HAPPY ENDING
for WIU professors
after disappointment, dread

• WIU key to 1st Upper Mississippi River Conference
• New life for ‘Vishnu Springs’
• Western Illinois’ forgotten history
Your College of Arts & Sciences

50 years of moving forward
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WIU alum Harlan Watson, a 1967 honors graduate in Physics, is now the United States' chief negotiator on climate change.

ON THE COVER: Richard and Sue Hum Musser of Western's Department of Biological Sciences (Photo by Jeff Dodd)

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“Focus will inform college stakeholders about College of Arts and Sciences activities and encourage their involvement in the life of the college.”

Western Illinois University
College of Arts and Sciences

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Western’s CAS is made up of 16 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, Nursing, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, and Women’s Studies.

Music and art were part of the celebration at the 34th annual African Literature Association Conference.

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Fall/Winter 08
As you will read later in this issue, the College of Arts and Sciences celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 17 with dinner in the University Union ballroom. This event also marked our second annual scholarship fundraising dinner. As you will read, it exceeded any expectation that the dean’s staff or I could have had.

I would like to thank all of those who participated in the event. I send special thanks to the Board of Trustee members Carolyn Ehlert, Bill Griffin, and Steve Nelson and their guests for attending. I’d also like to recognize Provost Jack Thomas, Vice President for Human Services Dan Hendricks, Vice President for Student Services Garry Johnson, and Vice President for Administrative Services Jackie Thompson for their participation in making the event a success.

Among the important announcements we were able to deliver that night was the establishment of three new scholarship funds. Retired philosophy and religious studies professor Paul Mundschenk and his wife Nancy started the Mundschenk Religious Studies Scholarship in recognition of our new baccalaureate degree program in that field. His significant financial support of that fund was graciously matched by department chairperson John Simmons and his wife Aliza Golan.

The College established a new College of Arts and Sciences Nursing Scholarship in recognition of the recent approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education of our proposal to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree in Nursing at WIU. Although only recently established, this scholarship has already started to accept funds, and we feel we can bring it to endowment level quickly. It is our hope that the coming year will see one or two more scholarships established in Nursing.

Finally, the faculty in our Department of Women’s Studies came together to establish the first-ever scholarship in Women’s Studies at WIU. Though in its infancy, we are working to bring this scholarship to full maturity quickly so our students in the department can begin to benefit from it as soon as possible.

Regular readers of Focus know that I have written about scholarships in this space before. You know they are important to our ability to attract and retain the best and brightest students. The best and brightest students attract the best and brightest faculty and vice versa.

Today, however, we are faced with an economy that is challenging at best. Not only are financial aid grants scarce, there is much less money available for student loans because of the credit crisis and lack of state funds. Scholarships are now critical to students who are looking for ways not only to reduce their financial burden on graduation but to be able to afford a college education at all. For many students, this is a critical need.

If you would like to help with scholarships, please call our Development Director, Bryce Dexter, or me at (309) 298-1828. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Jeri Brown
Class of 1960 (Physics major)
Retired from NASA

I received my copy of Focus from WIU. Congratulations.

Your editor and I, along with Steve Drescher, Dave Lanier and John Rosemond, ran for SGA Senators at Large in 1970. I have our “Volunteers” posters on my office wall behind my desk.

I have been living in Salem, Va., for 25 years and run our student-activities program and Campus Center at Roanoke College.

Mark Petersen
Assistant Dean
Roanoke College

Letters welcome:
Focus magazine welcomes your letters to the editor. Write Focus c/o Simpkins Hall 226-H, Western Illinois University, #1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455
By Sarah Zeeck

Exceptional students received new scholarships, more scholarships were established, the first Alumni Achievement award was presented, and scholarship funds were quadrupled at the College of Arts and Sciences’ 2nd Annual Scholarship Dinner, which on October 17 celebrated the college’s 50th anniversary.

Susan Brown, a student in the CAS’s new nursing program, received the Bertha Grieshaber Fink Nursing Scholarship, and Amy Jo Byers, a Mathematics student, received the Willis Kinley Baise and Alan Baise Scholarship. It was the first time either scholarship had been awarded.

Bertha Fink, a donor for one of the scholarships, understands the importance of scholarships to assist students attending college. She said she was helped as a student years ago by other people’s generosity.

“I was given a check for $365. That covered my tuition, my books and my uniforms for three years,” she remembered. “At the end of that time, I walked out, passing all of my nursing exams, had an RN certificate, ready to face the world.”

Fink added that the scholarship she and her husband funded is especially important because of the nationwide shortage of nurses.

Three new scholarship funds were announced in all. In addition to the Bertha Grieshaber Fink Nursing Scholarship and the long-standing Hanson Nursing Scholarship, a new fund in nursing was established by the College of Arts and Sciences in recognition of the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s recent approval of a four-year baccalaureate degree program in nursing.

The Mundschenk Scholarship in Religious Studies was started by retired Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies Dr. Paul Mundschenk and his wife Nancy. It will support the department’s new baccalaureate degree in that field. That scholarship immediately received significant support from the Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, John Simmons, and his wife, Aliza Golan.

Finally, the faculty of the Department of Women’s Studies formed a new scholarship fund.

“This represents the very first scholarship in Women’s Studies at WIU,” said Interim Chair and Associate Professor Aimee Shouse. “We are excited about the prospect of offering scholarship opportunities to our students and will look forward to working with CAS Development Director Bryce Dexter and alumni in the coming months to bring our scholarship fund to its endowment level.”

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi announced that more than 200 people present at the dinner had raised more than $30,000, easily eclipsing the inaugural dinner’s total of just over $7,400.

“I knew we had great support among the immediate community and the greater community of alumni of the College,” she said. “However, this exceeded everything I could have hoped for in terms of success for the event. Despite a challenging economy, our current and retired faculty, alumni and community leaders really showed what can be done when we are all working toward a common goal.”

WIU Provost Jack Thomas said that as the University’s capital campaign continues, “The College of Arts and Sciences remains one the busiest areas of the University.”

The College of Arts and Sciences received recent approvals by the Illinois Board of Higher Education for two new nursing degrees, two new liberal arts and sciences degrees, and a degree in religious studies.

“Not only has the college enjoyed a history of achievement, we can look forward to a bright future as well,” said Thomas, who referred to new academic programs being developed.

“It was great to see so many people come out to support scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences,” said WIU Vice President for Advancement Services Dan Hendricks. “Dean Levi and her staff continue to set the bar high for fund raising in the University. I am pleased to see this sort of event strike a chord with a group as diverse as the one that attended the event Friday night. It shows that our development efforts are certainly on the right track as our capital campaign continues.”

Dr. Norman Teeter received the College of Arts and Sciences’ Inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award. College advancement board president Zack Stamp presented the

Continued on next page
award to Teeter at the dinner.

Teeter is “the embodiment of Western Illinois,” Stamp said. “The foundation of his success developed through his education at Western. As he advanced through his education, he found his calling to provide human service to many people who, without his pioneering innovation and vision, would have lived a life of suffering.”

Teeter graduated from Western Illinois University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and, along with his wife Carmelita Teeter, M.D., established substance abuse clinics across the southeastern United States. Teeter earned his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. Both Teeters received Honorary Doctorates from Western Illinois University in 2006.

“As the College of Arts and Sciences celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, we wanted to find a way to recognize the many graduates who are distinguished in their chosen business, profession or life’s work,” Levi said. “I am delighted that our advancement board agreed on Norm as our inaugural award recipient. He has shown his unwavering support of the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Illinois University through his hard work and generosity. We thank him sincerely for all his has done for the college and institution.”

Last year the College of Arts and Sciences started the scholarship fundraising dinner as part of its Homecoming activities.

“I am truly grateful and humbled by the support we received. Now that we are sure we can make the event a success, it is our hope that we can make this a new tradition in the College,” Levi said. “We have already started to plan the third annual dinner for October 16, 2009.”

Sarah Zeeck is a Junior Journalism major from Rushville, Ill, and Opinions Editor at the Western Courier.

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**Webb makes donation to Western**

**By Julie Murphy**

One of Western Illinois University’s most distinguished alumni, attorney Dan Webb, has pledged $500,000 to establish the Dan and Laura Webb Endowed Professorship in Political Science and also the Dan and Laura Webb Pre-Law Scholarship Fund.

“I made this gift to WIU because Western provided me with the educational foundation that allowed me to achieve substantial success in the legal profession,” said Webb, a 1966 graduate. “Without that foundation, I would not have been as successful in law school and my legal profession.”

His gift is in addition to the previously funded Keith Webb Memorial Scholarship in memory of his father, and the Dan Webb Political Science Internship.

Webb has spent his entire professional life as a courtroom trial attorney and litigator. From his position as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois to chairman of the law firm Winston & Strawn, LLC, he has tried more than 100 jury cases. His skills have been recognized in his successful prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter in the Iran-Contra affair, his spearheading the “Operation Greylord” investigations into judicial corruption in Cook County, his representing Microsoft in its antitrust litigation, and, most recently, his serving as lead defense counsel in the six-month jury trial of former Illinois Gov. George Ryan.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi said that she’s thankful to the Webbs for providing these new educational opportunities for many students in the years ahead.

WIU President Al Goldfarb expressed his gratitude, too.

“Dan Webb’s service to his undergraduate alma mater has been generous and heartfelt,” Goldfarb said. “The entire University community is grateful for his generosity and his interest in enhancing the educational experience at Western.”

“Being a courtroom trial lawyer requires simple, straightforward communication,” Webb said. “Growing up in Bushnell and working at Vaughn Hammer Factory gave me the ability to talk to folks. Going to Western, where I experienced diversity and expanded my horizons, was a great learning exercise that has served me well throughout my life and career.”

Dan Webb

Julie Murphy is Director of WIU’s office of Foundation Communications/Donor Stewardship. Another version of this story appeared in Western News.
U.S. Bank contributes $50,000 to WIU-Quad Cities Writing Center

U.S. Bank in the Quad Cities will help fund the Professional Writing and Academic Support Center at Western Illinois University’s Quad Cities Riverfront Campus through a gift of $50,000, announced Ken Koupal, regional president for U.S. Bank.

The funding is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Bancorp Foundation, the parent company of U.S. Bank.

In the coming months, the writing center will be formally renamed to reflect this gift.

“Western Illinois University–Quad Cities gratefully acknowledges the U.S. Bancorp Foundation for its generous support of this important resource for students,” said WIU President Al Goldfarb. “This gift commitment by the U.S. Bancorp Foundation is an investment in affordable higher education in the Quad Cities that will support WIU’s values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.”

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi stressed that the U.S. Bank’s generosity will help any Western students at the Quad Cities who writes.

“Although operated by the English and Journalism Department, the QC Writing Center provides academic and professional services to all students on the QC campus,” she said. “This gift will allow us to expand our capabilities now and in the future once we move to the new campus. The College of Arts and Sciences is truly thankful for this outstanding gift to our Quad Cities programs.”

A Quad Cities WIU administrator linked the gift to local backing.

“This gift is an indicator of the strong community support for our efforts,” said Joe Rives, Vice President for Quad Cities Planning and Technology. “In fund raising, success usually begets success. U.S. Bank has taken an important step in setting the stage for our requests to other potential funders in the Quad Cities.”

Joan Livingston-Webber, Interim Chair of the Department of English and Journalism, said, “This gift will help the Quad Cities Writing Center in several ways. It will give the center’s work more visibility and, thus, more readily useful to students and instructors. It will provide more means to offer services to the regional community through summer workshops sponsored by the Writing Center. It places more focus on writing and the time and labor expended to help students learn the textual matters so necessary in today’s academic and workplace worlds.”

English Instructor and Coordinator of the QC-Writing Center Sherie Brigham said the center provides one-on-one consultations to students with writing assignments plus a business-writing consultant helping with resumes, letters and so forth.

Dan Hendricks, WIU Vice President for Advancement and Public Services, said, “Our goal is to help create a workforce that will give the Quad Cities a competitive edge—one that can take it to greater levels of prosperity. U.S. Bancorp has generously joined us in this effort.”

By Bonnie Barker

Planning ahead, reaching out to townspeople and engaging students resulted in a rewarding summer for paleontologist Matthew Bonnan, whose work at Utah’s Morrison Formation was covered by National Geographic in June.

“Our plan was always to involve the local people in our dig, and we plan to do more of that this next year,” said Bonnan, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Western Illinois University, and a specialist in functional morphology and vertebrate paleobiology.

“The Burpee Museum should really be credited for all the outreach they’ve done in the Hanksville, Utah

area,” he continued. “Their plan was never to simply come and take bones and leave.”

The Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, Ill., picked Bonnan to join its team because of his expertise in sauropods, the largest animals to ever walk on land. He received university funding for a van and fuel, and, along with five WIU students who paid their own food and lodging, he traveled to Hanksville, Utah. The Western group was at the Morrison Formation for 10 days, unearthing more than 100 bones.

“It was really exciting,” Bonnan said. “The site is a heyday of really big sauropods of the late Jurassic period—about 147 million years ago. This has the potential to be a very important site that will benefit everyone—scientists, federal, historical and heritage societies,

Continued on page 29

Paleontologist leads Western group to exciting Utah site; finds 100+ bones; recognition

Scott Williams of the Burpee Museum of Natural History, center, and Western Illinois University students Sara Reed, right, and Alexi Stauffer, left, prepare the shin of a sauropod dinosaur for study.

Photo by Matt Bonnan

Fall/Winter 08
African-American Studies
To commemorate the 1968 founding of Black Studies at U.S. colleges (first at San Francisco State College after students and faculty went on strike to demand a change of a curriculum they saw as Eurocentric and patriarchal), Western’s African-American Studies (AAS) department is holding an African American Studies Today lecture series continuing through this school year.

The lectures will feature AAS faculty and will showcase important current issues in the field. Department chair ABDUL-RASHEED NA’ALLAH launched the series with a talk titled “Praise Poetry: An Ilorin Performance of Name and History” in October.

Other scheduled speakers include ALPHONSO SIMPSON, NANCY KWANG JOHNSON, JO-ANN MORGAN, AUDREY WATKINS and SAFORA BOUKARI.

Biological Sciences
Associate Professor MATTHEW F. BONNAN published an article for the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, presented some of his findings — and, separately, other research with a group of his students — to the Illinois State Academy of Science, and summarized for the general public his research at PaleoFest 2008 at the Burpee Museum in Rockford.

Bonnan also participated in an impressive Paleontological dig at a new site near Hanksville, Utah, which already has yielded hundreds of dinosaur bones. Unofficially called the Hanksville-Burpee site, it’s located within the Morrison Formation, a rock unit composed of sandstones, siltstones and clays deposited by braided rivers in an ancient floodplain nearly 150 million years ago.

P. LEA MONAHAN, Professor and Director of the School of Nursing, presented “Mentoring New Faculty for Retention” at the National League for Nursing summit in San Antonio, Texas, in September.

Among several publications by ERIC RIBBENS were co-authoring “Darwin’s Finches and Natural Selection” in the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science (Case Study Collection), and a piece in the Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change (Sage Publications).

Ribbens also delivered four presentations, including “Committed to Cases: Integrating the Case Concept Into Your Course” for the 9th Annual Conference on Case Study Teaching in Science at Buffalo, N.Y., and other works for the Center for Teaching Excellence at Nazareth College, BioQuest’s Annual Meeting and the 100th annual meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science.

Chemistry
Undergraduate research is up in Chemistry, as a record number (11 students) worked in the research labs of Drs. JACK HUANG and LISA WEN last summer, and 18 students this Fall are working on projects mentored by faculty. The work of these students will be presented at state and regional meetings this academic year.

Three students presented at a regional American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in Kansas City, two students attended and presented research data at a national ACS meeting in New Orleans, four students presented at national meeting of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Diego, and one student presented at a national ACS meeting in Philadelphia.

The Chem Club won the top student organization award from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2007-2008.

English and Journalism
Assistant Professor LISA BARR presented two papers: “Stacking the Deck and Ignoring Those ‘Wild’ Cards (Citizens, Public Interest Advocates): FCC Hearings in Chicago, September, 2007,” to a symposium that was part of the National Conference for Media Reform in Minneapolis, Minn., in June, and “When ‘Liberal’ Newspaper Columnists Attack Female Candidates: ‘Travels with Uncle Chet’ and Hillary Bashing in Primary 2008,” to Women and Power: A Conference for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity on, by and for Women at the University of South Dakota in October.

The Journalism faculty as a group coordinated a regional high school competition in April for newspaper and yearbook students on behalf of the Illinois High School Association.

College Media Review published “The Hosty Ruling: Predictions of Its Chilling Effect Are So Far Exaggerated,” Assistant Professor MARK BUTZOW’s study looking for content interference at college papers after a controversial 2005 court ruling, in its Fall 2008 issue.

Butzow also presented a paper on writing for news websites, “Web Writing Blows Chunks,” at the National College Media Convention in Kansas City in October.

Assistant Professor LISA KERNEK was one of 32 journalism educators who took part in the short course at the national convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in August.

Professor BILL KNIGHT, Journalism’s Deputy Director, has edited and published a new edition of a 1935 book by west-central Illinois union activist, journalist and novelist...
Tom Tippett, and he wrote an introduction to the 250-page paperback. Tippett’s *Horse Shoe Bottoms* is about Illinois’ coal culture in the late 19th century.

CHRIS MORROW presented “Free Men of the Sea: Plundering Pirates and Negotiable Nationalisms in Representations of English Pirate John Ward” at the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Chicago last April, and he served as Visiting Instructor of Book History and Assistant Director for Programs at the 6th annual History Book History and Assistant Director 

Instructor RICH MORENO finished a new book, his eighth, *Nevada Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff*, which was published by Globe-Pequot Press.

Also, Moreno — who advises the *Western Courier* student newspaper — announced the independent operation’s winning eight awards at the Illinois College Press Association annual meeting in February 2008.

Ellen Poulter, the English and Journalism department Adviser, was named the 2008 Outstanding Academic Adviser at Western.

Journalism Director MOHAMMAD SIDDQUI in July presented “Islamophobia, the war on terrorism and U. S. Presidential elections” at the International Association of Media and Communication Research World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden. He also chaired two sessions there.

Siddqui also gave a public lecture on Islam and Democracy at WIU and accompanied WIU students from the Public Relations Student Society of America to PRSSA’s national convention in Detroit, both in October.

Associate Professor PEARLIE STROther-Adams presented a paper at the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications’ national conference in Chicago in August on the impact of the publication of the photo of Emmett Till’s mutilated body in his coffin after the 14 year old was lynched in Money, Miss., 40 years ago.

She also made a presentation about the representation of African Americans in media for April’s national Popular Culture Association conference in San Francisco and chaired the panel. Strother-Adams — who edited the new edition of the nationally distributed *Dealing with Diversity II: The Anthology* (Kendal Hunt)—also chaired a panel at the African Literature conference hosted by WIU at its Macomb campus and presented a paper on Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

**Foreign Languages and Literatures**

The WISE (Western Illinois Spanish Experience) Spain study-abroad program is filling rapidly. It will leave for Spain around January 31, under the guidance of Associate Professor GUADA CABEdo-TIMMONS, who successfully ran this program for many years. The WISE Spain and WISE Mexico programs, run by the department for many years, offer a unique experience of in-country living under close academic supervision.

Assistant Professor JOSÉ ANTONIO GONZALEZ presented research at the AsiaCALL (Asia Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning) 2008 International Conference in November at Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

Professor ANDREW LIAN, Department Chair, has been appointed Co-President of the AsiaCALL 2008 International Conference in Thailand. Lian has been a vice-president of AsiaCALL. He will also be making several research presentations at the conference.

Professor CATHERINE MOORE presented a research paper at the bilingual (French/Italian) international conference organized jointly by the Université de Savoie and the Università di Torino.

DÁMARIS MAYANS RAMÓN has just taken up her appointment in the department as a Spanish Assistant under the sponsorship of the Spanish government. This is the third consecutive year that the department has successfully applied for a sponsored assistant from the Spanish government.

**Geography**

In September, the department organized a research day highlighting faculty and student research. There were 32 research abstracts and 18 posters displayed. The GIS Center also participated by displaying GIS equipment and projects.

Also in September, the GIS Center received a $25,000 grant from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the project to digitize Upper Mississippi River shoreline features for the Corps’ Rock Island District.

**Geology**

Professor JACK BOWMAN BAILEY advised the National Geographic Channel on content for a TV special on bizarre dinosaurs. Also, aspects of Bailey’s research on the dinosaur Spinosaurus were spotlighted in the December issue of *National Geographic* magazine in an article called “Extreme Dinosaurs.”

Assistant Professor AMY BROCK recently was awarded the International Union of Soil Scientists Young Micromorphologist Publication Award for her piece titled “A New Formation Process for Calcic Pendants from Pahranagat Valley, Nevada, USA, and Implication for Dating Quaternary Landforms.” The work has been well received across the disciplines of both soil science and geology. She received the honor in Chengdu, China, in early September when she also presented new research.

Brock presented “Micro-CT Scanning of Petrocalcic Horizon Materials from Mormon Mesa, Nevada” at the joint annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, the Agronomy Society of
HUNDREDS FROM ACROSS GLOBE HELP MAKE AFRICAN LITERATURE CONFERENCE MEMORABLE

By Pearlie Strother-Adams

A team effort from the campus and community last spring resulted in hundreds of scholars from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe coming to Macomb, where workshops on African literature ranged from a Harvard professor’s panel on *Things Fall Apart* to sessions for local schoolchildren.

The 34th annual African Literature Association (ALA) Conference attracted about 350 teachers, critics, writers and publishers in April, when participants from as far as Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Britain, China, Germany and Japan spent six days sharing studies of African literature and culture.

“It was wonderful to have the presence of colleagues and scholars from around the world on Western’s campus and in the Macomb community,” said Dr. Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, the Chair of Western’s African-American Studies (AAS) department and a longtime ALA member who co-organized the event.

Open to WIU faculty and staff, and the public at large, the ALA conference featured high-profile scholars whose well-researched works included 360 paper presentations, 15 panels per day, a host of workshops and even dramatic performances, all finding unity around the conference theme, “African and African Diaspora Women Writers, Global Challenges and Cultural Identity.”

“It was the most successful conference I have attended,” said Dr. Igolima T.D. Amachree, a WIU sociology Professor, also a longtime ALA member who co-organized the event.

“People related one to another,” he continued. “Feedback indicates people were pleased. There were conversations inside and outside.”

The cordial, collegiate atmosphere was set the first night. The conference came alive with a special presidential reception at the University Residence; accelerated on the second day in the Sherman Hall auditorium with a festive welcome celebrating traditional African culture, dress, food, art, oratory, poetry, dance and music; and continued in the tradition of the African marketplace — with vendors with lively displays of various books and CDs, jewelry and art, and clothes and other goods — and climaxed with an outstanding array of presentations.

“The quality of papers was extraordinary,” Amachree added. “A number dealt with the literary as well as social aspects of women and minorities. Papers given by women are germane in linking women’s roles in literature and their roles as creators of literature.”

Conference planners had a goal, they said. They wanted to share their work about African literature, but also to celebrate — celebrate “the creativity, versatility and vibrancy of women of Africa and the African Diaspora by foregrounding their writings, oratures and creative imaginations through all forms of literary genres, performances, cultures, languages, styles, critical paradigms and more,” was the ALA’s mission statement of sorts.

The conference also recognized the 50th anniversary of *Things Fall Apart*, the internationally acclaimed novel by world-renowned author and scholar Chinua Achebe.

A conference highlight was a panel led by prominent Harvard University scholar Abiola Irele, who led a discussion on the significance of the novel, which has been translated into various languages and is taught in universities throughout the world as one of the most important literary works emanating from Africa.

Associate Professor Safoura A. Boukari of WIU’s AAS Department offered background support for the conference, saying that the conference was very good for WIU and the region.

“It was good to see so many well-known intellects and scholars venture to this small place,” Boukari said. “These are the writers and

Renowned literary figures Sefi Atta and Niyi Osundare address a group during the conference proceedings.
By Sarah Zeeck

Challenging listeners to make a difference, Political Science Professor and Department Chair Rick Hardy this fall delivered the sixth annual John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture, titled “The Constitution: Its Fate Depends on Civic Leaders.”

Hardy discussed the origins and timeline of the Constitution, highlighting the creators and their involvement with its creation.

Hardy explained that the Constitution came about because people were becoming fed up with the way society was operating. “People said, ‘I’m not going to take it anymore,’ ” Hardy said.

“Does anything truly last forever?” he continued, answering, “I believe love does. I believe maybe Scripture does, words.”

Hardy added that the future of the Constitution is in Americans’ hands. He said that it is up to civic leaders to create change, and that the citizens who make decisions and draw lines are politicians, and that politicians are civic leaders.

“I think politics is the art of drawing dividing lines,” he said. “That’s the way life is; we draw lines, and anybody who has the ability and the authority and legitimacy to draw lines is a politician.”

Hardy added that lines define everything in the world and that the Constitution is no different.

According to Hardy, civic leaders are vital for such change to occur, and the only element limiting change is the personal fear of what others think of us.

“No matter what you do, you’re going to get criticized,” Hardy said. “If you are a real civic leader, keep your vision. Hold steadfast to the principles you believe in and do not be afraid to take action.”

“Will our constitution last?” he asked. “I’m of [the] fervent belief that it’s in pretty good shape. And our country is in decent shape, but there are some warnings, and I’m going to tell you that we have to be careful.”

He concluded with a message of hope.

“I believe that together we can and will, make a difference.”

U.S. Constitution in Americans’ hands, Hardy says in annual liberal arts lecture
Focus

By Jeff Dodd

Western this summer was instrumental in bringing together various interests on behalf of a national treasure: the Mississippi River.

Taking part in the inaugural Upper Mississippi River Conference on Aug. 21-23 at the iWireless Center in Moline were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Coast Guard; and especially the Quad Cities-based River Action, a nonprofit group that advocates for the river’s environmental, economic and cultural vitality, along with students and faculty involved in research on the Mississippi and its tributaries.

Titled “Weaving Multiple Uses into Sustainable River Communities,” the conference attracted city planners, elected officials, landscape architects, environmental educators and groups, and economic developers to attend sessions on natural resources, river recreation and urban waterfront needs. Many presentations focused on various river management projects over the years and how those projects changed the upper Mississippi in the last century.

The conference stemmed from an idea from WIU Trustee Bill Griffin, who in 2006 thought of developing a partnership between Western and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Rock Island District. Through the efforts and support of Col. Robert Sinkler and Ken Barr of Corps, WIU’s Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Dan Hendricks, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Inessa Levi, President Al Goldfarb, and Institute for Environmental Studies Director Roger Viadero, a memorandum of agreement between the Corps and WIU was signed last December. It emphasizes environmental assessment, preservation, restoration and remediation; Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for planning and decision making support; and socio-economic studies related to using natural resources.

True to Griffin’s concept, in addition to Western Illinois University, the conference also included the involvement of several other state, regional, and federal organizations, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA).

Having UMRBA as a sponsor for the conference opens the door to many opportunities for WIU and everyone involved in the conference,” said Griffin. “UMRBA is a consortium of the governors of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. It was formed to coordinate the states’ river-related programs and policies. It works with federal agencies that have oversight of the rivers. A significant goal of the association is to manage opportunities under the “Water Resources Development Act of 2007,” which authorized flood control, navigation and environmental projects, and studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“The legislation, which has been authorized but at present remains unfunded until the next Congress is seated, provides for $1.9 billion set aside on a 50/50 cost share between the federal government and the Inland Waterway Trust Fund to address mooring facilities, switch boats and new 1,200-foot locks along the upper Mississippi River basin and Illinois waterway,” Griffin continued. “Of greater significance to the University under our agreement is another $1.7 billion that has been appropriated on a 93/7 cost share between the federal government and the states to reduce the cumulative environmental impacts of navigation systems and to improve ecological integrity. It is this part of the law where I think WIU can have the biggest impact because of our GIS Center, the Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Environmental GIS program.

“The act is just the first step in a larger program of navigation improvements and ecological restoration along the Mississippi River upstream from Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk, Iowa, through Lock and Dam 11 at Dubuque, and the Peoria and LaGrange locks and dam on the Illinois waterway,” he said.

Western Illinois University — the only institution of higher education to have this sort of agreement with the Corps’ Rock Island District — hosted the opening reception which included a greeting by Goldfarb as well exhibits and interactive displays by Western students and faculty, according to Viadero, who’s also a Professor of Biological Sciences.

“Afterward, conference participants were able to meet with students and faculty researchers from the Institute for Environmental Studies, the Alice
L. Kibbe Life Science Station, the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Geography, and the GIS Center. Highlights of this event were interactive displays of Mississippi River fish and mussels and GIS equipment," Viadero continued. “We were also fortunate to have the new ‘landing craft’ boat from Kibbe Station on display right outside the iWireless Center.

“I was fortunate to play a number of roles in the first Upper Mississippi River Conference, “ he added. “I served as a member of the conference steering committee and co-chaired the ‘Environmental & Natural Resources’ track, where I moderated a panel. My colleague John Duyvejonck, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I also put together a field trip that enabled conference participants to visit Nahant Marsh, a former Superfund site that has been restored into one of the most ecologically significant urban wetlands on the Upper Mississippi River. This effort was supported heavily by Brian Ritter, the Naturalist at Nahant Marsh [and] a graduate student at WIU-QC.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, three main tracks covered Natural Resources and Environmental Planning, River Recreation Opportunities and How They Are Realized, and Urban Waterfront Needs in the Ecological City. The common theme among all presentations was how much the rivers in the upper Mississippi River valley have changed in the last 200 years and changes in the future.

Speakers ranged from Marcia Maslonek from the Wildlife Habitat Council and U.S. Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) to Jeffrey Potter, a consultant for Biodiversity Group, and Rick Laurence from the Natural Land Institute and Ducks Unlimited.

On Friday, the group’s field trip to Nahant Marsh in Davenport Ritter explained how the marsh had been used for skeet and trap shooting from the 1960s through 1996. As a result of lead contamination, the EPA listed the 513-acre urban wetland as a Superfund site. Three years later, the EPA removed more than 143 tons of lead-contaminated soil from 13 acres at a cost of $2 million, according to River Action.

“The field trip offered participants a unique opportunity to see the positive outcomes of cleanup in the context of an important, but rapidly diminishing resource — urban wetlands,” Viadero said.

On Saturday Richard Louv — author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder and a 2008 Audubon Medal recipient — described the transformation in the relationship between children and nature and how society teaches people to avoid experiencing nature. He suggested that the unintended message is delivered by schools, families and even organizations devoted to the outdoors and codified into the legal and regulatory structures of many communities. Summarizing evidence showing how important contact with the outdoors is to child development, Louv touched on such health issues as ADHD, child obesity, stress, creativity and cognitive functioning. He suggested action by parents, grandparents, government, conservationists, urban planners, educators and others concerned about the future of childhood and the Earth itself to launch a “Leave No Child Inside” movement.

The conference scope was designed to be broad, reflected in its subtitle: “Weaving Multiple Uses into Sustainable River Communities.”

“We hope conference participants gained an appreciation for the ways in which often disparate areas of interest are actually highly inter-related,” Viadero said. “In the context of sustainability on the Upper Mississippi River, environmental concerns are necessarily related to the health and vitality of our local communities and economies.

“This was a terrific opportunity to show off Western’s long history of high-quality research, education and outreach on topics related to the Mississippi River,” he added. “Likewise, it’s always great to show Western’s commitment to the Quad Cites and Upper Mississippi River.”

Griffin sounded satisfied, too.

“This inaugural conference brought many of the major organizations who play a critical role on the rivers of the upper Mississippi River valley together for the first time,” Griffin said. “It gave the region a great platform on which to build an annual conference not only to facilitate communication among these organizations but to increase public awareness and about our rivers and waterways. This was an outstanding success in its first year, and I’m looking forward to many more conference in the future.”
Life has turned around for a faculty couple upended by cancer, disappointment

By Jackson Board

The summer of 2007 didn’t begin well for Dr. Richard Musser, assistant professor of biological sciences, and his wife and research partner Dr. Susan Hums-Musser. The National Science Foundation had declined Musser’s fifth grant proposal in five years. In June, although disappointed, the Mussers launched into their summer research activities and prepared for the upcoming challenges of the fall semester.

But something was not right. Richard didn’t feel well. His lymph nodes were swollen. He had a sore throat. But, he didn’t think anything of it; after all, the couple’s young children had been sick and Musser himself keeps a marathon schedule of teaching and research.

A month later, after trips to the doctors and tests, Musser received the news that he had cancer. He had been diagnosed with a very rare form of the disease called Burkitt’s lymphoma. It was an aggressive cancer that’s more commonly found in children — mostly in areas of Central Africa.

The diagnosis was something the scientist himself could never have hypothesized, he says.

“I thought to myself, ‘I’m a big guy, maybe I’m having a heart attack’.”

Musser began chemotherapy administered via spinal tap. He was admitted to Methodist Medical Center in Peoria six times in four months. With the support of his wife Sue, he was determined to fight back. It was a fight typified by uncertainty, stress and loneliness.

Despite the disease and his arduous treatment schedule, Musser was still able to come to work and teach some of his class sessions.

“If I thought I was really going to die, I would have changed my decision to come back to work,” Musser says. “But it gave me something else to think about.”

For her part, Sue’s strength and resolve were regularly tested. She juggled regular trips to Peoria with caring for the couple’s two young children (then age 4 and 11 months), dealt with vague doctors, and coped with news that her brother had been involved in a near-fatal car accident that hospitalized him for more than a month — just as Richard’s chemo had ended. All this happened while she took charge of the lab that was operating without external funding and taught the classes that her husband couldn’t supervise.

Today, the couple seems to have emerged from the dark days of 2007 with a bright future.

Although the National Science Foundation funds just 15 percent of the research grant proposals it receives each year, Musser prepared...
another proposal. This time, he worked to better focus his proposal on undergraduate research and his lab’s research goals. His years of effort were rewarded and he received a grant for $350,000, a significant award for WIU and for Musser personally.

Today, Musser stroll confidently around his lab – now filled with expensive, modern equipment – cured and optimistic about his future.

If the circumstances were a Hollywood happy ending, the script could not have been written any better.

“It was like a game-show contestant winning a million dollars,” he says. “There was sheer excitement. The grant will really benefit the students.”

Enthusiastic and quick to praise their professor for his guidance and leadership, Musser’s students now work and learn with fewer financial or emotional pressures.

Musser is quick to attribute his good fortune to his partnership with Sue, saying that he could never have achieved the same outcomes alone.

“Sue was definitely a rock in getting me through, and taking care of the family at a stressful time, and then supporting me on my research pursuits,” he says. Her commitment and extra efforts throughout the past year resulted in more good news for the Musser household. Sue received a tenure-track position, giving her more job security and better access to lab space.

“She’s the detail and I’m the big picture,” Musser says.

After the infusion of resources, WIU’s biology laboratory is now comparable to labs in larger universities, Richard says – and even better equipped than some.

His team of students, including several new graduate assistants, currently works on an extensive experiment on the relationship between caterpillars and various types of plants on a genomic level. They are studying how plants respond, at the molecular level, to being fed on by different insects – similar to how the human immune system reacts to being invaded by bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. The true benefits of this research are yet to be seen, although Richard is hoping that the results could be prove to be significant, particularly in helping reduce pesticides in the environment.

“This could be useful down the road,” he says. “You never know where the next cure is coming from.”

Though he is reflective about his own cure, and the remarkable manner in which his family’s life has changed over the past 18 months, it is clear that the job makes the man, as it’s said.

“It makes you wonder a bit,” he says.

If this dramatic turnaround doesn’t convince him of good works rewarded, there may not be much in this world that would.

He said that his scientific knowledge, as well as a natural curiosity about the nature of the cancer, gave him the confidence to disobey doctor’s orders and press on with normal life – even during weeks of treatment.

“What gave me confidence was that I knew it was curable, so that was a benefit for me,” he says. “It has motivated me to shift some of my research into a cancer research area in the future.

“I’m no Lance Armstrong,” he adds, smiling, “but I’m getting there.”

Jackson Board is a junior Journalism major from Bathurst, Australia, where he’s studied at Charles Turt University.
New book tracks outlaws from Western Illinois into legend and lost history

By Bill Knight

A newly uncovered yarn, an old geography bias, timeless social and psychological fragmentation, and familiar media hype all come together in a new book by WIU Professor Emeritus John Hallwas.

Few tie the Wild West to Western Illinois, but the historian and writer does in a tale made more captivating by its being true.

*Dime Novel Desperadoes: The Notorious Maxwell Brothers* (University of Illinois Press) is about the Maxwell brothers, largely forgotten outlaws despite escapades that became infamous nationwide and despite a climax that ended in both tragedy and mystery.

“Once upon a time there were real horse thieves and gunfights, sheriff’s posses and lynchings, right here in the Midwest,” Hallwas said this summer, “but historians have not delved into that very much, except for Missouri’s James Gang.

“Hence, the Maxwell brothers — the greatest outlaws of all time from the Upper Mississippi River Valley — were forgotten even though they became early outlaw heroes of dime novels, the publications that led to later westerns.”

The Midwest was a harsh place in the 19th century, with crime not uncommon, as theft and robberies, assaults and killings all are recorded in surviving public records and old local newspapers. The Maxwells’ misadventures were sensational but eventually overlooked, if not dismissed outright, perhaps because they didn’t fit the stereotyped mold of six-gun-wielding cowboys, ranchers and town marshals taming the wilderness well west of the Mississippi River. Still, the two achieved national prominence through their actions, authorities’ reactions, some journalistic accounts and exaggerated versions of their feats.

Tracking the Maxwell clan back to Pennsylvania, Hallwas follows the family’s migration to Ohio, Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, where they struggled to survive as farmers and seemingly always found themselves a step or a season late for economic promise.

Hallwas, who’s written more than 20 books and monographs, decades ago wrote a magazine feature on the Maxwells, then did considerably more research into the times and their crimes — helped by a journal left by Lon Maxwell.

As boys and young men, the Maxwells’ relatively short statures had them trying to measure up physically as well as socially, but they weren’t exactly the coarse villains featured by western novelists such as Louis L’Amour, Max Brand or Zane Grey (an avid reader of dime novels).

Ed didn’t smoke, drink or chew tobacco, and he seldom cursed, Hallwas found.

But upright conduct doesn’t always make a difference, of course.

Poverty and repeated failures, the chaos of frontier life and the tension of the post-Civil War all contributed to the brothers’ feeling wronged, even oppressed, and definitely outside the mainstream of the young country.

“[There was] an increasing social divide between owners and workers, the insiders and outsiders,” Hallwas writes. “In the public mind, relative poverty and criminal propensity were fused.”

Add disasters beyond most people’s control — such as the national depression in 1875 — and some sought to organize against forces they perceived as ruthless and tyrannical in groups such as the Grange. Others seemed to surrender to impossible odds and turned to the law-breaking and violence that seemed forced upon them as destiny.

The Maxwells — frustrated and even ashamed at being sons of a poor, almost itinerant tenant farmer — were alienated, isolated from their surroundings, apparently never feeling as if they belonged to a community, church or class. The brothers — particularly Ed, born in 1853, five years before Lon — fought to find themselves despite complex and seemingly distant forces. Followed by Lon, Ed seemed attracted to the temptation to try to live up to an identity as a man to be reckoned with, a dangerous character, even a desperado of near-mythic proportions.

Their once-infamous, seven-year career as outlaws (1874-1881) followed a sequence of events that 130 years later seems, by turns, mundane, exciting, deadly and full of the dread of an impending, unavoidable doom. Ed stole a suit in Blandinsville, then stole a horse in an escape from
authorities, then hopped a train before being arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned in the state penitentiary in Joliet for a year.

After his release, Ed joined up with Lon and they committed burglaries, stole horses and escaped incarceration at the county jail in Macomb. They roamed through rural Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, living off the land — or its settlers — and were again apprehended and sent to prison.

Lon was released first in 1877 and made his way to Wisconsin. There — in a side of the story that reads like a Hollywood subplot — Lon lived under the alias Williams, settled down to work at a mill, and fell in love with a church-going young woman named Fannie.

However, Lon was injured on the job in 1881, the same year Ed got out of prison. Unable to support his wife, Lon felt forced to again partner with Ed, and the Maxwell brothers (now AKA the Williams brothers) embarked on a crime spree that included robberies and more.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Lon, his wife was pregnant and, while he was a fugitive, came to term and died in childbirth.

Shocked at this loss, the Maxwells sought someone to blame — a doctor, the law, almost anyone — and stumbled into a confrontation with two popular lawmen named Coleman — oddly, also brothers. The lawmen probably didn’t identify themselves, the Maxwells undoubtedly saw a need to defend themselves, and the subsequent shootout and killing sparked a public outrage and grew into a myth that trapped the Maxwells and much of the Midwest into an almost inevitable outcome.

“Ed’s confrontations with and escapes from lawmen and posses were always driven by his need to validate his identity as a desperado — to show that he was not a helpless victim of circumstances, but an active agent of his own misfortune.”

By Chris DeJonge

Western Illinois decades ago briefly adopted the name “Forgottonia” to stress the legislature that it was overlooked. But besides lawmakers, historians, media and regular people through the years have overlooked other people and places in the region.

From the state’s first official entomologist to the author of “Fuzzy Wuzzy” to a conductor on the underground railroad, western Illinois’ heritage is richer than most of us realize.

1. BEARDESTOWN was the setting for two of Abraham Lincoln’s most famous cases while the young lawyer traveled the area. Most successful at civil litigations during his career, Lincoln occasionally represented defendants in criminal cases ranging from trespassing to murder.

In the spring of 1839, Lincoln lost his first and only capital case when defendant William Fraim was convicted and sentenced to hang. Fraim, a shipmate on a steamboat, had stabbed another member of his crew after the man blew cigar smoke in Fraim’s face. The incident occurred while the boat was docked on the Illinois River across from Beardstown.

Lincoln successfully had the trial moved to Carthage, where he hoped he could escape a prejudiced local jury, but there was an eyewitness and the one-day trial resulted in a guilty verdict.

Public executions were still a rarity in Illinois at the time and special gallows had to be built outside of Carthage. Fraim was hanged in front of a large audience, which included children. (School had been dismissed so they could attend.) — C.D.

2. BEARDESTOWN was also the site of Lincoln’s famous “Almanac Trial” in 1857, when he successfully defended Duff Armstrong against a murder charge by raising questions discrediting an eyewitness.

The witness’s statement was unreliable, Lincoln argued, because the crime would have been impossible to see on the night in question — when the Moon couldn’t have lit up the scene, according to an almanac Lincoln placed into evidence. — C.D.

3. CAMBRIDGE/Rock ISLAND. Although Benjamin Walsh was born in England, his contributions to entomology (the study of insects) in America were so impressive that he was named Illinois’ first state entomologist.

His love of insects also would lead to his death.

In England, Walsh was a classmate of Charles Darwin and would later spend a great deal of time corresponding with Darwin on his theory of evolution.

Walsh moved from England to a 300-acre farm outside of Cambridge, in Henry County, in 1838. He eventually relocated to Rock Island after the Cambridge area was struck by malaria following a nearby Swedish colony damming a waterway. While in Rock Island, Walsh owned a successful lumber yard and rental properties.

There in 1869, Walsh was returning from the post office when he became so engrossed in an entomology book he was reading that he didn’t notice warning bells at train tracks where he walked. By the time he noticed a locomotive, it was too late to completely escape injury and his left foot was severed from his leg, eventually leading to his death.

Walsh had collected more than 30,000 insects and had published more than 800 articles on entomology, but his collection of specimens...
victim of the social order, a man shamed by his inadequacy, but a
revenger,” Hallwas writes. “That was the problem with creating an
identity as a desperado: You always had to live up to it, no matter how
dangerous.”

A growing posse pursued the pair on land and on water, numbering
more than 400 plus militia and cavalry called in to aid. A reward for
their capture reached $2,200, the highest reward then for anyone except the James Gang.

Ed was captured and, in custody, exaggerated his own infamy and,
therefore, prominence and social significance to police and reporters.

Lon vanished.

That November, before Ed could be tried, a Durand mob seized him
from his cell and lynched him outside the courthouse there.

Local power-brokers covered up his killing, and newspaper stories
grew into fictionalized versions of their exploits. There had been
dozens of articles in the Chicago Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press
and other Midwestern and national periodicals.

The public’s fascination with the Maxwells created what today would
be seen as a celebrity culture. In fact, Ed — who said he read dime novels
— had led the Maxwells on a trail marked by an unspoken “Code of the
West” that seemed to require for any perceived insult or injury some sort of
confrontation, revenge or violence. It was a trail blazed since 1866 by the
James-Younger Gang, one that began to wind down for them the year of the
Maxwell’s final, fatal crime spree in 1881 — the same year of the
Gunfight at the OK Corral and as Billy the Kid’s rise to prominence.

Since the only real mass medium of the time was print — ranging
from newspapers published weekly in rural areas and daily in some
cities, to magazines and their distinctive cousins, pulps, or dime
novels — stories that started in

from “Outlaws” page 17

from “10 bits” page 17

was lost in the Chicago Fire of 1871.
— C.D.

4. CARTHAGE. One of the world’s most recognizable nursery
rhymes was actually a poem, a verse penned here by lifelong writer
Rowena Calif, born here in 1891:

Fuzzy Wuzzy
Was a bear.
Fuzzy Wuzzy
Had no hair.
Fuzzy Wuzzy
Wasn’t fuzzy
Was he?

The 24-syllable poem was pub-
lished in 1935 in Califf’s book
Fuzzy Wuzzy and Other Stories,
but probably was written years earlier.
Although Rudyard Kipling wrote a
poem in 1890 titled “Fuzzy-Wuzzy,”
Califf’s verse has next to nothing to
do with the British writer’s reflec-
tion on Osman Digna, a Sudanese
resistance fighter who for 17 years
battled the British Empire in Africa
and earning soldiers’ begrudging
respect as a formidable opponent.
Similarly, a 1944 song credited to
Milton Drake, Al Hoffman and Jerry
Livingston probably owes more to
the Carthage native than vice versa
since Califf’s poem came out about a
decade before.

Califf’s poetry frequently involved
play — word play, daydreaming,
fantasies and so on — so it’s much
more likely that Rowena was drawn
to an unusual name she’d heard, per-
haps as a little girl, and eventually
conjured a light line to use it and
amuse readers — or the kids who
heard it read aloud.

In Carthage, Califf led an active,
civic life, giving many programs to
schools and service organizations
and staying involved in the
Philanthropic Educational
Organization (P.E.O. International),
one serving as President of Illinois’
Chapter J in Carthage.

Also active in the Daughters of
the American Revolution and a
Colchester to Chicago.

The story of Wagle and Colchester was told in the book *The Bootlegger: A Story of Small-Town America* by John E. Hallwas.

While Wagle was somewhat of a sinister character, he often played community benefactor, donating food or money to needy families and buying uniforms for the town’s first high school football team. He also sponsored members of the infamous Chicago “Black Sox” baseball team to come to Colchester to play with local athletes against a Macomb team.

In fact, Wagle helped save the life of Edna Bell Clark, a child who was suffocating after glass had punctured her windpipe during an auto accident. Wagle rushed little Edna to the hospital in Macomb. Later, Edna would later visit Wagle every Sunday while he was jailed in Macomb, bringing him ice cream.

Wagle was killed in Colchester walking from a local restaurant, shot to death by three shotgun blasts from a passing motorist. He died as his bullet-riddled body was being carried to a doctor. — C.D.

5. COLCHESTER. During Prohibition, one of Illinois’ most famous and lucrative bootleggers resided here: Thomas “Kelly” Wagle.

Although by reputation he was prone to violence and cruelty, Wagle was nevertheless considered somewhat of a local hero. Wagle was able to get around the law by using a front as a taxi cab driver and delivering liquor from Colchester to Chicago.

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Wagle was killed in Colchester walking from a local restaurant, shot to death by three shotgun blasts from a passing motorist. He died as his bullet-riddled body was being carried to a doctor. — C.D.

6. GALESBURG/PEORIA.

George Fitch was a “Jack of all trades” in turn-of-the-century publishing, where he started working on his family’s country weekly, became a campus correspondent, rewrote announcements, did reporting, handled layout and even drew some cartoons en route to making a national mark as a humorist and progressive.

Born in Galva, Ill., in 1877, George Helgesen Fitch was brought up hanging around the weekly *Galva News*, purchased by his father Elmer in 1883. Fitch moved to Galesburg, where he attended Knox College — which offered a variety of valuable contacts in media: Sam McClure, Robert Finley, John Phillips and John Sisson (*McClure’s* magazine), advertising pioneer Earnest Elmo Calkins, muckraking magazine publisher Benjamin Hampton, and others.

He wrote for newspapers in Galesburg, then his family’s weekly, Iowa dailies and the Peoria *Herald-Transcript*.

During this period, he started writing humor in a newspaper column; features for periodicals, including *Collier’s*, *Munsey, Ladies Home Journal*, and *American* magazine; and a series of 20 short stories set at fictional “Siwash College.” Featured in publications such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *Kansas City Star*, the stories were well-received and eventually were used as the basis for the 1940 William Holden movie, *Those Were the Days*.

By 1910, Fitch not only was a respected writer but became a nationally syndicated columnist for George Matthew Adams’ news service. Fitch’s “Vest Pocket Essays” and other articles appeared in dozens of periodicals, and Fitch became associated with the syndicate’s stable of stars dubbed “Adams’ trained seals,” which included Kansas editor and publisher William Allen White, reporter and playwright Edna Ferber, and editorial cartoonist Jay “Ding” Darling.

“George Fitch came out of the Middle West, the nursery of our literary orchards,” wrote poet Edmund Vance Cooke. “Much of its budded stock is transplanted early, but George Fitch came to full fruition in the soil which gave him birth.”

After covering the political conventions in 1912, Fitch quit the *Transcript* in a dispute over Progressive Party presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt and ran as a Progressive for a State Representative seat. He won and served one term, writing humorous essays about state politics for the *Chicago Tribune* as he did.

A year later, en route to a humorists convention in San Francisco, Fitch was stricken with
appendicitis and died at the age of 38. After his unexpected death, Ferber commented, “He was just as sane and sweet and lovable as everything he wrote.” – B.K.

7. JACKSONVILLE was home to a music teacher and band leader who’d later write campaign songs for Abraham Lincoln. Ben Grierson, who had a stellar career in the armed forces, eventually becoming a General in the U.S. Army in 1867.

During the Civil War, Grierson led a successful campaign against Confederate forces throughout the South that served as a diversion to help General Ulysses S. Grant gain control of Vicksburg, Miss. What would later become known as “Grierson’s Raid” had a major impact on the Union’s ability to win the war.

Fictional accounts of Grierson’s Raid were the basis for the novel The Horse Soldiers by Harold Sinclair and a 1959 movie version from United Artists starring John Wayne and William Holden. — C.D.

8. MACOMB. In 1834 the murder of John Wilson by Elias McFadden and his son David was the first recorded and prosecuted murder in McDonough County. Wilson had moved to the Macomb area in 1832 and settled on a piece of land near McFadden, one of the area’s earliest settlers.

The McFaddens, known to be troublesome and standoffish, had had several disputes with neighbors over the years.

Trouble between Wilson and the McFaddens began over a piece of wooded land which both claimed as their own.

In November 1834, Wilson, his wagon and team of horses were asked to accompany Deputy Sheriff Nelson Montgomery to the McFadden home to help with a collection notice issued by two local merchants.

While there, McFadden was told about the collection and was leading Wilson and the sheriff around the side of his house when a shot was fired from a window, striking Wilson. Montgomery went to find help for the wounded Wilson, who’d been mortally wounded and received no help from McFadden, who was mending a fence when the sheriff returned with help.

An investigation of McFadden’s home found a pane of broken window glass and a rifle nearby. The window sill had evidence of powder burns.

A trail led from McFadden’s home to his son David’s home, where David was at work at a workbench. Both McFaddens were placed under arrest and tried in Rushville after a change of venue was granted.

Both Elias and David McFadden were found guilty of murder and hanged outside of Rushville in front of a large crowd. — C.D.

9. BLANDINSVILLE. A rural man from McDonough County’s Hire Township refused to report for military service during the Civil War; was labeled a deserter; pursued by lawmen; and got in to a shootout, killing a deputy provost marshall.

And some say he got away with murder.

John Bond was the man who resisted the 1864 induction; William A. Randolph was the shooting victim.

The county hadn’t had enough volunteers to fill its government quota so a list of draftees had been drawn up. Randolph, a Macomb resident, was deputized and assigned to find and arrest men who didn’t report for duty, like Bond.

Randolph found Bond in a Blandinsville saloon, but Bond refused to go with Randolph, fleeing to a hotel owned by his brother, James. While there, Bond gathered James and another brother, Miles, and prepared for a fight.

Arriving at the hotel, Randolph tried to arrest Bond, who shot and wounded Randolph. Randolph returned fire and followed Bond, but was shot again, this time by Miles. Randolph fell in the street with four bullet wounds, and the three brothers fled while Randolph lay dying.

It would be four years before officials caught Miles in Kentucky and another two years before John and James were captured in Missouri.

After the arrest of John and James, all three Bond brothers were brought to trial.

However, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty for all three men. — C.D.

10. QUINCY. Richard Eels was originally from Connecticut and settled in Quincy in 1833, quickly establishing a medical practice and an important stop on the Underground Railroad.

An abolitionist, Eels has been credited with aiding in the successful escape of more than 200 slaves to
their eventual freedom.

Eels’ home, built in 1835, still stands as a historical landmark in downtown Quincy. Four blocks east of the Mississippi River and directly across the border from Missouri — which remained a slave state — Eels’ home served as a key stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves who’d escaped bondage.

Eels was arrested for his efforts while helping an escaped slave from Monticello, Mo., named Charley. Barryman Barnett, a freed slave, had witnessed Charley swimming across the Mississippi and brought him to Eels. While helping Charley find a safe hiding spot, Eels was confronted by a search party that had tracked Charley. Charley escaped the posse and hid in a nearby cemetery but was later found and returned to Missouri.

It was 1842 when Eels was indicted for harboring a fugitive slave, and he was found guilty — by Judge Stephen A. Douglas, some say — and fined $400.

The case was appealed, eventually to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the conviction was upheld there in 1852.

Eels stayed active in the abolitionist movement, helping along the Underground Railroad and — as president of the Illinois Anti-Slavery Party — and worked to pass an 1843 law outlawing slavery.

Considered a possible Presidential candidate from the anti-slavery Liberty Party in 1844, Eels unsuccessfully ran for Illinois Governor on the Free-Soil Party ticket in 1846.

Eels died that year while traveling east on a river boat along the banks of the Ohio River near Cincinnati, reportedly exhausted from his campaigns and trials and financially drained. — C.D.

Chris DeJonge is a junior Journalism major from Arlington Heights, Ill. Bill Knight also contributed to this story.

‘Vishnu Springs’ given to WIU, becomes Post Wildlife Sanctuary

By Sarah Zeeck

A 140-acre parcel of land that’s been a medicinal spring, a tiny village, a country resort, a student commune and even a rural site for small rock concerts has been donated to WIU to be used as a wildlife sanctuary and outdoor learning lab.

Olga Kay Kennedy, a 1946 WIU alumna, donated the property formerly known as “Vishnu Springs,” and it’s now the Ira and Reatha T. Post Wildlife Sanctuary, named after Kennedy’s grandparents.

The Land’s Past

In the early 1840s, the land was purchased by Ebenezer Hicks, who eventually discovered springs on the property. In 1885, Hick’s son Darius inherited the land, and over the next few years, developed it by building a four-story hotel, restaurant, livery stable, post office and windmill — all to serve what Hicks hoped would be an attraction to draw people interested in the mineral-rich water’s “healing properties” and pretty wooded scenery.

Crowds of up to 2,000 people reportedly attended events there in the 19th Century.

Hicks himself became a troubled, even controversial, figure, and the facility began to lose its luster. There reportedly was an accidental death involving a Ferris wheel, and Hicks’ personal life deteriorated. Divorced about the time he took over the property, Hicks married a woman who brought her three children to the marriage but then died of Bright’s disease in 1896. Hicks then married a third time — to his step-daughter — causing some locals to shun him. He moved to near-
will continue the stewardship role with the primary purpose to preserve the habitat for wildlife.

“It is rewarding for me to know that others will have an opportunity to enjoy and benefit from this gift while ensuring that my grandparents’ wishes will be honored,” she added.

Ira Post — an employee of Western Illinois State Teachers College in the 1920 — had left a sign on the property proclaiming his wishes. It read, “The spring water and the wonderful world of Nature are to enjoy. Vishnu Springs should be left as Nature provided it. Leave the flowers, ferns, rocks, trees, birds and wildlife just as they are. That means do not dig or harm anything of any description. No hunting, trapping or killing. Take care of it all and then all will be benefited in the years to come.”

The Present

After the donation, Western wanted to use the acreage as Post had intended. Various professors have used the land as a learning experience, especially in the natural sciences. Roger Viadero, Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies, said that measures are being taken to research the land and its flora and fauna.

“Right now, we are working to figure out what’s there,” Viadero said. “Before anybody goes running around doing anything, we need to establish the biological and environmental conditions.”

Geography Professor Chris Sutton has worked with some students and the Archives Department of WIU’s Leslie F. Malpass Library to create a map of the Post property and three-dimensional reconstructions of major buildings on the property using global positioning system equipment, Viadero said.

“The map is helpful in and of itself because that can be used to locate all of our different sampling sites and things of that nature, but, also, [Dr. Sutton] rendered a three-dimensional reconstruction of the major buildings on the property,” Viadero added.

Another study on the property involves insects. Biology Professor Ken McCravy is researching robber flies (predatory, long-beaked insects).

“This is our first study out there, so basically what we’re trying to do is get a handle on just what robber flies are out there,” McCravy said. “Hopefully, that will lead to more detailed studies of the different habitats out there and what kind of robber fly diversity they support.”

McCravy has a couple of students working with him to determine the extent and makeup of the area’s robber flies.

“Our trappings are almost over because of the cool weather,” McCravy said in October, “so we’re hoping by the end of the semester to have everything identified and then maybe by early next semester, we’ll have our analyses done.”

Thus far, the robber flies have only been collected and will soon be identified to determine diversity, he said, adding that he hoped this would mean they would have reportable findings that would say something about the environment at Post property.

“We’ve done previous robber fly studies in our field station (the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station on the Mississippi River in Hancock County),” he said, noting that the two environments differ so the results should be interesting.

Viadero has an ongoing study involving the water at the Post property, which could show fascinating findings considering the site’s history as Vishnu Springs. A third study concerns the land’s ground and surface water. Viadero said that Geology Professor Steven Bennett drilled three groundwater wells there.

“What this allows us to do is determine the way water is distributed underground,” Viadero said. “The only way we can know that is by actually going underground and to access those waters, and take samples.”

Water chemistry data should be interesting, too, he said.

“Something that is really cool and really weird is the fact that we have water chemistry data for the spring dating back to 1889,” Viadero said. “Believe it or not, things actually look pretty similar.

“It could mean a number of things, and it also might not mean a whole lot of anything,” he added.

More professors and more students from more departments are currently researching biological, geographical, environmental, and other aspects of Post property, including Susan Romano, Biology professor, who is studying plant ecology, and Chris Sutton, Geography professor, who is researching the current and historical makeup of the property.

The Future

Works are in progress on many fronts. Most data thus far are inconclusive, since all researchers are in the data-collecting stage of their researching processes.

“We’re all trying to make sense of what it means, what it could mean, and where to go next,” Viadero said. “We want to make sure we’re super well-informed on the front end so we make good management decisions in the future.”

It’ll be better to have a good feel for the area being studied before jumping into the process and making a mess out of the area, he warned.

Additional plans for further studies on the site include McCravy studying ground beetles, which he says are a good indicator species.

The Post property may have once fallen into the condition of a ghost town, but thanks to the Post family’s generosity, its promising to be full of life.

Some of the material was previously reported in Western News by University Archivist Marla Vizdal.
Western’s diversity goal put into practice with Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship

In July, the Department of Political Science welcomed Daniel Ogbaharya as the inaugural Provost’s Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellow. Ogbaharya is a doctoral candidate in the Political Science department at Northern Arizona University-Flagstaff and expects to receive his Ph.D. this spring. He received a M.A. in International Affairs/Environmental Policy from Ohio University-Athens in 2003 and a B.A. from the University of Asmara in his native Eritrea.

“At Western Illinois University, we celebrate, recognize, value and work to further enhance the diversity of our campus community,” said WIU Provost Jack Thomas. “We actively engage in recruiting and training faculty, staff and students from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

“President Goldfarb’s ‘Statement on Diversity’ supports activities and programs that enhance diversity throughout the university,” he continued. “A part of the response to this priority by the Office of the Provost and Academic Vice President was to initiate the ‘Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship.’

“I am so pleased we were able to attract a scholar of Daniel Ogbaharya’s caliber as the inaugural recipient of this fellowship,” Thomas added. “His background in political science, international affairs, and environmental policy was an outstanding fit for programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, and I know the Department of Political Science has valued his participation in its program.”

Political Science Chairman Rick Hardy echoed Thomas.

“The Political Science department is fortunate to have the services of Daniel Ogbaharya this academic year,” Hardy said. “He is a promising scholar who brings a wealth of knowledge concerning African political systems and environmental policies. Daniel can also offer keen insight into U.S. foreign policy with respect to African political systems.”

Ogbaharya’s teaching and research interests include international relations, comparative politics, African politics, politics of developing areas, global environmental politics, post-conflict government, human rights and democratization. His dissertation in progress is titled, “Institutional Change and Continuity in Community-based Governance of Natural Resources in Ethiopia and Namibia: A Comparative Historical Analysis.”

Ogbaharya is appreciative.

“The Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship is a golden opportunity for underrepresented doctoral students to be exposed to, and prepare for, all aspects of a tenure-track academic career,” he said, “— teaching, research and university service. I am honored to be one of the first two dissertation fellows at WIU. My experience has been remarkable. Not only do I have the time and resources needed to complete my dissertation, but also I am teaching an upper-division course on African political systems. As a member of the University Diversity Council, I have the rare opportunity to meet and work with people from various departments and offices of WIU on campus-wide programs and activities that enrich diversity. Last but not least, the fellowship provides me with an ideal public forum for disseminating the findings of my research. Thus, I highly recommend the program to doctoral students who are looking for a rewarding academic exposure at a leading student-centered university.”

Ogbaharya presented a lecture cosponsored by the departments of African American Studies and Political Science on October 27 titled “Would an Obama or McCain Presidency Result in ‘Change’ in U.S. Foreign Policy toward Africa?”

The Provost’s Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship was started this year to enhance diversity in research, teaching and service at WIU through the recruitment of underrepresented minority graduate students from across the country who are completing dissertation research. Fellows teach one course each semester in an area related to their academic preparation and a need of the department hosting the fellow. They are expected to devote significant time to the completion of the dissertation; work with a faculty mentor; and be involved with co-curricular activities, including the University’s cultural diversity initiatives.

Fellows must be dissertation-stage doctoral degree candidates studying in a field taught at WIU. Preference will be given to persons in disciplines in which minorities are traditionally underrepresented, with experience in diverse educational programs and environments, and a willingness to participate in WIU’s diversity initiatives.
**The Real Sequel**

Harlan L. Watson

A 1967 WIU honors graduate in Physics, Harlan L. Watson, is best known now as the Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative for the U.S. Department of State. After leaving Macomb, he earned a doctorate in Solid State Physics at Iowa State University in 1973 and worked for consulting firms in military strategic planning and advance weapons systems and the Department of Energy.

He returned to graduate school and earned a Master’s degree in Economics from Georgetown University in 1981 and worked as a staffer in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for more than 16 years. After serving as White House Science Adviser in 1989, Watson in 1993 was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary to the Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, and through 2001, served as Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on Energy.

He was named the chief negotiator on climate change in 2001.

By Bill Knight

As a Blandinsville native and graduate of Northwestern High School in nearby Sciota, did Western seem like a comfy neighbor or an odd, even urban, community sort of plopped on the prairie?

More of a comfy neighbor. I was very familiar with the University, had been to many sporting events on the campus and knew many who had or were attending Western. In addition, I was able to secure a scholarship and a steady part-time job that made it possible for me to afford to get a college education.

What were some memorable classroom moments or mentors of your time in Macomb?

With the passing of more than 40 years, I can’t say that I recall any particular memorable classroom moments. However, the greatest influence on my time at Western and beyond was Professor of Physics Yan Lwin, who inspired me to continue on to graduate school and to earn a Ph.D. in Physics. His counsel and guidance were invaluable to me.

Off-campus — whether a part-time job or socializing — what was college life like then?

For me, it was an exciting, but very busy time. While at Western, I always had a part-time job, and between work and study, I had little time for extracurricular activities. I always carried a heavy course load, and spent many hours a day studying. Then on weekends, I worked at a part-time job in a grocery store. This was also during the 1960s, which was a period of major change and debate, and I also spent time discussing and arguing about current events and politics with my roommates.

You earned a degree at WIU in Physics, a doctorate at Iowa State in Physics, then a Master’s degree in Economics. What was the connection in your head as a twenty-something — and has it paid dividends?

I first earned a Ph.D. in Physics and then a Master’s degree in Economics. I earned the latter, quite frankly, to make myself more employable as the job market in physics in the early to mid-1970s was not strong due to the decline in science funding during the Vietnam War years. It has also paid dividends as demonstrated by the fact that I have never been unemployed since I left graduate school over 35 years ago.

Last year you commented that the U.S. government “will come through with a national scheme for reducing GHG emissions, but we will not accept an international mandatory regime of emission caps,” and praise for you as “conciliatory” from an environmental group. I wondered, were you interested in politics or diplomacy or negotiations as a student?

It was a comment I made at climate talks in Vienna in August 2007 that reflected the reality at that time. Yes, I was always interested in politics as far back as I can remember and feel fortunate to have worked in the political arena for nearly 30 years.

In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Surgeon General and NASA’s James Hansen all have complained about interference from people they felt were from the political
side of government. Have you ever had to resist suggestions — not illogical — to edit scientific reports to “soften” conclusions rather than create political controversy?

As I noted above, I have worked in the political arena for nearly 30 years. During this time, I have heard similar complaints no matter which political party was in the majority. The purpose of science reports is to inform policymakers about the scientific aspects of an issue and not to be policy-prescriptive, and honorable people can have disagreements about “which is which.” In any event, there are many factors that must be taken into account when formulating public policy and science is only one of many. I personally have not had to “soften” conclusions in a report if they were supported by solid underlying science.

Reuters in 2006 quoted you as saying that U.S. climate policies are “not necessarily a Democrat and Republican issue.” Are you hopeful?

I was making the observation that climate policies are very linked to energy policies since over 85 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are energy-related. Consequently, the impacts of climate policies will vary depending on the regional, state, or even local circumstances and the positions individual Senators of Representative will take with respect to a given policy will depend on these impacts. For example, if a certain climate policy will increase the price of energy in a region, state, or local jurisdiction, such a policy will not likely be supported by elected officials in those jurisdictions, regardless of political party affiliation. This is the principal reason it is so difficult to reach political consensus on how to address climate change. That being said, I am hopeful that such a national consensus can be achieved, although it will not be easy.

People sometimes assume science will always find a cure or treatment, whether it’s climate change or AIDS. Is that good, old-fashioned optimism or dangerous naiveté? And where is personal responsibility in this?

I think it’s a combination of both. Clearly, science has made it possible for humankind to make tremendous progress in many areas, but science does not have all the answers. Successfully addressing climate change will not only require a number of scientific and technological breakthroughs, but also some basic changes in human behavior and lifestyles.

Given current concerns about the U.S. economy and Americans’ increasing anxiety about it, do you think the goal to reduce climate-changing activities becomes easier or harder? In particular, this August eight groups* together called for the next administration and Congress to better protect the nation from climate change from a self-interest or national security point of view: “More than a quarter of the U.S. gross national product (over $2 trillion) [is] sensitive to weather and climate events,” their statement said.

The current global economic crisis will actually help reduce or at least slow the growth of global greenhouse emissions in the short run because low or negative economic growth means less energy use and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. However, it will also make it more difficult to address climate change in the long-run because the global economic slowdown will likely result is less investment in new, more-efficient and cleaner energy technologies. In addition, addressing the nation’s economy is and will remain the focus of political attention for some time, and climate and other issues will likely not receive as much priority as they otherwise would have.

Finally, do you think science will be a bridge or a brake on reactions to perceived climate change?

That will depend on how the science of climate change evolves. Our current understanding of the potential consequences of human-induced climate change is providing major impetus to calls for aggressive action — both domestically and internationally. However, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change pointed out last year in its Fourth Assessment Report, there are still major uncertainties in our scientific understanding of climate change and how best to address it, and, hopefully, these uncertainties will be resolved in a timely fashion.

Left, Harlan Watson, senior climate negotiator and special representative from the State Department, and David Conover, director of the Department of Energy’s Climate Change Technology Program, speak to the press before a 2004 conference in Buenos Aires.

* The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, the American Meteorological Society, The American Geophysical Union, the Weather Coalition, the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, and the Alliance for Earth Observations together representing thousands of scientists, technology specialists, public policy analysts and others.
History

Associate Professor PETER COLE gave the keynote address at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., in October.

Cole co-authored “Neither Color, Nor Nationality: The IWW Organizes Across the Color Line in South Africa and the United States,” with Lucien van der Walt. Cole presented the piece at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Birmingham, Ala.

Assistant professor RICHARD FILIPINK gave several presentations derived from his research of the Kennedy Presidency at the interdisciplinary academic conference JFK: History, Memory, and Legacy, at the University of North Dakota the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference and the Policy History Conference of the Institute for Political History.


Assistant Professor BARCLAY KEY presented “Theologies of Resistance: Exclusivism, Lawlessness, and Segregationist Rhetoric in Churches of Christ” at the Southern Historical Association’s national conference in October.

Assistant Professor JENNIFER McNABB, presented “Imperfect Unions: Meanings of Marriage in Northwest England, 1560-1640,” at the North American Conference on British Studies, in Cincinnati, in October.

Mathematics

Associate Professor RUMEN DIM-ITCHOV wrote “A Class of $\Sigma_3^0$ Modular Lattices Embeddable as Principal Filters in $L^\star V^\omega$” for Archive for Mathematical Logic, and he presented “Cohesive Powers and the Study of Principal Filters of Quasimaximal Spaces in $L^\star V^\omega$” at the Sobolev Institute, Russian Academy of Science, in Novosibirsk in May.

Instructor KATHLEEN FELT is now on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics as Director, Grades 5-8. Her term continues through 2011.

Department Chair IRAJ KALANTARI and Professor LARRY WELCH co-authored “On Turing Degrees of Points in Computable Topology” for Mathematical Logic Quarterly.

Professor Emeritus DAVID VOSS was a guest editor of the special Numerical PDE methods issue of the Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics. He also co-authored “Adaptive Theta-Methods for Pricing American Options” in the issue.

Math and Computer Science student CARLA WEBB presented “Using Principal Component Analysis to Extract Meaning from Text” at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

Assistant professor ZHIHUI YANG and Jinqiao Duan of the Illinois Institute of technology co-authored “An Intermediate Regime for Exit Phenomena Driven by Non-Gaussian Levy Noises” in Stochastic and Dynamics.

Philosophy and Religious Studies

The 22nd Annual Mary Olive Woods lecture — “Has Darwin Passed His ‘Sell By’ Date? Evolutionary Theory in 1858 and in 2008” — featured Professor Michael Ruse, the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University.

Associate Professor AMY CARR and Professor and Chairperson JOHN SIMMONS presented “Between Guru and Deceiver? Responding to Unchosen Metaphors in the Religious Studies Classroom” at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November.

JOONGOL KIM has two papers for presentation at the World Congress of Philosophy: “Numbers, Quantities, and Hume’s Principle” and “Numerical Predication.”

BETSY PERABO published, “The Proportionate Treatment of Enemy Subjects: A Reformulation of the
Principle of Discrimination,” in the *Journal of Military Ethics*.

Perabo presented at the American Academy of Religion national meeting in Chicago; “Nobody Knows What Jesus Would Do: Humility, Imagination, and the Use of Force.”

JOHN SIMMONS co-authored a chapter (with Dr. Susan Hill) entitled “Diana’s Grove: An Emergent, Integrative Spiritual Movement” in a forthcoming, multi-volume series on Women’s Spirituality.

**Physics**

Professor EFRAIN FERRER was selected to receive the 2008 Provost’s award for excellence in scholarly/creative/professional activities.


**Political Science**

Department Chair RICK HARDY and Women’s Studies Interim Chair AIMEE HOUSE published “A University-Wide Responsibility: Civic Engagement and the Presidential Election” in the September issue of the *Journal of College and Character*, which chronicled and analyzed WIU’s Mock Presidential Election.

Hardy also moderated a debate regarding “Judicial Selection” at the plenary session of the Missouri Bar’s Annual Judicial Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in September. Panel members included several state Supreme Court justices and the past president of the American Bar Association.

Assistant Professor ERIN TAYLOR served on the Program Committee and chaired a panel for the Association for Political Theory annual meeting at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., in October.

**Psychology**

Professor RUSSELL E. MORGAN co-authored an article on the effects of isotretinoin on rats in the December issue of *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, with WIU alumna Marsha Dopheide, an assistant professor at Monmouth College.

**Sociology/Anthropology**


Assistant Professor DAVID CASAGRANDE, Associate Professor HEATHER McILVAINE-NEWSAD, and Associate Professor ERIC RIBBENS from Biological Sciences and WIU faculty from the College of Business and technology collaborated on an entry, “Republic of the Marshall Islands,” in *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* (Sage Publications).


Hironimus-Wendt also served as a member of the program committee for the 2008-2009 Midwest Sociological Society’s annual meetings.

Associate Professor LORA EBERT WALLACE and Hironimus-Wendt co-authored “The Sociological Imagination and Social Responsibility” for the American Sociological Association’s journal *Teaching Sociology*.

Assistant Professor OSWALD S. WARNER won several teaching awards in 2008, including an outstanding faculty award from the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center and the Honoring Our Professors of Excellence (H.O.P.E.) Award from University Housing and Dining Services.

Warner presented “The Sweat Behind Our Stuff: Female Labor in the Global Economy” at the 34th Annual African Literature Association Conference at WIU.

Assistant Professor TAMMY WERNER presented “Mother Jones: Gender Bending and the Labor Movement” for a Women’s History Month event at Black Hawk College in Rock Island.

Werner — named outstanding adviser/Quad Cities for her work with the Black Student Association/Quad Cities — also took part in the “Noose as an American Nightmare” panel at the Martin Luther King Center in Rock Island.

Department Chair JOHN F. WOZNIAK, now president of the national Justice Studies Association, is a co-editor of *Transformative Justice: Critical and Peacemaking Themes Influenced by Richard Quinney* (Lexington Books), for which he also wrote three chapters.

Wozniak also wrote “Poverty and Peacemaking Criminology: Beyond Mainstream Criminology” for *Critical Criminology*; “Teaching to Shift People’s Thinking Toward Peace: The Relevance of Colman McCarthy’s Work for Peacemaking Criminology” for *Contemporary Justice Review*; and “C. Wright Mills and Higher Immorality: Implications for Corporate Crime, Ethics, and Peacemaking Criminology” for *Crime, Law and Social Change*.

**Women’s Studies**

Visiting Professor MARIA DEROSE this spring will teach a special-topics course on race and gender in science fiction. DeRose, who earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at Bowling Green State University, also has taught at Indiana University.
Faculty’s new faces

Biological Sciences

Sue Hum-Musser received her Ph.D. in Plant Science in 2002 from the University of Arkansas. She was a post-doctoral research associate at the Center for Insect Science and Plant Science at the University of Arizona until 2003. In 2004, she became a Research Associate, and in 2005 an associate faculty member in WIU’s Department of Biological Sciences, where she was responsible for teaching introductory biology courses and coordinating the introductory biology laboratories. She served in those positions until becoming an assistant professor in Biology this year.

English and Journalism

Neil Baird received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Nevada-Reno in 2007. His current research focuses on the relationship between social constructions of the body and textual practices.

Everett Hamner received his Ph.D. in English in 2008 from the University of Iowa. Incorporating questions of race, gender, place and narrative theory, his main project is an examination of America’s ongoing struggles between science and religion through the lenses of contemporary fiction and film.

Timothy Helwig, received his Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Maryland in 2006. He teaches American literature and fiction, and his research focuses on the intersections of class, race and ethnicity in nineteenth century popular print culture.

Peggy Otto is completing her Ph.D. at the University of Louisville, where she defended her dissertation in October. Her dissertation analyzes the literacy practices of a group of women who worked at a sewing factory during the 1930s, ’40s, and ’50s. Her research interests include ethnography, women’s studies, working class literature, and rhetorics of place.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Marisol Garrido received her Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign. Her research interests are in language variation and change, the acquisition of phonology by second-language learners, and second-language teaching methodology.

Geography

Fuyaun Liang is a 2008 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Georgia, successfully defending his dissertation in August. His research interest includes studying general and specific morphometric characteristics of karst landscapes in South China with the aid of remote sensing and GIS techniques. He is also reconstructing past monsoonal climate changes in South China and the Southeastern USA during the late Pleistocene and Holocene using information from cave speleothems.

History

Tim Roberts received a D.Phil. in History from the University of Oxford in 1998. He studies the history of the early United States and its relationship to the world.

Ute Chamberlin is a German native who received her Ph.D. from Arizona State University. She teaches German history and various European history classes and is particularly interested in the study of gender history.

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Betsy Perabo received her Ph.D.
been a nurse for 13 years in intensive care units at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and McDonough District Hospital.

**Sociology and Anthropology**

Davison Bideshi received his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California-Riverside. Before joining the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bideshi was a sociology instructor at California State University in Fullerton. His specialty areas are Sociological Theory, Criminology and the Sociology of Law.

Nancy A. Schaefer received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Before joining the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Schaefer was a lecturer of American Studies at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Her specialty areas are: Sociology of Religion, Cultural Sociology, and Popular Culture.

Jessica L. White earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Iowa. From fall 2005 to spring 2008, White was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at WIU. Her specialty areas are Primate Evolution and Behavior, Functional Morphology and Anatomy, and Old World Archaeology and Cultures.

**Physics**

P.K. Babu graduated from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India, specializing in experimental solid-state physics. Before joining the Department of Physics at WIU, he worked as a research scientist at the University of Illinois at Urbana — Champaign. Dr. Babu intends to establish a research program in experimental AMO physics to synthesize nano-scale materials confined in glass matrices and study their electronic properties using optical absorption and fluorescence experiments.

**Psychology**

Reginald Adkisson earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wichita State University in 2008. He is interested in direct teaching, clinical service and research in Clinical Psychology with special interests in personality disorders and persistent mental illness.

**School of Nursing**

Sandra Nash received her M.S. of Nursing and is pursuing her Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has in 2005 from Yale University’s Department of Religious Studies, where her primary field of study was religious ethics. Her central research interest is Christian perspectives on war.
By Sarah Zeeck

It isn’t every day that one stumbles across a World War II veteran, a 1939 Western alumnus, or a man who once traveled more than 2,000 miles in a single trip by motorcycle.

Those who’ve met Macomb resident John Moon have met all three.

As the youngest of 10 children, Moon realized that from an early age, he would have to work hard to achieve what he wanted from life, he says. His father, Frank Moon, was originally a teacher in Smithshire when he met his mother, a student, Moon remembers. While raising his family, Frank Moon did many things, including building the gold cupola still gleaming atop Sherman Hall on WIU’s Macomb campus.

John Moon graduated from Macomb High School and immediately enrolled at Western to get a teaching degree. He was one of a few students who had a motorcycle at the time, he says, and he and some friends decided to drive to and from Mexico one winter break.

“At the time, the [college] president was really strict,” Moon said. “We were allowed two weeks of break in the winter, but the trip would have been longer than that, so we asked him for some more time.”

After some negotiating, the president allowed for two extra days so long as the boys kept a journal of the trip and gave a travelogue to fellow students on their return, making it an educational experience.

Two weeks, two days, and $25 worth of gas later, they returned with an album of more than 200 pictures of the trip.

After graduating from WIU, which was then a state teachers school, he was met with hardship as he struggled to find work.

“When you graduated from college, you committed yourself to teach,” Moon said, adding that graduates also were expected to teach after graduation.

Unable to find a teaching job, Moon sought work elsewhere, working at places such as Western Electric and Bell Telephone.

It wasn’t until after he married and had a child that he became a soldier. Moon had kept moving around from job to job and wanted to stop uprooting his family every year. Right after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, military recruitment picked up and Moon enlisted.

“I kept hearing that this was the war to end all wars,” he says. “I had a young boy at home, and I wanted to make the world a better place for him to live in.”

The change meant leaving his family, though.

“I probably shouldn’t have left my family, my new wife and son,” he adds.

Eventually, Moon was a member of the 5th Marine Division and sent to Iwo Jima. Thirteen days into the battle against Japanese forces there, Moon was shot in the leg, a severe enough wound to require his transfer off the island.

“I was lucky,” he said, “because if I had stayed there any longer, I think I would have died.”

In those 13 days, Moon saw companions hit by flamethrowers and gunfire, among other weapons.

“If you’ve ever seen someone burn to death … well, it just isn’t pretty,” he says, adding that Clint Eastwood’s 2006 movie about Iwo Jima, Flags of Our Fathers, was “very real as far as they could go” in respect to visual and auditory components, but the smell, feel and taste qualities were lost.

Seventeen days after Moon was wounded, Iwo Jima was taken.

Reflecting, Moon says, “I’ve been a lucky man.”

Having been part of history, seen the world, experiencing adventures and living to tell others of his life, such an assertion is inarguable.

**John Moon’s father Frank helped build the gold cupola atop WIU’s Sherman Hall.**

**Bryce Dexter, Dean Inessa Levi and John Moon.**
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