

EDUCATION DIGEST

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY – New dean for fine arts: Paul Steger will become dean of the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts at Webster University in July.

Steger comes to Webster from Virginia Tech, where he was director of the school of performing arts. He previously served as director of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Steger is also an artist, director and speaker who has performed around the world. He is on the board of directors for the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Webster's chief operating officer, Julian Schuster, said Steger is expected to increase students' opportunities to showcase their talents in art, music, dance and theater.

HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT – Perfect attendance record: Hazelwood West High senior Tanner Whitworth did not miss a single day of school since starting kindergarten in 2006.

Whitworth's perfect attendance record over 13 years topped 2,200 consecutive days of class, with not a single missed period in high school. Whitworth attended Hazelwood's Russell Elementary and West Middle schools.

The streak became more important to Whitworth as he got into high school, and although he says he's not a morning person, he made sure to get up on time every day with help from his mom. A little luck helped too, with any childhood illnesses coinciding with winter and summer breaks, said Whitworth, 18.

After graduating from West on June 1, Whitworth's attendance streak will continue in the fall at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., where he plans to play baseball and major in actuarial science or accounting.

UNIVERSITY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT – Longtime cafeteria worker honored: School leaders surprised Delores Gardner on Thursday with a U. City steak on her last day after 21 years at University City High School.

The U. City steak, a breaded and fried hamburger served with gravy, was retired

from the lunch menu years ago along with the school's fryers. Alumni still call and ask for the recipe, Gardner said.

Cafeteria manager Sharon Knuckles, who has worked in the district's cafeterias for more than 40 years, said Gardner will be missed but is expected to return each year for prom and graduation.

COR JESU ACADEMY – Week of engineering work: The Summer Engineering Experience starts Monday for 14 juniors and seniors at the Catholic girls high school in Affton. During the week, the students will visit and work with engineers at the Danforth Plant Science Center, St. Louis University, Watlow Electric and the Burns & McDonnell engineering firm.

The program is part of Cor Jesu's Corporate Partners Initiative, which started in 2012 to give students professional experiences to help guide their post-high school decisions.

BOEING FLIGHT COMPETITION – Local schools win glider contest: About 230 students from 25 schools recently competed in the 11th annual Boeing Engineering Challenge at Washington University.

Teams had to build gliders out of balsa wood, tape and glue, and were judged on their flight path, distance and hang time. Boeing engineers serve as mentors to the teams throughout the school year.

Winning their divisions were teams from George Null Elementary in St. Charles, St. Mary's School in Edwardsville and Holt High School in Wentzville.

NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT – Firefighters pay off debt: The Cedar Hill Fire Protection District recently donated \$800 to pay off students' lunch debts at Maple Grove Elementary in Jefferson County.

The money was collected through the district's community outreach program. School districts that serve high rates of low-income families can qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

Student debt has become an increasing problem in districts that don't qualify for the federal or state programs. School districts including Francis Howell and Edwardsville have launched fundraising campaigns for lunch debt in recent years.



ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



JUSTIN ROBINSON
Hazelwood West
track and field

A junior sprinter, Robinson excelled at the Class 5 state championships to lead the Wildcats to the team title. He

won the 100 (10.56), 200 (21.96), 400 (46.3) and anchored the first-place 800 relay. His time of 46.3 in the 400 is the second-best among high school runners in the nation. It is second only to the 46.22 he ran at the Arcadia Invitational near Los Angeles in April. Robinson's season was also highlighted by his performance in the 200 at Clayton's Marion Freeman Invitational, where he broke the 21-second mark with a 20.98. He has been invited to participate in the New Balance Nationals Outdoor Championships in mid-June.

'I'm proud of you': St. Louis heart transplant recipient gets high school graduation surprise from Tom Brady

A Hazelwood Central student who missed his high school graduation after receiving a heart transplant received a special graduation surprise from New England Patriots



ST. LOUIS — A Hazelwood Central High School senior who missed his graduation while recovering from heart transplant had a special graduation ceremony at Cardinal Glennon.

Two weeks ago, Shaun Patterson didn't have the strength to get out of his bed. On Monday, he walked to the podium to accept his high school diploma. Patterson was born with a heart condition, but this past spring he realized something wasn't right while he was at school.

"I couldn't walk to my classes as fast as I could," Patterson said.

He would spend the next 91 days at Cardinal Glennon in need of a new heart. The scholar said it was no problem staying on top of most of his school work while recovering.

"It was just the math part," he said. "Everything else went OK."

Patterson normally uses a wheelchair until his heart is stronger. But on Monday he impressed family, friends, teachers, and his medical team when he stood up to accept his diploma.

However, the biggest surprise of the morning was a special video to Patterson from his favorite athlete, Tom Brady.

"I'm really proud of you and all the things that you've accomplished thus far," Brady said in the video.

"It was very surprising. I was at a loss for words," Patterson said.

The graduate isn't letting his recovery get in the way of academics.

"I am going to do online classes and stay home and heal at the same time," he explained.

Another step down his long road to recovery and a college degree. Patterson plans on enrolling at Lindenwood University to pursue his dream to become a sports analyst.

<https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/im-proud-of-you-st-louis-heart-transplant-recipient-gets-high-school-graduation-surprise-from-tom-brady/63-a9daa1cd-0262-41ba-ad84-2f29ae020159>

June 3, 2019