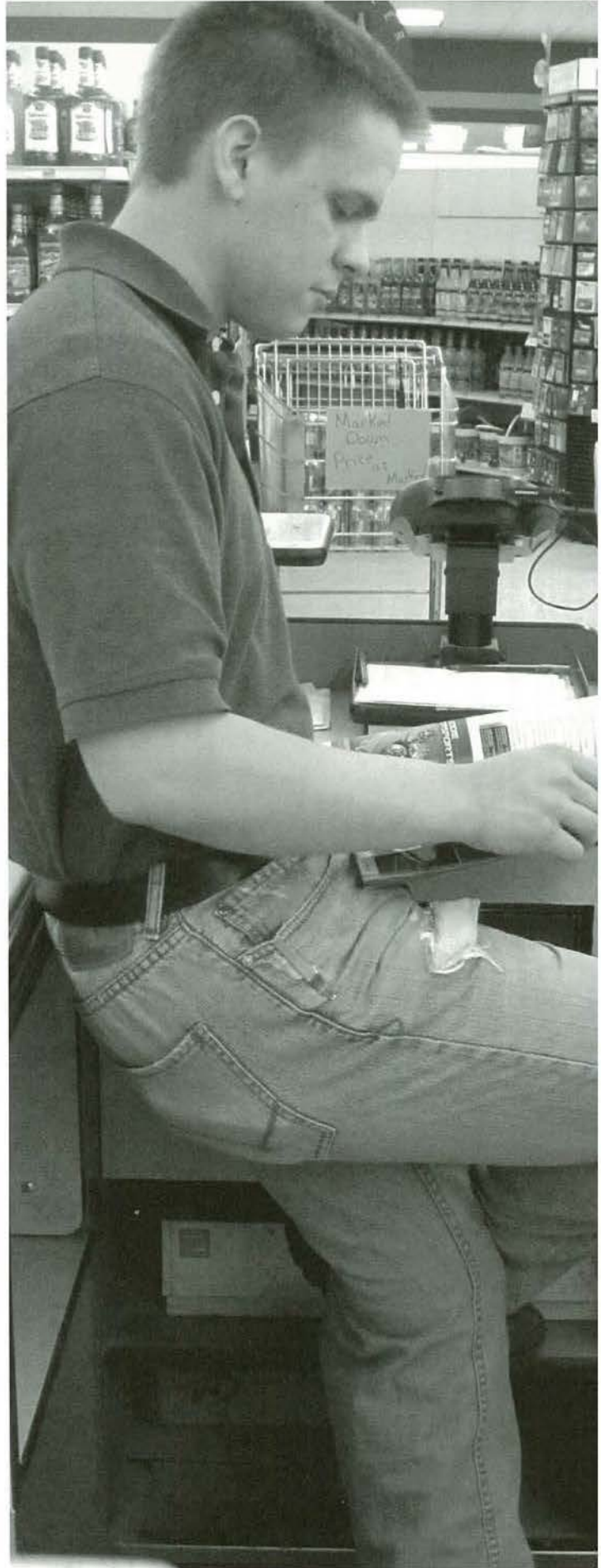
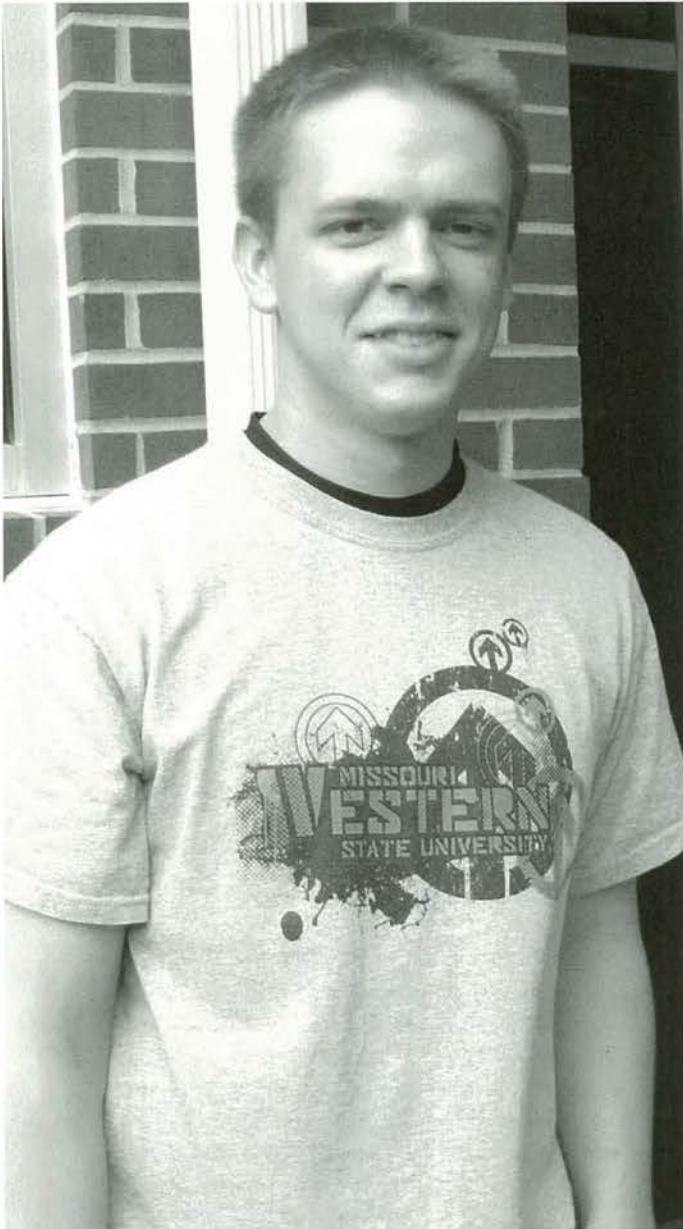
"We knew it would be so much fun. We just love them," Stranake said. "We definitely plan to continue working here with the kids."

The night proceeded with fun and games as the kids ran around laughing and playing.

"We've done a bunch of stuff with Noyes Home and they always ask us to come back," Jones said.

It doesn't look like this will be the last time the Noyes Home and Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters will be enjoying each others' company!





*All Photos by Lindsey Roberts*



# 'From Fishing in Missouri to the Sea & Beyond'

by Lindsey Roberts

As the sun warmed his skin, he took a deep breath, inhaling air that smelled of pine and dirt. The wind tussled his blonde hair as he knelt to pick up the white Styrofoam cup. He popped the top of the cup and ran his fingers through the wet

earth until he found what he was searching for. He pulled the wiggling worm from its hiding place and quickly fastened it to his hook. He returned to his feet and looked across the lake that seemed to go on forever. With one smooth move, he swung his rod behind him and cast the worm-loaded hook into the water. Plop. With a smile, he sighed. He didn't care if anything was biting. He was just glad to be there, in that moment. Those were the kind of days he was going to miss.

Aaron M. Schildknecht was a freshman at Missouri Western. In June, Schildknecht put down his textbooks to gain his sea legs at boot camp for the United States Navy. He chose to come to college first instead of enlisting right out of high school so that he could get a couple of semesters worth of general education courses under his belt before he went to boot camp. Instead of acting on a burning desire to serve his country, Schildknecht had two very different reasons for joining up.

"It seems to be a family tradition. My dad was in the Navy CB Reserves and a couple of my uncles have served in the Navy as well," Schildknecht said.

He remembers going down to watch the CB drills and the air shows they would put on when he was a child. "It was all kinds of fun," he said, "I figured, if they get to have fun now, what happens when I'm old enough to serve? It's got to be fun then."

His parents, Mark and Karen Schildknecht, were not all that surprised when they heard the news but they were still taken back by it. Both felt

that even though he had expressed interest in the Navy over the years, he never really came out and said that this was what he wanted to do.

"He had been talking about it for quite some time but never seriously," Mark said. "One night, he came home and said, 'Guess what? I joined the Navy.' We were surprised."

Karen believed that even though she would miss her son's humor and jokes, the navy would be a great experience for him.

"With the Navy, he will get a good back ground on work ethic," Karen said. "He will learn what is expected of him and to get the job done to the best of his ability and not just to slide through and get it done with as little work as possible. Work should be something you are really proud of."

Schildknecht plans to start his own business in Kansas City, upon the completion of his six-year stint with the Navy. He hopes to leave the open seas behind for a good burger, a cold beer and rock music.

"I'm going to open up a bar and grill," Schildknecht said. "It's going to be something high quality that's going to knock the competition out of the way."

For Schildknecht, it wasn't his family, friends or even his hometown that he thought he would miss the most while he was gone.

"I think I'm going to miss going fishing, because even though I'm going to be surrounded by water on a ship, nothing beats Missouri fishing," Schildknecht said.

# Hurray for RA's

by Cheyenne Davis

"Hey! Quiet down in there," students hear from their dorm rooms. Room advisers were not only in charge of keeping residential students who lived on campus from getting too unruly, but they also had many other duties that they were responsible for.

Room Advisers were in charge of setting up various dorm activities, taking turns at the front desk and showing leadership qualities.

Room Advisers were in charge of a few events throughout the year, too. Each month, there were at least two programs that RAs must be involved with. There were both "invented" and "interactive" programs. "The interactive program gets students more involved and the invented program is more passive where we hand out brochures or have a table of snacks," Alyssa Ostrander said.

When deciding whether or not being an RA was the right choice, there were some things to analyze before diving in. Students thinking about becoming room advisers pondered a few determining factors. Do I have enough time to devote to this? Am I a good time manager? What are my biggest priorities at Western?

"I chose to be an RA because I felt like I could be a better leader if I understood how students feel when they live on campus," Jacob Scott said.

Being an RA had many benefits. "Being a part of the student developmental part and getting students to be involved with things

that will last a lifetime is a major benefit, in my opinion," Scott said.

Most students living on campus shared a bedroom, but Room Advisers got to stay in a room by themselves. "It's pretty nice having more privacy and getting to have more room and space for yourself," Scott said.

"I love being able to live, work and learn all at the same place. I struggled to work at different places off campus. I really enjoy living on campus and what the community building has to offer," Ostrander said. "I also like getting to meet new people and getting to know them better."

Although there were beneficial factors, there were a few hardships that the RAs faced as well. "You have to be good at time management. Even when you're off duty, you're still actually on duty because you're "on-call" at all times. You have to always be available for the students' sake," Ostrander said.

However, not all Room Advisers have faced hardships. "So far, I haven't really faced any hardships," Eta Arrey said. "You just have to make sure to keep your time management and priorities in line."





ABOVE: Residence Assistants are around to help visitors and students alike to find their way around campus. The Commons building is a great place to find Residence Hall information. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

FAR LEFT: RA's provide students with necessary supplies such as toilet paper. They can be found in every dorm building. *Photo by Robin Cann*

LEFT: When an RA is on duty there are a lot of responsibilities on top of being in charge of the hall. Paperwork has to be filed, phones answered and questions responded to. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



# The See-Saw Shin-Dig

by Cheyenne Davis

Playing on the teeter-totters may have been a favorite childhood memory, but for the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, teeter-tottering was a way to spread diabetes awareness. The Teeter-Totter A-thon is a 24 hour event that is hosted annually by the Alpha Gamma Deltas.

To promote the cause, members of the sorority created colorful posters with the words "We totter for a cause... Diabetes research and awareness" written across the posters. The posters were displayed around campus on various bulletin boards.

Attracting attention from many bystanders and students walking to and from class, the Alpha Gamma Deltas blasted some popular tunes while the event took place. Two teeter-totters were located outside of Blum Union for the event. The event started at 10 a.m. in the morning Oct. 21 and didn't stop until 10 a.m. the next morning on Oct. 22. "We created a playlist for our music. We all love dancing because it always keeps us upbeat," said Hilary Whitfield.

Whitfield, who helped coordinate the event, joined the sorority last year. For the annual Teeter-Totter A-thon she took on the responsibility of the philanthropy chair in her Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. "It's all about raising money for the cause. I take it very seriously because my family has been personally affected by this disease."

Each member of the sorority was assigned a four hour time frame to be on the teeter-totters, which allowed everyone to take turns at different times. "Everyone in the sorority does it and has a time on the teeter-totter," said Bekah Spradling.

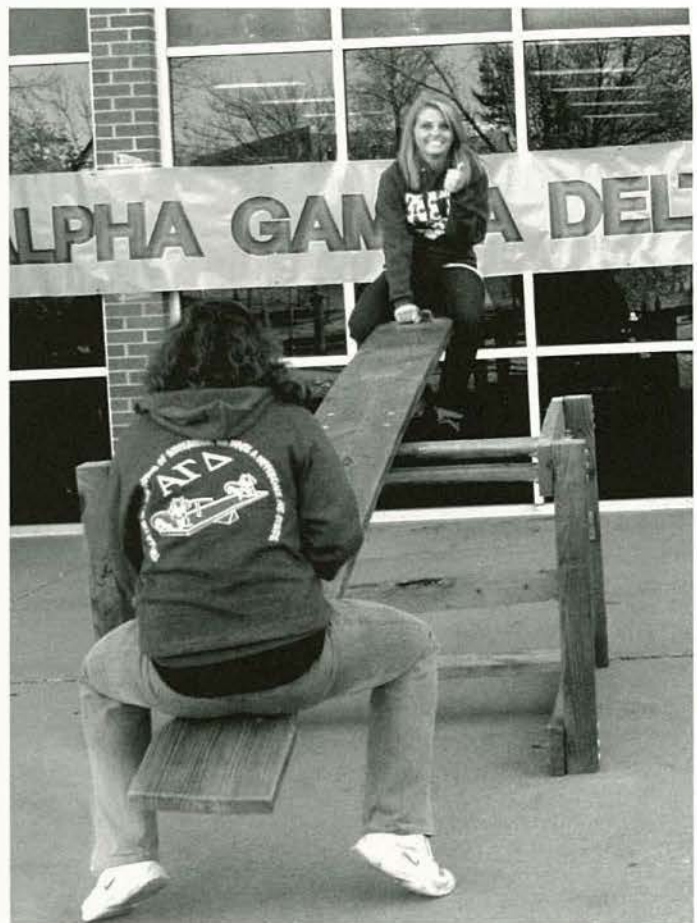
While waiting to do her stint, Amanda Starke said, "I haven't had my turn yet, but I'm really excited to teeter-totter for four hours."

Diabetes is a chronic disease marked by high levels of sugar in the blood. It is extremely important to raise awareness and help raise money for a cure. The Teeter-Totter A-thon is designed to help raise money through free will donations for diabetes research. Currently, there is no prevention for Type 1 Diabetes. However, maintaining an ideal body weight and healthy lifestyle, Type 2 Diabetes may be prevented.

"I think it's a really great cause because it takes a lot of time and dedication but you're having lots of fun while doing it," Starke said, "It's also important because it affects a lot of people and doing this helps make more people aware of it."

"I love it. It's a really great organizational cause and it's beneficial for everyone," said Spradling.





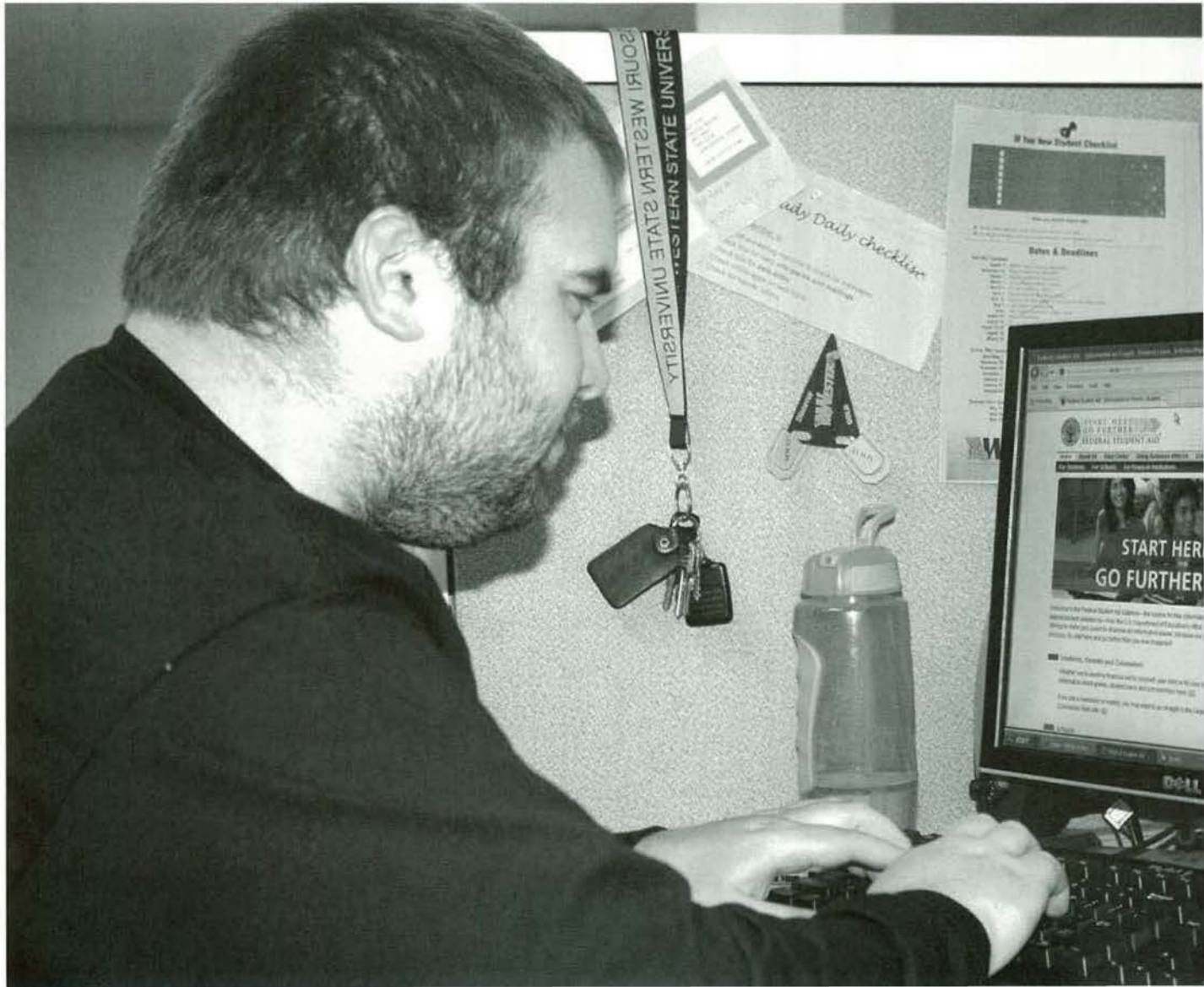
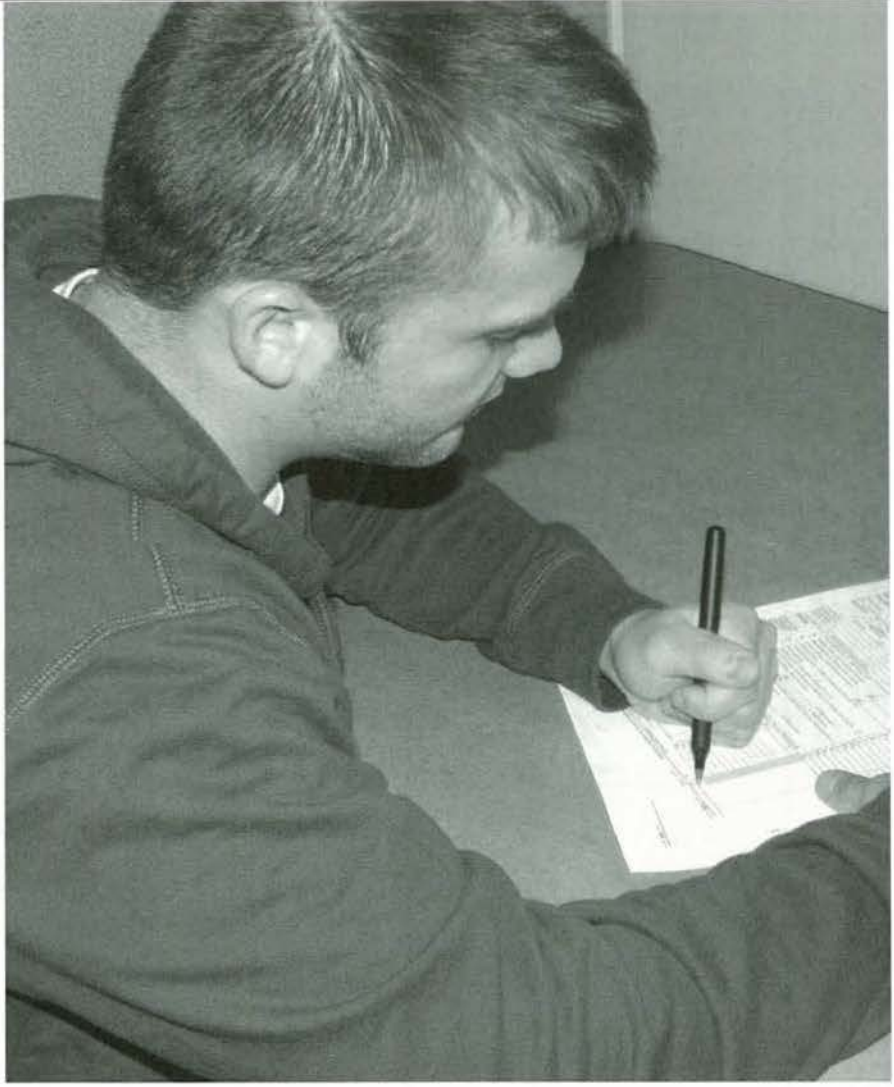
TOP LEFT: Having a great time teetering, Amelia Baker takes her shift on the teeter-totter. Each Alpha Gamma Delta member took turns during the 24-hour event. *Photos by Heather Heater*

TOP RIGHT: No longer a childhood memory, college students in the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority got to play on the teeter-totter for the Diabetes awareness event. Amelia Baker and Brandi Glenn had a good time helping out for the promotion to find a cure for Diabetes. *Photos by Heather Heater*

ABOVE: Sitting back on the teeter-totter, Kelly Findley participates in the teeter-totter-athon. Donations were welcomed at the event to help raise money for Diabetes research. *Photos by Heather Heater*

LEFT: Teeter-Tottering their way to find a cure, Alpha Gamma Delta finds a way to promote awareness of Diabetes with music, teeter-totter and fun Alpha Gamma Delta members. *Photos by Heather Heater*

TOP LEFT: Students could go to [fafsa.edu.gov](http://fafsa.edu.gov) to fill out their FAFSAs. Many students took advantage of the computers on campus. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
TOP RIGHT: Andrew Baxley fills out his FAFSA at the financial aid office. The priority deadline for the FAFSA was March 1st. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
BELOW: Alex Whitaker fills out his FAFSA the old-fashioned way. Most students resorted to using the web to fill out their FAFSA. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



# Frustrated by the FAFSA

by Clifford Petersen

The priority deadline for FAFSA filing was quickly approaching. Students who wanted the best chance at funding had to get his or her FAFSA filed before March 1, 2011. FAFSA operated on need basis; those with the greatest need were granted funding first. After that, it was a first come, first serve process.

2010 tax returns were necessary, as well as W2 forms. The funding received would go toward the fall and spring semesters for the 2011-2012 school year. Students were able to go online to fill out their FAFSA's at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) or they could go to the financial aid office in Eder Hall for assistance.

"The web site is pretty easy to navigate. However, you need to understand the difference between an independent student and a dependent student," Senior Shannon Ebling said.

A dependent student is a student who is claimed on their parent's tax return as a dependent or living at home with their parents, and an independent student is a student who is not claimed or living at home with their parents.

"Though the web site has a new feature with a direct link to the IRS auto filling your FAFSA form, the link could not be accessed, creating some frustration," Ebling said.

Western's financial aid office has filed forms for 446 returning students with a total of over 7,000 FAFSA's filed through Missouri Western, who anticipated over 37 million in funding next year from FAFSA.

February was the busiest time of year for the financial aid office because everyone was trying to get in before the deadline. "There is plenty of space and time to help anyone who

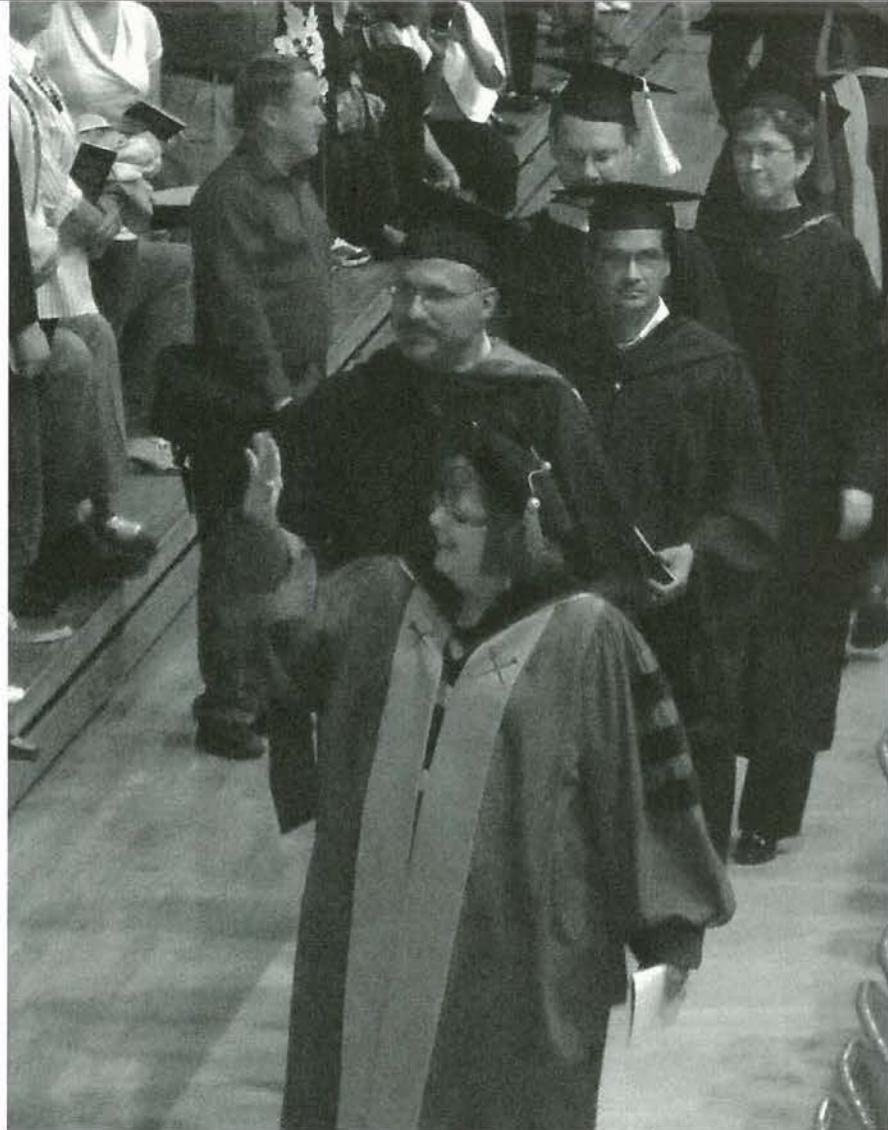
needs it," Marilyn Baker, Director of Financial Aid office said.

The Financial Aid office staff toured the region to local high schools to educate about FAFSA facts, helping parents and students prepare for aid assistance after high school, so that they can experience an easy transition from high school to college. Therefore, parents were better informed about their role in helping their child financially for educational purposes.

Federal aid is set up to help in a supporting role, offering the ability to gain a secondary education by providing money for college eligible students and families. Financial aid annually distributes over \$46 billion in funding for secondary educations.

Once the FAFSA form was filed, the information was also sent to outside lenders like the Perkin's Loan, which was a secondary loan for those who needed further help with tuition cost or living expenses. The information was used to determine if a student was eligible for scholarships, the College work-study program, and Missouri access grants. Though students can file as late as June 30, waiting to do so that late in the academic year could cause school funding to arrive later than tuition due dates, forcing students to pay out of pocket until their funding arrives.

BELOW: Dr. Bob Bergland has a profile on the rating website. Bergland was rated very helpful with 4.5 points out of five in overall quality. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
RIGHT: Allison Sauls leads the art department out of the auditorium after the graduation commencement. Sauls teaches Art History and is the Art Department Chairperson. *Submitted by Raphael'e Drew*  
BOTTOM: Faculty members strive to keep the goodwill and harmony flowing on campus. When the faculty members are happy, the students are happy, and the students will rank the professors high on the website scales. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*





# Where does Your Professor Rank?

by Clifford Petersen

Technology is always changing. You can check your email, check your Facebook, and pay your bills. Now, you can even check up on your professor. Ratemyprofessor.com was a website created so that students could compare and contrast the faculty within their universities. For example, the four or five Spanish teachers who teach Spanish 101 could be compared based on easiness, helpfulness, clarity, and rater interest. Students can even go as far as to leave comments based on a semester spent with a particular teacher. Each professor ends up with a smiley face or a sad face, depending on their overall rating.

In other words, in a matter of seconds, you can know the answers to a lot of surface-level student questions. Is there a lot of homework? Is she nice? Does he grade on completion? Is the class boring? These questions and more can be answered before you sign up for your next class.

Ratemyprofessor.com is easy to use, so easy that a lot of Western students are relying on it as a means of deciding what courses to take based on the professors that teach them. Students can log on instantly, just by typing in the webpage. Once they're on the site, they can look up their school based on a map of the United States. After that, students are presented with an A-Z list of all of the professors that students can choose from. They can locate the different professors they are thinking about taking classes from and choose based on the ratings that other students give them.

"It was easy to navigate, helpful and

accurate," Brian Gomez said.

Students who have already taken classes can get on the website and rate past professors as well, to help out other students in the future. They just need to answer a five-point survey about professors to help others determine what to expect from their classes. Students are also asked to comment on the professor in a blog or comment section. You can even find out how the school rates and answer a survey about campus life.

Though ratemyprofessor.com can be helpful, it is also pretty controversial, and some students don't like the system all that much.

"It seems like when I use a rate a professor program, I always get bad information. The program at MWSU is the worst. I made it through the classes, but it was not what I expected. I am still willing to look, but I feel it is too much up in the air in accuracy," David Farrow said.

Regardless, ratemyprofessor.com has become a very real outlet for students to determine what courses to take, and what teachers to take them from. Lumping professors into categories may not be entirely fair, but the popularity of students attempting to find the easiest, nicest teachers via ratemyprofessor.com isn't going anywhere.

# ABC's of Dorm Life

Story by Olin Kensey & Robyn Patti  
Photos by Heather Heater, Jeff Meyer,  
Courtney Slater & Robin Ussher

Living in the residence halls left room for many ups and downs. There were noisy and obnoxious roommates, terrible food and even times when students were completely broke! Aside from the small things, campus life could be one of the most enjoyable experiences one could experience during the college years. That's why it was very important to know the A through Z's of living in a MWSU residence hall.

By following these simple A to Z's of campus living, you should be able to have an fun filled campus living experience. The most important part of living on campus is the many relationships you will develop with the people you live with (Hint: It is "G"). If not, lets just say you've been warned.

# A

**ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED.**  
No alcoholic beverage is allowed in any residence hall.



# B

**BOTTLED WATER IS A MUST.**  
If you aren't from the St. Joseph area your taste buds will thank you.

# C

**CLOSET SPACE IS VERY LIMITED.**

You may have to improvise. Try only bringing what is essential and using the space you have wisely.



# D

**DON'T LOSE YOUR ROOM KEY.**  
Otherwise, you're spending almost \$20 to replace it everytime.

# e

**EARLY BIRDS GET BETTER SEATS.**

Leaving your dorm early is always a good idea in order to get a good seat in your class



# F

**FREEBIES ARE ALWAYS GOOD.**  
Going to Campus events is a easy way to get free stuff and be involved.

# G

**GET TO KNOW YOUR ROOMMATES & SUITEMATES.**  
Chances are that the friendships you make here will last a lifetime.

**H** HALL DIRECTORS ARE HERE TO HELP.  
They are always available to assist you whenever you have residential problems.

**I** INDEPENDENCE IS IMPORTANT.  
Always make time for you.

**J** JUST BE YOU.  
Being yourself is the best way to get noticed.



**Q** QUIET HOURS.  
Yes these hours are a real thing and they start at 10PM.

**R** RAMEN NOODLES.  
These are an inexpensive late night meal.



**K** KITCHEN STOVES ARE REMINDERS OF HOME.  
Stoves are included in most halls if you want to attempt to cook a favorite recipe from home.



**S** SQUEALING IS NOT A GOOD IDEA.  
Really think it through before deciding to tell on your room or hall mates.

**T** TRY PUTTING HOUSE RULES IN PLACE.  
Setting up some basic house rules can really make the difference in preventing conflicts with your roommate and suitemates.

**L** LATE NIGHTS BECOME REGULAR.  
Preparing for exams leads to many all nighters. Have plenty of brain food to keep you charged.

**U** UTILIZE WHAT IS OFFERED.  
Take advantage of the campus provides, whether it is free tutoring at the CAS or the free fitness center.

**V** VOLUNTEER.  
Volunteering time is a great way to giving back to our Saint Joseph Community, help others and meet new people.

**M** MANDATORY ROOM INSPECTIONS.  
Be prepared for Residents coming in to do the monthly room check and verifications.

**N** NOISE COMPLAINTS.  
Having noisy neighbors is a common thing. Make sure to have some good noise cancelling headphones.



**W** WEAR WALKING SHOES.  
Our campus encompasses 723 acres, 250 is occupied by buildings. So it is a must to have a good pair of walking shoes.

**Y** YELLOW ASIAN BEETLES.  
These critters invade the area in the fall so BEWARE!!!



**O** OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT EMPLOYMENT.  
Working on campus has many benefits, and can save a lot on gas money.

**X** XBOX 360 TOURNEYS.  
Tournaments are fun way to take a break from work.

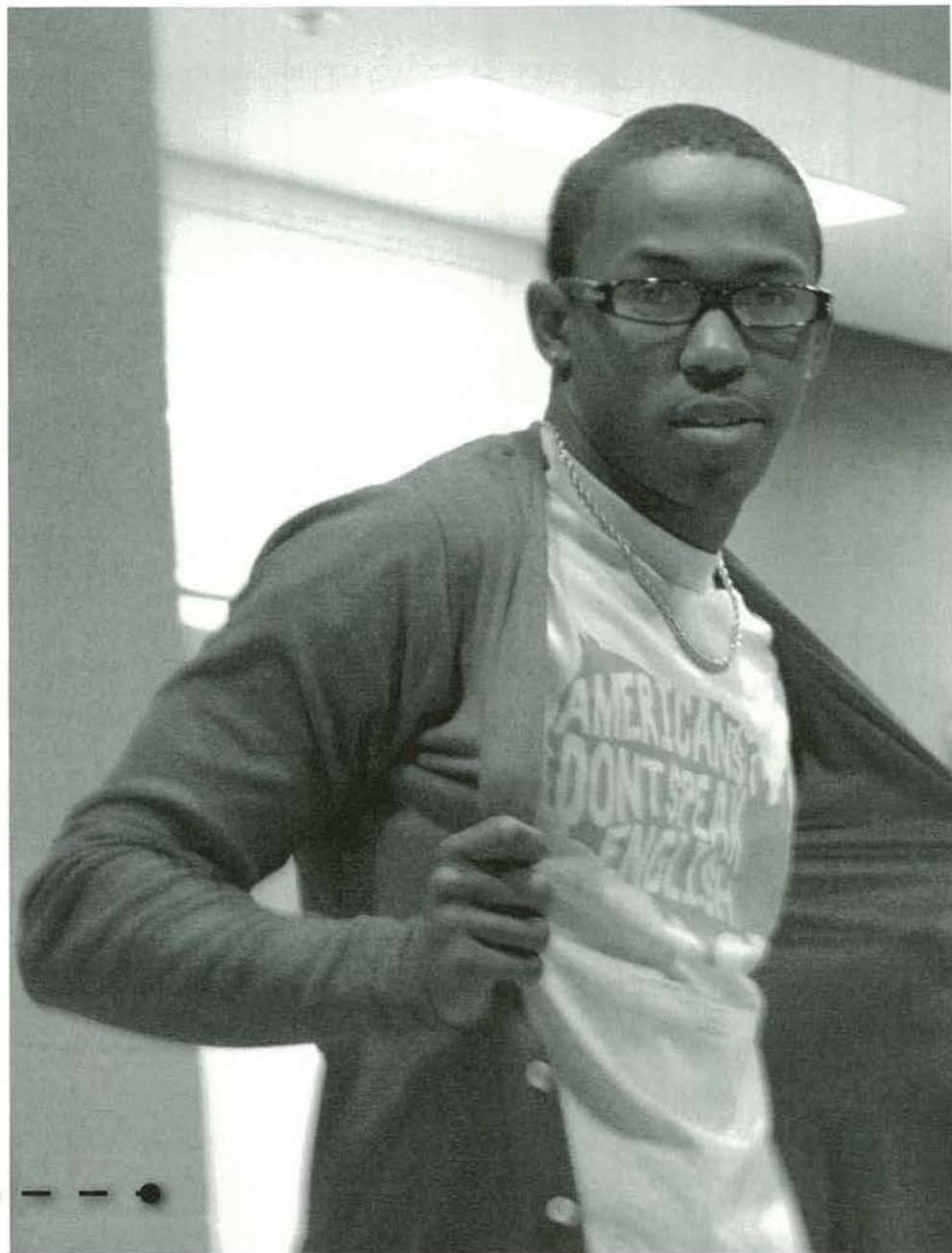
**Z** ZZZZZZZ'S.  
Keeping up on sleep is tough, so you have to do it when you can.

**P** PACE YOURSELF.  
Chances are you will have plenty of time to experience everything college has to offer.



# Passion for Fashion

by Robyn Patti



The Black Student Union and WAC brought an eclectic mix of style and fashion to the hallways of Remington Hall. The Fall Fashion Show consisted of a medley of student designers, Kansas City area designers and live music.

The second BSU fashion show was different than the first, with WAC funding the show this year.

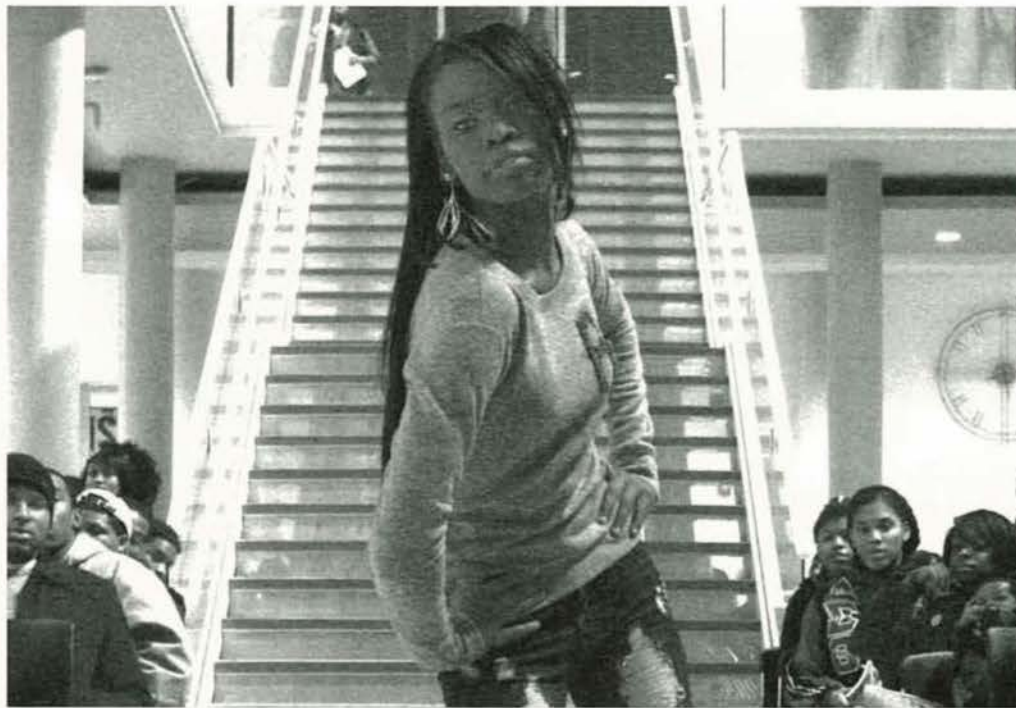
"We had a lot more participation from the student body," BSU vice president Jacqueline Waters said. "They were a little iffy last year, but a lot of students came out this year. I am very proud of how the show went and the amount of people here."

Keisha Caldwell of WAC helped with the planning of the show and understands the importance of the

BSU fashion show. "It gives a whole new perspective," Caldwell said. "It's a learning opportunity for students here. It shows the different types of culture and personalities that everyone has."

The appreciation toward WAC was evident. "Without WAC, we wouldn't have been able to get some of the designers or photographers," Waters said. Emcees, senior Tierra Brown and junior Shanay Primers, hosted the show with a lot of energy, telling jokes and talking with the audience while dancing to the music being performed. Brown and Primers, BSU members, represented their cause while hosting the show. Brown, with microphone in hand, spoke to the audience about being a positive part of the community.

"We always want to leave something positive," Brown said. "Out of every bad group, there are a few



FAR LEFT: Eman's graphics spoke for themselves. Eman was a student designer for the show. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

TOP RIGHT: "Ragged Edges" is a label from KC. "Ragged Edges" had a line of colorful embroidered tops. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BOTTOM LEFT: Eman had men's and women's looks in the show. His line had a variety of looks to appeal to everyone. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BOTTOM RIGHT: The dresses in "Rose Marie" were colorful and fun. There were a lot of looks in Collier's line. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BELOW: Noel Collier had a line in the show called "Rose Marie." She had a variety of tops and dresses. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



flowers, those that know how to act and know how to do the right thing. It will take awhile, but BSU is all about getting that positive outlook to students. How we sound as a community is a real thing."

The fashion show began with a former Western student designer from Kansas City, whose brand was called "Ragged Edges." Tamra Wright had been sewing for 2 years and this was her first show. Wright had colorful cotton tops with the Ragged Edges logo embroidered into each one. She displayed tops for both men and women, with a total of 18 pieces.

"The sewing was very time consuming, but it was my favorite part. For my first time doing this, it was a lot of fun," said Wright.

The next designer was Angelice Henderson, another Western alumni from Kansas City. Henderson's line, "Beautiful Obscurities," consisted of

a variety of tulle nightlife pieces and dresses.

During breaks between showings, live performances by Duane and Louis "Tray" Eddy were put on. Both rappers entertained the crowd with lines about their hometown of Saint Louis.

Sophomore Noelle Collier's designs were also showcased. Her line was called "Rose Marie" and contained a mix of dresses and tops for women.

Next came Chauncy Taylor's line, "Mary Francis." After hers was a line called "Money Grows on Trees," showing off restyled tops with the MGOT logo. The last designer to show was Eman Brian, with a 15-piece line.

"The show gets better every year," Brian said. "It's good to see a fashion focus on campus and people that are actually hyped about it."

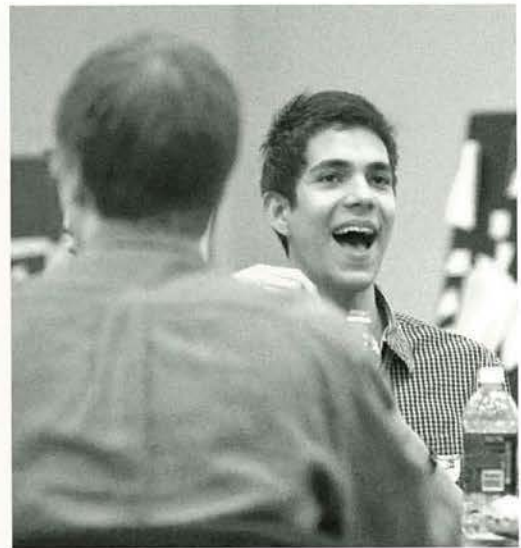


# Rewriting the World

by Jourdan Huffman

The pencils had minds of their own, words falling from their tips, hands clasping their yellow bodies tightly. High School Writing Day took Missouri Western by storm this year, as nearly 150 high-school level writers attended the event, which took place primarily in Spratt Hall and Blum Union.

The event, which lasted from 8 am to 2 pm on Thursday, March 10th, was put on by the Student Affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English. It featured workshops put on by both high school English teachers, and some of Western's very own, like Meg Thompson, Bill Church, Michael Charlton and Bob Bergland.



FAR LEFT: High school students from all over the city joined together to learn new writing techniques. Students played a trivia game and were able to pick up Missouri Western's Literature and Arts publication, "Canvas". *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

TOP LEFT: German Cuevas of Central high School takes in the spoken word event that concluded High School Writing Day. More than 30 students presented original works. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

ABOVE: Thinking hard and laughing all the way, the students played games through their lunch break. The writing workshops were a way for student writers to learn more about what could be in their futures. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

LEFT: The trivia game played while eating gave the students an educational break from writing. The students won prizes throughout the day, not excluding lunch. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BOTTOM CENTER LEFT: Elise Prendergast, a high school writer, flips through her notebooks during lunch. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

The event started with some breakfast and a group workshop, where students had to work together with those at their table to write out a hypothetical tweet based on a blown up image they were shown, the images ranging from tattooed hands to landscape scenes. Winners were chosen and given prizes based on creativity.

After the bulletin boards containing the images were chalk full of scrappy slivers of paper, the workshops began. Students were split up into groups, based on their own personal interests in a plethora of key writing elements. Some workshop choices included "Writing Graphic Fiction," "Using Extraordinary Writing on an Ordinary Moment," "Artwork as a Writing Prompt" and "Poetry and Songwriting: From Dre to Death Cab."

"I enjoy writing. I don't think I write enough. It's something that comes from the inside out. It is a feeling that is not irrationality, but it can't be measured," high school senior German Cuevas said.

After the workshops, students broke for lunch, standing like sardines in the long food line, waiting to grab their cardboard sandwich boxes so they could sit down and start chomping away. While everyone was finishing up lunch, SNCTE President Jessica Wilkinson started up a trivia game, based on literary knowledge. Question topics ranged from "The Great Gatsby" to Robert Frost to "The Grapes of Wrath." When students stood, raised their hand, and guessed correctly, their entire table was given a prize.

"I won two prizes!" senior Tory Foulk said. "My table is really smart though."

The event concluded with an open mic reading in the Kemper Recital Hall. Students from all over the city formed a line and read or performed their favorite pieces. Shaky voices and profound words filled the room, as one by one, students shared their craft with their fellow classmates.

# Band Together

by Lauren Dillon

Phi Mu Alpha brought the Battle of the Bands back to Western's campus on February 5 in Potter Theater. As the musical fraternity, they hosted a Battle of the Bands several years ago and did doing it again this year.

Zach DeFoe, a member on both the Fundraising and Social committees in the fraternity, headed up most of the planning for this event.

DeFoe, a freshman, had experience from planning 58 shows or other Battle of the Bands throughout the university. The show had seven bands that competed for prizes and one headlining group. Hellivate won first prize, which was \$150 and recording time in the campus studio. Break the Fall took second for \$100 and An Endless Chapter took third, which earned them \$50.

"It was awesome, and it gave Phi Mu Alpha some recognition," said Jonathan Hobbs, a member of the fraternity. "It will definitely have to be an annual event now."

DeFoe discussed how proud he was of everyone that helped and how well the event turned out. The fraternity raised more money than the previous event, which was their only goal.

Overall, Phi Mu Alpha made a net profit

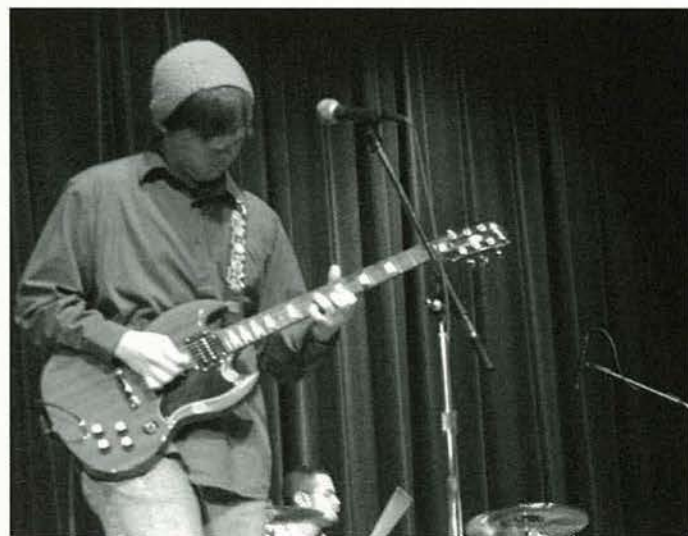
of \$500, which will go to paying dues and attending national conferences.

"I was just hoping for a positive profit, not in the red or break even," DeFoe said. "Each of the eight bands were given 50 tickets to sell to fans and almost all were sold. That's all I can ask for."

In planning any event, there are going to be difficulties, as DeFoe found out. The hardest part for him was locking in bands. They all had to submit recordings to ensure that they checked out. Then came the designing tickets and flyers and managing the final details.

"Shows this size would usually take about six months of planning," DeFoe said. "We came up with the idea before Christmas break, but most of the actual planning took place when we came back for the spring semester. The fact that we were able to pull it off in a couple of weeks makes me proud. But, next time, we will make sure to have it later in the year, because winter in Missouri is too unpredictable!"



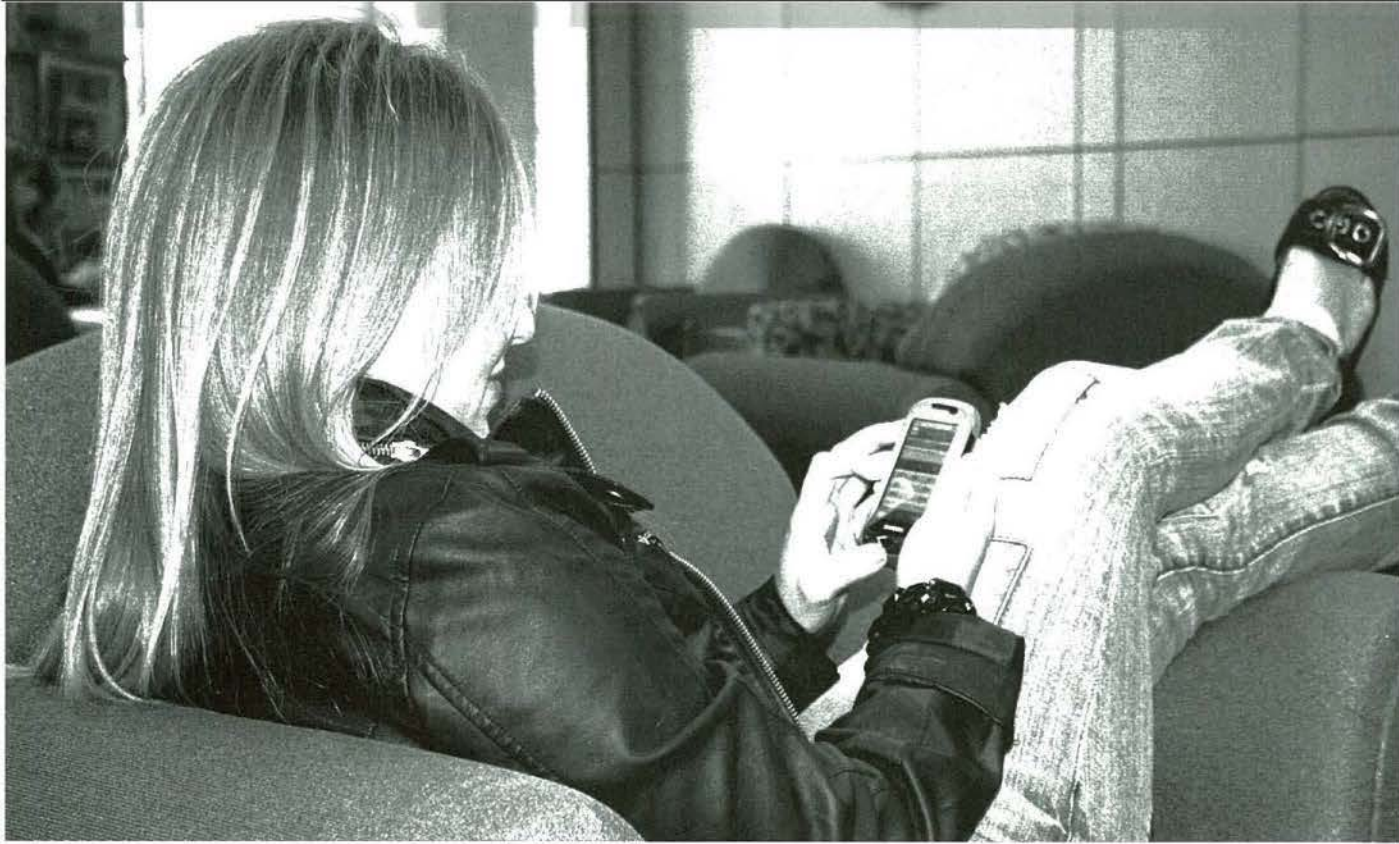


LEFT: Cure the Common, a local band from Kansas City, MO kicked off the big show with a bang. The first place winner was a local band called Hellivate. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

TOP RIGHT: Cure the Common's bass player jammed with his bandmates. This Kansas City band loved being able to perform at Western. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

MIDDLE RIGHT: The band's guitar player looks down at the notes he's playing. The edgy sound this band brought to the show made it even better. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

ABOVE: Ryan Lies gets during the concert. Lies was a member of the band Led Astray. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*



TOP RIGHT: Students all over campus can be seen twiddling their thumbs against phone screens. Some said it was a sign of the times. Others said it was inappropriate. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Texting during classes is a behavior that most Western faculty will not tolerate. Still, students found a way to multitask during classes. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

## Here are Some Common Texting Lingo

<3 = love  
 2day = today  
 2 = to  
 + = for  
 b4 = before  
 bc = because  
 bffl = best friend for life  
 brb = be right back  
 g2g = got to go  
 h8r = hater  
 jk = just kidding  
 l8r = later  
 lol = laugh out loud  
 oug = oh my gosh  
 r = are  
 roll = roll on floor laughing  
 srsly = seriously  
 tmrw = tomorrow  
 ttyl = talk to you later  
 u = you  
 w/ = with  
 w/o = without



# OMG, R U Txtng?

by Malia Sisk

Texting was a way of life for Western students. Texted sentences like "OMG, did u c wat happened last night?" or "TTYL girl!" or "I'm good. WBU?" swarmed all over campus, from cell phone to cell phone.

Texting lingo seemed harmless but when it started infesting student assignments, it was a different story.

"Text messaging is a major cause of texting lingo. Everyone texts and sometimes it just slips into your writing because you're so used to doing it on a daily basis," freshman Ariel Atkins said.

Texting lingo flurried around in the minds of many students, even taking over the way they wrote and presented essays for their English classes.

"Texting lingo just slips once in a while. I don't intentionally do it. It just happens sometimes," freshman Bryan Scott said.

Freshmen students, who hadn't yet grasped the expectations of college-level professors, were generally the prime suspects for the texting frenzy. Many freshmen students used shorthanded language to write their English essays, causing headaches for Western professors.

"I find students that use texting lingo very sophisticated code switchers; they know what they are doing and are very savvy about it," English professor Cynthia Jeney said.

Sometimes I think it has become a habit for them. I think the funniest part is shortening words that are already short to begin with."

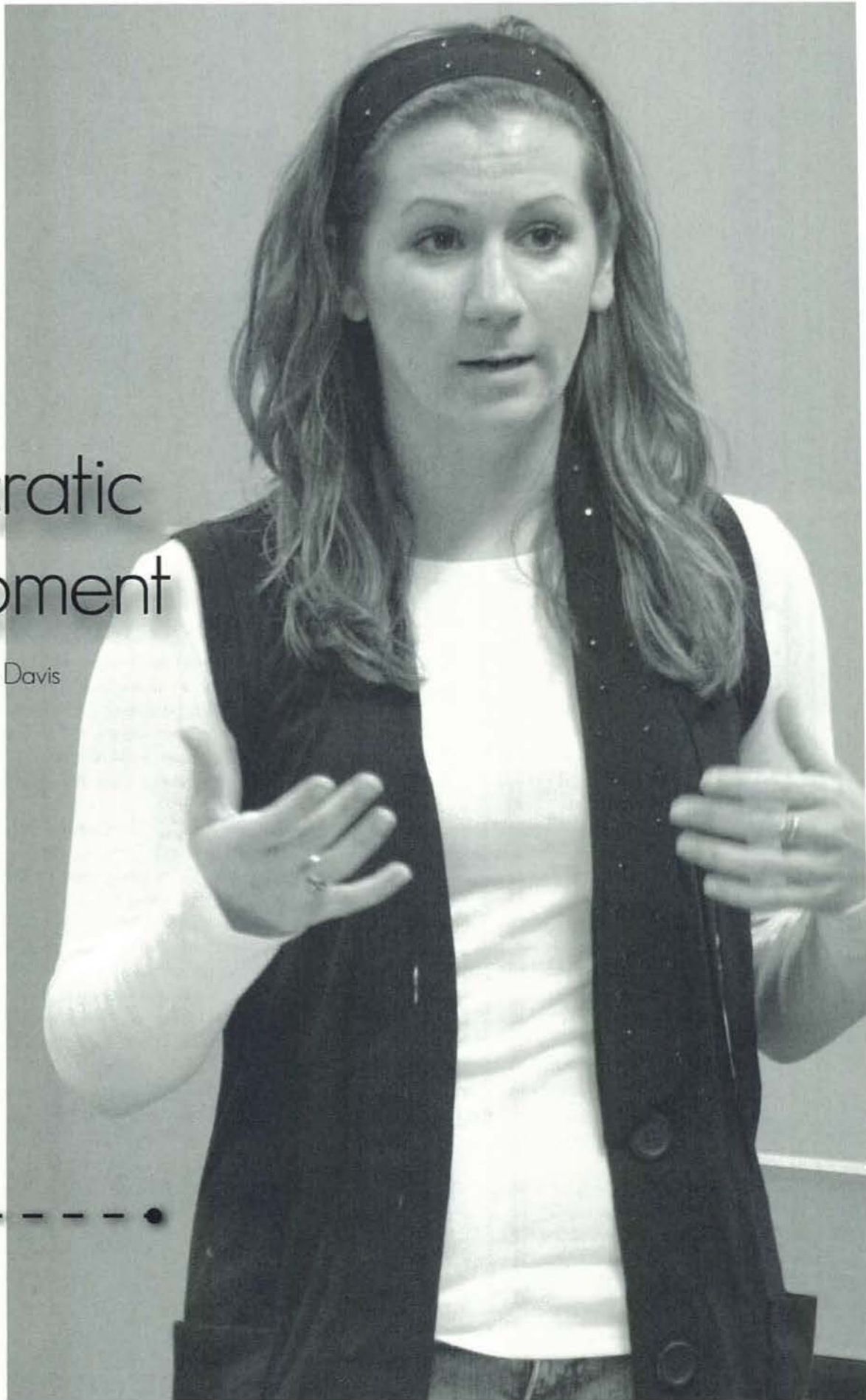
Technological advances had their downsides, and the unfortunate side effect of texting lingo being thrown into real-life assignments, was one of them. Getting papers done faster by using language shortcuts was the favorite among students. Convenience ruled at times, and sometimes, texting slang slipped into formal essays. After all, people have been using texting lingo for years, whether it be through letters, e-mail or cell phones.

"People save trees," Scott said, "while freshmen are trying to save the amount of letters in their papers."



Democratic  
Development

by Cheyenne Davis



LEFT: Jessica McMinn is the corresponding secretary for Young Democrats at Missouri Western. She spoke at the Young Democrats event. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

RIGHT: Bill Caldwell, who ran for State Representative place on November 2, talks about his campaign. He made some strong points during his speech that day. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

MIDDLE RIGHT: Amanda Johnson, vice president, explains what the Young Democrats group is all about. Since the club is so fresh, a mission statement was crucial. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

FAR RIGHT: Local and State Democratic candidates gather before the meetings begin. The club focused on political values and activism. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



As a political organization, the Young Democrats strived to engage members in their three organizational components: activism, education and socialism. This mission statement was posted on the web site of the brand new Western organization.

All students were allowed to join the Young Democrats club. By doing so, they were able to participate in social events so that current members and new members could make a connection with one another in a comfortable environment. The young democrats stayed up to date on current issues as well. To promote the new organization, the club posted flyers around campus with some sweet treats attached. There was even a Facebook page to help encourage support for the club.

The officers of the Democrats included president Matthew Hunt, vice president Amanda Johnson, secretary Derik Tiller, corresponding secretary Jessica McMinn and treasurer Cara Judd.

"Matt and I founded the club," Johnson said. "We tried starting one around the 2008 elections but it didn't work out. I knew I always wanted to start an organization so we planned to start one. Young Republicans have had their club going for a while and we felt that there needed to be a Young Democrats as well."

The Democrats Club planned fun and exciting events for students and faculty to participate in each month, such as movie nights and candidate debates.

"Our social events tie into educational academics too. Being VP puts me in charge of putting together our monthly themes and finding public speakers," Johnson said.

Starting up a Young Democrats club was a way to bring students into the world of politics. With yearly

candidate debates flooding the television, radio and Internet, it was beneficial for students to keep up with current events and be part of a group that took so much interest in voting. Although the Democratic Party was founded over 200 years ago, students taking part in this organization got to put a modern twist to it by stating their own beliefs and opinions in a safe environment during group discussions.

"It's important for students to know about current events. We are the future leaders of America so we should educate ourselves to create a strong core," Johnson said.

However, like all political parties, clubs and organizations, there were bound to be some disagreements or even arguments. Not all students felt that there was a need for politics on campus.

"Yeah, I vote and pay attention to stuff that affects me. But I don't need a club for that," Brett Allen said. "It's just a matter of watching the news and getting facts from all the political bickering."

The Young Democrats met on the first Monday of each month for business meetings and had a movie night or social event toward the middle of each month. The club also participated in community service projects like clothing drives in the winter months.

"People should know that there is a really fiery aspect to politics," Johnson said.



# Fun & Games

by Sarah Hatten & Robyn Patti

## ● MONDAY:

First off was speed dating. Missouri Western students met in a large conference room and dated the night away. The ladies wore nametags and sat at different tables and rotated every three minutes, giving everybody an opportunity to meet everybody else. Residence Council partnered with Western Activities Council to turn this event into a big ordeal.

"I am so impressed with the turnout. There was a lot of student involvement," junior Residence Council Vice Chair Jeff Stevens said. Over 70 students attended the event.

Louis Erby, junior who attended the event, found the love of his life. "She likes the same kind of music I do and she is a great conversationalist," Erby said. He liked the dim lights and the slow jams playing at the event. "There are lots of girls here but nobody even comes close to Amanda," Erby said.

Kathryn Parker is a sophomore who attended the event. "I have never been speed dating before, but I'm not opposed to doing it again," Parker said.



**FAR LEFT:** Lacey Modlin leads a Zumba session during RC Week. Modlin was a Zumba instructor and a Western student. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**TOP RIGHT:** Adam Caples sings his heart out at the Rock Band tournament. He had a smile on his face the whole time he was singing. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**BELOW:** Weston Baker beats on the drums at the Rock Band event. Tons of students joined in on the musical fun. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Rachael Manning struts her stuff in the Zumba event the Resident Council Week. Manning is a member of the ASA. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**MIDDLE:** Brittni Williams looks nervous while singing. Williams loved acting as lead singer during the Rock Band event. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*



## TUESDAY:

The next event was a Rock Band rock off. Teams gathered to compete in the video game Rock Band. "I do not really play video games but it was fun to hang out and meet new people," freshman Residence Council member Julie Hodson said.

Tasha Ewing, a sophomore, and attended the event because she loves Rock Band and she hardly ever gets to play. This event was a great way for people to show off their skills and try something new. There were four different teams who competed in the event and quite a few spectators.

Weston Baker, a junior, played in the band "The Arlen Gun Club" which he said was a King of the Hill reference. Baker's band won the showdown. His team was comprised of Brittni Williams singing, Robby Malone on the bass, Roy Yeomans on the guitar and Baker himself on the drums. The band formed right before the event and turned into a very successful group.

## FRIDAY:

The Residence Council week came to an end with the making of Valentine's Day cards for children who were admitted to Heartland Hospital. Jordan Carney, Missouri Western junior, participated in RC week all week long and she set up tables outside the campus bookstore so students could stop by and create Valentine's Day cards. There was construction paper and stickers and markers and glitter and all the ingredients to brighten a child's day.

"I understand most people are in a hurry, but it is such a great cause and it is really nice when people stop and help," Carney said. Tanner Torre, a freshman, stopped at the table to make the only Valentine's Day card he made for that holiday. "We need to help these children and cheer them up for the day," Torre said. The Residence Council delivered the cards to Heartland on Valentine's Day. It was a very successful week for the Missouri Western Residence Council.

All photos by Lauren Dillon



# The BRIDGE to Western

by Lauren Dillon

Theatre major. Golden Griffon recipient. Host of Western Reports. These were facts about Mallory Edson. But what about the interesting tidbits that were a bit more obscure?

She has an older brother by 13 years, and until recently, she was the only Mallory Edson on Facebook. She loved to dance, especially in random public places. All of those tidbits that seem inconsequential are the pieces that make up the eclectic, creative, and self-proclaimed awkward socialite, Mallory Edson.

With her pixie hair cut and mixture of retro and hipster clothing styles, Edson was the picture of a theater major. She has always known that is the direction she wanted to take her collegiate education in, even when she was young.

"I loved watching *Cats* on PBS with my mom. I would watch it and think that is what I want to do. I just didn't really realize what that meant," Edson said.

By living in the country, Edson spoke fondly of how they would make their own fun. Her brother loved Indiana Jones so they set out on many exploring expeditions, sometimes with treasure maps her mom would draw for them. Sometimes, they would act out movies they liked. Her favorite memory was when she and her friend read "Bridge to Terabithia" and then spent the whole day creating their very own "Bridge to Terabithia."

"In high school, I was very involved with our theater program. However, the thing about our theater program was that there wasn't one," she said. "One of our math teachers was the reason anything was put on, because she wanted it to happen. Our productions were usually thrown together and we would do our best. And I think that's where my desire to direct came from because I would have to step in and figure things out."

Because Edson grew up only thirty miles away from Western's campus, she vowed never to attend there as a student. It was too close and she was hoping to go to Missouri State in Springfield. But, once she received the Golden Griffon scholarship from MWSU, she was hooked.

"Technically, I have been a student at Western since I was six years old, because I took violin lessons at the Western Institute and my mom was a student here. So I was the traditional kid of a non-traditional student. You know, going to classes with her when there was no babysitter, eating in the cafeteria, and my first college theater experience was here," Edson said.

Edson was in an endless whirlwind of theater activities since she began school in August 2008. She has acted in three different productions, directed two, and helped in countless others. Keeping up with her on-campus job with the university's news program and her ridiculously long-named major (theater and video major with emphasis in technical production and directing and producing with a minor in English literature) along with all of her involvement with theater didn't leave Edson with much down time.

"When I am working with a production, which is almost all of the time," she said, "I live and breathe theater. But I see it as preparing for the real world. In the entertainment industry, you have to be ready for 15-hour workdays," Edson said.

Even though theater is her life, Edson could see herself working in almost anything in the entertainment industry, but would prefer either directing or editing film. "Editing film can be really fun, but tedious. But, when you're done, it's your vision. When you go to a movie and you say that the director was great, it was really the editor that you talk about. Because even though it was the director that did the planning and it's their idea, it would be nothing if they didn't have a great editor to put all of the pieces together," Edson said.

From her quirks to a childhood she considered normal, Mallory Edson was born to work in theater. Everything she has done until now has paved the way.

# On Air in 3-2-1

by Robyn Patti



The saying "No news is good news" did not apply to the new variety show put together by Western students. Beginning as a media project for Dr. Rosenaeur's Multimedia Lab Production class, Journalism 214, a group of students took the assignment one step farther, creating a weekly news show to be aired on Missouri Western's Campus TV station.

Host and co-creator of the "Griffon Today," Ellis Cross, was one of the students who had a collection of great ideas that all led to the creation of the show.

"The show really is an evolution of the class," Cross said. "I and a few other students just decided to go a different route with our assignment than the regular multimedia used."

There was a variety of student involvement with the show, which lent itself to production, filming, hosting and even a makeup artist job.

The makeup artist was senior Natalie Miller, who had also done performance makeup for the actors of the play, "Phantom." Miller used the opportunity to increase student involvement and meet a few more people before heading out to the real world.

"This was a fun and easy way to get involved just that much more on campus," Miller said.

Some material covered in the features section was

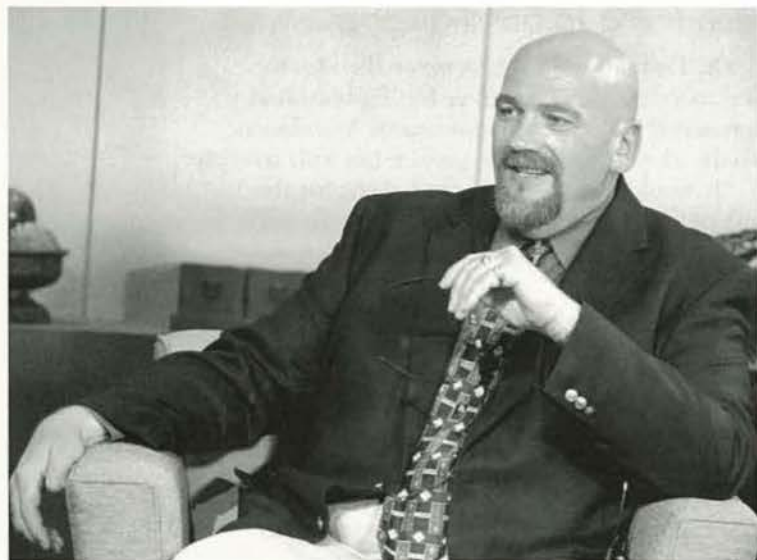


**FAR LEFT:** The crew of Griffon Today works behind the camera as the film rolls. The show was born from a project in the class 'Multimedia Production Lab', taught by Dr. Rosenhaur. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**LEFT:** Guests on Griffon Today usually have a great time, as did Jeff Meyer and E.J. Tangonan while talking with host Ellis Cross. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Ellis Cross was a host of the news show. Cross was a co-creator of "The Griffon Today," and he brought to life a creative idea for a project. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

**BELOW:** Producer Ryan Scroggins chats with host Sarah Hatten and the show's guest before taping begins. Scroggins was a vital part of the show's smooth running. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*



interviews with President Dr. Vartabedian, and Esther Peralez, the vice president of Student Affairs. Also highlighted on the show was student work from all around campus. From artwork, to writing, to theater productions, different students received a spotlight for their hard work. Not only did the work itself shine on the show, but the student responsible for each work was asked to come onto the show to talk about their projects and to let other students know a bit more about their subject of study.

Sports producer Nick McCutcheon was originally a standard sports host for the first tapings of "The Griffon Today." He relayed the scores and highlights of local and national sporting events, keeping sports fans current on the latest news. After a few shows, though, Jessica Cook took the spot of Sports Reporter and McCutcheon moved to a more behind-the-scenes position with choosing the content of the sports

section and finding the material to cover. McCutcheon thought the show was a great way to create an outlet for multimedia broadcasting that students hadn't been able to achieve previously.

"This is a great opportunity for students to get involved, especially those interested in journalism and broadcasting," McCutcheon said. "I'm not sure how long I will be a part of the show, though, because I want other students to get out of it what I have."

"The Griffon Today" had a long road ahead of them but the students worked hard to pave the road to being a legitimate news show that students could rely on and look forward to seeing.

"Eventually we hope to have a name on campus," Cross said. "But we will have to build a reputation first, and that will take diligence and hard work, which I know the team has."



# "One Man's Trash..."

by Robyn Patti

Within the state of Missouri, there are 25 major universities and colleges, and Missouri Western was the only one without a campus recycling program. Junior Vanessa Withee was a student representative for the Sustainability Committee of Missouri Western. The committee has been trying to bring a campus-wide recycling program to Missouri Western and was led by Dr. Elizabeth Sawin of the Honors and English Departments and Dr. Tushaus of the Honors and Criminal Justice Departments.

Dr. Sawin began recycling on campus with the help of her honors students, who were held responsible to bring their bottles and cans to be recycled. There were two boxes in the English Department in Eder and two in Spratt Hall in the Honors Department, Rooms 201, 203 and 205 for the last few semesters. The Honors students also encouraged those who lived in Vaselakos Residence Hall to bring their plastic bottles and aluminum cans to be recycled.

Dr. Sawin recycled thousands of cans and plastic bottles every week, hauling the huge bag to her husband who sorted it and took it to be recycled.

"That amount is just with four makeshift recycling bins," Dr. Sawin said. "Imagine if we had the same all around campus."

Dr. Sawin was not the only faculty member to see the need for a recycling program on campus. Art Professor Neil Lawley also had a hand in recycling on campus. Lawley is adamant about helping our environment and was helping out the campus by taking the bin in Potter Hall to the recycling center on Francis Street, in downtown St. Joseph. He also had his students use recycled items for their art projects. Lawley has seen a successful recycling program at the university he taught at previously, and had great ideas for helping Western.

"The main thing would be more receptacles," Lawley said. "The students need to see recycling bins all around before they will be inclined to actually recycle."

Dr. Tushaus will not give up on the idea to bring recycling to our campus. Dr. Tushaus had approached the Student Government Association with the idea of funding the project, but with no reply.

"It would be a really positive thing for the Student Government to do," Dr. Tushaus said. "If we could get the funding, they could have their name on all of the bins and could really use it as a great tool to get students involved."

The Sustainability committee worked with a budget of about \$16,000, not nearly enough to get everything up and running.

"At this time, we cannot find a way to come up with the money," Withee said. "There are also a few other issues such as finding a collection point on campus, getting students who are interested in getting a little dirty and mainly, finding a company that will collect plastic in St. Joseph."

The recycling center on Francis Street would take plastic, but would not pick it up, so the issue was finding a company that would haul it off campus. Extra funding would help interested students find a cooperating company that can be reimbursed accordingly for their help.

"Recycling is part of being a good steward," Dr. Tushaus said. "As a university, a leader in education, Western should be a leader and model of how to be a good steward to our community. What we are modeling now is very much a throw-away community which needs to be changed."

Efforts from students and faculty led the fight to go green. The strides made would not be forgotten, and the battle continued until the end of the spring semester. With a new year could bring a new recycling program to western.





LEFT: Graduate student, Amy Chastain, does her part by recycling her plastic bottle. This recent recycling initiative was easy for students to get involved in.

*Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: This is one of the recycling boxes that Dr. Sawin placed in the hallway. The honors professor would recycle about ten bags of bottles every week.

*Photo by Courtney Slater*

MIDDLE RIGHT: Dr. Elizabeth Sawin clears out the recyclables every week. She was responsible for starting up and maintaining the recycling program.

*Photo by Courtney Slater*

ABOVE: Students happily participate in the recycling effort. Easy to use bags and boxes were placed strategically all over the campus. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# Laugh Out Loud

by Robyn Patti

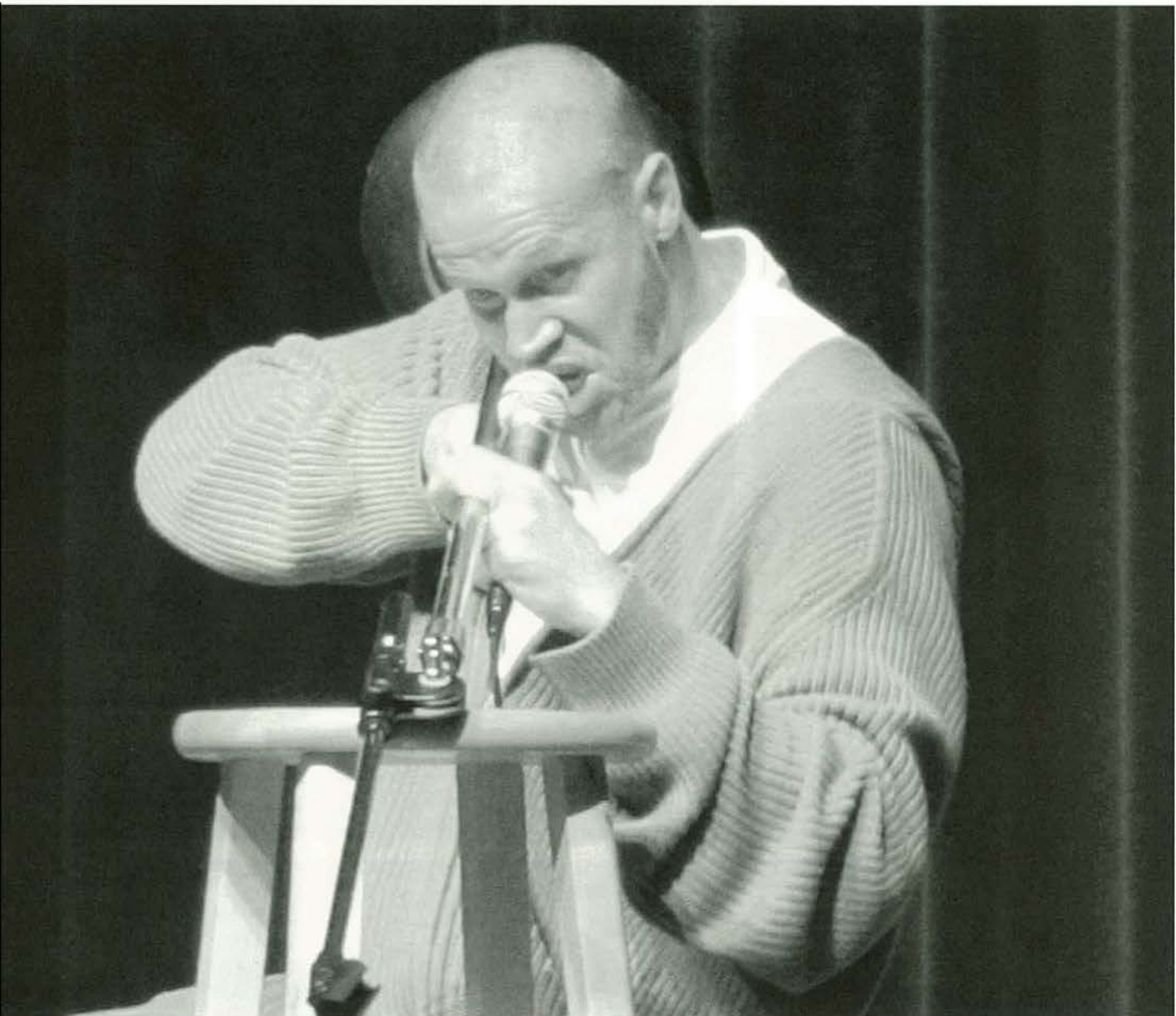
After all the hullabaloo that followed the comedy show last homecoming, this year's comedy show had a lot of people wondering how it would turn out. The Western Activities Council made the 2010

comedy show an 18 years and older only show, and that helped alleviate a lot of the problems of the previous year's show. The turnout was impressive and students had a lot of fun. Senior WAC Vice President Brittany Taylor helped organize the show this year and assisted in the lineup of the comics for the show.

"I liked the fact that the show was for 18 years and older this year," Taylor said. "It allowed everyone to just relax and enjoy the show more."

The comics who performed were all very entertaining and brought a lot of great material to the stage, including a very funny impression of President Obama by Cory 'Zooman' Miller. Zooman is a seasoned comic who has worked with people like Dave Chappelle and Cedric the Entertainer. He said he enjoyed the show he put on for Missouri Western and that the audience was very receptive.

"[I] have to be aware of the audience when [I] perform, aware of diversity and what's going on,"



Zooman said. "I give back the energy I feel from the audience." Apparently he felt a lot of energy from the students, as his energy was great.

Zooman is well known in the comic arena, with a record deal to distribute his stand-up routines and cameos on television and commercials. With his talent and style, it's no surprise that he has such a hefty list of credentials. Having him on campus and a part of our Homecoming celebrations was exceptional.

The entire comedy show was a hit, including performers Nema Williams and Doug Williams, as well as Cory 'Zooman' Miller. The comedy show has become an integral part of Western's Homecoming week of fun. A lot of the student looked forward to the comedy show.

"I had a lot of students asking me when and where the comedy show was going to be this year, and making sure it was going to happen again," Taylor said. "That's how I knew it was a big part of Homecoming."

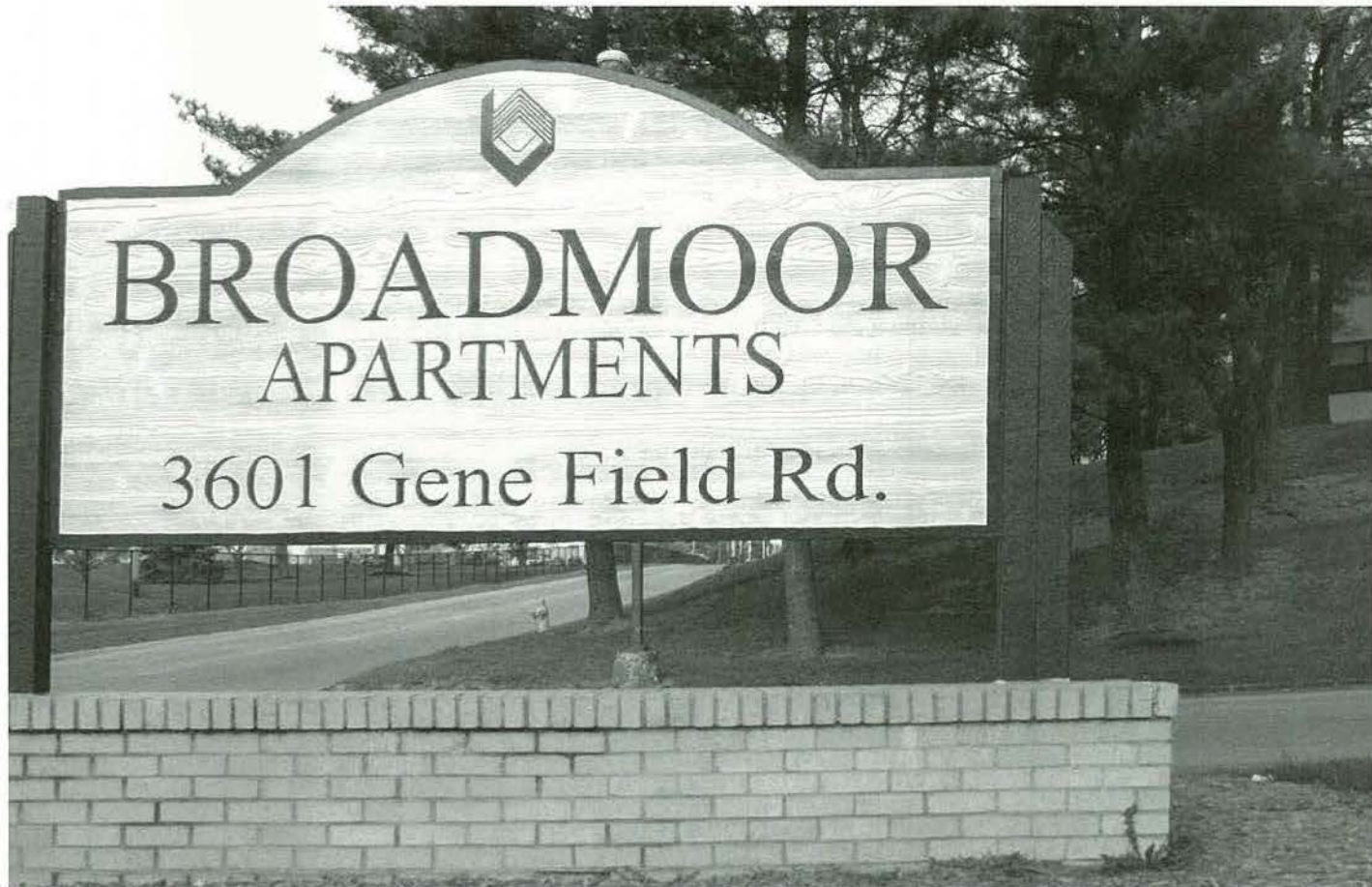
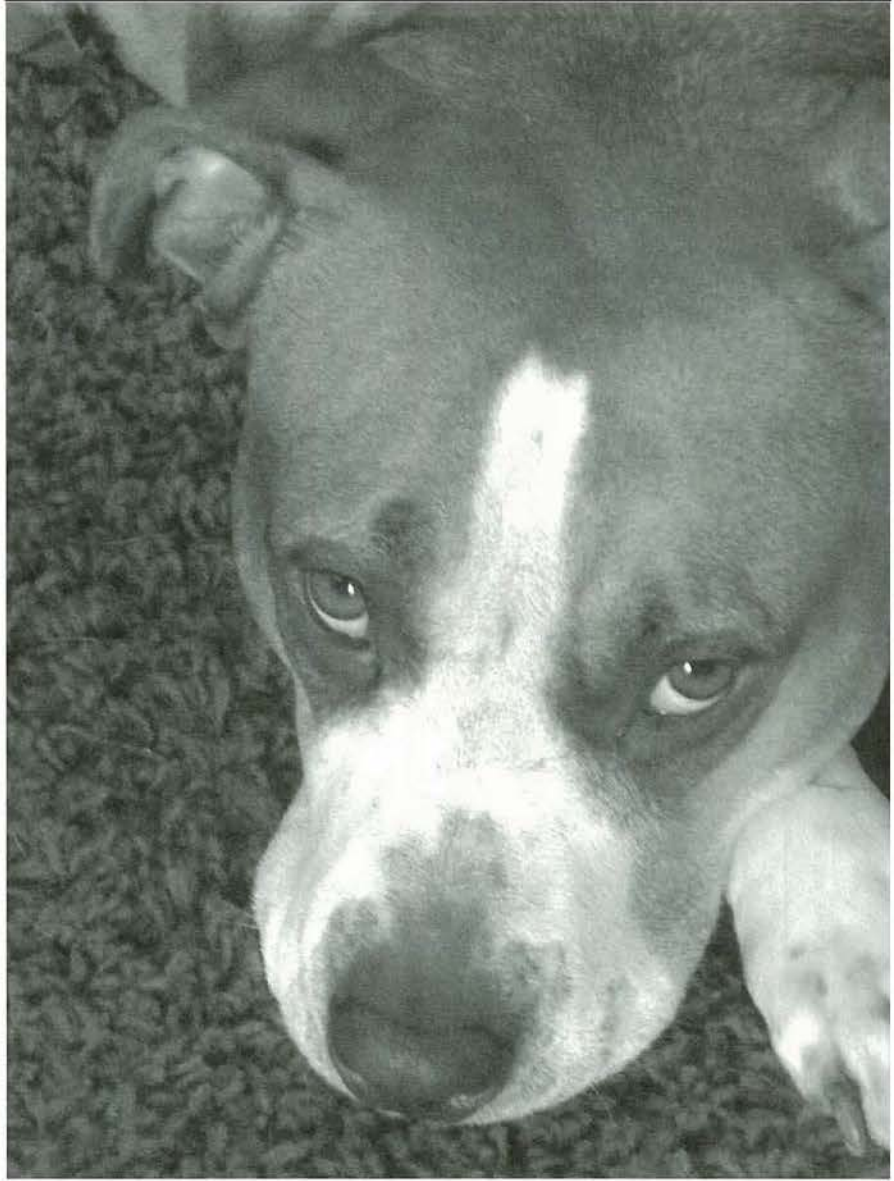
ABOVE: Cory Miller checks himself out in one of his jokes. His set was hilarious. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
MIDDLE LEFT: Cory Miller lays down the law in his set. He was so down to earth and hysterical. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
BOTTOM LEFT: Doug Williams

gets the crowd riled up with his entertainment. His set was a huge hit. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
FAR RIGHT: Nema Williams gets the crowd rolling when he pretends to use the microphone as a gun. His jokes were very animated. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

RIGHT: The great thing about living off-campus is the right to own pets. Sage the pitbull lives with a Missouri Western student and loves every minute of it. *Photo by Raphael'le Drew*

Bottom: The Broadmoor Apartments is a popular place for college students to live, with its affordable rent and nearness to campus. Broadmoor is located on Gene Field Road and offers students one, two or three bedrooms and also has a pool, more commonly known as "Broadmoor Beach." *Photo by Robin Ussher*

Below: The small kitchen in Broadmoor is enough for Harvey Jackson. Keeping his apartment clean is important to the student, but the dishwasher helps! *Photo by Courtney Slater*





# Home Sweet Off-Campus Home

by Olin Kinsey & Nicolette Muller

What's it like to have bills, to have freedom and to be able to have a beer in your fridge without getting in trouble for it? Students who live off campus know all about these advantages, as well as a few disadvantages, like having to pay for Internet and cable every month.

Students were drawn to the idea of having their own house or apartment because they didn't want to deal with on-campus regulations. Learning the facts before living on their own was very important though, especially before they decided to sign a lease on an apartment or house.

On-campus rules kept many students from wanting to live there. On-campus students had to find a place to stay when each semester ended, as they had to move out of their dorms then. One of the biggest reasons students chose to live off-campus was based on roommate situations. Sharing personal space and personal belongings played a major role.

"If you decide to live off-campus, you might still have to get a roommate," senior Harvey Jackson said. "With that, you have to worry about whether or not everyone can make rent on time and even risk getting some of your utilities cut off. That's something you never have to worry about if you live in the halls."

The first step to living off-campus was deciding if it was affordable. Next, students had to find a place that they liked. Once they moved in, the fun of having their own place began. Living off-campus had many advantages that didn't come with living in the dorms.

"I like my privacy and I don't have to follow

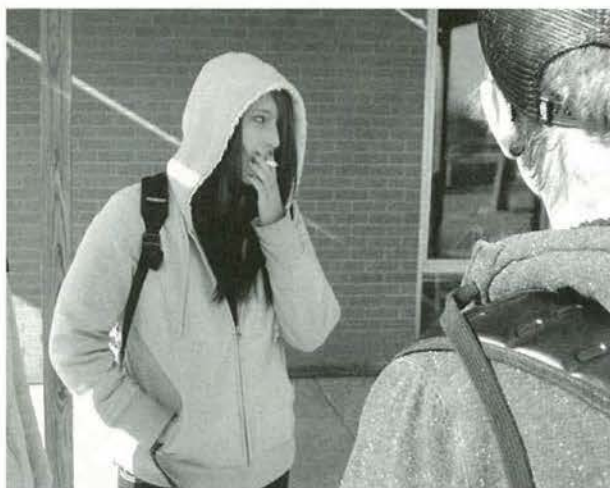
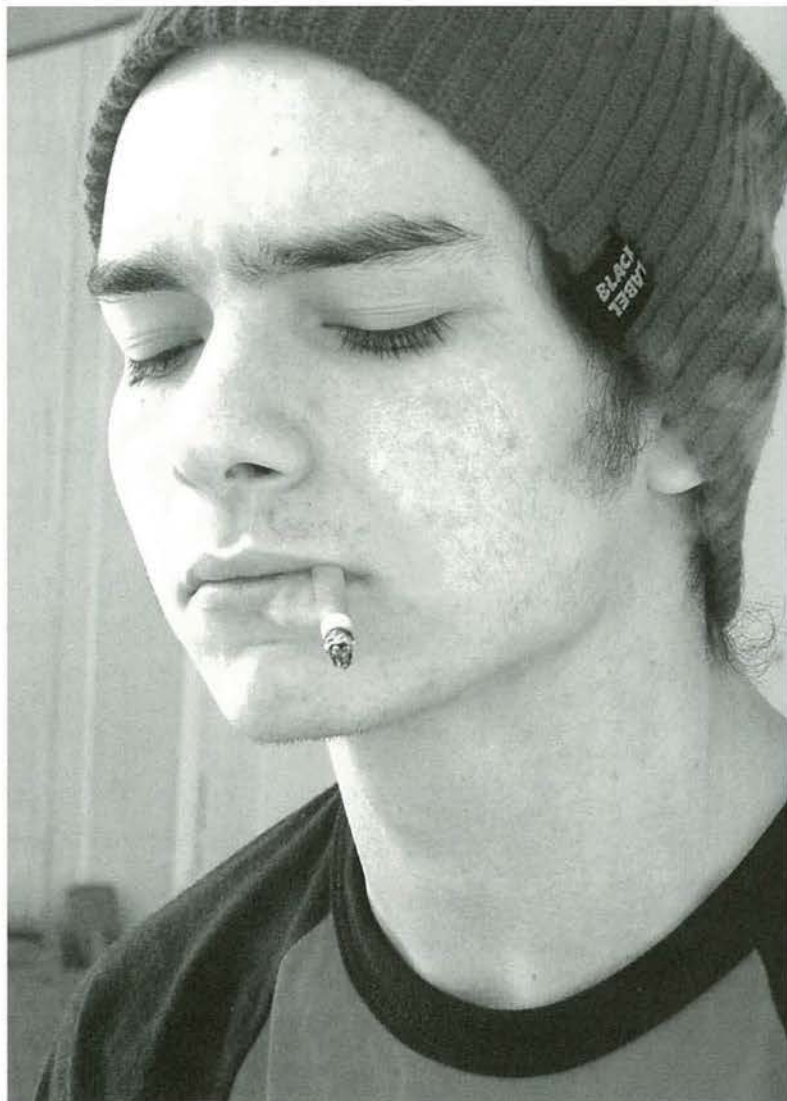
anybody else's rules. I make my own rules at my home. My fridge is bigger than me, I have a stove in my kitchen, and I am allowed to have my dog," junior Chris Linton said.

With living off-campus comes a responsibility as well. It was the students' responsibility to keep up with the maintenance of their house or apartment as well as to save up for the rent and bills that needed to be paid. Some students saw this added headache as an additional benefit though.

"The responsibility of bills prepares me for the real life," junior Amanda Ready said.

There were pros and cons to both living off-campus and staying in the residence halls. Private apartments on-campus were usually quieter and allowed for fewer distractions, but students had to rely on a meal plan and, in some halls, had to kick their visitors out at a certain time. Off-campus students didn't have to deal with a required meal plan, but they also had to commute to Western daily.

With an apartment or house came one's own privacy, a personal kitchen, and in some places, even pets. Off-campus dwellers got to make their own rules, their own meals and their own decisions. Regardless of a student's choice, the college experience was always going to be based on what a student put into it.



TOP LEFT: This sign hangs on all buildings on campus. Students were only allowed to smoke outside of buildings. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

TOP RIGHT: Hunter Richie exercises his right to smoke between classes. The smoking ban debate on campus finally came to a head in March. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Students discard their cigarettes in ashtrays and trashcans all over campus. The smoking ban did not pass, so students were free to smoke outdoors at Western. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

ABOVE: Danielle Hoskin smokes in the breezeway between Eder Hall and Murphy Hall. It was this area that non-smoking students were most concerned about placing the smoking ban on. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

MIDDLE LEFT: Micah Burrow and Lance Moore chat between classes. The boys stood outside of Potter Hall to get their smoking fix. *Photo by Molly Thomas*



# When the Smoke Clears

by Clifford Petersen

There is a new fire on the Griffon campus and the debate was beginning to heat up. Should Western go to a tobacco free campus or not; that was the question before the SGA and student body.

Peter Gregory, Student Governor and author of the new proposed tobacco policy said, "The main goal of the policy is to promote a healthier life style by being role models, to eliminate littering by beautifying the campus, and to reduce the loitering between Murphy and Eder Hall."

The complaint is that smokers do not abide by the tobacco policy, thus creating the demand to have a tobacco free campus.

"There is a rule about the use of chewing tobacco in the buildings as well," Gregory said. "It is not a very welcoming sight for visitors to see when touring the campus, as they leave Eder and run into a wall of smoke, trying to make their way into Murphy."

Student Kat Whitley said, "I think the campus needs to put a roof on the smoking area, add a couple more smoking areas away from others and leave the smokers alone. If there were coverings over the smoking areas, then people would not be under the porches with the non-smokers so much."

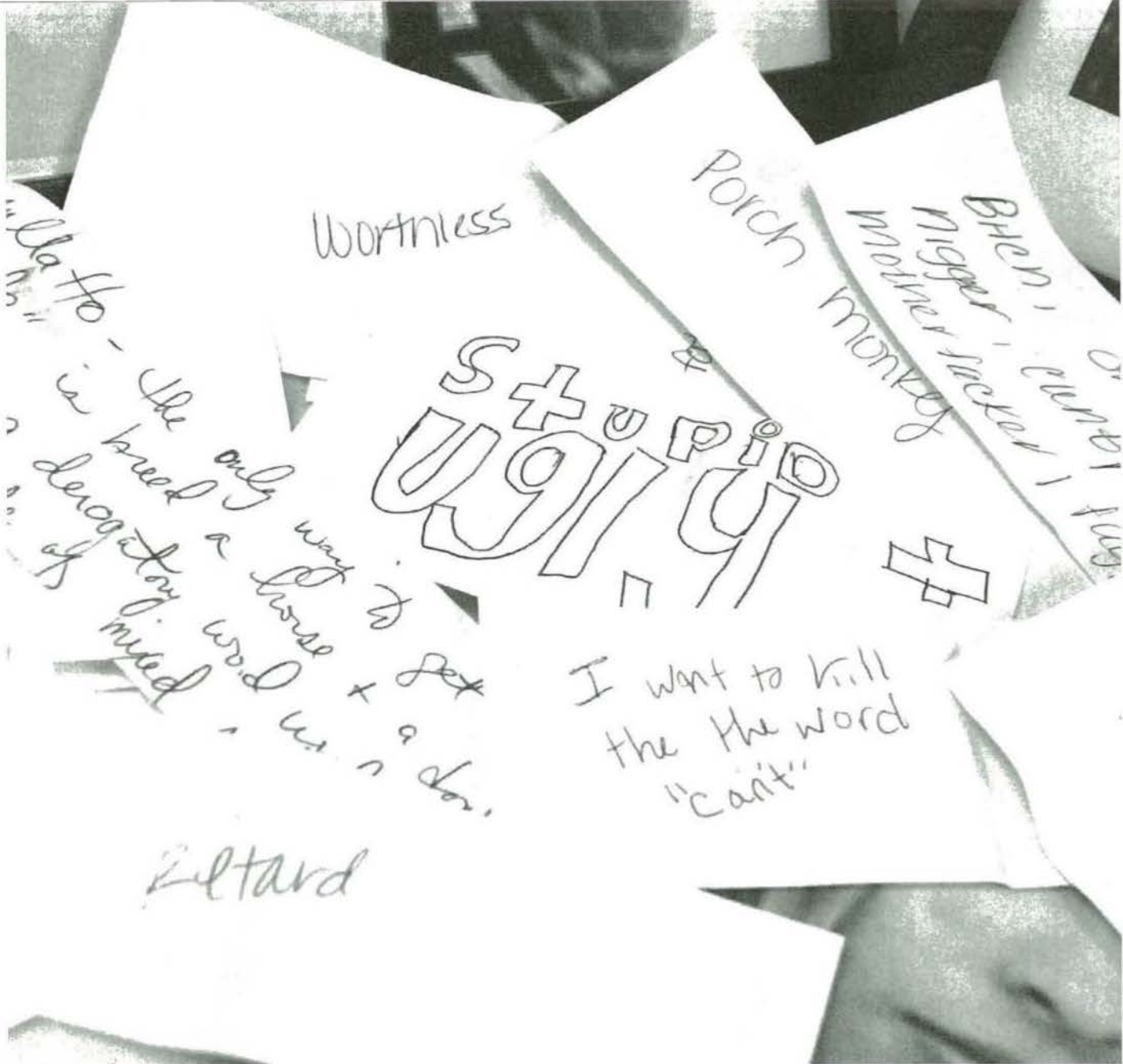
Coverings for the smoking areas have been

estimated at over \$10,000 though. Three years ago, the campus president formed a Presidential Committee to investigate tobacco on campus and to come up with a new policy, which did not pass at the time. Students voted against the proposed tobacco ban on March 7-8.

Student Trish Hooper said, "I think this is bad, not only for myself as a smoker, but other older smokers too. I have no problem with complying in buildings, but when you are out in the open air, who are you hurting? Seriously, much worse things in our atmosphere and our environment are probably killing us more than smoking."

This was echoed by student Jesse Holcomb who said, "I believe that outside of a building, absolutely no one has the right to say whether or not smoking is allowed. Whether or not you smoke, like smoking or have an opinion on the matter, not allowing someone their rights while in a public place is madness. In my opinion, this is stepping on personal freedoms."





# Burying the Hate

by Clifford Petersen

The first time a child runs home from kindergarten crying to their mothers, bursting into tears and when asked what is wrong they exclaim the school bully called them a mean name. Name-calling has always been an issue. But what names or words have to be said to trigger you off? If you had the chance would you eliminate it completely and never use it again?

In April the Center for Multicultural Education hosted an event to put to rest negative thoughts and words. Held in Blum Union lobby, there was a casket neatly decorated, ready to bury hurtful words. If you walked up to it you would see on the cream colored soft silk there laid four pictures of people who have passed



FAR LEFT: The words that students came to bury sat in a pile in the casket. Negative and hurtful sayings, words and thoughts were put to rest to lessen the amount of violence and hate crimes. *Photo by Jessica Groves*

LEFT: Photos of those known and loved who had been killed in hate crimes and acts of violence were present at the meeting. The words being buried were those that these people may have heard. *Photo by Jessica Groves*

BELOW: Leah Hayes introduces herself and the event hosted by the CME. Hayes represents a multicultural educator as the CME's assistant director. *Photo by Jessica Groves*

BOTTOM LEFT: The students and visitors attending the event threw their words into the casket. The event brought a new direction for some, to stop using those words for life. *Photo by Jessica Groves*



away in relation to hate crimes and acts of violence.

CME Assistant Director Leah Hayes opened the night explaining why everyone was there and what was going to take place. She informed the audience that they soon would have the ability to “bury” the words that trigger violence most.

Senior Tyler Rhoad knows the story to well. Growing up with words of hate and violence, he supported the event wholeheartedly. Rhoad shared about his past and how words kept him from showing the world the “real” him.

“Tonight I am here to bury the word faggot,” Rhoad said. “Growing up back home, many words were used to stereotype...including faggot. As a child it made me go deeper into the closet and hide myself. Today I am burying that word because it has kept me down too long and it’s not going to anymore.”

Brian Shewell also spoke about what word he would bury. The junior was adamant about his buried word.

“Cunt, this will be the only time you will hear

me say it because I do not tolerate it,” Shewall said. “All it does is belittle a woman. They are here just like us, they help just as much and a word shouldn’t put them down.”

The night continued with more and more words piling up in the casket. The soon-to-be buried words that bothered these students the most were let go into the box and a vow was made to try to never use those words again.

As Leah Hayes thanked everyone for coming to this wonderful event, hoping everyone learned a little from it and how to treat people properly, the audience sat in silence as they reflected on the events of the evening and also in their lives.

This evening was one of the variety of events set up by the CME to raise awareness that words hurt and violence is not ok. The CME was an active part in the stand against racism and violence across campus, and brought education to students in many ways.



TOP LEFT: Tyler Rhoad refills the drink tube. Rhoad was at the event as a representative of Pride Alliance. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*

TOP RIGHT: Raychel Whitaker sat outside of the Esry Student Health Center giving students information on the facility. The Health Center did free STD testing. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Condoms were one of the many freebies for students. This was the first ever Heart Your Union. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*

BOTTOM LEFT: Several students showed up to show their support. Many organizations set up stations to inform students on what they are about. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*

MIDDLE LEFT: Sigma Sigma Sigma was one of several sororities and fraternities that were in attendance. They gave away candy and were announcing their spring enrollment. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*



# ♥ Your Union

by Lindsey Roberts

Hearts, candy and condoms lined the halls of Blum Union's second floor during Missouri Western's first ever Heart Your Union event. Hosted by the SGA and Division of Student Affairs, students participated in free drawings, made their own music videos, received 15 minute massage and much, much more.

Over 20 organizations and 12 departments set up displays on the union's second floor Feb. 14 to show what they had to offer to the student body. Students could also pick up freebies from almost all of the stations including free thermoses from the campus police department, free bags from Student Employment and free candy from just about all of them.

Kathy Kelly, SGA administrative assistant, masterminded the event in hopes of getting more traffic on the second floor of Blum. "The student union has a lot to offer the students but it's not utilized like it should be," Kelly said. "My goal was to try to pull the students up to the second floor of the union to see we have a health center, what the Center for Student Engagement has to offer, what Multicultural Education has to offer, Student Affairs as a whole and SGA; there is so much here, we wanted to showcase every thing."

One of the main goals of the Heart Your Union event was to get students to acknowledge the Esry Student Health Center, located in Blum 203. Raychel Whitaker, Health Center employee and Missouri Western student, represented the health center at Heart Your Union to inform students of just a few services it has to offer them.

"A lot of people don't know we are here," Whitaker said. "We have free STD testing, free

HIV testing that's available to them every day except Fridays."

Whitaker also pointed out that the health center has a nurse practitioner for students to talk to, who is available to answer questions. Any student that participated in STD and HIV testing during the event received a free t-shirt.

Heart Your Union also gave a public platform for students to voice their opinions about topics on campus, such as the smoking ban debate and people running for SGA offices. Many sororities and fraternities were in attendance to show students what they were all about and gear up for spring enrollment. Some of the other organizations with representation at the event included the Psychology Club, the Catholic Newman Center and the Pride Alliance.

Tyler Rhoad, spokesperson for Pride Alliance, expressed what his group's goals were for the day and what they offered the students. "We are here to educate the community about safe sex, spread diversity amongst the community and also to educate, to reach out to other gays who may be contemplating suicide so they have someone to talk to and relate to," Rhoad said.

Due to the great success of Heart Your Union's first run, students should expect it to become an annual event.



# Let's Give 'Em Something to Talk About

by Hanna Greenwell

Let's Talk is a band with a unique sound made up of drums, bass guitar, electric guitar and the keyboard. The bands members consist of Bryce Shoemaker, Zach Sauls, Skylar Smith, Trevor Rowe and Cody Hudson.

Members Bryce and Cody are both currently students at Western. Bryce is a psychology major and Cody is in the Masters program for Graphic Design. The guys came together to form what they like to call, "gay 80's synth pop," music that's fun and makes you want to dance.

The band's goal was to make fun music, plain and simple. To write music, the band got together and had a jam session to bring all of their ideas together to make up a song. This



**FAR LEFT:** Trevor Rowe tickles the ivories during practice. Rowe has been part of multiple bands. *Photo by Hanna Greenwell*

**TOP RIGHT:** Lets Talk is a fairly new band, but the guys are excited for the future. Their innate sense of humor added fun to their performances. *Photo by Hanna Greenwell*

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Zach Sauls and Skylar Smith celebrate a fun moment during practice. With these guys, laughter was not in short supply. *Photo by Hanna Greenwell*

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Bryce Shoemaker works his magic on the drums. Fans love Bryce's animated faces during performances. *Photo by Hanna Greenwell*

band wasn't only made up of people who liked to make music together, but friends, people who joked around and had fun while expressing their artistic creativity through music.

Lets Talk became the name of the band after seeing the sign of Trevor's moms hair salon. She wanted to call it, "Lets Talk Hair," but the hair part of the sign was blocked and after some time, they decided that would be a good name for the band.

During practice, Bryce jammed on the drums while Cody let loose on the bass. Zach, Trevor and Skylar all switched back and forth between playing the guitar and the keyboard. The boys were all very musically-talented and picked up rhythms and made new music, without even looking at a sheet of paper. It's all by ear and practice.

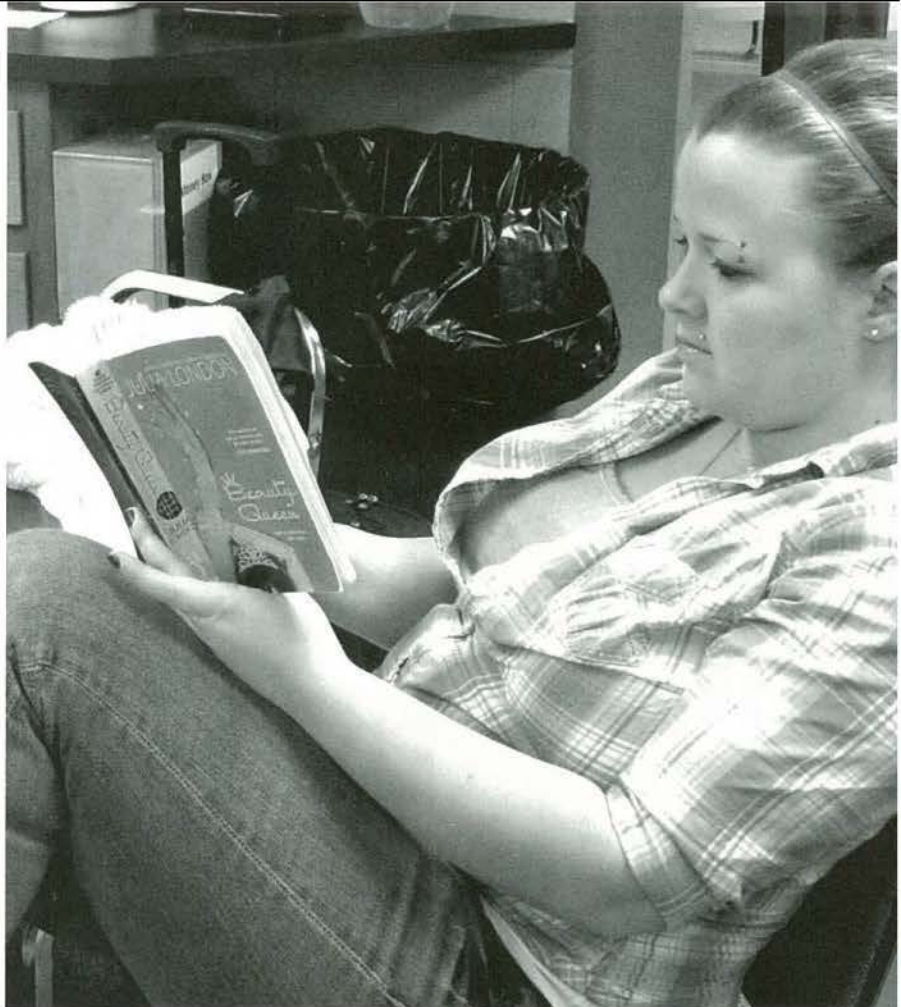
The band members have all been influenced from a wide variety of artists that have helped mold their musical creativity into what it is today. These bands range anywhere from Matronomy, Metallica, Lay the

Pier and the Pixies. Bryce Shoemaker said, "Music is an easy way to express any feeling and help people have an easy way out for their emotions." They said that every musician just hopes people can connect and feel the music they create.

"My dream is to go on tour, even if it's just one time," Smith said. "Then I will have lived my dream and I can move on with my life."

The band not only worked hard in practice, but they also played two or three shows a month. They played shows in Lawrence, Kan., and in Saint Joseph, Mo., at places like The Rendevous, The Recordbar, and The Riot Room.

This band had nothing but passion for music. They all had a desire to learn, to create, and to grow, which made them an unstoppable music force to be reckoned with. Lets Talk is not only a band, but a group of guys who enjoy letting their creativity flow to make music, while having a great time doing it.



TOP LEFT: Randy prepares for a long school day with a cup of joe. He was a junior this year. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*  
 TOP RIGHT: Brynna loves going to school with her parents. She gained two new study buddies. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*  
 RIGHT: Kathy may have been suckered into college but she loves it. She was a senior this year. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*  
 ABOVE: The family spend a lot of time together now. Schooling together has only made them stronger. *Photo by Lindsey Roberts*

# The Family that Schools together...

by Lindsey Roberts

How often do you see your parents? Every night? Every weekend? Once a month? How about walking across campus to your next class? For the Whitley family, seeing each other at school every day is the norm. Randy, Kathy and their daughter sophomore Brynna, all attend classes at MWSU.

So how did this unique situation come to be? It all started with Kathy's best friend pulling a trick on her. In 2007, Lori Barringer wanted to start taking classes and thought Kathy would also enjoy furthering her education.

"I was afraid to go to school because I thought I was too stupid," Kathy, now a senior, said. "Lori tricked me into taking an ACT test with her."

Barringer pulled a fast one by telling Kathy that the ACT tests were free and that she just wanted her friend there as support while she was taking hers. Kathy agreed to go with and that one act of loyalty changed her life forever.

"I scored pretty high on the test and got a scholarship," Kathy said with a laugh. "So I decided to come to school."

The following year, Kathy's husband, Randy, who is now a junior, made the decision to give college a try.

"It was kind of a fluke. I had a knee operation," Randy said. "I thought while I'm off work, I'll just start school. If I hate it, I can always go back to my job."

Like clock work, the next year, Randy and Kathy's daughter Brynna, who is number 10 out of their 11 children, decided to start college after graduating from high school. Brynna admitted that if it had not been for her parents, she probably would not have gone to college.

"When our parents started going to school, it basically changed the mentality in our household," Brynna explained. "It hadn't been very important growing up. School came second and family was always more important. We all

did a 180 and realized the importance of getting a college degree."

All three Whitleys are social work majors with Kathy double majoring in sociology. When it comes to their peculiar situation, the family seems extremely content with how things are.

"It's not weird for me because my parents have been going to school longer than I have," Brynna said. "I came here knowing that I was going to school with my mom and dad." Even though Brynna is considered a "traditional" student, she feels that her situation is very non-traditional but also believes that her over all college experience is being enhanced, not hindered by it.

Other than seeing each other between classes throughout the day, the Whitleys do take courses together every once in a while. Last year, Randy and Brynna took a winter session course together and both really enjoyed the experience.

"It was a little more work because I had to keep her awake," Randy said. Brynna quickly rebutted by calling him a liar. Then the two burst into laughter. She also mentioned how great parents were for study buddies.

Now that the couples' children have watched their parents do so well in school, they are following in their footsteps. Besides Brynna, Kathy and Randy also have an adopted daughter that attends MWSU with her husband. Their oldest son takes classes at a college in Kansas City and another one of their daughters hopes to begin attending business school shortly.





# Virtual Face to Face

by Nicolette Muller

How do you keep in touch these days? It's more than likely not the phone with the 25 foot phone cord all twisted and tangled up on the kitchen wall like back in our parents' day. Today, communication is at our fingertips all the time, regardless of our location. We can communicate with other individuals all around the world thanks to cell phones, Facebook, Myspace, Skype, Yahoo messenger and so on.

To date, according to USATODAY.com, there are currently 250,000 social network sites available to us to communicate with others. You can communicate through emails with your spouse over in Iraq who is defending our nation, you can Skype with your sister who is in the hospital having just delivered your niece or text your children on the second floor that dinner is ready.

Eighty-five percent of college students use



FAR LEFT: With phones being like small computers, it is easier to Skype while not around a laptop or desktop. Some students enjoy the ability to see their family and friends easier. *Photo by Raphael'le Drew*

TOP LEFT: Using a computer screen is the most common way to use a video chat. Some students video chat everyday. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BELOW: Most computers let you see your chat partner and yourself. There are also neat tricks a Skype or video chat user can utilize. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

BOTTOM LEFT: Western student Misty Trail uses Skype on her iPhone. She talks to her friends who live in a different cities. *Photo by Raphael'le Drew*



Facebook. Reasons to use Facebook or any other social network sites are simple: to communicate with those who are important to you. Is St. Joseph, Missouri your home town? Students paying out of state tuition also pay in a different way: They miss their family and wish to stay in touch with them while adapting to their new life and its environment.

"I talk to my mom on Skype or Facebook on a regular basis. We are on the phone almost daily," sophomore Jordan Oldani said.

Leaving her home and family in Hawaii to attend school at Missouri Western was not the easiest transition. "For our Christmases spent apart, everyone gets on Skype. Our family is all over the world: me in Missouri, my mom and sisters in Hawaii, and my dad in Iraq. Connecting on Skype is our best bet. We open presents one at a time so it seems almost as if we're spending Christmas together even with all the miles between us."

Family is something everyone needs in their lives, and it's a good thing we have the technologies to make

it feel like they are right next door. With Facebook's benefits, there are also costs to pay. You set up your page and manage it. Depending on the amount of updating and communicating on it, it can be costly in time.

Look at an individual's Facebook pages as a method of seeing you and your personal life. They cast judgment on you before they ever lay eyes on you or speak to you. People today have to be careful with what is posted on Facebook, both pictures and comments. "Big brother is always watching" is not a lie.

Another downfall of all these means of communicating are the distractions that come along with them. There is not a day when a whole classroom of students sits through class and pays attention and not one of them is texting on their cell phones. Studying occurs while a student's Facebook pages are open and conversations are occurring.

As with everything in our lives, there are many positives and negatives to everything. Keeping in touch with loved ones is an important aspect of digital communication, just don't forget your homework!



*Photo by Molly Thomas*



# Academics

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# Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor

by Sarah Hatten

The fall play, “Laughter on the 23rd Floor,” was an outstanding success. The theatre was full for opening night and the play received rave reviews from students and community members who attended. The brave students on stage delivered exceptional performances and drew in the audience with their

realistic characters and humor. The crowd laughed along with the jokes every step of the way and gave the play a standing ovation at the end.

The play itself, “Laughter on the 23rd Floor,” was about a group of writers who were struggling to maintain their jobs writing for a comedian on television. The head corporation was trying to take away the freedom and the budget of the comedian’s program and eventually cancelled it altogether.

The script was hilarious, but the actors that the play a big hit. The actors made effective in allowing the audience to relate to the characters. There was a really strong connection between the actors and the audience so the play had a very pleasant atmosphere. Timing is everything when it comes to comedy and the actors delivered their lines at the right time every time.

Missouri Western freshman, and one of the stars in “Laughter on the 23rd Floor,” Kendrick Benson said, “I’m sure everyone enjoyed being in the play as much as everyone in the audience enjoyed watching it.”

This role was one of his favorites because it allowed him to stretch his abilities as an actor. The cast and crew unity played a big part in the success of the play.

Freshman Steve Catron also starred in the play as an over the top hypochondriac who stole most of the scenes he was in. Both students said working with new Introduction to Film teacher and director of the play, Dallas Henry, was an enjoyable experience.

Junior Erin Gilkey raved about the performance. “I have never seen a college play before so I didn’t know what to expect, but I was blown away.”

Sophomore Elizabeth Street also went to the play and said, “I liked the play so much I saw it twice. I went the first time with my friends and I thought my parents would enjoy it so I went back and saw it again.”

The play received great support from the audience. The theatre was electric and the people in attendance were more like fans than audience members.



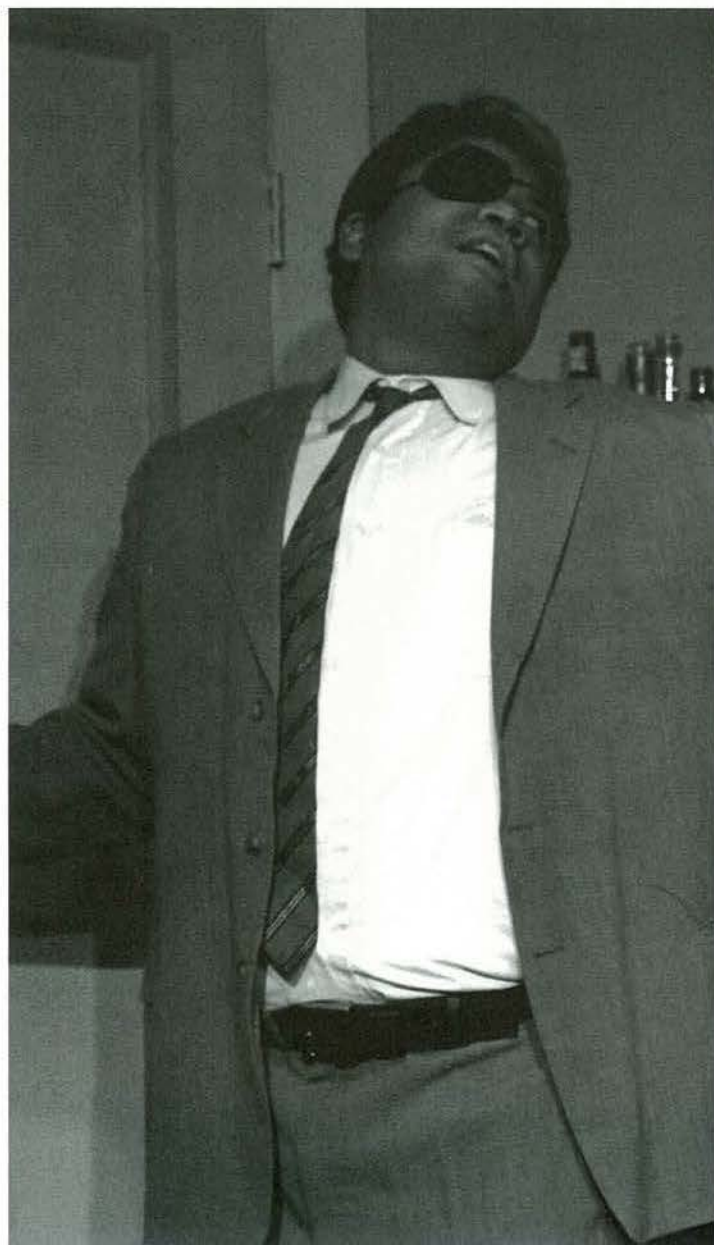
LEFT: Misty Ballew acts her heart out as Helen. Ballew’s performance got rave reviews. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
MIDDLE: The cast puts their best stone faces on. So



many friendships blossomed while the show was being created. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
RIGHT: Jeremy Todd and Andrew Tyhurst

face off during an intense scene. The comedic elements of the show, like this one, made Laughter a definite hit. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*





TOP LEFT: Erin Williams holds tight to a can during a scene from "The Seven Year Itch." Williams has been in several Western productions. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 TOP RIGHT: The cast worked to create the perfect show. The wise-cracking group became very tight during rehearsals. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 ABOVE: Lindsey Stubbs gets all dolled-up for an upcoming scene. Stubbs is a sophomore at Western. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 RIGHT: E.J. Tangonan gets dramatic during a scene. Tangonan graduated from Western this year. *Photo by Robin Ussher*



# A Black Box Beauty

by Roybn Patti

**S**tudent-directed Black Box Theatre production “The Seven Year Itch” was an exciting play for the theatre department. Sophomore Brian Duskey was the director. Duskey worked on the production for a full

year before bringing in the Black Box, after not being able to show it last year.

“There was a different theme last year, and since I didn’t get it last year, I have just been making changes and working harder on it,” Duskey said. “I was able to have a lot of people in the play that I wouldn’t have gotten last year.”

Duskey worked with film previously, but also had experience with writing and directing other plays.

“It was my first full-length Black Box production. We did the one-acts last year. I directed one of the one-acts and I wrote another one of them,” Duskey said.

Senior Erin Williams worked with Duskey on previous plays. As ‘Helen’ in “The Seven Year Itch”, Williams was one of the stars of the play.

“I feel like it was ultimately very successful,” Williams said. “Especially because we had some last minute set-building, so with the pressure of not having the set completely built, we made it through really well.”

Being a part of main stage performances and also Black Box productions, Williams had some experience in the different settings.

“I love them both but it’s just a completely different experience,”

Williams said. “In the Black Box, they are right in front of your face and on the main stage, they are so far away so it’s easier to get into your own little world.”

Also in a different setting, Duskey had differences between his one-act plays and the full play production.

“The set, first of all, is different, and I worked with more actors. This was working with eleven and they were different actors, different age groups,” Duskey said. “There was a lot more stuff involved, like costumes and props too.”

Freshman Kendrick Benson was there for the performance of “The Seven Year Itch.” Benson, an actor himself, wanted to see what the Black Box was like because he had an interest in performing there.

“The play was very well put together, and it kept me laughing,” Benson said. “I had to come see how [the Black Box] is. It’s very close and personal but I think the actors took it very well.”

The production ran for four days in the Black Box and was free for students. The play had eleven actors and a complete set.

“I don’t want it to be over. It’s been a great process,” Duskey said. “I’m mostly a film guy, but because of this, I might be more of a theatre guy.”



# The Music Of the Night

by Clifford Petersen

On opening night, the feeling of anticipation, as cast and crew prepared for the evening's events, filled the room. The crowd awaited with expectations of romance, mystery and murder.

The theatre production "Phantom," written by Arthur Kopit, with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, was based on the 1910 novel, "The Phantom of the Opera" by Gaston Leroux. The show came together on Missouri Western's campus.

With the help of the university's art program and a complete orchestra directed by Rico McNeela, conductor and music director of the St. Joseph Symphony and associate professor of music, the night was a superb success for the sold out gathering.

"It has been an amazing experience. We have a very talented group of people," assistant professor of theatre Tee Quillin said.

The Phantom was played by Ray Johnson, vocal trainer with the Western Institute. The rest of the cast was made up of other talented actors and actresses. Freshman music major Adrienne Collins and second chair sophomore music major Morgan Breckenridge played Christine.

In the production Christine is a farm girl who dreamt of coming to Paris and performing at the Paris Opera. Erik, born and raised in hiding under the Paris Opera House, cannot survive without beautiful music. He takes Christine on as his student, but will not allow her to see his repulsive face. When Gerard, the Opera House manager is

fired, things take a turn for the worst, as Carlotta, the new owner, takes over, tormenting the Phantom with her horrific voice, who turns to Christine, with whom he falls in love with because of her beautiful voice.

Adding more intrigue to the plot, Erik learns that Gerard is his father, as things spiral down to a final stand off with police. Not wishing to be captured and put on display, Erik pleads with his father, who wrestles an officer's gun away, taking aim on his son. Gerard struggles with his dilemma, yet fires. As the Phantom lies dying, he calls out for Christine, who realizes that she loves him, but can only watch him die, never having seen his face.

"Adrienne has an exquisite voice. It has been a privilege to work with both her and Morgan, who has incredible range as well," Johnson said.

Collins, veteran performer for eight years, who also carried the lead in "Wizard of Oz" and "Snow White" said, "It has been very inspiring to see all the different departments come together to make this work."

Breckenridge, who has been performing for seven years, said, "It has been a challenge vocally being Christine, who never judges the Phantom, eventually falling in love with him."





TOP LEFT: The cast works well together on set. The romantic outfits and scenery made the Phantom come alive. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

TOP RIGHT: Adrienne Collins, who plays Christine, acts her heart out with her costars. Collins has been acting since she was a child. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

ABOVE: The cast stays in character, singing in unison during a scene in the play. For this cast of friends, the play went off without a hitch. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

LEFT: Ray Johnson plays the dark and mysterious Phantom, standing in the midst of an eerie set. The elaborately-designed set was eye-catching for all of the audience members at the show. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

# Ladies Night

by Nicolette Muller

Valentines Day is the day of love. Flowers are sent, chocolates are bought, and teddy bears are given to significant others. But did you know that the 'V' in v-day does not just stand for valentines?

It also stands for both victory and vaginas. Every year at Missouri Western State University, "The Vagina Monologues" happens around Valentines Day. "The Vagina Monologues" are a set of monologues informing the audience about the many 'situations' the vagina may go through. Just under an hour and a half long, fifteen monologues were performed, captivating the audience from the very first minute the lights were drawn.

A play like this doesn't happen easy. Many students were involved in the set up and acting taking place in Potter Hall on the nights of February 14-16th.

The students started preparing over two months before the play even took place.

"We had to completely rebuild and repaint the black box, build a stage, hang new lights, and much more. The cast and crew came in on Saturdays and Sundays and worked late into the night to make it happen," Sarah Noe said.

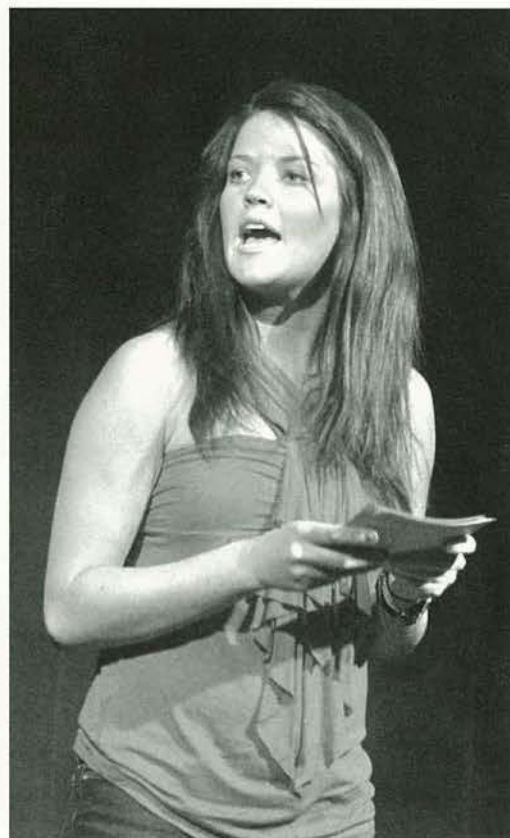
Noe was the assistant director of the play, wanting to bring a voice to women everywhere to stay strong

and love themselves. Many people, including Noe, worked to make the monologues successful.

"People don't realize how much time and effort every person in the production, big or small, has to put into things as little as holding a microphone to directing the whole production." Jeanna Ross said, stage manager of the show.

The cast and crew were not the only ones pleased with the outcome of "The Vagina Monologues." The audience got to experience a wonderful inspirational show as well. Watching the show was great, but just glancing at the audience, watching as everyone burst out laughing hysterically, or even the serious moments of the show, the audience reacted and showed great emotion towards the actresses. The show truly left a strong effect on every single person attending.

"Who needs a hand gun when you got a semi-automatic?! That was my favorite part of the whole show! I thought that it was a great show with a very great cause," Jordan Oldani said as she walked out of the room with joy after viewing the show.

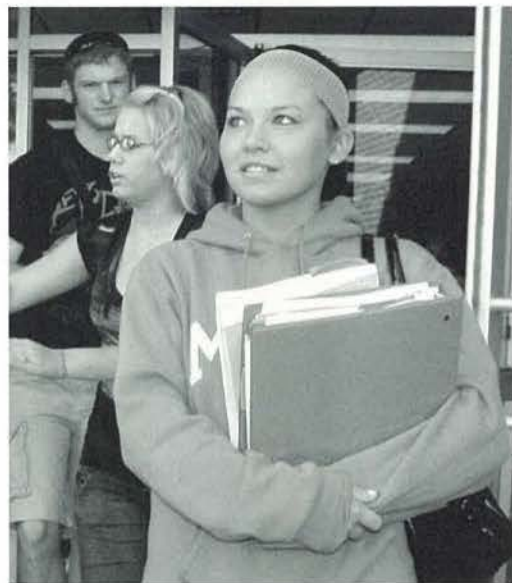


TOP LEFT: Lindsey Stubbs calmly addresses some of the topics involving women. Stubbs is currently attending school for a nursing degree. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 TOP RIGHT: Lexi Webb recites her monologue to the audience. On Top of being a part of this Western production, Webb is also a lady Griffin golfer. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

ABOVE: Erin Williams monologues got all the audience laughing. A lot of her monologues lightened up the night making it very enjoyable. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 LEFT: Mollie Westlake rehearses expressing her emotions her monologue. Sarah Noe filled in for her at the performance. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BELOW: Amber Lattin waits to find a breaking point in the crowd so she can safely maneuver from class to class. Western's expanded programs and services could be responsible. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: The steps in Popplewell are more crowded than ever with record enrollment this year. Students rubbed shoulders all day long. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



## THE NEW \$45 DOLLAR COMPUTER LAB FEES by Cheyenne Davis

Improving the technology on campus required support from the students. The \$45 technology fee covered the purchasing of newer and better software, as well as brand new computer equipment.

According to Gordon Mapley, Dean of Western Institute, the fee was tacked on to student bills for the purpose of creating a larger revenue stream to support technology. Students on campus who use the lab between eight and 23 hours per semester were required to pay a \$35 technology fee, but the \$45 tax was billed strictly to students who were

in lab-intensive classes that used the lab 24 hours or more per semester. A main concern was to separate occasional users of the computer from the heavy users.

The \$45 fee was voted on by the Student Government Association, who essentially agreed to tax themselves. Money from the fee funneled back into technology classes for the purpose of purchasing software and other computer-related items. The general technology fee combined with the computer-intensive fee was estimated to raise 61,000 dollars.





# Griffons Here, There and Everywhere

by Robyn Patti

**M**orning classes created headaches for students. There were rows after rows of cars, and not a single open parking space in sight for what seemed like miles.

This dilemma was nothing new to Western, but the fall semester saw this magnified as enrollment leapt to almost 400 hundred students.

The growth spurt could be credited to the coverage Western received because of the Chiefs training camp. Our campus' popularity grew as we were featured on local television commercials, hosted countless Chiefs meet and greets, and given national exposure on sports networks following NFL teams over the summer.

Another explanation for the increased numbers could be the expanded programs brought to Western. By adding new graduate programs, the school opened a few more doors for prospective students, and the numbers of enrollment increased.

Assistant Director of Admissions Tyson Schank has been all around the state and further, visiting local high schools for prospective students. He felt that the university had the potential to grow even more. On top of that, with student enrollment numbers up, Western had a better handle on the budget.

"State budgets can continue to grow instead of being cut," Schank said.

Esther Peralez was the new Vice President of Student Affairs and she was excited about

the possibilities that this could bring for student activities on campus.

"An increase in enrollment is a very exciting time for students. Going to college is a time for students to meet new people, learn new things and take advantage of the opportunities that will be in front of them," Peralez said. "Additionally, the increased numbers will provide more opportunities for growth in the various clubs and organizations on campus."

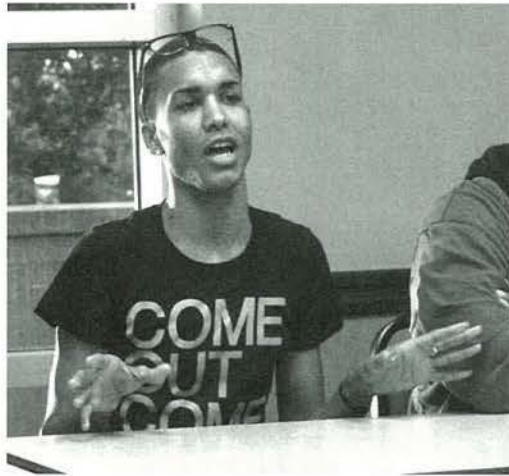
According to institutional research, Western had 5735 students enrolled last year. This year the number has grown to 6134. High school graduating classes are becoming smaller, which means less numbers for colleges.

Even though the parking may be a headache, it was worth it for Western. Students were generally understanding, though they suffered through long walks to their classrooms.

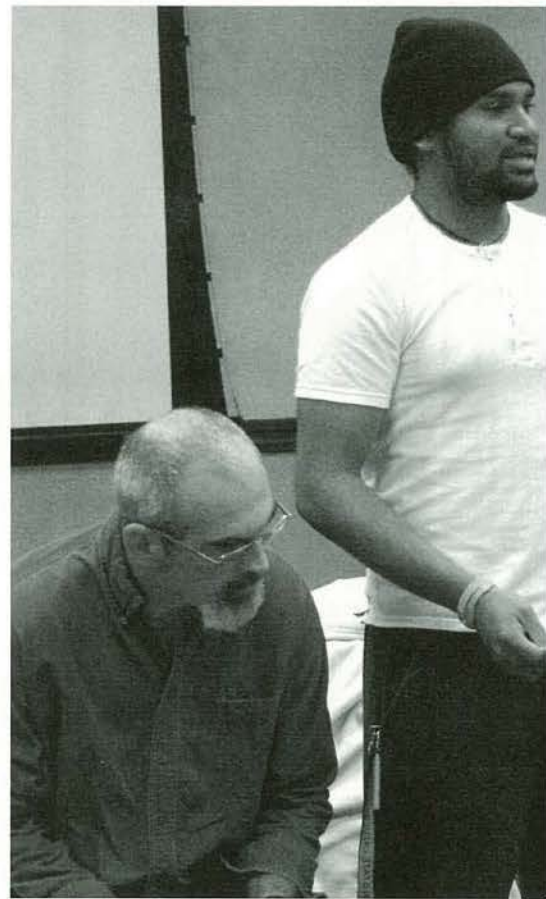
"It isn't really the number of parking spaces available but the designation of the parking," senior Jessica Wilkinson said.

Students did their best to remember the exciting things that the size increase allowed, all though they couldn't help but groan as they trekked across campus.

RIGHT: Anthony Jackson explains how it was hard to come out in his hometown. He didn't become openly gay until freshman year of college. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



TOP RIGHT MIDDLE: Jessica Criss speaks about her life experiences as an African American living in St. Joseph. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

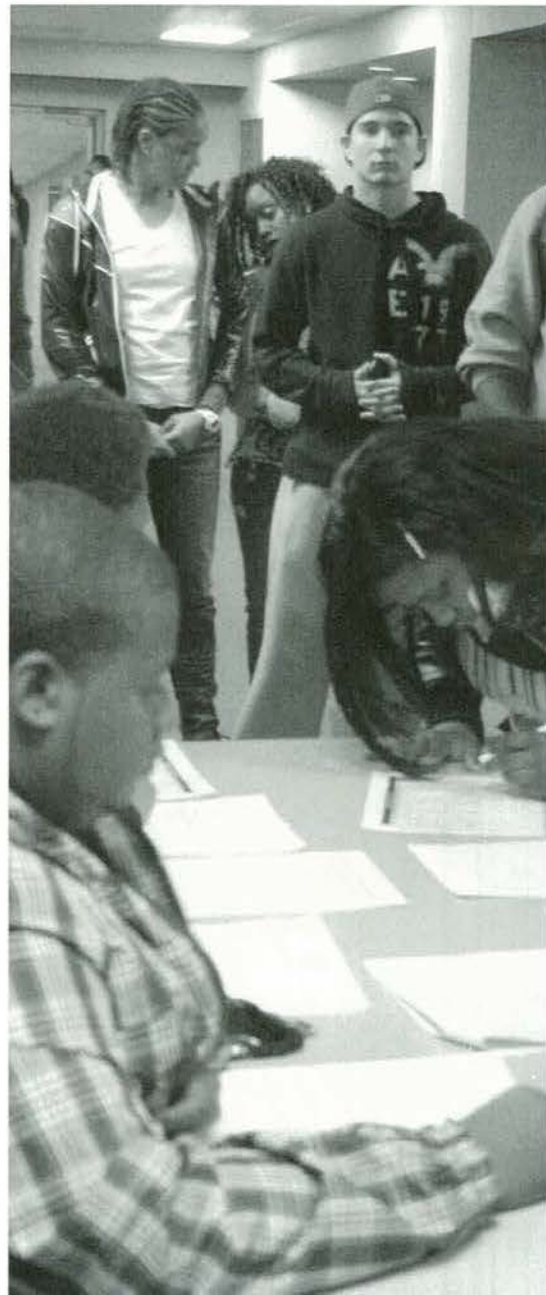


TOP FAR RIGHT: Students and community members line up outside of Spratt 214, signing up before entering to listen to the speakers for "Being Black in America." *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



BOTTOM RIGHT: Gilbert, an Indonesian international student, answers questions about his experiences in America and his home country. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

BELOW: Charity Everall has no problem being openly gay plus an example for her children. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*





# What it's like to be... Me

by Noelly Collier

All men were created equal. At least, that's what we were made to believe, though society had a way of counteracting that belief with violence, prejudice and segregation.

The Multicultural Institute hosted a groundbreaking event entitled "What It's Like to be Latino, Black, Gay, a Woman in America." The presentation consisted of a panel of students and administrators who spoke and answered questions that related to the struggles they had to go through.

Each topic got its own respective night. On "What's it's like to be gay" night, Vaselakos Residence Hall director Dany Thompson was on the panel, sharing the story about when she first came out as a lesbian. According to her, it wasn't intentional, as her roommate read her diary and told the whole dorm hall her secret. Everyone started treating her differently. She had to move out in order to get away from the harassment.

Another student, Tyler Rhoad, got his car vandalized with derogatory words. The exposure of that kind of harsh treatment

opened the eyes of many audience members.

On "What it's like to be black" night, Dr. Jonell Pedascleaux made a valuable point that stuck with a lot of students. She said that black people were not individuals, that they didn't have to go it alone. Some people believed that there were stereotypes associated with black people, stereotypes that were both unfair and unjust. Black people were expected to work harder, expected to take opportunities for granted.

This event was beneficial in showing that prejudice was still prevalent and that it existed both inside and outside of races, genders and sexualities.

A key question, presented every night to the panel, was "How can we make a difference on campus?" There was no right answer. Students had to find their own, had to learn to be more accepting and open-minded, to leave room for love and unity at Western.



# The Pursuit of Personal Happiness

by Sarah Hatten

The Convocation program was started in 1993 to offer beneficial experiences to students while bringing together the university and community. The Convocation was held in honor of R. Dan Boulware, former Regent president.

The speaker at this year's Convocation was Newt Gingrich, whose speech "Jobs, Economic Growth and Prosperity: Getting America Moving in the Right Direction," was inspiring and motivational.

Missouri Western students, faculty, and members of the St. Joseph community came together to hear Newt Gingrich. Students turned out in impressive numbers to show support for Mr. Gingrich. High school students were also in attendance, and Gingrich focused on addressing the youth in the audience. The Convocation drew a big crowd and was a great opportunity for people in the community to get involved with Missouri Western activities.

"I've been to many political speeches, but this is definitely the best common sense American speech I have ever heard," St. Joseph community member Patricia Bonebrake Anderson said.

Newt Gingrich spent his career trying to understand what America needed to do to survive and trying to apply health to national security. His main goal is to promote the equation  $2+2=4$ , meaning everyone needs to slow down and think about the simple truths in life. Gingrich said, "Some people may try to suppress you from telling the truth because it will stop them from doing what they want to do." Gingrich stood on the principle that though it wasn't always easy to stand up for what he believed in, he needed to find values that were important to him and stay true to them.

"The most inspirational part of the speech was about the pursuit of happiness. Nobody is going to find happiness for you, you have to get out there and find something that makes you happy," senior Raechelle Ragan said.

Gingrich defined his five most important goals in life: dream big, work hard, learn every day, enjoy life, and be true to yourself. He encouraged the audience to find something they like to do and then find someone to pay you for it. Gingrich encouraged the crowd, as Americans, to solve, invest, produce, and invent so that they could be the greatest nation in the world. He encouraged the need to instill the importance of hard work in the youth so that the country will prosper with each generation.

Junior Andrew Sprague was inspired by Gingrich's story about the Wright Brothers. They did not know how to fly, but they tried and tried until they learned how to be successful. "It inspired me to my core," Sprague said.





TOP LEFT: The gym is packed to hear Newt Gingrich speak at the Convocation. Members of the community flocked to the Missouri Western campus to support the speaker. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

TOP RIGHT: Feeling inspired, the faculty members file out of the gym one by one. The faculty members are cloaked in robes and chords parading across the floor. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

LEFT: Newt Gingrich motivates the students and faculty at this year's Convocation. He captivates the crowd as he gives his five points for success. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

ABOVE: The Missouri Western Choir sings out the Alma Mater after the conclusion of the Convocation. The choir serenaded the audience as they files out of the crowded auditorium. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

# There Shall Be Laughs

by Malia Sisk

Students, faculty, friends, and community members, “lend me your ears.” That famous statement was a part of one of the many famous speeches William Shakespeare wrote.

Imagine being able to recite Shakespearean sonnets perfectly or performing the works of Moliere without hesitation. For a man by the name of Timothy Mooney, Shakespeare and Moliere are both a love and a job. On Sept. 21, many students attended Mooney’s performance of works by both.

“I have heard that Timothy is pretty funny. It will be interesting to see a more comedic manner of Shakespeare,” junior Sofia Pierson said.

Mooney began his show with plays by Moliere in which he called Moliere than thou. Moliere than thou consisted of various one-man plays. Mooney brought a satirical air to the stage and laughter fell out of the audience members. During the plays, he changed costumes, put on fancy wigs and played many different characters by changing his voice and using funny gestures.

“He is a fantastic performer that can really connect with the audience by relating to the characters,” Pierson said.

Mooney also used several audience members to help him act out various plays. One such victim was freshman Bradley Roberts.

“This was the first time I have ever heard of Mooney. He is a very skilled actor in the timing of his rhymes for

the plays,” Roberts said. “I was a little nervous to go on stage but very excited because I have done acting before.” Mooney then proceeded to his next show by the name of Lot o’ Shakespeare. In this show, Mooney had the audience members play a game called IAGO as he presented various Shakespearean monologues that were chosen at random. IAGO was similar to BINGO and audience members could win a free t-shirt.

“The show was really funny. It is pretty impressive that Mooney could remember everything from Shakespeare,” junior Katie Rawlins said.

Preparation was something that Mooney took very seriously. “I practice my speeches as I drive, repeating them over and over again for hours at a time,” Mooney said.

Mooney brought laughter, fun, and excitement to Spratt Hall with his one-man show. He got the audience involved by playing games, using humor and making the fun hands on by bringing audience members up to help him with his performances. It was a night that brought back the times when Shakespeare and Moliere’s famous works astounded the eyes and ears of many.

“I love getting students excited about something that is 300-400 years old that many think couldn’t be meaningful but actually can be,” Mooney said.

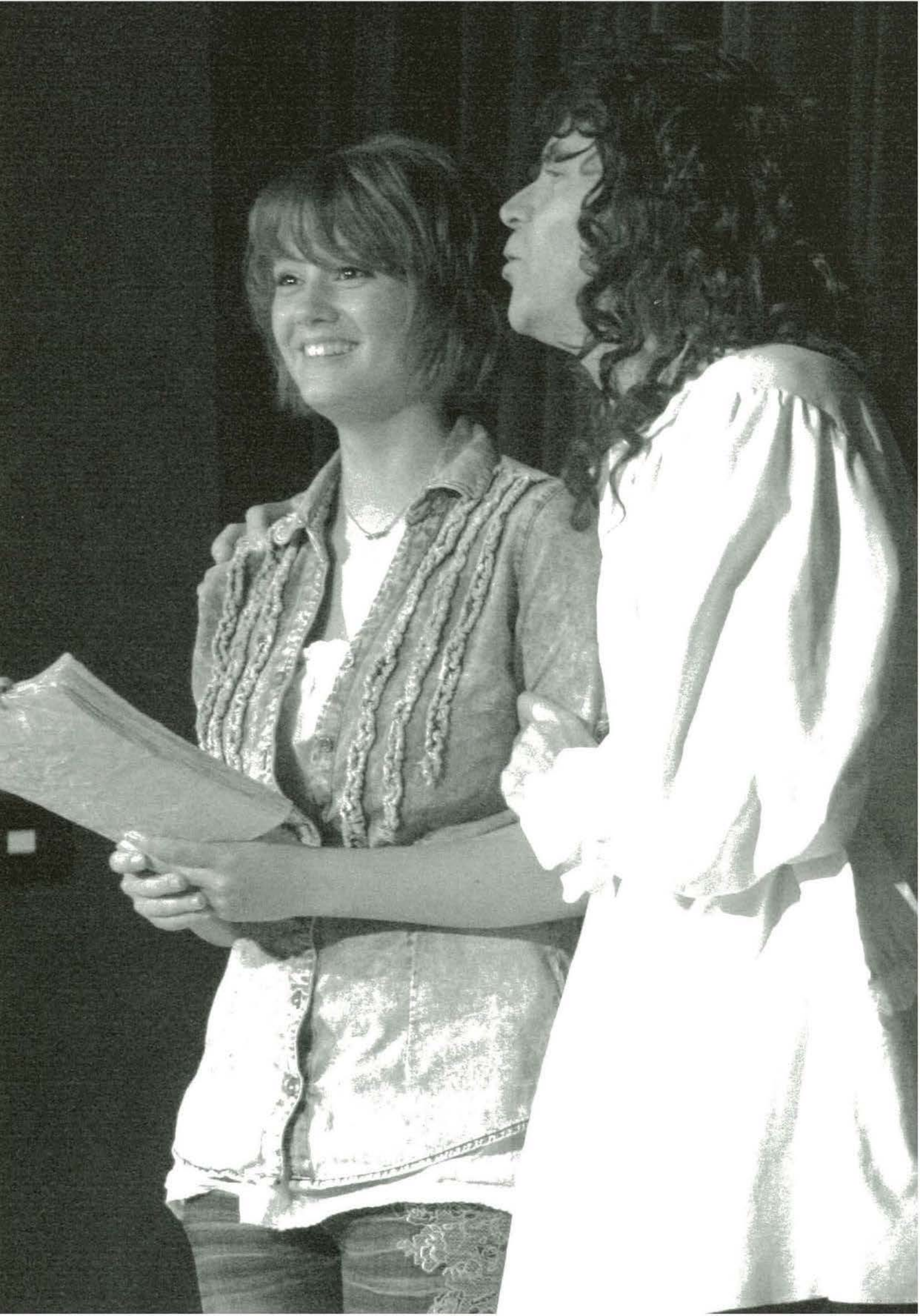


ABOVE: Catching the audience’s attention, the one-man show performer Timothy Mooney recites Shakespearean sonnets and poems. Mooney used different costumes and props to get the audience to visualize the time when Shakespeare was alive. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



MIDDLE: Using comedic gestures to illustrate Shakespeare’s works, Mooney astounds everyone around him. Laughter throughout the whole audience made the Shakespeare and Moliere night enjoyable to all. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

RIGHT: Stepping onto the Shakespearean stage, Faith Roberts joins Mooney for a quick play involving a Shakespearean poem. Mooney uses several audience members throughout the night to help him act out various plays and poems. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*





# Sealing the Deal

by Sarah Hatten

Walking on the sacred Missouri Western seal will keep you from graduating in four years: fact or fiction? Some students say this is nothing but a myth or a scare tactic, but other students believe they need all the help they can get when it comes to graduating. Unless you know exactly what you want to study and you never change your major, chances are, you will be here beyond four years.

The Missouri Western seal holds special significance to students who are on a mission to leave college and get on with their lives. If you were to sit on a bench by the seal and watch the students walk by, a surprisingly impressive number of students will hop, skip, or jump to get out of the way of the precious Missouri Western seal. Then again, some students walk right on top of it without a care in the world, or possible without knowing it even exists.

Former student Billy Jones said, "I'm not superstitious. I walked on the seal pretty regularly. I never went out of my way to go around it." Five years later, he graduated. On the other hand, current senior Brooke English walks on the seal all the time and she's scheduled to graduate after only spending three and a half years at Missouri Western.

Junior Amanda Gray did not even know about the seal until she attempted to walk across it with junior Becca Wilcox. Gray was about to take her first step and she said the experience happened in slow motion

when Wilcox lunged at her and pulled her away. Wilcox said, "Do you want to be at Missouri Western for the rest of your life? You can't just walk on the seal like that or you will be." Gray has steered clear of the seal ever since.

Some people take their superstitions very seriously. For example, athletes have their lucky charms; in trinket form, not cereal form, and it gets in their head if they are missing it. If your eyelash falls out and you happen to notice, you blow it away and make a wish. Find a penny, pick it up, if it's heads, you'll have good luck. Step on a crack, break your mother's back. Shatter a mirror, bad luck for a year. Black crows and black cats are bad luck, but nothing compares to putting in overtime at school because you did not take a few extra steps to walk around the revered seal.

College is not cheap and the longer you stay, the more you pay. Graduating in four years seems like a daunting task when you start your college career, but with enough dedication and superstitious belief, it is possible if you respect the seal.



LEFT: Samantha Gorman-Price jokingly dangles her foot over the source of Missouri Western's biggest superstition. The seal is located on the walking path directly under the clocktower. *Photo by Robin Gann*

CENTER: Jeff Haynes looks nervous, narrowly avoiding stepping on the western seal. Many students were very superstitious about this act. *Photo by Robin Gann*



RIGHT: After commencement many graduates go and stand on the seal. It was said that stepping on the seal would prolong the time it took for a student to graduate. *Photo by Heather Heater*

# Raise Your Voices

by Cheyenne Davis

The vocal adrenaline was pumping. Students stood side by side, voices synchronizing, shaking the walls with rapid precision. For Western choir members, making this kind of an impact was almost second nature, and joining choir was not only a way to make new friends, but it was also a way to express love for music.

"If you love music, it's fun to make music with other people," sophomore Morgan Breckenridge said. "Choir is a way to work with others towards a common goal," Breckenridge has been a choir member for three semesters.

The vibe between choir students was always friendly, and always helpful. Being in choir allowed students to challenge themselves vocally every single day.

"Whenever you join choir, you're required to have voice lessons and having to sing in front of a bunch of people that you don't know is a whole new experience," sophomore Samy Northcutt said. "You get to grow and learn from it and become a better musician. You go from introverted to extroverted."

Being a choir member also gave students the opportunity to travel during the school year for various events. In October, the choir usually performs with other nearby schools and in February, the choir sings at the state capital in Jefferson City, Mo.

"My favorite memory from choir would have to be singing in the state capital. It's really great and it's perfect for choir because of its high ceilings, lighting and ambiance," Breckenridge said.

A well-known event that the choir engages in was Verses and Voices, which was a state-wide event that involved other schools. The Verses and Voices Festival connected students and audiences with poetry through music. The festival consisted of a variety of different activities. Some of the festivities included poetry interpretation, workshops, art exhibitions, and concerts.

Though the concerts were fun to be a part of, most of the choir students found their fun in the friends that they made because of their involvement in choir.

"You don't really remember the concerts because you're in performing mode," Northcutt said. "What you really remember is before and after the concerts, or even during practice, because that's when you're hanging out with the closest friends you'll ever make."

Everyone views music differently and the importance of music was unique for every individual. For some, music may inspire them or improve self-esteem.

"Music always gives me a boost of confidence," Breckenridge said.





## ● Gettin' Jazzy with It

by Lauren Hicks

The night started with a bang as jazz band director Steve Malloy snapped his fingers to kick start the musicians. Saxophone players lined the front row, as trombone players stood behind them, trumpet players tooted their horns from the back row. The drummer, bass guitarist and pianist sat off to the side strumming to the beat of the band.

Once the band finished, the jazz choir was up. The singers lined across the stage and waited for the cue from their director Kathleen Holeman. The singers belted out their tunes as members in the audience bobbed their heads along.

Vocal jazz ensemble and jazz voice and piano studies director Kathleen Holeman said, "They did great, worked very hard and came out with a great sound."



Top: Performing a song onstage, the choir shows off their singing skills at the Verses and Voices festival. The choir sang a variety of different songs at the state-wide event. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 ABOVE: The jazz choir spends hours and hours per week preparing for performances. A few

members sing their hearts out in the choir room. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 RIGHT: Three choir members stand ready at a performance. The vocal challenges were fun for the girls to show off at their recitals. *Photo by Robin Ussher*







TOP LEFT: With the high enrollment this year, the drumline expected a big jump in numbers too. The band got so large they ran out of room to practice. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: The drumline focuses on the beat in the basketball gym in Looney. The sound echoes and booms through the area that is unequipped to hold the drumline. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

ABOVE: The drumline is bigger this year and there are more freshmen playing in the line. The more the merrier when it comes to drumline. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

RIGHT: Joshua Colley scopes out the scene as he beats on the drum in the Missouri Western drumline. The members played outside and all over campus because they had nowhere else to go. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# The Beat Goes On

by Malia Sisk



While walking around campus, many students may notice the sound of drums barreling through the air. Some students stop to listen, while others walk by, hands pressed tight against their ears, scowls on their faces, tuning the drums out as much as possible.

This year the drumline dealt with rapid expansion, as its member count was larger than it has been in years past. Due to the heavy enrollment this year, many drumline members experienced various emotions.

"There are more freshmen this year, which has made the drumline bigger," junior Jamie Haffner said.

With the increase in freshman came an increase in overall sound, as well as the level of camaraderie among the line's members.

"The more, the better. It brings different backgrounds to the drumline. There is a mixture of upperclassmen and freshmen which allow the upperclassmen to help out the freshmen and make the drumline work easier together," senior Joshua Colley said.

The size did more than increase line morale. It helped with publicity as well. The more members on the line, the more people wanted to see them perform at the games and other events throughout the year.

"I think it's great that the drumline is bigger this year because it is good for publicity because people get to see us more," sophomore Jonathan Hobbs said. "We do have to schedule

everything further in advance because there are more people though. We can't procrastinate," Hobbs said.

Another side effect of a bigger line was that it became far harder for students to get some one-on-one time for private help.

"Outside of rehearsals it can be hectic trying to schedule private meetings with your personal drum line instructor," freshman Sara Verduzco said.

On the plus side, because of beneficial programs and facilities, some drumline members believe that the line has grown more as a whole.

"There are many great programs to be involved in. There is the new facility where the Chiefs practiced, and sports are increasing all the time and where there are sports, there is music, which helps to attract and draw in more people," Colley said. "I think the drumline is great to be in. The drumline is like a unit. We are all a family and we spend a lot of time together."

Whether drumline members are hanging out, practicing together or receiving more people to play for them, they played hard and practiced every day.

"The drumline is a great experience for me as a musician, performer and a person," Verduzco said.

# Against All Odds

by Lauren Hicks

**“W**hen I realized something was wrong was on the ride to the hospital. I asked the guy in there, ‘Do you know what’s wrong with me?’ and he said, ‘No,’” Margaret Slayton said.

Slayton woke up from a short nap on October 21, 2008 at the age of 22 and was unable to move. Slayton went to bed the night before and awoke to a new world in which she would find herself fighting to relearn the abilities to walk, feed herself, write and put her own shoes on.

After three long, grueling hours of multiple MRI tests in the hospital, Slayton was informed that she had the rare disease of Transverse Myelitis, which only affects an average of 2,000 people per year. Transverse Myelitis is an inflammation of the spinal cord. The cause of the disease is unknown.

After spending 10 days at Heartland Hospital in Saint Joseph, Mo., where she was pumped with steroids, she was sent to Saint Lukes Hospital in Smithville, Mo.

“My parents couldn’t have been better. My mom was there from sun-up to sun-down,” Slayton said. Slayton mentioned how the people around her and the positive support she received from them made her situation much easier to accept.

She was no longer paralyzed when she was moved to Saint Lukes, but it was there that she had to begin intense therapy sessions.

“The first exercise was to sit up in a wheelchair and

keep my head up,” Slayton said. “I was surprised at how much I had actually forgotten to do things.”

Slayton is now able to walk and move normally. She still continues seeing a doctor and working on small exercises. “My therapy’s like homework. You don’t want to do it but you have to,” Slayton said.

Slayton chose to look at this disease positively. “I really have formed deep friendships with people since this has happened. Being a Conservation major, I wanted to work in fields and mountains. Now this has fallen into my lap, and I can relate to people,” Slayton said.

Slayton doesn’t ask herself, “Why me?” She believes this has happened for a purpose, a purpose that has allowed her and others around her to grow and to put their lives in perspective.

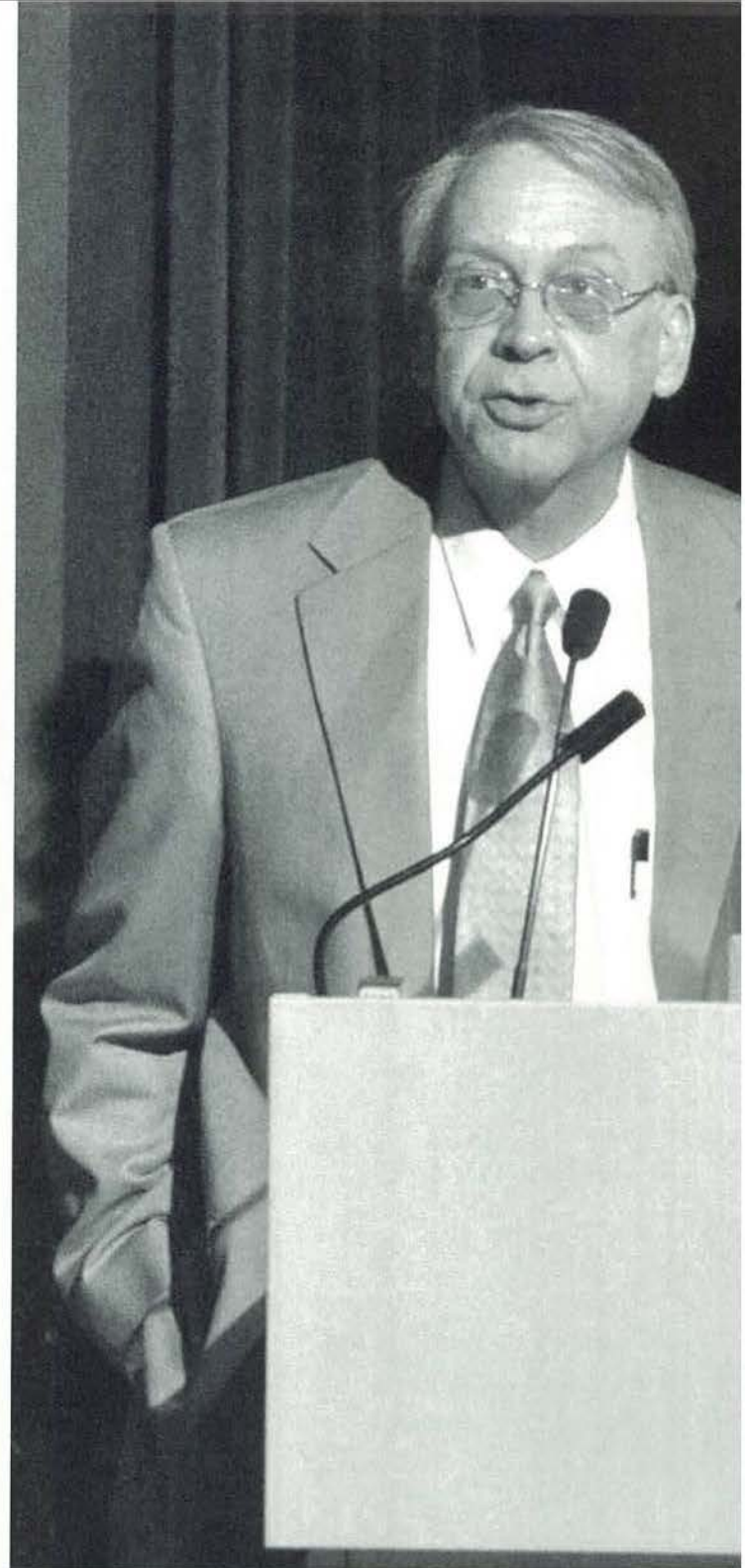
“I have a very strong faith in God. I get up every morning, and I don’t rely on my own strength. I rely on God to get me through the day,” Slayton said. She is still attending Western as a junior. She is also a member of the Griffon Newspaper.

“My dad told me that successful people do what they don’t want to do, so someday they can do what they want to do,” Slayton said. *All Photos by Kelsey Saythany*





TOP LEFT: Many students use the Conference to take a deeper look into their studies. The conference has taken place at Western since 2005. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 RIGHT: Professor Dr. Mark Mikkelsen introduces the speakers. Dr. Mikkelsen was involved in the planning of the conference. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Dr. Anne Dhu McLucas speaks about the arts and how much plays a part. Dr. Dhu McLucas is a professor of music at the University of Oregon. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*



# Brainiacs Unite

by Nicolette Muller

The Legacy's series began in 2005. It was a joint effort between the Biology, Philosophy, History and Geography departments to create a yearly series of conferences in order to promote a widely vested group of scholars to speak at Missouri Western State University.

In past years, different topics have been chosen and named in order to guide the conferences to their success. This year's theme was "Your Brain On the Arts." Between highly distinguished scholars, Western had three presentations that discussed the brain and how it processes information about the arts.

All presentations were held at Western on February 24-25 in Leah Spratt Hall. Dr. Mark Rollins introduced the first speaker to the stage, Dr. Anne Dhu McLucas, from the University of Oregon.

"We are all looking forward to her and what she has to say," Rollins said, while welcoming her to the stage.

Dhu McLucas spoke about the musical side of the arts. Her presentation, "The Musical Era: Memory, the Brain and Oral Tradition," was just under an hour, followed by a questions and answering session. She had a power point up on the front

screen, a hand out for every person in the audience and was very well prepared and ready to speak at the conference.

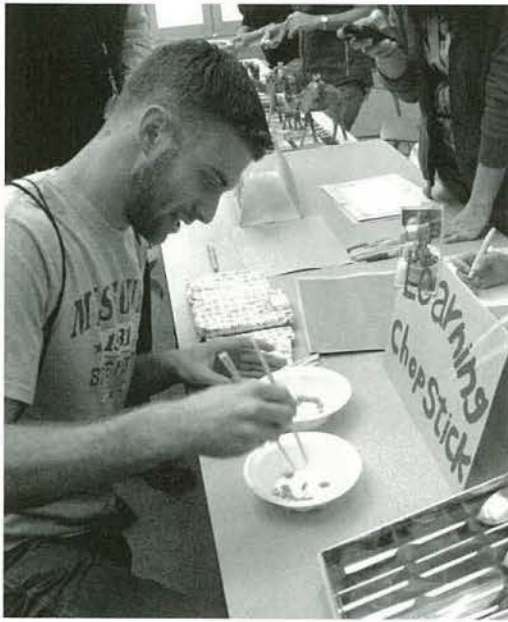
The second speaker, Dr. Mark Rollins, was from Washington University. Rollins' presentation was over the visual effects of art, "Can There Be a Science of Style?" He talked about the visual arts and drawing.

"Relation of style is relatively complex. To understand the meaning of art, style and content must be distinguished," Rollins said.

The third speaker, Dr. Joseph Anderson, from the University of Central Arkansas, spoke about motion within the arts. His presentation, "Steps Toward Ecology of the Arts" was rescheduled for the next morning because of bad weather.

All of the speakers went in depth about their topics to explain to the audience how a brain interprets the arts, making the Galileo's Legacy Conference a great success.





TOP LEFT: Joseph Bridgman takes on the Chopsticks Challenge at the South Korean table. The challenge consisted of moving several peanuts from one bowl to the other in under 40 seconds. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 ABOVE: A South Korean international student teaches how to properly use chopsticks. A lot of students struggle with this ancient technique. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 TOP RIGHT: A Kenyan International student informs passing students about her culture.

She wears traditional Kenyan clothing. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 FAR RIGHT: Hanna Chung, a South Korean student, performs at the piano inside Kemper Recital Hall. Chung loves being a part of Western's music program. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
 RIGHT: The Israeli table is occupied with regional food for others to try, such as pita with hummus and olives. The food flew off the table as students shoved these delicacies into their mouths. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*





# Community of Culture

by Noelly Collier

Spratt Hall became a modern-day World's Fair for a day. International students from all over the world came to meet those from other countries, eat exotic food and learn new customs. Students' home countries included

France, Kenya, Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, India, South Korea and Australia. Students gave out samples of native dishes. There were wontons from China and humus and pita bread from Israel.

There were also demonstrations. The international students of South Korea had a challenge for native students to pick up beans with chopsticks from one bowl to the other.

"I love doing the chopsticks challenge; it was so hard to pick up the beans with chopsticks. But I still had fun doing it," De'Nae Williams said.

Another activity allowed students to see what their name would look like if it were written out in South Korean.

French foreign exchange student Melanie Schneider was from the northwest part of France and was still getting used to the Midwestern

atmosphere of Missouri.

"Everything is different, including the weather and people's behavior," Schneider said.

After all, she was used to affectionate, touchy greetings, complete with both a hug and a kiss on both sides of the cheek. She sees a big difference with Americans when people greet each other.

Schneider came to Western to study business and to learn more English. She embraced International Day, taking the time to teach others about where she came from, while learning about new cultures in the process.

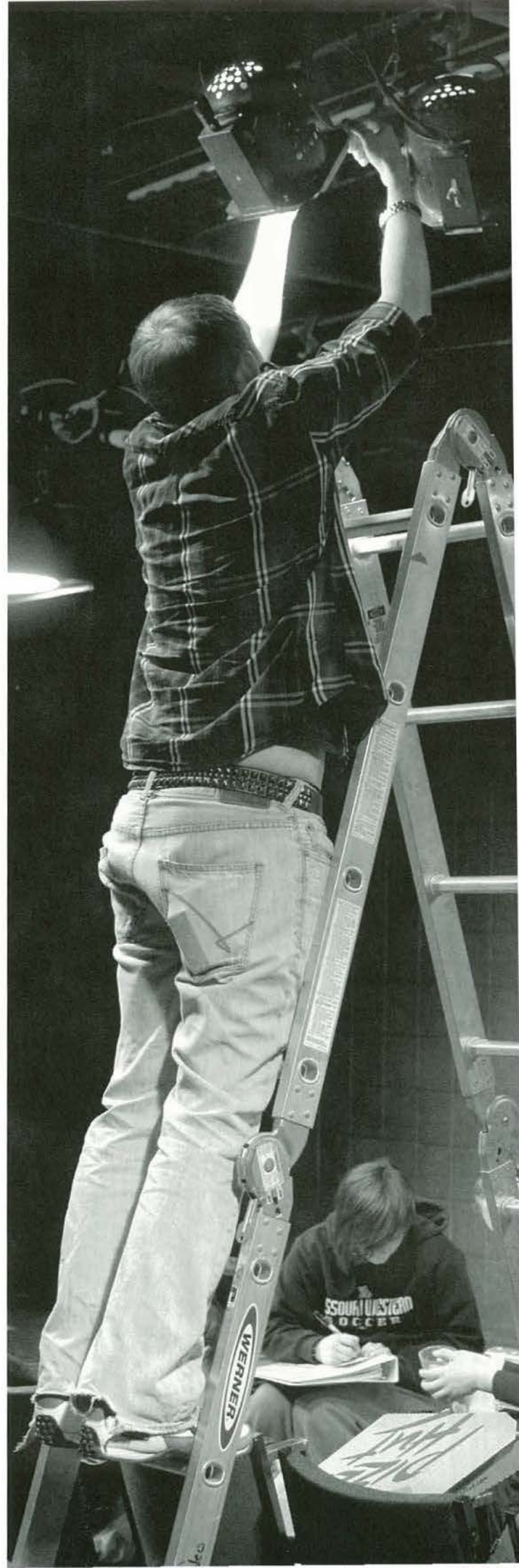
On that day, international students got all the attention, as they were bombarded with questions about their home countries and none were afraid to talk or show how much they loved their homes.








TOP LEFT: Justin Joseph prepares the set for the big show. Joseph loves being a part of the behind the scenes crew. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
 RIGHT: A student set the lights for "The Vagina Monologues" play that took place in the Black Box Theater. Lighting is a very important aspect of any production. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 ABOVE: Tons of work goes into elaborate sets like this one. This set was used for this year's "Phantom" production. *Photo by Molly Thomas*





# Lights, Camera, Set Design!

by Nicolette Muller

**L**ights, camera, action! The audience is there to support the actors and actresses, to laugh, to cry, to respond to the play and all of its emotions.

It is the actors and actresses' job to promote this response from the audience, to know their lines well, speak loudly and project their words and actions clearly. As the actors and actresses are rushing to get ready to go onstage and perform their big pieces in front of the anxious audience they get much of the credit for the show but what can't the audience see behind the scene? For an instant, let us pretend there is a remote control that can pause the show and let the audience see behind the curtain and see what it takes for "action" to begin. Everyone has their own roles to make the production successful, but what really goes on to prepare for the show? Who prepares the actors for their lines, sets up the stage, getting everything ready for action?

There are many roles that take place for productions. The people preparing for the show behind the stage are just as important as the ones acting.

"I pretty much don't leave the school anymore. The show takes way

more time than most people think to put in the meticulous work involved in theatre and especially video. It is a lot of long hours, hard work and dedication," said Jeanna Ross, stage director of the "Vagina Monologues."

Day in and day out many people put forth a lot of hours just to make sure shows, plays and productions run smoothly.

With all the hard work these students put forth, they deserve recognition," said Ross.

"Dallas Henry gave us an awesome set, direction and even made a commercial for us. It was the first time us students were taken seriously as actors and not people who only do plays because they have nothing better to do," Misty Ballew said about her role playing Helen for the play "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

From the amazing detail, lighting, sounds, projections, to even doing something as simple as a hand gesture, everything counts. What is successful onstage is only as successful as what has been done behind the scenes.

# Western's Biggest Fan

by Nick McCutcheon

The walls of his office said a lot about Jay Summers. Newspaper clippings, posters and photos illustrated his passion for sports. One wall had a particular distinction.

Dominating the center of a collage of Missouri Western Athletic posters, Western player photos and articles on the Griffons were three full page spreads about Northwest Missouri State Football's National Championship appearances. Summers saw it as motivation.

"I've just got them on there because I'm waiting," Summers said. "The day when Western wins the National Championship is the day I take those down. Hopefully they'll win before I retire."

Summers is more than the resident super fan of Western Athletics. He is also a maintenance helper and takes his job seriously. Summers helps clean the team buses as well as university vans and areas around the residential halls. His undying affection for the school has led to a position on the welcoming board. The position allowed him to welcome new coaches to campus as well as the Chiefs when they first arrived for training camp.

Tucked in among the sports memorabilia in his office are certificates for the Pay it Forward Award, which Summers has received twice. He received the awards for his ideas and dedication to the university. Summers joked about receiving the awards.

"Maintenance got tired of hanging my picture up," Summers said.

Summers said he has followed Western football and basketball closely since becoming an employee in May

of 1990. He can sometimes be found at Western's weekly media luncheons giving Football Head Coach Jerry Partridge and Men's Basketball Coach Tom Smith pointers.

"I always criticize them when I have a chance to go to the media luncheons," Summers said. Summers also said that the coaches did not always take his advice, and he tried to be careful about what he said. "I don't want to be walking on thin ice."

On the wall dedicated to Western hung two photographs of former Western Quarterback Drew Newhart. Summers declared Newhart was his favorite Griffon Football player. While Newhart's on the field accomplishments were recognized, Summers had a sentimental connection to the quarterback.

"His mom used to be my teacher back when I was in grade school," Summers said.

Summers enjoyed the interaction he had with Griffon players through the years. He also enjoyed watching Coach Smith at basketball games. He said he got a kick out of watching Smith pace along the Griffon bench.

"He's like a dancing machine out there," Summers said. "He's always throwing his jacket off or saying something to the referees."

Summers said he enjoyed sports because they made the time go by. There was a lot of empty wall space for future Griffon clips to occupy his time. *All Photos by Molly Thomas*





# Scholarship Shortfalls

by Cheyenne Davis

For most Western students, money was tight all year long. A lot of changes to both scholarship distribution styles and scholarship amounts made the prospect of paying their way through the school year even harder than in years past.

With budget cuts putting a damper on many financial programs at Western, a considerable amount of scholarship dollars had to be cut as well. Freshmen scholarships faced the brunt of the most devastating budget cuts of all.

Cindy Spotts-Conrad, financial aid coordinator, said there have been substantial changes to scholarship amounts. "It's not that anyone wanted to make changes, but it was inevitable," Spotts-Conrad said.

There just wasn't enough money to award students. A few changes included the reduction values of different scholarships and the number of recipients receiving scholarships. The number of students receiving scholarships was remarkably lowered since last year.

The Golden Griffon Scholarship, awarded to incoming honors freshman, was one that affected the most currently enrolled students. The dollar amount for that particular scholarship went from 10,000 dollars per year down to 7,500 dollars per year. The Midwest Student Exchange scholarship changed slightly as well. The scholarship now entails a new academic requirement which was not a requirement for students last year.

"Luckily, I haven't noticed any changes in my scholarships. The only change I hope to see is if they go up in amount," senior Brett Allen said.

Spotts-Conrad tried to make the changes as easy to deal with and as unrecognizable as possible.

"We are making conscious efforts to minimize the effect of the budget cuts by trying to continue funding as many students as possible," Spotts-Conrad said.

Unfortunately for students, a few additional fees have been thrown into the mix as well though.

"What many students don't realize is that employer dependent waivers have changed and employees are being affected as well," Spotts-Conrad said.

Although there have been changes made to various freshman scholarships, Nicole Bassett, a work assistant for financial aid, said that students were generally unconcerned with the changes overall. Freshman students only came to her to ask about general scholarship information and what scholarships they are qualified to receive.



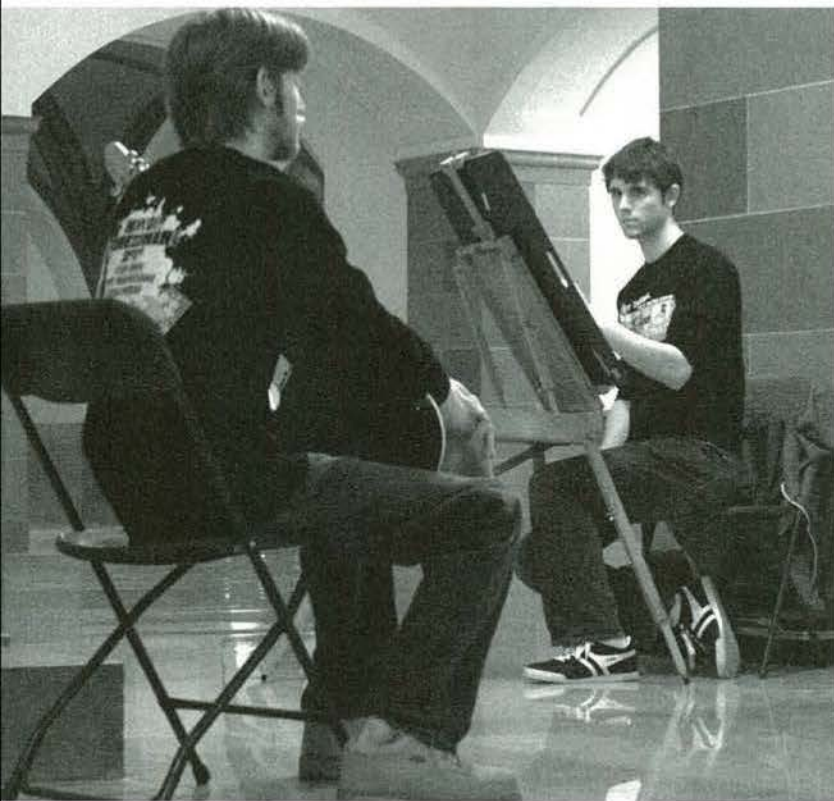
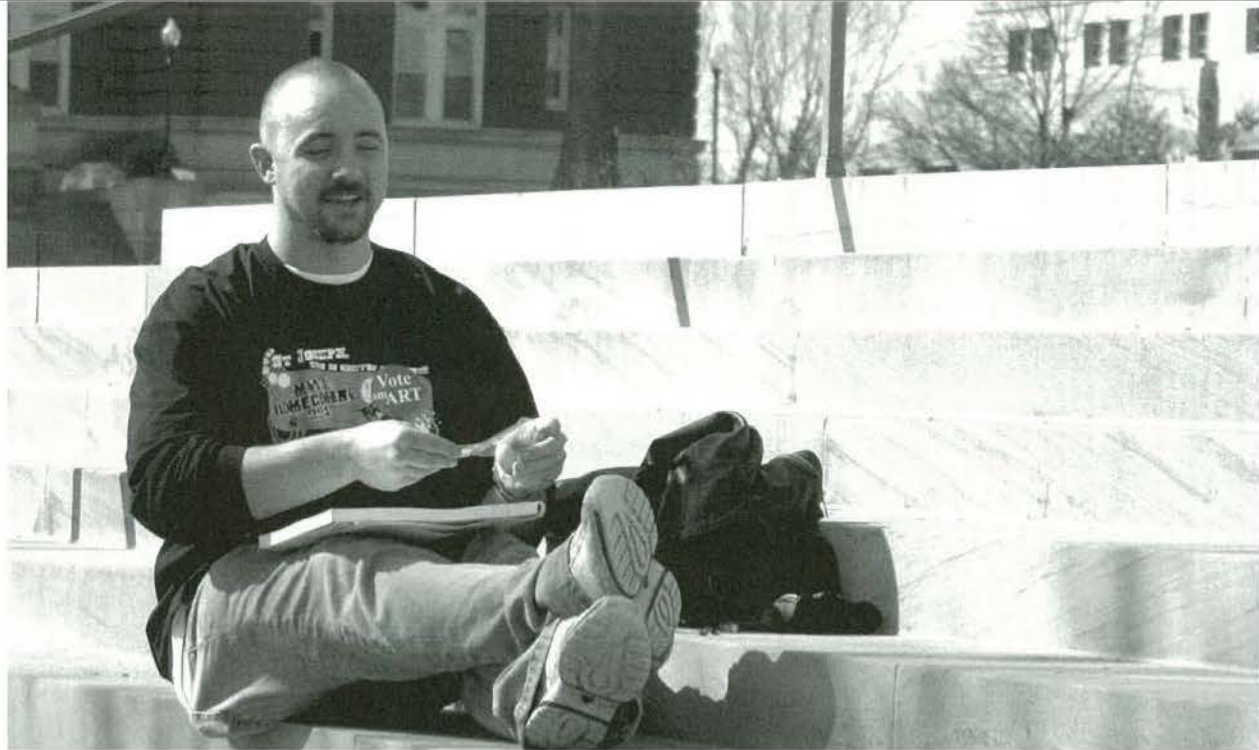


LEFT: Dorm students deal with the change in Golden Griffon scholarship changes. The distributed amount was changed from \$10,000 to \$7,500. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

RIGHT: Cindy Spotts-Conrad works in the Financial Aid office. She had to deal with lots of complaining students due to the scholarship changes. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

BOTTOM: Campus-wide changes throw students for a loop. Many students had to resort to alternative means of money making in order to pay for tuition. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*



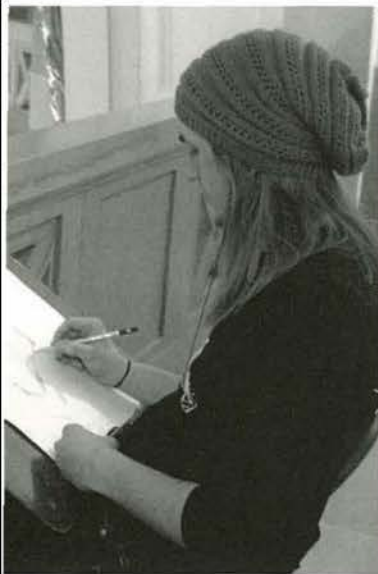


ABOVE: A student draws another in the hallway of the capitol building. The model poses with his guitar, which he also played in the Capitol to fight for arts funding. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP LEFT: Sitting on the steps of the Capitol building an art student sketches. The artists were lobbying funding rights by showing Jeff City how important art was. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: In the upper hallway of the Capitol building, a student sketches a beautiful woman. The trip to Jeff City was planned to happen again in the future. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

RIGHT: Ellie Green and fellow student stand at their easels above the senate floor. The artists sketched for the day while the senate meetings went on about funding for the arts in schools. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# Getting Artsy in the Capitol

by Robyn Patti

**W**ith budget cuts and shrinking funding, the Missouri Arts Council decided to take a stand against losing funding for the arts. In February the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the St. Joseph's Allied Arts Council took a trip to the capitol to lobby for their funding.

Dr. Faye Smith, who is with the Craig School of Business, took the trip with the students to Jefferson City to make sure that the representatives knew that arts in our state were important at all levels. She helped with the vote for the arts lobby.

"Even in business, art is important," Dr. Smith said. "Arts in our city are an important aspect of our economy, which is why it is important."

The Executive Director Theresa Fankhauser of the Allied Arts Council was a part of the Jefferson City arts day. She was there advocating for the arts and encouraging the volunteer artists in the hall of the capitol building. Fankhauser strongly believes in the arts. Fankhauser worked year round to achieve the funding necessary to keep the arts intact within the city and the state.

"We receive grants that allow us to create art," Fankhauser said. "And the arts have a wonderful economic impact. In St. Joseph alone the economic impact totals 8.2 million, which boosts the city as a whole."

In Jefferson City, Mike Brown, State Representative in the 50th District, was committed to helping the arts keep their funding within the state.

"We need to fund arts in Missouri," Brown said. "Arts are vital to the state because they create jobs as well as create aesthetics in our lives."

Brown told the students of Western to keep the fight going to make sure the funding for the arts stays in place. Writing letters and emails to our state representatives and informing them of the importance of keeping the funding for the arts.

"The way the budgets are starting to shake out we don't want the arts to suffer," Brown said. "Studies show that creativity is a commodity in the future. Computers can do so much it takes a lot to change it so the creative mind is really important."

The artists of Western took the trip to the Capitol to take a stand for the funding of their dreams to draw in the hallways. This representation of the arts programs was similar to sports teams having a home game. This trip brought a lot of understanding to the students and faculty that the funding really is vital to these students, and those all across the state, to be able to live out their dreams. The Western arts plan to be a part of the Jefferson City Citizens of the Arts Day for ensuing years.





# The Doctor Is In

Dr. Vartabedian, president, was interviewed by Griffon Yearbook reporter, Robyn Patti, about the success and future of Missouri Western.

**Q:** Since you were involved in Greek life, what's your view on Missouri Western's Greek life?

**A:** Different universities have different Greek life needs. Where I came from, in the early 70s at California State University-Fresno, Greek life was a very important part of college. Attending events, athletic and social and otherwise, Greek life was an important force in a number of people's lives. This is a different university, but I certainly want to create the opportunity for it to blossom further on our campus. We have had assessments done on our campus, and Greek life was one of the things where we want opportunities. The atmosphere we want to create is relative to Greek life.

**Q:** It is known that you have a lot of interest in the arts. What are your views on the arts here?

**A:** I think it is an important part of a student's education to be exposed to the arts, either as an artist/performer or as someone who can appreciate the arts. I think we can educate students many ways, and if they leave here and don't have a level of cultivation of the arts and other things above and beyond just traditional things going on in the classroom, I think we have done them a disservice. I have done all that I can to resurrect the musical theater program and tried to help grow the marching band so that when they are on the field, they are an imposing presence. I am very fond of the visual arts, and I've done all I can to encourage the visual arts as well. We are hoping to start an outdoor art program and have had a few interesting installations of art on our campus which adds to the atmosphere of the campus. We have also become an All-Steinway School which has brought in outstanding musicians and upgraded our pianos for the music department.

**Q:** You are going on your 4th term as president. What do you feel your biggest accomplishment has been?

**A:** Oh, that's difficult to say. There has been so much accomplished! Certainly some of the things we have talked about – emphasis on artistic endeavors, emphasis on student life in general – are very important. I don't like to take credit for things that really were started long before I got here. But probably the two most visible things on campus would be the enhanced athletic facilities as well as the Chief's Camp, going hand in hand with the GISC, and the new Spring Sports Complex. I can't take credit for the Spring Sports Complex, but I'm glad that the dream was realized while I was here. With the Chiefs Camp, there were a number of us involved in that.

Also the renovation of Agenstein and the creation of the Remington wing are wonderful to be added on campus. There are not many universities in this state or region that have the kind of math and science facilities we have now. It is nice to have the strictly educational additions to the campus, including the world-class planetarium in that building. That renovation goes way back, and President Scanlon should be thanked for most of the efforts of that, but it is nice to have that completed while I was here.

**Q:** What do you see on the horizon for Missouri Western?

**A:** There are some exciting things on the horizon for sure. The renovation of Potter Hall is at the top of the list. With state funding down, it has been held back, but that is a huge goal and is something that we are hoping to seize right now. If the state money is not there, we are hoping to find some help from outside benefactors. The other one is the general funding issue for the university. We have the lowest appropriation in the state, yet we are the fastest growing university in the state. It is contrary to most state funding formulas for higher education. Usually if you grow, you are rewarded for growth in terms of the appropriation you receive. But somehow we got fixed at a low level a long time ago. We are addressing the issue by trying to have one of our legislators take this up to the next level to get us to the same appropriation level as other universities. We need to have enrollment growth be added into the formula to allow for the amount of funding to continue to grow with us. These are two huge initiatives that we are hoping to pursue in years to come.

...I'm glad that the dream was realized while I was here.



TOP: Dr. Vartabedian takes notes in the conference room. It takes a lot of effort and dedication to constantly make improvements to Missouri Western. *Photo by Molly Thomas*  
BOTTOM LEFT: Dr. Vartabedian is passionate when talking about the renovations at Western. He was very proud of the work done in Agenstein and Rennington. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dr. Vartabedian talks about ways to enhance Missouri Western. On his list were renovations of Potter Hall and initiatives to improve funding. *Photo by Molly Thomas*

# Breaking From Tradition

by Leah Cotton

Originally situated in what had been a storage closet on the first floor in 1987, the Women's Educational Resource Center gradually morphed into the Nontraditional Student Center, relocated to more commodious digs on the newly-constructed second floor of Eder Hall. Roughly 25 percent of students were considered nontraditional.

In the nontraditional lounge, the vibe was one of camaraderie: a family of sorts, a tight-knit support group of peers, each keenly aware of what the other was going through. When word spread like wildfire that Ellen Kisker's position was being eliminated, their wide-eyed panic was palpable. So they mounted a campaign to reclaim what they viewed as rightfully theirs.

Dr. Esther Peralez, vice president of student affairs, said the proposed changes were not due solely to budget constraints but part of a plan to better align and consolidate student services on campus. "The word is out there that we're not committed but we are because the cabinet all the way to the top said no. This is really a critical position," Peralez said.

However, rumors that the administration was more interested in re-populating the campus with Greeks than displaced homemakers and single weekend fathers persisted. Deb Potter, a nontraditional student, alerted local media outlets while she and Jason Sharp began circulating petitions. At final count, they had over 400 signatures.

According to Potter, other negative outcomes expected from this realignment of student services included fewer nontraditional students courageous enough to enroll to begin with as well as an increased attrition rate with more

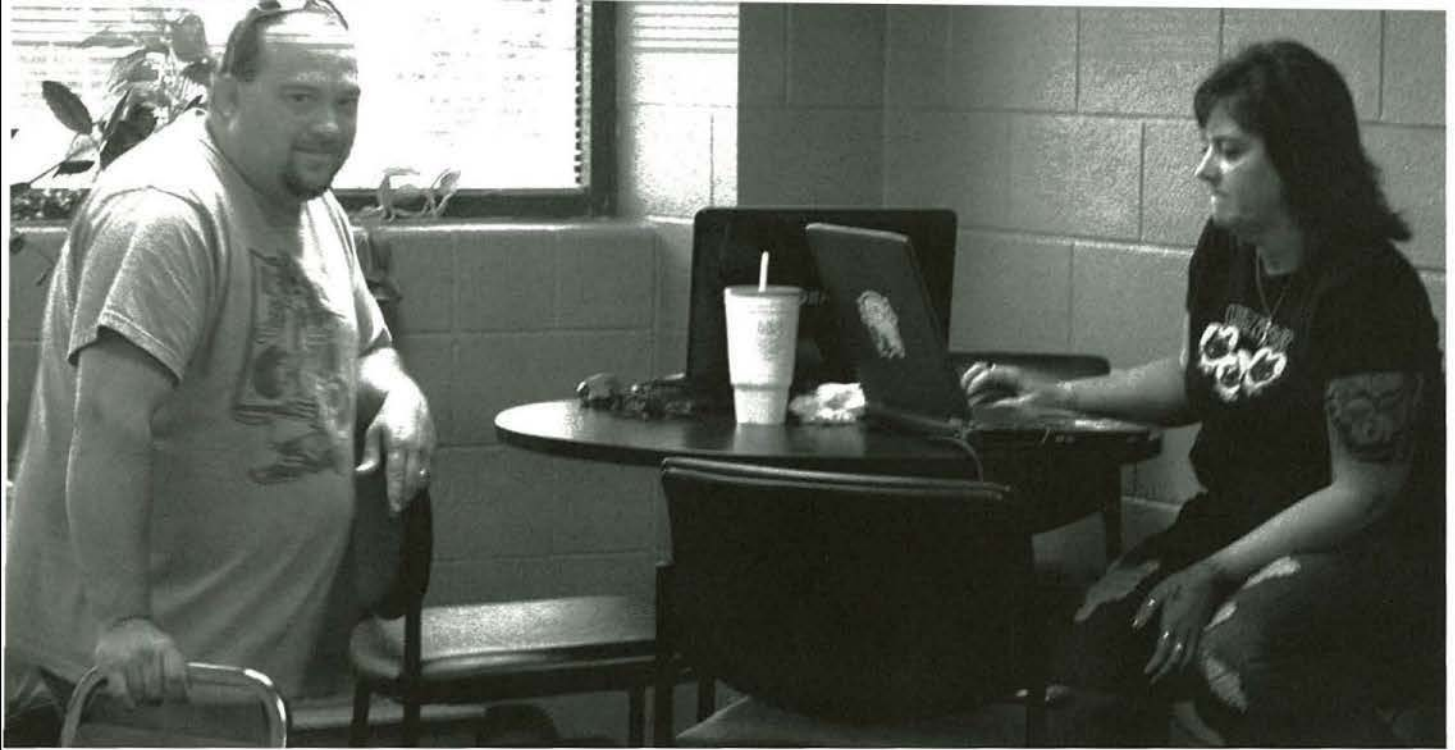
students dropping out when confronted by problems that appear insoluble to them.

"I think there is going to be a problem with retention because a lot of students get in here and get overwhelmed and Ellen helps them through it," current Nontraditional Student Association president Barry Hersh said. "She keeps them motivated and gives them encouragement to stick with it, to not leave, 'cause it's hard being a nontraditional student, especially when you're going broke and you need to leave school to go to work. It's hard to keep looking down the road to know things are going to get better and that's one of Ellen's greatest assets. She is wonderful in dealing with people and we're definitely going to lose that personal touch."

"Without Ellen's help, I would have been lost," former nontraditional student Sharon Bittick said. "Once Western gained university status, it lost that personal touch and became a big business. Now the kids it was built to serve no longer can afford to go there."

Former Director of Counseling and Career Services, Dorothy Miriani, wrote an eloquent letter published in the St. Joseph News-Press expressing her sentiments about the re-structuring that prompted Kisker's early retirement. Miriani outlined the challenges common to Nontraditional students and emphasized her commitment by describing her as someone "who never closed her door at night until each individual had been served."





**TOP LEFT:** Kisker has been Director of the NTSA for over 20 years. She retired on September 30th. *Photo by Robin Gann*

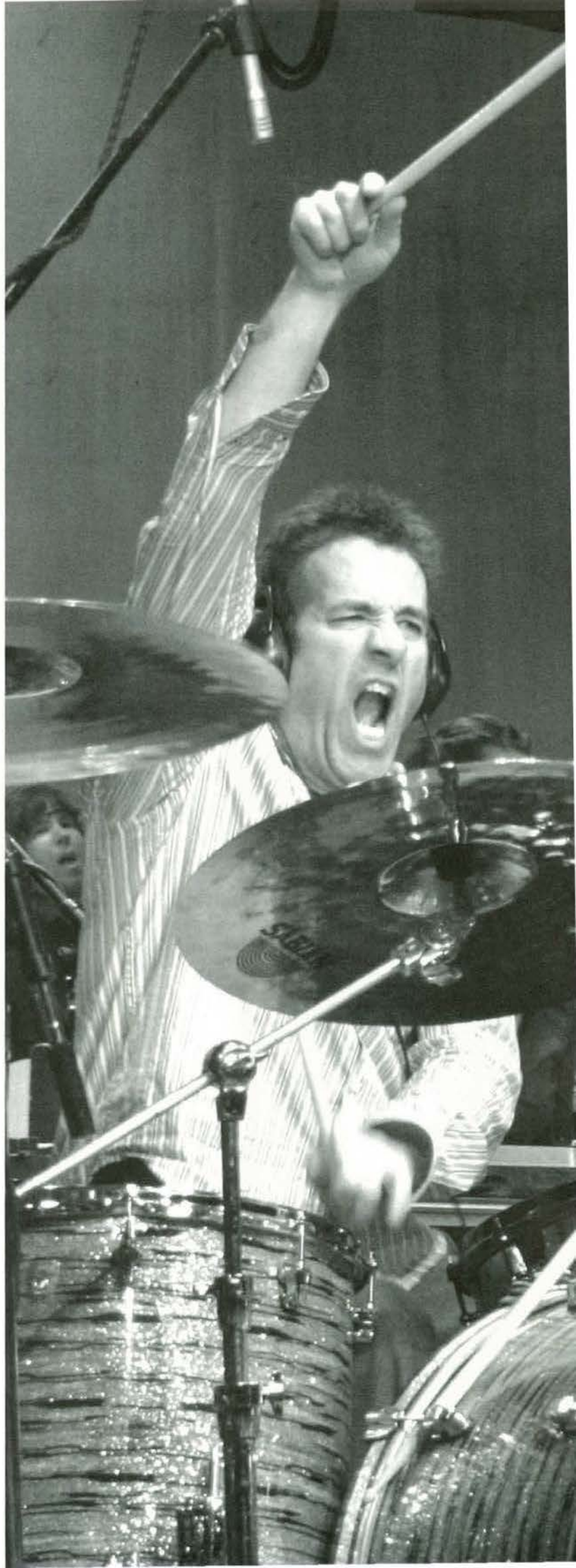
**TOP RIGHT:** The nontraditional lounge is a vital asset to nontraditional students. Roughly 25% of students are considered nontraditional students. *Photo by Robin Gann*

**ABOVE:** Ellen Kisker has been more than a smiling face for NTSA. She retired from Western this year. *Photo by Robin Gann*

**LEFT:** Students from the NTSA presented over 400 signatures for Kisker's petition. The petition was raised for Kisker to remain Director of the NTSA. *Photo by Robin Gann*



TOP LEFT: Drumming his heart out on a set of steel drums, Jonathan Hobbs concentrates on the count. The percussionist was a part of many different performances of the evening showing the audience his skill and talent as a drummer. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 RIGHT: After 11 years of drumming with Rascal Flatts, Jim Riley really knows how to put on a show. Riley and Dr. Dennis Rogers are old friends and Riley was happy to perform with Rogers' pupils. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: The percussionists of Western perform a set with studio guitarist Kevin Rogers. Rogers played a number of performances for the show. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*



# To the Beat of Their Own Drums

by Robyn Patti

As the drumsticks flew the audience gasped and applauded repeatedly. The MWSU Percussionists put on the show of the year, yet another year in a row, at the "Extreme Percussion Show" and fundraiser that the band holds annually.

The performance of Western's elite drummers was jaw dropping. Not only did the students play a variety of amazing and thrilling pieces, they had a celebrity guest for the show. Jim Riley, drummer for Rascal Flatts, joined in the fun performing with the percussion and some of his own beats.

The enthusiasm of each of the performers couldn't be more apparent as each of them rotated places and performed on numerous instruments. There were full percussion performances including xylophones and a triangle as well as a few numbers with the Caribbean sounding steel drums. In between these shows included drum solos from rock-star resembling drummers and quartets on bongos. Each performance was as enthralling as the last.

An addition to the college students was another set of students: Alford Music students. The children who take music lessons from Brian Alford brought their skills to Western's percussion show and performed a stomp-like show with trashcans. Senior Josh Colley taught drums to these students for a couple of years and was excited to show off these small bundles of talent to his peers.

"Most people think percussion is just drumming and it's loud, but in teaching these kids it's obvious that it's more," Colley said.

Jim Riley only added to the awe and excitement of these students' performances. Having been friends with percussion director, Dr. Dennis Rogers, for

years, the famous drummer was thrilled to be a part of the MWSU show.

"I'll count to four and do my thing" Riley said before his world premier of his newest ensemble, named "Legend" that would be recorded with Dr. Rogers' label, PercMasters to always allow that piece to be attached to Western. Riley played his heart out with the college students.

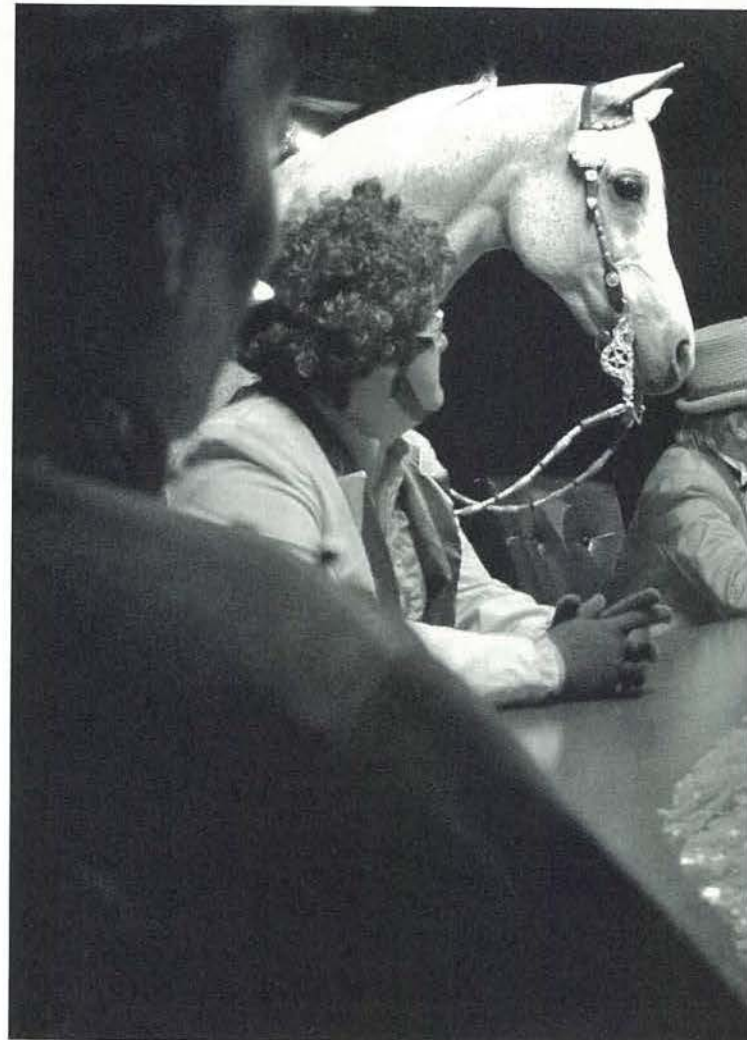
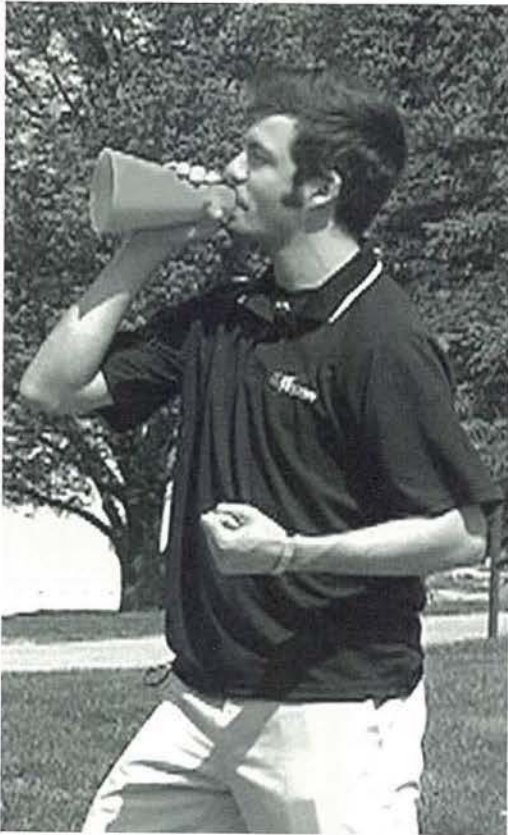
"The students were really amazing, and they are all so talented," Riley said. "Of all the things I do this will really stick out in my mind!"

Not only do these percussionists have talent, they also have a sense of humor. During the entire show there were constant ad libs and funny comments by the drummers, but the finale was the favorite of most: an elaborate rendition of "Ole` Ole" song by AJ Gray and made complete with the steel drums and other percussion in the background.


"If only I knew how to do a front flip!" Gray said of his performance. "Everything went really well overall," Gray said. "There were things added in at the last minute by Dr. Rogers and Jim Riley, but we really pulled everything off."

Senior percussionist and soloist on a performance, Jamie Haffner was thrilled with the show, after all the hard work that was put into it.

"We got the music for this show in May of last year, so we have practiced it for almost a year," Haffner said. "It was so much fun, just like it is every year!"



TOP LEFT: With plastic megaphone in hand, Luke Akers calls attention to the crowd of freshman attending Griffon Edge. The Western Admissions Intern was a Griffon Edge Leader as part of his internship and helped lead the incoming freshmen to success at Western. *Submitted by Luke Akers*  
 TOP RIGHT: Jeff Meyer takes a seat in the director's chair in INVESCO Field's control room. Meyer directed the scoreboard show for an Outlaws lacrosse game and an open practice for the Broncos. *Submitted by Jeff Meyer*  
 RIGHT: Super-fans, Mascot Thunder, and legendary quarterback John Elway on set at the URHFA shoot. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 ABOVE: Sarah Noe focuses the shot on her camera. Noe worked with the television station on base at Fort Campbell. *Submitted by Sarah Noe*



# Top Notch Experience

by Nick McCutcheon

Speaking in front of two thousand people, working on multimedia projects for professional sports teams and producing commercials for the military were not opportunities that could easily be found in Missouri Western classrooms.

Western students had to step out of the classroom for real world experience through a wide variety of internships. After achieving university status in 2005, Western earned the designation of state applied learning institution. With 89 percent of Western students earning credit in applied learning courses, real-world experiences played a major role in preparing students for their careers.

Senior Luke Akers spent the entire 2010-2011 school year as the New Student Experience Intern. Through his internship experience, Akers was able to learn and develop skills that he said would be helpful in his future endeavors.

As part of his internship, Akers was in charge of booking all night events for Griffon Edge. Even though he had a large work load for an intern, Akers said there were also some fun perks.

"Most of the time, I got to drive around on a golf cart, which was pretty sweet," Akers said.

Among his other duties, Akers was asked to hire and train around 75 staff members. Akers felt that by interviewing so many people, he would be better prepared for interviews when he seeks a career.

"I've probably interviewed, over the last three to four years, 300-400 people," Akers said. "I am so used to the environment and the types of questions that I will be so comfortable in interviews."

Akers said he also gained valuable public speaking experience.

"Speaking in front of like 1,000

people is a do or die thing, it's kind of sink or swim," Akers said. "Once you start swimming, then it's nothing."

Besides the experiences, internships also provided students with a chance to network and sometimes receive job opportunities. Junior Sarah Noe interned at Fort Campbell with the base's T.V. station. Noe worked on commercials and helped produce the base's television programs.

Noe said that the position provided her with a more realistic view of what she may do after school. She even received a job offer through her internship.

"They really wanted me to come back and work for them, but I said I wanted to graduate first," Noe said.

Senior Jeff Meyer also saw the benefit of networking while he served as an intern in Denver, Co. with the stadium management company for Invesco Field at Mile High. Meyer was able to gain experience and make industry contacts in the video production field.

"Internships work absolutely great for networking," Meyer said. "One thing that an internship does that school doesn't do is it puts you in touch with people that you wouldn't have met otherwise."

Meyer felt that students should make the most of internship opportunities and use them to gain knowledge that they cannot acquire in the classroom.

"When you get a chance to do something that you love, you go for it," Meyer said.



# Nature Takes Its Course in St. Joe

by Kristen Toll

The red, high standing structure is striking against the pale blue sky, surrounding winter trees and the murky, half-frozen waters of the "Mighty-Mo." Built on what looks like stilts to make it "flood proof," the Remington Nature Center is still breathtaking to look at, even during

the cold winter months. One can only imagine the scene to include beautiful green trees, wild flowers, a butterfly garden, a hike and bike trail filled with bikers and walkers or even swarms of families enjoying the outdoors during the warmer months.

A life-sized 10,000 year-old woolly mammoth and her baby greet all guests of the center as they enter through the front doors to begin their journey. The 7,000 gallon aquarium that houses freshwater fish native to the neighboring Missouri River is also one of the more popular attractions.

A black bear weighing over 600 pounds, a bobcat perching precariously overhead or birds frozen in mid-flight above are only a few of the vast collection of taxidermy animals that can be seen throughout the center. A visitor can stand shoulder to shoulder with a bison or get closer to a wolf than they ever thought possible. These woodland creatures and many animals native to the Midwest are on display in what would have been their natural-looking habitats.

The building is wall-to-wall with several interactive exhibits that make the visit not only educational, but magical as well. Kids, and kids-at-heart, can explore a beaver dam, watch a functioning beehive and listen to the howl of a wolf, the gobble of a turkey or the call of an eagle. They can even watch as several Missouri animals make tracks in the sand right before their eyes and try to identify to which animal they belong.

The Native American artifact area showcases clothing, toys and tools representative of the heritage. One can observe over 1,200 Native American artifacts that were unearthed right here in the Midwest.

Stroll through time as you travel through the adobe tunnel to witness how civilization from 10,000 BC to the turn of the 20th Century has impacted nature. There are plenty of colorful hieroglyphics on the walls to read and interpret. Life-sized dioramas of Native American scenes and more hands-on exhibits await the visitor at every turn. Visitors can also camp in a fur trader tent or shop for goods in the trader cabin.

Stop by the theater and see a production of Westward Migration, as it recounts the story of the California Gold Rush and journeys west to Oregon. Listen to Mary Alicia Owen tell you the story of the Sunbridge and the Sacred Hills. Check out the hologram show that plays every 15 minutes. These ghosts from the past educate and entertain with stories from old town St. Joseph. Learn about the Pony Express, see the front of an old, coal-powered train and hear the whistle blow.

The Civil War Exhibit is the featured exhibit on display at the center. The display includes uniforms of a former St. Joseph mayor and Confederate General as well as a Union Colonel. Other items in the Civil War display include oxen shoes, iron knuckles, Union coat buttons, Confederate currency and an artillery box plate.

There is so much to hear, see and experience during a visit to the Remington Nature Center. This magical place provides fun for the whole family. Everyone can learn something from the Remington Nature Center, whether it be about the history of the Midwest or the impact humans have had on the landscape and environment, all while exploring what can be done to make a positive impact on our world.





TOP LEFT: The woolly mammoth in the museum is a life-size version for children and adults to learn about. The huge mammal was 10,000 years old. *Photo by Kristen Toll*

TOP RIGHT: The Remington Nature Center is located on the West side of St. Joseph, near the Missouri River. The Nature Center brought in children and kids-at-heart to learn about the environment and nature in Missouri over the centuries. *Photo by Kristen Toll*

ABOVE: A black bear in the forest is one of the many scenes that can be studied at Remington. The environmental scenes such as this allow education of the wildlife and how to care for it. *Photo by Kristen Toll*

LEFT: Remington is a flood-proof building, built on stilts next to the river. The Nature Center was completed in October 2008. *Photo by Kristen Toll*

# Welcome to the Alumni Club

by Sarah Hatten and Robyn Patti



Graduation is the pinnacle of life as a college student. It is time to say goodbye to classrooms and hallways. There's no more time for electives such as canoeing and karate. It is time to grow up and enter the business world as adults, ready or not. College goes by in a flash, even for super seniors who take an extra year victory lap, or sometimes two, in order to complete their graduation requirements.

High school graduation seems like a big deal until college graduation comes around. High school attendance is mandatory, where college classes are not, so graduating from college is a much bigger accomplishment because self-discipline is a requirement. College is a time for growth and reflection and it is not always easy to separate the freedom from the fun. Responsibilities are greater and current grades are the gateway to future careers so the only way to survive is to overcome procrastination and apathy.

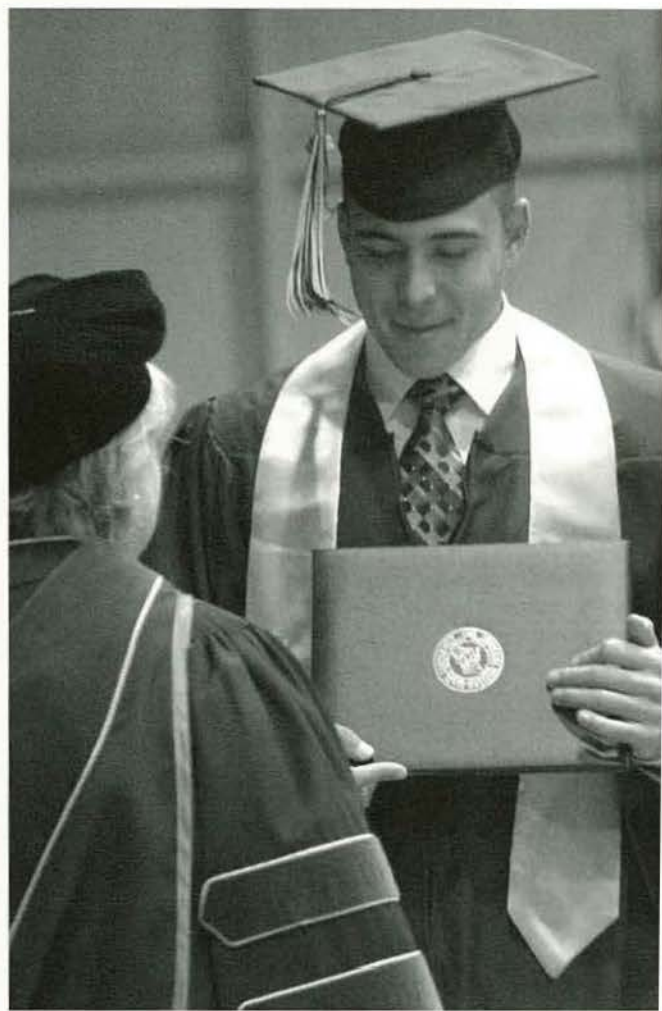
Ryan Good graduated from Western with a major in Biology and Biochemistry. He had been filling out applications for medical school and planned on being a surgeon.

"I didn't realize how quickly my college life was flying by, but now I look around and I realize it is over," Good said.

Time did fly for most, not so much for some, though. Either way the life of a college student is hardly ever easy. This is why making it to graduation was such a wonderful achievement. College students don't tough it out for the fun of it, they are here for a reason and whether that be because their parents expect it of them or they expect it of themselves, they did it and that's what matters.



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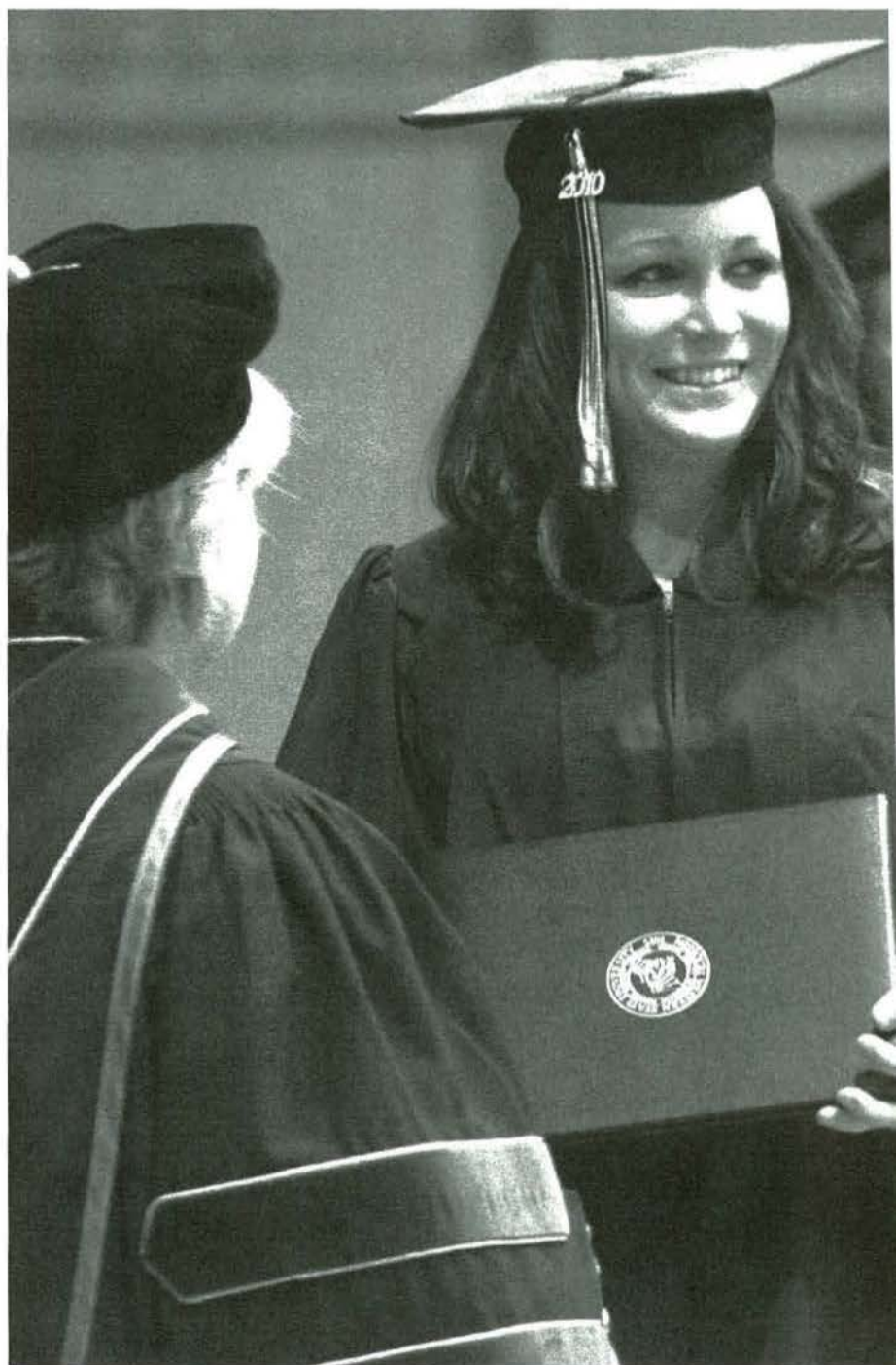
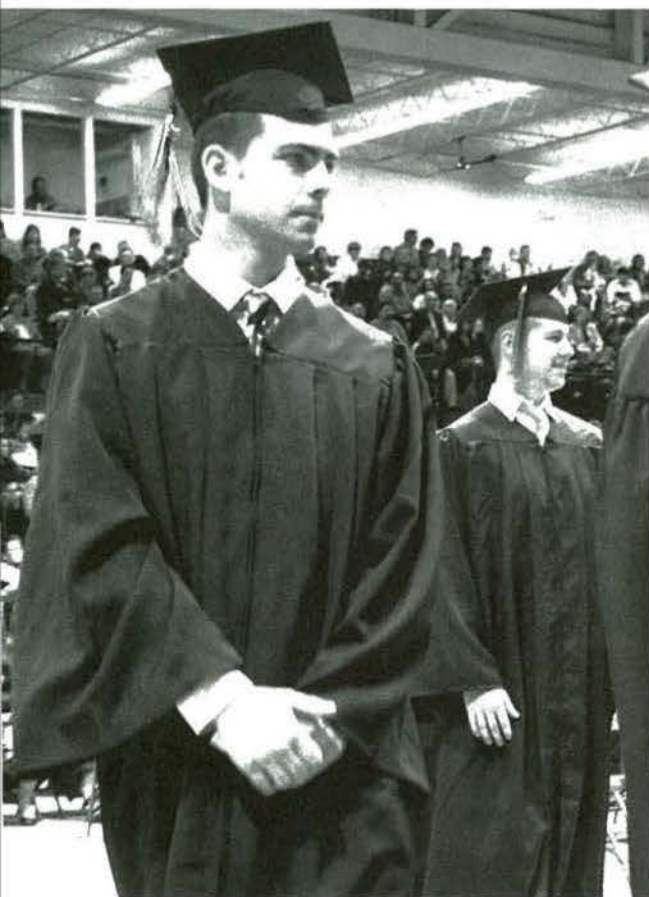
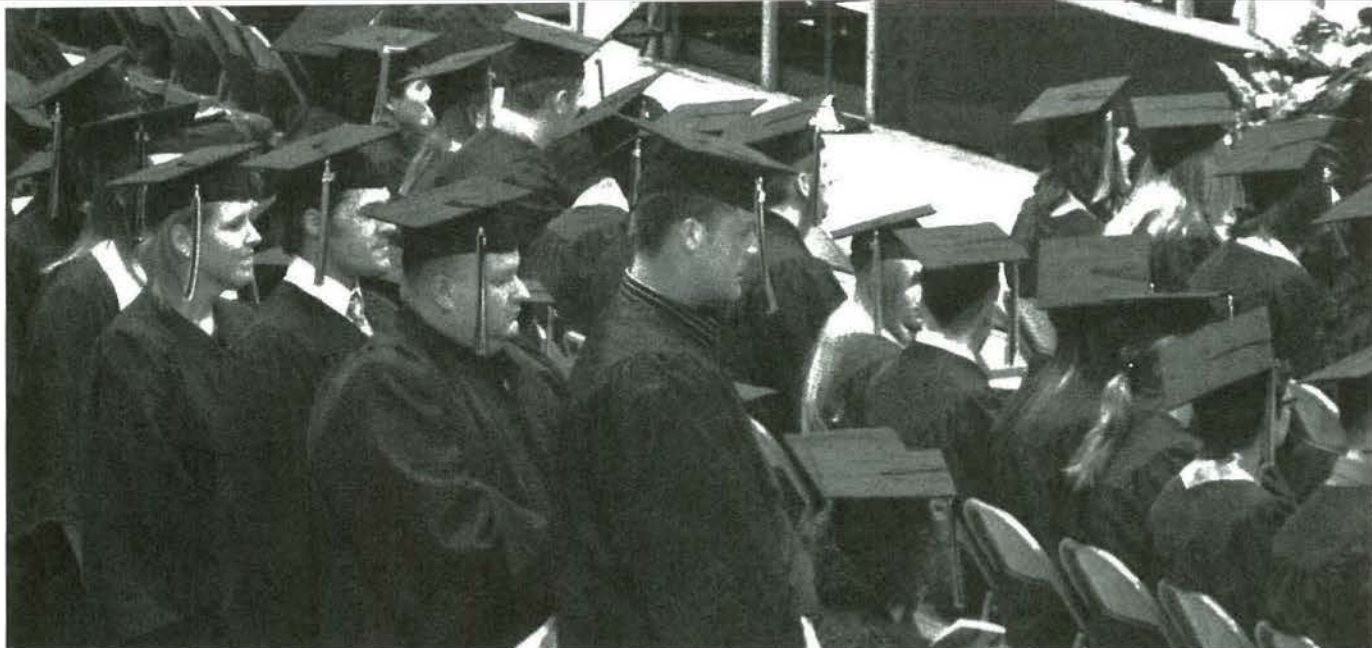


TOP LEFT: Graduates of Western stand and await their walk to the podium to receive their degrees. The Spring commencement was held on May 14, 2011. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

TOP RIGHT: Even during the excitement, there's always a moment to send a text to friends and loved one. The graduating seniors held their hats in anticipation of the ceremony. *Submitted by Heather Heater*

ABOVE: One senior is happy to finally have his proof of achievement. The graduate was a student with honors and worked hard for his degree, earning at least a 3.5 throughout his college career. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

LEFT: During the Winter Commencement the graduates stand to prepare to sing Western's Alma Mater. The Graduates of Fall 2010 held the ceremony on December 20, 2010. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

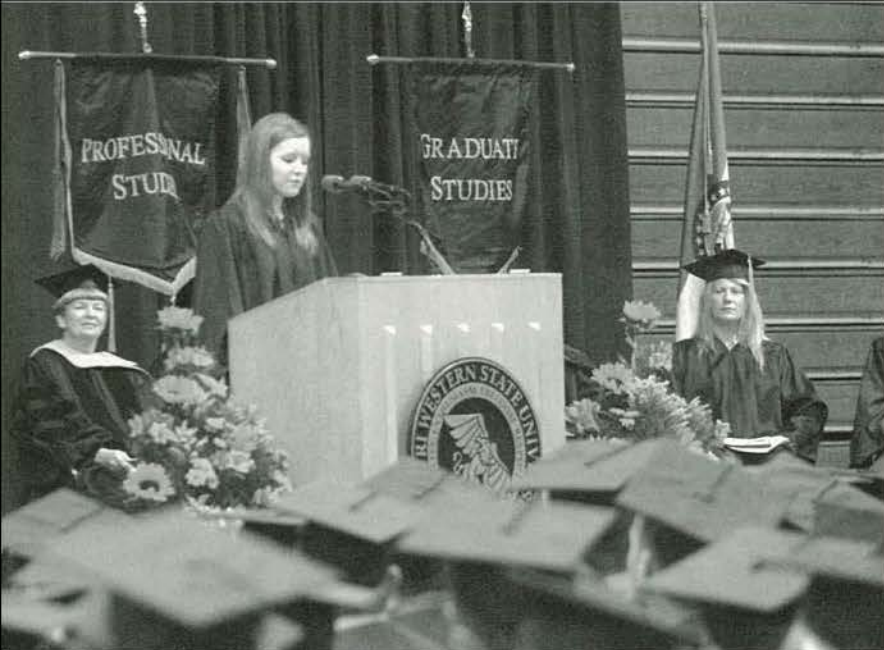


TOP LEFT: Andrew Mead leads his row to the stage to receive their degrees. The graduates of Spring 2011 proudly accepted their degrees on stage. *Submitted by Raphaelle Drew*

TOP RIGHT: As the graduates listen intently, Lindsey Jackson speaks to her fellow students, faculty and staff. The senior speech communication major was nominated to speak at the ceremony and for the first time in school history there was a student speaker at a commencement. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

RIGHT: Cierra Cadworth looks out to the crowd as she happily accepts her diploma. The senior graduated in fall of 2010 with an degree in Art. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

ABOVE: Anxiously awaiting the line for his diploma, a senior looks ahead. The graduates have a bright future to look ahead to. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



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Dominique Leone was a graduate with a major in International Affairs and Business Management. She was a student trying to get to where she wanted to be in life, and that meant a double major and a lot of soul searching.

"In high school, you figure out who you are and what you want, but in college, you figure out what you need to do in order to become who you want to be and what you want to have in life," Leone said.

A lot of the graduates from Western reflect on their years here and think back to the ups and downs. For most there were a lot of both: losing friends, making new ones, failing classes, acing tests, homesickness, traveling a far and everything in between. The seniors will always remember their graduation day as the closing point to a long, hard journey that they completed successfully.

Megan Anderson was one of those graduates. She knew the hard work would pay off someday, and it did. Anderson was offered a job at Grantham University, and after graduating with a major in Communications with an emphasis in public relations, will put her hard work to use.

"It wasn't easy. There were high points and low points but on the day of graduation, you should choose to remember the high points and celebrate the good times you had along the way," Anderson said.

The seniors of Missouri Western took the steps across the stage to the podium where they were handed the black folder with the school's seal on the front and with a firm handshake from Western's President, Dr. Vartebedian, the seniors were transformed into Western alumni.



# Athletics

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Photo by Robin Ussher



# The Boys Are Back

by Nick McCutcheon

The roller coaster ride that was the Missouri Western football team's season included climbs, falls, peaks and valleys. After starting the season 4-0, the Griffons headed to Maryville, Mo. ranked 8th in the nation, the team's highest ranking ever. What was then the top scoring offense in the country was blanked by Northwest Missouri 42-0. Three weeks later, after losing to Central Missouri and Missouri Southern, the Griffons were 5-3 and unranked. After five straight trips to the post-season, the Griffons were on the outside looking in.

These Griffons were resilient though. They came from behind to beat Washburn Sep. 18 on a 33-yard touchdown from senior Drew Newhart to sophomore Michael Hill with less than two minutes remaining. They had another come back in them.

With no one giving them a shot, Western thumped Emporia State 42-14, beat Nebraska-Omaha on a touchdown pass with 16 seconds left and took care of Fort Hays 48-21 to finish 8-3, and undefeated at Spratt Stadium. The three consecutive victories to finish the season got the Griffons into the Division II playoffs for just the second time in school history.

"We were 5-3, and I think we were down and out," Head Coach Jerry Partridge said. "Our kids played great, it turned into a great win in Omaha which you can never take lightly. I'm gratified with how we finished."

Not only were the Griffons in the playoffs, but their first round match-up provided the opportunity to avenge the loss against the arch rival Bearcats.

"We do get another shot at them," Newhart said. "With that being said, they did beat us 42-0. We're not expected to win."

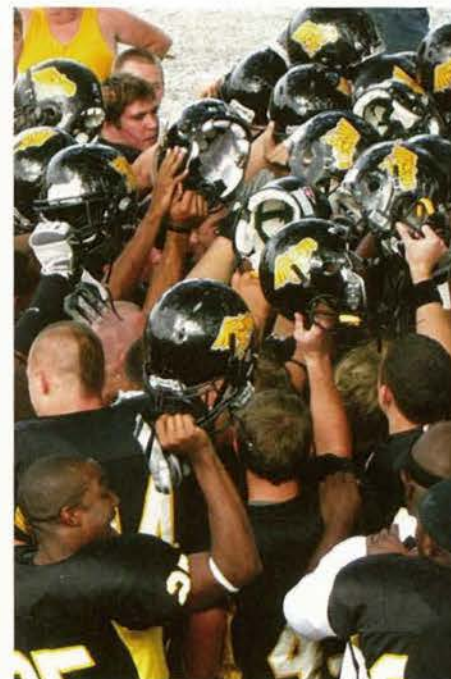
The Griffons surprised the doubters and jumped on the Bearcats early, getting touchdown receptions from junior Adam Clausen and senior Andrew Mead. The defense stymied Northwest in the first-half, and the Griffons took a 17-0 lead into halftime.

After two quick touchdowns in the third quarter, the Bearcats pulled within three, 17-14. Western got a 39-yard touchdown reception from sophomore Terrell Downing, but it would be the last score for the Griffons. Northwest scored two fourth quarter touchdowns to go ahead 24-28. Western had one last chance with 2:56 left in the game, but had no last minute heroics left. Northwest ended the Griffons season 24-28.

"I knew they were going to come back and punch us in the mouth," Mead said. "It's frustrating, but it is what it is."

Along the ride, these Griffons left their mark on the record books. Newhart became the school's all-time leader in pass attempts, pass completions, passing yards, total-yards of offense and pass completion percentage. On Oct. 9, Head Coach Jerry Partridge got his 100th win as the Griffons beat the Bulldogs 29-7. Brad Beckwith broke his own record for longest field goal in school history with a 56-yarder in the regular season finale.

"It was very much a roller coaster season," Partridge said. "You know what, it was a pretty good roller coaster ride."



## Scoreboard 8-4 overall

Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 28-24	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 14-16	Missouri Southern State University.....L, 23-6
Fort Hays State University.....W, 21-48	Emporia State University.....W, 14-42	University of Central Missouri.....L, 43-21



TOP LEFT: Defensive Back James Eilers watches from the sidelines. Eilers was a freshman on the team. *Photo by Kelsey Saythary*  
 TOP CENTER: Kicker Brad Beckwith punts the ball high into the air. Beckwith was a senior and this was his last season with Griffon Football. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 TOP RIGHT: On the line of scrimmage, quarterback Drew Newhart guides his teammates. Newhart led the team with 2800 yards in passing for the season. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 ABOVE: Freshman Josh Williams

holds the ball in preparation for the spike. On the line Brian Chiles, sophomore, readied himself for the play. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 LEFT: David Fowler sprints into the end zone holding the ball tight. The junior tight end stayed paces ahead of the opponents trailing him to score for Western. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*  
 FAR LEFT: Griffon Football fights as a team. The Griffons huddled together post-game raising their helmets in a cheer to their strength as a team. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

# High Flying Fun

by Sarah Hatten

Missouri Western is known for turning out impressive numbers of people for campus events. Students, faculty members and the St. Joseph community flock to Western to show their support for the Griffons.

Western events are always notable and exciting, but the main reason people attend is the atmosphere. The fans, the hype, the energy, and the spirit squad made Western the place to be. The ambiance would not be the same without the cheerleaders, the Mystics dancers and the flag twirlers.

The pep squad impressed the crowd all year and their larger than life enchantment seemed effortless. These three teams worked together to entice the fans and keep the tone of events light and merry. They got the people out of their seats and moving to the power of the music and the cheers. The cheerleaders, dancers and flag twirlers deserve a lot of recognition for the time and effort they put into their performances. The Mystics dancers practiced every single day with the band and had extra workouts on their own twice a week. They performed at every home football game and most of the home basketball games. They also performed in parades and made various special appearances with the band.

"We are like a family. We spent every day together and we learned to love each other as individuals," junior Mystics dancer Heather Reeder said.

The cheerleaders clocked in hours of practice time every week, along with individual work outs on their own. They cheered for the football team and both men and women's basketball, so they stayed pretty busy since those seasons overlapped. They only had a week between the end of the season and tryouts and they practiced every other weekend over the summer. Cheerleaders have to re-try out every year and it is the only sport where co-eds participate at the same time.

"Cheerleaders don't have protective gear, just pom poms," junior cheerleader Kerri Jewel said. "We have a great amount of trust in each other. We literally put our lives at risk. We are tossing girls extremely high in the air and they trust us to catch them."

Squad spirit was crucial and every member had to be ready to make the team work together. Even during a gloomy day, these leaders had to pull it together and put on a happy face to keep the fans entertained. It was a big job, but during school events, these Griffons were proud to bleed black and gold.



TOP LEFT: Jacy Byrne anticipates a smile during a football game. The marching band played in the background behind the Mystics. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
TOP RIGHT: The flag core spins their flags like nobody's business. The girls worked hard to stay in sync at all times during performances. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
RIGHT: The Cheerleaders form a massive pyramid. The



squad practiced nearly everyday to perfect stunts like this one. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Jess Jackson smiles and shakes her pom-poms at a Missouri Western basketball game. Jackson proudly cheered on the Griffon sports teams. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*

half time at the football game. *Photo by Lauren Dillon*

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Mystics sparkle and shine in their black and gold glitter costumes. With big smiles on their faces, they performed during



# Volleywood

by Nick McCutcheon

In his second season at the helm of the Missouri Western volleyball program, Head Coach Cory Frederick saw his team take the first steps toward something great.

“So far we’re progressing right towards where we need to be,” Frederick said. “It just takes a little time.”

After being picked 10th in the preseason MIAA Coaches’ Poll, Western went on to finish 7th, their highest conference finish since 2007. The Griffons finished the season 12-17 overall with an 8-12 mark in conference play. The eight conference wins were a four game improvement from 2009.

“We exceeded many people’s expectations and accomplished things that had not been done in the past four years,” Frederick said. “We’re up in the middle of the conference which is kind of where we wanted to start.”

In addition to improving their conference record, the Griffons swept conference foe Pittsburg State for the first time since 1999. Western was also able to take both matches against Fort Hays.

With four games to go, Western stood at 8-8 in MIAA play but dropped two tough matches to Nebraska-Omaha and rival Northwest Missouri. The Griffons had previous wins over both the Mavericks and Bearcats. Losses to tough Central Missouri and Truman teams left the Griffons with four straight defeats to end the season.

The season was not as much about wins and losses as it was building the foundation for the future.

“Our young players did a great job bringing some much needed enthusiasm and determination to the program,” Frederick said. “We look forward to adding more players like them.”

Newcomer Stephanie Hattey was tabbed as the MIAA Freshman of the Year. Hattey lead the team in assists with 637, was second with 26 aces, and third in digs (2+5) and blocks (40). She was also named honorable mention All-MIAA.

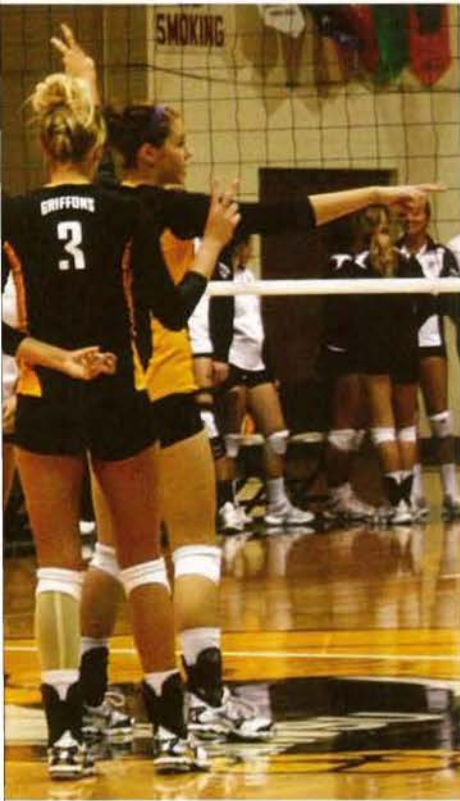
“I definitely couldn’t have got the freshman of the year without this team,” Hattey said. “Volleyball is the biggest team sport. It can’t just be about you.”

Joining Hattey was senior Kelli Sicner. It was Sicner’s third selection as an honorable mention All-MIAA performer. Sicner led the team in kills and digs and was part of some Western teams that struggled.

“I’m so happy with how much everyone else on the team has progressed,” Sicner said. “Everybody’s gotten better.”

Senior Lauren Burbach led the Griffons in serve percentage at .965 and witnessed the program progress in her time at Western.

“Overall, this year we’ve made a lot of improvements,” Burbach said. “I know we’re on the upward track. When I started here, it was a lot different. It’s good to be part of the foundation. You always wish you could be part of the 30-0 team but it’s still awesome. We’ve come a long way.”



## Scoreboard 12-17 overall

■ Cameron University.....W, 3-0	■ Drury University.....L, 2-3	■ Fort Hays State University.....W, 3-0	■ Southwest Baptist University.....W, 3-0
■ Ouachita Baptist University.....L, 2-3	■ Chadron State University.....W, 3-0	■ Emporia State University.....L, 0-3	■ Missouri Southern State University.....L, 0-3
■ University of Illinois-Springfield.....W, 3-1	■ Upper Iowa University.....W, 3-2	■ Washburn University.....L, 2-3	■ Rockhurst University.....L, 0-3
■ Christian Brothers University.....L, 0-3	■ Missouri S&T University.....L, 0-3	■ Pittsburg State University.....W, 3-2	■ University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 3-2





FAR LEFT: Tahler Johnston prepares for the next volley. Johnston is a business management major. *Photo by Heather Heater*

TOP LEFT: Kelli Sicer makes a leap to block the ball. Sicer was a senior this year. *Photo by Heather Heater*

CUTOUT: The bond between the girls is intense. They banded together for a huddle before every game. *Photo by Heather Heater*

TOP RIGHT: Justine Buskirk stands in ready position for the ball. She chose Western because she wanted to be able to play close to home. *Photo by Heather Heater*

BOTTOM RIGHT: The girls prepare themselves for volley after volley. Tahler Johnston reaches for the stars during the match. *Photo by Heather Heater*



University of Central Missouri.....L, 0-3	Emporia State University.....L, 0-3	Missouri Southern State University...W, 3-0	Truman State University.....L, 0-3
NWMSU.....W, 3-2	Washburn University.....L, 0-3	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 0-3	
Truman State University.....L, 1-3	Pittsburg State University.....W, 3-2	University of Central Missouri.....L, 0-3	
Fort Hays State University.....W, 3-1	Southwest Baptist University.....L, 1-3	Northwest Missouri State University...L, 0-3	



TOP LEFT: The complex is complete with fresh turf, new stadium seating and bright lights. It stretched 118,000 square feet. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

RIGHT: The new Spring Sports Complex is located on the North side of campus. The exciting new home field for baseball and softball may help to bring out a lot more interested student athletes and fans. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

ABOVE: Dr. Vartabedian cuts the ribbon the new complex. The Complex cost 10.3 million dollars. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# A New Home Base

by Robyn Patti

The newest addition to Western's campus this year was the new Spring Sports Complex, housing new baseball and softball fields. Located on the north side of campus, closest to the entry off Faraon Street, the new fields were a step in the direction of home field advantage for our Griffons and an exciting spring sports season to come.

Griffon Baseball coach Buzz Verduco was looking forward to attracting even better players to Western and seeing more of a crowd at the home games.

"Now that we have such a great venue, the anticipation of the home field advantage we will have is just going to build for next season," Coach Verduco said. "When our team can play in front of a big crowd, it pushes them to be better players."

With that anticipation building, the coaches looked forward to promoting the Western field for other teams in the St. Joseph area.

Senior Brittany Douglas, a Recreational Sport Management major, knew the fields would boost softball's support as well. The Western Softball team previously played in St. Joseph's Heritage Park fields, which was quite a venture away from campus.

"A lot of people didn't want to drive when we were out at Heritage," Douglas said. "Now we have one of the best fields in the area, even better than some D1 schools."

Also built with the field was a new scoreboard for the baseball and softball teams to utilize. These additions to campus would only increase the support for Western Athletics and the hope to attract athletes to Western.

Having the fields on campus for the teams to use during the spring season didn't just benefit the players in the spring, though. Fall practices would increase and off-season play became a possibility. Sophomore Blair Stalder was in her first year as a Griffon Softball player but knew the benefits of having the home field.

"Last fall we couldn't play at all except for one game so it will be nice to finally be on campus where we can practice and play year round," Stalder said. "And not having to deal with the mosquitoes will be nice!"

Western's newest Spring Sports Complex was a multi-faceted idea bringing up recruitment numbers, drawing in more Western fans and possibly leading to a home-field increase in wins with the new advantage. The baseball and softball teams were eager for the seasons to come to finally take a stand on Western's ground.



# Takin' It to the Rim

by Bryant Porter

The Women's basketball team had been down the last two years, failing to reach the MIAA tourney either year. But the Lady Griffons worked hard and never gave up this year, returning Western to the MIAA tournament, where they faced second seed Washburn in the first round.

The Lady Griffons would not come out on top of that battle, with a close three-point heart breaking loss. The team finished the year with a regular season record of 11-11 in the MIAA and a 14-13 record overall. The team lost against Washburn in the MIAA tourney but is not a reflection on how well the season really was. The Griffons fought hard all year and helped return this team to the class it deserves to be mentioned in.

This team was headed up by seniors Brenna Saline, Lauren Nolke, Rachel Luteyn and Colleen Schneider, all of who were not recruited by the current head coach Lynn Plett. Plett started his first year when these seniors were all freshmen. The Griffons would make the MIAA tourney that year but would not return again until this year. Western faced a lot of adversities and scandals but overcame them and never gave up and one person who truly showed the heart and determination to overcome everything standing in her way was senior Lauren Nolke.

"I just want people to think about our group of seniors and how we weren't even recruited by this coach but we stuck together through all of this adversity and in the end turned losing around and set the bar a little higher again for Western Women's basketball," Nolke said. "Besides the ending, I'd say this season was a satisfying way to end my career. The teammates really made basketball fun again, which it hadn't been the past three years."

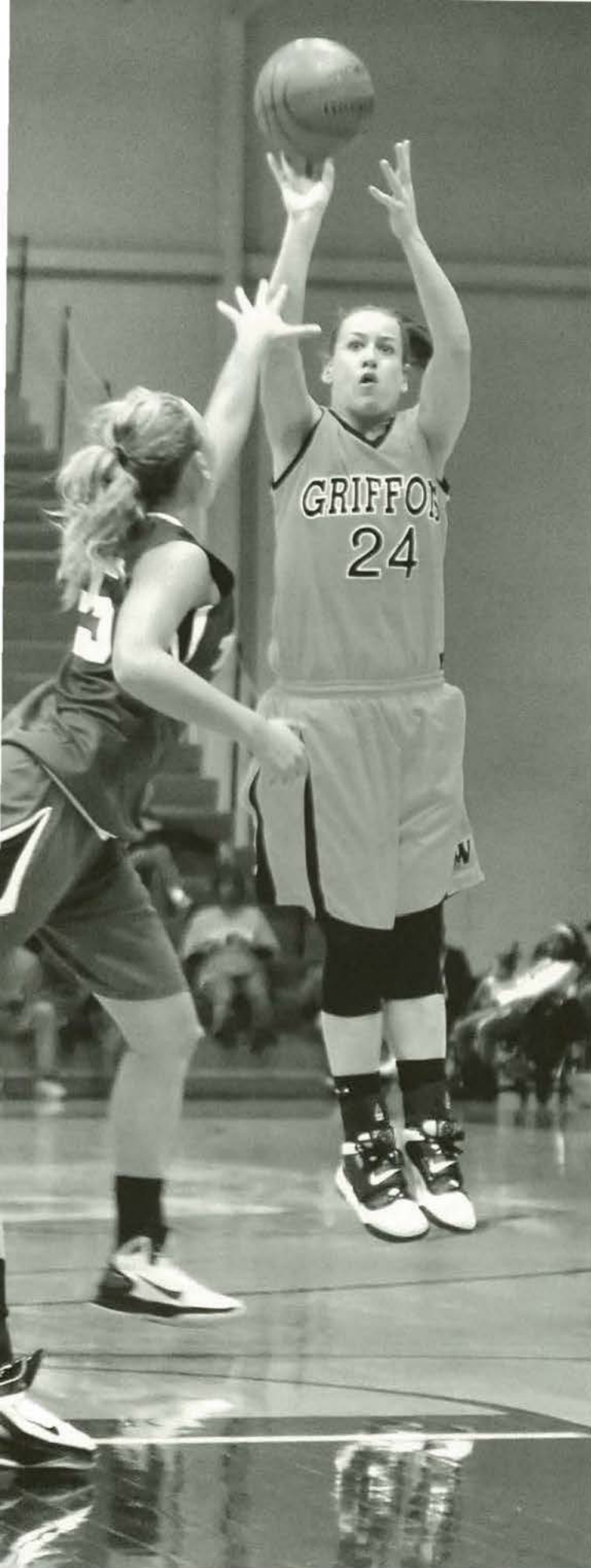
Coming into the season, expectations were not extremely high because Western had failed to reach the MIAA tournament the previous two years. Head Coach Lynn Plett worked hard with the ladies over the past seasons and it showed. Coach Plett always treated opposing coaches and media with respect. Unfortunately though, that doesn't win ball games. Plett demanded a lot of hard work and dedication from his players. He got that from his players this year. One player that really showed that type of determination and hard work was senior Rachel Luteynn.

"Overall, I think we exceeded others' standards, but as a team, I feel there were games we should have won but we set our expectations high," Luteyn said "We focused on getting the ball out and running with it and taking pride in our defense and not turning down good shots on offense, but most importantly, having fun."

## Scoreboard 14-13 overall

Northern Michigan University.....L, 58-73	Missouri Southern State University.....L, 59-67	Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 81-73
Upper Iowa University.....W, 87-54	Fort Hays State University.....W, 76-58	Lincoln University.....W, 67-65
Rockhurst University.....W, 74-52	Washburn University.....W, 60-41	Truman State University.....W, 62-53
Pittsburg State University.....W, 73-55	Newman University.....W, 65-57	University of Central Missouri.....L, 53-56
Emporia State University.....L, 69-79	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 71-63	Pittsburg State University.....L, 56-70





LEFT: Junior Jessica Koch drives to the basket. Koch took the lane as she scores 2 of her 15 points for the night. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

TOP RIGHT: Head woman's basketball coach Lynn Plett talks to the Lady Griffs. Lynn Plett coached Lady Griffs to victory over Truman 68, to 48. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

ABOVE: Sophomore guard Kayla Vice goes up for a lay up. Vice scored 2 of her 3 points for the night against Truman. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

Emporia State University.....W, 78-71	Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 82-91	Southwest Baptist University.....L, 62-70
Washburn University.....L, 74-95	Southwest Baptist University.....W, 66-50	Washburn University.....L, 55-58
Fort Hays State University.....L, 68-71	Lincoln University.....W, 66-34	
Missouri Southern State University.....L, 61-67	Truman State University.....W, 68-48	
University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 67-54	University of Central Missouri.....L, 58-80	

# Bend it Like Western

by Sarah Hatten

The ladies of the Missouri Western soccer team were dedicated to their sport and devoted to their team chemistry. One of Missouri Western's wins was against the best team in the league, which proved their determination. The Lady Griffons were a very powerful team, even though they had a little trouble finishing some of their shots.

The team was made up of the same players from the previous year. "We had the same amount of strength as we did last year, but we lacked the team motivation to win," Ashlyn Castillo said.

The team was not as confident this year as they have been in previous years.

The members of the team were the same, but some of the top scorers were injured. Missouri Western's top goal scorer and assisting player from last year, Abby Widrig, was injured this season so she could not contribute to the team.

"We had high hopes for our season this year, but injuries in the spring and during the season held us back from reaching our goals. It wasn't a disappointing season. I still have lots of very fond memories, but we just needed that little extra push for us to be a great team," Mary Ohm said.

With every game, there was pressure to succeed and fulfill the team duties. Castillo used one word to describe this team as, "improving." The ladies grew to understand the team dynamics and are prepared to make improvements for next season.

The team never lost hope and continued to play hard throughout the entire season. They had to find strength in each other to endure the 110 minute games when they turned into tie-breakers as opposed to the usual 90 minute games. Missouri Western played out six tie-breakers.

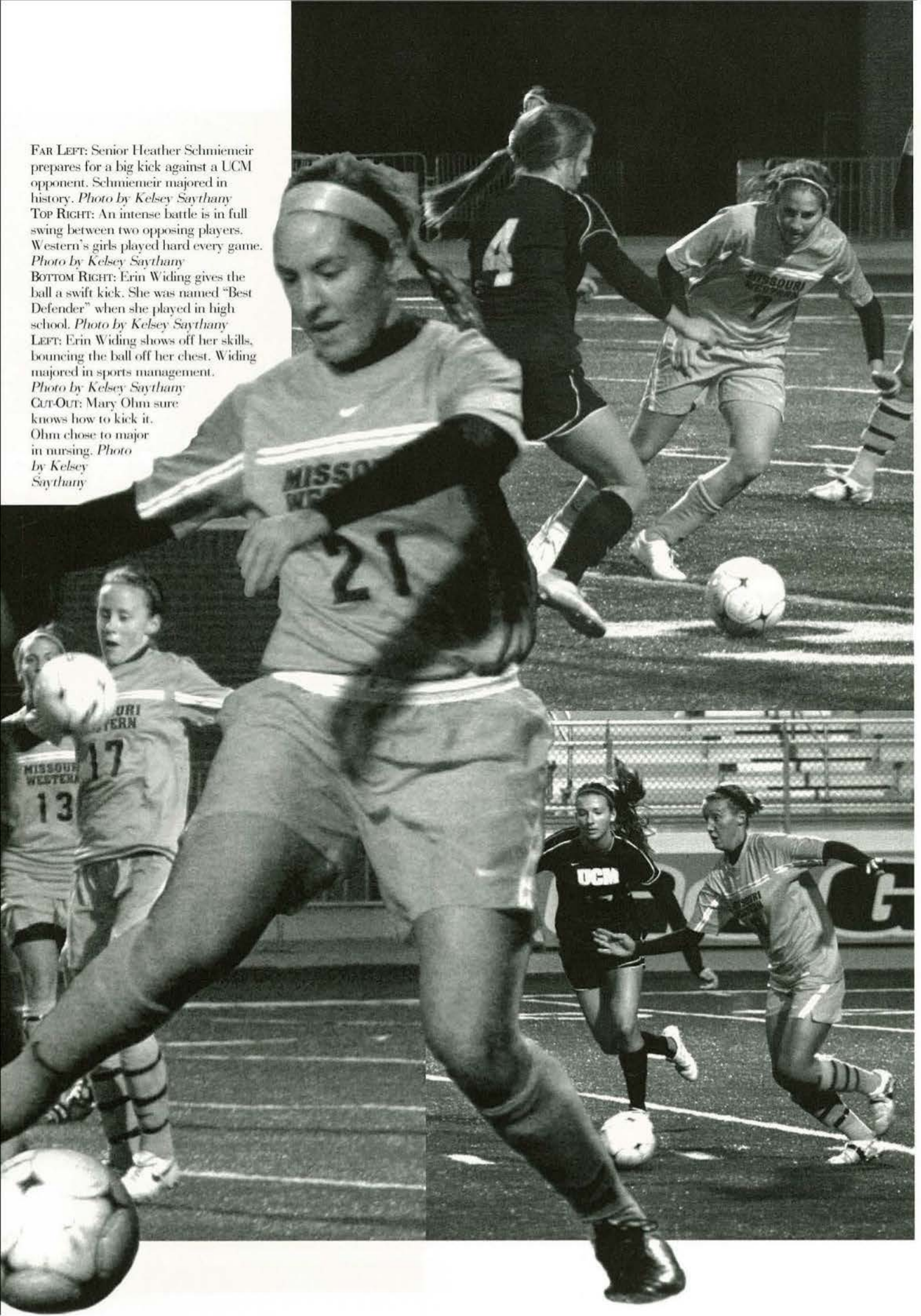
"Being a student-athlete is very time-consuming and it takes a lot out of me, but it is worth being able to step out on that field and represent my school under the lights," Castillo said.

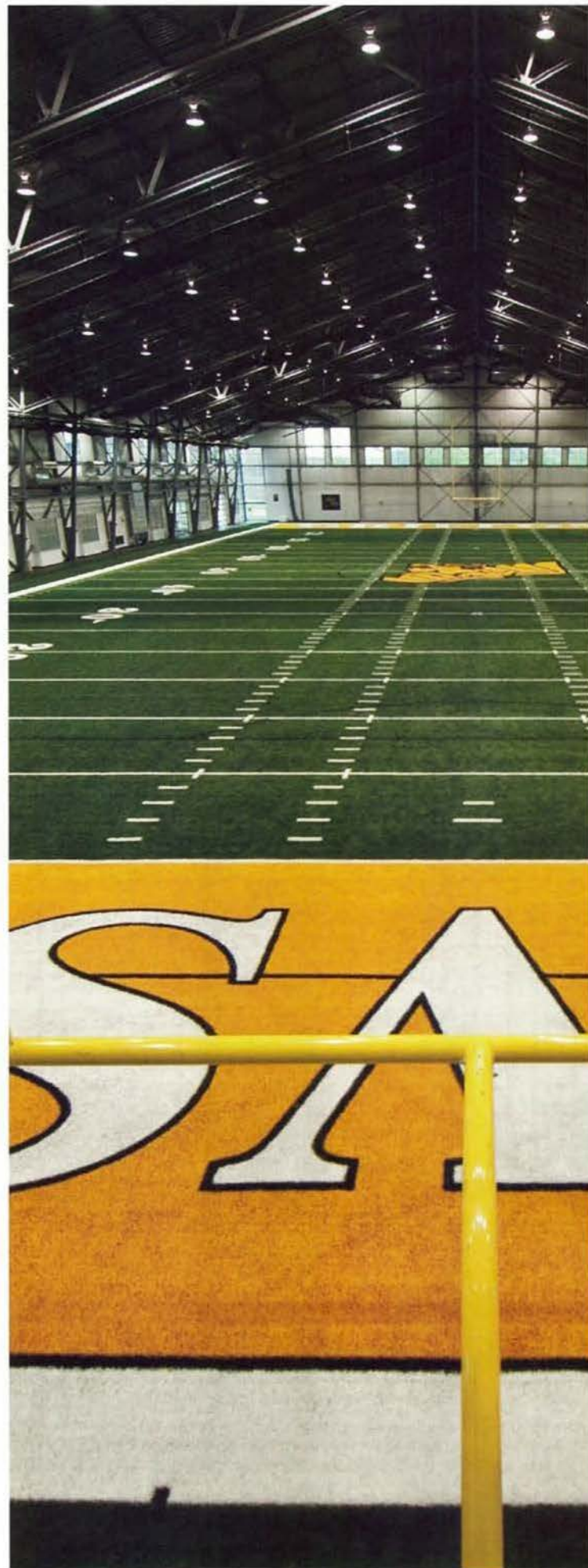


## Scoreboard 2-10-6 overall

East Central University.....L, 2-3	University of Central Missouri.....L, 0-4	Southwest Baptist University.....L, 0-2
Angelo State University.....L, 0-1	Missouri Southern State University.....T, 1-1	Washburn University.....W, 2-1
University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 0-2	Emporia State University.....T, 0-0	University of Central Missouri.....L, 0-3
Northwest Missouri State University.....T, 1-1	Truman State University.....T, 0-0	Missouri Southern State University.....L, 0-1
Southwest Baptist University.....T, 0-0	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 2-1	Emporia State University.....T, 0-0
Washburn University.....L, 0-1	Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 1-2	Truman State University.....L, 0-1

**FAR LEFT:** Senior Heather Schmiemeir prepares for a big kick against a UCM opponent. Schmiemeir majored in history. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
**TOP RIGHT:** An intense battle is in full swing between two opposing players. Western's girls played hard every game. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Erin Widing gives the ball a swift kick. She was named "Best Defender" when she played in high school. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
**LEFT:** Erin Widing shows off her skills, bouncing the ball off her chest. Widing majored in sports management. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*  
**CUT-OUT:** Mary Ohm sure knows how to kick it. Ohm chose to major in nursing. *Photo by Kelsey Saythany*





TOP LEFT: The locker room in the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex is a state of the art area for the football players. It is equipped with high tech gadgets such as projectors and televisions for screening film and the like. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

RIGHT: The field in the GISC is full sized and ready to play on, made with Astroturf. The Chiefs and many others utilize the field for practices and much more. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BOTTOM LEFT: There is also a weight room equipped with many varieties of lifting tools. The GISC weight room also includes hot and cold baths for athletes to use to relieve bodies of injuries and soreness. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

# It Sure Isn't a Barn

by Nick McCutcheon

This isn't a barn. Barns don't have hot tubs and cold tubs. Barns don't have artificial grass fields. Barns don't cost \$10.3 million. The Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, the GISC for short, is a Taj Mahal sport. It is 118,000 square feet of diverse capabilities.

It's the summer home of the Kansas City Chiefs. It's Missouri Western athletics' key recruiting and training tool. Missouri Western students have enjoyed its flexible nature through classes and intramural activities. It has hosted youth softball, baseball, soccer and even a high school 8-man football game. Boy Scouts have camped out in it. Companies have used it for corporate events.

As United States Congressman Sam Graves held a town hall meeting down the hall from his office in the GISC, Western's Director of Athletic Facilities, Mike Halloran rambled through a lengthy list of external events held in the GISC's first eight months.

"Now that we're eight months into the reality of the many applications that this facility has hosted and can host in the future, it's really invaluable to not only the sports teams of Missouri Western and the students through intramurals, but the academic uses and the community uses have really grown on almost a weekly basis," Halloran said.

For passersby on nearby Interstate-29, the GISC may resemble an upscale farm structure. But Old MacDonald didn't have one of these. If he did it wouldn't include a 120-seat theater, 121 lockers and 10 physical therapy tables designed and built by National Football League staff. Livestock don't have much use for 5,225 square feet of strength and conditioning space or two walk-in Hydroworks therapy pools. Barnyard animals would have plenty of room to roam around the 30,000 square foot practice field, but would have trouble grazing on the artificial surface.

Athletes, students and members of the community have benefited from the seven smart classrooms inside the GISC. Halloran said the facility's many amenities have allowed external users to build their events around the building.

With their new fields still under construction, Western's baseball and softball teams were able to utilize the six retractable batting cages above the practice field to prep for their spring seasons. Both sports had previously practiced in a small gymnasium on campus.

"The new (GISC) has really helped us in terms of prepping for the opening weekend," Head Softball Coach Jen Bagley said before the softball season.

"Usually we're going from the gym floor to the dirt, and this year we've really been able to stretch out and

have a better assessment of where we're at."

The size of the practice field allowed softball to participate in simulated games during their pre-season practices. Not to mention, hosting youth softball tournaments. Besides the retractable cages, the field is marked for regulation softball as well as soccer and football.

Halloran pointed out one of the GISC's most important roles for Missouri Western: recruiting.

"We've had 16 and under girls softball tournaments in here," Halloran said. "Those girls are a year or two away from making their college choice, and their first exposure to Missouri Western may have been in this facility."

Halloran also noted the Chiefs training camp being hosted on Western's campus, thanks in large part to the facility, could make for great publicity for the university.

"I'm a firm believer that there was every bit of 60,000 people here for (Chiefs training) camp," Halloran said. "How many of those 60,000 people never stepped foot on this campus before they came to camp?"

"You're almost hand delivering potential customers. The kid might only be nine, but they'll talk about the first time they ever went to camp and Missouri Western, and how cool it was. How do you ever put an amount on how valuable that is?"

The number that he said he could estimate was \$50,000 to \$60,000 in revenue from events hosted in the GISC through its first 10 months. Halloran said through one specific stretch of the winter the complex was booked for external uses for 14 consecutive weeks. He said the problem going forward, may not be finding uses for the building, but finding time to fit them all in.

"I don't know how much more you could do in that time frame without having to say, 'okay, coaches, students, whatever, you can't use it,'" Halloran said.

So how do people outside the community see the GISC? Iowa State Head Football Coach Paul Rhoads is a Missouri Western alum and recognizes the value of a facility like the GISC for recruiting.

"Young kids buy with their eyes, and to be able to provide what essentially are world class facilities at the Division II level, really allows Missouri Western to be aggressive and go after a student-athlete competitively with anybody in the country," Rhoads said.

The fact that someone who has made a career of coaching college football at its highest level would name our building a "world-class facility" should tell you it's not a barn. Be its academics, athletics, youth groups, Christian groups, corporate groups or politicians, the GISC has served Missouri Western and the region in more ways than a barn could ever serve a farm.

# Bigger Than Basketball

by Sarah Hatten

The Missouri Western Men's basketball team had its fair share of ups and downs on the court this season, but the players managed to maintain a positive attitude and a drive for improvement. The season was laced with bright victories. One notable accomplishment this season was when P'Allen Stinnett and TJ Johnson were given the honor of All-MIAA Honorable Mention for the 2011 season. On top of that, for the third year in a row, the Griffons received a spot in the MIAA Tournament. This year, they were ranked 7. The team also defeated Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo., for the first time since the 2001-2002 season. Missouri Western had 13 wins, and 19 losses overall.

The players on the team kept positive outlooks on the statistics and focused on the team unity. For the team to survive year after year, it was important not to dwell on setbacks and continue to be motivated about future performances.

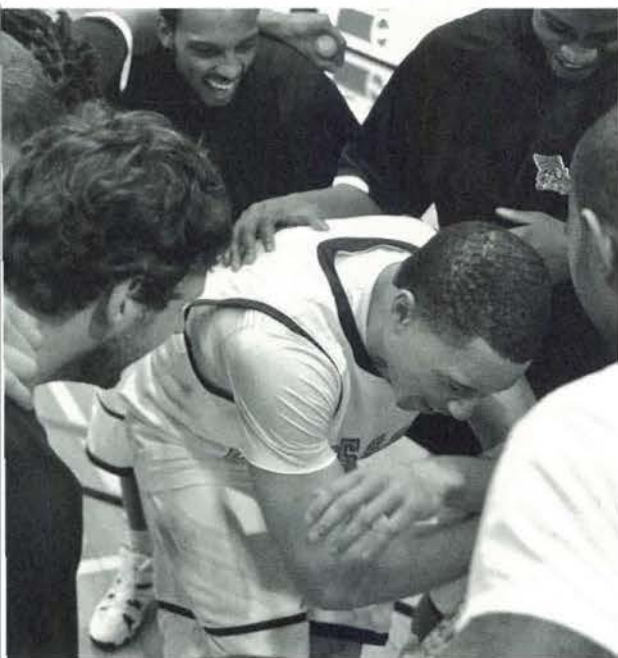
Senior Adrian Thomas said, "I feel like we had a decent amount of success, as well as adversity. It was definitely a learning experience for everyone." Thomas said the team this year lacked consistency in communication. Consistency, he felt, was the key to the team's success, especially when many of the players were new to the program. Thomas wishes he would have put more effort into bringing the team together. He had an injury and was forced to miss the first semester of playing but said, "No matter how tough it may seem to overcome, you should never let it get the best of you."

Nothing comes easy and since there were so many new players this year, it was a challenge to get everyone on the same page. It wasn't a secret that playing a college sport was physically and mentally challenging, especially when players were not familiar with each other. Basketball required players to be in sync with each other and anticipate moves and plays so it was very demanding of every individual on the court. Personal victories were team victories, which means losses and defeat were felt by every member of the team as well.

"Although everything didn't go in our favor, I feel like we each came out with a life lesson; it was actually bigger than basketball," Thomas said.

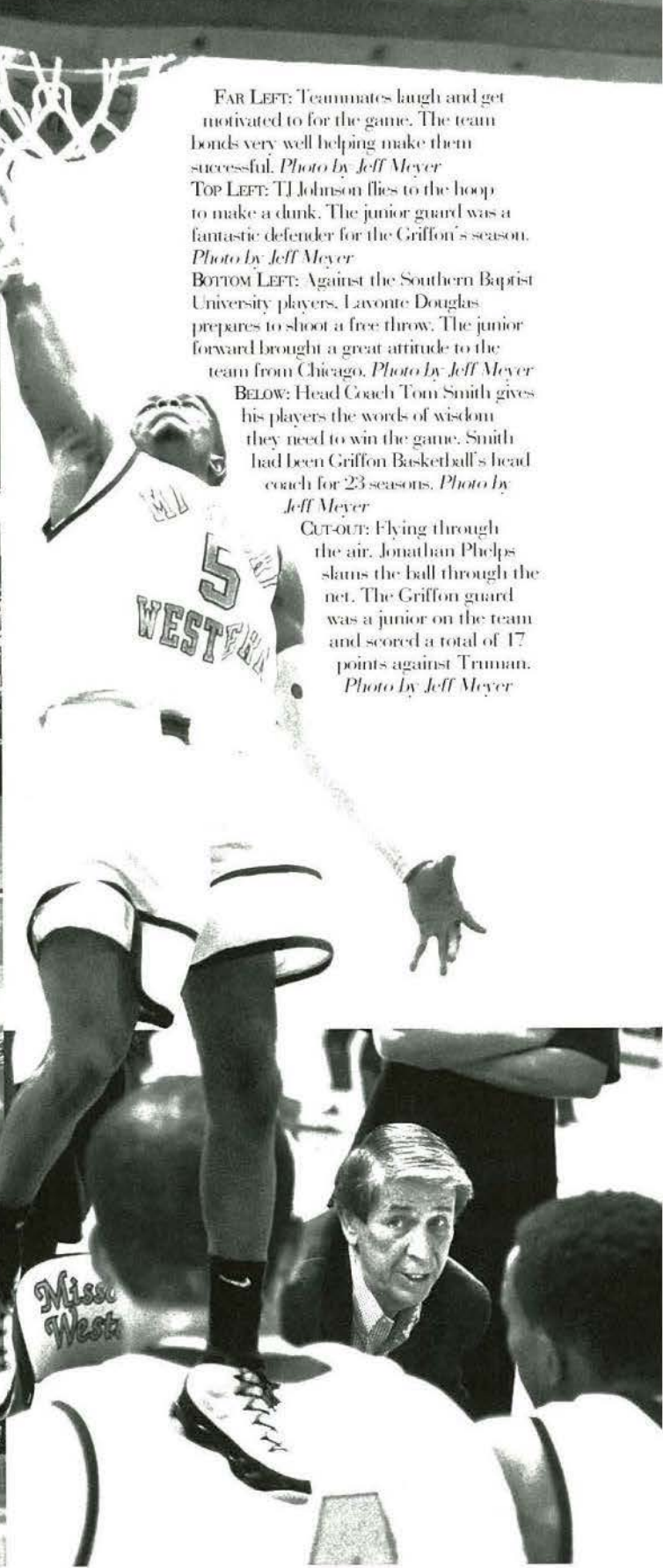
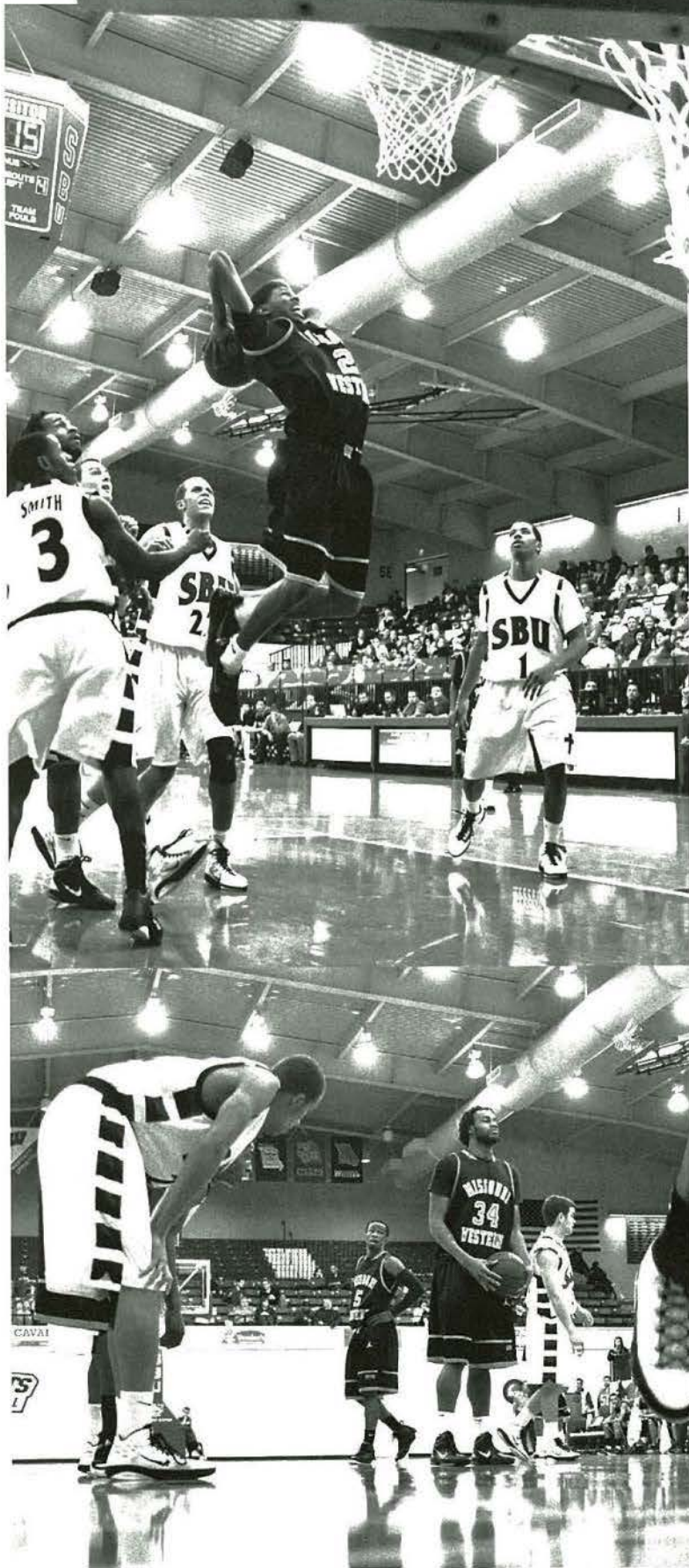
Jonathan Phelps was another teammate who had mixed feelings about the season's outcome. He hailed from Vicksburg, Mississippi and came to Western to play basketball. "The only thing you can do is try harder next time," Phelps said.

Throughout the season, the Griffons maintained composure and battled every game with intent to win. If the scoreboard fell short, it wasn't for lack of trying. The basketball team made Missouri Western proud.



## Scoreboard 13-19 overall

Avila University.....W, 95-85	University of Central Oklahoma.....L, 86-92	Fort Hays State University.....W, 78-77	Lincoln University.....W, 76-73
Michigan Tech University.....L, 61-68	Pittsburg State University.....W, 94-79	Washburn University.....W, 103-82	Truman State University.....W, 78-63
Quincy University.....W, 92-88	Emporia State University.....L, 69-91	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 93-98	University of Central Missouri.....W, 91-72
Southwest Oklahoma State University.....L, 70-79	Missouri Southern State University.....L, 71-84	Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 63-75	Pittsburg State University.....L, 75-79



FAR LEFT: Teammates laugh and get motivated to for the game. The team bonds very well helping make them successful. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

TOP LEFT: TJ Johnson flies to the hoop to make a dunk. The junior guard was a fantastic defender for the Griffon's season. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BOTTOM LEFT: Against the Southern Baptist University players, Lavonte Douglas prepares to shoot a free throw. The junior forward brought a great attitude to the team from Chicago. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

BELOW: Head Coach Tom Smith gives his players the words of wisdom they need to win the game. Smith had been Griffon Basketball's head coach for 23 seasons. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

CUT-OUT: Flying through the air, Jonathan Phelps slams the ball through the net. The Griffon guard was a junior on the team and scored a total of 17 points against Truman. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

Emporia State University.....W, 74-68	Emporia State University.....W, 74-68	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 84-96	Truman State University.....L, 79-91
Washburn University.....L, 74-87	Washburn University.....L, 74-87	Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 69-73	University of Central Missouri.....W, 95-91
Fort Hays State University.....L, 63-79	Fort Hays State University.....L, 63-79	Southwest Baptist University.....W, 96-88	Southwest Baptist University.....L, 78-98
Pittsburg State University.....L, 75-79	Missouri Southern State University.....L, 62-83	Lincoln University.....W, 94-72	Fort Hays State University.....L, 85-86





TOP LEFT: Sophia Robertson serves the ball. Robertson was a freshman on the tennis team. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 TOP CENTER: Reaching for the ball, Katie Field digs deep. Fields backhand was a strong part of the game. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 TOP RIGHT: Sarah Hatten sets her back hand in preparation for her hit back over the net. This was the junior's second year on the

team. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Will it go over? Alecia Jenkins asks of her return hit. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 RIGHT: Mindy Buschbom watches her hit go across the net. Buschbom awaited for the ball to send it back again. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 ABOVE: Preparing for a strong hit, Nicole Kerr steps into the swing. Kerr was a sophomore on the team. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*

## Scoreboard 4-12 overall

■ Northeastern State University.....L, 0-9	■ Lincoln University.....W, 5-4	■ Emporia State University.....L, 1-8	■ Southwest Baptist University.....L, 0-9
■ Morningside College.....W, 7-2	■ Newman University.....L, 0-9	■ Truman State University.....L, 2-7	■ Graceland University.....W, 6-3



# Tennis Tycoons

by Nick McCutcheon

Most colleges have tennis teams, but they don't all have one like this. Missouri Western Tennis version 2011 featured two Australians and a 27-year old non-traditional student. They were also coming off a season with just one victory, and had not won a conference match in over three years. That was all bound to change.

Head coach Ron Selkirk's squad managed to double the 2010 win total, and break into the win column in MIAA action, all by the third match of the season. By season's end, they had quadrupled the wins from 2010, and finished the season 4-12. They even managed to win their first-round match at the MIAA Conference Tournament in Kansas City.

With a roster that featured four freshmen and a sophomore, the Griffons were relatively young; with exception, of course to 27-year old Mindy Buschbom. After one tour-of-duty with the Griffons under her belt already, Buschbom returned to Missouri Western to earn a second degree. She just happened to have a year of eligibility left, a circumstance that Selkirk didn't mind.

"When I found out that she was eligible, I was elated," Selkirk said. Early in the season, the coach saw there was a need for her battle-tested leadership on the young team.

"Mindy adds something that we didn't have before she came back, which was some senior experience," Selkirk said before the season. "We're very young, and we have a lot of freshman and sophomores. They need somebody that's been through the wars a little bit and somebody who kind of steadies the ship."

And steady the ship she did. Buschbom opened the season in the number one spot for the team, and finished 7-8 in singles action. Her seven wins were most on the team and her three conference wins were tied for the most on the team.

It was a building year for the Griffons, something that the senior leader understood well.

"I think it's going in the right direction," Buschbom said. "We have a lot of girls on the team that are very strong, very consistent. Each practice we look better and better."

As for Selkirk, he said the wins would come, but the overall goal was to see improvement in the team.

"I think what we're trying to do is climb the ladder," Selkirk said. "We've been second to last or last place for several years, and we're just trying to move ourselves up that ladder a little bit and get more competitive with the teams that are at the top of the conference and the teams in the middle of the conference."

With a little help from the land down under, Selkirk's team may continue climbing that ladder. Sophomore Nicole Kerr, from Brisbane, Australia took over the number one spot late in the season. Fellow Aussie, Sophia Robertson picked up six wins, and was tied with Buschbom for the most conference wins on the team.

They may have gone mostly unnoticed, and they may not have been traditional, but the team showed improvement, and hope to be on their way up.

Fort Hays State University Hays.....L, 2-7 | Northwest Missouri State University.....L, 0-9 | Washburn University.....L, 1-8 | Lincoln University MIAA Tournament...W, 5-4 | Kansas Wesleyan.....L, 4-5 | University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 0-9 | William Jewell College.....L, 4-5 | Washburn University MIAA Tournament...L, 0-5

# Eye on the Prize

by Malia Sisk

A person's life can change within a matter of seconds. When Shane Feist, a young college student received the news that he had testicular cancer, it was hard to believe.

"It's kind of weird knowing you have cancer because you don't know if you're still going to be able to do the things you do every day," Feist said.

After receiving the bad news, Feist began treatment after treatment. Feist's treatments lasted a full twelve weeks. Multiple surgeries were also performed on Feist. For the most part though, he kept his weight up throughout cancer. However, after one of Feist's eight-hour surgeries, he couldn't gain his appetite back.

"I lost about 20-30 pounds, and I probably only weighed anywhere from 125-130 pounds after that. I normally weigh about 155 pounds. I was too scared to weigh myself to actually see how much I had lost," Feist said.

Because of Feist's cancer, he had to take a leave from school and also had to lay off playing golf for a while. Even though it seemed that Feist had to give up everything he was involved in, he was actually one of the lucky ones. When Feist was told he had cancer, his doctor also informed him that with his cancer, they were shooting for a cure.

"My cancer had a very high cure rate and my doctor even told me that my body held up really well," Feist said.

"The worst part of my cancer was my energy level. I was always so tired from surgeries and the medicine I was given," Feist said.

Even though cancer can never really be a positive aspect in one's life, Feist is still lucky to have such a curable cancer and to be able to pull through this awful time in his life. Feist's family and friends were supportive throughout his times of cancer. He is pretty much in the clear from his cancer, but still has to attend annual appointments to make sure everything is staying on the right track.



*Left Photo by Courtney Slater  
Top Right Photo by Robin Ussher  
Above Photo by Courtney Slater*

RIGHT: Britni Nikes sends the ball down the fairway. Nikes watched the ball as it dropped to the green. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 TOP RIGHT: After a swing, sophomore Natalie Bird finds her ball on the green. Bird was Western's top golfer as a freshman and did not disappoint as a second year golfer. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Casi Webb releases a handful of grass to check the winds direction. The younger Webb sister also had a strong season. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*  
 BELOW: Lexi Webb shows off her backswing. The senior had a strong finish to her last golf season. *Photo by Jeff Meyer*



## Scoreboard

Iowa Western CC/Reiver Fall Classic.....2nd	UNO/Women's Collegiate Golf Classic Valley.....5th	Green and Gold Shootout.....1st
Drury University/Fall Shootout.....14th	NWMSU/Bearcat Fall Classic.....2nd	MIAA Championship Day.....2nd
Concordia St. Paul/Wildwood Lodge Invitational.....8th	Texas A&M-Commerce-Lion Invitational.....T-9th	
Fort Hays State University Invitational.....1st	MWSU Spring Invitational.....3rd	



# Faring the Fairway

by Sarah Hatten

The Missouri Western State University women's golf team finished up the 2010-2011 season with an impressive record. They stormed the golf scene led by their award winning coach, Cathy Habermehl, and made Missouri Western proud. The women's golf team was a force to be reckoned with and proved that they can compete and win against the best teams in the conference.

Among other accomplishments, Missouri Western sophomore Natalie Bird was named 25th in the nation in par 3 scoring. The team as a whole finished up 3rd in the MIAA Conference Tournament and the lady golfers placed well in most of the other tournaments played. Cathy Habermehl also won the MIAA Coach of the year award this season, which was well deserved.

Lexi Webb has spent her last four years at Western building up the women's golf team and forming unbreakable bonds with her coach and the other team members. Webb's younger sister, Casi Webb, also played for Missouri Western and has been playing golf as long as they can remember. The Webb sisters came to Western from Wisconsin. The team made a framed collage for graduating senior, Lexi Webb, who also won the "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

"This team means a lot to me and it is going to be hard to leave it behind," Lexi Webb said. "This team has become my second family and a very important part of my life."

Laurny Davies was a freshman for Missouri Western and had her first season on the team.

"I am so thankful I got to be part of this team," Davies said. "My freshman year would have been completely different if I didn't play golf." Davies is from Topeka, KS and is excited to continue playing golf for Missouri Western. Coming in as a freshman, being in a new city at a new school on a new team can be very intimidating.

"The girls and the coach were very welcoming and made my experience so amazing. It is a great time to be a Griffon," Davies said.

Shane Feist from the men's golf team was impressed with the women's progress as well.

"It is really neat to see how much the women's golf team has grown since my freshman year," Feist said. The men and women's golf teams always supported each other.

"It is always fun when we pair up with the ladies and get to play some rounds together," Feist said.

The women's team placed second in the Lady Reiver Fall Classic, first in the Fort Hays State Women's Invite, second at the Northwest Missouri State University Fall Invite, and first in the Green and Gold Spring Shootout. They placed 3rd in the MWSU Spring Invitational. With this record the lady golfers had a proud end to their season.



# Home Sweet Home

by Nick McCutcheon

**F**ight isn't a word often associated with women, or softball for that matter, but the 2011 version of Missouri Western Softball needed it, and they had plenty of it. The Griffons fought their way to the top of the MIAA standings by winning five of their last six games to claim a share of their first-ever MIAA Conference Championship.

"The key to success this year has been fight," sophomore catcher Keri Lorbert said.

"It makes our whole team feel better about ourselves, because we have fight," freshman Katherine Steponovich said. "Not every team has that."

Before the season began, 10th year head coach Jen Bagley said she thought the team would be a grind it out type, that won on pitching, good defense and timely hitting. With seven of the teams +0 victories coming after trailing in the fifth inning or later, they did grind out some wins.

"I think if I were to wrap up the year, something that this team has done really well has been playing in the seven innings," Bagley said. "If we're down by two-runs in the seventh, I still feel we're going to win the ball game."

The Griffons needed all seven innings to stay alive in the MIAA conference tournament. Western entered the tournament as the top overall seed, and ranked sixth in the regional polls. The top-eight teams move on to postseason play. After defeating Washburn in their first-round game of the tournament, the Griffons fell behind Missouri Southern 6-0 after two innings.

From there, they did what they had done all season - they fought. Down by two runs in the bottom of the seventh, Western scored three runs including a two-run walk-off double from Lorbert.

"I think what ended up happening is what propelled us all year," Bagley said. "This team refuses to lose. We may lose an inning, we may lose six innings, but in the seventh inning we're a pretty tough ball club."

Western lost their next two conference tournament games to University of Nebraska-Omaha and Fort Hays, but the late season run was enough to propel the Griffons into their fifth National Tournament appearance in the last seven years. Western held on to their spot in the rankings and headed to Canyon, Texas to face a familiar foe, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Western and the Mavericks went down to the wire again in the first game of the South Central Regional. The two teams traded the lead, but with the tying run on first base, three Griffon batters struck out to leave Western one game from elimination.

Western faced West Texas A&M in their elimination game and took the Lady Buffs down to the wire. After trailing 3-0, and 5-2, Western scored one in the bottom of the seventh to pull within one run, but it was too little too late, and the Griffons season ended with a 5-3 loss.

Western finished the season +0-15 overall with an 18-4 mark in conference play. Bagley's preseason prediction that the Griffons would need tough defense and smart base running to win wasn't completely accurate. Seniors Toni Dance and Brittany Douglas tied for the MIAA lead with 12 home runs apiece. Lorbert was second with 11.

Jackie Bishop was stellar in her freshman campaign, finishing with a 25-4 record with a 0.99 ERA and was named the MIAA Freshman of the Year. Bagley was named the conference Co-Coach of the year, winning her 300th game on February 25 against Missouri-St. Louis. Seven different Griffons received All-Conference recognition.

## Scoreboard 40-15 overall

■ Northeastern State University.....W, 2-1	■ Missouri Science & Technology.....W, 9-2	■ Henderson State University.....W, 9-1	■ Emporia State University.....L, 1-3
■ Ouchita Baptist University.....W, 4-3	■ Henderson State University.....W, 8-3	■ Henderson State University.....W, 4-1	■ University of Central Missouri.....W, 3-1
■ University of Central Oklahoma.....L, 2-6	■ University of Arkansas-Monticello.....L, 3-4	■ East Central University.....W, 6-2	■ Missouri Southern State University.....W, 2-1
■ University of Texas-Permian Basin.....W, 5-3	■ University of Illinois-Springfield.....W, 9-0	■ East Central University.....W, 5-2	■ Pittsburg State University.....W, 6-0
■ Cameron University.....W, 1-0	■ Oklahoma Panhandle State Univ.....W, 10-2	■ University of Central Oklahoma.....W, 3-1	■ Wayne State College.....L, 0-1
■ Newman University.....L, 3-4	■ Southern Arkansas University.....W, 8-1	■ University of Central Oklahoma.....L, 1-9	■ Wayne State College.....L, 1-4
■ University of Missouri-St. Louis.....W, 10-2	■ Southern Arkansas University.....W, 10-1	■ Lincoln University.....W, 3-1	■ Washburn University.....W, 5-0



LEFT: Infielder Taylor Anding focuses on the inning in front of her. The freshman added depth to the Griffon's infield. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

TOP RIGHT: The Griffons Softball team huddles up to discuss the next play. The ladies kept a fighting spirit throughout the season and entered the MIAA All-Conference Tournament as the number one seed. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Blair Stalder dashes for the base ahead. The speedy junior played both infield and outfield for the team, giving Stalder many chances to shine for Western. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Washburn University.....L, 2-4	Truman State University.....W, 4-1	Missouri Southern State University...W, 5-4	Washburn Univ. - MIAA Tour.....W, 3-1
Fort Hays State University.....W, 4-3	Truman State University.....W, 4-3	Emporia State University.....W, 1-0	Missouri Southern St. Univ. - MIAA Tour...W, 7-6
Fort Hays State University.....W, 7-3	University of Central Missouri.....W, 2-0	Emporia State University.....L, 2-3	Univ. of Neb.-Omaha - MIAA Tour....L, 5-6
Southwest Baptist University.....W, 2-0	University of Central Missouri.....L, 0-1	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....W, 11-1	Fort Hays State Univ. - MIAA Tour....L, 2-3
Southwest Baptist University.....W, 4-0	Pittsburg State University.....W, 4-0	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....W, 7-6	Univ. of Neb.-Omaha South Cen. Reg...L, 4-6
Lincoln University.....W, 7-0	Pittsburg State University.....W, 5-4	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 5-3	West Texas A&M - South Cen. Reg....L, 3-5
Lincoln University.....W, 9-1	Missouri Southern State University....L, 0-7	University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 4-0	



# Where the Boys Are

by Clifford Petersen

Missouri Western opened the 2011 season on a new home field with a young team, most of whom will be returning next year. "The team has been consistent all year and for a young team that's all we can ask," Coach Charles "Buzz" Verduzco said. "A solid year like this gives us a positive outlook on next year. Moreover, the new facilities have made a major improvement on our pregame season, with the ability to practice indoors." Verduzco has led the Griffon Baseball team for 12 years. With every season, he grew more and more optimistic for the team.

The 2010-2011 season didn't come without any setbacks though. "We will miss Senior Issac Rome who had an awesome year, as we will miss all the seniors, but we have several returning players and red shirt freshmen who should make a tremendous impact next season," Verduzco said.

"I would say our season has been fairly successful up to this point. This league is tough from top to bottom, so you have to be ready to play 100 percent every game, or you can be beat by anyone," senior John Cochran said. "We have put ourselves in position to make a post season run, and that is really all you can do. Once you're there, you've just got to see what happens."

This was the last game for seniors Nate Jones, Ryan Carbah, John Cochran, Ian Atkinson and Issac Rome. For the 2011-2012 year, the focus will be on returning players like freshman outfielder David Chew, junior catcher Tony Loeffler and sophomore pitcher Brandon Simmons.

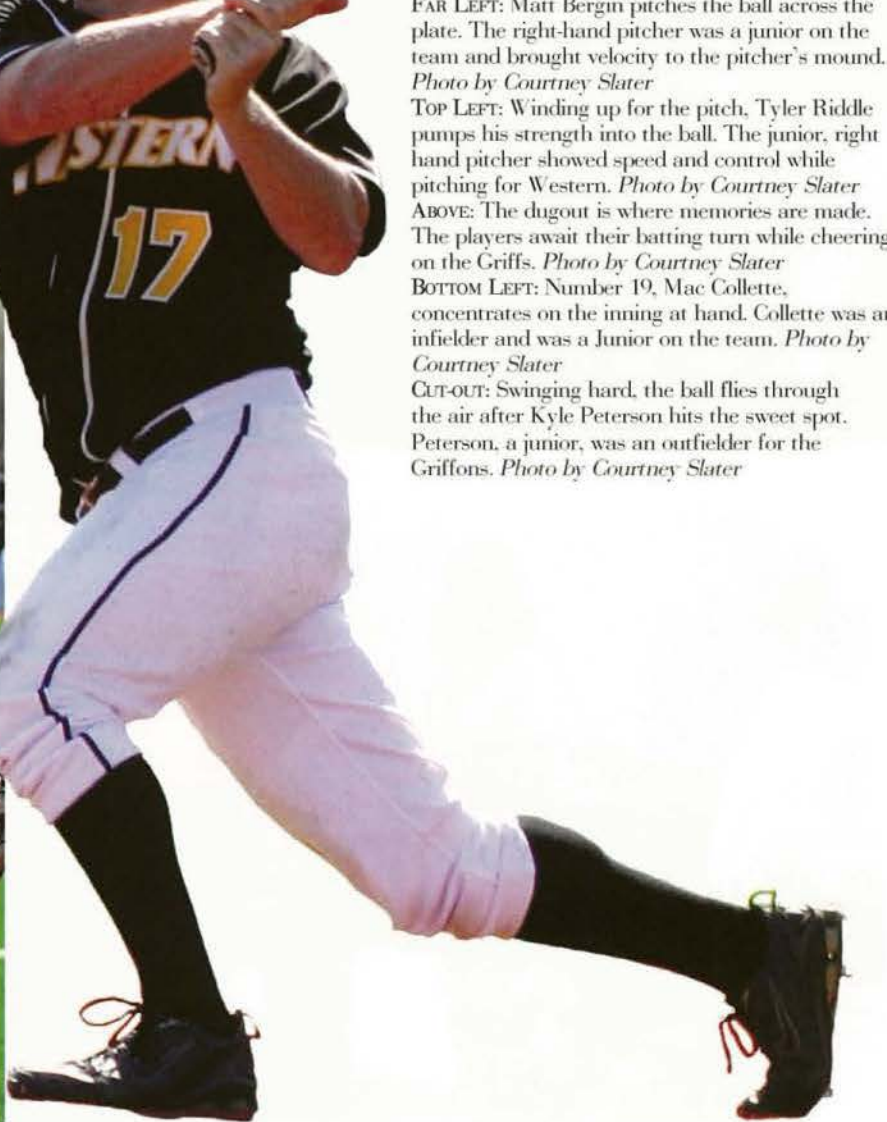
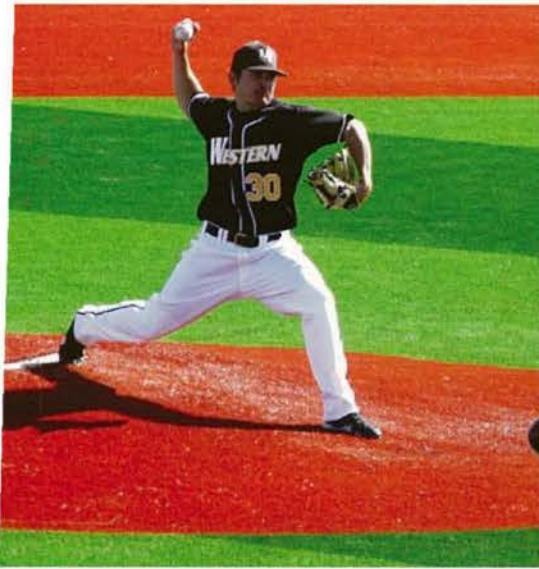
"I feel like this season is a lot better than last year. We have bonded really well as a whole and accomplished more this year because of it," Simmons said. "I think my performance this year has been what I expected, other than a few games, and I am looking forward to beating University of Nebraska-Omaha and making it into the regional. Next year, we are still a very young team."

"With only losing five seniors, almost the entire team will be back. All four of our starting pitchers are going to be back, along with Ethan Ward, who was injured this year. I see us in the upper 20's for wins, if not 30 games," Simmons said. "Zach Kroymann, a freshman on this year's team, is a kid with really great defensive skills, excellent work ethic and some pretty good pop at the plate. He has struggled early on, but I expect him to have an off the charts season next year, a break out season."



## Scoreboard 26-25 overall

North Alabama University.....L, 2-13	Missouri Southern State Univ.....W, 1-0	University of Central Missouri.....W, 7-3	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....W, 9-1
North Alabama University.....L, 1-3	Missouri Southern State Univ.....W, 7-5	University of Central Missouri.....L, 14-15	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....W, 4-0
North Alabama University.....L, 3-10	Lincoln University.....L, 2-7	University of Central Missouri.....L, 3-9	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....L, 1-3
University of Nebraska-Kearney.....L, 2-4	Lincoln University.....W, 6-4	Washburn University.....W, 14-3	Emporia State University.....W, 6-5
University of Nebraska-Kearney.....W, 17-16	Lincoln University.....L, 1-11	Washburn University.....W, 5-1	Emporia State University.....L, 4-7
Missouri Southern State Univ.....W, 5-3	Lincoln University.....W, 17-4	Washburn University.....W, 6-2	Pittsburg State University.....L, 4-6
Missouri Southern State Univ.....L, 1-2	University of Central Missouri.....L, 3-8	Northwest Missouri State Univ.....W, 3-2	Pittsburg State University.....W, 11-2



FAR LEFT: Matt Bergin pitches the ball across the plate. The right-hand pitcher was a junior on the team and brought velocity to the pitcher's mound. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 TOP LEFT: Winding up for the pitch, Tyler Riddle pumps his strength into the ball. The junior, right hand pitcher showed speed and control while pitching for Western. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 ABOVE: The dugout is where memories are made. The players await their batting turn while cheering on the Griffis. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Number 19, Mac Collette, concentrates on the inning at hand. Collette was an infielder and was a Junior on the team. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 CUT-OUT: Swinging hard, the ball flies through the air after Kyle Peterson hits the sweet spot. Peterson, a junior, was an outfielder for the Griffons. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

■ Pittsburg State University.....W, 3-2	■ Truman State University.....W, 11-9	■ Fort Hays State University.....L, 2-3	■ Univ. of Central Missouri - MIAA Tour...L, 2-4
■ Pittsburg State University.....W, 4-0	■ Southwest Baptist University.....W, 10-4	■ Fort Hays State University.....L, 3-4	■ Univ. Nebraska-Omaha - MIAA Tour...L, 5-10
■ Emporia State University.....L, 2-5	■ Southwest Baptist University.....W, 12-5	■ University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 8-4	
■ Emporia State University.....L, 7-11	■ Southwest Baptist University.....W, 5-0	■ University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 1-2	
■ Truman State University.....L, 3-7	■ Southwest Baptist University.....W, 5-1	■ University of Nebraska-Omaha.....W, 6-3	
■ Truman State University.....L, 3-5	■ Fort Hays State University.....L, 2-3	■ University of Nebraska-Omaha.....L, 2-13	
■ Truman State University.....L, 4-5	■ Fort Hays State University.....W, 10-3	■ Fort Hays State Univ. - MIAA Tour...W, 5-4	



*Top Left Photo by Courtney Slater  
Right Photo by Lauren Dillou  
Above Photo by Heather Heater*



# Cheering, Racing, Living & Loving Life

by Robyn Patti

Senior Nikki Cross had a complete list of interesting facts about herself. If you had asked her though, she would tell you she was just a normal college kid with normal college kid hobbies. That list, though, proves otherwise.

Cross was raised in Savannah, Mo., and graduated from Savannah High School in 2006. She was a cheerleader throughout high school, competing and leading her squad as captain and went on to cheer in her college years at MWSU. Cross was the captain of the Western cheer squad for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. One of her most fond memories of MWSU was when she was nominated Athlete of the Year for academic year 2009-2010 for her participation on the cheerleading squad. She was honored with a video montage of her athletic career and had her story in the Savannah newspaper.

This coverage, however, didn't change anything about the Early Childhood Development major. Cross's hope to own her own preschool someday was a solid dream of hers because of her love for children. After changing majors a few semesters in, Cross decided working with young children was where her heart was.

Another love of Cross's was racing sprint cars. Every summer Cross and her boyfriend of six years, Zach Davis, a manufacturing engineer major here at Western, would build and race sprint cars all across the Midwest. Cross and Davis traveled from Kansas to Nebraska and back to Missouri for races and events beginning in April and going until October.

After all of this one would think the list would be complete, but not for Cross. As well as maintaining her degree requirements, practicing with the cheer squad and racing sprint cars, the senior sang in Western's Concert Chorale for five years. Cross sang in concerts held on campus as well as toured with the group to Kansas City and Jefferson City. Cross also lent her voice to the Western sports fans, singing the National Anthem at various sporting events on campus.

Even with all of her accomplishments and hobbies, Cross still worked at three different jobs in her spare time (what spare time you may ask!) including helping out at the restaurant owned by her family, the Pizza Royal, by putting in hours on the floor and helping with the ordering and the business, while also working with 7UP as a brand rep and working on campus. As a brand rep Cross had tasting stands at local grocers and helped distribute 7UP products. On campus Cross also worked as the Dean of Professional Studies Assistant II. She worked with budgets and grants being processed through the office of Professional Studies.

Cross was busy through her college years, but she also had a lot of fun. Between friends on the cheer squad, classmates and her younger sister, Cross always had time for a good story and a good laugh.

"In ten years I'm going to be in my Christmas socks, chasing around babies!" Cross said of her ten year plan. Quoted saying this in her video montage the previous year, Cross said this still rang true. The list would continue to grow for Cross as her ten year plan progressed.

# To the Max

by Nick McCutcheon

There was the SGA fee, the technology fee, the WAC fee and the Max Experience Fee. Huh? What is a Max Experience anyway?

The Max Experience fee faced its share of questions from students. Where was their money going? Why did they need another fee?

For the most part, students were aware that the Max fee allowed them to go to campus sporting events for free and some knew that they were also allowed a free drink and concession item at the events. Beyond that, student knowledge of exactly what the fee provided was sparse.

"I think it pays for tickets to some games and maybe the bus rides to away games," junior Danielle Carlson said. "Besides the tickets and concessions, I really don't know what it goes to."

In addition to providing free admission and concessions for students, direct family members can come for free as well. T-shirts and other promotional items given away at games and outside entertainment at games have also been provided through Max. Many students were not aware that the fee also funded athletic facility improvements. The basketball court in the MWSU Fieldhouse, the field turf at Spratt Stadium and the new Spring Sports Complex were all funded through Max dollars.

Some students expressed concerns over the quality of items that Max provides but others felt that they got their money's worth.

"I think t-shirts are probably the best thing they could give away," senior Darryl Wattree said. "I wouldn't want to pay more to get something better. I think t-shirts and hot dogs are fine."

The fee was approved by a student vote in March 2006 after the Department of Athletics spent five months gathering feedback from student organizations. At that time, the two major concerns the department dealt with were limited student experiences at athletic events and a lack of facilities on campus.

Many other institutions charge an athletic fee and some even charge a fee for tickets. Carlson felt the fee could help save students that attend athletic events money.

"How much would you have paid over the course of a semester if you had to buy all your tickets and concessions?" Carlson said.

Associate Athletic Director Patsy Smith said that the fee provides a better atmosphere, which can make the university more attractive.

"Students told us in the beginning, when they chose a university, it mattered to them what athletics were like," Smith said. "It makes student life better if you have those kinds of facilities."

Whether they liked it or not, students were stuck with the fee because there was no sunset clause to remove it. With no end in sight for the fee, all students could do was stay at home and complain or attend athletic events and receive what benefits Max Experience provided to them.





LEFT: The concession stand is hoppin', with lines of hungry students waiting. The Max Experience fee provided free concession items at home football and basketball games. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 TOP RIGHT: Max the Griffon is a staple at Western events. He

kept the crowd on their feet every game. *Photo by Robin Ussher*  
 ABOVE: Students showed up early for the free tickets provided through Max Experience. 250 students recieved tickets to the game in Maryville, Missouri. *Photo by Robin Ussher*

## How does the Max Experience benefit us?

by Cheyanne Davis

- Free admission to any home Western sporting event.
- Free bus trip to a game.
- Free ticket to one away football and one away basketball game.
- Free drink and food item at home games.
- Free admission to immediate family (up to four people) to attend all home events.
- Free tickets to select away games.
- Free giveaways at selected games.
- Preferred parking for off-campus students at home football and basketball games.



TOP LEFT: Daniel Crawford gripped his club before teeing off. Crawford had a strong arm to send the ball down the green. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 TOP CENTER: Concentrating on the last putt, Tucker Perkins puts the ball in the hole. Perkins kept his focus through the tournament. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 FAR RIGHT: Fore! The ball arcs through the air as Jordan Kincaid swings for the hole. *Photo by*

*Courtney Slater*  
 RIGHT: Easy does it as senior Shane Feist putts the ball into the hole. Feist overcame many obstacles in his final season to come through strong for the Griffon Golf team. *Photo by Courtney Slater*  
 ABOVE: Steven Culver looks down the green as he lines up his shot. Culver had complete concentration as his ball went flying. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



# Going, Going, Gone

by Nick McCutcheon

Playing college golf in Missouri comes with its share of misfortunes. Take for instance, a season that begins in September, and doesn't end until May, with a little five-month break in between.

"Coming out of summer, the kids should be playing their best golf in the fall," head coach Jim Perry said. "In the winter, you're playing in some adverse conditions. That's spring golf; get your coat on and good luck."

While other Missouri Western sports enjoyed stretches of home games, Western golfers adjusted to life on the road.

"You get one shot at home every three years," Perry said. "The bottom line is, you have to take advantage at home. We thought we had a shot this year, but we let Washburn sneak up on us."

It was just another part of the 2010-11 men's golf season: cold, rain, wind and the fact that the team's number one golfer returned after a battle with cancer. Of the five Western golfers who participated in the bulk of the season's action, Shane Feist was the leader; by nearly two strokes.

As a team, the Griffons saw their best finish on their home course. On October 4, Western placed third at the MWSU Fall Invitational. They opened the spring portion of their schedule with a sixth place finish at the Springfield Pasta Company Invite, and wrapped up the season with a fifth place finish at the MIAA Championships.

Feist had the team's highest individual finish at the Springfield Pasta Invite. The senior who returned after a battle with cancer, finished first in Springfield, but lost a playoff to end up in second. It wasn't the only highlight of Feist's incredible season.

On March 28, at the North Alabama Spring Classic in Muscle Shoals, Ala., Feist scored a hole-in-one on his first swing of the day. It was a 190-yard Par 3 with water between him and the cup, and the wind in his face, no big deal.

"I swing, and I go, 'That's pretty good', and it keeps drawing towards the hole, and I go, 'That looks really good.' All of the sudden, it hits the green and rolls for a second or two, and goes in the hole," Feist said. "I couldn't believe it; first hole-in-one."

The Griffons finished in the top 10 in all but two tournaments. Not bad for a team that had to battle wind, rain, cold and hot temperatures, long road trips and even cancer.

## Scoreboard

Missouri Intercollegiate Championship.....10th	Midwest/South Central Regional Invitational.....9th	UCM Tournament.....7th
Lincoln University Invitational.....7th	Drury Invite.....6th	MIAA Conference Championships.....5th
Northeastern State Golf Classic.....9th	Midwestern State University Invite.....16th	
MWSU Invitational.....3rd	UNA Spring Invitational.....14th	





*Photo by Molly Thomas*



# People

## Division Highlights:

Underclassmen.....	196
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# Underclassmen

Chayse Adams  
Alex Ahlschlager  
Michelle Allen



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Chayse Adams  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Business  
Hometown: St. Joseph, MO  
Age: 19

Q: What is the craziest thing you've ever seen on campus?  
**At Griffon Edge there was a big dance off and the whole class stormed the floor to watch!**



Whitnee Allen  
Etakibie Arrey  
Brittany Arthur



Q: What is your favorite class so far?

**PED General Lab**

Q: What do you like most about Missouri Western?

**No high school drama**

Q: Name the top 5 places you spend your money in St. Joseph?

1. Gas/Shop-n-hop
2. DQ
3. Cheddar's
4. Mid-West Audio
5. Save My Money!



Brent Ault  
Malik Az-Zubair  
Aubrey Baggett  
Weston Baker  
Charles Banks  
Daniel Banks



Ashley Barton  
David Bass  
Riley Bayer  
Briana Bazemore  
Laura Beal  
Anthony Bearden



Tiffany Bell  
Kendrick Benson  
Whitney Berry  
Alesha Bird  
Charles E. Bloss  
Alxia Ann Blum





Dex Blum  
Erica Boan  
Aubrey Dale Bode Jr.  
Trimayne Boyd  
Dylan Bradshaw  
Katie Brekalo



Brittany Bremer  
Undray Brock  
Jerrica Brown  
Jordin Bryant  
WaVonne Buchanan  
April Buntin



**You Are Here Profiles**

Name: Jovonah Burks  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Nursing  
Hometown: St. Louis, MO  
Age: 19

Q: Which building do you occupy most often each week?

**Murphy**

Q: Where would you rather eat on campus?

→ **a. Einstein Bagel**

- b. Food Court
- c. Deli in Popplewell
- d. Cafeteria
- e. Other

Q: What do you like most about Missouri Western?

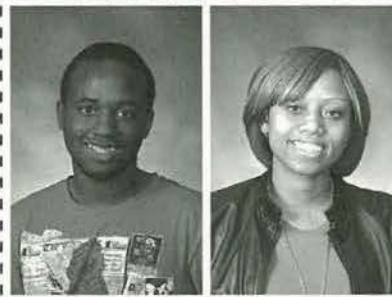
**People**

Q: Where is your favorite date place in St. Joseph?

**Movies**



Adam Burkart  
Jovonah Burks  
Lakeisha Caldwell  
Richard Caldwell



Elijah Gallick  
Ashley Cameron  
Keith Campbell  
Chassity Canada



Darryl Cannamore  
Adam Caples  
Kristen Carter  
Victoria Carter

Richard Chungong  
Amber Colbert  
Daniel Cole  
Noel Collier  
Katie Collins  
Monica Compton



Katlyn Constable  
Leah Cotton  
Zac Covault  
Tyler Cowart



**You Are Here Profiles**

Name: Tyler Cowart  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Undecided  
Hometown: Liberty, MO  
Age: 18

Caitlin Cress  
Jessica Criss  
Billy Daffron  
Nyaa Daniels



Q: Name the top 5 places you spend your money in St. Joseph?

1. Bookstore
2. Wendy's
3. McDonalds
4. Gas
5. Sonic

Q: What is your favorite class so far?

**Fitness & Wellnes**

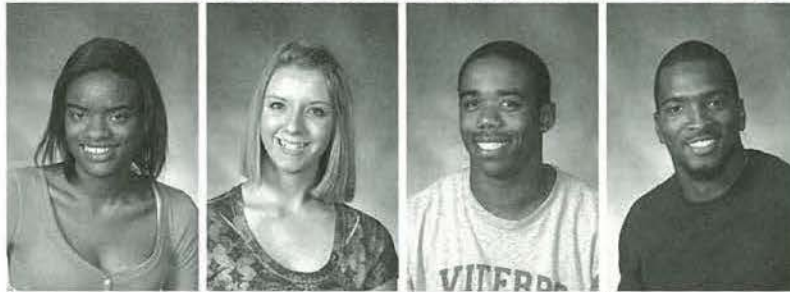
Q: What do you like most about Missouri Western?

**The Campus**

Q: Which building do you occupy most often each week?

**Scanlon**

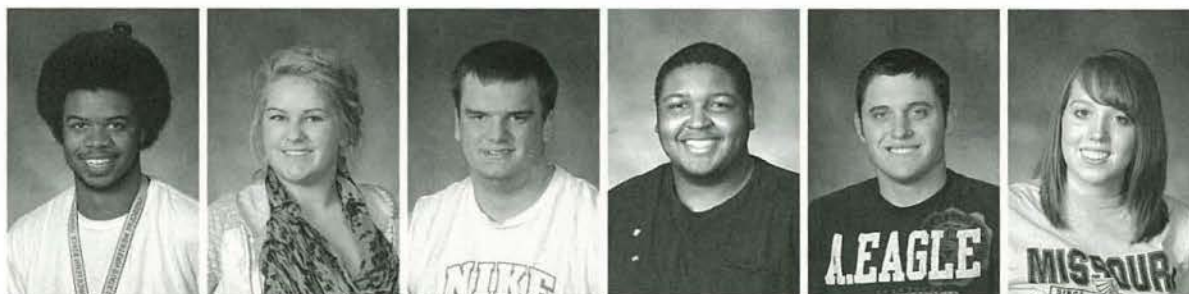
Celeste Davis  
Cheyenne Davis  
Darren Davis  
Kendall Davis



Zachery Dawkins  
Zach Defoe  
Madeline Devoy  
Lauren Dillon  
Kelsey Dirksen  
Daniel Dobbs



# Underclassmen



Domonic Downton  
Amber Ducovlambier  
Jon Dykstra  
Jarred Edwards  
Jordan Eiberger  
Kathryn Ellerman



Tasha Ewing  
Kaylin Falterman  
Kate Fimple  
Justine Flowers  
Brittany Ford  
Jessica Foshe



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Aza Francis  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Graphic Design  
Age: 19

Q: St. Joseph offers a lot of festivals, which one has been your favorite?

- a. Trails West
- b. South Side Fall Fest.
- c. Pumpkin Fest.
- d. North Side



Drake Fox  
Aza Francis  
Drew Freeman



Q: Which building do you occupy most often each week?

**Murphy**

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on campus?

**Potter**

Q: Where is the best cup of coffee on campus?

- a. Einstein Bagel
- b. Java City
- c. Bring it from home
- d. Potter Hall Office



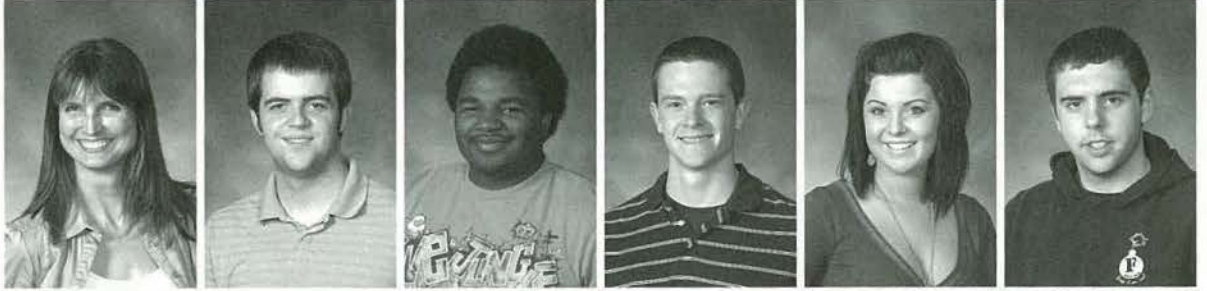
Abigail Fryer  
Brandy Fuller  
Robin Gann



Stephanie Garver  
Tania Gatlin  
Rochelle Gillilan  
Alex Giunta  
Brandi Glenn  
Megan Goldizen

# Underclassmen

Tina Goodrick  
Samuel Goodroad  
Dominic Gordon  
Adam Gosney  
Allyson Graham  
Rockwell Gray



Jared Green  
L'Chelle Green  
Melissa Green



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Melissa Green  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Elementary Edu.  
Hometown: O'Fallon, MO  
Age: 19

Q: What is the best thing about Homecoming?

**The GAME!!**

Q: What is the best building to have class in?

**Murphy**

Q: Which paper do you get on campus?

- a. KC Star
- b. St. Joe News Press
- c. USA Today
- d. The Griffon News

Q: What is your dream line-up for the Spring Concert?

1. Nickelback
2. Carrie Underwood
3. Chris Daughtry

Hanna Greenwell  
Jessica Groves  
Jessica Hammond



Amy Hansen  
Johnathan Hansen  
Emily Harbert  
Tania Harness  
Chynna Harris  
Lindsey Hartley



Celeste Hass  
Sarah Hatten  
Carrie Hayes  
Leah Hayes  
Timothy Haynes, Jr.  
Arthur Heinrich





### You Are Here Profiles

Name: Kelly Heinz

Year: Freshman

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Plattsburg, MO

Age: 18

Q: What is your favorite spot on campus?

**Writing under a tree.**

Q: Where is the best cup of coffee on campus?

a. Einstein Bagel

b. Java City

→ **c. Bring it from home**

d. Potter Hall Office

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on campus?

**Remington**

Q: St. Joseph offers a lot of festivals, which one has been your favorite?

a. Trails West

b. South Side Fall Fest.

→ **c. Pumpkin Fest.**

d. North Side



Q: What is your favorite spot on campus?

**Writing under a tree.**

Q: Where is the best cup of coffee on campus?

a. Einstein Bagel

b. Java City

→ **c. Bring it from home**

d. Potter Hall Office

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on campus?

**Remington**

Q: St. Joseph offers a lot of festivals, which one has been your favorite?

a. Trails West

b. South Side Fall Fest.

→ **c. Pumpkin Fest.**

d. North Side



**Remington**

Q: St. Joseph offers a lot of festivals, which one has been your favorite?

a. Trails West

b. South Side Fall Fest.

→ **c. Pumpkin Fest.**

d. North Side



Kelly Heinz  
Delaysia Henry  
Oshela Henry  
April Hiemer



April Higley  
Julie Hodson  
Tiffany Hoecker  
Kirby Hoerrmann



Stefan Hoffman  
Symone Hollins  
Angela Horn  
Alex Hottelman



Jeremie Howell  
Jourdan Huffman  
Briana Hughes  
Delia Hughes  
Megan Hunt  
Elizabeth Hunter



Anthony Hurst  
Sondra Jiminez  
Cara Johnson  
Preston Johnson  
Samantha Johnson  
Britney Jones



Eboni Jones  
 Renae Jones  
 Sara Jones  
 Lee Jordan



### You Are Here Profiles

Name: Eboni Jones  
 Year: Freshman  
 Major: Nursing  
 Hometown: St. Louis, MO  
 Age: 19



Pierce Karguth  
 Kallista Kelly  
 Dwayne Kemp  
 Samantha Kendall



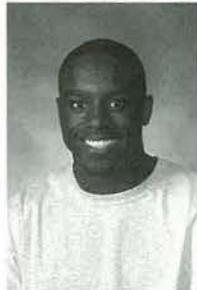
Q: What is your favorite class so far?  
**English**

Q: Name the top 5 places you spend your money in St. Joseph?

1. Mall
2. Food
3. Food
4. Food
5. Food



Meshach Kennedy  
 Allen Kerns  
 Kelly Keyes  
 Zachary Kimmel



Q: Where would you rather eat on campus?

- a. Einstein Bagel
- b. Food Court
- c. Deli in Popplewell
- d. Cafeteria
- e. Other



Shuniqua King  
 Bethany Kirkendoll  
 Zack Kirkman  
 Taylor Kram  
 Eboni Lacey  
 Cody Lammers



Martin Lau  
 Kassalina Lee  
 Finesha Lenoir  
 Amber Liebhart  
 Tara Lightle  
 Morgan Lindgren



# Underclassmen



Samantha Long  
Tony Long Jr.  
Janica Lowry  
Mercedes Lucero  
Rebecca Ludwig  
Dana Martin



### You Are Here Profiles

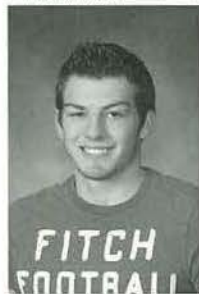
Name: Amanda Mavel  
Major: Business  
Hometown: Lawson, MO  
Age: 18

Q: Name the top 5 places you spend your money in St. Joseph?

1. Mall
2. Walmart
3. McDonalds
4. Bowling
5. Parties



Luke Mason  
Amanda Mavel  
Richard Mayse



Q: What is the best study spot on campus?

- a. Library  
b. Computer Lab  
c. Outdoor Benches  
d. CSE

Q: Which paper do you get on campus?

- a. KC Star  
b. St. Joe News Press  
c. USA Today  
d. The Griffon News



Zach McClelland  
Chastity McCourt  
Nick McCutcheon



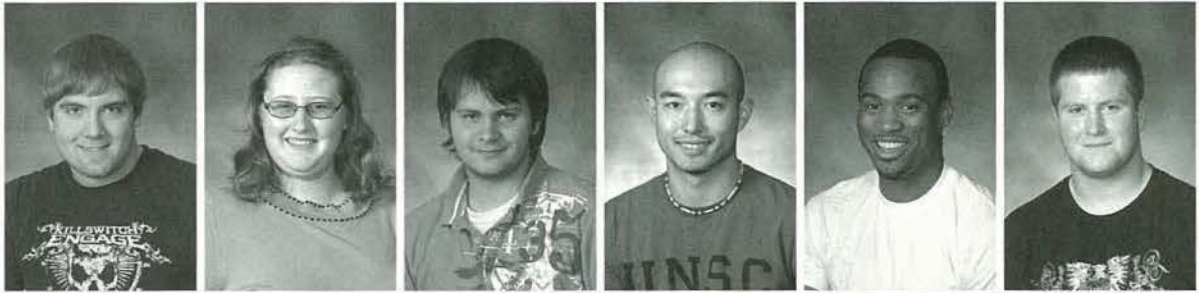
Caleb McDaniel  
Derrick McDowell  
Taylor McEachern  
Katie McKnight  
Marquis McNeal  
Xochitl Melo-Benitez



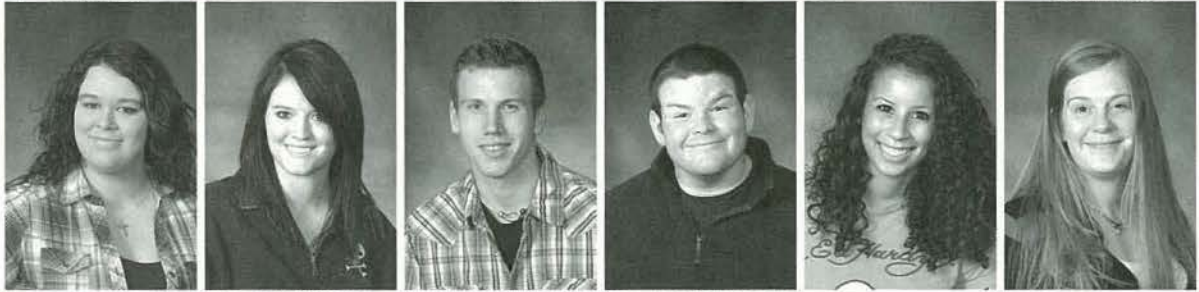
Charles Mengel  
Scott Meszaros  
Anthony Mikus  
Michael Miller  
Michelle Miller  
Rebecca Miller

# Underclassmen

Chris Millsap  
Cassy Mohling  
Cameron Moore  
Daniel Moore  
DeRico Morris  
Brian Mosier



Jordan Mothersbaugh  
Nicolette Muller  
Jayse Musser  
Kale Neis  
Brenna Nelson-Wilkes  
Megan Newby



Michael Nielson  
Alison Norris  
Samy Northcutt



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Michael Nielson  
Year: Senior  
Major: Video Production/  
Theater/Philosophy  
Hometown: Maryville, MO  
Age: 28

Q: What is the best thing to eat on campus?

**Bagels**

Q: What is the best building to have class in?

**Potter**



Ruth Northrup  
Kolter Norton  
Jennifer Notbusch



Q: What is your dream line-up for the Spring Concert?

1. Tool
2. Flaming Lips
3. Butthole Surfers

Q: What is the best study spot on campus?

→ **a. Library**

- b. Computer Lab
- c. Outdoor Benches
- d. CSE



Jesse Odom  
Sondra Oribhabor  
Alyssa Ostrander  
Caresse Owens  
Chase Owens  
Kyle Owens





Jamie Palmer  
Kathryn Parker  
Frances Parsley  
Robyn Patti  
Tiffany Patton  
Alexander Pechmann



### You Are Here Profiles

Name: Alex Peters  
Major: Sociology  
Hometown: St. Joseph, MO  
Age: 19



Alex Peters  
Clifford Petersen  
Kendra Petties  
Donald Pierre



Q: What events are your favorite to attend?

### Sorority Stuff

Q: What's the best thing to eat on campus?

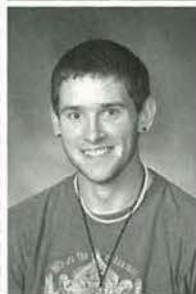
### Burger Studio

Q: What is the best study spot on campus?

- a. Library
- b. Computer Lab
- c. Outdoor Benches
- d. CSE

Q: What is your dream line-up for the Spring Concert?

- 1. Winder
- 2. Usher
- 3. Nickleback



Kiara Pittman  
Andrew Poet  
Bryant Porter  
Jeremy Prezwodek



Lauren Prywitch  
Rachel Puett  
Clayton Rains  
Alfredo Ramirez



Toby Ratchiff  
Stephen Reyes  
Taylor Richard  
Lindsey Riddle  
Aly Rinehart  
Emma Roberts

Lindsey Roberts  
 Marquis Roberts  
 Harriet Robinson  
 Cornell Roe  
 Antoine Rose  
 Brenna Salzwedel

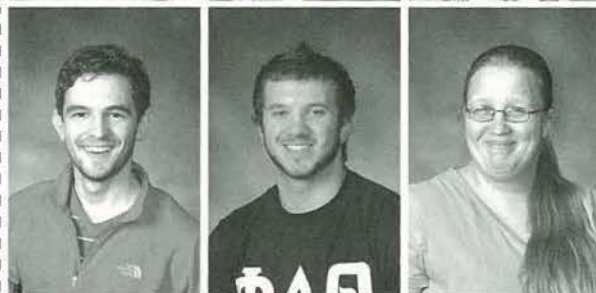


Kelsey Smaenus  
 Aaron Sanders  
 Zach Schultz  
 Heather Seever



**You Are Here Profiles**

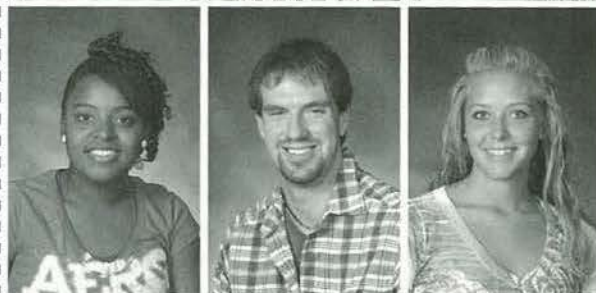
Name: Kelsey Smaenus  
 Year: Freshman  
 Major: Spanish/International  
 Business  
 Hometown: Kansas City, MO  
 Age: 18



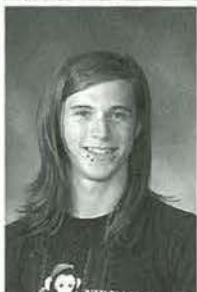
Jason Sharp  
 Latoya Shelton  
 Brian Shewell  
 Claire Shinneman



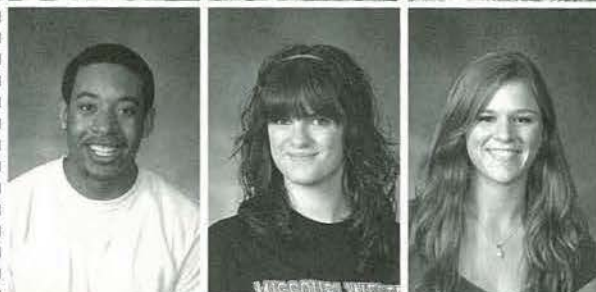
Q: Which paper do you get on campus?  
 a. KC Star  
 b. St. Joe News Press  
 c. USA Today  
 → d. The Griffon News



Aidan Simmons  
 Taras Simpson  
 Katherine Sisco  
 Malia Sisk



Q: What is the best building to have class in?  
 Agenstein



Q: What's the best thing to eat on campus?  
 Cookies & Cream Shake at Einstein Brother's

Q: What is your dream line-up for the Spring Concert?  
 1. Linkin Park  
 2. Hoobastank  
 3. Trey Songz

Courtney Slater  
 Dillon Smith  
 Lonisha Smith  
 Michael Smith  
 Samantha Smith  
 Ashley Snyder



# Underclassmen



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Anna Steely  
 Year: Freshman  
 Major: Piano Performance  
 & French  
 Hometown: Berryville, AR  
 Age: 19

Q: What building do you occupy most after each week?

Potter for practice.

Q: What is your favorite class so far?

Macro Economics

Q: Where would you rather eat on campus?

- a. Einstein Bagel
- b. Food Court
- c. Deli in Papplewell
- d. Cafeteria
- e. Other

Q: Name the top 5 places you spend your money in St. Joseph?

1. Bookstore
2. HyVee
3. Jimmy John's



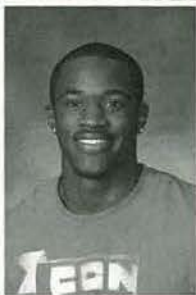
Natalie Spivey  
 Anna Steely  
 Erica Stevens



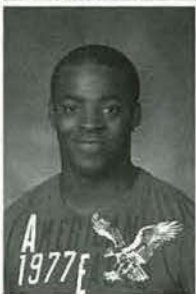
Sasha Stillman  
 Ashley Sundin  
 Melissa Sundin



April Swercinski  
 Elliot Swope  
 Brittany Taylor  
 Krystea Taylor  
 Mary Theis  
 Dionne Thomas



Dominic Thomas  
 James Thomas  
 Molly Thomas  
 Ricky Thompson  
 Emily Thomson  
 Jordan Tibbs



Derek Tiller  
 Shawn Tobin  
 Ricardo Toler  
 Synthia Tunnell  
 Mikey Turner  
 Josh Twenter

# Underclassmen

Robin Ussher  
Andrea Vaccaro  
Sara Verduzco  
Katie Walkup  
Spencer Ward  
Melanie Ware



Lareesa Warren  
Danielle Watring  
DaNell Weaver  
Shantell Webb  
Nick Weil  
Shelbie Weisenburger



Justin White  
Devyn Whited  
Rochelle Whitman



## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Justin White  
Year: Junior  
Major: Criminal Justice  
Hometown: St. Louis, MO  
Age: 21

Q: What events are your favorites to attend?

**Sports**

Q: What is the best thing about Homecoming?

**The whole week and Football game.**

Q: Which paper do you get on campus?

- a. KC Star
- b. St. Joe News Press
- c. USA Today
- d. The Griffon News

Q: What is the best study spot on campus?

- a. Library
- b. Computer Lab
- c. Outdoor Benches
- d. CSE



Devin Whittler  
Kevin Wilbur  
Brittini Williams



Demeco Williams  
Shanice Williams  
Corey Wilson  
Kayla Wing  
Shara Wolf  
Leslie Worshim





### You Are Here Profiles

Name: Clair Wyatt

Year: Sophomore

Major: Chemistry

Hometown: Turner, KS

Age: 20

Q: What is your favorite spot on campus?

**Football Stadium**

Q: Where is the best cup of coffee on campus?

a. Einstein Bagel

→ **b. Java City**

c. Bring it from home

d. Potter Hall Office

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on Campus?

**Murphy**

Q: St. Joseph offers a lot of festivals, which one has been your favorite?

a. Trails West

→ **b. South Side Fall Fest.**

c. Pumpkin Fest.

d. North side



David Worth  
Clair Wyatt  
Aliaksei Yakimkou  
Nick Yetman

Michael Young  
Alex Zimmerli



# Graduates



Judy Abongo



Kellie Alexander



Jasmine Allen



Kaitlin Allison



Brett Anderson



Kirby Asher



Amanda Bagley



Tammy Banks



Marie Barbee



Sarah Barrett



Kyle Bartholmey



Brad Beckwith

## You Are Here Profiles

Name: Brad Beckwith

Major: Graphic Design

Hometown: Cameron, MO

Age: 23

Q: What is your favorite spot on campus?

**My Room**

Q: What is MWSU's best kept secret?

**Me**

Q: If St. Joseph had a slogan what would it be?

**Stay Froster**

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on campus?

**Potter Hall**

Q: What is MWSU missing food wise?

**Pizza**



Michael Bennett



Levi Blessing



Megan Caley



Ernest Chamblee



Diana Chavez



Angela Clay



Susan Cook



Stephen Corkins



Patty Cortez



Pamela Covarrubias

### You Are Here Profiles

Name: Pam Covarrubias

Major: Graphic Design

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Age: 24

Q: Where is the best cup of coffee on campus?

- a. Einstein Bagel
- b. Java City
- c. Bring it from Home

→ d. Potter Hall Office

Q: What building has the best bathrooms on campus?

Remington, they're environmentally friendly!

Q: If St. Joseph had a slogan what would it be?

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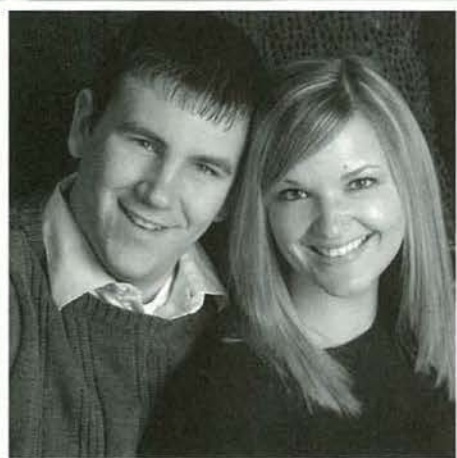


*Photo by Robin Ussher*



# You Are Here

Here will be gone and will only leave a trail of memories in its place. Live those moments so those memories will go on and on for years to come. Be who you want to be, not who you think you should be. Enjoy the sunshine and the rain. Make friends and be a friend. This is what makes here the place to be. The memories made will stay with you forever, so make them worth the keeping. These are the memories that will be shared with loved ones on a starry night, the kinds of memories that maybe your grandchildren will know, memories of a lifetime. That is what here is and you are here.



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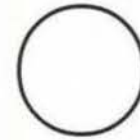
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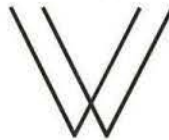
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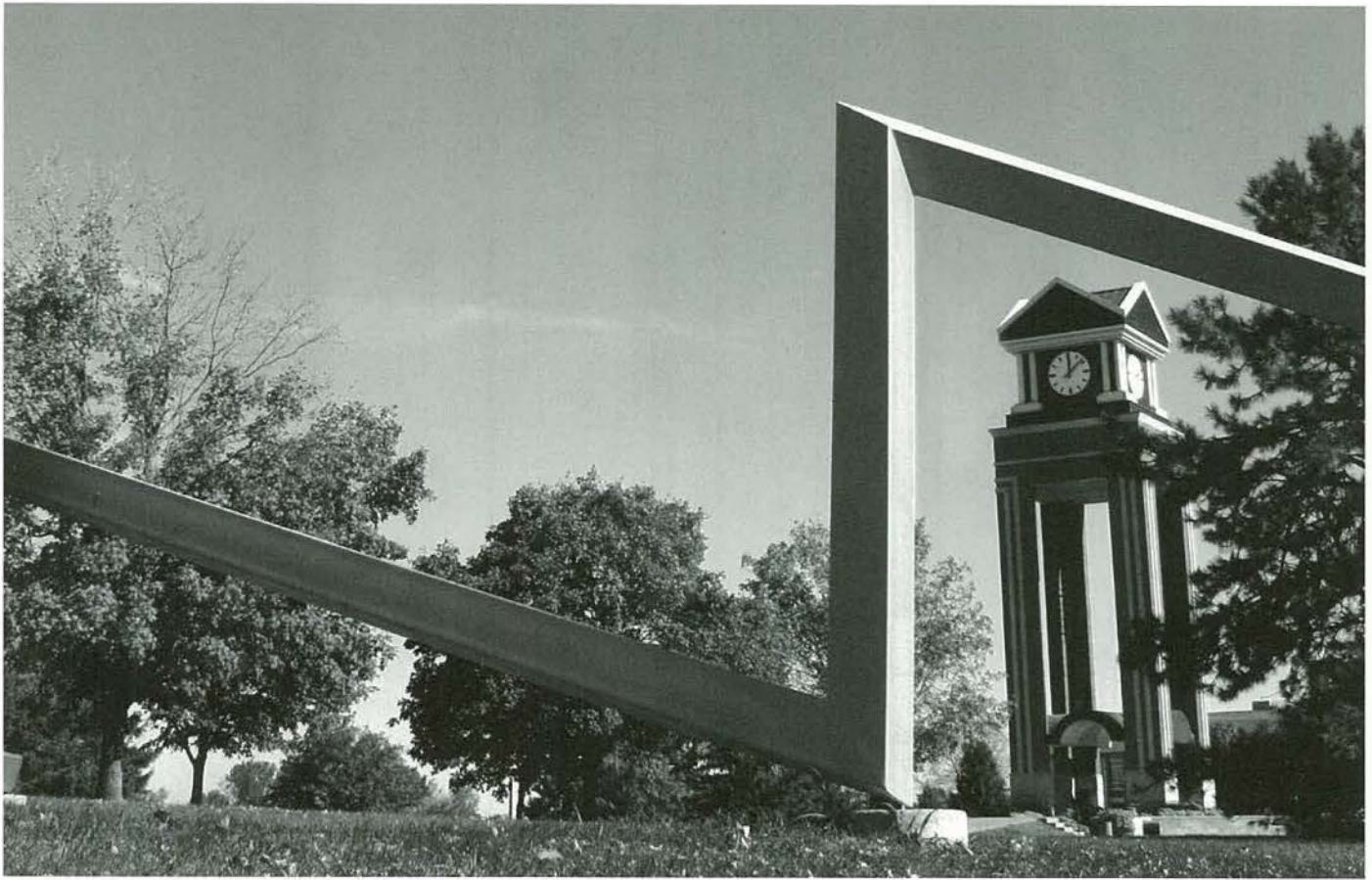
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To the eager new editorial staff I am leaving behind, Heather, Hanna, Lindsey, Zac, Molly, Lauren, Robyn, and Sarah, I hope you all keep the drive alive even when a glooming deadline is approaching. If I leave you with anything I hope that it is my unflinching dedication to making this book the best it can be. It won't always be easy but you will look back at the memories that you make in this office and cherish them forever because you were there. To be honest I am a little envious of what next year will bring for you all and I wish I could be there to see what I know each of you will bring to the book. It has been quite a long, wonderful journey being a part of this staff and I am happy I have been involved in the last five books. Of course I could not have gotten through them without the continual support of my family, friends and, of course, Ann. Thanks for keeping me going for all these years.

Raphael'le Drew