WIU Homecoming
Oct. 16-17

Western Illinois University will welcome back alumni and friends Friday-Saturday, Oct. 16-17 for Homecoming with the theme “All Around the World.”

Activities will begin Oct. 16 with an All-Alumni Social from 5-10 p.m. at the Alumni House on West Adams Street, across from Lake Ruth. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided.

Homecoming Day (Saturday, Oct. 17) activities will begin with the traditional Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround 5K Run/2 Mile Walk. Register at the Alumni House from 7-7:45 a.m. for the 8 a.m. race start. Then it is back to the Alumni House for a complimentary continental breakfast at 9 a.m. before the Homecoming Parade begins at 10:30 a.m., one block south of the Macomb Square.

The parade has a revised route that will bring participants toward campus on Sherman Avenue this year, marching on the road directly toward Sherman Hall.

Directions for the parade are as follows:

The parade departs from the corner of Washington Street and Lafayette Street heading north; it proceeds through the Square and exits onto Carroll Street where it turns west (left) until it intersects Sherman Avenue. It turns north on Sherman Avenue to Adams Street, where it turns west (left), passing the western half of Sherman Hall and the Alumni House. The parade ends in front of the Corbin-Olson residence halls. View the parade map at wiu.edu/news and click on the Sept. 11 news release.

One of the parade highlights is Western Illinois’ Leathernecks Marching Band, now under the direction of Shawn Vondran.

From noon-3 p.m. head to the large tent directly west of Hanson Field, and enjoy an Alumni cookout including burgers, brats, hot dogs, chips, pasta salad, cupcakes, drinks and a cash bar.

Round out the Homecoming weekend with Fighting Leathernecks football vs. Missouri State. Kickoff is at 3:05 p.m. at Hanson Field.

Fall 2009 enrollment report

Western Illinois University’s Fall 2009 new transfer student and Quad Cities enrollments have increased, while total enrollment for the University declined, according to 10-day enrollment reports.

Total new transfer student enrollment for Fall 2009 increased 4.6 percent to 1,332, up 59 students from last year. Quad Cities enrollment is up 1.5 percent, to 1,413 in Fall 2009 from 1,392 in Fall 2008. The Fall 2009 student headcount of 10,487 at the Western Macomb campus is down from 10,785 in Fall 2008. The number of new freshmen for Fall 2009 is 1,641 compared to 1,816 in Fall 2008.

The number of full-time enrolled students went from 10,648 in Fall 2008 to 10,446 in Fall 2009. Much of the decline, however, is related to a significant increase in the graduation rate and larger graduating classes, as well as significantly reducing off-campus graduate sponsored-credit courses. Fall 2009 enrollment is 12,679, compared to the Fall 2008 total of 13,175.

“We are pleased that transfer students are selecting Western Illinois University to finish their degree and that our Quad Cities campus continues to grow. However, one of the most important factors in our success is the retention of our students. This year our graduation rate was the highest in the University’s history at 59.3 percent,” said President Al Goldfarb.

“It is our mission to support students and provide the resources they need to succeed, including such factors that recently allowed us to retain our top tier ranking by U.S. News and World Report, such as our high graduation rate, small classes, a low student-faculty ratio and an affordable education,” Goldfarb said.

In addition to the recent U.S. News and World Report, in which Western continues to be ranked in the top tier of Midwest Universities Master’s-granting institutions for the fifth consecutive year, Western has also been named a Best Midwestern College by the Princeton Review and was recently designated as a “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs Magazine.

Despite a decline in the number of new freshmen enrolling at Western, new freshmen ACT average scores have increased, from 21.2 in Fall 2008 to 21.3 in Fall 2009 and the percentage of new students in the top 25 percent of their graduating class has increased to 24 percent this fall, from 22 percent in Fall 2008.

See “Enrollment,” p.2

H1N1 prevention, absence policy info

As recent news stories have reported, cases of H1N1 on college campuses and within the K-12 school systems are on the rise. According to Mary Margaret Harris, director of Beu Health Center, there has been an increase at Western of students reporting flu-like symptoms; however, there has not yet been a confirmed H1N1 case. Harris stressed there are a few things everyone can do to keep all flu and cold bugs at bay.

Prevention is often the best medicine to avoid the virus, Harris stressed. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Tips to avoid the transmission of influenza include:

- covering a cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve, not hands; frequent handwashing; staying home when sick; and get a flu shot.
- Follow other common sense advice like not sharing cups, straws or eating utensils; avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth; and clean commonly-touched surfaces (door knobs, refrigerator handles, telephones, etc.). Also, eat a variety of foods from all food groups, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep every night. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), proper handwashing is the single most important action that people can take to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others.
- “The key to avoiding so many illnesses comes down to handwashing,”

See “H1N1” p.2
Founders’ Day Celebration Sept. 23 at WIU-Macomb

“The History of Western Illinois University” is the theme of the 16th annual Founders’ Day Celebration Wednesday, Sept. 23 in the WIU-Macomb University Union Grand Ballroom.

The WIU-Quad Cities celebration will be held Thursday, Sept. 24, beginning at 9 a.m. in Room 102.

At WIU-Macomb, doors will open at 11:15 a.m. for the buffet luncheon. The program will begin at approximately 12:20 p.m. and will include a nine-minute historic video of Western; the procession and introduction of the stage party; the traditional ringing of the bell by Lana Myers, a retired University employee and granddaughter of Edwin DeCamp, who first rang the bell Sept. 23, 1902 to signal the start of classes at Western Illinois State Normal School; and the president’s address. Paul Kreider, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will perform Western’s Alma Mater, 2008-Fall 2009) will be recognized. Curriculum to more than 12,600 students.

College of Fine Arts and Communication, awards throughout the past year (Fall University, which offers a comprehensive

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President Al Goldfarb will deliver his State of the University address, beginning at approximately 12:50 p.m. Seating will be available for those who could not attend the luncheon.

The traditional ringing of the bell by WIU retiree Lana Myers, granddaughter of Edwin DeCamp, who first rang the bell to signal the start of classes at Western Illinois State Normal School.

received distinguished awards and service awards throughout the past year (Fall 2008-Fall 2009) will be recognized.

President Al Goldfarb will deliver his State of the University address, beginning at approximately 12:50 p.m. Seating will be available for those who could not attend the luncheon.

After the president’s address, there will be a short preview of Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Hallwas’ video “Western’s Historic Campus,” which is a segment of the three-part series “Macomb’s Historic Places,” created by Hallwas and Roger Kent of University Television.

A reception, including cake—to celebrate Western’s 110th birthday from its founding (April 24, 1899) and the 107th birthday from the day the school opened its doors (Sept. 23, 1902) to classes—will be held in the Union Prairie Lounge after the Founders’ Day program, beginning at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Established in 1994, Founders’ Day is celebrated to honor the beginnings of the University that evolved from the Western Illinois Normal and Training School with 229 students on Sept. 23, 1902 to today’s University, which offers a comprehensive curriculum to more than 12,600 students.

While registration deadline for the luncheon has passed, Goldfarb’s address will be available online at wiu.edu/unews/lectures later in the afternoon Sept. 23.

Get into the ‘spirit’ of exercise Sept. 22

Looking to reduce stress through exercise, but not quite sure how to fit it into your busy schedule? John Simmons, chair of the philosophy and religious studies department, will provide some tips for stress reduction and fitness in his presentation “Intricate Fitness Training: Reduce Stress by Integrating Mind, Body and Spirit into Your Exercise Program” from 4:30–5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Stipes Hall 501. Offered as part of Campus Recreation’s Employee Wellness program, Simmons’ presentation will cover the “big three” components of fitness: body, mind and spirit.

Simmons’ presentation will also cover mind and spiritual fitness; he will discuss how the left and right brain function, as well as how individuals can retrain their brains to ultimately result in the integration of the mind and spirit into a successful, stress-reducing exercise program. The presentation is open free to the public.

For more information, contact Campus Recreation at (309) 298-1228 or C-Rec@wiu.edu.

Enrollment, cont’d

Fall 2009 extension enrollment is 840, compared to 1,030 in Fall 2008. However, extension enrollment for undergraduate-level courses is up 121 students, from 355 in 2008 to 476 in Fall 2009. Graduate student enrollment increased on the Macomb campus to 1,080, from 1,076 in Fall 2008. WIU-QC graduate student enrollment is 682, down seven students from last year.

“While Western remains successful, we do still face some considerable challenges. We must focus on increased freshmen recruitment and retention,” Goldfarb added. “We must carefully review our recruitment procedures, and we must focus on making freshmen recruitment a Universitywide priority.”

According to Joe Rives, vice president of Quad Cities, planning and technology, as part of Western’s institutional self-study for reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the University benchmarked enrollment reporting practices at peer institutions, as well as with state and federal standards. Total enrollment now reflects enrollment at both Western Illinois University campuses.

H1N1, cont’d

Seasonal flu symptoms develop quickly; include fever and a sore throat and/or coughing, body aches, chills and headache. Reported H1N1 symptoms are similar to seasonal flu and may also include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The symptoms of the common cold are generally much milder than the flu, develop more slowly, and usually do not include a fever.

Employees with flu-like symptoms should contact their local health care provider. In addition, a recent policy was established regarding student and employee absences should there be a significant H1N1 outbreak. Employees missing work as a result of displaying flu-like symptoms or being diagnosed with H1N1 need to contact their supervisor as soon as possible. Employees should stay home if exhibiting flu-like symptoms or receiving an H1N1 diagnosis.

McDonough County Health Department staff will provide WIU employees and retirees with seasonal flu shots Oct. 13-14 in the University Union Lincoln Room on the WIU-Macomb campus. More information will be released at a later date. For more information, visit wiu.edu/pandemic.

wiu.edu/connection — page 2
Siddiqi named interim chair

Longtime Journalism Professor Mohammad Siddiqi was appointed interim chair of the English and Journalism department July 1, according to College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Susan Martinelli-Fernandez.

Siddiqi joined Western’s faculty in Fall 1987, teaching public relations, international press and research methods. He is the author of “Islam, Muslims and Media: Myths and Realities” (1997) and “Islam: A Contemporary Perspective” (1993). Siddiqi has also authored numerous book chapters and articles in referred journals. In addition to his teaching duties, he serves as faculty adviser to the WIU Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). Prior to his appointment as interim chair, Siddiqi was the director of journalism program in the department.

“As interim chair, my goals are to help faculty achieve excellence in teaching, research and service, serve student’s needs as best as possible and help strengthen our various programs and units,” Siddiqi said. Siddiqi is a member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA); a life member of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR); and serves as an editorial board member of the Journal of Arab & Muslim Media Research, UK; Journal of Media Studies, Pakistan; and the Journal of the Global Communication Research Association.

“Dr. Siddiqi’s appointment ensures a seamless transition for the department. His experience will allow him to effectively lead the English and journalism department and continue its commitment to excellence,” said Martinelli-Fernandez. Siddiqi received his doctorate degree from Temple University; his master’s degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago; and a master’s degree in physics from Aligarh Muslim University in India. He has extensively traveled more than 30 countries of the world lecturing and conducting workshops on media issues, Islam and media in the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Civil Service news

New Employees


Frederick, Chad, customer service representative II, Student Assistance and Parent Services Center, 8/17/09, University Union, 298-2092.

Huston, April, office support assistant, Admissions, 8/17/09, Sherman Hall 115, 298-3157.

McBride, Ryan, microcomputer support specialist II, Electronic Student Services, 8/24/09, Seal Hall 245, 298-2038.

Moore, Jeffery, bookstore department supervisor, University Union Bookstore, 8/17/09, University Union, 298-1931.

Promotions/Transfers/Reassigns

Eyler, Christie, office support specialist, International Non-Credit Program, transferred to office support specialist, Management, 9/16/09.

Lutz, Deborah, office support associate, UHDS, promoted to office support specialist, Geography, 8/17/09.

Walker, Chad, musical instrument technician III, Music, change from 45% to 100%.

Resignations

Hasty, Grace, digital imaging specialist I, Visual Production Center, 8/6/09

Kaufman, Ginger, library specialist, University Libraries, 7/31/09.

Markley, Deborah, internal auditor II, Accounting Office, 7/22/09.

Retirements

Pruitt, Marilyn, publicity-promotion specialist, Vice President for Advancement and Public Services, 7/31/09.

Senior services info

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

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, you can pick up a free copy of the booklet at one of these public places:

McDonough District Hospital Public Relations (Lower Level)

Macomb YMCA Senior Citizen Desk

Macomb City Hall

The booklet is also available online at macombaarpceo.org. For more information, call Mary Warnock at (309) 833-2947.

ROTC fundraiser

Would you like to fire the cannon at a home Leatherneck football game? Then get in the game, and get tickets for a drawing sponsored by Western Illinois University’s Army ROTC program.

Cost is $1 per ticket and $5 for six tickets. The drawing will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13, and winners will be contacted by phone. Three winners will have the chance to fire the cannon at WIU’s Saturday, Oct. 17 Homecoming football game vs. Missouri State at 3:05 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the ROTC Office, Horrabin 103, or by phone at (309) 298-1161. All proceeds go to Western’s Army ROTC program (wiu.edu/ROTC).

Registration due for Big Pink teams

Attention all employees! Thursday, Sept. 24 is the last day to register your Big Pink Volleyball team. Form a team of 6-12 people for this breast cancer philanthropic event and play with a 4-foot wide, hot pink volleyball in this single elimination tournament. You can download the registration form and information packet from the Campus Recreation website at campusrec.wiu.edu. Just click on Special Events and look under Quick Info. Turn your registration form in to the Campus Recreation Office in the Spencer Student Recreation Center, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost is $5 per person. Proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation and the Mammogram Assistance Program and other cancer screenings at McDonough District Hospital. Thomson Hall and Campus Recreation are proud sponsors of the annual Big Pink Volleyball Tournament and hope you will show your support by forming a team or purchasing an “ipink” T-shirt.

For more information, contact Dustin Van Sloten at 298-1228, 225 or DR-VanSloten@wiu.edu
Simpson named interim chair of African American Studies

African American Studies (AAS) Associate Professor Alphonso Simpson has been appointed interim chair of AAS, effectively immediately, according to College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Susan Martinielli-Fernandez.

Simpson takes over for Abdul-Rashheed Na’Allah, who is on a one-semester leave of absence to provide expertise and consultation on establishing a new university, Kwara State University, in Nigeria.

“Dr. Simpson’s willingness to step in to help us during Dr. Na’Allah’s leave is a testament to his commitment to the Department of African American Studies and to the College of Arts and Sciences,” said Martinielli-Fernandez. “Dr. Simpson is imminently qualified to serve in the role of interim chairperson. He has been an active member of the department’s committees including personnel; curriculum and planning, which he chaired twice; recruitment and admissions; and assessment. He has also been a member of the University’s minority recruitment board for six years. I look forward to working with him in the coming months.”

Simpson joined the African American Studies faculty in 2000. In addition to his highly-acclaimed teaching skills by his students, he is well known throughout the area for his gospel singing as well as founding and directing the United Voices of Western Inspirational Singers, a group that performs at area churches, on campus and throughout the Macomb area.

Simpson earned his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wyoming; his Master of Music Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia; and his Bachelor of Science from Alabama State University.

“I count it a privilege and an honor to be chosen to carry the mantle as the interim chair of the Department of African American Studies. To know that I have the strong support of my colleagues as well as the administration and staff of the college and University at large makes this charge even more exciting,” said Simpson.

“It is my goal to take this department to higher heights and deeper depths on many levels. We have already begun to see significant growth in the department with the increase of majors as well as minors in the discipline.

“This year, marking the 40th anniversary of the very first African American studies department in the nation at San Francisco State University, is monumental, not only for the department here at Western, but for African American studies departments nationwide,” Simpson added. “I am sincerely excited and grateful to serve our campus and our community in this capacity at this juncture in the history of African American studies. As our department mission states, we seek to be counted, nationally and internationally, among the leading AAS departments in America and the world, and will strive to produce graduates fully equipped to succeed in their future careers or graduate training endeavors, who will be leaders in shaping our global society. We will also continue to be a department where teaching, research and community outreach programs are at their highest standards. It is my pleasure to accept this responsibility.”

Grants

Kathy Barclay, Curriculum and Instruction—$78,567 from the Illinois Reading Council for “Illinois Reading Council Year 7.”

Lori Sutton, IIRA—$4,978 in supplemental funding from various sources for “Continuum of Care Support.”

Richard Carter, Non-Traditional Programs—$10,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA for “Degrees at a Distance - FY10.”

Gisele Hamm, IIRA—$4,151 in supplemental funding from various sources for the “MAPPING Community Support.”

Mary Margaret Harris, Beu Health Center—$3,000 from the Mercer County Health Department for “Pandemic Flu Summer 2009.”

Ed Heflin, IIRA—$657,277 from the Illinois Department of Transportation for “Coordination of Capital Projects.”

Joyce Johanson, CBPECE—$318,050 from the Illinois Department of Human Services for “Provider Connections: Credentialing and Enrollment.”

Laurence Leff, Computer Science—$350 in supplemental funding from Civics.com for “The Open Dialogue Project.”

Susie Nichols, ILEEI—$157,921 from the State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor’s Office for OVW FY2008 Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders.”

Susan Romano, Biological Sciences—$4,647 from the Wetlands Initiative, Inc. for “The Wetland Initiatives Boltonia decurrens Survey.”

Kim Wisslead and Richard Chamberlain, CAIT—$750,000 from the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation for “Metra Online Training Project.”

‘Let’s Cook’ sessions offered for employees

This fall, WIU students studying dietetics will provide their nutrition and cooking expertise to WIU employees through a series of cooking classes. Offered through Western’s human resources office, the “Let’s Cook!” sessions will provide hands-on lessons for preparing meals that are tasty and figure friendly. Each session will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. in Knoblauch Hall 230, on the following dates:

Monday, Sept. 28: beef meal
Wednesday, Oct. 14: fish meal
Monday, Oct. 26: chicken meal
Wednesday, Nov. 4: vegetarian meal

Each session is limited to 20 participants and will be guided by students studying dietetics in WIU’s dietetics, fashion merchandising and hospitality (DFMH) department.

For more information or to register, contact Sharon Chenoweth, office manager in WIU’s human resources office, at (309) 298-1971 or S-Chenoweth@wiu.edu.

Learn more about other training and development sessions offered through human resources at wiu.edu/hr/training/eventsdetail.

Register for educators’ conference

Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 25 for “Exclusion and Aggression: Identifying and Intervening in Bullying Behavior,” a one-day conference designed for professionals who work with school-aged youth, on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at The Lodge Hotel and Conference Center in Bettendorf, IA.

Visit wiu.edu/noncredit and click on “Conferences and Workshops,” or contact the Office of Non-Credit Programs at (866) 933-8964 or (309) 298-1911.

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‘Big Picture’ event Wednesday, Sept. 23

The University Committee on Sexual Orientation (UCOSO) will sponsor the fifth annual “The Big Picture” event Wednesday, Sept. 23 at both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. All members of the Western, Macomb and QC communities are invited to participate as a show of support.

The photograph of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgenderized students, faculty, staff and community members, along with their family, friends and allies, will be taken on the front steps of the WIU-QC 60th street campus at 3:45 p.m. and on the Sherman Hall front steps on the Macomb campus at 4:15 p.m. Sept. 23. “The photo event is a great way to show support and create more awareness and understanding of the diversity we have on our campuses and in our communities,” said Melanie Hetzel-Riggin, co-chair of UCOSO. “We welcome everyone on campus and in the community to join us on the front steps of Sherman Hall and the Quad Cities campus for this year’s ‘big picture.’”

Professional activities

Ellyn Bartges, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois, presented “Keeping Score: a Coach’s Autoethographic Journey” at the Fifth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, May 20-23 in Champaign, IL and “Frontier Extreme Thesis” at the 37th Annual Conference of the North American Society for Sport History, May 22-25th in Asheville, NC.


Estela Pledge, Beu Health Center-AOD Resource Center, has been nominated for Cambridge’s “Who’s Who of American Counselors.” She also had her article, “Codependency Revisited,” published in the Summer 2009 edition of Illinois Counselor. Pledge is also co-author (with her grandson, Justin) of the book “Nico & Nana,” which is going into its second printing, (and will be featured in a book signing from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at New Copperfield’s Book Service).

Victor Rich, former education professor, received (along with his wife, Jeanne, of Galesburg (IL), the highest award given from Silliman University in the Philippines for their years of volunteer service. The Riches, who are the first Americans to receive The Order of Horace P. Silliman, were honored at a reception in Orlando, FL in July. Rich and his wife volunteered at Silliman University during the summers, from 1983 until 1992.

Mohammad Siddiqi, English and journalism, chaired a session and presented “Democracy, Islam, and Human Rights: A Conceptual and Analytical Discourse” at the International Conference of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) held in Mexico City in July; and was an invited panelist and presented “Islamic Ethics, Media Freedom and the Current Situation in Muslim Countries” at the 92nd Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) held in Boston in August.


John Wozniak, Sociology and Anthropology, presented “Cracking Down on Immigrants: The New War on Drugs” at the Annual Meeting of the Justice Studies Association. He is also the current President of this Association.

Faculty book reading and signing Sept. 26

Authors of two books recently published by faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences will hold a book reading/signing at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at New Copperfield’s Book Service, 120 North Side Square, Macomb.

Copies of both books will be available for purchase at the event. Refreshments will be served.

The featured books and authors will be:
- “Interdisciplinary Views on Abortion: Essays from Philosophical, Sociological, Anthropological, Political, Health and Other Perspectives” (McFarland and Company, Inc.) edited by Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, professor of philosophy and interim dean of Western’s College of Arts and Sciences; Lori Baker-Sperry, associate professor of women’s studies; and Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, professor of anthropology, and
- “Media Bias? A Comparative Study of Time, Newsweek, the National Review, and the Progressive, 1975-2000 (Lexington Books) by Tawnya Adkins Covert, associate professor of sociology, and Philo Wasburn (professor of sociology at Purdue University)

For more information, contact Adkins Covert at 298-1372 or TJ-adkinscovert@wiu.edu.