WIU holds nation's broadest MOCK ELECTION

- EarthWatch on the Mississippi
- Inside internships
- Mr. Republican donates memorabilia
- Paul Vallas in New Orleans
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Psychology • Sociology and Anthropology
Western Research Survey Center • Women’s Studies
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Paul Vallas speaks to students at New Orleans’ Martin Luther King School.

Students listen to speeches before voting on the last of five nights of the Mock Presidential Convention.

ON THE COVER: Graduate student Jessie Kallman of Moline addresses thousands gathered in Western Hall for the final night of the Mock Presidential Election. Kallman also is student representative to WIU’s Board of Trustees. (Photo by Visual Production Center)

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Western’s CAS is made up of 15 departments whose disciplines span the areas of the social sciences, the humanities, mathematics and the natural sciences: African American Studies, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, English and Journalism, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Geography, Geology, History, Mathematics, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, and Women’s Studies.

“Focus will inform college stakeholders about College of Arts and Sciences activities and encourage their involvement in the life of the college.”
New Homecoming traditions bring new opportunities

Is it possible that we just had another Homecoming celebration? When many good things are happening every year, time just seems to fly by even faster than normal. I was delighted to see so many of you in the tent before the Homecoming game, enjoying the College of Arts and Sciences faculty band, the EndNotes, on September 29.

As many of you know, this year the College of Arts and Sciences started a new Homecoming tradition. We held the inaugural scholarship fund-raising dinner to benefit current and future students in the College. The faculty of the College work tirelessly to present our students with countless opportunities to expand their knowledge and attain qualifications for employment or advanced studies, to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society. However, as state education support continues to decline, the cost of education continues to grow. To this end, the College of Arts and Sciences is working to create and expand endowed scholarships, and to build funds to support student-faculty joint research opportunities, internships and opportunities for experiential learning, and international experiences. Scholarships are critical in giving us the edge on recruiting and retaining high-caliber students. Scholarships truly make a huge difference in the lives of our students.

When we first considered having the scholarship dinner during Homecoming, we thought that if 75 people attended and contributed a total of $1,800 for scholarships, then we would be successful, given the competing attractions of other Homecoming activities and that this was an inaugural event. What actually happened was truly amazing. More than 140 alumni, faculty, and staff attended, and 11 others who did not attend made scholarship contributions. We raised more than $7,400 in scholarship funds.

This represents a stellar start for what will now be an annual College of Arts and Sciences Homecoming event. Many of you have asked about other ways you can support scholarships on an ongoing basis. Here are some thoughts:

1. Endow a scholarship. Anyone can start a scholarship for any amount of money. However, to endow a scholarship presently takes $25,000. Not only individual donors can do this. Groups of donors can band together to create and endow a scholarship. Want to honor a favorite professor? Want to recognize the contributions your major department made to your career? Get some of your college friends together and establish a scholarship. We can help you get started.

2. The College has many scholarships that have not yet reached endowment level. One of these may already be established in an area of your personal interest and you can add to it to help bring it up to the endowment level. We can help you identify these opportunities. Until these scholarships reach an endowed level, the funds accumulate but cannot be distributed.

3. Host or attend a scholarship fund-raising dinner in your area. Because many people indicated they would have liked to have attended the Homecoming scholarship fund-raising dinner, but time and distance prevented it, we plan to do some dinners around the country this coming year. Not only will this raise funds for scholarships, but it will provide a relaxed social atmosphere for alumni to network and also get to talk to representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences. Money raised at these dinners can be designated to benefit any scholarship in CAS and its departments.

In the meantime, I hope you sit back and enjoy this issue of Focus magazine. We work hard to on every issue to keep you up to date on the fantastic things happening in the College. We like to keep in touch with you and hope you will stay in touch with us.

With my very best,
Students spend summer getting creative with research

By Kyle Moss

Summer break is typically a time for relaxation and fun. Most students can’t wait for the opportunity to put down the books for a few months and enjoy the break.

But others see summer as a time to continue their education, and this year WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences created a program to support them.

Called Western SCAI (Summer Creative Activity Institute), it’s designed to support undergraduate research and faculty/student mentoring at Western.

“Western SCAI is just another example of our commitment to offer undergraduate students opportunities to work with faculty on research and creative activities,” says Inessa Levi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We support this sort of faculty-student engagement because we feel it is an important part of enabling students to achieve their goals long-term.”

Created by Levi and organized by CAS Associate Dean Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, the program provides opportunities for students to research with help from faculty mentors.

“There were two themes to the research,” says SCAI’s Amy Patrick, an assistant professor in the English and Journalism department. “It had to be connected to the western Illinois region and it had to be connected to an environmental issue – because that is this year’s University theme.”

Five students took part in the institute last summer: Andrew Waeyaert (Political Science), Craig Schaffer (Biological Sciences), Krista Winters (Biological Sciences), Matthew Raymond (Biological Sciences) and Aaron Collie (English and Journalism). The studies lasted a month and were conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Patrick (English and Journalism), Dr. Shawn Meagher (Biological Sciences), Dr. Tim Spire (Biological Sciences) and Dr. Keith Boeckelman (Political Science).

Students were recruited by faculty in the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics and social sciences. They earned academic credit as Independent Study credit hours, and received support from Drs. Norman and Carmelita Teeter.

“A lot of credit needs to go to our faculty members,” says Martinelli-Fernandez. “They were very active in getting students involved and helping with the projects. Many of the students had previously participated in our undergraduate research program here and had some experience with their mentors. This program just allowed them to take their studies to the next level.”

Continued on page 7

Food service goes ‘Green’ with help from class

By Kyle Moss

The environment is a timely topic of conversation, but WIU’s food service decided talk was cheap. The Sodexho Co. had an idea and approached students to help make people’s concerns with pollution, dwindling natural resources and stewardship meaningful.

Sodexho, which provides food services throughout the country, took a proactive approach toward environmental preservation at Western last spring.

Realizing that WIU had been going through 267,000 polystyrene cups, 500,000 polystyrene trays, and more than a million plastic utensils, the company decided it needed to reduce such effects.

Rather than just making slight changes, Sodexho representative Eva Galbraith approached an Environmental Studies class for their ideas.

“I was looking for a service project for my students,” says assistant professor Amy Patrick, an English professor who taught the course. “Sodexho wanted to make some changes and become more sustainable in the dining halls. Once my students found out about what Sodexho was doing, they jumped on the opportunity.”

One of the reasons Sodexho got students involved was to aid in creative planning.

“They wanted student feedback on some of their ideas,” says Patrick. “They bounced ideas off us and we gave them feedback on what we thought would be good changes.”

While the goal for Sodexho was to become more ecologically friendly, the company wanted to educate others on how they could help, too.

“They planned to do a day of change in the dining hall,” Patrick says. “Sodexho planned the menu and got the materials. It was basically a day dedicated towards teaching others about their effects on the environment. Then at the end, they had students make the decision on the changes through a vote, which was ultimately made in favor of the switch.”

To educate others, Sodexho and
The amount of publications, presentations and other scholarly and creative activities by faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences has increased considerably in the last year.

The faculty wrote more than 40 percent more articles and other publications in 2006-07 than 2005-06, and presentations at conferences and other meetings were up, too.

Here is some of the work that CAS faculty and alumni have conducted outside of classrooms, presented alphabetically by department:

**African-American Studies:** JO-ANN MORGAN published “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” as Visual Culture (University of Missouri Press).

**Biological Sciences:** SCOTT HOLT received a U.S. patent for “Prebiotic Oligosaccharides via Alternansucrase Acceptor Reactions” with Greg Cote, a chemist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service in Peoria. They discovered how to use sugars from corn, soybeans and other plants to stimulate the growth of “good” bacteria in animals such as piglets and chicks.

Alumnus MARK HOLLYWOOD in May was appointed director of quality assurance and quality control at CellCyte Genetics in Kirkland, Wash. Hollywood previously worked in similar positions with Zymogenetics, Dendreon and Amgen.

**Chemistry:** ASHISH PATHAK and VIBHA PATHAK published “Synthesis of Disaccharides for Probing Glycosyltransferases in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis” in the Journal of Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry.

**English and Journalism:** AISHA BARNES, DAVID STEVENSON and colleagues from Loyola University and Columbia University presented “Zones of Inquiry: Students Reading Urban, Wilderness and Domestic Landscapes” at the National Council of Teachers of English conference in November. Barnes also presented “Creative Acts of Agency: Making Something in Young Adult Literature” at the Seventh Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature last Spring.

LISA BARR was part of a media law panel at August’s Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications convention in Washington, D.C. She is the editor of Communications and the Law.

Adjunct instructor and Western Courier adviser RICH MORENO was one of four people honored by the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He’s former publisher of Nevada magazine, author of seven books about Nevada, and a travel/history columnist for Nevada newspapers.

MARK BUTZOW studied college newspa-

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Patrick’s class — plus the Campus Greens student organization and a marketing class — came up with informative activities.

“Basically, we worked with them to educate others about being environmentally conscious,” says Jason Warren, one of the Environmental Studies students. “We came up with different programs and activities intended to educate students. One of the things we really tried to show people was a visual picture of how much of an impact they had on wasting resources. Sodexho came up with a lot of the ideas; we just helped spread the word. They did a great job with the project.”

The results ended up in significant environmental changes for Sodexho.

Instead of polystyrene, or Styrofoam, containers are now made of ecologically friendly bagasse. Cups are now made of a biodegradable plastic produced from extracted cornstarch, and utensils are made from Spudware, a material composed of potato products and soy oil.

“Sodexho did a great job with this project and put a lot of money into it,” says Warren.

“My first two years at Western I was very anti-Sodexho. They just seemed to be so wasteful. It was very refreshing to see them make such a change. They responded in a great way to the outcries of students on campus and I was very happy with the way they handled things.”

For Warren, the project worked out well. Now a graduate from Western, he works for DAI Environmental, a company that deals with cleaning up environmental mishaps by other companies.

“It was a perfect project,” he says. “It was something of use to me in actual life. It felt great having a little bit to do with helping the environment and leaving behind a legacy on campus. Working on this project made me realize that one little change makes a big difference exponentially over time. I’m hoping more people jump on the bandwagon and continue to work towards protecting our environment in better ways.”

Moss is a senior Journalism major from Minier, Ill., and an editor with the Western Courier student newspaper.
Sciences plans to continue the program, and even expand it. “We anticipate Western SCAI will become a permanent feature of our undergraduate research offerings,” says Levi. “Students have told me that their experiences were incredible. Not only did they learn what it takes to conduct research and other creative activities; they also developed skills in communication and relationship-building that will last a lifetime. Developments like these are important for students and we as a College want to encourage participation in these sorts of programs.”

Moss is a senior Journalism major from Minier, Ill., and an editor with the Western Courier student newspaper.

Projects included studies of wind-power technology (Waeyaert), fish population (Schaffer), cockroaches and parasites (Winters and Raymond) and the development of the Macomb Green Guide (Collie).

“It gives students a chance to work one on one with a faculty member,” said Patrick, who worked with Collie on the Macomb Green Guide, a project planned to help inform Macomb residents about environmental issues. “We all had really different projects. It was really neat for the students to hear what the others had worked on and gave us an organized way to work with them. It also allows them to build connections and references for the future, while also seeing how other departments conduct research.”

Levi said the College of Arts and Sciences plans to continue the program, and even expand it.

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Moss is a senior Journalism major from Minier, Ill., and an editor with the Western Courier student newspaper.
Faculty’s new faces

**African-American Studies**
JO-ANN MORGAN is an associate professor of art history in a dual appointment with the Department of Art. She received her doctorate in art history from the University of California-Los Angeles. Also a visual artist, Morgan’s woven wire sculptures will be on display in an upcoming WIU Faculty Art Show.

**Biological Sciences**
Assistant professor FERNANDO GONZALEZ comes to WIU from the University of Texas-El Paso and is teaching cell biology and introduction to microbiology – his specialty. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Houston.

**Chemistry**
TARAB AHMAD is a new assistant professor of chemistry, joining WIU as an analytical chemist. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where her research involved preparative liquid chromatography and computations.

**English and Journalism**
LISA BARR teaches mass media law and journalism topics and writing courses. Her interests include mass media law and ethics, newsroom socialization and the depiction of minorities, and the history of the journalism of the Civil Rights Movement. A former award-winning broadcast journalist, she earned her Ph.D. at Bowling Green State University.

MERRILL COLE has an M.F.A. from Cornell University and a joint Ph.D. in English and the Program in Theory and Criticism from the University of Washington. A published poet and writer, his first book was The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality. Cole is a longtime LGBT activist who most recently served as the Philadelphia Coordinator for Amnesty International’s OUTfront Program.

The daughter of a retired WIU professor who grew up in Macomb and discovered her love for journalism as editor of the Macomb High School newspaper, LISA KERNEK worked as a newspaper reporter for 17 years in Massachusetts and later in Illinois at the State Journal-Register in Springfield. She returned to Macomb in 2006 as a temporary instructor and started as an assistant professor of journalism this Fall. Kernek has a Bachelor’s in history and a Master’s in journalism, both from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.

Originally from the Washington, D.C., area, DANIEL S. MALACHUK received his BA from Bowdoin College and his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He taught writing and humanities at Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire for eight years before teaching political theory at Georgetown and George Washington Universities as an adjunct professor, and literature at American University as a visiting professor. His main area of research is 19th century literature and political theory, and his publications include Perfection, The State, and Victorian Liberalism (Palgrave). He primarily teaches at WIU’s Quad Cities campus.

CHRISTOPHER L. MORROW teaches Shakespeare and early modern English literature. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and his B.A. from the University of Wyoming. Before joining WIU, he spent three years as Curator for Outreach at the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives at Texas A&M. His research interests are early modern English drama and national identity.

**Foreign Languages and Literatures**
New faculty include Spanish instructor KATHERINE BARNES, a retired high school teacher temporarily staffing classes after the departure of Dr. Sandro Barros; visiting Spanish assistant RAQUEL CASTELLANO ARMAS, teaching here with the assistance of Spain’s consulate (which sends just 20 teachers to North America); and visiting assistant professor of German MIRANDA WILKERSON, who earned her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Geology**
AMY BROCK earned her Bachelor’s from Oklahoma State University and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Her research involves ancient calcium carbonate soil horizons of arid and semi-arid regions, and the mineralogy, chemical and physical characteristics of these soils.

**Chemistry**
GILLES K. KOUASSI obtained his Ph.D. in food chemistry from the University of Helsinki and worked as a research scientist at the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and the Department of Food Science at Pennsylvania State University. He’s researching the physical chemistry of food materials, nanoscale encapsulation of bioactive food nutrients, and biodetection using nanoscale tools.

XIAOPING PAN is an assistant professor of forensic chemistry, coming to Macomb from Texas Tech University. His teaching and research expertise includes explosives and forensic analysis, microRNAs and gene regulation, and biochemical toxicology.

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AMY BROCK earned her Bachelor’s from Oklahoma State University and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Her research involves ancient calcium carbonate soil horizons of arid and semi-arid regions, and the mineralogy, chemical and physical characteristics of these soils.
History
BARCLAY KEY is a specialist in African-American history, the history of the South, and U.S. history. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

FEBE D. PAMONAG is a new assistant professor specializing in modern Japan and the history of women. She earned a Ph.D. at the University of Alberta.

Mathematics
CLIFTON EALY joins mathematics as an assistant professor in the area of mathematical logic. Ealy comes to WIU from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, where he served as an assistant research professor. Ealy earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California-Berkeley.

MARIE-CLAIRE KOISSI joins the department as an assistant professor in the area of secondary-education math. Koissi comes to Western from Penn State University, where she was an instructor. She’s also served as a research scientist at Abo Akademi University in Turku, Finland; as a visiting scientist at Penn State University; as a visiting scholar at Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany; and as a mathematics secondary teacher for the National Ministry for Education, Ivory Coast. Koissi earned her Ph.D. in applied mathematics and her Ph. Lic. in applied mathematics from Abo Akademi University, Finland.

Philosophy and Religious Studies
SARAH HAYNES earned her Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Calgary. She replaces Professor Paul Mundschenk, who retired in December 2006, as the department’s expert on Asian religions. Her areas of specialization and research interest are Indo-Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan religious history, and ritual studies.

Physics
KISHOR T. KAPALE comes to WIU from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology-Pasadena. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Texas A&M University-College Station. He has dozens of publications and researches quantum optics and quantum information science.

Political Science
KLARA SOGINDOLSKA, who received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, replaces Jutta Helm in the area of comparative politics. She earned her B.A. degree from the American University in Bulgaria and pursued a Master’s in international relations at the University of Delaware. She’s traveled extensively through the Balkans (Serbia), the Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia) and the Ukraine, researching the processes and outcomes of electoral revolutions there. She’s finishing her book, The Rise of Electoral Revolutions in the Post-Communist World, and plans to study labor migration within the former Soviet republics, Russia and Turkey.

Psychology
CURT DUNKEL received his B.A. in psychology from Augustana College, his M.S. in psychology from WIU, and his Ph.D. in psychological and cultural studies from the University of Nebraska. He worked for Treatment Alternatives for Special Clients and for seven years taught at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. Curt’s research interests and publications are in identity formation.

COLIN HARBKE received his B.S. in psychology from the University of Alaska-Anchorage. He worked as a research associate on a needle-exchange clinical trial before earning his M.S. and Ph.D. in psychology from Washington State University. He came to Western last year in a temporary faculty position. His research examines factors related to scientific writing skill-acquisition by college students and perception and categorization of complex sounds.

HIROKO SOTOZAKI earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Her main research interests are cognitive processes focusing on reading and language, specifically dyslexia. She also is interested in brain interhemispheric integration in terms of cognitive functions.

Sociology and Anthropology
REGINA DAVIS-SOWERS is an assistant professor of sociology who earned both a Master’s in sociology and a Ph.D. in sociology, from Georgia State University. Before joining WIU, Davis-Sowers was a visiting instructor at Georgia State University. Her specialty areas include race and ethnic relations and family.

PATRICK McGINTY is an assistant professor of sociology who earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master’s degree in sociology from Western Illinois University. McGinty had been an instructor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, a visiting instructor at Brigham Young University, and a visiting assistant professor at WIU. His specialties include race, class and gender.

Women’s Studies
DORIS HAMBUCH earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Alberta. She had taught at Prince Sultan Private College for Women, and at King Saud University, both in Saudi Arabia. Here, she will teach feminist theory, women and film, women and literature, and women and the creative arts.
College of Arts and Sciences names three new directors

By Jeff Dodd

On July 1, Dean Inessa Levi and the College of Arts and Sciences welcomed three new directors to the College. These directors will respectively lead the proposed nursing program, the Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Western Survey Research Center.

Dr. Lea Monahan came to Western Illinois University as director of the proposed nursing program and professor of biological sciences from Marian College in Fond du Lac, Wisc., where she served as associate professor and director of nursing. Prior to that, she held positions at Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee), Excelsior College (Albany, N.Y.), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Nebraska (Lincoln). Monahan also held the rank of major in the United States Army in stateside posts as well as in West Germany.

“We are very excited about the addition of Lea to our team,” said Dean Levi. “She brings with her vast experience in setting up nursing degree programs and is an outstanding nurse educator in her own right. We have been developing the nursing school proposal for two years,” she continued. “We will have a strong program in which current registered nurses can complete their BSN degrees. This program fulfills the institution’s goal to positively impact our region. Patients across the state will benefit from the work graduates will complete in our School of Nursing program. I could not be more delighted with Lea’s appointment.”

Monahan is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, is certified as a nurse educator by the National League for Nursing, and is a member of the American Nurses Association. She shared Levi’s enthusiasm.

“I am very excited about starting a baccalaureate nursing program with an RN to BSN component at Western,” she said. “There are several good associate degree and diploma programs in the area, but there are few schools that offer the RN to BSN for graduates of those schools to complete their degree. The need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in Illinois and the country in general is growing; health care is becoming more complex and is provided more and more in the community and the patient’s home. Nurses are needed to help provide that care. Adding nursing to the wonderful programs already offered at Western will help address the nursing shortage and add another major for students at Western Illinois University.”

The College of Arts and Sciences’ proposed RN to BSN completion program has been submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. News of the board’s decision is expected in early December.

Dr. Roger Viadero joined the college as director of the Institute for Environmental Studies and professor of biological sciences. Viadero came to WIU from West Virginia University, where he was the director of the Center for Environmental Research (CER) and held an endowed appointment as a Robert C. Byrd Associate Professor in the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources’ Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

There, Viadero was responsible for the establishment of a collaborative, interdisciplinary organization through which environmental research conducted at WVU is coordinated. The focus of Viadero’s research is on water chemistry and environmental physiology in the context of restoring/remediating impacted aquatic ecosystems. He has also conducted extensive work on the physical and chemical treatment and disposal of hazardous, nuclear, and mixed wastes, as well as water reclamation and reuse.

He also serves as a Senior Fellow of the Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI) of George Washington University, where he’s participated in roundtable sessions with senior government officials, collaborates with the HSPI Steering Committee to publish policy papers and conducts homeland security-related research.

“Coming to Western Illinois University is a great opportunity to seek out new challenges,” Viadero said. “There are tons of opportunities to involve the WIU campus, community leaders and government organi-
zations in environmental issues for the region. There will also be many occasions for faculty from across the campus to collaborate on scholarly activities. The Institute for Environmental Studies will be a fantastic focal point for people to come together to work on issues.”

Dean Levi praised his addition. “We are delighted with the addition of Roger to our team,” she said. “With his strong background in environmental issues, his past external funding, and experience in forensics, his impact on the IES will be immeasurable.”

Dr. David Rohall, associate professor of sociology/anthropology, had been acting director of the Western Survey Research Center since 2006 before becoming the permanent director in July. Rohall previously held posts at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Maryland, and the Center for Research on Military Organization. Rohall is a member of the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces Society, and the American Association of Public Opinion Researchers.

“The Western Survey Research Center in the College of Arts and Sciences has a unique opportunity to serve students, the University, and the surrounding region,” Rohall said. “I hope to provide more training opportunities for students and consider ways to incorporate students at the WIU-Quad Cities campus. I also would like for the center to collaborate with other departments within the University,” said Rohall.

Dean Levi appreciates and values Rohall’s experience, she said. “We are very please to have David on board as the permanent director for the Western Survey Research Center,” she said. “His experience with survey and project methodology, as well as his interest in providing opportunities to our students, will only enhance an already outstanding survey program in the College.”

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**Liberal arts offer insight, comfort, Goldfarb says in 2007 Hallwas lecture**

**By Bill Knight**

Linking Bruce Springsteen to Langston Hughes and *The Simpsons* to Moliere, WIU President Al Goldfarb in September delivered a testimonial about cultural connections in the 2007 John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture.

Presented in WIU’s Union Grand Ballroom on Sept. 25 and the WIU-Quad Cities campus on Sept. 26, the lecture challenged students and faculty alike.

“Are we truly open to the changes in our disciplines and possibly the broader definition of the liberal arts in the contemporary university?” asked Goldfarb, WIU’s 10th president. “Are we too tradition bound to recognize the legitimate place of our changing disciplinary boundaries and the transformation of the liberal arts?”

He appealed to the entire University community to support the liberal arts.

“I ask that our faculty continue to commit to support liberal education – even if it means sacrifices in their disciplinary curricula,” he said. “And I ask our students to be patient. Some time in the future, those lessons will impact your daily lives.”

Goldfarb’s own broad, liberal-arts education influenced his work in theater history; his attempts to understand the Holocaust, which deeply affected his family; and his appreciation of popular culture, he said.

*The Simpsons* can be connected to Moliere, Tennessee Williams, and Greek and Roman comedies, as well as comedic contemporaries Dave Chappell and Jon Stewart, Goldfarb said. Pop recording artists Outkast link issues of race and history as well as musical style ranging from the Beatles and funk to the Ramones and the Smiths. Springsteen’s “The River” shares elements with aspects of Hughes’ poetry about class and race.

“These works – like most popular entertainment – do more than entertain,” he said. “I am enjoying them at a higher level of appreciation and I am also able to explain my passionate interest in them. My liberal-arts education is the key to my exploring these questions.

“At the heart of a true education is the liberal arts,” he continued. “I could not watch TV or film as passionately as I do, listen to contemporary popular music, teach theater history, serve as an administrator at Western Illinois University, or try to negotiate my family history without the tools I was provided as an undergraduate.”

Experience at thinking critically, of inquiry, discovery, analysis and interpretation are some of the benefits students of the liberal arts will enjoy, he added.

“They will find themselves in careers that they had not planned, and in rapidly transforming employment situations,” he said. “What better preparation for such change than a broad liberal-arts education?

His own life and career derives lessons from the liberal arts, Goldfarb said.

“The most significant impact of my liberal arts education on my role as university leader [was] an appreciation of the need to respect all human interactions, the need to constantly inquire and research, the need to act in an ethical fashion, the need to be open to change and transformation, [and] the need for inclusiveness and fairness.”

Sometimes, Goldfarb conceded, a liberal-arts education provides more questions than answers.

“I have gained not only insight but also comfort in knowing that some events can be constantly reanalyzed, readdressed, and continuously debated, but possibly never explained,” he said. “And isn’t that one of the great lessons of a liberal education?”

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*Photo by Bill Knight*
Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station provides more than summer camp for EarthWatch students

Ooh, I go swimming, swimming in the water
Swimming in the river …
The sun is burning, I am yearning
For the waterfall …
Follow my wishes, follow the fishes
Down below
I go swimming
—“I Go Swimming” by Peter Gabriel

By Jeff Dodd

That rare, rollicking pop tune from the 1983 live album by Peter Gabriel has an energetic optimism that could be the Beach Boys by way of Genesis - the band Gabriel co-founded in 1975. The song’s light-hearted lyrics come to mind when seeing a group of 10 young people wading in the water near the Mississippi’s western bank near Lock 19 at Hamilton, Ill.

They look like any other group of kids on a sunny, hot August afternoon, looking for relief from the heat in cool water and good company.

Look again.

They’re actually teams of student scientists on a mission. Armed with buckets and square frames of PCV tubes and elbow joints, these young men and women are on a research expedition to find, count and classify mussel populations in an area reaching miles north and south of Keokuk, Iowa.

This is only one of many research activities conducted by the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station, where WIU this summer hosted the sixth EarthWatch Institute Student Challenge Awards Program (SCAP).

SCAP offers an opportunity to spend two or three weeks during the summer at a scientific research station to students 16 to 18 years old who are gifted in the arts and humanities, the EarthWatch Institute says. The goal is to excite students’ imaginations, expand their potential, and stimulate their curiosity about science and technology. SCAP is a competitive fellowship program funded by an outside donor and implemented by EarthWatch.

“The program also gives support to our research and education initiatives,” says Dr. Sean Jenkins, Director of the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station and associate professor of biological sciences at Western Illinois University. “We not only get an excellent mentoring opportunity, but also research grants and the participation of some students from across the country.”

This year, 10 students gathered at the Kibbe Life Science Station from July 28 through August 12 to monitor ecosystems on the Mississippi.

“The Mississippi River has played a key role in both the cultural and economic development of this country,” says Jenkins. “An increased awareness of the importance of large rivers and their associated riparian areas as diverse and dynamic, as corridors for commerce, and as sources of water for municipal and agricultural uses has resulted in renewed interest in these unique ecosystems.

Human activities have greatly altered the upper Mississippi River over the last two centuries, Jenkins adds.

“Channelization, lock and dam construction and expansion, the dredging of barge channels, and agricultural and municipal runoff have in the past and continue to alter the structure and function of the river ecosystem and its associated riparian areas,” he says.

“With continued loss and alteration of habitat, both plants and animals in the riparian and aquatic environments are affected by these activities.”

As a result, continued monitoring of key components of these ecosystems is essential to detect and describe long-term changes in health, structure and functioning of the plants and animals in the upper Mississippi River ecosystem.

SCAP students participate in research and monitoring conducted by the Kibbe Life Science Station. Data they collect are entered into the station’s databases, which contain more than 30 years of information. The research in which students take part not only adds to the understanding of the river ecosystem near the station, but it provides key information about current and future ecological trends. That helps formulate management

Focus
objectives for the station’s and region’s riparian and aquatic resources in the future.

“This is serious science,” says Rick Anderson, chairman of biological sciences and, with Jenkins, a co-principal investigator for the SCAP program at Kibbe. “Students learn the basic sampling and research techniques employed by every field scientist. Their data are recorded professionally in the station’s database and will continue to be used to establish trends and for comparison to future data collected. It is frequently hot, sweaty, dirty, hard work, but participants come away with a true appreciation of scientific endeavor outside the confines of an indoor laboratory setting.”

Susan Meiers, associate professor of biological sciences and a faculty mentor/project staff member during the SCAP expedition says that students face an adjustment when they arrive.

“Many students come to the station with the idea that they are on an extended vacation of sorts,” Meiers says. “They are shocked when they get here and find there is no Internet connection. We do not have television. They are expected to work hard and get dirty. At first, they don’t want to wade into the river and get into the mud. By the end of the expedition, though, they are all begging to go back down to the river just one more time. It is all we can do to pry them out of the Mississippi, get them cleaned up and back to the airport on time to go home.”

In addition to Anderson, Jenkins and Meiers, several biological sciences faculty add their expertise to the SCAP program, including Drs. Kenneth McGravy, Michael Romano and Timothy Spier. Recent expeditions also have included graduate students from the department as mentors and research staff, including Jim Castlebury, Jamie Palmer and Amber Ruskell. These project staffers all come together to provide hands-on training in specimen identification, voucher specimen collection and preparation, sampling methods, equipment use and safety procedures.

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Fall/Winter 07
New Orleans’ school system is “one of the more singular challenges in American education,” according to the New York Times, and WIU alumnus Paul Vallas is meeting that challenge, having been prepared by rigorous training in a variety of classes to use critical thinking, adapt, and engage problems.

“The nature of the [WIU] curriculum gave me the kind of diversified experience that equipped me for my role as an educational leader,” he said. “It helped me understand human nature and what constitutes good public policy, and it gave me a sense of history. Later, I learned budget and finance, but clearly the liberal arts and sciences curriculum gave me a well-rounded education.”

Now superintendent of New Orleans Recovery School District, Vallas, 53, earned his B.A. in history and M.A. in political science at WIU, where 10 years ago he was given Western’s highest honor, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane letters.

Even before Hurricane Katrina and the breached levees flooded the city, New Orleans had problems ranging from overcrowded classrooms and a teacher shortage to violence and poverty. The FBI was called in to investigate fraud ranging from stolen equipment to false retirement claims, leading to more than 20 indictments. Even before Katrina, New Orleans had a high turnover of school superintendents – about one a year.

“I never thought it could get worse,” said parent Karran Harper Royal, quoted by Michael Tisserand, author of Sugarcane Academy: How A New Orleans Teacher and His Storm-Struck Students Created A School to Remember. The nation’s eyes are upon us to see how this experiment works.”

Tisserand also spoke to Louisiana Recovery Authority vice-chairman Walter Isaacson, who said, “We are using this as an opportunity to take what was one of the worst school systems around and create one of the most competitive school systems in America.”

New Orleans school superintendent Paul Vallas. He earned a Bachelor’s in 1976 and a Master’s in 1980 from WIU.

Tisserand wrote, “It’s an unprecedented experiment.”

Vallas is realistic in his assessment of the tasks ahead.

“Clearly, the devastation that the hurricane brought compounded the challenges of a district already deeply troubled,” Vallas said.

Nevertheless, Vallas has had his critics, people who complain about wrecked or shuttered schools. U.S. Reps. Maxine Waters and James Clyburn (both South Carolina Democrats) say the New Orleans schools have been virtually destroyed, and they blame that on the Bush administration insisting on privatizing schools. However, Vallas is a Democrat himself, having run for Illinois Governor in 2001, finishing just behind Rod Blagojevich, who went on to win the election.

Plus, Louisiana lawmakers started on the road to what’s become the Recovery School District (RSD) for New Orleans in 2005, pressing to convert charter schools run by for-profit or nonprofit corporations through charters, or contracts. Today, out of RSD’s 22,200 students in 60 schools, 11,400 students attend 34 traditional operations and 10,800 students go to 26 charter schools.

RSD is being helped by funding from corporate, government and nonprofit groups such as the Broad Education Foundation, Baptist Community Ministries, and the U.S. Dept. of Education, which is sending $44.8 million to New Orleans.

Louisiana Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek has pledged to return control of New Orleans schools to a local board, but in the meantime, the move toward charters isn’t popular with some interest groups. United Teachers of New Orleans, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), says that a district that once employed 4,700 of its members now has about 500.

The RSD says it’s hired 1,100 teachers for its 34 traditional schools.

“It’s about creating choices for those kids whose parents have the means to create their own choices and those who don’t,” Vallas has said.
Just as odd as Democrats blasting a Democratic educator is the background of charter schools, which was proposed almost a decade ago by the AFT’s late president Albert Shanker, who envisioned them as a way to encourage teaching innovations that could be eventually applied district-wide in any city.

U.S. Sen. Mary L. Landrieu (D-La.) has said that charter schools will be the backbone of an education renaissance in New Orleans, and they have been embraced by other progressives – and conservatives. Conservatives appreciate the sense of market forces affecting education and the options available to parents; progressives say that privatization of public schools is already taking place, and New Orleans liberals support reforms through the mechanism.

“The charter movement is dominated in the trenches by progressives, even when we’ve been represented on the national stage by conservatives,” said John Ayers, with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, speaking to The Nation magazine.

Vallas is the right person at the right time — among “the top tier of superintendents in the country,” said Pastorek, who named him to the position, which reportedly pays $238,000 a year.

After directing the budget office of the Illinois General Assembly and working as budget director for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Vallas in 1995 was named CEO of Chicago Public Schools, managing a $2 billion budget for more than 400,000 students in almost 600 public schools until 2001. Chicago’s successes, praised by the likes of President Bill Clinton, included after-school programs, required summer school, better test scores, good labor relations with the teachers union, balanced budgets, and creating innovations such as magnet, alternative and charter schools.

School chief executive in Philadelphia from 2002-2007, Vallas steered the country’s largest attempt to privatize school management, with more than 40 schools in the 174,000-student system managed by nonprofit, university or for-profit organizations starting in 2005.

There, Vallas also balanced budgets, and he streamlined management and cut costs — all while raising elementary school test scores, starting more professional-development sessions for teachers, certifying more teachers, and launching programs for disruptive and younger students.

“I like to think I played a critical role accelerating the reform process in both those districts,” Vallas said.

Chicago has continued to make progress and I predict that Philadelphia will likewise continue to make progress.”

Two of the most difficult and largest school systems in the nation, Philadelphia and Chicago, are far different than New Orleans, which has a fraction of their students and schools but unprecedented infrastructure crises as well as social problems.

In New Orleans, Vallas’ initiatives are focusing on teachers and academics.

“I’ve made a commitment to remain on the job as long as I’m wanted and as long as I feel that I’m making progress,” he said. “I consider the job of building a new school district in New Orleans from scratch to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“This will be the greatest experi-ment in choice, charters and in creating not a single school system but a system of schools,” he has said. “If we can do it here — where facilities are damaged and where resources are limited, then it can be done anywhere.”

Described as having a hands-on management style, Vallas received recommendations issued in July by Tulane University as self-evident. A Tulane task force said RSD should have three top priorities: high-quality teachers, clear and high goals for students, and safe and disciplined schools.

“The recommendations can and should apply to any district, even some of the most affluent ones.” Vallas said. “My complete focus right now is on New Orleans, and improving the schools in the Recovery School District.”

New Orleans “could serve as a model for urban education,” commented U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Secretary of Education under President George H. W. Bush, and a proving ground for charter schools.

Steps are concrete, according to RSD communications director Siona LaFrance.

“Anticipating that enrollment will continue to grow throughout the year, the district has hired a surplus of teachers,” LaFrance said, “and readied more than enough classroom space — including new modular campuses that will be coming online this fall.”

Vallas said he has many fond memories of WIU and Macomb.

“There are many professors who stand out,” he said, “particularly Karen Rosenblum-Cale, a radical thinker and revolutionary who in some way was after her time – having spent the ’60s in Eastern Europe. She was a wonderful professor and a wonderful friend. Others who stand out are Drs. Charles and Juta Helm, Dr. Ahmad Sheik, Dr. Gordon Browne, and the late Dr. Charles Saddler.”
By Sarah Cash

Most people think of interns as harried physicians-in-training at a crazed medical center or underappreciated gofers fetching mail and pastries. However, while 21st century interns begin at the bottom rung of the career ladder, students are now given unbelievable opportunities during their stints in work-study internships that frequently offer priceless advantages in entering a variety of fields.

There are 15 internship programs in 14 departments in the College of Arts and Sciences at Western, plus student-teaching experiences. No major requires an internship, but faculty and staff still encourage students to take advantage of every internship opportunity, and many students have reaped the benefits.

The liberal arts have abundant opportunities, says Ralph Heissinger, academic adviser for the Department of History. “You can go a lot of places and do a lot of things,” he says. “However, you might not accomplish a lot unless you have direction.”

Senior political science major James Peterson found his direction, and it took him hundreds of miles to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in Washington, D.C.

Participating in Western’s “Learning to Lead” program, Peterson discovered the HRC, traveled to a conference and asked HRC employees questions—something he recommends every student seeking an internship do. He then submitted his application, resume and cover letter online, and after a series of conference-call interviews, became an HRC intern.

Describing his summer internship, Peterson said he worked on research projects, created e-mail correspondence and attended high-profile events, including an annual AIDS fund raiser at the Reagan Center.

While conducting research in New York City for HRC’s National Dialog Project, Peterson saw how an explosion of a steam pipe sent Manhattan into “chaos,” making his first day in New York unforgettable.

“The lights dimmed, and people started running through the building yelling, ’Don’t panic!’ ” he says. “The windows shattered and concrete was all over. Everyone was looking up in the sky. Emergency vehicles and news crews were heading the direction we came from, and we could see steam pouring up into the sky from the ground to about 20 stories in the air. The explosion was so powerful that it picked up a dump truck 12 feet in the air.”

As a result of his eight-week internship, Peterson plans to further his education with graduate studies in anthropology.

“I met several anthropologists throughout this experience that are able to apply their research to social justice issues,” he says. “Although the discipline is holistic and objec-

Intern Andrew Johnson stands by the magazine racks in the library of Currens Hall.
Stamp, president of the College of Arts and Sciences’ Advancement Board. “Hard work and dependability observed in the trivial can pay dividends when the real work is parcelled out. Plus, part of the learning experience is learning to utilize and maximize your assets, and the contacts you have made can be a major asset.”

For Brooke Dormire, senior sociology major, a contact at Brown County Mental Health Center was what made her internship a reality. In fact, she didn’t even have to interview for the position. Instead, she simply called the program’s director and arranged to become an assistant facilitator for a psychosocial rehabilitation program.

For eight weeks, her job consisted of office work such as answering phones and making copies, but also helping clients with reading and computer skills. She also observed classes where clients were taught social skills such as listening and anger management—an experience she says can’t be replicated in classrooms.

Although sociology may seem a broad field to some, Dormire’s internship provided direction for her future career, she says. “I learned a lot about the mental health system from this internship,” she says. “I think it will give me a lot of insight into what I will look for in a future career. I enjoyed working with those who have mental illnesses; it was encouraging to listen to the clients talk about their past history with mental health and how much they have improved.”

Al Waters, director of Career Services at Western, emphasizes that internships are just as much focused on a future career as they are on direct learning experience.

“Internships are an opportunity to find out what you want and what you don’t want,” he says. “The beauty of the internship is its lack of commitment. You can learn a business from the ground up and end up further in the next place than you would have originally.”

Senior physics major Andrew Johnson spent his summer working at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill., home of the world’s highest-energy physics laboratory (the Tevatron Particle Accelerator). His internship included research connected with the U.S. Compact Muon Solenoid experiment, which is scheduled to replace the Tevatron at a different location in Geneva, Switzerland, next summer.

Johnson received a place in Fermilab’s summer program after submitting an application and fielding inquiries about his own research at Western. For this reason, Johnson suggests working closely with faculty members in research or other activities in order to gain practical experience.

As a result of his own work, Johnson was able to work directly with data from the experiment and was even required to present his results in weekly video-conference meetings with experts in the field. Calling it his most memorable activity at Fermilab, Johnson says it “helped to improve my understanding and gave me a real sense of importance for the work I was doing on a daily basis.”

“Working at Fermilab was a dream come true for me,” he continues. “I gained invaluable skills related to programming and data analysis. I also learned a great deal about particle, high-energy, and computational physics, as well as the intricacies of the CMS experiment itself.”

With summer programs as in-depth and hands-on as Johnson’s, many employers often hire their interns after they graduate. According to Waters, about 87 percent of students are employed by the companies they intern with. All it takes is a professional attitude, he says.

“Go into (the internship) with class—not lackluster or less than wholeheartedly,” Waters says. “Be a professional, and you’ll reap the reward.”

Even if students are not hired by their internship employers, the field experience is still a valuable contribution to one’s resume.

“Obviously, many people get jobs without internships,” says Stamp, in Springfield. “However, if you are an employer looking at 50 resumes of graduates from similar universities with similar grade points, what makes someone jump out is experience, demonstrated ability to work with people and proven initiative.”

“Why take a chance with a total unknown if you see they have proven themselves before?” he adds.

Heissinger, from the History department, acknowledges that the liberal arts degree is demanding, with a high requirement for hours,
Simulation stimulation

Students pick Obama/Edwards over Giuliani/McCain

By Bill Knight

More students took part in the opening night of Western’s Mock Presidential Election than attended a concert by recording artist Elvis Costello a week earlier.

In fact, over the course of five nights in a two-week span this fall, more students turned out for the Mock Presidential Election (MPE) than crowds for a reading and speech by author David Sedaris, or a volleyball match between WIU and Oral Roberts University, or even a presentation by lawyer, author and environmental advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – all October events at the Macomb campus.

Of course, attendance isn’t involvement, much less engagement.

“Some students attended only because it was a class assignment, but – my goodness – I’ve seen this experience transform students, too,” said Rick Hardy, chair of the Department of Political Science and the driving force behind the MPE. “I’ve seen borderline C students suddenly putting their heart and soul into this for three months. That’s been very satisfying.”

Over the course of nine events leading up to the landslide victory of Democratic Presidential nominee Barack Obama and Vice Presidential running mate John Edwards over GOP nominee Rudy Giuliani and VP running mate John McCain, and nominees from the Libertarians and Greens, the MPE mimicked voting in state primaries and caucuses, debating platform planks and nominating candidates, and casting ballots for Electoral College votes for President. The affair beat the Iowa caucuses, New Hampshire and some 20 other early primaries by months. But it wasn’t easy. Students and faculty across diverse disciplines, plus groups such as the League of Women Voters and different administrative offices all worked together to present the collegiate nation’s largest hands-on civic engagement project this fall.

Hardy said the ambitious effort was a huge expansion of mock conventions he organized at the University of Iowa in 1976 and the University of Missouri in 1988.

Still, there were moments of little enthusiasm.

“At the start of the convention I did not really care,” said Casey Aurand, a freshman from the St. Louis area attending as part of a sociology class. “But as it goes on I have been taking in a lot of information that I didn’t even know before.”

Indeed, students throughout seemed attentive and active throughout the proceedings. Results were interesting, too. In the Republican caucuses and primaries, Texas Congressman Ron Paul first finished ahead of all GOP candidates except former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former

Students stand for the playing of the National Anthem.

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, then a week later was nominated by the Libertarian Party to head their ticket (as he had in real life in 1988).


Area officials took part and several candidates participated from afar. State Sen. Mike Jacobs (D-Moline) and State Sen. Kirk Dillard (R-Westmont) delivered keynote speeches for their parties one night. On another, a campaign volunteer read greetings written by Obama especially for the MPE and Christopher Dodd’s wife, Jackie, congratulated the crowd via a telephone hookup,
then nominated her husband.

The MPE was a unique event in a unique year.

“It is the first time since 1924 neither an incumbent president nor vice president will seek the Oval Office,” Hardy said. “It is also the first time in history that a woman, an African-American, a Hispanic, a person of the Mormon faith, a person three times married and the oldest candidate ever may have legitimate chances to become President of the United States.”

The connection between civics and education can be effective, said Inessa Levi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“This innovative approach to education is what makes Western Illinois University unique,” she said. “Students will use the real world as a classroom and take away an understanding of the American democratic process that will last a lifetime.”

That happened within days of the MPE’s launch, Hardy said.

“I had an e-mail from a Western student who was born in Korea,” he said, “and she said, ‘In my country I would never be able to do what we’re doing here.’

“She really experienced a discovery,” he said. “I think this made a difference in her life.”

Levi put the experience in perspective.

“Today we gather not only to learn about the democratic process, but to celebrate it!” she said. “Over the past two weeks, it has been a true pleasure to see students, faculty and staff from across WIU come together in a spirit of discovery to conduct this mass simulation.”

Hardy deflects personal compliments, but also boasts on the event itself — and the thousands of people who participated.

“This will promote a better understanding of the electoral process [and] stimulate student involvement in American politics,” Hardy said, “— the most broadly encompassing simulation of its kind ever held on any university campus.”

By Floyd Wombacher

Before: Starting my final semester at Western, I committed to doing what I could to make the Mock Presidential Election (MPE) a success. Along with my involvement through the National Political Science Honor Society, the College Democrats, and as a peer mentor for a First-Year Experience class that will fill the role of various states’ delegations, I also took on the role of campaign manager for Democratic candidate Joe Biden, the senior U.S. Senator from Delaware. And that’s where my life got real demanding, real quickly.

I became interested in Biden soon after the 9/11 attacks when I managed to catch one of his many appearances on the Sunday news program circuit. It seemed like he was talking to me, not the Washington elite. It was a refreshing approach, one that spoke volumes of the man’s leadership.

By summer, it was clear that those students who did not follow the political process closely would probably, out of innocent ignorance, support either the woman candidate or the guy from Illinois. I saw an opportunity to get the word out about Biden by making use of this mock election, and I decided to put forth what effort I could muster around my schoolwork and my baby-rearing work to make Biden viable.

When it came time for the first MPE organizational meeting to take place, I had already attended a Biden campaign stop in Keokuk, Iowa, and made contact with his staff. I gathered a few individuals and asked about joining the Biden team. We started out as a group of five. Soon, we added some freshmen, doubling our numbers.

The Biden MPE organization had two goals: create signage to post in as many buildings as we could, and get to know the issues.

During: Ideally, I would have spent the weekend holed up with my campaign staff, brainstorming about the MPE Democratic Convention, seeking magic words that would sway largely uninterested freshman into supporting Biden. It’s a shame that Illinois has a favorite son on the ballot, for Obama is on the minds of delegates before they learn that they would represent all 50 states and various U.S. territories. Add to that a staggering number of Obama campaigners who knew how to work the crowd, and all others’ defeat is assured.

Some students listened, appreciating the roles they played. Questions were asked of my staff and answered appropriately. Sometimes it got fun. I had a wonderful time explaining that no matter whom you voted for, all of the candidates essentially believed the same things, and it was a certainty that taxes were going to go up.

Thus far it’s been a wonderful experience. My staff put forth their best, and though we will come up short, to fully play out the scenario, we must continue to push the Biden message and his plan to end the war in Iraq.

I am looking forward to giving one more speech. One more opportunity to be on the local news would be nice, too. I think I have this VCR figured out at last.

After: With the election upon us, I found myself in a position that I would not wish upon anyone. My candidate was an afterthought on the stage and in the seats at Western Hall. Instead of running around in a suit carrying signs and giving interviews, I found myself clutching a manila folder, sitting in a bleacher seat among the Florida delegation, ready to hand out ballots and attendance sheets. (It was a good that some students listened, appreciating the roles they played. Questions were asked of my staff and answered appropriately. Sometimes it got fun. I had a wonderful time explaining that no matter whom you voted for, all of the candidates essentially believed the same things, and it was a certainty that taxes were going to go up.

Thus far it’s been a wonderful experience. My staff put forth their best, and though we will come up short, to fully play out the scenario, we must continue to push the Biden message and his plan to end the war in Iraq.

I am looking forward to giving one more speech. One more opportunity to be on the local news would be nice, too. I think I have this VCR figured out at last.

Floyd Wombacher is the Political Science Departmental Scholar this Fall. A journalism minor, he’s married and has a 10 month-old daughter, Chloe.
from “EarthWatch” page 13

dents to present their research to a live audience,” says Jenkins. “Their presentations have included everything from traditional science research posters to a performance by the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” an homage to the turtles we capture and release for sampling at the station.”

SCAP participants have great things to say about their experiences at the station.

Arizona native Ann Chang is a veteran EarthWatch camper. An alumna of years 2004, 2005 and 2006 at the station, she’s now a second-year undergraduate at the University of California-Berkeley, where she is a major in integrative biology.

“I’ve had my fair share of summer camps and trips abroad, but I don’t think I’ve ever spent a better two weeks than those at the Kibbe (Life Science) Station in Illinois,” she says. “I felt like I was in a completely different world. While we certainly were not living a primitive lifestyle, the setting took away the distraction of modern technologies. Without our regularly scheduled television shows, lengthy phone calls to friends (most of us didn’t have cell phones that first year), and mindless, time-consuming computer games, we found ourselves spending more time interacting with each other and the world outside.

“It felt so liberating to escape the daily demands of school, sports and extracurricular activities that filled our normal schedules from sunup to sundown. Instead, we worked and played to exhaustion each day,” she adds. “Our free time was spent lounging in the open, skipping to the pond each day to catch bullfrogs, and sitting listening to music and laughing together.”

Chang also reminisced about what she took away from her time as a SCAP participant.

“The expedition gave me a new perspective on environmental issues,” she continues. “Before my trip, I was fairly ignorant of what is going on with our Earth. I had the general knowledge that school and the media fed to me: There are problems with the world, the forests are depleting, species are dying out, etc. But it’s a whole different thing to go out and work in those settings, find those endangered creatures, and really see what we are losing.

“Then I had the opportunity to experience it in Illinois,” Chang says. “I started understanding and caring. Until I swam in its murky waters and tasted its mud, I never realized how much I loved the river and how important to society it is. The river and its floodplains house innumerable species of plants and animals. It was key to [the] exploration and expansion in the 16th century, and is still used for travel, shipping and agriculture.

“Today, the Mississippi provides water to more than 50 cities,” she says. “The work I did there made my usual concerns at home seem trifling. My eyes were finally opened to the importance of research towards preserving and marinating ecosystems.

“I never imagined I would enjoy those two weeks so much,” Chang recalls. “It was an experience that will never leave me. The river instilled in me a much deeper appreciation for nature, and an awareness of how we have been destroying it. Because of the experience EarthWatch Institute provided, I will take more notice of my surroundings in the future, try to promote understanding, and do the best I can to protect the environment.”

Currently, Chang is working in a forest ecology lab.

“My EarthWatch experience definitely had a role in my pursuing a research project where I could get dirty,” she says. “I need field work to balance out lab work now.”

Asked what kept her coming back to the Kibbe Life Science Station for a record three consecutive years, her answer was simple and emphatic: “People! The river and field station are certainly beautiful, but it’s nothing without the amazing people. I want to come back in 2008 as a lab tech!”

Perhaps SCAP participant Nicholas J. Stuckey-Mack summed up the overall feeling of past participants:

“We walk back through the river, through the numerous species of very tall grasses that lacerate our lower legs and back through that pond with silt coming up to my knees,” he says. “I walk up the mound onto dry land; I look out on the river where we have been and think, ‘I will miss that mud fight. I will miss these people. I will miss this river, the snapping turtles and Kibbe Life Science Station. I will miss every bit of the whole expedition, because every aspect has been absolutely wonderful’.”

See EarthWatch Institute’s website at http://www.earthwatch.org/

Jeff Dodd is Marketing Officer for the College of Arts and Sciences and associate editor of Focus.
By Jeff Dodd

During the winter, spring and summer of this year, gifts in brown wrapping paper began arriving at the door of Western Illinois University’s College of Arts and Sciences, delivered by Political Science chairman Rick Hardy. These gifts form what will be an amazing treasure trove of history-rich research materials that promise to serve WIU student and faculty scholars for years to come.

The benefactor of these gifts is a quiet, unassuming man by the name of Tom Booth. He is an artist, teacher, political motivator, extraordinary volunteer and winner of many awards, including an Outstanding Alumnus Award from WIU. His gift to the University: The Tom Booth Presidential Memorabilia Collection.

Martin Green, Executive Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois and member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Board, was instrumental in securing the collection for WIU.

“Having known Tom since 1987 and on occasions when he gave me political memorabilia from the State Fair or from the White House, I was very much aware of his extensive political/governmental collection that he acquired through his professional and voluntary efforts on a state and national level,” Green says. “He was involved in gubernatorial and presidential campaigns statewide and nationally. Along the way, he acquired many unique pieces of history.

“When Tom first approached me about some ideas of where he could donate his holdings, I mentioned the collection to Dean Levi and asked if she was interested in taking the leadership for the University. Without pause, the dean recognized the importance and value of the collection and the great benefit of WIU and the College of Arts and Sciences being the recipient. Western Illinois University is extremely fortunate to receive these important pieces. The collection’s presence at the institution will ensure preservation of these valuable historical artifacts while allowing them to be accessible to further the educational enterprise at WIU.” Plans are underway in the College of Arts and Sciences to create museum space appropriate to display the Booth Presidential Memorabilia Collection.

“We are looking forward to being able to fully catalog the collection and display it in a space befitting the dignity and personal commitment of this incredible contributor to our institution,” said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi. “This collection will serve our community for generations to come. The College is excited about this wonderful opportunity for students and faculty to touch and experience history through the original artifacts and books contained in the collection. We thank Marty Green for his invaluable service to the College of Arts and Sciences in helping secure this magnificent gift that will further support student and faculty research. We especially thank Tom Booth not only for this wonderful gift, but for a lifetime of service to this region.”

Hardy echoes her praise.

“Mr. Tom Booth is truly a Renaissance man,” he says. “He is an accomplished artist, writer, historian, political adviser, and civic leader. Although Mr. Booth has been on a first-name basis with numerous American presidents, U.S. senators, members of Congress, and governors from both sides of the political aisle, he has remained humble and true to his roots. He has never forgotten his alma mater and has proudly carried Western’s banner high throughout his illustrious public career.

“Western Illinois University is truly fortunate to acquire the Tom Booth collection,” Hardy adds. “It includes rare photographs, documents, signed books, campaign buttons, letters, and political memorabilia that Mr. Booth has collected and saved for posterity.”

University archivist Jeff Hancks is documenting and cataloging the vast collection.

“It was a great experience to process these materials and see them
for myself,” Hancks says. “Each one came to me packaged in paper. It was like Christmas to open the packages and see what political treasure each one contained.”

Booth started down his path to political insider and eventual fame as “Mr. Republican” through his first encounter with Illinoisan Ray Page in 1968. At the time, Page was the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and National Chairman of Educators for Nixon. Page asked Booth to become the Illinois chairman of the committee.

After returning from the Republican National Convention in Miami, where Richard Nixon received the party’s nomination for President, Page’s brother Harry sent a letter dated August 15, 1968, to John Mitchell at Nixon’s campaign headquarters in New York. It read, “… one of our employees, Tom Booth, suggested a combination slogan for the Nixon-Agnew ticket, which I think has some merit, ‘Nixon’s the 1; Agnew is 2.’ Eventually, ‘Nixon’s the One,’ became a major campaign slogan for the future President.”

Because of his service to west-central Illinois through his work with the Nixon campaign, subsequent service to U.S. Sen. and Mrs. Everett Dirksen, and his early career as chairman of the art department at Manual High School in Peoria, Western Illinois University bestowed the honor of “Distinguished Alumnus” on Booth in 1970. The University cited “the honor he has brought to himself and to Western through his work in the fields of art, education, and government.”

The recognition by WIU was only one of the many honors Booth has received throughout his career. While at Manual High School, he was presented the Valley Forge Teacher’s Medal by then-U.S. Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois during a ceremony at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C. The award was given for “outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life” and was sponsored by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. After helping his students do research, Booth wrote a manuscript, Milestones of a Nation, which was illustrated and published as a book. Through Booth’s leadership, Peoria Manual High School won two Freedoms Foundation awards.


“Congressman Michel has a great interest in schools and students’ welfare, which is an interest we both share,” says Booth. “To this day, I count Bob Michel as one of my closest friends and still mourn the loss of Corinne a few years ago.”

In 1977, Booth joined the staff of the Illinois Department of Transportation’s Office of Public Affairs, a job from which he retired more than 25 years later. In 1981, Gov. James R. Thompson asked Booth to assume the role of adviser to the Illinois College Republican Foundation. During his first year as adviser, Booth was instrumental in helping the Federation grow and gain a visible image in the state. Ultimately, the Federation named an award in his honor, “The Tom Booth Award,” which recognized outstanding individual performance and contributions.”

It was through his friendship with Michel that Booth became familiar with the Reagan administration. He was an early member of the committee that refurbished Reagan’s childhood home in Dixon, Ill. In 1992, Booth was asked to be on the committee for the celebration of the 200th year of the White House.

In 1994, the Sangamon County Republican Central Committee presented Booth with a bust of Abraham Lincoln called the “First Republican Award.” Purchased by Gov. Thompson, the award was presented by U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood, who represents Illinois’ 18th District.

“When I decided to run for Congress in 1994, Tom was one of a handful of people in Sangamon County who helped me organize a campaign office,” LaHood recalls. He provided much of his own memorabilia and furnishings so we could have a campaign presence in Sangamon County. He was one of my early supporters there. I will always remember his ability to get people to work together for a common good – almost always centered around the Republican Party.

Lawrence Blake, Superintendent of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park, recalls his association with Booth: “I first met Tom more than 20 years ago at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield where he volunteered and eventually became coordinator of the Sesquicentennial Series.

“Two early projects in which I was involved at the Lincoln Home included a program to decorate all of the historic homes in the Lincoln Home neighborhood for Christmas and the return of original Lincoln Home furnishings from Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C.,” he adds. “I became convinced that Tom literally
knew everyone who was somebody who could help in some way.”

“His talent fires up enthusiasm in anybody that he comes in contact with,” Blake continues. “He is incredibly giving and generous of his time and energy to the point it becomes infectious and draws in others.”

The Hon. Paul Findley, a former Congressman from Illinois (1961-1983), says of his friendship with Booth. “Tom stands in my memory in that priceless band of people who were always helpful, always competent, always loyal during my Congressional career and since. He was content to be in the background but provided dependable, meticulous leadership.”

Concluding the friends’ memories of Booth, Marty Green says, “Tom is a wonderful and thoughtful person, and a great friend. He is an avid supporter of WIU. Tom has committed his professional career to public service and has done immeasurable work for the people of our great state. He is a fantastic role model for future political scientists and students interested in education and public service.”

from “Vallas” page 15

That 1997 honorary degree in a way completed Vallas’ WIU experience, he said.

“And a wonderful experience it was,” he said, adding, “I have no unpleasant memories. I enjoyed the small university town environment of Macomb. I have to say that my most interesting memory was the streaking craze that many WIU students participated in in the mid-’70s. (I must point out that I enjoyed it not as a participant, but as an observer.)”

Vallas can be inspirational as well as sentimental.

Katrina ruined much of what New Orleans had, yet it also sparked the hope of change in educators’ reactions and anticipation of reform.

“This is creating a new school system from the ground up,” Vallas told the Christian Science Monitor.

“A rising tide lifts all boats,” he’s said. “We’re expanding options for everybody. This is not just about serving gifted kids. We’re about creating gifted kids.”

from “Laureate” page 7

I could accomplish,” Remes said. Athletic competition is also important to Remes.

“At Western Illinois University, I am fulfilling my dreams to play the highest level of soccer,” she said. “Not only have I succeeded, but my freshman class (Fall 2004) has brought about a significant improvement to the women’s soccer program. [We] have gone to the conference tournament and have had the best two seasons in history. I am honored to think I was a part of this experience.

“My teammates and I also seek to change the community,” she continued. “We spend hours off the soccer field, bettering the local community and ourselves. I chose this program for this reason. I want to build myself not only as a soccer player and student, but also as a person.”

Included in more than 700 hours of community service Remes and the Westerwinds soccer team completed in the 2006-2007 academic year was volunteering with Macomb’s Big Brothers Big Sisters, tutoring local grade school children, and working on campus beautification projects.

Remes is the president of Western’s chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society and she served as a student council member (2006-2007) for Western’s College of Arts and Sciences. Last spring, she also served an internship in the McDonough County Public Defender’s office.

“I hope [all of] this can lead me to a career in law,” Remes said. “I aim to use a law degree to get involved in my community through public interest, and maybe someday become a judge. I want to use my position to someday hire hard-working individuals who share my enthusiasm toward service and improvement of our local communities.”

— University Relations

from “Internships” page 17

and that often leaves little time or money for an internship. If students take summer school classes, for instance, they may only have time for a regular job.

Nevertheless, Heissinger still encourages Arts and Sciences majors to seek internships – or create their own field experience. He says combining one’s major and minor might open up even more summer job opportunities.

If students simply cannot fit an internship into their degree plan, Waters suggests an “ex-ternship,” a job that both reflects future career goals and a learning experience.

“The internship is a good learning system, but all you need to know is the fundamentals,” Waters said. “You just have to look at where you’re going: ‘Experiential learning’ is the key.”

“I am so glad to see students taking part in internship programs,” says Inessa Levi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“These programs provide an excellent way for tomorrow’s professionals to get experience today.

“We are working to make intern opportunities more accessible to our students,” she continues. “The college is actively seeking alumni and friends of the university who are willing to provide internships in diverse fields of endeavor, which support the liberal arts and sciences disciplines taught here.

“We also hope that we can work with employers to develop more paid internships so students who would otherwise have to take restaurant or retail jobs in the summer to make money for school can reap the full benefits of working in an intern position while maintaining some financial footing,” she adds.

Cash is a senior Journalism major from Pekin, Ill. She interned last summer at Central Illinois Business Publishers in Peoria, Ill.

Fall/Winter 07
University College Dublin in July. ALICE ROBERTSON’s textbook, Writing from Private Places to Public Spaces: A Teaching Rhetoric for College Writing, was published by Kendall/Hunt.

Journalism director MOHAMMAD A. SIDIQI co-authored “What do we want the other to teach about the Islamic ethical traditions?” in David L. Coppola’s book What Do We Want the Other to Teach About Us? Siddiqi also presented “Journalism Ethics, War on Terrorism and Journalists’ Changing Views of Journalism and Ethics” at the 50th anniversary conference of the International Association of Media and Communication Research in Paris, France, in July.


JOSE-ANTONIO GONZALEZ and MARGARITA OBREGON both made presentations to the Asia Association of Computer Assisted Language Learning (Asia CALL).

Chair ANDREW LIAN was the keynote speaker for Asia CALL with a speech titled “So You Want Me to Teach 150 Students in One Class.”

Geography: REDINA HERMAN had received more than $28,000 in funding from Boeing Co. to study contrails.

CHAD SPERRY received a grant for $83,160 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to map Macomb, and a grant for $10,500 from the Schuyler County Highway Department for “Schuyler County Deer-Vehicle Accident Analysis.”

Geology: AMY BROCK presented “Pedogenic Barite, Polygorskite and Sepiolite in Petrocalcic Horizons at Mormon Mesa, Nev.: Implications for Soil and Water Movement” at the Soil Science Society of America in New Orleans in November.

KYLE MAYBORN presented “The Geology and Mineralogy of Western and Southern Greenland” to the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield in June, and “Geochemical Evidence of Magma Recharge and Mixing in Late-Stage Dikes Associated with the Nain Anorthosites, Labrador, Canada” at the Geological Society of America (GSA) conference in Denver in October.

LESLIE MELIM presented “A Biomarker Suite from Cave Pool Precipitates, Cottonwood Cave, N.M.” at the GSA.


PETER COLE published two books this year: Ben Fletcher: The Life and Times of a Black Wobbly (Charles H. Kerr) and Wobbly’s on the Waterfront: Interracial Unionism in Progressive Era Philadelphia (University of Illinois).

RICHARD FILIPINK wrote “Force Is the Last Method: Eisenhower, Dulles and American Intervention in The Suez Crisis” for the journal Critique.


Retired professor CHARLES O’BRIEN last summer published the sixth in his series of historical mysteries set in France on the eve of the revolution. Cruel Choices (Severn House) is a “journey into the Paris underworld,” commented Publisher’s Weekly, “fascinating if grim.” O’Brien (whose website is www.mutewitness.com) this fall completed the seventh title, Assassin’s Rage.

ED WOELL wrote “A Trend That Has No Trend” in Historically Speaking; The Bulletin of the Historical Society.

Mathematics: IRAJ KALANTARI served on the organizing committee for the Institute for Theoretical Physics and Mathematics’ Logic Conference in Tehran, Iran, in June. He also wrote “Induction over the Continuum,” a chapter in the book Induction, Learning Theory and Philosophy (Springer).

FERIDUN TASDAN presented “Smoothed Mann-Whitney Method for Two-Sample Location Problem” at the 2007 Joint Statistics Meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July.

LARRY WELCH presented “Turing Degrees and Topology at Computation and Logic in the Real World” at the Computability in Europe conference in Siena, Italy, in June.

Philosophy and Religious Studies: AMY CARR wrote “The Hermeneutics of Providence Amid Affliction: Contributions by Luther and Weil to a Cruciform Doctrine of Providence” in Pro Ecclesia.

SARAH HAYNES presented “Imagined Reality: The Mind and Its Implications for Tibetan Buddhist Ritual” at the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion conference in
Saskatoon, Canada.

Physics: EFRAIN J. FERRER and VIVIAN INCERA co-authored “Magnetic Phases in Three-Flavor Color Superconductivity” for Physical Review and participated in a workshop on Exotic States of Hot and Dense Matter and Their Dual Description at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Canada, in May.

Ferrer also presented “Gluon Vortices and Induced Magnetic Field in Compact Stars” for the American Institute of Physics’ VII Latin American Symposium on Nuclear Physics and Applications in June in Cusco, Peru. Incera also presented there: “Magnetic Phases in Dense Quark Matter.”


SERGEI G. SHARAPOV presented “Dirac-Like Quasiparticles in Graphene” at the Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists, in Saskatoon, Canada, in June.

IGOR A. SHOVKOY contributed to an article about strange quark matter for Physical Review, and presented papers at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Canada, and the Vic Elias Memorial Conference at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, both in May.

PENGQIAN WANG contributed to an article on Van der Waal’s bonding for Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie, and a piece on laser-induced dissociation pathways of multielectron diatomic molecules for Physical Review. Wang also took part in five presentations at the American Physical Society’s Division of Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics conference in June in Calgary, Canada.

Political Science: JONGHO LEE presented “Transnational Engagement as a Catalyst for Latino Immigrants’ Political Involvement in the United States” at a meeting of an American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago last summer. Also there, KLARA SOGINDOLSKA presented “Comparative Review of the 1989 Democratic Revolutions and the New Electoral Revolutions in the Post-Communist Space.”

Psychology: BEM ALLEN, emeritus professor, recently published Experiences with Race: Growing Up White in America (iUniverse), which examines how experiences in Texas, Mississippi, and western Illinois shaped his view of race in this country.

TRACY K. CRUISE was part of a group presentation, “Navigating the First Year for Supervisors,” at a Fall internship workshop at Illinois State University in Normal.

VIRGINIA DIEHL contributed to “Elaborated Metaphors for Enhancing Chemistry Learning,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in Washington, D.C.


DANA F. LINDEMANN contributed to “Behavior Analysis and AIDS Education: The Evolution of a Self-Management Program,” an address at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference in Sydney, Australia.

KIMBERLEY A. McCURRY contributed to “Confidence across the Eyewitness Experience” in The Handbook of Eyewitness Psychology: Volume 1: Memory for Events.


PAULA WISE co-wrote School Psychology: Past, Present, and Future for the National Association of School Psychologists.

Sociology and Anthropology: WILLIAM FAULKNER and RICHARD MATHERS received more than $36,000 from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for “Test Construction, Delivery, Scoring and Evaluation.”

DAVID ROHALL has written the first comprehensive review of social psychology in the field of sociology: Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives (Allyn & Bacon). He also received the University of Maryland’s Charles H. Coates Commemorative Award for significant contributions to Military Sociology, awarded this summer at the American Sociological Society meeting in New York City.

Women’s Studies: LORI BAKER-SPERRY wrote “Production of Meaning Through Peer Interaction: Children and Walt Disney’s Cinderella” in Sex Roles, and presented with POLLY RADOV and DORIS HAMBUCH the panel “Program to Department: Strategies, Insights, and Institutional Legitimacy” at the National Women’s Studies Association conference in June.

S’THEMBILE WEST wrote “Honoring the Body: Rituals of Breath and Breathing” in Faith, Health, and Healing in African American Life (Praeger).

The Department of Women’s Studies was the first organizational recipient of the Western Organization for Women’s achievement award this year – the 20th anniversary of the program at WIU.
Focus

The Real Sequel

Football Leatherneck moved from local student to national security

By Rob Arroyo

If Western Illinois University has educated unsung American heroes, Bruce Gebhardt is surely one.

The 1970 Sociology graduate worked in law enforcement for decades, becoming Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and through his work affecting every American.

“Bruce has earned the respect and admiration of his FBI colleagues and that of the entire law enforcement community,” FBI Director Robert Mueller said in 2004. “He has overseen the FBI’s reorganization into a counterterrorism- and intelligence-focused agency, and he has made lasting contributions to the FBI and to our national security. As a result of his leadership, the FBI is now more fully prepared to fight terrorism both at home and abroad. His years of dedicated service to our country are deeply appreciated.”

During the course of Gebhardt’s 30-plus years at the FBI, he served in field offices from coast to coast, from Los Angeles and San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

Gebhardt began his career investigating organized crime and drug trafficking before being promoted to more supervisory roles overseeing counterterrorism and cyber crimes.

“(Cyber crimes) didn’t exist in the ‘60s and ‘70s, but as the world changes and modernizes, we (at the FBI) needed to change,” says Gebhardt. “As a result, cyber crimes in the FBI became very important.”

In 2002, Gebhardt was appointed Deputy Director of the FBI, serving two years.

Although the Baltimore native graduated from Western more than 30 years ago, Gebhardt says he has many fond memories and friends from the place he feels opened his eyes to a whole new viewpoint.

Gebhardt received the FBI Medal of Valor for his action taken during an airplane hijacking in Denver, Colo., in 1976.

During the ‘90s, Gebhardt was appointed Special Agent in Charge of both the Phoenix and San Francisco divisions, where he successfully worked cases involving organized crime, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cyber crimes and white-collar crimes, Mueller said.

Gebhardt now lives in Las Vegas, Nev., where he has been the Senior Vice President-Global Security for the MGM Mirage Corp. since his 2004 retirement from the FBI.
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