

CROSSROADS

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2022

IN THE GROOVE

Senior Doug Dicharry
shares his musical journey

Local teacher gives gift of life to colleague

Faculty members' books hitting shelves



From the Campus Activities Board's biannual Stuff-A-Lion event to Food Truck Fridays in April and games on the Oval, it was a lively spring semester on the MSSU campus.



from the editor

"Draw the art you want to see, start the business you want to run, play the music you want to hear, write the books you want to read, build the products you want to use – do the work you want to see done."

I came across this quote from New York Times bestselling author and speaker Austin Kleon while trying to settle on what to say regarding the Spring 2022 issue of Crossroads you now hold in your hands.

It's the perfect summation of much of the focus of this issue – the joys, the process, the determination it takes to create something new. Many of the stories you'll read in the following pages address the creative spirit found on the Missouri Southern campus and among our amazing graduates.

In the cover story, you'll meet senior music major Doug Dicharry. A longtime local music fixture who toured the globe with a previous group, he's now creating new sounds as a one-man band while he works toward his goal of becoming a music educator.

Then there's Sean Fitzgibbon, a 1998 graduate who has invested more than a decade working on a non-fiction graphic novel that will soon hit bookstore shelves. Several faculty members have been hard at work on books of

their own, with topics ranging from alcohol during the Civil War to the history of a Joplin landmark.

Jim Goodknight, '63, looks back on his career as a financial adviser and how an idea he had is now used nationwide by Edward Jones. And we speak with Tracy Wood, '99, whose conversations with two of his longtime friends have developed into a podcast that has drawn some big-name guests.

You'll also learn about how our Women in Science club is engaging local students, and meet Chelsey Abbot, '20, who recently donated a kidney to help a fellow educator, Jason Worrall, '07.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Crossroads. If you have an idea to share with us, drop us a line at crossroads@mssu.edu.

Thanks for reading, and we'll see you again this fall!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from Missouri Southern!

At a university, it is people who make the difference, and this issue of Crossroads describes the powerful impacts made by members of the Lion family. The following pages include impressive examples of our students, graduates and our own faculty developing and sharing their talents and passions.

Often, these talents and passions result in providing service, or a helping hand, to others. This issue highlights the heartwarming story of a MSSU teacher education graduate who served a fellow graduate and colleague by donating a kidney.

You will also read about Doug Dicharry, an instrumental performance major whose unique journey and passion for music led him to Missouri Southern not once, but twice. It is also a joy to highlight the work of our outstanding faculty who are dedicated teachers and scholars, and in this issue you will learn about books that our faculty have written and will soon be published.

On page 14, enjoy images from our annual Pride and Purpose event, where we celebrated the 2021 and 2022 recipients of the MSSU Spirit of Service Award, and the Lion-Hearted Award.

One of the core purposes of a university is to help students develop their abilities, passions and potential to lead lives of success, both professionally and personally. There are many benefits to higher education and completing a college degree, including strong employment prospects, preparation for civic engagement, and the ability to build a better life for oneself and family. However, we are proud that a Missouri Southern experience also encourages our students to strengthen their commitment to positively impacting the lives of others. The essence of this ideal is captured well in a quote from the Nigerian born political scientist Kalu Ndukwe Kalu, who said:

*The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone,
but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.*

As always, thank you for your support of Missouri Southern State University. Working together, our future is bright.

Lions Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Van Galen".

Dr. Dean Van Galen
President, MSSU



AROUND CAMPUS

'THE FOLKS HERE ARE COMMITTED'

Dr. Lisa Toms joins MSSU as Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

The importance of higher education can be looked at from both individual and societal perspectives, according to Dr. Lisa Toms.

"From an individual perspective, I believe it's the key to pulling people out of poverty," she said. "I believe it's the key to improving the quality of life, and I believe it's the key to improving the quantity of life ... More than that, it gives people a purpose and a sense that they're contributing to society."

"From a societal perspective, all the improvements that have come along – economic and technological – would not be what or where they are without higher education."

For Toms, who joined MSSU in February as the new Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, the "individual perspective" is deeply personal. When asked if she's seen firsthand the difference higher education can have in a person's life, she raises her hand.

"Me ... I was a first-generation college student," she said. "My parents were both from rural, southern Arkansas and life then was hard. They made sure (my siblings and I) did our best in school, but there wasn't a lot of emphasis put on college."

"But because I did very well in high school, they really wanted me to go to college, but I chose not to. I got married

straight out of high school. When I was 24, married with two kids, I made the decision that I wanted better for myself and especially my children (and enrolled in college)."

After graduating from college and obtaining her MBA and doctorate in business administration, Toms found that working in higher education was her true calling.

She spent 12 years as Dean at the Rankin College of Business at Southern Arkansas University and the College of Business at Arkansas Tech University. Prior to coming to MSSU, she was Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Central Missouri.

Having served in staff and faculty positions in her career have helped shape Toms' view of what her role should be at Missouri Southern.

"I hope to be able to contribute to supporting President Van Galen's vision for the university and set our own vision for the Academic Affairs area," she said. "The faculty need to know they are supported. We need to make sure they have what they need and can do what they need to do for the benefit of our students."

"I cannot tell you how impressed I've been with the willingness of faculty members – and staff – to say, 'What do we need to do? How can we help?' (There's a desire) to make Missouri Southern a stronger institution; not just for next year, but for generations to come. You don't see that everywhere. The folks here are committed."



GREEN & GOLD TOUR MAKES STOPS IN AREA COMMUNITIES

Missouri Southern took its show on the road during the 2021-22 academic year with the launch of the Green & Gold Tour.

Missouri Southern officials, faculty, students and Roary the Lion spent the day in area towns in order to connect with communities and prospective students. Community events, alumni lunches, free popcorn and sponsorship of basketball games are a few of the tour offerings.

The tour stops have included Monett, Nevada and Seneca. High-school students in each community were able to enter a drawing to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships to be given away during halftime at basketball games

"These communities have provided many students to Missouri Southern over the years, and this is a way for us to show our appreciation," said Dr. Brad Hodson, executive vice president of Missouri Southern.



RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY TO TAYLOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The show will go on!

Repairs are in full swing inside of Missouri Southern's Taylor Performing Arts Center.

The Missouri House and Senate approved House Bill 19 last year – a capital projects bill that included funds for the structural repair and reopening of the center. The bill provided a one-time \$2.5 million appropriation to remediate the structural issues and make the facility usable again for academic and community programs.

Named in honor of Thomas Taylor of Carthage, the center was built in 1975. The 53,000-square-foot facility can seat more than 2,000 people, making it the largest performing arts venue in Southwest Missouri.

The center has been closed since July 2019. Needed repairs include addressing structural issues on the main stage; structural challenges on the stairwells that prevent the use of the balcony seating area; and replacement of the rigging system, main stage and mid-house divider curtains that are all original to the 1975 construction.

The project is expected to be complete by January 2023.



ANNUAL CAREER FAIR RETURNS TO CAMPUS

Hundreds of jobs, internships and graduate-school opportunities were available to MSSU students and alumni with the return of the Spring Career Fair in March.

The fair allows students and alumni to find careers, internships and graduate-school opportunities in a wide variety of fields. It marked the first time the Career Services office has been able to host the event since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

"The Spring Career Fair is an excellent opportunity for students and alumni from MSSU to connect with regional businesses and organizations within the Four State community," said Alex Gandy, director of Career Services. "We were incredibly grateful for the businesses and organizations who returned to MSSU to recruit talented students and graduates."

In addition to the Career Fair, Career Services offered the chance for students to brush up on their communication and presentation skills during Mock Interview Day, and helped outfit more than 400 students with upgrades to their professional wardrobe during the annual Dress to Impress event.

BEACON OF HOPE AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

The recipients of the annual Dr. Al Cade Beacon of Hope Service Awards were announced earlier this spring.

Named in honor of Dr. Al Cade – the former dean of the College of Education who passed away in 2015 – the awards honor an individual student and a student group who have contributed an extraordinary level of dedication and demonstrated superior leadership through volunteer service on or off campus. The 2022 recipients are Riley Laver and the Missouri Southern women's softball team.



Laver is a senior international business major. Her volunteer efforts have included work at Soul's Harbor, Petco, Watered Gardens, the Joplin Humane Society and at local churches. On campus, she is an Honors Program student who also serves as a Lion Ambassador, captain of the women's soccer

team, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and vice president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council.

"Coming to Joplin, I didn't realize how much power giving people your time could have," said Laver. "I just figured if I had time I might as well do something useful with it. I'm so grateful to have met so many amazing people. They have all inspired me to keep trying to make an impact in the world."

This is the second year in a row the Missouri Southern softball team has won the award. Collectively over the 2021 spring and fall semesters, the softball program racked up 350 hours of community service that averaged out to 19.4 hours per student-athlete.

The team helped clean up Grand Falls, helped with the Walk to End Alzheimers and the Ronald McDonald House Big Red Shoe Run, as well as many other events within the Joplin area.

"I am very proud of our student-athletes for sacrificing their time and energy for the Southwest Missouri community," said head softball coach Hallie Blackney. "We believe in being champions in the classroom, in the community and on the field. Lions everywhere can be proud of who this team is."





VOICES OF SOUTHERN

DR. ILDO KIM

Assistant professor of communication

What is it exactly that makes something funny – either eliciting a light chuckle or a full-on belly laugh?

There's no exact science to it, says Dr. Ildo Kim, but it's a "social lubricant" when it comes to relationships, especially during difficult and stressful times.

"We've all heard that laughter is the best medicine," he says. "We can maintain relationships without humor, but we can use it to make them better."

Humor has been a research focus for Kim, from the benefits of lightening the mood in the classroom, to its uses in interpersonal relationships and other settings.

THE SET UP

When I was pursuing my master's degree, my advisors were humorous people. But when I was an undergraduate, I had some humorous professors but not all of them were using good types of humor. Some used it to attack ... picking up on a student's negative behavior and using that to make others laugh. I didn't like that. I realized my advisors were using humor to make everyone happy and more focused on the (classroom) content. I thought that was cool.

That was the very beginning of my interest in humor. I wanted to enhance my own sense of humor, but to also look at its use in various settings, from the classroom and interpersonal relationships, to the Internet and even marketing.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Last year, Kim contributed a chapter to the book "Teach Communication with a Sense of Humor."

The editor of the book contacted me to write a chapter because he had read my master's thesis. I happily did it, because I was interested in how humor in the classroom can improve teaching, or how it can make it worse. The title of my chapter was "My Teacher was Funny, but I Learned Nothing."

Humor can have a distracting effect. It can make students pay attention to the humor itself but not the lecture content. It's the same with advertising. You might remember the ad, but not the brand it was for.

If I have a one-hour lecture, I might use humor only two or three times and it will be closely related to the content ... I might share a video or tweet to make what we're discussing more memorable.

BUT WHAT MAKES SOMETHING FUNNY?

That's a hard question to answer. We know when something is funny but we don't always look at why. Scholars say that when we see something unexpected, we can find a connection to something we have not thought about before ... seeing something from one angle, but then looking at from a different angle. I'm not very good at it, but that's the mechanism.

I think the more important thing is that humor should be something that makes me happy, not others. If it at least makes me laugh or smile, that's fine.

I actually don't watch very many comedians. I prefer humor in everyday life conversations ... studies show that 80 to 90 percent of laughter comes from our interpersonal relationships.



MISSOURI SOUTHERN ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Two years of Pride & Purpose Day honorees were recognized this spring at Missouri Southern.

The annual awards honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions of service to Missouri Southern or their respective communities.

Established in 2000, the Lion-Hearted Award recognizes the outstanding contributions made by the university's supporters, either through monetary or voluntary assistance. The Spirit of Service Award was established in 2017, and recognizes a graduate of MSSU who has made a significant contribution to their community through their time, actions, talent and dedication.

ROD ANDERSON, '76 2021 LION-HEARTED AWARD



Anderson is a lifelong resident of Monett, Mo., who graduated from MSSU with a degree in marketing/management. He served in the Missouri Army National Guard and in 1975 joined Produce Brokers and Distributors Inc. as a produce broker and minority partner for 40 years.

He was elected to the Monett R-1 School Board in 1996 and served five terms, including several years as president, and also served on the Missouri School Board Association's regional board. In 2003, former Missouri Gov. Bob Holden appointed Anderson to the MSSU Board of Governors, where he served for 12 years – including two years as chair.

He's an active supporter of Southern Athletics, serving for several years on the Lionbackers board, and has established two endowed scholarships.

DIANE REID ADAMS, '71 2021 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD



Diane Reid Adams' family moved to Joplin from Springfield, Mo., in 1952. During high school and for the next 15 years, she worked in the family business – Fred Reid AMC/Jeep – and became the first female member of the Joplin New Car Dealers' Association. She received several business management awards from the American Motors Association as well as the Outstanding Young Women of America award.

She earned her bachelor of science degree from MSSU in Spanish and social studies education, and later her master's degree in U.S. and Latin American history. She taught in the Joplin School District and later as an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

After retirement in 2013, she taught U.S. history part time at MSSU. She also served as a member of the Joplin City Council and on the Missouri Municipal League's state committee on municipal finance and taxes.

JERRY AND LINDA KEIFER 2022 LION-HEARTED AWARD



Jerry and Linda Keifer, who have been married for 47 years, have hosted approximately 75 international students attending Missouri Southern since 2009.

The Keifers invite the students to their home for meals and also take them on frequent excursions to Springfield, Kansas City, Northwest Arkansas, and Silver Dollar City. They also go hiking and give them a variety of other cultural experiences. Students have come from Japan, China, Korea, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and several other countries.

Jerry and Linda often travel and reconnect with students they've met over the years. In 2012, they visited several former students in Japan and met with international advisors from two of the organizations that send exchange students to MSSU.

The Keifers have two adult daughters, four grandchildren, and a soon-to-be great-grandchild and have become "Dad and Mom" to students from around the world.

DEBI KOELKEBECK, '81 2022 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD



Debi Koelkebeck grew up in Bolivar, Mo. She graduated magna cum laude in 1981 with a degree in accounting, and was also named Outstanding Accounting Student her senior year.

She worked as a CPA for several years before moving to Freeman Health System, where she served as the administrative officer for a number of clinical and retail departments. She helped develop the Urgent Care Clinics, served as project manager for the Women's Center, and oversaw the development of QuickMeds and the Pink Door Boutique while managing other departments as senior vice president.

Koelkebeck has focused on community volunteer work for the last eight years, including serving as board president for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jasper & Newton Counties, a board member for the United Way of Southwest Missouri, and a past president of the Lafayette House. In 2015 she was sworn in as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and was founding board president of Jasper County CASA, advocating for the best interests of children in foster care due to abuse and neglect.

Kevin Greim, vice president for development at Missouri Southern, said it was gratifying to be able to honor the group of award recipients.

"These awards are designed to recognize service to community and service to Missouri Southern," he said. "We are so honored to be associated with people like Diane, Rod, Debi and the Keifers.

"Their gifts of service are so appreciated and serve as examples of what can be accomplished with you have a genuine passion for the well-being of others."

The Chart Hall of Fame

Six former editors will be inducted later this year into The Chart Hall of Fame as part of Homecoming 2022 festivities.

The Chart was founded in 1939 by student editor Kenneth McCaleb at Joplin Junior College. The inaugural Hall of Fame class was named in 2012, with a new class inducted every five years.

The 2022 class is headlined by **TONY FEATHER**, who served as the national political director for George W. Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. Sports editor and political editor for The Chart in 1973-75, he is currently a partner at FLSCoconnect, a voter targeting and advocacy firm.



CLARK SWANSON, the only three-time editor-in-chief in Chart history (1978-81), started OrangeBoy Inc. with his wife, Sandy, in 1996. Today, the firm is a global provider of analytical services for public institutions and NGOs through its software as a service (SaaS).



SUSAN CAMPBELL, managing editor of The Chart in 1978-79, has worked across the media landscape, first at The Joplin Globe, then The Wichita Eagle-Beacon, and eventually at The Hartford Courant. She has been a regular commentator on WNPR, and a guest on CBS' "Sunday Morning," the BBC, and multiple news and radio stations in Connecticut, where she lives.



CHRIS CLARK, who served two terms as Chart editor-in-chief (1989-91), spent the bulk of his journalistic career with the Associated Press. He eventually became news editor for the AP's bureaus in Salt Lake City and Kansas City and quickly earned a reputation as one of the AP's most well-traveled "parachute" news editors – a trusted newsroom leader called to edit and guide breaking-news coverage of page-one journalism across the United States.

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG, a 2002 MSSU graduate, transferred from North Idaho College to become director of photography for The Chart in 1998. After working for The Joplin Globe and the Springfield News-Leader, he joined the Missouri Department of Conservation in 2006 as a wildlife photographer. Much of his time has been spent documenting rare and endangered species, primarily grassland grouse and their fragile habitat. He was selected as Outstanding Alumnus in 2020.



T.R. HANRAHAN, who served two terms as Chart editor-in-chief and as adviser from 2006-11, will be inducted posthumously. One of the most beloved figures in the newspaper's history, Hanrahan died on Oct. 20, 2021, at the age of 57. He was also an instructor of journalism at Missouri Western State University and managing editor of the Brownwood (Texas) Bulletin.

Further details about The Chart reunion and Hall of Fame induction – set for Oct. 8 – will be coming soon. Follow MSSU Chart Alumni on Facebook for updates.

Tim Peternell named 2022 Outstanding Graduate

"Opportunity" ... it's a word mentioned more than a few times when Tim Peternell talks about his time at Missouri Southern.

Peternell, who participated in the December commencement ceremony, has been named the 2022 Outstanding Graduate by the Alumni Association's Board of Directors. He graduated with his bachelor's in environmental health and safety, and a minor in Biology with a 4.0 GPA.

"There are a lot of great students here at Missouri Southern," Peternell says of the Outstanding Graduate recognition. "Knowing that all of the hard work over the last few years has paid off and been recognized, it means a lot to me."

He says he's always had an interest in science and protecting the environment and was excited to join the Environmental Health and Safety program at MSSU.

He and fellow environmental health major Avery Cozens undertook a research project that confirmed the presence of microplastics in the Spring River Watershed. It was one of the first studies in the Midwest to examine freshwater sources for traces of microplastics – most have focused on ocean and marine environments.

"The opportunity to do this was groundbreaking because it had never been done in this area before," he says. The students were able to present their findings last year at the Missouri Academy of Science Conference in Columbia, Mo. Their work, he says, is currently being advanced by other student researchers at MSSU.

The certifications available to students in the EHS department was another opportunity he says he happily embraced. He has been recognized as a Certified Environmental Health Specialist by the Missouri Board of Certification for Environmental Health Professionals; and an Associate Safety and Health Manager by the Institute for Safety and Health Management; as well as credentials for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



"Tim was an amazing student in all areas as far as academics and scholarship," said Dr. Teresa Boman, associate professor of biology and environmental health and safety. "As a student worker in our department, he did a lot of work for us, such as going to the Major/Minor Fair to help recruit students. He was an excellent representative for our program and Missouri Southern as a whole."

This fall, Peternell will begin work on his master's degree in environmental health at Utah's Brigham Young University. For those students following in his footsteps, he has two words of advice – "Get involved."

"What you get out of (the college experience) depends on what you put into it," he says. "There are a lot of great opportunities here. Put in the work, and don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help if you need it, whether it's your professors or other students."



Chelsey Abbott, '20, donates kidney to school-district colleague Jason Worrall, '07

When you know, you know.

Chelsey Abbott had been ready to donate a kidney since she was a teenager, when she first learned a person can live with only one. It was just a matter of waiting for the right time ... and the right person.

"I wanted to donate then, but a family friend suggested I wait; that I may know someone personally one day that I could help," said Abbott.

After earning her elementary education degree from Missouri Southern in 2020, Abbott began teaching third grade at Carthage's Steadley Elementary. She was placed in a classroom next to fellow third-grade teacher and mentor Jenny Worrall.

She learned that Worrall's husband, Jason – a 2007 graduate of MSSU who taught special education at Carthage Junior High – suffered from polycystic kidney disease.

Jason was in his early 20s when his kidneys began to shut down from the hereditary disease. Cysts on his kidneys continued to grow and rupture, leading to blood loss and fatigue. He had multiple blood transfusions, but they were always just a temporary fix.

"I was so weak, I could barely get from one end of the hallway to the other," said Jason.

By early 2021, his kidneys were functioning at just 15 percent and he began in-patient dialysis. Eventually he progressed to home therapy, where he was connected to a dialysis machine for eight hours each night as well as several times throughout the day.

"It was at this time that my wife put it out there that I was looking for a kidney," he said.

"Watching Jenny and her family go through her husband's health deteriorating, I thought, 'I've always wanted to donate a kidney, strangely enough,'" said Abbott.

Jenny gave Abbott a phone number to call, where she was asked basic health questions followed by a social screening. After monitoring her blood pressure for five days, she went to KU Medical Center to meet with the transplant team for an assessment. Last November, both were admitted to the hospital for their surgeries.

"I thought on the day of surgery I would be so nervous, but I was just at peace. I just knew it would be all right," said Abbott. "My mom passed of a brain aneurism, and we donated her organs. That was a huge lifeline during that process of losing her. I've seen what it can do for the donor's family, and what it can mean to the recipients."

Recovery for each procedure differs, but both have gone smoothly. Abbott was back at work four weeks later, but said she felt ready at three. Now, she said it's like nothing ever happened.

"It's been so great being able to watch Jason get better. It seems like such a small price to pay: four weeks of my life for the rest of his," she said. "I think if more people understood that it really is that simple ... if you're waiting on a deceased donor, it can take years."

In the organ transplant community, it's common for recipients to name their donated organ. Jason named his kidney Michelle, after Abbott's mother and the gift of life she gave.

After three months of recovery time to build back his strength and immune system, Jason was healthy enough to return to the classroom. He will remain on antirejection medication, which has drawbacks, but they're nothing compared to daily dialysis, he said.

"Now I just try to eat healthy and live a normal life," he said.

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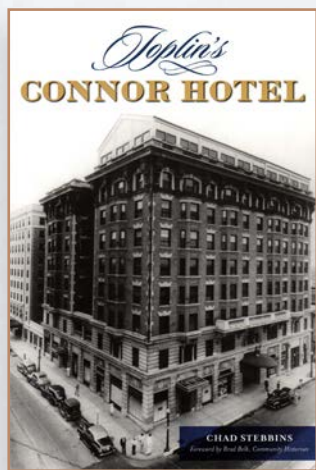
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THE JOPLIN GLOBE

fully booked

Recent and upcoming faculty-authored works include poetry, local and national history



five in the Adult Non-Fiction category.

Published last year by The History Press, "Joplin's Connor Hotel" was written by Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies at Missouri Southern.

"The book has had an overwhelming response locally," says Stebbins. "I've given about 15 different presentations to various civic groups and have three more scheduled this spring. People are intrigued and fascinated with our local history."

The Connor Hotel opened in April 1908, at a time when Joplin was a lead and zinc mining boomtown. Located on the northwest corner of Fourth and Main streets, it was the creation

of Thomas Connor, a wealthy land speculator who died before its completion. When the Joplin Public Library celebrated the start of 2022 with a series of posts about the top circulating books of 2021, a book about the history of the storied Connor Hotel was among the top

of Thomas Connor, a wealthy land speculator who died before its completion.

"The hotel gave Joplin a touch of elegance and grandeur," says Stebbins.

His book also documents how, in November of 1978, the hotel was in the national spotlight due to its premature collapse as it was being prepared for demolition.

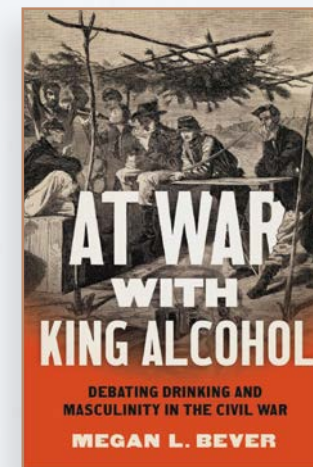
It's just one of several faculty-penned works that are in the works or have recently been published.

'At War with King Alcohol'

Dr. Megan Bever, associate professor history and chair of the Social Science Department, has written "At War with King Alcohol: Debating Drinking and Masculinity in the Civil War."

Set for publication in late summer by the University of North Carolina Press, Bever says the book is a project that grew out of her dissertation and interest in reform movements such as temperance and Prohibition.

"(The book) looks at how the military used liquor during the Civil War," she says. "It also



and be a good soldier and a patriotic man."

Her research led her to the National Archives, where she found dispensary ledgers, showing how alcohol was (or wasn't, in some cases) distributed among the soldiers.

"There were really strong emotional responses to drinking and the production of alcohol during the Civil War," Bever says, adding that the issues connect to the troubled relationship Americans have with drinking to this day.

"I think (writing the book) has changed how I think about food – what we eat and drink – and how it connects to all of these emotions and morals, and the way we link these things and tie them in with patriotism."

'Eisenhower for Our Time'

Dr. Steven Wagner, professor of history, will spend the summer editing his upcoming book on the nation's 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"Eisenhower for Our Time," is tentatively set for publication in the fall of 2023 as part of a series by Northern Illinois University Press, which looks at major historical figures and how they remain relevant in the present day. "The thread of what holds this book together

broadens out to look at the way people talked about liquor and drunkenness. Everyone knew the Army was using alcohol for 'health reasons.' There was discussion among officers about how much one could drink

is Eisenhower's attempts to find balance," says Wagner. "It's what drew me to him in the first place – his moderation. His centrism is so different than the politics of today."

The "balance" sought by Eisenhower includes personal preference and civic duty; public responsibility and private enterprise; national security and economic prosperity; and majority rule and minority rights.

"I had written a previous book on him (2006's "Eisenhower Republicanism: Pursuing the Middle Way"), so I felt pretty comfortable with his presidency and his domestic political philosophy," Wagner says. "This time, I wanted to find out more about his worldview."

'Slowly/Suddenly'

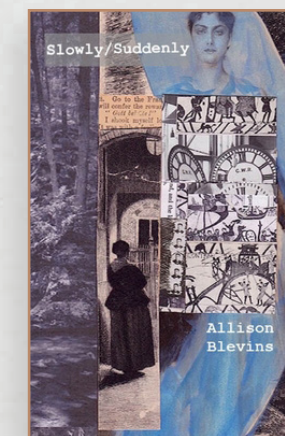
Allison Blevins, an adjunct professor in the English and Philosophy Department, knows there's a power to poetry being read aloud.

Last semester, she offered a reading from her first full-length poetry collection –

"Slowly/Suddenly" – which deals with trauma, disabilities and queer experience.

Hearing poetry read aloud is a different experience than picking up a book and reading it, says Blevins.

"Even if you're not a poetry reader, you can still get something from a poetry reading," she says. "Just listen. You can get so much from the sound and rhythm."



the power of INVESTMENT

Jim Goodknight, '63, looks back on storied career with Edward Jones

If there's a common theme in the telling of Jim Goodknight's story, it's one about the power of investment ... not just as a career, but in other people.

Goodknight, who graduated from Joplin Junior College in 1963, has had a storied career with Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company that provides financial services to more than 7 million clients. His affiliation with the company has added up to 52 of its 100 years in business, and originates with his time in the classroom.

"I think when I look back at Joplin Junior College, what I remember most is the good professors I had back then," he says. "The one that got me firmly on the path to where I am was Harry Gockel.

"He was a great instructor and taught us a lot. The economics class I took from him is what got me interested in the stock market."

He joined Edward Jones in 1970 at a time when the company had approximately 100 financial advisers companywide. Today, there are nearly 19,000.

"It was pretty slow going at first ... it turned out to be a low point in the market," he says. "But we've seen the

market multiply by 40 times (in the years since), which is amazing when you think about it."

Goodknight describes his approach to financial planning as "very conservative," in that he doesn't see the stock market as a place to gamble.

"It's a long-term place to put your money in order to retire or send your kids to college," he says.

And then there's the investment in people.

"Over a period of time, my business did quite well and I started to feel overloaded," he says. "The 80/20 rule seems to work in a lot of industries, so I tried that and shared 80 percent of my accounts with a new financial adviser."

The experiment worked in three primary ways.

"One, it gave the new financial adviser a head start (in the business)," Goodknight says. "Two, it gave me more control over my time. Three, and most importantly, it gave my clients better service than they were receiving before."

Today, that mindset – now known as "The Goodknight Plan" – has been adopted companywide by Edward Jones.

"It's been quite a success in getting (new advisers) over that initial hump," he says. "It's not easy to get started in this business. It's been a good program for Edward Jones and I'm happy to have my name attached to it."

Don Swanson, '78, was the earliest beneficiary of Goodknight's experiment, having been recruited to work for Edward Jones during his senior year of college.

"Jim sat down with me and went through his accounts that needed work and shared the load with me a bit," says Swanson, who has his own Joplin office and more than 40 years with the company. "Being young and fresh

out of college, it was very meaningful to me for him to give me names and a good place to put my effort.

"He's a generous person and has always treated people right, though I didn't realize immediately from the get-go how valuable a mentor he was to me."

"The Goodknight Plan" is one Swanson says he has put into practice himself over the years as he worked with younger financial advisers. Swanson's son, Michael, recently joined the business and is a beneficiary of the program.

On a similar note, Jim isn't the only Goodknight in Edward Jones' roster of advisers. The business has become something of a family affair.

Goodknight's son, Patrick, took over his father's office when he retired; a grandson has an office in Fayetteville, Ark., while another recently took a position with the company as an office administrator.

"I have a granddaughter about to graduate from high school and if you ask her what she wants to do after college, she wants to join her daddy's office ... and on weekends be a rodeo barrel racer," says Goodknight.

Now 80 and enjoying retirement while living on Grand Lake – though he remains a limited partner with the firm – Goodknight and his wife, Susie, have also made it a priority to invest in his alma mater.

In 2006, he was honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award. A monetary gift made by the Goodknights in 2019 was used by the Plaster College of Business to purchase a LightBoard system, which has facilitated the teaching of online classes.

"I've known a lot of people who have graduated from Missouri Southern," he says. "It's a great institution for Joplin and I believe in it."



BY AMANTHA DAVIS - SENIOR, ENGLISH MAJOR

MORE THAN JUST 'FRIENDS'



Tracy Wood, '99, attracting notable guests,
tackling difficult topics on podcast

Dr. Tracy Wood is focused on expanding his audience ... and not just its size.

"We don't want to be middle-class white dudes talking to other middle-class white dudes," Wood said.

An elementary teacher in St. Louis, Mo., Wood is co-host of a faith-based podcast called "We Used to be Friends." He and co-hosts BJ Murray and Josh Neeley have grown their audience over the years, attracting a wide variety of well-known guests.

With a lineup that has included movie directors and authors, infectious disease specialists and climate scientists, they have taken on topics that affect the world today.

Wood graduated from MSSSU in 1999. He said he explored several career paths, including physical therapy, before realizing his place was in the classroom. In 2007, he graduated from St. Louis University with a doctorate in philosophy and has been a teacher in the Rockwood School District ever since.

Even as Wood was going to school and starting his career, he kept in contact with his high-school friends, BJ and Josh. The three would spend hours on the phone, talking about books they recently finished, something that been bothering them for a while or even how their day was.

"They're my accountability partners ... my brothers. They are my family," Wood said.

At some point the three friends realized that other people might be interested in what they were talking about. Wood wanted to record their talks and post them on YouTube, but it was BJ who suggested putting them into podcast form.

"We called it 'We Use to be Friends' because that's how we started out in high school," he said. "But now we don't consider ourselves to just be friends; those guys are my brothers." Often when something bad happens or when something is stressful in life, my wife is the first person to know. The next step in line is BJ and Josh."

"We Used to be Friends" is now in its third season. As the

podcast has grown, it has attracted a number of notable guests. The podcast has hosted author Mitch Albom, who sold more than 40 million copies of his book "Tuesdays with Morrie;" infectious disease specialist Jessica Malaty Rivera; climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe; and Jim Sonefeld, the drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish.

Wood reaches out to a lot of the guests on his show. The first guest that Wood reached out to said no, but he was excited that they had answered him at all, so he continued to send out emails.

"Fifty percent of the time, I never know if the emails I sent get read," Wood said. "Half of the time I get an email back saying no, they don't have the time. Then three months later, I'll email them again ... I have to straddle that line between being annoying but continuing to put ourselves out there."

The podcasts hosts participated in a conference call that included Zachary Levi and Anna Paquin, stars of the recent film "American Underdog," and former Rams quarterback Kurt Warner, whose story the movie was based upon. They later had the opportunity to interview the film's director, Jon Erwin, and talk about the experience of producing movies in Hollywood.

Wood said he plans to bring in more guests with different experiences, wanting to have more women and people of color on the show. He hopes having different perspectives will inspire his audience and help them learn more about the world around them.

But having more diversity on the show isn't the only thing Wood wants.

"Things like depression and suicide shouldn't be taboo topics," he said. "Mental health should be talked about."

"We Used to Be Friends" can be found on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and on their website weusedtobefriends.libsyn.com.





VISUAL STORYTELLER

Sean Fitzgibbon, '98, uses new book to paint picture of Crescent Hotel's history



Sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

That's what artist Sean Fitzgibbon discovered back in the early 2000s when he began researching the history of the Crescent Hotel.

Located in Eureka Springs, Ark., there are no shortage of spooky stories tied to the hotel, from ghostly sightings and tales of a mad doctor's experiments, to claims it houses a portal to the "other side."

"As a kid, we would visit Eureka Springs and took the Crescent's ghost tour a few times," said Fitzgibbon, who graduated from Missouri Southern in 1998 with a degree in graphic design. "There were

ghoulish, Frankenstein-like stories about Dr. Norman Baker, and it was really sensational.

"As an adult, I began wondering what really happened there. I started going to the library to do research, and thought the real story behind the Crescent was even more fascinating than the semi-made up stories."

By about 2012, his research had led to a narrative structure and he began storyboarding a nonfiction graphic novel – "What Follows is True: Crescent Hotel."

Successfully funded through a Kickstarter campaign and a recent Mid-America Arts Alliance-Artists 360 grant, the 240-page work combines Fitzgibbon's hand-painted illustrations with oral histories, newspaper accounts and his own in-depth research into Baker's background.

"What Follows is True" became a passion project for Fitzgibbon, who serves as an adjunct art professor for the University of Arkansas and has had other projects and shows going during the years he worked on the book.

"I think of myself as a visual storyteller," he said, citing film noir, Alfred Hitchcock and Rod Serling of "The Twilight Zone" fame as major inspirations, as well as his time at Missouri Southern for giving him an appreciation for art history and a deep well of influences from which he could draw.

All of that is on display in his new book about the Crescent.

"It's such a fascinating place with a varied history," he said. "It began as an opulent hotel for the wealthy in 1886. It wasn't long before they began to have financial difficulties. In 1908, to supplement lagging hours during winter it was used as a conservatory and college for young women."

It was shut down in 1934 and remained unused for the next three years.

Enter Dr. Norman Baker, driving into town in a purple automobile and claiming he had the cure for cancer. He converted the Crescent into the Baker Hospital.

"He was a populist radio host from Muscatine, Iowa, who was pretty harmless, but more and more he started using radio to go after his enemies," said Fitzgibbon. "He had a hospital there, and later he went down to Mexico to start another.

"His cancer 'cure' was nothing more than carbolic acid, and watermelon seeds mixed with spring water. He was conning everyone."

Baker later served about three years in Leavenworth on federal mail fraud charges.

In 2019, hundreds of bottles were excavated by a landscaping crew. They contained tissue, tumors and other medical specimens dating back to Baker's days as owner of the hospital, giving credence to tales of Baker's "work" at the hospital and the memories of people who remembered seeing similar bottles in the hospital morgue.

"The book follows two different characters ... Baker and the Crescent itself," said Fitzgibbon. "It's a fun read, looking at the hotel through different time periods."

He said he hopes to use the "What Follows is True" title as an "umbrella" to tell other stories, though on a smaller scale than his Crescent Hotel project.

"I've always loved weird histories and strange stories," he said. "I think this is a medium ripe for telling these stories."

For more information on Fitzgibbon, his new book and other projects, visit www.seanfitzgibbonart.com.



THIS MUST BE THE PLACE
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE
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THIS MUST BE THE PLACE
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

Senior Doug Dicharry's musical journey brings him back home to Missouri Southern

The room – an intimate lounge area at Webb City's Just a Taste restaurant – is vibrating on this February evening, from the wooden floors to the tables and chairs scattered throughout.

Having laid down a loop that includes a guitar lick, beatboxing and even a whistle, Doug Dicharry grabs his trumpet for a quick solo, his feet constantly in motion to add a percussive beat to his cover of Talking Heads' "This Must be the Place (Naïve Melody)."

Home is where I want to be Pick me up and turn me round

It's a typically virtuosic performance by Dicharry, whose one-man-band Dance Monkey Dance! earns an enthusiastic reception from his audience during an evening of original songs and covers that run the gamut from John Prine and

Jackie Wilson, to Bruce Springsteen and the familiar hymn "I'll Fly Away."

But it's that Talking Heads' cover that lands a bit differently, given Dicharry's personal journey.

It's a path which started as an elementary student in Texas, continued into the late '90s music scene in Joplin, and then launched into high gear as a member of the Ben Miller Band before settling down into the role of solo performer. It also led him to Missouri Southern State University not once, but twice over two decades.

Having had experience on the regional, national and international stage, Dicharry has settled into a work-life balance of family and music, and a clear vision for where he hopes his education will lead.

'MORE ENERGY'

The easiest place to start, Dicharry says, is at the very beginning ... provided you have the time.

"It's a really long story," he says on a recent morning at a local coffee shop. "I'll try to shorten it down a little bit." But you don't want him to; not really.

For those familiar with Dicharry's stage presence, there's little surprise that he's not much different in conversation. When he finds his groove, you never know where his stories might take you next.

This story, however, starts with a statement that might have put a quick end to someone's musical aspirations: "You don't have natural talent."

It's something a music teacher in Texas told Dicharry when the fifth-grader expressed an interest in playing the drums. Instead, he turned toward learning to play the trombone and it wasn't long before he was hooked.

"My junior-high band director in Texas instilled a love and excitement for music in me," he says. "I remember one time he told us he wanted more energy in a note, so everyone played louder.

"He said, 'No, I didn't say louder. Put more energy into it.' I remember trying to build energy in myself ... isn't that an insane concept to convey to a seventh-grader? Basically, I just put more intent into the note, and he was like, 'Yes, that's more energy.'"





Dicharry's family moved to Joplin in 1995, where he joined the Joplin High School band and began making friends with similar musical interests.

"We went to this ska concert at The Grind (a popular Joplin music venue at the time)," Dicharry says. "We showed up and the band was my age. There were horns and happy, fun upbeat and it was amazing. They were called the Rowskabouts and I asked if they needed another horn player. It was the first time I was in a band."

After graduating from high school, Dicharry enrolled at Missouri Southern knowing full well that music would be a big part of his future. But as for receiving a formal music education ... well, it just didn't take.

"I came to MSSU right out of high school and had a music scholarship, but it was just poor timing," he says. "I thought I knew everything and wouldn't listen to my teachers. I just stopped going to classes."

"I didn't sign out, I didn't officially drop my classes ... I just left."

'THIS MAGICAL THING'

After leaving Missouri Southern, Dicharry joined a "soundtrack noise band" called Freakflag, which became known for its performances accompanied by movie reels and with no breaks between songs.

Eventually, word reached him of a musician doing open-mic events in Neosho.

"This guy was playing the blues. Stuff like Son House, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson ... but if you said those names to me at the time, I had no clue who they were," Dicharry says.

With his trombone in tow, he went to meet and sit in with Ben Miller. While his horn skills were an asset, he also contributed to their distinctive sound by learning to play the washboard. One performance led to another, the band filling out with additional members as their reputation began to grow.

"We started going out and getting gigs in Joplin, Carthage, Neosho and then working our way out," says Dicharry. "It was this magical thing (when we played together). It just jived. Some songs we didn't even practice. Ben would just start playing and we would fall into line."

His time with the Ben Miller Band would last more than 13 years, and include opening for the likes of Robert Randolph and the Family Band and multiple European tours with ZZ Top. A last-minute set at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland earned a rapturous reception from an audience of thousands.

And then ... as stories about bands often go ... there were creative differences.

"We just started wanting different things creatively," Dicharry says. "I wanted to write music."

DANCE MONKEY DANCE!

Having left the band, Dicharry knew he wanted to go the solo route and enjoy the creative freedom he'd been seeking. But where the Dance Monkey Dance! name originated is a bit hard to pin down.

"When I was in the Ben Miller Band, I played so many instruments and we didn't have a set list, so it was kind of like this monkey dance I would do (shifting from one to another)," he says.

Then there's a line of dialogue he remembers from the 1999 film "Fight Club": "Like a monkey, ready to be shot into space."

"It's kind of an ironic view of humanity," Dicharry says. "We're just animals ... try not to be so serious about life. It's all just a dance, so let's have fun with the time that we're here."

There's the intended dance aspect of his performance (more on that later), as well as the idea of using a name

that sounds like the name of a band rather than a single musician.

"People are usually expecting a band, so it can create a lot of confusion," he says. "It probably isn't great from a marketing standpoint, but I think it's hilarious."

Equally difficult to pin down is his exact sound.

"If someone asks me, I'll say it's under the Americana umbrella," Dicharry says, referencing a genre that shares influences rooted in folk, blues, jazz, rock and other genres. "I also have some really weird, jammy stuff as well. It's hard to say."

The instrumentation he utilizes can include the mandolin, ukulele, a resonator guitar, trombone, trumpet, foot drums, percussion instruments such as a shaker or samba whistle, and even some beat boxing to create more of a hip-hop vibe.

He also created a mobile, amplified stage – which he calls "The Stompstage." Designed to provide a distinctive percussive sound and incorporating a looping station, the pallet under his feet provides a unique accompaniment to his already versatile sound.

"Originally I was going to perform standing up and choreograph some dance moves ... with a kick sound on one side (of the stage) and snare on the other," he says. "I did that for about three months until I got horrific shin splints. To do snare and kick at the same time, I was either jumping or going back on my heels. It was insane."

"So I went to Walmart and bought a stool, and it's been fantastic ever since."

'AN ENGAGING SPIRIT'

After years of touring, Dicharry says his priorities began to change and the idea of becoming a band director or music educator began to seriously take hold.



He credits his wife with helping him get over anxiety about returning to school to complete his degree.

"The first day, I showed back up (at Missouri Southern) and I was 20 years older than everyone else in band ... it was super terrifying," he says.

In a bit of irony, one of his instructors was the same whose class he brushed off the first time around.

"Dr. Wise was still there, and it was like, 'This is my time ... I can go make amends and apologize for wasting his time 20 years ago,'" he says.

No apologies were necessary, however.

"Doug had a great bit of ability and talent, which was very raw at the time," says Dr. Phil Wise, former director of jazz studies who retired from MSSU in 2021. "I did with him what I tried to do with all my students ... which is to focus on the basic kinds of musical concepts that will take them where they want to go.



"He didn't have the focus at the time to be in that kind of sequential mode of learning. Part of it was that he had such a positive and engaging spirit. He needed to do what he did, which was to go out and perform, tour, compose and learn to play different instruments. When he came back, he was an older, non-traditional student with a lot of life experience, and he was very open into delving into music history."

To say that Dicharry threw himself into the music program at MSSU would be somewhat of an understatement.

He's been a member of the Southern Jazz Orchestra and jazz combos, the Concert Band and has served as president of the Brass Alliance, which has brought in several professional musicians to give master classes.

"My old ass is even out there with the marching band," he says with a laugh.

He's set to graduate from MSSU in May and is considering his options for getting his master's degree, but he's looking forward to being able to share his passion for music with younger students.

"I love the idea of teaching difficult concepts to (younger students)," he says. "I love that moment when you reach someone and they get over a hurdle."

It's not unlike the hurdles he faced as a young music student turned professional musician turned music student again. He's centered and comfortable; having found the "place" referenced by David Byrne of the Talking Heads.

**Home is where I want to be
But I guess I'm already there**

For video of Dicharry performing at the recent MSSU Talent Show, check out the story at crossroads.mssu.edu. Also, special thanks to Joplin's Chaos Brewery for serving as our cover-shoot location.

most **STEM**ulating

Women in Science club thrives three years after forming

By **Amantha Davis** - Senior, English Major

Meeting in a Webb City café, a small group of passionate Missouri Southern students met to discuss how they could bring future female scientists together.

Their idea of forming a club began to take shape, with Women in Science (WIS) becoming a registered student organization in the spring of 2019. Three years later, it has become one of the most active clubs on campus.

The club provides a safe space for women working on their undergraduate degree in a STEM field and the opportunity to discuss common science issues and lift one another up to achieve greater goals.

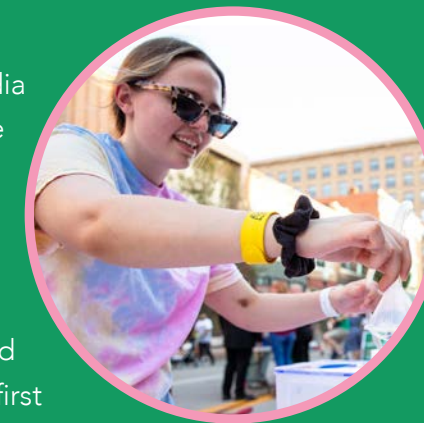
"Because STEM is a very male-dominated field, providing a space for women to have a community of like-minded people was one of the main goals of the founders of this club," said Rebekah Sweyko, a senior advanced medical school acceptance program student and current president of WIS.

Members promote WIS through special events as well as fundraising and volunteer efforts. Recently, they worked with Joplin's Creative Learning Alliance to present a variety of experiments to teach kids about the wonders of science.

The club also uses social media to highlight women who have accomplished great feats in the STEM field and were not recognized for their work. They include Isabella Karle, who discovered a way to determine molecular structures; and Alice Augusta Ball, who was the first woman and African American to receive a master's degree from the University of Hawaii and went on to revolutionize leprosy treatment.

"This club thrives with passionate, dedicated officers and committed members," said Dr. Jency Sundararajan, associate professor of physics and adviser for WIS. "Their active participation has made it one of the most prominent student organizations on campus in a short period."

For more information about WIS, you can find them on Instagram (@mssugrlpwr) or by email at mssuwomeninscience@gmail.com.





COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

Organ, harpsichord donation will have 'major impact' on Music Department

"If it ain't Baroque, don't fix it," goes an old play on words.

The Music Department at Missouri Southern received a donation of two instruments this spring that will offer a major enhancement to its period repertoire. A Klop continuo organ and a Herz double manual harpsichord were recently donated to the department by Jim Dawson, Gary Dawson and their family.

"When we did (John Rutter's) 'Requiem' back in 2019, I was looking ahead and thought it would be great to do Handel's 'Messiah' for the 10th anniversary of the Symphonic Chorus," said Dr. David Sharlow, director of choral music at Missouri Southern. "I put it out there that we'd need the two period instruments for that to work.

"Afterward, I was approached by the Dawsons who said they wanted to purchase the instruments."

The donation of the organ and harpsichord will have a major impact on the department, Sharlow said.

"We now have the instrumental capabilities to do some marvelous work in the orchestral repertoire," he said.

To help debut the instruments, MSSU welcomed Thomas Jaber, a professor of music at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Jaber offered a dedication and performance spotlighting the instruments, and also offered a master class for students.

The Dawsons' gift was facilitated by the Missouri Southern Foundation.

"The Dawson family has roots at Missouri Southern that go back to our Joplin Junior College days," said Kevin Greim, associate vice president for university development. "We are so appreciative that they have continued to support our mission throughout the years. Their gifts to our Department of Music will give our students access to state-of-the-art instruments which will benefit not only the students, but also the countless music fans who will enjoy their work for many years."



THOMAS JABER



the Harry and Berniece Gockel International SYMPOSIUM

JJC GRADUATE RETURNS FOR GOCKEL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The 2022 Gockel International Symposium featured a presentation by a Joplin Junior College graduate who spoke on his experiences living and teaching overseas.

Dr. Galen A. Irwin is an emeritus political science professor at Leiden University in Leiden, Netherlands. He discussed his journey from Joplin Junior College to Leiden University, as well as the thrills and frustrations of living in a different country.

"My mentor, Hans Daalder of Leiden University, used to say, 'If you want to learn about the politics of your country, study the politics of another country,'" said Irwin. "Living and studying in another country broadens your perspective, but it can also be frustrating. You learn not only to see the good points of your early country, but its weaknesses."

The Gockel International Symposium was named in honor of Harry Gockel, a longtime faculty member at Joplin Junior College and Missouri Southern. He and his wife, Berniece, left an estate which provides funds for MSSU to hold the annual symposium focusing on international affairs.

SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY ORGANIZES UKRAINE PANEL DISCUSSION

The war in Ukraine was the focus of a faculty panel discussion this spring – an event that originated in the Social Sciences Department.

The event was open to campus and members of the community, with those attending able to ask questions about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

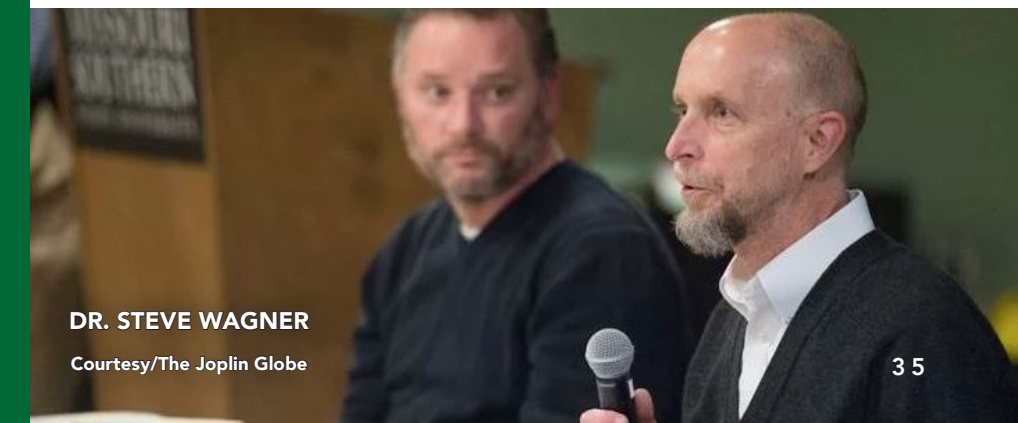
"It started out as a conversation in our department because our students had a lot of questions, and we needed an opportunity for them to ask those questions," said Dr. Rebecca Shriver, an assistant professor of history who participated in the panel.

She was joined by Dr. Steve Wagner, professor of history; Dr. William Delehanty, associate professor of international and political affairs; as well as Dr. Chris Moos, professor of international business, who has spent time in Ukraine and whose wife is Ukrainian.

"The turnout from the members of the community was excellent," said Shriver. "It speaks to the importance of a public university, to hear from people who are experts on a topic. We were able to talk about the history of Russia and Ukraine, international police – what the U.S. can do versus what we *should* do given the circumstances – and what the future may look like."

Shriver said the war led her to change her lesson plans for her Western Civilization course in order to cover current events.

"It provided a good tie to stop and talk about Ukrainian nationalism and how Russia has tried to suppress it," she said.



DR. STEVE WAGNER

Courtesy/The Joplin Globe



ROBERT W. PLASTER

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



'SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR IT'

IET student keeps focus on studies during second bout with cancer

When Jason Walker began working toward his degree in industrial engineering technology three semesters ago, he was focused on improving the skills he had already been using for more than 17 years.

A non-traditional student, Walker previously earned his bachelor's of science in natural resource management from Lincoln University and is currently an operations partner for Amcor in Joplin.

"As I've gotten older, I've wanted to be more involved in planning and trying to improve things," said Walker.

That focus hasn't been lessened as he undergoes treatment for cancer for the second time in two years.

"I was diagnosed at the end of March in 2021," he says. "I'm 47 and work on my feet all day, and I thought I had pulled something. It turned out to be lymphoma. It was very diffuse ... it had spread over the majority of my body when they found it."

He responded well to chemotherapy and radiation treatment, which he wrapped up last fall.

"Everything looked good then," Walker says. "I thought we had it whooped."

A follow-up scan in February found the cancer had returned, however; this time in his spleen and the lobes of his lungs. As he undergoes another round of aggressive treatment, he says his studies are helping him get him through.

"It's nice to have something to keep your mind off things," Walker says. "I'm too sick to work right now, so it's either sit around and watch television all day or do something to improve myself. I want to keep going so that when I beat cancer, I'll have something to show for it."

His wife, Danya, recently shared a photo of her husband on social media, working on trigonometry homework while undergoing treatment.

Walker says Amcor – a global packaging company – is helping to pay for his studies at MSSU with the future in mind.

"The plan is for me to continue to work for them in an engineering capacity after I graduate," he says.

Dr. Elke Howe, an engineering technology professor and Walker's adviser, says Walker is the kind of student she loves to have in class.

"He's able to relay everything we teach back to his company on a daily basis," she says. "And you wouldn't know by the quality of his work (that anything is wrong). That's his personality. He comes across so positive and is just a pleasure to work with."

Walker credits his professors for helping him succeed in the classroom as he undergoes treatment again.

"They're helping me keep up with the content and keeping my grades up," he says. "My goal is to get through the semester."

FACULTY MEMBERS' WORKS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Faculty members have produced a significant number of contributions to books and journal publications in recent years, said Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, dean of the College of Business.

Dr. Robert Hilton, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Thomas Schmidt, associate dean and professor of marketing, coauthored "A Study of Motivation Using the Job Characteristics Model with Comparisons to U.S. and Non-U.S. Companies" for the Journal of Business & Economics: Inquiries and Perspectives.

Dr. Megan Douglas, associate professor of management, and Dr. Sarah Holtzen, assistant professor of management, recently had "Abrupt Policy Reversal Amid Black Lives Matter: Starbucks' Grande Employee Dress Code Problem" published in The Case Journal.

Dr. Dominic Buccieri, assistant professor of international business, co-authored "Signaling Downsizing Intentions After a Major Crisis: Does Management Authenticity Matter?" for The International Journal of Organizational Analysis.

"We've had tremendous publication success here in the College of Business," said Zimmerman. "Teaching is what we do first, but we've done a fantastic job hiring scholar teachers. We've had tremendous publication success (in) a number of top-tier journals."

BUSINESS GRADS RETURN FOR ANNUAL SPEAKER SERIES

The annual Executive Speaker Event presented by the College of Business returned this spring after a hiatus due to COVID.

Held on April 21, the event featured Gary Aggus, '76, CEO of Hiland Dairy; and Perry Davis, '80, retired executive vice president at Leggett & Platt and a current member of the Missouri Southern Foundation. Both earned business degrees from Missouri Southern.



The pair discussed their experience at MSSU and how it shaped their careers. They also talked about leadership skills and the guiding principles that are necessary to succeed in business, and how students can develop those skills.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

A 'MONUMENT-AL' PARTNERSHIP

Teacher education students judge annual Carver essay contest

What does kindness mean to you? That was the theme for the 2022 Art and Essay Contest presented by the George Washington Carver National Monument.

A longstanding partnership with Missouri Southern has given students in the Teacher Education Department the opportunity to put their studies into practice by judging the essays written by area third- and fourth-graders.

"This partnership precedes me, but we've had it for decades," said Dr. Kristi Mascher, a master instructor who teaches the block class for pre-service teachers. "We learn about the '6+1' model of teaching and assessing writing. The essay contest gives them an authentic opportunity to practice these concepts."

The "6+1" model is a way for education students to learn about writing traits and instruction models and covers voice, conventions, ideas, presentation, word choice and sentence fluency.

The theme for this year's essays come from the "Eight Cardinal Virtues" espoused by the renowned scientist and educator. For the future teachers judging them, it was a chance for some firsthand experience when it comes to grading.

"We talk a lot about '6+1' in class, which is where the grading rubric for the essays comes from," said Kalissa Taylor, a senior education major. "It was good to be able to tie in all the things we've talked about in class."

The winners of the essay contest were announced during a ceremony held at the Carver monument on April 2.

"The annual Art and Essay Contest is a strong partnership that benefits both MSSU and the George Washington Carver National Monument," said Diane Eilenstein, park ranger. "These future teachers often return here with their classes for field trips, building the next generation of visitors."



TEACH SCHOLARS STUDENTS RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM IN CARTHAGE

There's no place like home ... with "home" being the Carthage R-9 School District.

In the fall of 2020, the district partnered with Missouri Southern to launch the TEACH Scholars program.

The program offers Carthage High School students the opportunity to earn dual credit through Missouri Southern, gain early field experience and exposure to the teaching profession, and receive financial incentives along the way.

Through the high school's Teach & Train program, participants will learn firsthand what it takes to become a teacher – from developing lesson plans to classroom instruction – from Carthage teachers. As they progress through the teacher education program at Missouri Southern, they'll be welcomed back home again for their practicum and student teaching.

Two students in the Teacher Education program at MSSU will soon be returning to teach at their former high school.

Jelica Montelongo will teach sixth-grade special education, while Delayna Gardner will teach second grade. Both were awarded a \$500 scholarship before their student teaching, and another after completion.

"It's a great opportunity for students to receive financial assistance but at the same time learn the 'Carthage way,'" said Dr. Mark Baker, Carthage R-9 superintendent. "Jelica and Delayna were able to gain valuable experience with the high expectations we have here in Carthage, and we were able to realize they were exceptional teachers and hired both of them."

"It's the perfect example of how we expect this program to work."



KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOSTS FIFTH ANNUAL SOUTHERN SHOOTOUT

The fifth annual Missouri Southern Shootout was held on March 5 in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

Presented by the MSSU Kinesiology Department in conjunction with the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program, the event was the final opportunity for archers and teams to qualify for the state tournament.

The event drew more than 750 students from schools around the state in grades 4-12, competing for a \$1,000 scholarship to the top overall male and female archers. Medals were awarded to top finishers in the bullseye and 3D competitions, as well as trophies to the top three teams in each division.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES



'FIRST LINE OF DETECTORS'

Senior Emily Valence detects oral cancer early during father-in-law's screening

It was a small little area in the mouth, but Emily Valence's training as a dental hygienist told her something wasn't right.

A second-year dental hygiene student who will graduate in May, Valence's thoroughness and attention to detail while examining her future father-in-law, Mike Eddings, caught a symptom of oral cancer before it could become an even more serious situation.

She made the discovery last fall after inviting Eddings to visit the university's Dental Hygiene Clinic.

"I brought Mike in for a routine cleaning," she said. "During the first part of the cleaning we do an intra- and extra-oral examination to look for abnormalities in the mouth and lymph nodes.

"While I was doing this, I checked under his tongue, where I found a whitish area. My instructor looked over it and recommended he get it checked out."

Within the next few days, Eddings – who lives in Ozark, Mo. – saw his regular dentist and then a specialist who determined it was a pre-malignant cancerous lesion.

"I hadn't noticed anything or felt anything unusual," he said. "I've never smoked or chewed, so to learn there was a cancerous situation was a surprise. Had Emily not scheduled me for a cleaning, I don't know when it would have been noticed."

Kim Rogers, associate professor of dental hygiene, said early detection of oral cancer makes a big difference in terms of mortality.

"Catching something early before it metastasizes to other structures is critical," Rogers said. "Oral cancer isn't always painful and sometimes patients don't know it's there until it advances and starts affecting them."

Valence said she's grateful for the training she's received in Missouri Southern's dental hygiene program.

"Dental hygienists are the first line of detectors when it comes to visits to the dentist," she said. "It's really important for us to visualize and notice things so we can bring them to the dentist's attention."

Eddings said he feels lucky that his future daughter-in-law made the discovery early on.

"I play trumpet," he said. "I started taking lessons again after this just to fine tune (my skills). I can tell it's a little different, but I can still play. Had the cancer went unnoticed, it may have been too late."

MASTER'S IN HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Responding to workforce demands and student interest, Missouri Southern's Board of Governors approved a new Master's of Health Administration degree program.

A bachelor's of science degree was launched in 2019, and graduates are in high demand for business and management positions within the healthcare industry – one of the largest and fastest-growing fields in the U.S.

The master's program would include both health science and business courses, and be offered 100-percent online.

Having been approved by the board, the new master's program will also require approval from the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development as well as the Higher Learning Commission.

NURSING GRADS ACHIEVE 100-PERCENT NCLEX PASS RATE

Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare community, and students enrolled in the program at Missouri Southern recently demonstrated their readiness to step into the field.



The December 2021 graduating class had a 100 percent first-time pass rate for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX). The exam is "the world's premiere licensing exam and uses computer adaptive testing technology to deliver the exam, ensuring a valid and reliable measurement of nursing competence," according to the exam's website.

Dr. Lisa Beals, chair of the Nursing Department, said the perfect pass rate is a demonstration of the students' dedication to the profession.

"This class achievement is amazing," said Beals. "These graduates worked hard to achieve the 100-percent pass rate."

The testing results follow the department's rollout of an updated and revised curriculum to ensure graduates are prepared to meet the demands of the challenging field. It utilizes current models of clinical judgment with an emphasis on interprofessional education, reflective practice and reasoning skills.

LION ATHLETICS



'WE'RE GOING TO GET AFTER IT'

SAM MCMAHON RETURNS TO MSSU AS NEW HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

It's the beginning of a new era for the men's basketball program at Missouri Southern, with Sam McMahon being tabbed as the seventh head coach in MSSU history.

He's a familiar face on the sidelines, having served as an assistant and later associate head coach for the Lions for six seasons. He served as an assistant coach at Division I Southeast Missouri State University for the past two seasons.

"There were specific characteristics we were looking for in a new head coach. Quite frankly, there was a lot we were looking for," said Rob Mallory, MSSU's director of athletics.

"We wanted a person of the highest integrity and character; a relationship-driven coach who cares about our student-athletes both on and off the court; a tremendous leader of young men; an outstanding recruiter and developer of talent; and a coach who can and will build a sustainable, winning culture.

"We wanted all those traits in our next men's basketball coach because we believe that's what our program, this community and our student-athletes deserve. I am confident we have found all that in Sam McMahon."



After four years of playing Division I basketball at the University of Delaware, McMahon's coaching career began at Central Methodist University and later at Missouri State.

Returning to Missouri Southern as head coach was an emotional moment, and during his introduction to the campus and local community McMahon said he was ready for the challenges ahead.

"We're going to work hard in every aspect," he said. "Whether it's in the weight room or on the court, we're going to get after it. We're going to push it; I can guarantee that."

Speaking directly to current and future student-athletes, he emphasized the important connection they'll have with Missouri Southern.

"Being part of this men's basketball program means you are part of a family," McMahon said. "Not just for the years you are here at school, but for life. Always remember that."



KARA AMOS JOINS NCAA'S STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sophomore Kara Amos has been selected to serve a three-year term on the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

A pitcher on the Lions' softball team and a native of Independence, Mo., she was an All-MIAA selection at the utility position as a true freshman in 2021.

SAAC serves as the primary governance arm representing student-athlete interests in Division II affairs. Members serve as student-athlete liaisons who monitor and discuss happenings on campuses, within the conference and at the national level.

Representatives are responsible for gathering feedback and reporting on behalf of their conference, as well as relaying important events, hot topics and educational information to both the campus and conference levels. Division II members serve as voting members on a number of committees and have voting authority during the Division II Business Session at the annual NCAA Convention.

Amos was an All-Region selection by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, while being named to the All-MIAA Tournament Team and was named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

"The MIAA made a great decision in choosing Kara to be our conference's National SAAC representative," said head coach Hallie Blackney.

"She is the epitome of a student-athlete. She excels in her graphic design classes, is a phenomenal leader, and is a top-notch teammate and performer within our softball program. Our culture is better because she is in it, and I have no doubt she will positively impact the SAAC culture at the national level, too."

"I am super grateful and excited to get the opportunity to represent not only (Missouri Southern) but also the MIAA," Amos said. "I believe and stand for the work that SAAC is doing and will do my best to help continue to impact the lives of student-athletes everywhere."



SHOOTING STARS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATES RECORD-SETTING SEASON

It was a season to remember. It was a season of firsts. And, hopefully, it was a sign of things to come. To say the Missouri Southern women's basketball team accomplished great things this season is a major understatement.

The Lions started the year picked to finish ninth in the MIAA preseason coaches' poll. But the coaches in the MIAA had no idea what this Lions' team was capable of, nor just how special a player the team had in freshman **Lacy Stokes**.

Stokes went on to become the first player in MIAA history to be named both the MIAA Freshman of the Year, as well as the MIAA Player of the Year. She was a first-team All-MIAA selection and was named to the MIAA All-Defensive Team. Stokes went on to earn All-Region and All-American honors.

She set freshman records for single-season scoring (612), single-game scoring, points scored in a single MIAA Tournament game, points scored in a MIAA Tournament, and steals (101), among others.

Ronnie Ressel was named the MIAA Coach of the Year, while Lacy Stokes was joined by teammate **Madi Stokes** on the MIAA All-Defensive team. Ressel helped lead a team that finished 9-14 a season prior to winning the MIAA regular-season title. Madi Stokes and **Amaya Johns** earned third-

team All-MIAA selections as Madi laid claim to the MSSU career blocks record this season, and Johns finished with 11.3 points per game.

The Lions opened the season with a pair of losses at home, before reeling off six-straight wins. After a stretch where injuries and illness hampered the team and led to losses in three of the next four, the Green & Gold won a program-record 17-straight games en route to an MIAA Regular-Season Championship and the No. 1 seed in the MIAA Tournament.

The Lions went on to win games against Washburn and Missouri Western in the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, before falling to fifth-ranked Fort Hays State 48-42 in a tightly contested battle between the League's two top teams.

The Lions' season wasn't over, however. Southern found out later that night they had received an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament as the No. 4 seed in the Central Region Tournament, facing off with 16th-ranked St. Cloud State. It was the first NCAA Tournament appearance for the program since 1996 and the game with the Huskies turned out to be a tight game once again, as the Lions fell in overtime 69-67, ending their season.



ROB CORN HONORED FOR 21 YEARS ON LIONS' BENCH

As retirement celebrations go, they don't get much bigger.

Having stepped out onto the basketball court in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center to resounding applause from those in attendance on Feb. 12, Rob Corn then looked to the video scoreboard above.

A montage of former Lions players congratulated him on his 21 years as the team's waterboy, concluding with Bill Self, head basketball coach at the University of Kansas, and Robert Corn – his father and the winningest coach in the history of MSSU's basketball program.

The game vs. Northwest Missouri marked Rob's final game on the bench with the team, his family having made the move to Cartersville, Ga.

Rob's presence on the bench alongside his father and others was something that just developed naturally, his father said.

"Whenever he was little, Rob would come sit on the bench with me during warmups, and then go sit in the stands with Cindy during the game," he said. "As time went on, we could tell he really enjoyed being a part of it, so when he was old

enough, that's what we did.

"The thing about Rob is, no matter what the outcome of the game, you knew you were going to get a hug from him. If we won, he was excited. If we lost, he was disappointed, but he knew how much the players and coaching staff put into it. He was always there, either as a boost or to help celebrate."

His final game was filled with scenes familiar to Lions fans: Joining the coaching staff for a pregame handshake with officials; sitting on the bench cheering on the team and getting water to those who needed it; and joining the line to shake hands with the opposing players and coaches at the conclusion.

As supporters gathered in the NEZ for the reception following the game, Rob Corn made his way through the crowd with hugs, high fives or handshakes for nearly everyone.

"It was fun, but sad," he said of his final game.



Want to see **your business** in one of these locations?



MSSU Athletics would love to partner with you this upcoming school year!

WANT MORE INFO?

Contact Ryan Snyder at:
417-625-9815 or
Snyder-R@mssu.edu

CLASS Notes

1970s

Bill Brewster, '79, has been named Morgan Stanley's prestigious Master's Club level of financial advisors.

1980s

Glenn Edgin, '82, is the senior business development manager for GAMPAC in Edmond, Okla.

Gregory Fisher, '83, is a therapist for Integrative Life Center of Nashville in Nashville, Tenn.

David Soldate, '89, has been recognized as Distinguished Engineer at Blink Health in Sammamish, Wash.

1990s

Bryan O'Dougherty, '90, is the business manager for Renegade Harley-Davidson in Garland, Texas.

Randall Saunders, '90, is a retail development associate at SAS Retail Services in Fayetteville, Ark.

Brad Stone, '91, is the human resources director for Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co. in Joplin.

William Spence, '92, is a fire investigator at Pyr-Tech in Springfield, Mo.

Eric Thompson, '93, is an account manager at VertexOne in Jefferson County, Mo.

Michael Cole, '94, is the general manager/director of sales and marketing for TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Dallas, Texas.

Jennifer Kuncl, '95, is the director of business operations at Tolleson Wealth Management in Dallas, Texas.

J. Matthew Berry, '96, is the manager for property claims, risk management and insurance at Travel + Leisure Co. in Orlando, Fla.

Jason Bright, '96, has joined the Human Capital Management program for FedEx Express in Springfield, Mo.

Robert Sapko, '96, is an angular developer for Centriq Training in Springfield, Mo.

S. Jason Cole, '97, is the co-founder of Excelsior Citizen in Kansas City, Mo.

Billy Rice, '97, is vice president of business development at Dycom Industries Inc. in McKinney, Texas.

Jennifer Meyer, '97, is a clinical educator for ZOLL Medical Corporation in Joplin.

Shari Erwin, '98, is the chancellor's chief of staff at University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Brandon Smith, '98, is senior manager for system/network administration at Jack Henry & Associates in Monett, Mo.

Ronda Friend, '99, is a quality improvement specialist for Mercy Hospital in Joplin.

Travis Turner, '99, is the associate director for Area Sales Operations Neurology Rare Disease Unit/U.S. Leadership Team at Alecion Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Springfield, Mo.

2000s

Tiffany Hopkins, '00, is a systems analyst at Arkansas Children's in Overland Park, Kan.

Tara Lale, '00, is the director of missions and children's minister at Creekside Christian Church in St. Johns, Fla.

Paul Perry, '00, is the engineering manager for C2FO in Liberty, Mo.

Jodi Boyd, '01, is product manager for KeepTruckin in Webb City, Mo.

Stephen Jones, '01, is an associate attorney for Stephen Clark Law Group in Dallas, Texas.

Vanessa Kelly, '01, is the chief executive at Missouri Eye Institute in Springfield, Mo.

Michael Davis, '02, is the IT Manager for MedSR in Aurora, Mo.

Jason Northern, '02, is the executive director of operations and major gifts for Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Mo.

Fred Pitts, '02, is co-owner of Remington Homes LLC in Webb City, Mo.

Jennifer Smith, '02, has been included in prestigious Marquis Who's Who biographical registry. She is an art teacher for Neosho Middle School, and serves as a member of the Missouri State Teachers Association and the Missouri Art Education Association.

Nate Ulepich, '02, is the national sales director at MMG Real Estate Advisors in Overland Park, Kan.

Faustina Abrahams, '03, is the registrar at Missouri Southern State University.

Heather Anderson, '03, is an account manager for the Walmart Data Ventures Team at in Bentonville, Ark.

Kat Carlson, '03, is a paraprofessional at Shawnee Mission School District in Kansas City, Mo.

Shara (Walker) Gamble, '04, has been named president of Envision Outdoor Living Products in Lamar, Mo.

Terrell Shewmake, '04, is the director of technical support for Jack Henry & Associates in Vancouver, Wash.

David Benham, '05, is the principal data scientist and manager of innovation and data analytics for Laredo Petroleum Inc. in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Keith Lewis, '05, is a full stack developer for Educational Development Corporations/ Usborne Books & More in Jenks, Okla.

Susi Rhoads, '05, is the community behavioral health liaison at Ozark Center in Joplin.

Laura Skaggs, '05, is the strategic sales manager for healthcare at Aramark Uniform Services in Nixa, Mo.

Angela Troutz, '05, is director of commercial banking at CrossFirst Bank in Tulsa, Okla.

Craig Winfrey, '05, is the senior financial accounting leader, advisory at Jack Henry & Associates in Monett, Mo.

Erin (Stafford) Forsbach, '06, is the category marketing manager at Tyson Foods in Springdale, Ark.

Brandy Pryor, '06, is district sales manager for Sysco in Seattle, Wash.

Sean Mitchel Burr, '07, is an account manager for Lumen Technologies in Joplin.

Chris Robotham, '07, is the environment, health and safety manager for Anheuser-Busch InBev in St. Louis, Mo.

William (Joey) Wagner, '07, is an account executive at FedEx Services in Springfield, Mo.

Corey Anderson, '09, is an account executive for Fire Door Solutions in Overland Park, Kan.

Wes Coatney, '09, is the chief of police for the Aurora and Marionville Police Department in Aurora, Mo.

Sam Detrick, '09, is member experience director at YMCA of Greater Tulsa in Owasso, Okla.

2010s

LeAnne Tice, '10, is the director for H&W program management at Walmart in Bentonville, Ark.

Whitney Bevis, '11, is the national account manager for Ferrara in Bentonville, Ark.

Donathan Caudill, '11, is area merchandise manager for Love's Travel Stops in Denver, Colo.

Scott Clipp, '11, is the senior manager/technical consulting at Alkami Technology in Dallas, Texas.

Elizabeth (Flanigan) Cook, '11, is sales coach for AT&T in Joplin.

Jamie (Turner) Howard, '11, is the director of customer service for Select Quote Insurance Services in Kansas City, Mo.

Channell Lloyd, '11, is the program manager for Amsted Automotive in Geneva, Ill.

Nicholas Teer, '11, is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Eli Lilly and Company in Joplin.

Erin Barchak, '12, is now the NICU respiratory therapy supervisor at CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System in Lindale, Texas.

Todd Lanham, '12, is the area sales manager for DMG MORI USA in Kansas City, Mo.

Joshua Miller, '12, is claims manager for Avatar Property & Casualty Insurance in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Ali O'Dell, '12, is the director of development at Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School in Joplin.

Larissa Wyler, '12, is the director of human resources at Wynsor LLC in Tulsa, Okla.

Lindsay Kubicek, '13, is the senior tax manager for BKD CPAs & Advisors in Joplin.

Nicki (Landes) Layton, '14, is an HR manager for AZZ Enclosure Systems in Pittsburg, KS.

Josh LeMasters, '14, is vice president of business development for BCS LLC in Springdale, Ark.

Lexy Paryzek, '14, is a human resources specialist for SaVida Health in Memphis, Tenn.

Sara Bloch, '15, is a Program Manager III for Centene Corporation in St. Louis, Mo.

Dajuan Dancy, '15, is a sales representative at Incorta in St. Louis, Mo.

Scott Dennison, '15, is the director of operations at Tribal Diagnostics in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Tasha Koontz, '15, is an assistant athletic trainer at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Tyler Barnes, '16, is a project coordinator at Toth and Associates Inc. in Springfield, Mo.

Quintin Eden, '16, is a national account executive at Keurig Dr. Pepper Inc. in Gravette, Ark.

Jada James, '17, is an enrollment advisor for National Education Partners in Plano, Texas.

BriAnn Shavers, '17, is a business analyst for Uniphore in Dallas, Texas.

Maria Julia Uchoa Teixeira Lucas, '17, is a law clerk at Webber Law Firm 2.0 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Sierra Wells, '18, is a physical therapist at Cox Health in Springfield, Mo.

Abdulaziz Alharbi, '19, is an adjunct instructor at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo.

Amanda Hampton, '19, is the district enrollment/public relations assistant for the Carl Junction R-1 School District in Carl Junction, Mo.

Christina Holliday, '19, is a fraud analyst for Jack Henry & Associates in Monett, Mo.

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lion cubs



David Eddy, '11, and Christina Eddy welcomed Hallie Ann on February 15, 2021.



Mike and **Jacque Roussin, '00**, welcomed Quinn Olivia on April 17, 2021.



Brian, '12, and **Stephanie Borgard, '15**, welcomed Avery Ann on April 29, 2021.



Ben Perry, '09, and Margaret Perry welcomed Vivian Elizabeth on June 20, 2021.



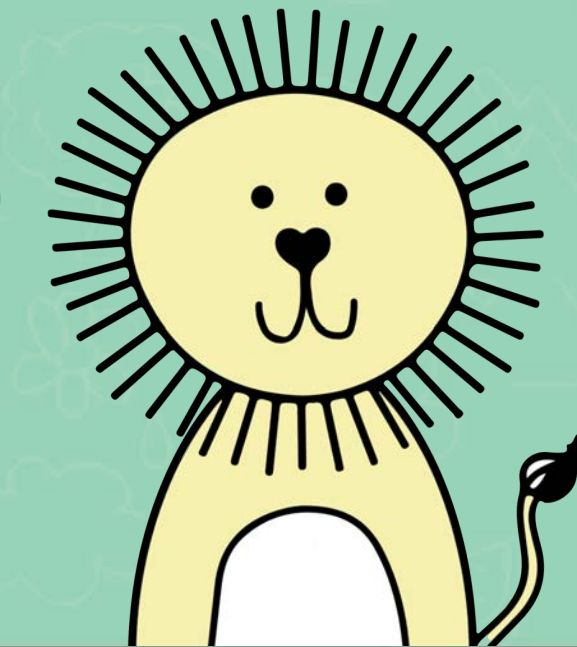
Anthony, '20, and **Brittini Westfield, '14**, welcomed Bria Skye Westfield on July 29, 2021.



Kellen, '13, and **Adelie Cox, '16**, welcomed Harlow Mariah on Nov. 9, 2021.



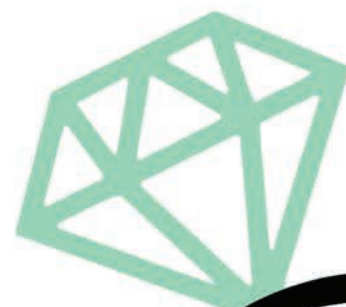
Ed and **Jeni Barlow, '12**, welcomed Eloise Nicole on Dec. 14, 2021.



MARRIAGES

Levi Layton and **Nicki (Landes) Layton, '14**, were married on Sept. 28, 2019.

James, '20, and **Shelby (Eads) Fowler, '20**, were married on Aug. 1, 2021.



IN MEMORIAM

DATES AS OF MARCH 31, 2022

ALUMNI

Debra "Debbie" (Dotson) Salyer, '74 | Sept. 4, 2021

Donald "Dale" Holloway | Sept. 7, 2021
Joplin Junior College

John Beck, '90 | Sept. 9, 2021

Stephen Shelton, '88 | Sept. 10, 2021

Chuck Urban, '89 | Sept. 14, 2021

Joyce (Vance) Mann, '79 | Sept. 14, 2021

Ruby (Granger) Mills, '45 | Sept. 14, 2021

Jane Frink, '92 | Sept. 17, 2021

Ronald Paden, '60 | Sept. 18, 2021

Floyd Jones, '55 | Sept. 23, 2021

Stan Gardner, '83 | Sept. 25, 2021

Darrel Gordon, '74 | Sept. 30, 2021

John Powell, '60 | Oct. 3, 2021

Maddy (McNeely) Sneed | Oct. 10, 2021

Rita Thomas, '69 | Oct. 11, 2021

Che Butterfield, '97 | Oct. 12, 2021

Linda Sadler, '71 | Oct. 13, 2021

Steve Buzzard, '71 | Oct. 16, 2021

Steve Lohse, '80 | Oct. 20, 2021

Rose (Beebe) Otter, '00 | Oct. 23, 2021

Jim Burchfield, '73 | Oct. 23, 2021

Marcia (Jones) Gleason, '55 | Oct. 24, 2021

Crystal Wicks, '83 | Oct. 25, 2021

Lanny Hopkins, '72 | Oct. 28, 2021

Cleon Burrell, '93 | Oct. 31, 2021

Don Roark, '89 | Nov. 2, 2021

Betty Jean Pulley | Nov. 4, 2021
Joplin Junior College

Jayson Wells, '01 | Nov. 9, 2021

George Hartley, '70 | Nov. 17, 2021

Carter Hickman, '20 | Nov. 21, 2021

Larry Bradley, '72 | Nov. 22, 2021

Stephen Branch, '70 | Nov. 25, 2021

George Wood, '72 | Dec. 1, 2021

Arthur Demint, '76 | Dec. 3, 2021

Carol Smith, '82 | Dec. 5, 2021

Diana Vaughn, '63 | Dec. 7, 2021

Deborah Alexander-Evans, '85 | Dec. 8, 2021

Charles McClintock, '74 | Dec. 10, 2021

Josephine Estes, '73 | Dec. 11, 2021

John Houk, '85 | Dec. 14, 2021

Michael Rosewicz, '88 | Dec. 15, 2021

John Bishir, '53 | Dec. 17, 2021

Kaye Smith, '71 | Dec. 26, 2021

Richard Carpenter, '78 | Dec. 29, 2021

Carolyn Buckmaster, '74 | Dec. 29, 2021

Steve Mackie, '74 | Jan. 2, 2022

Jeanette Lawson, '74 | Jan. 3, 2022

Ellen (Miller) Sprouls, '72 | Jan. 3, 2022

Thomas Dunn, '74 | Jan. 3, 2022

David Laird, '84 | Jan. 4, 2022

Gary Smith, '75 | Jan. 7, 2022

Todd Rose, '84 | Jan. 11, 2022

Betty Shepherd, '84 | Jan. 12, 2022

Gary Hoskins, '57 | Jan. 17, 2022

Lena (Gates) Larson, '78 | Jan. 18, 2022

Shan Luton, '90 | Jan. 21, 2022

Ron Blizzard, '77 | Jan. 23, 2022

Linda Miles, '93 | Jan. 25, 2022

Ellen Mattes, '80 | Jan. 31, 2022

Jerry Greever, '73 | Jan. 31, 2022

Bob Dampier, '78 | Feb. 1, 2022

Debbie (Summers) Evans, '75 | Feb. 8, 2022

Cindy Campbell, '79 | Feb. 15, 2022

Vickie Marcum, '83 | Feb. 15, 2022

Ginny (Connolly) Howell, '73 | Feb. 15, 2022

Derrick McGatha, '16 | Feb. 22, 2022

Charles Bastin, '72 | March 2, 2022

Mike John Williams, '79 | March 2, 2022

Shanna Griffiths, '89 | March 4, 2022

Billie (Mooney) Horine, '69 | March 6, 2022

Ben Cooper '03 | March 8, 2022

Jake Reed, '17 | March 9, 2022

Ethan Giertz, '96 | March 10, 2022

Daniel Henson, '02 | March 12, 2022

James Newton, '59 | March 25, 2022

Richard Kraxberger, '71 | March 25, 2022

Helen-Louise (Hough) Elliff, '49 | March 27, 2022

FRIENDS

Leon Henbest | Sept. 19, 2021

Brad Lankford | Sept. 19, 2021

Dorothy Reeves | Oct. 18, 2021

David Perry | Oct. 22, 2021

Joy Cragin | Nov. 10, 2021
Alumni Board member

Sonnie Dooley | Nov. 18, 2021

Ethelmae Humphreys | Dec. 27, 2021

Gayle McAllister | Jan. 8, 2022

Roy Mayes | Feb. 7, 2022

Mary Ann Edwards | Feb. 9, 2022

FACULTY, STAFF & RETIREES

Lenora Wiley, '91 | Sept. 16, 2021
Childhood Development Center

Morris Sweet | Sept. 19, 2021
KGCS-TV

T.R. Hanrahan | Oct. 20, 2021
Chart Advisor (2006-11)

Evalina "Willie" Shippee | Nov. 26, 2021
Nursing Department

Gale "Mike" Nbogard | Feb. 3, 2022
Athletic Advisor

Dr. Karolyn Yocum | Feb. 23, 2022
Communications Department

Two members of the Joplin Police Department lost their lives in the line of duty following a shooting on March 8, while a third was seriously injured. All three had ties to Missouri Southern.

The fallen officers were Joplin Police **Cpl. Benjamin Cooper** and **Officer Jake Reed**.

Cooper was a 2003 graduate of MSSU's Law Enforcement Academy. Reed graduated from the academy and earned his bachelor's of science in criminal justice administration in 2017. **Officer Rick Hirshey**, who graduated from the academy in 1994, was wounded in the incident.

Missouri Southern has a distinguished law enforcement and criminal justice program, with the law enforcement academy dating back to 1969. This tragic event serves as a reminder of the dedication and sacrifice our officers make to protect and serve our communities.



SAVE THE DATE

PERFORMANCE BY:



FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

AT DOWNSTREAM CASINO

ROD SMITH GOLF CLASSIC

July 21st and 22nd | Eagle Creek Golf Course



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DOWNSTREAM
CASINO RESORT



Project emphasizes safety, and a mural spanning the generations

As Aida Nunez made her way back to the residence halls following a morning class, she said she was happy the tunnel under Newman Road had reopened after having been closed several months for renovations.

Nunez said she appreciated the tunnel's new look and safety features, as well as a photo mural that runs its full length.

"And it's a lot quicker than crossing at the (traffic) light," the freshman industrial engineering student said.

The tunnel, which connects the residence halls to the main campus, first opened in the spring of 1981.

"It's never been a very aesthetic part of campus," said Dr. Brad Hodson, Missouri Southern's executive vice president.

"When we engaged with students, their No. 1 priority was to improve access, safety and security to the tunnel. We added additional security cameras, new lighting, sound and a new emergency call button. There's also a new drainage system. It was always a little damp in there, but this should keep it dry."

The tunnel also features a new photo mural depicting several generations of students navigating campus, from Joplin Junior College in the late 1930s to today.

The south end opens to a new raised walkway across the main parking lot. Both projects – as well as street replacements, crosswalk improvements and more accessible entrances – were paid through federal and state funds provided exclusively for capital construction.

"It creates a safer, more secure and more pleasant walk to and from campus," Hodson said.

CEDRIC FLORENCE AND KELLIE BOWMAN

WHY I GIVE

There was a period in his life when Cedric Florence, '96, wasn't as connected with Missouri Southern as he is today.

"But in life, there are transitions and you want to try to re-establish connections," said Florence, a four-year starter for the Lions in the defensive backfield who was also a two-time All-Conference and All-American selection.

"I'm from Jenks, Okla., and it was my first time being away from home. It was a smooth transition for me because I was able to get here the summer before my freshman year and I met people from different areas. When classes started, they were smaller and had a more intimate feeling."

He and his wife, Kellie Bowman, '93, have become longtime members of the Lionbacker Booster Club. Florence, who was inducted into the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009, has served as a member of the steering committee – including a term as president – and was on the search committee that selected Atiba Bradley as the football program's 14th head coach.

"It was an honor to be part of the committee that brought in Coach Bradley," he said.

Bowman, who graduated with a degree in education and now works as a counselor for Joplin High School, said athletics is an integral part of the university experience.

"Sometimes, sports and other extracurricular activities are what get kids involved," she said. "Education doesn't just

take place in a classroom. It's about the whole picture."

Looking back, Florence said that 'whole picture' is a positive one that has made him want to become more involved.

"I want to do what I can to help others have a positive experience at Missouri Southern," he said. "If you enjoyed your time here, you're more likely to remain connected."

Bowman agreed, citing her own positive experience at MSSU.

"I was a first-generation student, and I loved school," she said. "Missouri Southern is a great school with a lot of opportunities. I always tell students this. It's good to stay connected to your school and your community."



The Lionbacker Booster Club is dedicated to aiding the Athletics Department in ensuring the success of student-athletes both on and off the field. For information on becoming a member, visit mssu.edu/lionbackers.



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If you are a parent of an alum and they no longer live with you,
please call 417-659-LION or visit www.mssu.edu/alumnicontact
to update their contact information!

HOMECOMING
Save the date
OCTOBER 7 - 8, 2022

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Scan the QR codes below to send in a submission

Outstanding Alum



Outstanding Graduate



Outstanding Family



www.mssu.edu/alumni - "Recognition Awards" tab on left column

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Learn about Missouri Southern, financial aid, participate in a campus tour, meet your future instructors, submit a **FREE** application and be considered for acceptance - *all in one day!*

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