WIU Spring 2009 Commencement Weekend May 15-17

Ceremonies recognizing the academic and personal accomplishments of Western Illinois University students and alumni will be held Friday and Saturday, May 15-16 in Macomb and Sunday, May 17 in the Quad Cities during Western’s Spring 2009 Commencement Weekend.

Nearly 2,330 students—including more than 1,900 undergraduate and approximately 420 graduate students—are eligible to participate in the ceremonies. Events scheduled for Friday (May 15) include the following:

- 2 p.m. Academic Honors Convocation in Western Hall, where College, Honors, Departmental and students with academic distinction based on grade point average receive a medallion for each academic honor; the
- 4 p.m. military science department Army ROTC Commissioning to 2nd Lt. ceremony in the University Union Heritage Room; and the
- 5:30 p.m. Graduate Hooding and Commencement Ceremony in Western Hall.

Three Commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday (May 16) in Western Hall for undergraduate students.

- The 9 a.m. ceremony will recognize candidates for graduation in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and in the College of Business and Technology.
- The 1 p.m. ceremony will recognize candidates for graduation in the Board of Trustees – Bachelor of Arts degree program, the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Also during the 1 p.m. ceremony, a diploma will be awarded posthumously to the family Dameris A. Bagwell, a senior journalism major who was killed in a traffic accident Dec. 1, 2008.

Alumni Achievement Awards

Two alumni awards will be presented during the 1 p.m. ceremony: the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Archivist John Hallwas, and the inaugural Young Alumni Excellence Award to Aundrea “Andi” Frieden.

Hallwas, a 1967 and 1968 graduate in English, served as an English professor and archivist at Western for 34 years, retiring in September 2004. He began at Western in 1970 teaching British literature. In 1979, Hallwas accepted the responsibilities as director of regional collections at the University Archives, a unit of the Western Illinois University Libraries, which complemented his emerging focus on American studies. Since the 1970s he has also lectured widely in Illinois and the Midwest.

Hallwas is the most widely published professor in WIU history. His most recent book, “Dime Novel Desperados,” is focused on Illinois’ most noted outlaws.

See “Commencement,” p.2

Swine Flu outbreak update: Travel to Mexico halted

Western Illinois University officials have halted all nonessential travel to Mexico based on an updated travel health warning issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding Swine Flu (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/contentSwineFluMexico.aspx).

According to Mary Margaret Harris, director of Western’s Beu Health Center, as of April 27, the CDC is recommending that U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico.

Beu staff will continue to perform influenza surveillance. If an individual comes in with flu-like symptoms, Beu’s healthcare providers will ask a series of questions to determine if the illness is perhaps related to Swine Flu, Harris added. For more information, contact Beu Health Center at (309) 298-1888.

Farewell reception for Levi set for May 11

The campus and Macomb communities are invited to attend a farewell reception for Inessa Levi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, from 4-6 p.m. Monday, May 11 in the University Union Lamoine Room.

Levi has accepted the provost position at Columbus State University, Columbus, GA.

Levi came to WIU in 2004 from the University of Louisville, where she had been associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences since 2002 and professor of mathematics since 1986. She had also served as the acting chair of mathematics.

Prior to this, she had been a faculty member at the University of Hawaii and the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, where she earned her Ph.D. in 1985.

She has published on algebra, semigroups and applications in a variety of professional journals and book chapters.

For more information, contact the College of Arts and Sciences’ Dean’s Office at (309) 298-1828.
CBT associate dean Larry Wall retires after 28 years at WIU

A retirement reception for College of Business and Technology (CBT) associate dean and professor of management Larry Wall, who is retiring after 28 years, is slated for 3 p.m. Friday, May 8 in the University Union Lincoln Room. It is open free to the public.

His academic career started in 1977 with the completion of his doctorate in organization theory and business policy at Oklahoma State University. After graduating, he taught for four years at New Mexico State University, and in 1981, he and his wife, Linda, packed up and came to WIU.

As an associate professor of management, Wall followed in the academic footsteps of his father, Lewis Wall, chairperson of, and professor in, management information resources at Western. Wall was named acting associate dean in February 1984 by then Dean David Beveridge. Throughout his 28 years, he has served under the leadership of eight deans and worked directly with seven of them.

“Looking back, I can think of no greater honor than working with my dad,” Wall said.

“I remember long-time finance faculty member Ed Sims asking Dad if he was going to take orders from me. Dad laughed and said he had not done so up to this point and saw no reason to begin now. It was an interesting experience when I became his boss.”

Wall’s contributions to CBT have been significant through the years. He assisted in the reaffirmation of the college’s accreditation status on three separate occasions and has served as interim department chair in five of the college’s eight departments.

Wall said some of his proudest moments have been those when he was able to provide stability in times of change and serve as a sounding board for administrative leadership in the college and University.

Commencement, from p.1

The novel won this year’s coveted Midland Authors’ Award for the finest biography from the Midwest. He has written and edited more than 20 books and monographs, most of them focused on Midwestern literature and history. His 1998 book “The Bootlegger: A Story of Small-Town America” was nominated for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction. He also was commissioned to produce “First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University” for Western’s Centennial Celebration (1999-2000).

Hallwas has won a variety of awards for his teaching and community service, including the WIU Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award and the Macomb Citizen of the Year Award. The College of Arts and Sciences annual liberal arts lecture was renamed the John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture following his retirement. Hallwas was chosen to present the inaugural Liberal Arts Lecture in 2003.

The new Young Alumni Excellence Award is presented for exceptional accomplishments or service to an alumnus/na who is not yet 35 years of age.

Frieden, a 1996 political science and pre-law graduate, is a partner with Gibbs & Bruns, LLP in Houston, TX. While she focuses much of her practice on securities matters, the scope of her litigation experience includes contract, environmental, construction, oil and gas, medical malpractice, intellectual property and directors’ liability matters. Her practice has included representation of the Enron Board of Directors in connection with that company’s iconic end, as well as pro bono representation of the City of Houston in defense of its air pollution ordinance.

While at Western, Frieden was an Honors scholar, a member and assistant coach of the Western Debate Team, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a resident assistant, the Lincoln Laureate graduate and the 1996 Honors Convocation student speaker. Following graduation from Western, Frieden served as a performance auditor in the Illinois Office of the Auditor General. She then went on to obtain her juris doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2000. During law school Frieden clerked for the Illinois Attorney General and served as articles editor for the University of Illinois Law Review. Following graduation from UIUC, she practiced with Jenner & Block LLC in Chicago before moving to Houston, TX.

Frieden has been named a “Rising Star” by Legal Media’s guide “Benchmark: Litigation” (2009); a “Texas Rising Star” by Texas Super Lawyers (2008-2009); and one of Houston’s “Lawyers on the Fast Track” and “Professionals on the Fast Track” by H-Magazine (2004; 2008).

She is a current member of the Western Illinois University President’s National Advisory Council. She and her husband Joe Gulley have also established the C. Robin Frieden Memorial Scholarship at Western in honor of her mother.

• The 4 p.m. ceremony will recognize candidates for graduation in the College of Education and Human Services.

WIU-QC

The sixth annual combined Graduate Hooding and Commencement/Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony for Quad Cities-area students will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, (May 17) at the i wireless Center in Moline.

Ceremony details

Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas will lead each Commencement ceremony, and President Al Goldfarb will confer degrees and make remarks to the graduating classes. Members of Western’s Board of Trustees also will participate, and 2009 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer James Caldwell, professor of music, will be recognized at each Commencement ceremony.

Western’s University Television (UTV) will broadcast the Academic Honors Convocation and all Macomb Commencement ceremonies live on Macomb’s Cable Channel 3. The Macomb ceremonies will also be streamed live on the web. A link to the web broadcast will be available from Western’s homepage at wiu.edu during the time of the ceremonies.

Ceremonies are open to family and friends of the graduates. Tickets are not required; seating is on a first-come basis. For more information, visit wiu.edu/Commencement.
Civil Service news

Civil Service Employee Council (CSEC) is holding its annual election. Ballots have been sent out to the following employee groups: Group III, Group IV and Group V. The deadline for submission of ballots is Monday, May 4. The final results of the elections will be posted on the Council web page (wiu.edu/csec) and the next edition of the Campus Connection.

All permanent Civil Service Employees (after completion of six months probation) are eligible to vote and serve on the Civil Service Employees Council. Anyone who would like to serve on the council or one of its many committees should submit a Statement of Candidacy or contact a council representative.

Group I: Administrative and Professional
Greg Phelps is departing after six years of service on the council. “The Council would like to thank Greg for his dedicated service,” said Election Committee Chairperson and Group IV Representative Jim Buffalo.

Candidate: Tishley Herrington is running unopposed and will be seated on the council at the May meeting.
Statement of candidacy: “I’m running to become more involved in decisions that affect myself and my coworkers.”

Group II: Clerical
Jamie Shuda is stepping down after three years of service to fulfill an empty seat with one year remaining. The Council would like to thank Shuda for her service.

Candidate: Sandra Blue is running unopposed and will be seated on the council at the May meeting.
Statement of candidacy: “I wish to run for CSEC because challenging times demand that all of us contribute according to our talents.”

Group III: Service and Technical
Candidate: Richard Hamilton (incumbent—has completed one term)
Candidate: Gerilee Vail
Statement of candidacy: “Justice for all!”

Group IV: Union and Prevailing Wage
Candidate: Ed Lavin (incumbent—has completed one term)
Candidate: Sonja Creekmore
Statement of candidacy: “I am interested in working to help the students, faculty and staff, and help out any way I can.”
Candidate: Pete Smith

Group V: Secretarial
Suzanne Boussaard (incumbent—has completed one term)
Candidate: Kristie Parkins
Statement of candidacy: “I would like to be considered a candidate for the Civil Service Employees Council. This is a great way to stay involved with our campus community and to make a difference on campus. The CSEC works hard to make positive changes in our community. These are just some of the reasons that I would like to be involved with the employees council.”

Group VI: Quad Cities Campus
Lois Retherford has completed two terms on the council and must step down. “We thank Lois for her tireless work in keeping the Quad Cities Campus informed, and the many days of travel,” said Buffalo.

Chris Brown is running unopposed and will be seated on the council at the May meeting.
Statement of candidacy: “I would like to be the representative for the Quad Cities campus to ensure that my peers are aware and kept informed of their benefits as Civil Service employees. I would like to encourage my peers to become more involved with the council and seek out opportunities that would benefit them as well as the Quad Cities campus work environment. My goal is to close the communication gap that many may feel, being so far from the Macomb campus, i.e., ‘Connect the disconnect.’”

Benefits Choice meetings

The Benefits Office will conduct meetings discussing the upcoming changes during Benefit Choice Period, which is May 1-May 31. All changes made during the Benefit Choice Period will be effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Meetings will be held in the University Union Lincoln Room at 10 a.m., noon, and 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 4 and Thursday, May 7. For more information, contact the Benefits Office at (309) 298-1853.

Retirement reception for Lombard set

A retirement reception for Bob Lombard, faculty member in the curriculum and instruction department, will be held from 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in Horrabin Hall 1.

Lombard began teaching in the department in 1990. He has been active in the National Council for the Social Studies, as well as the Illinois Council for the Social Studies, where he served as executive director and as editor of The Journal for the Illinois Council for the Social Studies. For a number of years, Lombard facilitated visits of teachers from Japan to campus. Under his leadership, the department and the University hosted the Regional Illinois History Day. His contributions to the department’s Social Studies Center led to the development of an extensive collection of social studies materials.

African American Achievement Awards

The Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center (GBCC) will present the Sixth Annual African American Achievement Awards at 6 p.m. Monday, May 4 in the University Union Lamoine Room.

The featured speaker will be WIU alumni Richard Hazley, director of the Wright-Purnell College Placement Center Coordinator, Educational Talent Search Trinity Higher Education Corporation. For more information, contact the GBCC at (309) 298-2220.

Local farm stories needed

Tri States Public Radio (WIUM / WIUW) is planning to create a local “scrapbook” on its webpage to complement broadcast of the documentary series “Five Farms: Stories From American Farm Families.”

Each one-hour episode helps listeners make the critical connection between the food on their tables and families who work to produce it. “Five Farms” will air each Tuesday at noon throughout the month of June.

“We are inviting area youth to share their stories about growing up on the farm here in the tri state region,” noted Curtis Bisbee, content producer.

Stories and photos can be emailed to publicradio@wiu.edu.

For more information, or to record stories for the locally-produced radio feature complementing the documentary series, contact Bisbee at cj-bisbee@wiu.edu.
**WIU selected for listing in YouTube’s EDU directory**

Where can you view Western Illinois University’s mascot, Rocky, playing Wii at the University Libraries’ Game Nite? Or watch WIU students get their heads shaved in support of Tanner Hall’s annual St. Baldrick’s children’s cancer fund-raising event? Or tune into last year’s Hallways Lecture? Or learn about how Western’s Mobile Computing Task Force is helping to position the University for mobile learning?

All this and more can be found on Western’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/westernillinoisu), which is now listed -- along with more than 100 other universities and colleges -- in YouTube’s EDU directory.

According to a post on The YouTube Blog late last month (March 26), YouTube EDU was launched “as a volunteer project sparked by a group of employees who wanted to find a better way to collect and highlight all the great educational content being uploaded to YouTube by colleges and universities.”

Like many other higher education institutions, WIU has been utilizing YouTube as a way to share original video content and information about Western’s Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. The inclusion of WIU’s YouTube channel in the YouTube EDU directory places Western’s video content with that of such higher education institutions as MIT, Stanford, Yale, Arizona State University, Harvard Business School and more.

“We’re thrilled with our listing in the directory,” said Darcie Shinberger, director of University Relations, whose office manages Western’s YouTube channel. “This relationship with YouTube, the leading online video community, provides a way for WIU students, alumni, friends and fans to keep up with Western’s events and activities. We also use our YouTube channel to keep parents updated about breaking news that could affect the students and campus community,” she added.

For more information, contact Teresa Koltzenburg, new media coordinator in University Relations, at (309) 298-1993 or TE-Koltzenburg@wiu.edu.

Visit WIU’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/westernillinoisu.

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**DiGrino named interim COEHS dean**

Nick DiGrino, associate dean for administration in the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), has been appointed interim dean of the college, effective April 24, according to WIU Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas.

DiGrino has served as associate dean since 2004. He will serve in the interim position until a permanent dean is hired to replace Bonnie Smith-Skripps, who is retiring this month after 35 years of service.

Prior to being named associate dean, DiGrino served as chair and professor in Western’s recreation, parks and tourism administration (RPTA) department from 1986 to 2004. Before joining Western’s faculty, he served as coordinator of the leisure services program at Iowa State University and as the director of parks and recreation for the City of Eastlake (OH).

DiGrino has authored and co-authored numerous articles and book chapters within his field, and he has presented at professional conferences internationally. He is an inductee of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, and he has held offices and served on the governing boards of several state and national professional organizations.

DiGrino received his bachelor’s degree from Kent State University, his master’s degree from Indiana University and his doctorate from Texas A&M University.

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**‘Dealing with Difference’ institute**

The recent election of President Barack Obama challenged the notion of race and the reality of racism. Western Illinois University’s 16th Annual Dealing with Difference Institute (DWDI), set for Tuesday-Wednesday, May 19-20, will examine the longstanding and inaccurate notions of race, which persist in society.

Due to the annual steam shutdown at WIU in late May, institute presentations will be held at Spoon River College’s Macomb campus, 208 S. Johnson St.

Registration forms are available at wiu.edu/iacd/conferences.shtml.

According to Janice Welsch, WIU English professor emeritus and co-coordinator of the institute, Pre-K-12 teachers, as well as higher education faculty, are invited to explore race from the perspectives of political science and social ethics, media, anthropology, genetics and brain research.

“We will also discuss new Internet resources that can lead to our own and our students’ greater understanding of the concept and its implications,” Welsch added.

Maulana Karenga, professor of Africana studies at California State University, Long Beach, will present the opening keynote address, “Uprooting Racism, Rethinking Multiculturalism: Toward an Ethics of Sharing,” at 10 a.m. May 19.

For more information, contact Welsch at JR-Welsch@wiu.edu or (309) 298-2057.

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**Student art show on display**

The juried artworks of nearly 60 WIU students studying in the art department are currently on display in the WIU Art Gallery. The exhibit, which features selected work in a variety of media and styles, will run through Friday, May 8.

The Western Illinois University Art Gallery is open free to the public 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays during exhibitions. For more information, visit wiu.edu/ArtGallery or call (309) 298-1587.

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**Open Tower Hours May 9**

Western’s Horn Field Campus (HFC) will offer open climbing tower hours from 1-4 p.m. Saturday May 9.

HFC’s climbing tower is a 40-foot vertical wood structure, with three sides for climbing, complete with rock-like handholds, and designed with one side for rappelling. One tower wall is slightly inclined for those new to the climbing experience. Harnesses, helmets and safety ropes are provided. Two or more facilitators assist with the tower. The $5 fee includes all equipment and instruction. Individuals under 18 must have a parent or guardian present to climb.

For more information, contact Horn Field at HF-campus@wiu.edu or (309) 833-5798.

Learn more about HFC at wiu.edu/rpta/HFC/
Online learning opportunities expand at WIU

According to the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences, during the 2006-07 academic year, 66 percent of the 4,160 two-year and four-year Title IV degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the nation offered college-level distance education courses.

While Western Illinois University has been offering courses via distance learning since the 1970s, the University is expanding its online and distance learning offerings to reach more individuals who may be placebound, according to WIU Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas.

Under the leadership of Richard Carter, director of Western’s School of Extended Studies, the University has initiated a new process for developing online courses, which includes the technical support and expertise of Western’s Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT) and faculty training by the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR).

According to Carter, funding of $5,000 per course is available to faculty who propose and are selected to create and develop a new online course. The first cohort of faculty is currently developing 11 new online courses to be debuted this year. Some of the courses include MUS 190 (What to Listen for in Music), IDT 538 (Imaging Technology) and FIN 301 (Personal Finance Planning). This summer, 69 courses will be offered online, an increase of 28 online courses from last year.

“I’ve been actively working with each of the four college deans to increase the number of online course offerings,” Carter said. “During the Spring 2009 semester, online enrollment nearly doubled at Western.

More courses were offered this semester and more seats were available, which led to more students taking online courses through Western than ever before.”

In Fall 2008, extension enrollment at Western increased 31.8 percent.

A complete listing of online courses is available wiu.edu/distanceed / (click on “Online Courses”).

For more information about online and distance courses at Western Illinois University, contact Carter at (309) 298-1929 or R-Carter@wiu.edu.

For more information about the School of Extended Studies and online initiatives, visit wiu.edu/extendedstudies.

Power outages planned

Western’s annual planned electrical shutdown for maintenance of the high voltage electrical distribution system on the Macomb campus is planned for Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31.

The power outage will affect access to technology resources on Macomb’s campus. There will be no access to the Internet, servers, WIU web pages, e-mail, Western Online and more for most of May 30-31 in Macomb.

The WIU-Quad Cities campus should maintain access to local servers and to the Internet, but there will be no access to other services such as e-mail, Western Online and WIU web pages.

For more information or for questions, contact Ted Renner, construction project coordinator II, Physical Plant facility planning and construction, at (309) 298-1834 x 261.

Senior services directory available

The 2009 revision of “McDonough County Illinois Senior Services Directory” is now available.

The guide was produced as the result of a project by a committee composed of retired faculty and /or faculty spouses.

“If you are reaching the point where you need to make some changes in your lifestyle or you have a friend or relative who may need some help, we encourage you to pick up a free copy of the booklet,” said group member Mary Warnock.

The booklet may be found at: McDonough District Hospital Public Relations (Lower Level) Macomb YMCA Senior Citizen Desk Macomb City Hall

The booklet may also be found online at macombaarcee.org.

For more information, call Warnock at (309) 833-2947.

Trial databases offered

In addition to the more than 100 electronic databases of useful information offered by the University Libraries, an ever-changing selection of trial databases may be found at wiu.edu/library/databases/trials.

These databases are ones being considered for possible purchase, and may be of assistance to faculty or others from every discipline, from poetry to statistical abstracts.

For more information, contact Jeff Matlak, electronic resources librarian, at (309) 298-2720 or JG-Matlak@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, May 15

Submission Deadline: 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 12

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Pandemic Response Plan available online

Western Illinois University’s Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan is available online at wiu.edu/rmep/plans.php.

According to President Al Goldfarb, in response to questions from university officials, the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan, which was developed approximately three years ago, is active. The University’s plan is always active, with changes to the pandemic levels as the World Health Organization’s pandemic levels change. The plan is in place as a proactive measure so that we are prepared in the event of an emergency,” Beu Health Center Director Mary Margaret Harris noted.

For more information on Western’s pandemic response, contact Beu Health Center at (309) 298-1888.

(See page 1 for more on Western’s response and precautions related to the outbreak.)

Spring 2009 Important Dates

* Monday-Friday, May 11-15 -- Final exam week
* Friday, May 15, -- Academic Honors Convocation, ROTC Commissioning, Graduate Commencement
* Saturday, May 16, -- Undergraduate Commencements
* Sunday, May 17 -- WIU-Quad Cities Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement

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