

## Phonathon helps raise funds

**RYAN HATCHER**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Midwestern State University Phonathon callers hold the position for highest paid job on campus and do a lot for the university.

Although the Phonathon is going on its third year, and has raised as much as \$300,000 for the university, not many people are familiar with what it is.

Not many students are familiar with what deeds the MSU Phonathon does for the school, but callers are encouraged to wear their Phonathon shirts, and have booths at two MSU fairs within the year.

Phonathon works in conjunction with the Annual Fund, "who is an integral part of the university's fundraising efforts."

Last year Midwestern met its goal of \$200,000 in donations,

and at 1,900 alumni donors.

The average rate for employment on the Midwestern campus ranges from \$5.15, minimum wage to \$6. The Phonathon's starting wage is \$6.15 and can be as high as \$8.65 through good performance and incentives.

Midwestern employs as many as 12 callers each year with the goals of calling, updating and asking for pledges from Midwestern alumni.

Midwestern has achieved 7.6 percent of alumni participation from this form of cold calling.

This amount is very notable considering they have a higher per-

centage than Sam Houston, West Texas A&M, University of Texas at Dallas, Stephen F. Austin and several other larger universities.

The callers work a seven-day week, starting calls in September and ending in

to Caribbean exchange students.

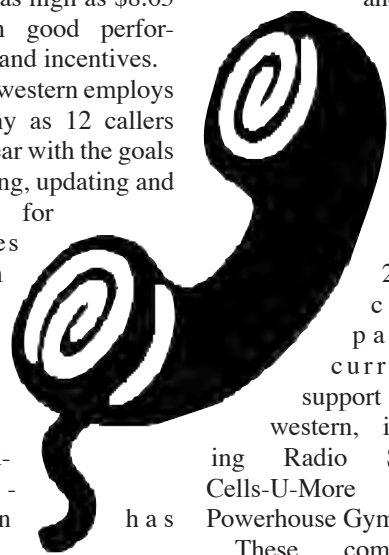
Phonathon Director Krystal Amador said this year's goal is to reach \$400,000, which is considered very reachable.

Each pledge made by donors can be designated to whichever school or area they wish, including athletics, Moffett Library, MSU Museum, MSU scholarships or basic university needs.

Callers secure the pledges through credit cards, which are automatically transmitted to the school, and checks, those of which will receive a letter from the Phonathon with a return envelope.

"This should be our most productive year," annual fund assistant Renee McCaffree said.

The Phonathon will continue its efforts in raising funds for Midwestern as long as its efforts prove effective.



May. Over 25 companies currently support Midwestern, including Radio Shack, Cells-U-More and Powerhouse Gym.

These companies have pledged to award callers through gift certificates, gift cards and free merchandise for great performance.

The group callers are very diverse, ranging from MSU cheerleaders

### Pride

"I don't go for bigger campuses," she said.

Junior nursing major Megan F. Mattner said she likes being part of the school.

"Smaller schools are more tight knit," she said.

Faculty as well as students appreciate the intimate size.

"I like the camaraderie and the smallness of the classes that allow us to know our students," said Susan K. Button, an adjunct faculty member of the English department.

Despite the size of the campus, the departments still please many. Some students said they particularly loved the programs for their majors.

Billy F. Morgan, a junior nursing major said the nursing program is one of the best in the state.

"By passing all my classes, I feel like I can pass the nursing licensing exam, and I feel prepared for my career," he said.

The art department is one of the best, according to Jimmy C. Thomason, senior art major.

Also, student-professor relations hold importance to many MSU scholars.

"There is a lot of one-on-one interaction with the professors,"

Thomason said.

Laura D. Gerred, senior international studies major, admires the faculty.

"I'm extremely proud because of the exceptional staff, clean campus and cheap tuition."

Senior political science and psychology major Jessica Jackson agrees about the teachers and the tuition.

"I am getting a good education at a bargain," she said. "I am able to communicate with the professors easily here."

However, not all students are happy with their college experience.

One employee, who wished to remain anonymous, has been here for years and is not proud to be a part of MSU.

"There's too much racial tension and discrimination. MSU claims to have such a great reputation but they still have a lot of work to do," said the employee. "They don't provide enough parking for the students. This school is all about politics and who has money and who does not. Our management is the problem and how they communicate."

Sophomore business major Todd

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E. Lewis said he just wants proof of graduation.

"I don't care where I go. I just want a piece of paper with my name on it," he said.

Gairry K. Steward, senior criminal justice major, is not a fan of MSU's small size.

"I'd rather be at a bigger school with more students, better academic programs and a better athletic department," he said.

The vast majority of people polled are happy with their school and Wichita Falls's involvement with it.

"I like the fact that the community gets behind the school in everything it does, as well as the way the campus looks," said Phillip Alexander, senior sports fitness management. "I also like the fact that my major is well respected around the state."

Jordan Guss, sophomore elementary education major, said the university has much to offer.

"Each faculty member truly cares about my success. It's almost like a small town feel to it. They are doing so many things to improve our university. Because the staff cares, I care, and that makes me proud," he said.

## Violence victims share stories

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

CHEVY CHASE, Md.—Victims of school violence shared their horrific experiences at a White House conference Tuesday that ended with a call for more focus on character and values in the nation's classrooms.

Sitting at a table with President Bush, Craig Scott, a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, urged educators to influence students' hearts as well as their heads.

"Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were very smart," Scott said of the two shooters who killed his sister and 12 others at the Colorado school. "The problem wasn't their education at my school, Columbine. Their problem was their character."

Other conference participants including Bush echoed Scott's assessment. The meeting, hosted in a Maryland suburb of Washington by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, examined ways to prevent school violence and strategies for dealing with the trauma of a

school shooting.

Bush announced the conference after recent shootings in Wisconsin, Colorado and Pennsylvania schools claimed seven victims and left two of the shooters dead.

Experts cited a host of factors that have contributed to the violence, including stress and feelings of alienation among students, negative media influences and inattentive parents. They said shooters tended to be depressed and suicidal.

"What we've learned about shooters is suicide and homicide are two sides of the same coin. They all in some ways express a wish to die," said Marleen Wong, the director of crisis counseling for the Los Angeles School District.

A 2004 threat assessment by the Secret Service warned that attempting to profile school shooters is dangerous, however, because some shooters don't fit the mold.

"Rather than asking whether a particular student 'looks like' those who have launched school-based attacks before, it is more productive to ask whether a student is on a path toward a violent attack," the assessment concluded.

Conference participants urged educators, parents and students to pay more attention to students who complain of alienation, appear depressed or talk about violence. School shootings are rarely impulsive acts; in 81 percent of cases, at least one person knew that the attacker was contemplating violence, the Secret Service report said.

"Teachers should know more about mental health and have a system to report concerns," said Cathy Paine, a crisis-response specialist for the Springfield School District in Oregon. Paine said teachers at Thurston High School in Springfield saw potential warning signs in 15-year-old Kip Kinkel in 1998, but didn't connect the dots until he opened fire in the school's cafeteria, killing two students and wounding about two dozen others.

Scott of Columbine, who's now

a film student at the University of Colorado, said he frequently met potential shooters on his travels for Rachel's Challenge, an organization founded in memory of his slain sister. The group urges students to reach out to loners, victims of bullies and other vulnerable students.

"I see a lot of depression. I see a lot of loneliness and a lot of anger," he said. "I've heard all kinds of terrible stories about things they've been through." He urged educators to "take a look at teaching that doesn't just teach the head, but teaches the heart. ... You can help point them to what's right and what's wrong."

Some advocates of character education offered implicit criticism of Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, which stresses academic achievement and requires frequent testing.

"I think you can make sure a child learns, and I think you can instill character at the same time. I don't think you have to choose," the president said after one of the speakers complained that "testing and testing and testing" was crowding out attention to character and values in schools.

He also told the audience members that they shouldn't look to the federal government to bankroll character education or other school programs.

"Let me put the funding issue right on the table. The federal government is a limited funder of education. And I happen to believe that's the way it should be. ... This is a local responsibility," he said.

Acknowledging the reality of school shootings, one conference panel focused on helping students cope with classroom deaths. Experts advised extensive mental-health follow-up.

"Recovery takes a long time. We're eight years out and we're still recovering," Paine said of the Oregon shooting. "Whenever something happens, we're always right back there again in that cafeteria."

### Leroy

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the coach. Leroy wanted to do that so coach lets him shake their hands."

"In basketball we all dress up in suits," Leroy said. "All the coaches walk together and we shake hands with the visiting team."

McIlhaney said Leroy gets involved in practice by standing in as a screener for the basketball team.

Assistant athletic director Ted Buss can't remember a time when Leroy wasn't at a sporting event.

"He's been working with me for right at five years," Buss said. "He comes in every morning and asks me if he can help."

Leroy helps with half time at basketball games by coordinating the shows. When there are kids from local schools, Leroy gathers them together and brings them down to the court.

"There are times I come in here

on a Saturday to check on my office and there he'll be," Buss said.

The basketball court won't be the only place to find Leroy.

"Leroy not only helps with the basketball program, he also goes to all the football practices and all the games," McIlhaney said.

MSU running back Ross Harrison said Leroy enjoys participating in the football games as well as practices. Every home game Leroy runs down to the field with the football players.

"I think it means the world to him," Harrison said.

Not only does Leroy run on the field with the team, he also stands on the sidelines to cheer the team on.

"He brings uplifting spirits to everybody," Harrison said. "When he doesn't get to go on trips he wants us to play hard."

Harrison said Leroy helps the defense run drills during practice.

"I've known him for a long time," Harrison said. "We've been buds. He has always called me 'three-two' since he came in."

Leroy is the first person a soccer fan is going to see when they cross through the gates at the soccer field. Leroy stands at the entrance and ask everyone who looks like a student to show him their ID. Leroy also helps out at the concession stand on occasion.

"He comes out to Midwestern everyday. He doesn't get paid," Harrison said. "He loves sports and he loves Midwestern."

Whether its basketball, football or soccer one thing is for sure Leroy will be there.

"I support my Midwestern," Leroy said, grinning big.

### Grads

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A graduate coordinator heads each college on campus that offers a graduate program. The coordinators advise all graduate students.

At MSU, each graduate coordinator advises a small number of students and builds a close relationship with them. Each graduate student that is accepted must have a bachelor's degree and a passing grade on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Graduate coordinators also choose which students will be admitted to the program. Students are chosen based on academic standing and specific standards required by the college they want to get in.

Many graduate students in the social sciences and humanities field plan to seek a Ph.D., according to Capps. Students in professional programs such as education and business are usually trying to move up in their position.

Capps also said that the number of students who enroll in the graduate program annually stays fairly flat.

"During some years enrollment is up and sometimes it is down," Capps said. "Generally, it stays about the same."

Capps hopes that with the out-of-state tuition waiver and new graduate programs will attract more students to MSU.

The new Dillard College of Business Administration is also expected to attract more graduate students. The college offers an MBA program where students can get a bachelor's and master's degree by only using one-degree plan.

Students who are in the MBA program will graduate with both a bachelor's and a master's degree in about five years.

If students are considering attending graduate school they must meet with the graduate coordinator of the program they are interested in. The coordinator has all the necessary applications and information that a student needs.

The graduate studies office is in Hardin North, Room 205. Applications for the Graduate Merit Scholarship are available in the office.

## Kruger Brothers



HERSHEL SELF | THE WICHITAN

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