

Missouri Western Staff Publishes First Book

Thomas Forness
Lifestyles Editor

Deborah Treat has been a devoted faculty member at Missouri Western, working as the Administrative Assistant of the Communication Department since 2013. Rewind three decades before she took this position, and you'd find her overseas, spreading the word of Christianity. From January 1981 through December of 1983, Treat served as a missionary in Nigeria, Africa. After forty years in the works, she has finally published the memoirs and lessons from her trip in the book "Notes from Nigeria: Meditations of a Missionary". The purpose of the book is to "challenge the reader to apply the lessons learned from these encounters to his/her spiritual life as the writer has done, and to glorify God."

Originally, Treat went to school and received her Master's in Physical Educa-

tion. When the position for a physical education teacher opened up in Nigeria, she was immediately interested. She would take the job, but ended up being involved in much more. Treat had always known she was destined to share the Lord's message.

"I had felt when I was 10 or 11, that God wanted me to be a missionary," Treat said. "I ended up being involved in student ministry. I would go to universities and high schools and present the gospel."

During the mission, she stayed in constant contact with her Aunt Lukie.

"I would take these encounters, write them up, and send them to my aunt," Treat said. "She was in conversation with me the whole time, only by mail, and she saved all of those letters."

Upon her return from Africa, Treat found inspiration to write about her experiences through the verse of Jeremiah 30:2

"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all of the words that I have spoken to you."

Despite having every intention of fulfilling the message of this verse, Treat found herself struggling to recall certain details or find enough material for the book. In June 2020, six years after her Aunt Lukie passed away, her daughters held a garage sale to get rid of some of their mother's old belongings. Deborah's sister went to the sale in hopes of retrieving some of the letters. Initially she was met with some terrible news.

"My sister told (my cousin), 'she's writing a book, she'd love to have those letters'" Treat recalled. "My cousin said, 'Oh, I threw them in the trash.' She then went home and dug them out of the trash, they could have easily been history."

The next day when Treat arrived at the garage sale, she was met with a life

changing discovery.

"My cousin said, 'Hey, I've got something for you in the car.' So we walked

complete the book about her time in Nigeria. They offer valuable insights regarding the time she spent

and part of that lesson is to lean on him. Because I couldn't have done it without him providing those



Deborah Treat is the administrative Assistant for the Communications Department. She has held the position since 2013.

to her car and she opened this metal box containing 124 letters that I had written to her," Treat said. "I just started crying because I didn't know my aunt had saved those letters."

The discovery of those old letters is what finally pushed Deborah Treat to

there. The lessons she has picked up throughout the book writing process are timeless.

"I would say one lesson is to just persevere. I mean, if you really feel like God wants you to do something, he's going to enable you to do it," Treat said. The sec-

letters. Without them, the book wouldn't be half of what it is"

The 127 page book is currently available on Amazon in both ebook and paperback format. You can purchase the ebook for \$4.99 and the paperback for \$10.

New User Platform for Students: Max Engage

Lauren McBee
Reporter

Events on campus are in full swing, and creating structure and planning within these events can be a struggle. To keep organization within the campus events, clubs and organizations, the Student Government Association created Max Engage.

Dr. Brett Bruner, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, shared the answer to what many students on campus are wondering: What is Max Engage?

"Max Engage is our student involvement platform," Bruner stated. "It's the one centralized space where all students, faculty, and staff can find every student organization. They can find events that are happening all across campus."

With Max Engage available, it will allow hosts to plan their events accordingly and get the word out to a larger audience as opposed to putting postings on hallway walls.

Josh Clary, the student development director, spoke about how conve-

nient Max Engage is for organizations and groups on campus to use.

"Instead of typing to find different forms on dif-

ferent portions of the website, they can go to Max Engage for every single form altogether," Clary stated. "It also lets students fill out an

event form that is a better format than we previously had set up. The new event form automatically generates it as an event on Max



Engage and students can see all of the upcoming events that are happening on campus."

Clary added that there

is another feature students will find valuable.

"The capability of accessing and obtaining a co curricular transcript, so that you can track your collegiate involvement," Clary said.

Nathan Scott, the student body president, shared how to access the new Max Engage platform and how students and faculty can implement it in their everyday lives.

"You can go to Griffon Max Engage, and that will pull you up into the web portal where you're able to do all types of stuff," Scott

said. "The app is launching at the end of this month, September 30. It will become an app that you can download on your phone."

Max Engage has been in the works for over a year, and the Student Government Association invested \$50,000 to acquire a three-year contract with the platform. After such a long development period, the time has finally come, and students, faculty and staff couldn't be more excited.

St. Joseph Missouri Area Sports Hall of Fame Induction

Darren Doyle
Sports Editor

Pieces of Missouri Western's past and present were honored on Sep 18 at the St. Joseph, Missouri Area Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Hall of Fame inductees included the first ever Missouri Western Men's Basketball Coach Gary Filbert, legendary Missouri Western Men's Basketball Coach Tom Smith and unforgettable Missouri Western Football running back Michael Hill.

Being recognized with a debut of another award was a product of Missouri Western's recent past. Missouri Western Women's Basketball Coach Candi Whitaker who is the first recipient of the Bill Snyder Woman of Impact award.

Whitaker was honored for her leadership in the Women's



Tommy Rezac | Eagle Radio
Michael Hill reflects upon his accomplishments during his speech. His time on the Missouri Western football team in 2012 will always be a special memory.

Basketball team's run to an Elite Eight appearance in Birmingham, Alabama last spring. The accomplishment itself had not been seen in some time for the program.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the St Joseph Sports Commission awarded Whitaker with the first female centered award. Snyder himself made his mark in coaching the

Kansas State football team from 1989 to 2005 and then again from 2009 to 2018. The inspiration behind the award stems from his 2021 induction speech in which he spoke on all the women that helped him achieve success.

This new award will continue to honor a selected female contributor, administrator, coach or athlete in the future with Whitaker leading the pack.

Former college great Snyder has known about Whitaker for some time, all the way back to when her former team at Texas Tech played Kansas State.

"She's a leader at Missouri Western. She's an amazing young

lady with amazing success" said Snyder. "Winning more than 20 games in two years, I know a lot of coaches that haven't achieved one of those yet, which makes it pretty special."

The first Missouri Western inductee is a legend of the past. Filbert was a St Joseph native who was eventually sought out by Missouri Western to coach the university's first basketball team after a successful stint with Mexico High School. Eventually he was hired in 1982 to be an assistant coach at the University of Missouri. Moving from one black and gold to another, but always being the start of college hoops at Missouri Western.

Moving from the start of men's basketball at Missouri Western to someone who brought it great pride. Smith patrolled the sidelines from 1988 to 2013 of the court that now bears his name. Multiple accomplishments made on the court helped

him enter the St Joseph Sports Hall of Fame. Smith currently holds the all time wins record at Missouri Western. During that time his squads also saw double digit tournament appearances and multiple MIAA Regular Season Championships.

Still in St Joseph in his retirement, current Griffons might recall him as the home color announcer with Tommy Rezac on 680 KFEQ last basketball season.

Commenting on his presence in the community after his retirement brings to light what made him so successful at Missouri Western.

"Relationships were everything to me. I don't confess to know everything about basketball, I am not a genius when it comes to certain things" said Smith. "I think my ability to relate to my players and have them