PLACE
‘Outdoor classroom’ makes WIU unique

ALSO
- Actor John Mahoney
- Studying storms
- Psych alum researches alcohol & adolescence
- Remembering women’s progress

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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."

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1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455; email BK-Knight@wiu.edu.

Spring 05
Welcome to the first issue of Focus.

This magazine is but one of dozens – hundreds – of projects and programs at the College of Arts and Sciences, where we work hard to prepare students for tomorrow.

To operate successfully in our fast-paced, technologically advanced society, students increasingly must learn how to learn. The College’s academic programs — built upon a solid liberal-arts base — help students to think clearly and critically, to communicate precisely and effectively, and to interpret with insight, imagination and compassion. These skills are timeless.

Our academic programs also provide the practical and theoretical knowledge required for successful careers or for advanced studies in graduate and professional schools. We value highly the involvement of students in research and hands-on experiences. We believe that this involvement establishes an environment that facilitates long-term mentoring relationships between faculty and students, and increases student success and retention.

The College works hard to provide a premier learning experience by offering attractive “in-demand” programs. The new undergraduate minors in neuroscience, forensic science, and Geographic Information Systems are such programs.

The College also supports the development of a number of research and outreach units that provide students with research, experiential and service learning opportunities. These units include the Environmental Studies Institute, the Western Survey Research Center, the McDonough County Geographic Information System Center, and the Psychology Clinic. These units address community needs by utilizing faculty members’ professional expertise and students’ hands-on education.

The Western Survey Research Center officially opened on December 8, 2004. Its current list of clients includes the Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, Beu Health Center, and the academic division of WIU.

A search for the Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies is currently underway. Recent environmental studies activities sponsored by the College include a NATO international Conference on Pollution Detection Techniques in July 2004, a conference for participants of nationwide Earthwatch Institute program at Kibbe Life Science Field Station in August, 2004, and a Conference on Environmental Issues in Rural Illinois in April 2005. All these activities contribute to establishing Western’s role as a center for environmental studies.

A new housing/meeting facility at Kibbe Life Science Field Station was opened in Fall 2004. The new facility will help to expand and support the University’s regional and national role in environmental studies.

The McDonough County Geographic Information System Center has a working relationship with the City of Macomb and McDonough County. Each year the center helps manage infrastructure and long-range planning for the city and county, other communities and various units on campus.

The Psychology Clinic provides training for our Clinical and Community Mental Health graduate students, and it simultaneously allows us to provide psychological services to the greater community.

Research activities and hands-on educational experiences help students become life-long learners. Such experiences involve framing a problem within one or more disciplines, analyzing it, collecting necessary information, solving the problem, and presenting the solution to peers who may or may not have sufficient background in the area. These are the skills and the knowledge that may help our students attain a competitive professional and employment advantage.

Tomorrow, we’re confident, they’ll continue to learn.

Inessa Levi, Dean
English grads get a big EGO
By Joseph Adams

Graduate students from WIU’s Department of English and Journalism have revitalized an organization designed to promote their professional development.

Several graduate and teaching assistants revived the English Graduate Organization (EGO) last fall.

“IT has been a recognized organization on campus for many years,” said Vice-President Kendra Crede. “Our purpose was to become recognized [by WIU’s Student Activities Center] in the fall and reactivate EGO with the university.”

One of EGO’s large projects this semester was its first annual conference based on a major theme, “Who is responsible for the village?” The April 1 conference, coordinated by Crede, examined the impact of technology in a global community.

“It was a big project we pulled together from nothing,” said Price-Stalides. “We got people from different schools from all over the country and a keynote speaker from Augustana (College).”

Dr. Bradley Dilger serves as EGO’s faculty adviser and helped the organization get the conference off the ground.

“I am very proud of them,” said Dilger. “They allow me to do exactly what I want to do, which is advise. They run the show. I just give them feedback about their ideas.”

Dilger said that professional development is a priority for the organization. Items being discussed include workshops on conventions of academic writing and publishing, attending conferences, and academic research strategies.

In Fall 2004, EGO asked Dilger and Dr. Joan Livingston-Webber, acting Director of Writing, to hold a workshop on preparing a vita, or CV (curriculum vitae), which provides information about a person’s education, manuscripts in review, internships, academic achievements and other accomplishments. EGO may hold a vita workshop each semester.

Information about EGO and its activities can be found at its Web site –http://www.wiu.edu/users/mudjs1/EGO.htm.

Recalling region in WWI earns history award
By Rebecca Jania

Virginia Boynton in December received the Illinois State Historical Society’s Harry E. Pratt Memorial Award for her article “Even in the Remotest Parts of the State: Downstate Woman’s Committee Activities on the Illinois Home Front During World War I,” based on her original research.

Dr. Virginia Boynton

“Illinois women all over the state were active in supporting the nation’s war effort in a variety of ways, coordinated by a group of women appointed jointly by the state and U.S. governments and known as the Illinois Woman’s Committee,” she said. “Led and coordinated by the IWC, women across Illinois not only participated in efforts to help win the war by, for example, increasing the state’s food production and decreasing its consumption of certain foods. More interestingly, they used the opportunities that the wartime emergency provided to improve life in their local communities by, among other things, working to improve the health of local children by establishing community health clinics and hiring public health nurses for public schools.”

The Harry E. Pratt Memorial Award, named after the editor of the Illinois Historical Journal from 1950 to 1956, is given annually to authors in recognition of their contributions to Illinois history and of the general excellence of their manuscripts.
not only do we offer an excellent experience in the classroom but also give students opportunity for research as undergraduates,” she says.

Dr. Incera comes to WIU from SUNY (State University of New York) at Fredonia, which has a similar-sized physics department. She hopes WIU’s department grows – even doubles in size — during her time at the helm.

“I want people to come to work happy,” she says. “I hope to bring new blood and work with those already here to build something special.”

Studying physics fascinates Incera, and she hopes to get more students enthused about it, too.

“I want to attract more students,” she says. “One way to do that is to share with them how fun physics is.”

A day in the life of CAS
By Elizabeth Dietrich, Jana Minorini

Each weekday, Western’s College of Arts and Sciences becomes a real community as well as a collection of individuals, as its various functions involve many people around lecterns and desks, in hallways and loading docks, supplying and delivering power, conversation, research and thought. And more.

Almost 13,000 students are led by 365 faculty members teaching Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes; about 7,700 students are in Tuesday-Thursday classes taught by 238 professors.

In Morgan Hall, Waggoner Hall, Simpkins Hall, Currens Hall, and Tillman Hall, almost 500 computers are used by faculty and staff.

WIU’s Physical Plant uses some 800,000 gallons of water, campus wide.

CAS secretaries and other support personnel together take an average of about 400 phone calls a day, according to a survey.

Custodians clean daily, contributing to about 170 cubic yards of garbage hauled off campus.

Vehicles fill 298 spaces in designated CAS faculty parking lots.

Committees pore over possible additions and deletions to the curriculum, which undergoes about two changes per week.

From one end of the Macomb campus to the other, Western’s Mail Services deliver some 8,000 letters and flat piece of mail.

Physical Plant also uses thousands of therms of natural gas, plus some fuel oil and coal to heat or cool campus buildings.

About 50 students celebrate their birthdays.
Katerina Koscova took part in research funded by the National Science Foundation at Western Kentucky University; Geology students Patrick Ray and both Leslie Melim and Neil Shannon helped in research projects in Alaska and New Mexico, respectively. Political Science students Agustin Campos and Natalie Roseberry served as interns during the political conventions this summer – Campos at the Democratic National Convention and Roseberry at the Republican National Convention.

More than 250 public presentations were made by undergraduates – another 90 by graduate students – and, separately, faculty made an additional 240 presentations.

A sampling of faculty and where they delivered their presentation includes Nader Vakil (Mathematics) at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, Bradley Dilger (English and Journalism) at the Convergences Symposium in Raleigh, N.C., John Woźniak (Sociology and Anthropology) at the American Society of Criminology, Nashville, Tenn., Jack Bailey (Geology) keynoting at Mid-America Paleontological Society, Iraj Kalantari (Mathematics) at the American Mathematical Society/Mathematics Association of America Joint Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., Mohammad Siddiqi (English and Journalism) at the International Association of Media and Communication Research in Porta Allegre, Brazil, and Steve Bennett (Geology) at the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colo.

Through 2004, CAS faculty and students generated 116 publications — from essays and articles to chapters and books. Some of them were Virginia Diehl (Psychology) in the Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, Lora Ebert Wallace (Sociology and Anthropology), who published the book Families, Delinquency, And Crime, Kim McClure (Psychology) in Social Cognition, Dave Boocer (English and Journalism) in the book The Search for Meaning, edited by Paula Harms Payne, and Eugene Mathes (Psychology) in Psychological Reports.

All this effort can result in various types of recognition. For example, Paul Mundschenk (Philosophy and Religious Studies) presented the Presidential Post-Inaugural celebration lecture at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Penn., and Tama Baldwin (English and Journalism) was awarded a residency at Yaddo Arts Retreat, an artists’ community in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Sometimes, grants anticipate and underwrite the work. In the last eight months, 20 faculty members from 7 CAS departments received $1,126,608 in external grants, a dramatic increase from previous years. Three representative projects that received substantial research grants include: Scott Holt (Biological Sciences) funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, T. K. Vinod (Chemistry) funded by the National Science Foundation, and Jeng-Kuen Huang and Lisa Wen (Chemistry) funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In other campus accomplishments,
• Jeanette Thomas (Biological Sciences) was named the 2005 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in that annual competition. Thomas, who also teaches at Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium on Fridays, discussed “The Effects of Human-Made Noise on Marine Mammals: A Whale of a Problem.”

• Following poet Rebecca Wee’s Fall semester reading for the English and Journalism Department’s Case Writer-in-Residence program, alumna Barbara Lawhorn Harroun was selected as the program’s Spring speaker.

• The College of Arts and Sciences formed a liberal-arts awareness committee, Celebrating Liberal ArtS and Sciences (CLASS) to develop initiatives including a speakers bureau and a public Dialogue Series.

In the future for CAS, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will welcome a new chair.

Andrew Lian, Emeritus Professor of Languages and Second Language Education at the University of Canberra’s School of Languages and International Education in Australia, is expected to start this summer. “He has suggested innovative and cost-effective ways of adding critical languages and working with the Center for International Studies CIS in the development of new forward-thinking programs,” commented Steven J. Sacco of the Center for International Business Education and Research at San Diego State University, a WIU consultant.
Life: Studying at the station

One-of-a-kind preserve provides immersion into biology

By Bill Knight

Some places are more than measured spaces of real estate, more than topography and soil, and WIU's Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station along the Mississippi River is more than a pristine preserve, sanctuary or laboratory. Blending scientific research and instructional opportunities, the permanent field installation is unique.

"Unique" is an often overused description of something that's not really one of a kind. But Kibbe is.

A massive, majestic white oak tree towers above furry and feathered creatures, flying or crawling through more than 1,600 acres owned or managed by Western. Tiny algae and grand eagles exist alongside fish, amphibians and other animals, breaking waters' surfaces or hiding beneath the waves or ground cover.

"You can consider it a type of museum, almost," says John Warnock, a retired WIU biologist who served as Kibbe director in the '60s. "It's an outdoor classroom where you can immerse yourself intensely in the experience, and it's a place where gene pools of plants and animals survive undisturbed. Students can observe it thoroughly."

The only station of its size on the navigable part of the upper Mississippi River system, Kibbe is the largest parcel of continuous natural landscape in the area. Generations of students have walked, boated and studied through the sand hills and river bluffs, the hickories and oaks, all situated between Warsaw and Hamilton just south of Lock & Dam 19 at Keokuk, Iowa.

"Students go into biology here," says station director Sean Jenkins, who also teaches on campus at Western.

"It's incredible."

Jenkins strokes his beard, not quite hiding a smile. His penetrating eyes dart from point to point and his voice rises from a whisper and reaches a volume audible through the wind.

"We are the only off-site location that combines both undergraduate and graduate instruction and ecological field research into a comprehensive package, through our summer field courses," he continues. "Our location on the river and the diversity of aquatic and terrestrial habitats at the site provides a natural laboratory that can be utilized in a great diversity of courses, and to answer research questions across a wide range of biological and ecological disciplines."

Showing a visitor around the grounds this winter, Jenkins talks in bursts between the crunching of leaves and twigs beneath boots and shoes.

"The station has always played a critical role in the liberal-arts tradition by hopefully helping to shape not only the next generation of ecologists, but also in helping to provide students in general an appreciation of the natural world and the influences that humans have on natural resources," he says, absently shaking some dust off humane traps. "With the global scope of the environmental problems facing the present and future generations, places like Kibbe can play a critical role in producing well-rounded and knowledgeable world citizens capable of meeting the challenges ahead."

One of North America's largest concentrations of bald eagles winters here, and most of the diving ducks of the continent migrate through, too. Pelicans and ospreys roost here, along with pileated woodpeckers and more than 150 nests of great blue herons.

The river has islands, sandbars and navigation pools harboring life. Along the banks, floodplain forests lead to the bluffs, with their upland timber areas. More life. Above are hill prairies with tall grasses and ravines with exposed outcroppings of limestone. Rocky streams cut through to the river. Still more life.

Cedar Glen runs from Mississippi River bottomland through more rugged terrain to rolling uplands, with sugar maples and sycamores rising above hundreds of cataloged plants. Twelve miles of hiking trails meander through the station, showing wear from deer and teens alike.

About a half dozen classes use the site in two 4-week sessions, stressing field experiences in the natural labora-
tory. Also, outreach programs host visiting academics and interagency meetings, K-12 pupils and Scouting groups, State Conservation Day activities, and — perhaps most impressively — gifted high schoolers taking part in the Student Challenge Awards Project through the Earthwatch Institute.

"It's a national program where high school students from all over the country write essays to compete," Jenkins says, "and eight kids at a time come to Kibbe and do two or three weeks of research.

**BIRTH AND GROWTH OF UNIQUE PLACE**

More than 80 years ago, conservationists described the area as one of the outstanding natural areas of the Midwest, but the station really started as a 160-acre donation to WIU in 1964 from Alice Kibbe, who was retiring as botanist and biology chair at Carthage College, then re-locating from nearby Carthage, Ill., to Kenosha, Wis.

Through other donations and acquisitions, Kibbe now includes 415 acres owned by WIU, which through a cooperative agreement also manages adjacent land owned by the Illinois Department of Natural resources (587 acres) and the Illinois chapter of the Nature Conservancy (697 acres). Site manager Hank Courtois lives in a restored 19th century farmhouse here, and Jenkins for more than three years has divided his time between here and Macomb.

"I get more from the time I spend teaching summer courses and conducting research with my students at Kibbe than I do from any of my other duties," he continues. "There is no substitute for the hands-on experience that students get by actively participating in field research. Often, it is the only exposure some students get to field ecology, so I think that the experience is of critical importance in training young biologists of all kinds."

Such exposure to untouched nature not only offers new perspectives, but brings fresh points of view, too.

"Over the years, there have been a lot of surprises at Kibbe, but it's funny, sometimes you don't realize it's a sur-
prise until an outsider comes in," says Warnock, shrugging and smiling.

"There are a lot of interesting rock layers exposed — it's the geode capital of the world, I think. Turkey vultures are present, and the fresh-water mussel beds are the biggest between Baton Rouge and the Twin Cities.

"At some point, someone didn't realize that."

Recently, Western did realize that some subtle expansion was needed. So, added to the Kibbe compound of Courtois' two-story residence and three outbuildings (two storage sheds containing equipment, vehicles and watercraft such as a 26-foot pontoon boat, and a refurbished house used for classrooms and sleeping quarters) is a new, 4,200-square-foot building with men's and women's accommodations for 48 and a multi-purpose kitchen/dining/meeting area.

Funded separately through WIU's Biology Department, Kibbe houses several special collections, too, such as native insects and vertebrates, which provide other parts to the learning experience.

"For the biology students hoping to pursue a career in field ecology, courses at Kibbe allow them to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary in ecological research and management," Jenkins says. "For students who have interests in other areas, we hope that we provide them the opportunity to learn about the natural world of which we are all a part.

"Even though we spend a great deal of time in the field under what some would consider less-than-ideal conditions (lots of mud, heat, rain, insects, etc.), he continues, "these moments are the most rewarding, especially when you see the students start to really learn and enjoy the experience of doing field work."

A graduate student who's worked alongside Jenkins and faculty colleagues agrees.

"Students enjoy living in a relatively primitive situation," says Michelle Watson, a 23-year-old grad student working on her master's after earning her B.S. from WIU. "When you live at Kibbe, the people who are living there with you become like family. You go to classes together during the day and then study together at night. It gives you a more intimate type of class.

"If there's ever anything you don't get, your classmates are there to go ask for help," she continues. "There's always a professor at Kibbe, too, so you can go to the source if there's material a part of the class doesn't get.

"The other idea that students like is working hands-on with sophisticated material," she adds. "In a normal classroom, you get the material and see examples, but you seldom get to go out in the field and work on experiments or subjects in nature. At Kibbe, you hear the lectures, see the examples, and then go out and actually observe or work on lecture material. It's a whole new experience, and I think it makes classes easier to understand."

**'NOW I GET IT!**

Classes ranging from ornithology (birds) to herpetology (amphibians and reptiles) have been offered at the station since 1966, but the new dorm/conference building will let
"Now I get it," Watson says. "One particular class I have gotten this feeling from is phycology [the study of algae]. Our professor took us to Kibbe Pond and showed us how to collect plankton using a plankton net. After we had all learned how to use the net, Dr. [Susan] Meiers asked us, 'What kind of experiment could you run out here if you were looking at plankton?'

"We then had to actually think of an experiment we could run," she continues. "We discovered several things that could affect plankton growth and how we could test the effects of these variables. It not only made us think of the specific requirements for healthy plankton growth, but it also taught us how to brainstorm an experiment and figure out how to run it."

Watson, who’s studying how historical disturbances, landscape position and age structure all affect various species at different levels in Cedar Glen here, appreciates the distinctive opportunity Kibbe offers students like her.

"Little research like this has been done in West-Central Illinois," she says. "A lot of the landscape around here is fragmented."

Other recent projects have studied the genetics of red-eared slider turtles, the dynamics of wintering bald eagles, characterizations of invertebrates, the effects of development or other disturbances on woodland plants, and structures of fish and mussel populations. But the sky’s the limit — along with the Earth and the waters.

"Kibbe is such a gorgeous place," Jenkins says. "It’s a real asset to the department and the university. And there’s a lot to be done — hopefully in partnership with area high schools, natural-resources agencies, and organizations such as the Two Rivers Girl Scout Council.”

Chipmunks scamper past sturdy walnut trees, hardy varieties of plants stand beside delicate, decaying leaves, and fragile twigs move across small rapids to the Mississippi, where more life awaits.

What a place.

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**Gifts leave legacy of learning**

Kibbe started with a gift of land, and it continues with gifts of time and money. Last fall, Orpha Decker, the president and CEO of Decker Manufacturing, a Keokuk, Iowa, producer of agricultural hardware, donated $10,000 to the WIU Foundation to support the Kibbe Life Science Station in memory of her husband, Charles "Duff" Decker.

"He was a volunteer there for a number of years, participating in prairie burns and so on," Orpha says. "In fact, he was a Steward of the Land for the Nature Conservancy there, and there’s an area named for him, too."

The area is primitive, a rare savannah-like parcel known as "Duff’s Barrens."

"We both very much believed in the environment, and we were birders," she continues. "We helped with Audubon bird counts every year in the spring and at Christmastime."

Some of her contribution will be set aside for a small library that will include books, collectibles and relics the Deckers donated.

"We accumulated quite a bit of Native American artifacts over the years," she says.

Most important to her, Orpha adds, is the legacy of learning.

"I went to a program there last fall," she says, "and I was so pleased to see high school kids from all over the country interested in doing things for the environment, rather than some of the things too many young people do these days."

— Bill Knight
Frazier's dad, Western grad, helps next generation of scholars

By Catherine Null

Viewers of TV's sit-com "Frazier" knew Martin Crane as grumpy - an irascible, beer-drinking retired policeman. But actor John Mahoney actually was the most educated of the "Frazier" cast, earning a Master's at WIU in 1976.

In a nod to a level of education that Martin Crane might scoff at, Mahoney for years has shown his gratitude for his education with gifts to the Department of English and Journalism, which set up the C. John Mahoney Endowment Fund to assist WIU graduate students.

Mahoney declined to comment on his generosity, but others recognized his charitable acts.

"John is generous to a fault," says his sister, Rita Sullivan, a Hamilton resident and grandmother of Illinois State Senator John Sullivan.

One recent recipient of Mahoney's generosity is student Kristen Bivens.

"I received the grant, and I decided to go to Boston to do my research," Bivens says. "Going to Boston is where I found the focus for my thesis. I wanted to write about American Revolutionary Women Writers, but there weren't a lot of sources here. I found them when I went to Boston."

Mahoney made some of his own discoveries working on his graduate thesis at Western - Nathaniel Hawthorne's Changing Values on the Romance of Isolation. But his search started decades before.

Born in 1940 and raised in war-torn England - amid air raids, bombed-out buildings and rationing - Mahoney was an explorer even as a child, Sullivan remembers.

"As a young child, living in a suburb of Manchester, England, John was bright and very adventurous," says Sullivan. "He kept all of us on our toes."

"At about age 7, he took off alone and walked into the city of Manchester to see the sights," she continues. "The family was hysterical searching for him. John was oblivious to all the dangers; to him it was an adventure. He always marched to his own drummer; he still does."

In 1951, at age 13, Mahoney first visited Sullivan, his war-bride sister who'd married a Carthage, Ill., native. Mahoney later reflected that he'd marveled at the cheerfulness, the food and the cars. The '50s in west-central Illinois seemed a time and place of endless cornfields, blue skies, and friendly people.

Even then, he later confided to a Quincy newspaper, he knew he would come back.

He did, after high school, sponsored by his two sisters - one in Carthage and the other in nearby Hamilton. Not long after, he joined the U.S. Army, which he recalled as a good time to be in the military - after Korea, before Vietnam - just the Cold War and a tour of Germany to deal with.

He was discharged without a British accent, but with some ambition.

Mahoney enrolled in Quincy College (now Quincy University) and worked as a hospital orderly to put himself through school. After his 1966 graduation, he moved up the road to Macomb to further his studies.

"He was also a grad assistant and he enjoyed tutoring the college students," says Sullivan, who then lived in Macomb with her family. "He enjoyed his years at WIU and spoke well of his professors."

After teaching for one year, for instance, Mahoney changed careers and started editing a medical journal in Chicago - a city where he says he has always felt at home. Although Mahoney travels and works all over the world, he told the Chicago Tribune Magazine that Chicago is a "non-neurotic-type city."

"When it comes time to leave the office and go home and take off my shoes and put on a CD and pour myself a glass of wine," Mahoney said, "that to me is what coming back to Chicago is."

There in the mid-'70s, Mahoney edited the publication, housed in the John Hancock building, and was successful but not exactly happy. So in 1975, he quit his job and enrolled in acting classes at the city's St. Nicholas Theater, founded by playwright David Mamet and actor William H. Macy, among others. There, classmate John Malkovich recruited him to join the new Steppenwolf Theater Company, founded in 1976 by actor Gary Sinise and two other Illinois State University grads. Mahoney has been a member of the Steppenwolf ensemble since 1979.

Choosing the unknown - acting - over a successful editing career must not have been easy, but Mahoney has said he'd thought about times in his life when he had been happy, and those memories involved acting - as a child in Manchester and as a student at Quincy College. He chose acting because he wanted to be happy - success was not his motivation.

"One of life's lessons is that..."
WIU's meteorology grads

Working weather coast to coast

By Catherine Null

The angular assortment of metal and wood boxes and materials could be titled "Found Objects," but the various gear isn't intended to offer abstract provocation. Rather, it's to provide concrete measurements.

"It could pass for an art installation. It has all the characteristics of good art: it appeals to the senses; it raises questions; it causes people to wonder; and it encourages people to think beyond the norm," says John Graham, Director of the WIU Art Gallery.

Situated halfway between the Art Gallery and Tillman Hall, the 10-foot-square Weather Instrumentation Site is surrounded by an 8-foot green cyclone fence. Inside is a recording thermometer and a other instruments hidden in a tiny white "chicken house" four feet off the ground — erected according to National Weather Service specifications — plus an 8-inch rain gauge with metal strips hanging down to deflect wind, and a pan to measure evaporation.

Western is the only meteorology program in Illinois with its own weather radar system. Also one of the few in the country with such state-of-the-art technology, it's one of just two programs in the state that meet the NWS requirements for employment as a meteorologist.

Meteorology itself is somewhat distinctive, like the station — a bit of art alongside a lot of science and math and discipline. Meteorology makes it possible to forecast weather more accurately, with practitioners using more satellites to send more data to bigger computers — all to help understand the complexities of the atmosphere. Global climate modeling also provides weather predictions used by farmers and commuters, golfers and pilots.

However, though people have observed and recorded weather for as long as there has been human history, what people think of as meteorology is fairly recent.

"Meteorology grew out of World War II," says former Geography chair Dan Wise, now an associate dean, "when it became possible for aircraft to reach the clouds and study the atmosphere."

Once people were able to "in the clouds," observation and study of the clouds grew in frequency and sophistication. At Western, the Department of

The curious "Chicken House" gives no clues about the weather instruments hidden inside.

The synoptic meteorology course," Alford says, "It was explained to me at the time that because of increasing enrollments, the department was attempting to expand its offerings. At the time of my arrival resources were limited. We had some thermometers, a wind instrument, a couple of barometers, and several sling psychrometers. However, within a few years we had hired Fred Kohler and Tom Van Heuklon, and meteorology and climatology was on the road to obtaining critical mass."

Back then, Van Heuklon proposed putting Western's Weather Station where it is now, but when it was built in 1971, it had to be placed on Tillman's roof. Some 20 years later, the station was moved when Tillman was re-roofed.

So the station started operating and courses were offered — but there was no major.

"The synoptic meteorology course was reasonably well received," Alford continues. "In this course the students were taught to construct surface weather charts and to analyze them for possible weather prediction. The course was attended primarily by geography majors a handful of physics majors, and a number of students who were interested in becoming TV weather personalities. The substantial growth in the meteorology program really came after I retired in 1988."

In the early '80s, the department decided to pursue National Weather Service certification, which required a curriculum including higher-level math courses and physics. Besides physics and math (enough math that meteorology students virtually have a math minor), students also take synoptic meteorology, climatology, dynamic meteorology, physical meteorology, and satellite and radar meteorology.
Certification meant that WIU grads would be more highly regarded and more eligible for careers in the field of meteorology. The NWS certified WIU’s program in 1982.

As the program expanded, there were new demands on faculty as well as students. Kohler describes doing problem after problem so that he knew he could troubleshoot any computation students might encounter.

“Dan asked me to teach the dynamic meteorology classes,” Kohler says. “I was glad I had taken calculus, as dynamic requires calculus. Students may not use calculus in their work when they leave the program, but the more rigorous NWS standards required they take calculus and use calculus in their meteorology classes.”

Still, there was no mention of meteorology in WIU’s catalog, so unless a student read course descriptions carefully, meteorology tended to be overlooked. As a consequence, few freshmen came to WIU to study meteorology.

“Once they were studying in the Geography Department,” says Geography Chair Chris Sutton, “sophomores and transfer students would realize, ‘Hey! I can major in geography and study meteorology and graduate from a NWS-certified program’.”

But students couldn’t major in meteorology for some time. It was a difficult situation — at that time university guidelines for creating a new major were cumbersome and awkward. If the department created a meteorology major, and then graduated fewer than the prescribed number of majors, the major would be in jeopardy.

It wasn’t until 2003 that the department decided to pursue a meteorology major. Under Sutton’s guidance, they proposed the new major, which was approved by the university. In its second year, the new program has more than 20 majors, and as of March 1, there are almost 30 admits for fall 2005.

Despite the fact that the department couldn’t offer a meteorology major for years, the department has graduated more than 100 meteorology students who are now involved in all aspects of the science of weather. (See below for a partial listing of WIU meteorology grads “Where are they now.”)

“WIU grads are working for the National Weather Service and for private weather-forecasting services,” says associate professor Tom Williams. “One private service which has hired WIU grads, forecasts for the PGA.”

Others have continued their studies in higher education, and some are doing broadcast meteorology.

Today, Williams and assistant professor Jongnam Choi teach the meteorology courses, trying to bring even more advanced technology into the program. A search is under way for a third faculty member specializing in meteorology.

Thanks to the Internet, anyone who searches for meteorology majors will find WIU’s Department of Geography. The program’s increasing relevance was underscored at a recent event showcasing Western to prospective students and their parents.

“A young woman and her father drove from western Pennsylvania to tour the department and inquire about the meteorology major,” Sutton says.

WIU Meteorology Grads
“Where are they now?”

The following students have kept in touch with Dr. Tom Williams of WIU’s Geography Department:

**Broadcast Meteorology**
- Mark Baden ’92 Milwaukee, Wis.
- Dave Baker ’92 Lofay, La.
- Corey Henderson ’95 Beckley, W.Va.
- Phil Johnson ’93 Duluth, Minn.
- Brett Shepard ’02 Anchorage, Alaska
- Angela Hutt ’03 Anchorage, Alaska
- Bryan Rupp ’96 Kirksville, Mo.
- Pat Powell ’93
- Scott Padgett ’96

**National Weather Service**
- Tim Masters ’93 Sioux Falls, S.D.
- John Juskie ’90 Sacramento, Calif.
- John Ogren ’88 Indianapolis, Ind.
- Rich Kinney ’96 Des Moines, Iowa
- Scott Doering ’03 volunteers for the NWS in the Quad Cities

**Private Weather Forecasting**
- Bryan Nicholson ’01 Mobile Weather Team Bloomington, Ill.
- Eric Gaumer ’01 Mobile Weather Team, Washington, Ill.
- Willis Young ’93 Mobile Weather Team, Washington, Ill.
- Matt Salm, ’98 Murray and Trettel

**Higher Education**
- Paul Hamill ’92 MS, PhD University of Wisconsin
- Mike Brown ’91 MA, Mississippi State, PhD University of North Carolina—Assistant Professor of Geography, Mississippi State University, Lafayette, La.
- Jeff Baars ’93 MS Ohio State now at Los Alamos, N.M.
- Eric Snodgrass ’02 University of Illinois

**Current students doing weather forecasts for WWIR Channel 3**
include Jeff Hess, Christopher Potter, Chris Simmons and Allen Blaz.

Williams said that there are many other meteorology grads working in the field, and the program would like to know what they’re doing, too.
From WIU’s Lab School to its Board of Trustees

Poli sci, history moved Guzzardo from Macomb to ... Macomb

By Bill Knight

George Guzzardo was appointed to WIU’s Board of Trustees by Gov. George Ryan, but the 49-year-old Macomb businessman is a self-appointed advocate for those he sees as overlooked.

Guzzardo has brought a unique perspective to the board, drawing on his roots as a political-science student at Western, and before that as a pupil at WIU’s K-12 Laboratory School.

Guzzardo is a 1973 graduate of Western High School, the on-campus facility where for decades elementary and secondary students learned, as did university students who observed classrooms and took part in cooperative teaching assignments.

“I appreciate the impact that the Lab School and college classes had on me,” he says. “On one hand there were bright, talented teachers like Beth Stiffler, many of whom went to work at the university when the Lab School closed. And on the other hand, when I was a senior – taking college classes, too – it exposed me to how political the world of education is. I got some exposure to the real world at the Lab School. But I’m sad they’re gone.

“Back then I was a political activist and came to realize that even a progressive lab school can be ... well, intolerant,” Guzzardo continues. “For me, the big issue was freedom of the press. I started some high school newspapers, which were seen then as controversial – anti-war and so on. Some people forget how different that time was.

The late 1960s and early ’70s were not only different, he continues. They were difficult, too.

“Looking back at Western over the last 30 years or more, I’d have to say that John Bernhard was really quite impressive, but he’s forgotten. As president [in the late ‘60s and early ’70s], he ran the university in very difficult times for American campuses, and I think we’ve failed to recognize him enough.”

Off campus, the traditional rivalry between colleges and their communities – the “town/gown” divide – didn’t affect the young Guzzardo, who not only moved in and out of both worlds but was too busy to notice, he says.

“I was so involved with politics or business that that never affected me too much,” says Guzzardo, who took fewer and fewer classes on campus after going into business as a 19 year old. “Then, with everything going on, especially on campuses, schools were a lot more than resume-builders, like today.”

Unlike what Guzzardo sees as today’s students being too concerned with grades and vocational training, yesterday’s students benefited from a liberal-arts education that exposed them to a wide range of topics, perspectives and fields.

“I took over three years of classes there, and I really enjoyed history and political science courses — particularly from Dave Frier and A.B. Villanueva. I developed the greatest respect for Villanueva, more because of what he went through to get to America, and his tolerance for people who were different.

Western’s “Lab School” opened in 1902 in a space within Old Main (now the administration building, Sherman Hall). The experimental educational program also was called the Training School and the Academy when it operated in rooms near old Morgan Gym in the 1920s.

When it occupied what’s now Simpkins Hall north of campus’s Lake Ruth, in the years 1938-68 it was dubbed the Campus School, the Lab School, and even Western High School.

The Lab School moved to a new, $2.5 million building constructed where the old golf course was in 1968, but the Illinois Board of Higher Education soon decided to shut down the facility, which closed in 1973. Today, this building, Horrabin Hall, houses the College of Education and Human Services and the School of Extended Studies.
and I helped out with Paul Simon’s short presidential campaign and the gubernatorial campaign of Adlai Stevenson, whose father had help from me in Winnebago County,” Guzzardo says. “I helped a little with Lisa Madigan running for attorney general and all the Democrats running for the state House of Representatives from the Macomb area — especially Bill Edley.”

Edley, now a Peoria investment counselor, recently was appointed to join WIU’s Board of Trustees. This year, three board members’ terms expire: Chicago businessman Bill Epperly, Macomb businesswoman Lorraine Epperson, and Guzzardo.

“We’ll see whether Gov. Blagojevich will appoint me again or not,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed it. I’ve tried to spend my time on the board in two ways. First, I’ve tried to be a voice for organized labor, especially the non-faculty personnel, who too often are just forgotten. Next, I wanted to help bring in a president who was as open-minded and tolerant as I believe a university needs, and I think we did with Al Goldfarb.”

If Blagojevich decides to appoint a new face — a different voice — to the board, Guzzardo certainly will remain busy. His company now distributes newspapers to five west-central Illinois counties. He’s twice restored Macomb’s Twyman building across from Chandler Park, which he purchased 30 years ago. And he’s sure to back candidates he thinks will better represent area constituents.

“That building has been a blessing,” he says. “I think it was sort of a forgotten gem in the heart of Macomb, and I bought it from Margaret Stover, who’d been a driving force with the Macomb Beautiful organization and recently passed away, and she always made me appreciate it. It’s only had two owners in over 100 years.

“And as far as politics, I’m always interested in helping someone represent the concerns of people around here who are overlooked too often in Springfield and Washington.”

(MAHONEY, FROM PAGE 11)

success and happiness are not the same thing, nor do they necessarily lead to each other,” he told a Quincy writer.

Mahoney was led back to WIU, where he completed his Master’s thesis in 1976, when he examined Hawthorne’s use of isolation in his personal life and in his work. Reading and thinking deeply about engaging topics is what students do, and reading Hawthorne’s works and studying the author may have helped prepare Mahoney for acting. After all, understanding what motivates the human spirit helps actors prepare for roles in which characters struggle with the real world.

Plus, a liberal-arts education can provide a foundation on which various futures can be built.

By most measures, Mahoney is lucky. He found happiness AND has had success. Mahoney has appeared in more than 30 Steppenwolf productions, including The Dresser and I Never Sang for my Father in 2004. He has performed on Broadway in The House of Blue Leaves, and his filmography lists more than 50 films, including The American President, Tin Men, Barton Fink, The Hudsucker Proxy, Moonstruck, and Suspect. His honors have included a Tony Award, a Golden Globe award, and nominations for Drama Desk awards and Emmys.

Such recognition may be a fair exchange for a gifted talent whose own gifts to Western recognize his preparations, his studies.

In fact, Mahoney may have benefitted from studying Hawthorne and isolation in preparing to portray James Court, the “do anything, say anything” father of Ione Skye in 1989’s Say Anything – his breakthrough film role, some say.

Mahoney’s performance achieved the “right note for a father who cares, and loves, and deceives both himself and his daughter, and tries to rationalize his behavior because he cares and loves,” according to Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert.

Since “Frazier” ended, Mahoney has been able to get back to his roots — the stage.

“He’s now back to his first and favorite love: theater,” Sullivan says. “He was doing theater work long before he was in the television series. Since wrapping up the television series, he’s starred in three plays. There’s not much money in plays, but he doesn’t need the money, he loves the stage acting.”

Learning about life in literature is a key part of a liberal-arts education, one that prepares students for life. Such studies prepare people to be thinkers, learners, and — in John Mahoney’s case, an actor. And a giver.
WIU psychology alum looks to link youth, alcoholism
By Joseph Adams

A WIU psychology alumna researching the roots of alcohol abuse and alcoholism, has found that the risk-taking years of adolescence may be key.

Dr. Linda Spear, who graduated from WIU in 1971, is distinguished professor of Binghamton University’s Department of Psychology and Center for Developmental Psychology. She has received grant funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) to determine the effects of changing brain activity during adolescence and its influence on high-risk behavior.

"(The research) is directed toward what it is about adolescent neurobehavioral function that predisposes them to alcohol and drug abuse and other risk-taking behaviors," said Spear. "During adolescence, this is much higher than in childhood or adulthood, and a lot of that is associated with risk-taking behaviors."

Spear has attracted millions of dollars for her research involving cocaine and alcohol and the drugs' effects on young people. Grants from the NIDA and the NIAAA have reached nearly $3.5 million since 1999.

Spear, whose area of research is behavioral neuroscience, said the brain undergoes dramatic transformations during adolescence that can lead to heightened activities, such as overeating, aggressiveness and increased sex drive. This restructuring of the brain can also cause a tendency for youths to drink excessively or abuse drugs.

Part of Spear's research involves how neuromechanisms increase sensitivity in some areas of the brain and lessen it in others. On the one hand, she said, young people tend to drive too

Western, Women's Center mark 30 years since
UN's International Women's Year
By Sara Blair

When the United Nations declared 1975 International Women’s Year, it was more than six decades after it had been first proposed. However, following that simple declaration with the world's first conference on women in Mexico City that year, and two years later officially naming March 8 as International Women’s Day became small steps toward larger strides toward equality.

At Western Illinois University, the movement toward equality took forms as varied as the establishment of a campus Women’s Center and the progression of women’s studies from a program to a department.

Still, much remains undone, according to WIU academics and activists.

"Although many assumptions about women and their capabilities have been challenged and changed, and great strides have been made toward gender equity in education, business, politics and other arenas in the past three decades, we still have a long way to go," says Janine Cavicchia, director of WIU’s Women’s Center.

"Many negative assumptions still exist in fields such as math and science, despite the fact that women’s success in the sciences is greatly expanding," she continues. "While women are now more than 54 percent of college students and are being admitted to medical schools at roughly the same rate as men, women still lag far behind men in traditionally male-dominated majors and career fields, and women are not graduating with majors such as computer science and from medical schools at anywhere near the same rates as men."

At Western, the College of Arts and Sciences for years has shown strong interest in gender and cultural diversity, exemplified in part through support for Women’s Studies. After 27 years as a collection of courses, 18 years as a minor and 3 years as a major, Women’s Studies gained departmental status this spring. Polly Radosh, director of the Women’s Studies Department, agrees that inequities remain, but that Western’s administration has been committed to progress toward equality.

"We still have many areas where we can improve and reduce gender inequities," Radosh says. "[But] I believe that the current administration is really committed to this end, so I’m hopeful that we will see improvements in the next few years."

The Women’s Studies Department offers an interdisciplinary major and minor, focusing on courses that generally specialize in issues of diversity and especially stress women’s many contributions to human culture and, in turn, cultures’ impact on women.

"The administration pushed for the establishment of the new department of Women’s Studies, as well as for the development of a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies, which is under review," Radosh adds. "I believe there is a common commitment to reducing disparities at WIU. The administration listens and responds. I am confident
fast, fight with their parents, and engage in novelty-seeking activities that can lead to unprotected sex or criminal behavior. On the other hand, research suggests that adolescents seek the sedative effects of alcohol but are less vulnerable to its side effects, such as hangovers. This might cause a tendency for adolescents to “binge” drink.

“A lot of kids and a lot of adults drink because it facilitates social interaction,” said Spear. “Adolescents are more sensitive to social facilitation by alcohol . . . but they are able to drink more for a number of factors.”

Starting to drink at such an early age might explain how millions of people become addicted, Spear’s research indicates.

Spear said that alcohol works differently than other drugs.

“It’s like a sledgehammer on the brain,” she said, adding that because the system is going through so many changes during this time, alcohol might have detrimental effects in later life.

Applying her research in an across-species study, Spear has her theories about why adolescents engage in high-risk activities. “Right now, most human adolescents are not leaving home when they become mature,” she said. Similar to animals that set off on their own, Spear suggested that biological changes young people experience also tend to drive them into new territory.

“One of the problems our adolescents face is that they are becoming sexually mature,” she said. “The male adolescent or female leaves their home territory and finds some other social group to interact with.” She added that males tend to dominate this pattern because females are influenced by social restrictions.

As an expert advisory member of the NIAAA’s Underage Drinking Prevention Team, Spear is committed to developing an initiative to address and prevent alcohol consumption by young people, she says.

“I spend a lot of time around Washington trying to understand what it is we need to know more about and how to deal with this,” she said. “We need a lot of basic research in ultrasensitivity and what is going on in the brain.”

Spear also is studying the effects of nicotine on adolescents.

A prolific writer in the area of developmental psychology, she’s published hundreds of essays and other works. A two-year study published in 2000 titled, “The Adolescent Brain and Age-related Behavioral Manifestations” received wide praise and appeared in the journal Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Review.

At Western, Dr. Spear earned a degree in Psychology with minors in Zoology and Math. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Florida in 1975, joining the faculty at Binghamton in 1976.

that WIU will serve as a model for other colleges and universities that are committed to eliminating old disparities between women and men.”

In addition to academic endeavors, Western also has a number of organizations for women that promote gender equity and raise awareness on issues that affect female students, faculty, and staff on campus, plus women in the community and society. Besides the Women’s Center, the Western Organization for Women and the Feminist Action Alliance student organization are just two groups that advocate for equality in sectors as varied as politics and sports.

“Only two women have ever been Supreme Court Justices,” says Cavicchia, who’s also active with the Western Organization for Women, the League of Women Voters, and the Macomb Feminist Network. “The U.S. ranks 60th in the world in terms of female political representation — women are only 62 of 435 current members of the U.S. House of Representatives; 13 of the 100 U.S. Senators; and 12% of state governors.

“Only 20 percent of college presidents and five of the Fortune 500 CEOs are women,” she continues.

“Clearly, these numbers do not reflect that women are 52 percent of the U.S. population. Although the United States government is adamant that countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan must include women’s rights in their new constitutions, we still do not have an Equal Rights Amendment in our own Constitution. And pay equity is still nowhere in sight, with white women making, on the average, 74 cents on the dollar that white men make, and African American and Hispanic women averaging far less.”

School sports are dramatically better than 30 years ago, but that may be because opportunities were so few then, Cavicchia says.

“With regard to collegiate athlet-
The Real Sequel
1st BSA prez built careers on liberal-arts foundation

The variety and opportunity made available through the arts and sciences at WIU helped Nate Lawrence prepare for a wide-ranging career that's taken the Quad Cities native from concert promotion and journalism to public relations and marketing.

"I had a lot of learning experiences outside of classrooms, but really enjoyed professor Bill Masters in anthropology," says Lawrence, who left WIU in 1971 and founded Telemark Communications, an East Moline public relations and marketing firm.

"We had a lot of conversations after class," he adds. "There were a lot of activities and opportunities outside the classroom, period."

Indeed, Lawrence, the first president of Western's Black Students Association, recalls student involvement in launching the African-American Studies program, the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, and even the Office of Academic Services.

"We were pretty active," he says, laughing, "but there were real needs, too. Students were feeling loaded down with courses and set up to fail."

Speakers brought to the Macomb campus also helped students network, he said.

"Father George Clements, the Catholic priest in Chicago who founded the One Church-One Child program, came and spoke at Western," Lawrence recalls, "and years later I turned to him when I was working with the Iowa Department of Human Services on an adoption/foster-care initiative. That was a valuable connection."

Lawrence also has led multimedia campaigns and coordinated the Quad Cities Mayors Media Roundtable, all drawing on his undergraduate education and experiences in a liberal-arts environment, from acting in university plays to writing a column for the student newspaper.

"I learned how to do a ton of stuff there," he says. "If nothing else, I learned how to imitate success well."

"I'm not a rich person, but what I learned allowed me to have a rich life."

— Bill Knight

Nate Lawrence says his multimedia campaigns and marketing efforts benefit from his undergraduate education at WIU.
Life: learning starts early

Local high schoolers should be able to study all the natural communities of life throughout WIU's 1,680-acre Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station along the Mississippi River, where for 40 years scientists and college students have experienced many plants and animals in their natural environment.

And we want to help them.

Six faculty members from Western's Biology Department for four years have hosted Earthwatch Institute's nationally recognized Student Challenge Awards Program here, and 8-10 gifted high-school students from across the country take part each summer. Now WIU wants to let youngsters from our own region participate, too.

Can you help?

With your assistance, we'll introduce students from the tri-state area of western Illinois, eastern Iowa and eastern Missouri to 1) ecological research methods, 2) critical thinking about people's impact on the environment, 3) how their own lives affect ecosystems, 4) why they should get involved in restoring and managing the region's environment, and 5) possible careers in science.

If you can help, fill out the form below. If you have questions, please call Dr. Sean E. Jenkins, Station Director, at (309) 298-2045 or email him at Kibbe@wiu.edu.

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