WIU-QC receives $1 million for engineering program

The Western Illinois University-Quad Cities campus has received $1 million from the John Deere Foundation and The Moline Foundation for the University’s new engineering program that will begin this fall.

The donations—$500,000 from each foundation—will support lease space and equipment. WIU-QC officials are evaluating bids to lease 9,000 square feet of space in downtown Moline to temporarily house the engineering program until the WIU-QC Riverfront Campus Building I is open.

“These collaborative relationships further Western’s mission of providing a quality, affordable public education to the residents of this region,” said President Al Goldfarb. “The new engineering program builds on the University’s traditions of academic excellence and educational opportunity.”

According to Joe Rives, WIU vice president of WIU-QC, planning and technology, the foundations’ contributions represent “a great partnership between Western and its host community.”

The University will invest an additional $2 million in the engineering program over a four-year period; however, additional assistance and community partnerships are necessary for space, internships, capstone projects, research and outreach, Rives added.

“Western is an active citizen in the Quad Cities region, and the support we receive from business, industry and nonprofit organizations helps us remain a viable member of this community,” Rives said. “Through this gift, our students and the citizens of this region will have expanded opportunities to further their education in a high demand field.”

The 133-semester hour engineering degree will be delivered at the WIU-Macomb and WIU-Quad Cities campuses.

A decade of ‘Go-ing West’: Bus service celebrates 10-year anniversary

It all started 10 years ago, during a bitter cold winter, with three busses and two routes.

Today, 28 busses and 12 routes—including several community routes—comprise Western Illinois University’s and the McDonough County Public Transportation System’s Go West transit system.

Go West commemorated its 10th anniversary on March 2 with University and local officials, as well as Go West drivers and staff, at a special celebration at the Macomb Community School District No. 185 bus garage in Macomb. During the past 10 years, Go West has carried nearly 11.5 million riders.

“Our system is successful for one major reason: our drivers,” said Go West Director Jude Kiah. “We have very low turnover in drivers, maybe the lowest in the state. Our drivers are dedicated, selfless and care about their passengers. They know that many people depend on them everyday. I am humbled to work with people who care for others like our drivers do. To be the largest rural system in the U.S. (by ridership), and to still have mom-and-pop values; that’s our real success.”

According to Kiah, as the number of busses and routes increases, so does the number of people riding. Kiah said the system is currently carrying upwards of 50,000 riders each week. In 2008, the system was recently one of 10 transit systems—and the only rural fixed route system—in the U.S. honored by the Federal Transit Administration Award for Success in Enhancing Ridership.

“We are continually working to further improve the system to make it as convenient as possible for the public to get where they need to go,” Kiah added.

“We’re proud that we’ve been able to offer a fixed route to students and citizens for the last 10 years,” stated Macomb Mayor Mick Wisslead. “We’re also proud that our system ranks high, if not highest in the state in terms of efficiency and ridership.”

For more information, including bus routes, schedules and fares, visitgowest.wiu.edu.
“Quad Cities,” from p.1

It will provide an integrated course of study. The program will be a plus-two degree completion program (junior and senior years) articulated with the pre-engineering transfer programs at the WIU-Macomb campus and other four-year universities, along with community colleges in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, including Black Hawk College and the Eastern Iowa Community College District.

Western’s Quad-Cities-based engineering program will be linked to QC businesses through required internships, cooperative education experiences and capstone projects. A search is currently underway for a director for Western’s new School of Engineering.

“We have been working with our community college partners, Black Hawk and Scott, to ensure a seamless transition into Western’s engineering program,” said College of Business and Technology Dean Tom Erekson. “We have had a significant number of inquiries from potential students who want to become engineers.”

Professional activities

J. Scott McConnell, Chemistry, received an award for his dedication in research of soil and water conservation at the recent National Conservation Systems Conference in Marksville, LA.

McConnell also presented an invited paper on his research, “Soil Acidity and pH as Influenced by N-Fertilization and Irrigation,” at the National Conservation Systems Conference.


Grants

Gloria Delany-Barmann, Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies—$55,000 from the IFSA Foundation for “Bilingual/ bicultural Study Abroad Scholarships.”

Richard Chamberlain and Crystal Hack, Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT)—$88,560 in supplemental funding from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) for “Career and Academic Readiness System (CARS).”

Gisele Hamm, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA)—$20,000 from the Corporation for the National and Community Service for “Community Outreach Support” and $175 in supplemental funding from various sources for “MAPPING Community Support.”

Jack Huang and Lisa Wen, Chemistry—$1,300 from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for “Travel Award to Attend the 2009 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting.”

Sean Jenkins, Biological Sciences—$12,600 from the Earthwatch Institute for “Long-term Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Projects on the Upper Mississippi River.”

Payroll notice: do you need to file a W-4?

Since you last filed a W-4 form with the Payroll Office, have you
- married or divorced?
- gained or lost a dependent?
- changed your name?

Were there major changes to
- your non-wage income (interest, dividends, capital gains, etc.)?
- your family wage income (you or your spouse started or ended a job)?
- your itemized deductions?
- your tax credits?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, or if you owed extra tax when you filed your 2008 return, you may need to file a new W-4.

If the number of withholding allowances you are entitled to increases, you may submit a new W-4 any time thereafter.

If the number of withholding allowances you are entitled to decreases, a new W-4 is required to be submitted within 10 days. A new W-4 may be completed in the Payroll Office, 221 Sherman Hall.

For more information, call (309) 298-1867.

Become a ‘VIP’ and help clean up HFC

Get on the VIP crew and help prepare Horn Field Campus (HFC) prepare for warmer weather. As members of the VIP (Volunteer, Improve, Preserve) crew, individuals will help clear debris on and mulch HFC’s trails. Spring 2009 VIP Days are slated for 1-4 p.m., Thursdays, March 12, March 26, April 16 and May 7.

Open year-round, the 92-acre retreat features a rustic, relaxed setting with woodlands, prairie and several miles of nature trails.

Spring 2009 VIP Days’ crew members should come prepared for the weather. Wearing work gloves and work clothes are recommended. Refreshments will be provided.

HFC is located south of Macomb on China Road. From South Johnson Street (past Macomb High School), turn right on China Road and follow the road one-quarter of a mile to the Horn Field Campus entrance.

For more information about HFC and the Spring 2009 VIP days, contact Mindy Pfeiffer at (309) 833-5798 or MJ-Pfeiffer@wiu.edu. Visit HFC online at wiu.edu/RPTA/HFC.
Sixth Environmental Summit to feature author, cancer survivor

The Sixth Annual Western Illinois University Environmental Summit, “Healthy Planet, Healthy People,” will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 8 in the University Union Grand Ballroom.

According to Mindy Pheiffer, program coordinator of Western’s Horn Field Campus and summit chair, the summit promotes environmentally sustainable values, lifestyle and educational activities for the campus community and surrounding region. The event features a keynote speaker, roundtable discussions, poster presentations and displays. The summit ties in with the Universitywide annual theme, which is “Health and Wellness—Challenges and Responsibilities.”

“The summit is a forum for information exchange between campus and community groups and organizations to promote environmental responsibility and sustainability,” Pheiffer added.

Organizers are currently seeking individuals to host roundtable discussions related to the theme. In addition, individuals, groups and organizations are invited to present displays and poster presentations that have an environmental focus.

Roundtable and presentation topics should be submitted to Pheiffer at (309) 833-5798 or MJ-Pheiffer@wiu.edu by Friday, March 13.

Ecologist, author and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health, will serve as this year’s keynote speaker. The author of “Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment,” “Having Faith: An Ecologist’s Journey to Motherhood” and “Post-Diagnosis,” Steingraber will speak at noon in the Grand Ballroom. She will also speak at 7 p.m. at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, IA. Both presentations are open free to the public.

Steingraber received her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan and master’s degree in English from Illinois State University. She has taught biology at Columbia College in Chicago; held visiting fellowships at the University of Illinois, Radcliffe/ Harvard and Northeastern University; and served on President Clinton’s National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. Formerly on faculty at Cornell University, Steingraber is currently a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College (NY).

Her book “Living Downstream” presents cancer as a human rights issue. It was the first to bring together data on toxic releases with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. Continuing the investigation begun in “Living Downstream,” Steingraber’s “Having Faith” explores the ecology of motherhood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, “Having Faith” reveals the extent to which environmental hazards threaten crucial stages of infant development.

The summit is sponsored by the University Sustainability Committee, the University Theme Committee, Horn Field Campus, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Physical Plant, the Institute for Environmental Studies, Women’s Center, Centennial Honors College, Purchasing Office, Program for the Study of Ethics, College of Education and Human Services, Sodexo Campus Services and the departments of health sciences; recreation, park and tourism administration; and English and journalism.

For more information, contact Pheiffer at (309) 833-5798 or MJ-Pheiffer@wiu.edu.

Civil Service news

NEW EMPLOYEES

Jones, Stephanie A., Library Assistant, Malpass Library, 2/24/09. Campus Address: Malpass Library, Phone: 298-2761.

PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS/REASSIGNS


RESIGNATIONS

Merritt, Jeremy T., Webmaster, Electronic Student Services 1/31/09. Accepted an A&P position on campus.

Shoemaker, Amanda J., Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, Alumni 2/28/09. Accepted an A&P position on campus.

Training sessions available

Employees are invited to sign up for:

Microsoft Excel 2007-Introduction, 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, Morgan Hall, Room 122.

Participants will learn to navigate the ribbon, use quick access toolbar, use key tips, change views, navigate through the workbook, add text, format columns and rows, and add basic formatting to a workbook and/or worksheet.

Microsoft Excel 2007 – Basic Formulas and Functions 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, Morgan Hall Room 122.

Participants will learn relative and absolute cell references, basic mathematical operators, formulas with multiple cell references, and basic Excel functions.

Classes are limited to 12 people. To register, contact Becky Ebey at RL-Ebey@wiu.edu or (309) 298-1971, or register online at wiu.edu/hr/training.

Civil Service Employee Council Elections

The annual election of Civil Service Employee Council members will be held in April.

Interested persons should submit a Statement of Candidacy signed by their supervisor no later than noon Monday, March 30 to be included on the ballot.

The Statement of Candidacy can be printed from the CSEC web site on the left side under Public Files - Other Documents.

Submit statements to any council member or mail them to CSEC Election Committee C/O Jim Buffalo Physical Plant - Building Maintenance. Openings exist in all employee groups.

To determine the appropriate group, visit the CSEC web site at wiu.edu/csec, or call Human Resources at (309) 298-1971.
Adviser award nominations sought

Nominations are being accepted for the annual Outstanding Academic Adviser Award.

The recipient will receive a $250 cash award from the Alumni Association and $250 in line item expenditures and a plaque from the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR).

The winner’s application packet will be submitted as Western’s entry to the National Academic Advisers Association competition. Selection will be made by the Outstanding Academic Adviser Award Committee. Every college is encouraged to submit a candidate for the award.

Eligibility: Full- or part-time faculty members or academic support personnel responsible for academic advising of undergraduate students and assigned a caseload of academic advisees are eligible. The period of service covered by the award is Fall 2008 through Spring 2009. It is expected that nominees will be employed at WIU during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Criteria: Nominations will be accepted from students, peers, supervisors, or through self-nomination. The nominating letter should document excellence in two or more of the following categories:

- Service to students as an adviser
- Student perceptions of adviser’s abilities based on evaluations
- Size, composition, and effective management of caseload with emphasis on qualitative management
- Knowledge of advising principles and University rules and regulations
- Meeting student needs beyond the expectations of the position

Procedure: Nominations should be submitted to the CITR, Malpass Library 637. Each nomination letter should describe the nominator’s perception of the adviser’s effectiveness. The nomination must be accompanied by a minimum of two and a maximum of five letters of support secured by the nominator.

Letters of support from students are particularly encouraged. If the nominator is not the department chair or supervisor of the nominee, the nominator should ask the chair or supervisor to submit in writing his/her perceptions of the adviser’s effectiveness.

Deadline for nominations: May 1.

Western Lites Cafe: Spring menu announced

Looking for an inexpensive way to spice up your daily at-work lunch routine? From 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (through Thursday, April 16) Western Lites Cafe, in Knoblauch Hall 239, will provide diners with tasty, health-conscious lunchtime fare.

Western Lites Cafe is operated by WIU students in the dietetics, fashion merchandising and hospitality (DFMH) department. Cost for one entree (including side dishes) is $6 and dessert is $1.

This semester, the department is offering savings via season tickets: $40 for all Tuesdays during Spring 2009 and $40 for all Thursdays through Thursday, April 16. According to Sheryl Boston, DFMH associate professor, the experience provides the campus community with meals low in fat, moderate in calories and high in fiber and provides students with real-world skills and food-service experience.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by contacting Penny Corder at (309) 298-1085 or PS-Corder@wiu.edu.

Menus for the remainder of the Spring 2009 semester include:

March 10: Barley broccoli soup, creamy beef sandwich or black bean pasta (vegetarian entrée), apricot aspic and ultimate fruit pizza

March 12: Homemade personal pizza or California veggie pizza (vegetarian entrée), bok choy salad (second entrée) and white chocolate raspberry cheesecake

March 24: Grilled steak wraps or Mexican roll ups (vegetarian entrée), baked corn pudding, tossed green salad and blue and black cobbler

Affirmative Action internship available

The Affirmative Action Internship Committee invites full-time continuing employees to apply for an Administrative Internship for the 2009-2010 academic year. All employees holding at least a bachelor’s degree who have been employed full-time by the University for a minimum of two years are eligible to apply.

Applications are available through the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and online at mvs.wiu.edu/jes2mail/AdminInternshipProgramSP09.pdf

Application deadline is Friday, March 13. For more information, contact Ellyn Bartges at (309) 298-1977 or EL-Bartges@wiu.edu.

‘Bond phenom’ to speak at AIS

Raymond Benson, author of James Bond’s books from 1996-2002, will present the lecture “The James Bond Phenomenon” and book-signing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 in the Tri States Public Radio’s Performance Studio, 320 University Drive. Tri-States Audio Information Services (AIS), along with Western’s English and journalism department, is sponsoring the author and event. The lecture is open free to the public; however, seating is limited. Reservations are recommended.

To make reservations, call (800) 895-2912 or (309) 298-2403.
Herbst benefit
Saturday, March 7

Friends and co-workers of David and Sharon Herbst, both WIU employees, will host a benefit for the Herbst family beginning at noon Saturday, March 7 at the Macomb V.F.W. David is a Building Services/Physical Plant foreman. Sharon works in the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA).

Since being diagnosed with cancer approximately more than two years ago, David has undergone several treatments, but the cancer has been resistant to most treatments. The benefit has been organized to help ease the Herbsts’ stress financial strain.

The event will include food, raffles, a 50/50 drawing, auction, and several musical groups performing throughout the day including the Beck Brothers and the Daddy O’s.

An account has been set up under “David Herbst Benefit” at Western Illinois Credit Union, 322 W. University Drive, Macomb, IL 61455 for those who wish to contribute money.

For more information, contact Melanie Brooks at (309) 456-3648 or Vicki Tait at VL-Tait@wiu.edu.

Spring break at the WIU Rec Center

The Spencer Student Recreation Center, including the Aquatics Center, will operate under special hours during Western’s Spring Break week, Monday-Friday, March 16-20. Visit campusrec.wiu.edu and click on “Important Information and Special Hours” for details. Regular hours will resume on Sunday, March 22.

Chair massages

Certified massage therapist Tammy Miller, who provides massages every Wednesday in the Spencer SRC Colgate Room, will be on campus during the University’s spring break week from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Treat yourself to a “miniature spring break” with a chair massage for $1/minute.

Go exercise!

To learn the basics of some popular fitness routines, join Andi Cokel from 4:45-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17 and Thursday, March 19, in the Spencer SRC Fitness Studio West as part of the “Go Western!” employee development program. For more information visit wiu.edu/hr/training/eventsdetail.php.

Obituary
Robert Sutton, 68, professor emeritus of history and past director of the Center for Icarian Studies and Local and Regional Collections in University Library Archives, passed away Feb. 17 at his home in Macomb, surrounded by family. He died from esophageal cancer.

Sutton came to WIU in 1970 as an assistant professor of history, specializing in American legal history and the Age of Jefferson and Jackson. Previously, he taught at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Christopher Newport College (VA) and the College of William and Mary. In the mid-1970s, his research interests expanded to areas associated with his new surroundings—Illinois, Abraham Lincoln and the history of American communal utopias, specifically French Icarians.

A prolific scholar, Sutton earned international recognition for his expertise in utopias, which is the basis of nine of his 13 published books. He earned the Illinois State Historical Society Certificate of Excellence Award for his book “Rivers, Railways, and Roads: A History of Henderson County, Illinois,” and his book “Revolution to Succession: Constitution Making in the Old Dominion” was nominated for the Merle Curti Award in American Intellectual History. In 1998 he received the Donald E. Pitzer Distinguished Service Award from the Communal Studies Association. He also co-authored and co-narrated the 12-episode documentary “Illinois Historic Panorama,” and was recognized as a leading authority on the history of Illinois.

Sutton served as the grievance officer for Western’s statewide faculty union. He also served on the board of directors for WIU’s LIFE (Learning is ForEver) program. He was on the National Communal Studies Association board of directors and on the historic markers committee of the Illinois State Historical Society. He retired in 2004, after 34 years of service to the University, the western Illinois region and the state of Illinois. Foundation Fellowship.

Memorials may be made to scholarships in Western Illinois University’s history department, the McDonough District Hospital Hospice Program or to the American Cancer Society.

Summer camps offered: art, math, film

The Office of Non-Credit Programs seeks to notify parents of three summer youth programs to be offered this summer on the Macomb campus.

Art for Gifted and Talented Students (June 14-19 and June 21-26), provides art instruction in painting, drawing, airbrush, computer art, and 3-D art to students in fourth-eighth grades. The program is offered as a residential and commuter program for students in fourth-sixth grades for Session I, and sixth-eighth grades for Session II.

Along with instruction, participants take part in a variety of afternoon and evening recreational activities including swimming, bowling, movies, and cookouts.

Adventures in Filmmaking (July 12-18) is offered to current high school students interested in the filmmaking process. Participants write, direct, shoot, edit, and act in their own short narrative films. The residential program is offered on the Macomb campus.

Girls Plus Math is offered as a residential program for girls ages 11-13 on the Macomb campus. Participants are instructed in math and math-related areas, including polynomials, webpage design, tessellations, estimation and critical thinking, calculator activities, and origami. A recreational component includes swimming, movies, bowling, crafts, and cookouts.

For more information or to register, call (309) 298-1911 or visit wiu.edu/noncredit.

Accessibility notice:
Memorial Hall

The fencing for the construction staging area and the partial closure of sidewalks have slightly altered the accessibility route near Memorial Hall.

The parking lot remains open for faculty and staff parking; however, to accommodate contractors’ access to the building, a portion of the lot and the sidewalks along the west and southwest sides of Memorial Hall are closed. A small section of the east end of the lot will also be fenced off. Signs indicating the routes will be posted.

Any questions can be directed to Disability Support Services, (309) 298-2512 or Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, (309) 298-1977.
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, April 3

Submission Deadline: 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 31

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Herbst benefit; Spring break at the Rec; Obituary; Summer camps; Campus accessibility notice .......................... 5
Spring 2009 Important Dates

* 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

How much did you say?

WIU-QC students reveal a recent donation amount made by the Deere and Moline foundations. See details inside.

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