Owens announces retirement

Janice Owens, director of the WIU Scholarship Office since 1987, will retire Jan. 1, 2010 after 27 years of service. A reception will be announced at a later date. A search is currently underway, according to President Al Goldfarb.

Owens began working at WIU in 1982. Prior to joining Western's staff, she was a prep and public school art teacher and chairperson in Maryland and Virginia. In addition to Owens' role as scholarship director at WIU, she has served as an academic adviser, as assistant to the executive assistant for enrollment management, and assistant to the president for external relations, and has taught art classes.

In her years as scholarship director, Owens noted she is most proud of the number of students her office is able to assist each year. More than 600 scholarships—many with multiple recipients—are awarded annually. In the 2008-2009 academic year, more than $2.8 million in scholarships and other financial assistance was awarded to more than 3,500 students.

“Throughout the years, Janice's deep commitment to our students and her compassion for their needs have been significant,” said Goldfarb. “I've heard from numerous students how Janice has personally helped them through rough times and was there to listen. She will be greatly missed by our students and her colleagues.”

Owens received her Master's of Fine Arts and Master's of Arts from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA and her bachelor's degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore, MD. She has served on numerous committees at Western and in the community.

Letter to the campus community

Dear WIU Campus Community:

The state of Illinois is dealing with a major shortfall in its Fiscal Year 2010 budget. This is causing delays in reimbursements to universities and state agencies. Because of the delay in state reimbursements to Western, which is currently $26 million, all University offices are asked to limit spending to immediate operational needs only.

The vice presidents and I will continue to closely monitor expenditures, including hiring, travel and other purchases. We need to safeguard the University’s remaining budget until we gain a clearer picture from the state for the remainder of this fiscal year and Fiscal Year 2011.

Our primary goals continue to be to provide quality academic programs and educational resources to our students and retaining all of our employees. Please be assured the University will continue to meet its payroll obligation to employees, as well as pay essential bills.

Budget reductions and delays in state reimbursements are issues that this university, along with many other institutions and agencies across the state, has been facing for the past few years. Western’s Fiscal Year 2010 general revenue budget is $59.9 million, the same level of funding as the University’s Fiscal Year 2009 budget; however, we are faced with increasing costs and unfunded state mandates.

Please know that I appreciate all of the support during these difficult and uncertain budgetary times. We will continue to work with our legislators and others. Again, thanks so much for all of your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Al Goldfarb

President

Veterans Day Celebration, Wright Residence dedication Wednesday, Nov. 11

Western Illinois University has scheduled a variety of events Wednesday, Nov. 11 to pay tribute to the veterans and current members of the Armed Forces. In addition, the University’s Wright Residence, directly across the street from the Alumni House, will be dedicated as the new Veterans Resource Center.

From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9-10, ribbon lapel pins, in support of Operation Yellow Ribbon, will be distributed in the University Union Concourse. Operation Yellow Ribbon’s mission is: “To show our Love, Respect and Support for the men and women of the military of the United States of America and her Allies in the cause of Freedom and the Defeat of Terrorism.”

On Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, the Sherman Hall carillon will play a medley of patriotic songs beginning at 11 a.m., while the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, located in the Multicultural Center, will host the display, “A Historical Perspective of Blacks in the Military.” The movie trailer, “Buffalo Soldier Mutiny” will be shown at the center at noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., followed by discussions.

At 1:45 p.m. Western’s ROTC cadets will gather at the Sherman Hall flag pole to collect worn flags, and at 2 p.m., President Al Goldfarb, U.S. Marine Corps and Iraq veteran Matt Medhat and Student Government Association Vice President

See “Veterans,” p. 2
**COFAC names Belles Distinguished Friend**

Gilbert Belles, professor emeritus, received the 2009 Distinguished Friend of the College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Award. The award was presented to Belles Sept. 18 prior to the Al Sears headliner concert with Karrin Allyson in the COFAC Recital Hall. Belles gave the lead gift, which inspired the renovation, and now bears the name, the Performing Arts Society Green Room in Honor of Gil Belles.

"Gil’s generosity and enthusiasm for the college made this award an easy choice,” said COFAC Dean Paul Kreider. “He was a hardworking member of the Performing Arts Society (PAS) for six years, but his dedication to the PAS extends beyond his board duties to substantial financial support of the organization as well.

“His generosity also extends to the college’s Tri States Public Radio. He is a regular supporter and often pledges a matching gift during the membership drive. Friends like Gil make the work of the college, which is dedicated to outreach, whether in the form of broadcasting information or arts opportunities for children, possible,” Kreider added.

**Veterans, cont’d**

Chris Mortimer will host a ceremony at the Sherman Hall flag pole, to recognize veterans and current service men and women (in the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Sherman Hall Third Floor Auditorium).

Immediately following the 2 p.m. ceremony, the Wright Residence, 333 N. Ward St., will be dedicated as the new Veterans Resource Center. An open house will be held after the dedication and ribbon-cutting. Blandinsville veterinarian Dr. Ken Wright, and his wife, Betty, donated Ken’s boyhood home to Western Illinois University in 2007.

The Wright Residence Veterans Resource Center will feature computer access, a study/meeting room, a lounge and a three-season porch.

Western’s ROTC cadets will also be present at the dedication to collect worn flags. In addition, to honor WIU students, staff and faculty veterans, a permanent photo display will be located at the center. Veterans are asked to submit a 4 x 6 photo, with name and branch of service printed on the back of the photo, to Kathy Meyers, Veterans Resource Center, 333. N. Ward St., Macomb, IL 61455. Photos will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Other events include:

- the Student Recreation Center will provide free bottles of water to any veterans who use facility from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 11, and
- from 5-10 p.m. in the University Union Bowling and Billiards Center, veterans presenting their military ID can bowl for $1 per game.
- At 7 p.m. the University Union Board will host Veterans Bingo in the University Union Murray Street Café.
- The play “Miss Saigon” will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 in the Browne Hall Hainline Theatre, free to veterans, courtesy of the theatre and dance department. Veterans should contact the Hainline Theatre Box Office at (309) 298-2900 prior to Nov. 11.

For more information, contact Meyers at KJ-Meyers@wiu.edu or (309) 298-2902 (until Nov. 11).

**10 faculty research proposals approved**

The WIU Foundation and the Office of Sponsored Projects have announced the recipients of WIU faculty Summer Stipend Awards. The $3,000 stipends will be awarded to the following faculty for their projects for Summer 2010:

**Peter Cole**, history—"The Buffalo Are Strong: Labor and Race Relations on the Durban and Oakland Waterfronts, 1929-2009"

**Greg Hall**, history – "Labor, Coal, and Reclamation: the Rise and Fall of Coal Mining in Fulton County, Illinois"

**Bradley Dilger**, English and journalism—"Open Standards and Journals in English Studies"

**Colin Harbke**, psychology—"Turning Revisions into Opportunity: Development of an Undergraduate Statistics and Data Presentation Manual"

**Marietta Loehrlein**, agriculture—"Design a Web Site for use as a Teaching Tool and Learning Resource"

**Kenneth McCravy**, biological sciences—"Native Bees of West-Central Illinois: Diversity and Survey Methodology"

**Febe Pamonag**, history—"Cross-Cultural Interactions between Benefactors and Recipients of American Scholarship for Japanese Women, 1890s-1920s"

**Susan Stewart**, management—"Educational Culture and the Perceived Mistreatment of Graduate Students in Industrial/Organizational Psychology"

**Charles Weiss**, engineering technology—"Summer Training Through Lawson Screen and Digital Products, Inc."

**Candace Winters-March**, theatre and dance—"Choreography for the original composition by Paul Paccone"

These grants provide opportunities to engage in projects leading to the professional advancement of the proposal writer and the enhancement of WIU in the areas of teaching, research and creative activity.

While teaching, research and creative activities are expected of every faculty member, the Summer Stipend Award is intended to allow faculty to pursue projects well beyond those that can normally be pursued during the academic year.

Proposals are encouraged in a wide range of categories including research leading to publication; development of a significant curriculum proposal; creation of work leading to a performance or exhibition; mastery of a new instructional technique; and more.
Professional activities

J.Q. Adams, educational psychology professor in Western’s educational and interdisciplinary studies (EIS) department, received the 2009 G. Pritchey Smith Multicultural Educator Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Oct. 31 at NAME’s annual conference in Denver, CO.


Pamela Godt, curriculum and instruction (C&I), received the O.L. Davis Jr. “Counselor of Distinction” Award, the highest honor that Kappa Delta Pi presents to its chapter counselors, at the Biennial Convocation of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education held Oct. 31 in Orlando, FL. Godt also was honored for 15 years of service to the society as a chapter counselor and was presented with a clock engraved with acknowledgment of her service. In addition, Godt and Melissa Stinnett, C&I, presented a workshop, “Coping with Stress, Burnout, and Anxieties in the Classroom” at the conference. Godt presented “Interesting New Children’s Books to Read and Share with your Students” at the Western Illinois Reading Council’s Kick-Off program Oct. 7th at Sullivan Taylor/ The Winesellers in Macomb; directed the Carousel of Educational Essentials Conference co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi and the Western Illinois Reading Council, Sept. 26 in Horrabin Hall. Godt and Stinnett also presented “Stress Relief for Teachers: How to Cope with High Stress Levels at the Start of the School Year for both Teachers and Pupils.” At the same event, Gloria Delaney-Barrmann, EIS, delivered “How Can We Help ELL Students to Excel?”

Lisa Melz, athletic academic services, has been named to the appeals subcommittee of the NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance, which identifies and notifies institutions or teams that demonstrate academic excellence and those who fail to satisfy the appropriate standards.

Bruce Walters, art, exhibited “Halloween Flight,” funded by a $1,500 grant from Iowa Arts Council, Oct. 27 in the University Art Gallery.

Keith Holz, art, chaired the session “Jewish Art from the Eighteenth to the Beginning of the Twentieth Centuries” and presented a paper, “Jewish Collectors of Modern Art in Breslau, 1914-1940” as part of the “Visual Judaism: On the Methodology of Object History” session at the 15th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Aug. 1-6 at Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

DC Wright, theatre and dance, helped organize and was an instructor for Dueling Arts International’s Stage Combat Teachers Symposium held in August at WIU, and taught a week-long DAI beginning-level certification course in Stage Combat in August in Anchorage, Alaska.

Matt Warmock, music, performed at the Old Pueblo Sunday Jazz Artists Series, gave three clinics to the guitar and big band students at University High School, as well as numerous private lessons to local high-school jazz students in September in Tucson, Arizona.

Jake Romig, music, had his composition, “Piano Sonata” performed at the New Music Forum Festival of Contemporary Music in August in San Francisco, CA and participated in a two-week artist residency in September at Petrifed Forest National Park in Arizona. His works were performed: “Variations” for four-hand piano by the Unison Piano Duo at Luther College, University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa, and at WIU; “Recall Coordinator” by the Due East Ensemble at Marshall University, University of Kentucky, and Northern Illinois University in October; and had two works selected for the Society of Composers, Inc. Region V Conference at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA: “Recall Coordinator” for flute and vibraphone, and “Variations for String Quartet.”

Erin Taylor, political science, presented the paper “For Shame: Feminism, Breastfeeding Advocacy and Maternal Guilt” at the Association for Political Theory Conference held Oct. 22-25 in College Station, TX.

Tammie Walker, music, adjudicated the St. Louis Music Teachers Association piano competition on Sept. 19.

Cast, crew members needed for Monologues

Auditions for “The Vagina Monologues” at WIU will be held Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 16-17 in the Multicultural Center. Female members of the WIU community are invited to audition. Event organizers are seeking a diverse cast of approximately 15 women for the Feb. 11-13, 2010 performances. Theatre experience is not required. Those auditioning will be given selections from the play to read.

Women interested in auditioning must call the Women’s Center at (309) 298-2242 in advance to sign up for a 10-minute audition time slot. Auditions will be held in the center’s Multipurpose Room.

Men are also invited to participate through helping with production, publicity and complementary events. For more information, contact the Women’s Center.

Grants & Contracts

Vivian Coeur, Beu Health Center / AOD Resource Center Grant—$15,000 from the Department of Human Services through Eastern Illinois University for “Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws.”

Douglas Druckenmiller, IMDS—$29,270 from DePaul University for “Atlantis Collaborative Team Interaction Virtual Environment [ACTIVE].”

John Gruidl and Adee Athiyaman, IIRA—$5,000 from the Route 336 Coalition for “Applied Research Services.”

Robin Hanna, IIRA—$550 from various sources for “RETCAC Services for Trans-disciplinary Research Center Analysis.”

Dawn Hughes, CIAESC—$363,420 from the Illinois Community College Board for “Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center - FY10” and $115,425 in continued funding from the Illinois Community College Board for “Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse - FY10.”

Chris Merrett, IIRA—$18,600 in supplemental funding from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign for “Creating Strategies for an Entrepreneurial Culture in Rural Illinois Communities.”

Meng Yu and Wanyu Zang, computer science—$89,998 from the National Science Foundation for “NeTS: Small:Collaborative Research:Secure and Resilient Channel Allocation in Multi-Radio Wireless Networks.”
Free health presentations, screenings offered

The Employee Wellness Committee will offer two presentations and two health screenings in November.

-Barb Bancroft will present “Unstress for Success” at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 in the University Union Heritage Room. Bancroft, registered nurse and author of the books “Medical Minutiae,” “An Apple a Day—the ABCs of Diet and Disease” and “Live a Little, Laugh a Lot,” will provide a review of the stress response and its ramifications for health and happiness. Learn how to laugh at your daily stress, and how stress can lead to memory loss, increase blood pressure, and affect your waistline.

-Bancroft will also present “Kick the Tires, and Check Under the Hood” 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 in the University Union Heritage Room. What do guys need to know about health maintenance? Heart disease? Prostate health? Cancer? Sexual health? Join Bancroft for a fact-based, fast-paced lecture highlighting the differences in health maintenance and treatment of various disorders “just for the guys.” Learn more about the speaker at barbbancroft.com.

Employee Wellness will also offer total cholesterol and blood-pressure screenings from 7:30-8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 in Horrabin Hall 1. For the cholesterol screening, a 12-hour fast is required, as well as a payment of $25 (for employees). Make checks payable to Kinesiology Public Services.

For more information about these events, contact Judy Yeast at 298-1228 or JA-Yeast@wiu.edu.

Sellers named interim Financial Aid director

Colby Sellers, former associate director of financial aid, has been named interim director of financial aid following longtime director Bill Bushaw’s retirement last month.

Sellers, who has been working as a temporary employee on special projects in financial aid since August 2009, will serve as interim director until a permanent director is named following a national search, according to Vice President for Student Services Garry Johnson.

Sellers, who retired in January 2008 after 28 years of service, served as assistant director of financial aid at Western from 1980 to 2001, and as associate director until his retirement.

Free family-friendly events at SRC

The Spencer Student Recreation Center offers family-friendly events including:

-Family Swim
Reserved pool time in the Aquatics Center exclusively for University families is free of charge!

1-3 p.m. Sundays
Students and University employees are invited to bring their families to the Spencer SRC Aquatics Center on Sunday afternoons. A membership is NOT required; however a signed waiver with your WIU ID is needed. (Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times, and children under the age of 16 are not allowed to use the whirlpool or sauna.)

For more information, contact Jason Ruehle, assistant director/facility and aquatics, at 298-1228 or JR-Ruehle@wiu.edu.

-Free family skate
Roller skate with your family at the Spencer Student Recreation Center from 10 a.m. noon Saturday, Nov. 14. No preregistration is required. Skates are provided.

A Spencer SRC membership is not required; however, participants will need to sign a waiver.

For more information, contact Dustin Van Sloten, assistant director/sport programs, at 298-1228 or DR-VanSloten@wiu.edu.

Free family climb at HFC Saturday

Take your family on a new kind of adventure with a free family climb at Western Illinois University’s Horn Field Campus (HFC). From 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 families are invited to HFC to experience the climbing wall, also known as the “tower.”

The activity is open free to the public; if it should rain on Saturday, Nov. 7, the event will be postponed until 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14.

For more information, contact PC-Croke@wiu.edu or call Horn Field Campus at (309) 833-5798, or visit wiu.edu/rpta/HFC/index.html.
Celebration Concert to feature Newcomer

Tri States Public Radio opens its Celebration Concert season with singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer taking the stage at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.

Her latest release on Rounder, is “The Geography of Light.” The Indiana native, a Quaker, says “I have a real fascination with the mystery, with the questions that have no answers.” She has facilitated writing and spirituality workshops at colleges, universities, retreat houses, festivals throughout the country.

Newcomer will perform in the Music Performance Studio at Tri States Public Radio, 320 W. University Drive, Macomb. Seating is limited. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly encouraged; order online at tristatesradio.com or call (800) 895-2912 between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Tickets are $10 for Tri States Public Radio members; $15 for the general public. Attendees are encouraged to bring along a non-perishable food item or personal care item for donation to Macomb Loaves and Fishes. For more information, visit tristatesradio.com.

Administrative internship meeting

The Affirmative Action Administrative Internship Committee will host an interest meeting from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the University Union Lincoln. Previous interns will describe their administrative internship experiences and how they affected career advancement.

RSVP is requested by Monday, Nov. 9. To sign up or for more information, contact Ellyn Bargas, assistant Equal Opportunity officer, at (309) 298-1977 or el-bargas@wiu.edu.

CIS to host talk on Middle East Nov. 7

Amos Guiora, professor of law at the University of Utah’s S. J. Quinney College of Law, will present “The Middle East: A Geo-political Analysis” as part of the The Center for International Studies’ Global Perspectives Series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 in the University Union Lamoine Room. The event is open free to the public.

Stuff the Bus food drive Nov. 12

The University community is encouraged to help collect 25,000 pounds of food for the annual Helping Hands Across America Stuff the Bus event, which will take place Thursday, Nov. 12 at campuses across the country. Sodexo, Western’s food service provider. The current world record of 396,832.07 pounds of food.

Beginning at 8 a.m. Nov. 12, non-perishable food items can be dropped off at Go West buses parked at Sherman Hall, the Courthouse Square and Wal-Mart.

Sodexo will donate the food collected to the WIU Black Student Association for its annual Thanksgiving basket project in which 150 baskets are donated to area families in need, and to Western’s Resident Assistants Council’s for the annual Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 19. All remaining food will be given to Loaves and Fishes. Etc. of Macomb.

For information or to volunteer, contact Eva Galbraith, WIU’s Sodexo marketing director, at eva.galbraith@sodexo.com or (309) 298-1982.

Developing new medicines, developing new scientists

Faculty, students conduct research funded by National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes for Health

“Discoveries come from a pioneering spirit, which teachers and researchers can encourage in students,” said Rose McConnell, professor and chair of the WIU chemistry department.

This summer (2009) and next (2010), McConnell and three other Western chemistry professors—Thottumkara “T. K.” Vinod, organic chemistry; Jin Jin, medicinal chemistry; and Lisa Wen, biochemistry—are leading a research project funded by a $196,833 grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes for Health; and a supplemental grant of $122,781 from funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which is designed to provide summer research experiences for students and science educators.

The goal of the research is to develop inhibitors to slow the activity of cathepsins, which are protease enzymes that promote metastases in tumors, McConnell explained.

“Discovery is the key to this project,” McConnell added. “This project is training existing public school science teachers, and students who will someday become scientists and engineers. We hope to show the participants how to inspire human curiosity by instilling in them a sense of discovery ourselves. While I see our project as being about the development of new medicines, I also see another outcome being the development of new scientists, and new science teachers who will carry the inspiration on in their future classrooms.

“In addition to the larger benefits of developing compounds to slow the growth of cancer, this project also gives students and faculty from the high school level on up the opportunity to understand the value of research through real life, hands-on training funded through a national grant,” McConnell said. “The ARRA supplement grant provides funds not only for research supplies, but for student stipends and for travel to present our findings at research conferences and symposia.”

Students will also have the opportunity to be listed as co-authors in subsequent journal articles, and that will give them “a leg up in getting into highly competitive research institutions when they are ready,” McConnell explained.

Senior forensic chemistry major Michael Bordowitz was among the students who participated in the research grant project in Summer 2009.

“We got first-hand training and experience on a wide variety of laboratory equipment that we would not normally get to use,” Bordowitz said. “There was so much more we got to do on a project of this magnitude that just cannot be covered in a regular classroom situation.”

Bordowitz worked with other WIU undergraduate and graduate students, area high school students and two high school science teachers on the research team for the project.

For more information about the grants and research, contact McConnell at the WIU chemistry department, (309) 298-1538, or e-mail RM-McConnell@wiu.edu.
News for Campus Connection?

Submission deadline: 10 a.m. Tuesday of publication week (View publication schedule at wiu.edu/connection.)

E-mail submissions to:
Campusconnection@wiu.edu, or fill out a form online at: wiu.edu/connection/submission

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.

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Campus Connection is Going ‘Green’!

To reduce costs and preserve environmental resources, Campus Connection is “going green,” effective Jan. 10, 2010. Campus Connection will be published online at wiu.edu/connection, and members of the WIU community are encouraged to subscribe to the Campus Connection Notification Services to receive an e-mail each time an issue is made available online. For subscription details, go to wiu.edu/econnection.
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