Dear Campus Community,

I want to welcome back faculty, students, and staff as we begin the Spring 2009 semester. While we continue to face difficult budgetary challenges from reduced state resources, I remain optimistic about our continued progress toward many of our strategic plan goals and the numerous successes we have achieved.

During the Fall 2008 semester we had several remarkable accomplishments, including awarding our first doctoral degree to nine students at the Dec. 20 Commencement.

In October, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approved two new degrees: a four-year nursing degree and a four-year engineering program, both of which we hope will begin in Fall 2009. Western continues to be ranked in the top tier of Midwest Universities Master’s granting institutions by U.S. News and World Report, as well as being chosen a Best Midwestern University by the Princeton Review. Western was selected as one of only two Illinois public universities for the Center for Student Opportunity’s (CSO) “College Access and Opportunity Guide.”

We are also making progress on facilities projects. The Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center expansion was recently completed, and we expect to open the new Multicultural Center in the near future. We also opened bids on the Memorial Hall renovation in November. We will continue to work with our community and legislative leaders to obtain construction funding for Macomb’s Performing Arts Center and for the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus.

I encourage all campus and local community members to attend our University’s diverse cultural and educational events. The University will host a variety of activities in February for Black History Month and in March for Women’s History Month. The 36th annual International Bazaar will be held Friday-Saturday, March 6-7, and the sixth annual Environmental Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8. In addition, the University will sponsor numerous theatrical performances, concerts, art exhibitions, speakers and athletic events.

I look forward to working with University students, faculty and staff, as well as our host communities, in 2009. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Al Goldfarb

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### National searches extended

The national search for a director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access has been extended, according to search committee chair Jackie Thompson, vice president for administrative services.

“The search committee will continue the work begun during the Fall 2008 semester for this essential position,” Thompson said.

Cathy Couza, who has served as director of the former Affirmative Action/ADA office since 1990, will retire April 30 after 33 years of service.

In addition, the national search for a dean of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) has been extended, according to search committee chair Inessa Levi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

This search will also continue until the position is filled.

COEHS Dean Bonnie Smith-Skripps will retire May 1, after 35 years of service.

To view the announcements for both positions, go to wiu.edu/employment.

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### Black History Month 2009 events announced

Black History Month will be celebrated throughout February at Western Illinois University with the theme is “Honoring the Sacrifices: Celebrating the Accomplishments, Achieving the Dream, Shaping the Future, and Impacting Change.”

All events are free and open to the public, except where indicated (*).

***Lectures, Discussions and Workshops***

- **Wednesday, Feb. 4**

- **Thursday, Feb. 5**

- **Wednesday, Feb. 18**
  “The Past, Present, and Future of Minority Media” panel series; 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., University Union Lincoln Room and 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m., University Union Capital Room; Sponsored by the WIU/National Association of Black Journalists, English and journalism, African American studies, College of Arts and Sciences, GBCC, Ebony Magazine

Ag mech show Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Farm technology, tractors and toys are among the hundreds of agriculture-related items that will be on display at the 39th Annual Farm Expo at Western Illinois University, the largest student-run farm show in the U.S. Organized by WIU’s Agriculture Mechanization Club, the 2009 show is slated for 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 and 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1 in Western Hall on the Macomb campus.

The two-day event will feature emerging ag technology, tractors and machinery, livestock equipment and supplies, crop supplies, as well as information about ag sales and service, conservation methods, ag structures and much more. McDonough District Hospital will also host a booth featuring blood glucose screening. More than 100 exhibitors will participate.

Rich Hollis, vice president of organizational development at Rabo Agri-Finance, Inc., will deliver the keynote address at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.

A farm toy and craft show will also be held both days in the upper concourse of Western Hall. According to the 2009 Farm Expo website, many varieties of toy tractors, cars, trucks, scale models and crafts will be on display, and vendors from around the Midwest will be present.

In addition, a kiddie pedal-tractor pull will be held at noon Sunday, Feb. 1. Ribbons will be awarded to tractor pull winners in a variety of age categories.

The Ag Mech Club’s 39th Annual Farm Expo is open free to the public, and free parking will be available in Q-Lot located on the east side of Western Hall.

For more information or to sponsor a booth, contact the agriculture department at (309) 298-1080, or the Ag Mech Club office at (309) 298-1231 or visit wiufarmexpo.com.

Black History, continued

Entertainment

- Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26
  Movie nights. 7-9 p.m., Grote Hall pit. Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega

- Friday, Feb. 6
  National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. 7:30 p.m., Cardinal Oak Room, University Union, 1st Floor. Aids Project Quad Cities.

- Saturday, Feb. 21
  23rd Annual Soul Food Festival Social 5:30 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m., University Union Lamoine Room Menu: Spicy Beef Meat Patties, Fruit Slush Punch, Barbequed Shrimp, Oven Roasted Chicken, Collard Greens with/ Smoked Turkey, Macaroni and Cheese, Red Beans and Rice, Tossed Salad, Corn Muffins, Pecan Pie, and Lemon Cake. Sponsored by the GBCC.

- Advance tickets sales (through Feb. 17): $14/ students; $24/ non-students; after Feb. 17: $21/ students and $29 non-students.

Special Events

- February 1-28
  “Honoring African American Women’s Sacrifices and Celebrating their Accomplishments,” daily postings on wcuwomenwu.edu. Sponsored by WIU Women’s Center

- Friday, Feb. 6
  Showcase of Black History Month events and activities, University Union 1st Floor. Sponsored by the Black History Month Planning Committee.

  - African American culture exhibit—various artifacts, Macomb City Hall, 232 E. Jackson St. Sponsored by the GBCC.


Other events scheduled include African American heritage cuisine nights in the residence halls sponsored by Sodexo Campus Services, NAACP student chapter events, and more. For more information, call (309) 298-2220 or visit gbcc.wiu.edu.

Obituary

Robert Morsch, 67, former director of bands, died Jan. 4 at his home in Colorado after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

As director of bands, Morsch, who served Western from 1973 to 1979, guided the 190-member Leatherneck Marching Band; the Jazz Band; the Symphonic Wind Ensemble; and coordinated Western’s annual fall high school marching band competition, which often brought in more than 4,000 high school musicians.

His 1974 Marching Leatherneck Band recorded and produced a record album of their popular numbers performed during halftime shows; the 1975 Jazz Band recorded an album for Music Minus One Records; and the 1975 Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed, by invitation, at the Music Educators National Conference and presented a concert at the Kenney Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. From Western Illinois, Morsch went on to Georgia State University as director of bands.

He came to Western from Triton College (River Grove, IL), where his 1972 Triton Jazz Band placed second in the instrumental division of the International Music Festival and Competition in Dijon, France.

Read the full obituary in the Jan. 8 news release at wiu.edu/news.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, P.O. Box 60730, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906 in memory of Robert Morsch.
Kiah adds new role

Jude Kiah, director of Western’s Go West transit system, was named director of the University Union Bookstore, effective Jan. 5, according to Associate Vice President of Student Services Al Harris.

Kiah replaces Kenneth “KJ” Johnson, who retired in December 2008 after 17 years of service. In addition to serving as bookstore director, Kiah will maintain oversight of Go West.

Kiah joined Western’s student services division in 1995 as a complex director in University Housing and Dining Services. He was named director of Go West in 1997. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in business administration from North Central University.

Civil Service news

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Sandra McVey, audio-visual technician II for University Libraries, was named the December Civil Service Employee of the Month.

According to her nominator, McVey always takes her duties seriously and is always prepared. “She is courteous and understanding to all the patrons who use the services provided or ask for help. Sandra has accepted the vast changes with technology and attends to her duties with much enthusiasm. “Sandra takes a lot of pride in whatever she does. She stays past closing time to help patrons with problems or those who have come in at the last minute.”

McVey began working at Western in 1990 as a library clerk. After completing a trainee program, her position was reclassified to library clerk II. Her position was reallocated to audio-visual technician II in 1996.

Faculty, staff and administrators, as well as community members, wishing to nominate a civil service employee for this recognition should contact Laura Caldwell, Civil Service Employees Council (CSEC) public relations representative at (309) 298-1000 or e-mail LM-Caldwell@wiu.edu.

DeRoos to retire, Lynn named registrar

Longtime Registrar Alan DeRoos will retire March 1 after 32 years of service. A reception has been scheduled for 4:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Alumni House.

DeRoos has served as registrar since 1980. He began his career at Western in 1976 as director of registration, and in 1979 was named acting registrar.

During his tenure, the student records system was upgraded to a progressive unit that provides online registration and transcripts, a degree audit program, and a four-year graduation guarantee program and a web presence that allows students to access nearly all of their academic records. He also received a Distinguished Service Award from Western in 2000.

Angela Lynn, associate director for the Office of the Registrar, has been named interim registrar, effective March 2, according to Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas.

Previously, Lynn was assistant director of the WIU Office of Extended Learning, a unit of the School of Extended Studies, where she worked with independent study, online learning and distance education. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WIU and her Ph.D. in educational administration from Illinois State University.

Boynton named history dept. chair

Longtime WIU History Professor Virginia “Ginny” Boynton has been named chair of the history department, according to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi.

Boynton has served as interim chair since January 2008.

“Ginny works tirelessly on behalf of the faculty and students of the department, and continues to support and enhance academic excellence in her department and throughout the college,” said Levi.

Boynton joined Western’s faculty as an assistant professor in 1995 and was promoted to full professor in 2005. In 2004 she won the State Historical Society’s Pratt Award for outstanding scholarship in Illinois History.

Through support from the Illinois Women’s Committee, she is currently researching women’s involvement in the state’s government-sponsored war effort during World War I. She has a number of articles, book reviews and essays in a variety of publications; and she is a frequent presenter at academic conferences as well as for campus and community groups.

She received her Ph.D. (1995) and master’s degree (1990) in history from The Ohio State University; and her Master of Social Work (1979), with a concentration in social policy and planning, and Bachelor of General Studies (1978) degrees from the University of Michigan.

Benefits announcements

The WIU 403b supplemental retirement plan is an avenue to use pretax earnings to save for retirement and reduce taxable income. The voluntary plan includes providers offering a variety of investment options from mutual funds to guaranteed return funds.

Effective immediately, the WIU 403b supplemental retirement plan is open to student employees who have FICA deducted from their earnings.

The applicable limit to 403b contributions for eligible participants for calendar year 2009 is $16,500.

Information regarding enrollment and participation is available through the human resources benefits office, room 312 Sherman Hall, (309) 298-1853.

SURS representatives on campus

SURS representatives will be on campus Tuesday-Wednesday.
**Grants**

Karen Mauldin-Curtis, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA)—$22,500 and $3,520 in supplemental funding from various local sources for “Peace Corps Fellows Community Contributions.”

Richard Mathers and William Faulkner, Sociology and Anthropology—$200,000 from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for “Test Construction, Delivery, Scoring and Evaluation - FY09.”

Chris Merrett—$68,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for “Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center.”


Kim Sikes and Paul Sweet, Center for Application of Information Technologies (CAIT)—$116,035 from the McDonald’s Corporation for “McDonald’s WHMU eLearning Website Revisions.”

Daniel Voorhis, IIIRA—$144,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for “Illinois Small Business Development Center FY09.”

Kimberlee Wisslead and Richard Chamberlain, Center for Application of Information Technology (CAIT)—$200,000 from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for “DCPS Web Based Training System - Year 4.”

**Book and media sale**

The annual WIU Libraries Book and Media Sale will take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Thurs., Feb. 2-5 on the first level of the Malpass Library.

According to Greg Phelps, library specialist, thousands of books, DVDs, musical recordings and other items will be sold at bargain prices. Hardback books will be sold for one dollar and paperbacks for 50 cents. Donations of items will be accepted until the sale ends, and receipts for tax purposes will be available.

For more information, contact Phelps at (309) 298-2730 or GW-Phelps@wiu.edu.

**Willy Porter to perform Jan. 24**

Tri States Public Radio will host musician Willy Porter as part of its Celebration Concert Series at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 in the Tri States Public Radio Performance Studio, 320 W. University Drive.


Seating is limited. Admission is $10 for public radio members, $15 for the general public. Call (309)-298-1873 or (800) 895-2912 to order tickets in advance. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or personal care product to be donated to Macomb Loaves and Fishes.

**Health screening opportunity**

Western’s kinesiology department is offering a free health screening to area women who are currently going through menopause and have a goal to lose weight this year.

According to Beth Ewing, WIU graduate student and research assistant, each participant will receive a personalized workout plan and dieting tips. Respondents will be evaluated for current and ideal body mass index, caloric intake, body fat percent and weight and will also get information about their resting metabolic rate and waist-to-hip ratio. Each appointment will take about 30 to 40 minutes, Ewing noted.

“Having and using this information can greatly increase your success rate in regard to your weight-loss goals,” Ewing said.

To set up an appointment, contact Ewing at (309) 298-1067 or BA-Ewing@wiu.edu.

**L.I.F.E. gets website**

L.I.F.E. (Learning is Forever), Western’s adult continuing education program, now has its own website: wiu.edu/life.

The Macomb L.I.F.E. program is affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network, a national organization of more than 150 similar groups devoted to adult education.

In Macomb, L.I.F.E. was launched through the Western Illinois University School of Continuing Education in 1995, and is now sponsored by the university’s Center for International Studies (CIS).

While 2009 classes are TBA, classes will be held on the Western Illinois University campus and at cooperating churches, senior citizen centers and other locations.

For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list to receive the free, semi-annual L.I.F.E. course list and registration form, contact Carolyn Bowman at the CIS at (309)-298-2501 or CK-Bowman1@wiu.edu.

**Tax prep for senior citizens**

Free income tax preparation assistance will be available to Macomb-area senior citizens beginning Friday, Feb. 6.

According to Steven Rock, economics professor and local coordinator of the AARP Tax-Aide Program, the service will be offered Tuesday and Friday afternoons, as well as Saturday mornings at the McDonough County YMCA Senior Center, 400 E. Calhoun St. Appointments are required and can be made by contacting the YMCA Senior Center at (309) 837-5733.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is designed for low- and middle-income taxpayers, ages 60 and older.

“IRS-trained volunteers will assist individuals with the preparation of basic, non-business federal and Illinois tax returns,” Rock explained.

For more information, contact Rock at SM-Rock@wiu.edu.
Wall clings now available from VPC

Western Illinois University’s Visual Production Center (VPC) is now offering WIU Wall Clings to the campus and local communities. Any Western image taken by VPC photographers—which can be viewed at http://photos.wiu.edu/lightbox—can be made into wall clings. Constructed of a durable adhesive fabric, the clings range in size from five inches to more than six feet tall. They can be mounted to any surface and can be re-positioned countless times while retaining adhesion without leaving a residue. The special fabric can be used both indoors and out; is water resistant; won’t tear or wrinkle; and can be illuminated with back-lighting.

Individuals are also welcome to submit their own photo to be made into a cling; however, the photo must be high resolution and cannot be copyrighted (or from a professional off-campus photographer). In addition, professional sports team logos and/or players cannot be transferred to a cling. Wall clings may be ordered by visiting the Lightbox site, which is also accessible from wiu.edu/vpc, or by contacting Brian Kreps or Neil Wiarda at (309) 298-1358 or VPC@wiu.edu. For more information, contact Alice Knapp at (309) 298-1358.

Sustainability talks set for semester

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at WIU will again sponsor the winter/spring series of sustainability-themed bring-your-own lunch discussions beginning Tuesday, Feb. 3. Topics for the Spring 2009 line up range from sustainability as it relates to the field of political science to historical land use at Vishnu Springs in McDonough County.

All discussions will be held Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Malpass Library Room 180. Discussions include:

Feb. 3: Rick Hardy, political science department chair—“Sustainability: Bush v. Obama.”

Feb. 10: Loka Ashwood, IIRA—“The Sustainability of Rural Identity.”

Feb. 17: Brian Davies, physics department—“Clarifying the Coal Question.”

Feb. 24: Timothy Collins and Steve Hicks, IIRA—“Theodore Roosevelt’s Country Life Commission and Sustainability.”

March 10: Bill Knight, English and journalism—“Reporting Green While the Press Is in the Red.”

March 24: Holly Stovall, women’s studies—“Back to the Kitchen with Local Food Movements.”

March 31: Susan Romano, biological sciences, and Selina Goddard, graduate assistant at the Institute for Environmental Studies—“Historical Land Use: Relationships to Current Forest at Vishnu Springs.”

The series is presented in cooperation with the Malpass Library, the Institute for Environmental Studies and the WIU Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR).

For more information, contact Collins at (309) 298-3412 or t-collins@wiu.edu, or visit iira.org.

Thank-you note

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to wish me well, sent a note or gave me a phone call as I retired from the University. It was heartwarming to see and visit with so many campus friends at my retirement reception. It is bittersweet to leave a job of 30-plus years, where I interacted with so many people across campus and know that I could help you in your search for information and provide you with the answers (or clues to finding them) and with the documents that you were seeking. I look forward to seeing you in 2009.

Marla Vizdal
University Archives

Professional activities

Edward Heflin and Dawn Piper, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), presented “Transportation Coordination Primer: How to Design a Rural Transit System Tailored to the Exact Needs of Your Community” at the 18th National Conference on Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation in Omaha, Neb.

Virginia Leonard, History, presented her research paper on “The New Left in Latin American History” as part of a panel on “The New Left” that she organized for the Annual Conference of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in November. Leonard received a Provost’s Travel Award from WIU to help defray her conference-related expenses.


Nicholas Pano, History emeritus, presented “Kosova: What Next?” at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies annual convention in Philadelphia, PA.

Scott Palmer, History, presented “Reassessing the War Scare of 1923” as part of a panel on “Fears, Facts, and Ideologies: Foreign Threats in the USSR, 1917-1941” at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia in November.

Timothy Robert, History, presented “Teaching the Civil War Outside the United States” at the annual conference of the American Historical Association in New York City in January.

Registration due for National Girls/Women in Sports Day

WIU will celebrate the 23rd annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) with “Look Who’s Playing,” a day of activities for 4th-8th grade girls, from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Registration forms and waivers, which are available at wc.wiu.edu, are due by Monday, Jan. 26. The day will offer activities, speakers, lunch and admission to the WIU Westerwinds basketball game vs. South Dakota State, which will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Western Hall.

For more information, contact the Women’s Center at (309) 298-2242 or visit wc.wiu.edu.
News for Campus Connection?

Campus Connection is produced by the Office of University Relations, Darcie Shinberger, director. News staff include Bonnie Barker, Teresa Koltzenburg, Alison McGaughey and Shinberger. With the exceptions of the first and last months of the semester, it is distributed every first and third Friday of each month when the University is in session and approximately two times during the summer.

Submission deadline: 10 a.m. Tuesday of publication week

E-mail submissions to:
Campusconnection@wiu.edu, or via the web:
wiu.edu/connection/submission

Next Issue:
Friday, Feb. 6

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Inside

President's welcome back letter, Black History Month events announced ............................................. 1

Campus Briefs .......................................................... 2-5

Grants .......................................................... 4

Professional Activities ............................................. 5
Spring 2009 Important Dates

* Thursday, Feb. 12 -- Lincoln's Birthday -- No classes/University closed
* Friday, Feb. 13 -- Classes resume
* Monday-Friday, March 16-20, -- Spring Break -- No classes
* Monday, March 23 -- Classes resume
* Monday-Friday, May 11-15 -- Final exam week
* Friday, May 15, -- Graduate Commencement
* Saturday, May 16, -- Undergraduate Commencement
* Sunday, May 17 -- WIU-Quad Cities Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement

‘Neighborhood Ball’ for Obama

Western students celebrate inauguration day, Jan. 20, in the WIU Underground, below the Bayliss-Henninger Dining Center, at a “Neighborhood Ball,” which was webcast live on YouTube and taped as a feed on ABC network’s inaugural coverage. Western’s Macomb campus was one of a select few universities in the nation to participate.

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Inside

President’s welcome back letter, Black History Month events announced .................................................. 1
Campus Briefs .......................................................... 2-5
Grants ................................................................. 4
Professional Activities .............................................. 5