Western weathers the economic storm

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Your College of Arts & Sciences

50 years of moving forward
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Dr. Tracy Knight talks to Psychology students, some of whom may staff clinics like WIU's. Western's Psychology Clinic celebrates 40 years of service this year. (See page 5.)
This is my last column in Focus. I have accepted the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga. While I am excited – and a bit humbled – by this new opportunity, I find myself working through a bittersweet time. Western Illinois University has been my home for almost five years. In that time we have accomplished a great deal together and it will be hard to leave a lot of great friends and colleagues.

I’d like to take a moment to thank WIU President Al Goldfarb for his unflagging support of the College of Arts and Sciences, its students, and its faculty. His counsel and guidance over the last several years has contributed so much to the success of the College.

Likewise, Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas and Provost and Academic Vice President Joe Rollo before him have been great champions as we explored and developed new, in-demand programs for our students. They both helped us navigate tight budgets and approval processes with unending enthusiasm. With their support and guidance, we developed a School of Nursing, and have created new baccalaureate programs in Nursing, Anthropology, Forensic Chemistry, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Religious Studies. We also developed the graduate degree program in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Just a few weeks ago, WIU’s graduate council approved our doctoral degree program – the first Ph.D. program at Western Illinois University – and that the proposal will soon make its way to the Board of Trustees and then on to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The College has worked to enhance educational opportunities for those seeking challenges after graduation by developing post-baccalaureate certificates in Public and Non-Profit Management, Applied Mathematics, Women’s Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, and Environmental GIS. These certificate programs aid our graduates who hope to enter specialized career fields.

I have been blessed to have an outstanding team of chairs and an amazing, dedicated faculty. With their support, we have enhanced our interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research. It has also been through their efforts that we have been able to achieve enormous increases in undergraduate research engagements throughout the College. In 2005, we had 222 undergraduate researchers who made 225 research presentations. Thus far this fiscal year, 626 undergraduate researchers have made 655 research presentations. College of Arts and Sciences students anchor the annual Undergraduate Research Day event each April. Through internal reallocations and external support, the College has been able to increase our support of undergraduate research from approximately $16,500 annually in 2005 to $25,000 this year.

Through the support of the WIU Foundation, Vice President for Advancement and Public Service Dan Hendricks, and key members of the Dean’s office staff, we have been able to increase our development efforts significantly in the last five years. Despite a difficult economic climate, our annual fund totals to date are up 8% over last year. This past October, the College was able to raise more than $30,000 for scholarships during our annual scholarship fund raising dinner. I’m continually amazed at the outpouring of generosity from our current and retired faculty, alumni and friends of the University.

Overall, my time at Western Illinois University has been significant not for the many accomplishments we came together to achieve, but for the warm and genuine people I have come to call friends. It is the people who make a community rich and ours is wealthy beyond compare.

I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity you gave me to serve WIU.

With warmest regards,

[Signature]
Psychology Clinic opened 40 years ago

Serving the region, teaching future clinicians

The year 1968-69 is recalled as a time when the world experienced considerable conflict and change, but at WIU, Dr. Charles Potkay saw conflicts and change on a more personal level. The psychology professor recognized that there was a need for mental-health care in the region, and he changed what Western could offer the area by founding the WIU Psychology Clinic.

Forty years later, the clinic — located in Waggoner Hall on WIU’s Macomb campus — has evolved into a community-service agency providing free outpatient psychotherapy and counseling services to adults, children, families and couples — while also being a training site for graduate students in the Department of Psychology’s Clinical/Community Mental Health graduate program.

“Nationally, the clinic is a rather unique entity,” says Dr. Tracy Knight, clinic director since 2007. “It provides high-quality psychological services and also serves as an important training site for graduate clinicians. Many facilities in the area have commented on how excellently trained our students are, and this is due in large part to their supervised experience in the clinic.”

During their first year of on-campus graduate training, students sit in with faculty psychologists as they provide treatment services to clients. Second-year students carry their own caseloads, with their work being closely supervised by faculty members.

Dr. Alphons Richert directed the Psychology Clinic from 1975 until 2007, and he notes that there has been a consistent demand for services since the clinic opened.

“Historically, we served a lot of students when I first came,” said Richert, who retired in 2007. “Then, as our students began to go out to do their internships in 1973, it became clear that our interns did not feel that seeing primarily students was preparing them adequately for dealing with the clients they encountered on internships. We made a concerted effort to shift our attention to community members.”

Since 1975, the clinic has primarily served residents of western Illinois and southeastern Iowa, although about 10% of the clinic’s clientele are still students or employees of WIU.

Knight came to WIU as a faculty member in 2001 after 17 years of full-time clinical practice and succeeded Richert. Besides Knight, clinical faculty who provide services and training in the clinic include Drs. Reginald Adkisson, Tracy Cruise and Melanie Hetzel-Riggin. Connie Kreps is the Psychology Clinic’s secretary/receptionist.

Faculty members who serve in the clinic are licensed clinical psychologists in the state of Illinois.

“The Psychology Clinic serves an average of 90 to 100 clients per year,” Knight said, “and our services are not time-limited. We can see our clients as long as they need services — which is a rare situation these days. More recently, we have begun offering psychological and educational assessments on a sliding scale fee schedule.”

Funding for the Psychology Clinic primarily comes through the Department of Psychology. However, for the past 15 years, the College of Arts and Sciences has provided funds for clinic coverage during the summer.

The WIU Psychology Clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays.

Curriculum growing

The Department of Psychology has two main courses in an evolving and expanding curriculum addressing substance abuse, which will grow substantially in the fall with six new courses.

Currently offered are Psychology 444 (BioPsychology of Drugs and Addiction) — an upper-division course systematically studying the relationships between drugs and psychological processes, that is, psychopharmacology, stressing the roles of the central nervous system, individual experience, and the environment in determining the outcome of people’s drug use — and Psychology 596 (Approaches to Substance Abuse Diagnosis and Treatment) — a graduate-level course where students learn the multiple theoretical viewpoints available to understand people’s substance abuse. Also, students gain knowledge of various treatment approaches for addressing these difficulties. Emphases are placed on maintaining appropriate scientific skepticism regarding current cultural and professional viewpoints, plus appreciating the importance of understanding the challenges inherent in the dually diagnosed.

Beginning this fall, Psychology will offer six new undergraduate courses that specifically prepare students for careers in substance abuse counseling. Completion of the six courses provides the educational background for students to sit for certification as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor in Illinois. The six courses — approved this spring — include: Psychology 334 (Perspectives on Substance Abuse), Psychology 335 (Substance Abuse Assessment, Education and Case Management), Psychology 336 (Ethics and Special Populations in Substance Abuse Treatment), Psychology 434 (Substance Abuse Treatment Approaches and Techniques I), Psychology 435 (Substance Abuse Treatment Approaches and Techniques II), and Psychology 436 (Substance Abuse Practicum).
WIU works with Black Hawk and Carl Sandburg colleges

By Lisa Kernek

College freshmen in the Quad Cities will be able to take classes at both Black Hawk College and Western Illinois University beginning in fall 2009.

The dual enrollment in the freshman year is intended to ensure that students go on to complete bachelor’s degrees.

“Community-college students who have experiences at four-year colleges have a greater likelihood of completing a four-year degree,” said Ronald Williams, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at WIU.

The program works this way: Full-time freshmen enrolled in liberal-arts, nursing or engineering programs are eligible to have dual enrollment in Black Hawk, a two-year college based in Rock Island, Ill., and WIU’s Quad Cities campus in Moline, Ill.

“Students are going to be charged as if they’re taking all their classes at Western,” said Joseph Rives, Vice President of Quad Cities, Planning and Technology at WIU.

But the difference in tuition is put in a bank account “and used in the junior and senior year, and saves up to 25 percent,” Rives added.

“There’s just a few universities that have done this nationally.”

Freshmen and sophomores are still expected to take the majority of their courses at Black Hawk.

However, WIU’s Williams said, “Black Hawk has given us the opportunity to teach 100- or 200-level courses that they do not offer.”

The Black Hawk freshmen will receive the same four-year cost guarantee that all WIU freshmen receive.

A similar dual-enrollment agreement also was reached in April between WIU and Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg and takes effect in fall 2009. But that agreement differs slightly: because Galesburg sits halfway between Macomb and the Quad Cities, students have the option of attending WIU’s Macomb or Quad Cities campus as juniors and seniors. Carl Sandburg students have the option of pursuing the engineering, nursing or liberal arts degrees at the Quad Cities campus or any major at the Macomb campus.

“The new agreements build on longstanding partnerships between Black Hawk, Carl Sandburg and WIU. But until now, Black Hawk and Carl Sandburg have taught freshmen and sophomores who later transferred to WIU for their junior and senior years,” said CAS Dean Inessa Levi.

Such existing partnerships smoothed the transition for Quinn Bilyeu, a junior at WIU’s Macomb campus who attended Black Hawk her freshman and sophomore years while living at her parents’ home in the Quad Cities.

“I was not ready to leave home,” Bilyeu, 21, recalled of her first two years after high school. She also received a scholarship to Black Hawk and was drawn there by its affordability.

By her junior year in fall 2008 she was ready to make the leap to a residential campus. She now lives in a dormitory on a floor where many other residents also are transfer students.

“I feel like I have had the private college experience all three years,” Bilyeu said in an interview from her dorm. “At Black Hawk College it’s small, so all the classes are small. Here, I’m taking major-specific classes so the classes are still small.”

Bilyeu is an English major and Spanish minor. She plans to pursue a doctorate in English and become a professor.

“I had very challenging classes at Black Hawk College,” she said. “I continue to be challenged.”

WIU enrolled more than 1,200 transfer students — including nearly 200 transfers at its Quad Cities campus — in fall 2008, according to the university Institutional Research and Planning Office. While total enrollment at WIU fell in the fall, the number of transfer students and the number of students attending the Quad Cities campus grew, the university reported.

The new agreements with Black Hawk and Carl Sandburg go hand in hand with the newly approved program nursing. WIU will begin offering a new four-year bachelor’s degree in nursing beginning in fall 2009. (WIU began offering bachelor’s degrees in nursing to Registered Nurses with associate’s degrees or three-year nursing diplomas)

“The agreements with Black Hawk College and Carl Sandburg College are another example of the timely, in-demand programs WIU is committed to offering students in the region,” Levi said. “With unemployment being near a two-decade high, we hope these new opportunities will secure the skills needed to retain a talented work force.”

Lisa Kernek is an assistant professor of Journalism in the Department of English and Journalism.
As professor and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 32 years, Dan Wise has literally affected more than a generation of WIU students in every corner of every department in the College. As he prepares to retire, we asked two people who interacted with him daily to comment on “the Wise man”: his colleague and supervisor Inessa Levi, Dean of the College (I.L.), and his wife, Paula Wise (P.W.).

I.L. The value of Dr. Wise’s accomplishments is evident by the awards he has received over the years, including an Outstanding Teacher Award (1984), a Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award from the National Council for Geographic Education (1982), and an Administrative Distinguished Service Award (2006).

P.W. Dan was born in 1946 in Maple Heights, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, the son of Charles and Theodora Wise. He graduated from Maple Heights High School in 1964 and headed for Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. In a Geography class at Ohio U., a professor wrote a note on Dan’s exam, saying something to the effect of “Why not major in geography?” I think this marked a turning point for Dan – not only did he take the professor’s advice but it also has made him realize over the years how a simple comment or remark by a teacher can have a life-long impact on a student.

Dan’s faculty adviser at Ohio U., a Dr. Wilhelm, recommended that Dan pursue his interest in meteorology at the graduate level and Dan started his graduate studies at Northern Illinois University in 1968. He was drafted out of grad school for service during the war in Vietnam. He served in the Army in the states and returned to DeKalb to complete his master’s degree after being discharged. While at Northern, he was greatly influenced by Dr. Jack Villmow, the coordinator of the meteorology program and a dynamic lecturer. Villmow was an old graduate school friend of S. Earl Brown, a geography professor at Ohio State, and on Villmow’s advice, Dan chose Ohio State to continue his studies. When he finished his studies, an old graduate school friend of Brown’s, Arlin Fentem – was then chair of the Geography department at WIU. There was a job opening in meteorology at Western, Dan applied, and here he has remained over the last 32 years.

I.L. Dr. Wise has been with Western Illinois University for 32 years. He joined the geography department faculty in 1977 as an assistant professor. Dr. Wise was instrumental for establishing and coordinating the meteorology program, which is now one of the most popular majors in the College. He also established the computer cartography program. In 1987, he was appointed as geography department chairman and held that post until 1998. In 1999, Dr. Wise became associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

P.W. In the Geography department, Dan was able to work with and learn from many remarkable colleagues. Arlin Fentem, Dick Longwell, Ron Nelson, Bill Griffin, and Bob Gabler among others have been friends, colleagues and mentors throughout Dan’s career here. Through them he has had opportunities to become involved in department, university and professional service. Bob Gabler, for example, brought Dan in as co-author of a very successful textbook, Essentials of Physical Geography.

As chair of the department, Dan had the opportunity to mentor newer faculty and to continue to build the meteorology program as well as other programs, such as GIS. Over the years he has been a very popular local speaker about the weather. He has always enjoyed teaching and has received university and national recognition for his talents as a teacher.

Since moving up in the administration, Dan has had the chance to have a broader impact on WIU. As Associate Dean, Continued on page 16
Researchers study resiliency after 2008 flood

By Bonnie Barker

Two WIU anthropologists will try to put human faces and voices on the experience of being victimized by last summer’s Midwestern flood, meeting with area residents to hear their insights and opinions.

Last June, the Illinois Governor’s office asked WIU to provide expertise and technical assistance in determining the economic, environmental and social impacts of the flooding. The findings from this research will be integrated into disaster recovery policy.

The information collected will be used to help develop better disaster responses, according to Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, an associate professor of cultural anthropology. She and assistant professor of anthropology David Casagrande received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for the work.

“This research will benefit society at large by showing a social science approach to resiliency that is compatible with other fields like ecology, and is, therefore, more likely to influence policy,” Casagrande said.

“Often, different stakeholders see problems differently. That can make solutions – effective policy – difficult.”

First, the professors and their undergraduate student assistants developed a quantifiable approach for modeling the resiliency of rural communities in western Illinois as they recover from the floods. The researchers also offered a forum for flood victims to express their concerns and convey their versions of events in a series of town meetings in Warsaw, Gladstone and Pontoosuc.

Rural populations in western Illinois are an ideal setting for community resiliency research, McIlvaine-Newsad and Casagrande said. The areas are close, the communities are small, and the researchers are familiar with the cultural and socio-economic systems.

Casagrande and McIlvaine-Newsad are measuring community resiliency using five quantifiable social characteristics: social equity as a function of income; population; institutions such as local schools; the ability to buy food, hardware and medical services locally; and the quality of life. Factors that influence community resiliency include knowledge and responses of past disasters; social networks; occupational diversity; access to capital; and perceptions of social responsibility, said McIlvaine-Newsad, who has done extensive research on Gulf Coast communities recovering from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The researchers will digitally record interviews with individuals and discussion groups. These recordings will be transcribed and analyzed to determine how people talk and think about the important issues. Much of the work will be done by undergraduate students with ties to the affected areas who were hired using the NSF grant. McIlvaine-Newsad and Casagrande will then use the results to develop a structured survey to be mailed this summer to 2,000 families in flood-affected communities.

The findings will be presented to the communities in a series of informational meetings.

Also conducting flood research at the request of the Governor’s office are the College of Arts and Science’s Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center, plus Western’s Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

Bonnie Barker is Assistant Director of University Relations; Bill Knight also contributed to this report.

IBHE Approves WIU Anthropology Degree

By Darcie Shinberger

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approved Western Illinois University’s request to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology degree.

The 120-semester hour degree, which was approved by Western’s Board of Trustees in December 2007, was created to provide students with the understanding and skills related to human behavior, diversity and social problems. The program will be delivered at the WIU-Macomb campus beginning Fall 2009.

According to WIU Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas, the new degree program will build upon the University’s successful and popular anthropology minor, which has been offered for nearly 30 years.

“We created the anthropology degree program, which has a concentration in environmental issues, to provide graduates of the program with greater understanding of human biological and cultural diversity,” Thomas added. “As a dynamic major, the program will address many topics related to resources sustainability, such as forensic and environmental anthropology, public archaeology, law enforcement and justice administration, and gender differences. We are pleased to offer this new academic option to our students.”

Fall enrollments are projected to grow from 10 in the first year to about 30 in five years.

“We are so glad to be able to add another new degree to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) academic program offerings,” said CAS Dean Inessa Levi.

“Thanks to the hard work of the anthropology faculty; the leadership of John Wozniak, sociology and anthropology department chair; and the support of President Goldfarb and Provost Thomas, students entering Western have more learning opportunities than at any time in the University’s history.”

Darcie Shinberger is Director of University Relations.
Controlling Images.” The series is scheduled to continue next year.

University Television’s (UTV) program 15 Minutes with Jo-Ann Morgan continued for its third semester. The talk show is billed as “the show that lets you see people in our community in a way you’ve never seen them before.”

Department faculty met separately with groups of Macomb elementary school children. Dr. Na’Allah spoke about African poetry; Safoura Boukari shared information about African culture; Morgan showed pictures of famous people of African descent from Illinois and discussed art; Alphonso Simpson talked about gospel music, joined by university students from the Voices of Western vocal group.

In February, Boukari and Morgan participated in a WIU symposium, “The Past, Present and Future of Minority Media,” along with Journalism faculty Lisa Barr, Bill Knight and Mohammad Siddiqi, Ebony magazine senior editor Sylvester Monroe and Jet managing editor Mira Lowe, and WIU students Robert Amaefule, president of the National Association of Black Journalists-WIU chapter, and Alisha Cowan, editor of the Western Courier and a former Ebony intern. The College of Arts and Sciences and the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center assisted in the program.

Morgan was honored with the 2008 Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Nonfiction for her book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” as Visual Culture (University of Missouri Press). She’s made several appearances in connection with its publication, including a lecture at the Tyler Moore Center for Study of the Civil War at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W. Va.

Biological Sciences: Professor Laura Barden-Gabbei presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Illinois Science Teachers Association in Peoria and co-authored the book Biological World: A Laboratory Manual Biology 101 (Cache House) with chair Rick Anderson.

Associate Professor Richard Musser presented or co-presented several papers recently, at the Entomological Society of America, Reno, Nev., and at the 11th Annual Plant Genome Awardee Meeting in Washington, D.C., with colleague and wife Sue M. Hum-Musser, an assistant professor in the department.

Assistant Professor Brian D. Peer published an article in the Wilson Journal of Ornithology and presented or co-presented several papers at the 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology in Ithaca, N.Y., the International Society for Behavioral Ecology, also in Ithaca, the 126th meeting of the American Ornithologists’ Union in Portland, Ore., and the 79th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in Tucson, Ariz.

Associate Professor Eric Ribbens published articles in Haseltonia, the Cactus and Succulent Journal, and The Vasculum; led a workshop at the 9th Annual Conference on Case Study Teaching in Science, in Buffalo, N.Y.; and spoke at the Center for Teaching Excellence, at Nazareth College, in Rochester, N.Y.

Assistant Professor Timothy W. Spier presented or co-presented papers at the Midwest Fish and
Wildlife Conference, in Columbus, Ohio, the Illinois American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Moline, Ill., and the Illinois Lake Management Association annual meeting in Peoria, Ill.


Roger Viadero, director of Western’s Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) and a professor of biology, wrote or co-authored refereed articles in Water Research and the ASCE Journal of Infrastructure Systems, and presented a paper at the Ecological Society of America’s 93rd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wis.

Assistant Professor Susan Romano was one of five Arts and Sciences faculty who made presentations at WIU’s Sustainability Brown Baggers series this spring, along with Brian Davies (Physics), Richard Hardy (Political Science), Bill Knight (English and Journalism), and Holly Stovall (Women’s Studies).

Chemistry: Dr. J. Scott McConnell was presented an award for his dedication in research of soil and water conservation at the recent National Conservation Systems Conference in Marksville, La., where he also presented an invited paper on his research.

Dr. Rose McConnell and Dr. Lisa Wen received a grant award of $196,000 from the National Cancer Institute for a three-year project researching Cathepsin B, D, and K Inhibitors.

Several department faculty took research students to several national conferences in cities including Salt Lake City for the national American Chemical Society meeting, and New Orleans, for the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

English and Journalism: Professor Tama Baldwin was a finalist for the Goldfarb Nonfiction Award at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, Va., and was awarded a month-long residency there, where she gave a reading of her nonfiction in January.

Assistant Professor David Banash published an article in Trickhouse, and reviews in Popmatters and Postmodern Culture.

Assistant Professor Merrill Cole published an article in Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal, a chapter in Indiscretions: At the Intersection Between Queer and Postcolonial Theory (Rodopi), and wrote the introduction to his translation of Anita Berber and Sebastian Droste’s Dances of Vice, Horror, and Ecstasy for Action, Yes.

Assistant Professor of film Roberta Di Carmine published a review in Film International.

Assistant Professor Everett Hammer published articles in Modern Fiction Studies and Religion in American History, and reviews in Literature and Theology and the Hedgehog Review.


Assistant Professor Dan Malachuk, who’s also Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the WIU-Quad Cities campus, published a chapter in Maine’s Place in the Environmental Imagination (New Castle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), articles in Symbiosis and Victorian Literature and Culture, and a review in Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net. Malachuk also presented papers at a symposium on “Comparative Human Rights: Literature, Art, and Politics” in Urbana-Champaign, at the Nineteenth-century Studies Association conference in Milwaukee Wis., and the Annual Conference of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Springfield, Ill. He also was appointed to the advisory board for the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society.
Assistant Professor Bonnie Sonnek published “Finding passionate connections: Helping our students become lifelong learners” in *Utah English Journal*.

Associate Professor of Journalism Pearlie Strother-Adams delivered a presentation at the Popular Culture Association national conference in New Orleans. Professor Patricia Young presented a paper on novelist Richard Wright at the Popular Culture Association national conference in New Orleans.

Geology: Dr. Amy Brock co-authored an article for the journal *Catena*, and received a $7,400 grant from the U.S. Geological Survey’s EDMAP, the Educational Component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

Dr. Leslie Melim co-authored an article in the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*.

History: Associate Professor Lee Brice published a review in the *Journal of Military History* and made presentations at Macomb’s Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and WIU’s Teaching American History Fall Workshop.

Assistant Professor Walter Kretchik wrote a review for the *Journal of Military History* and made a presentation at the DuPage Valley Social Studies Conference in Naperville, Ill.

Assistant Professor Jennifer McNabb published a review in the *Sixteenth Century Journal* and gave a presentation at the DuPage Valley Social Studies Conference in Naperville, Ill.


Associate Professor Scott Palmer gave a presentation at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia.

Assistant Professor Febe Pamonag gave presentations at the Annual International Conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada in Ontario, Canada, and at a Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) class for “Women in the 21st Century Series” in Macomb.

Assistant Professor Timothy Roberts made a presentation at the American Historical Association Annual Conference in New York City.

Associate Professor Edward Woell presented at the Society for
French Historical Studies March meeting in St. Louis, Mo., where he also chaired a panel on “Sovereignty and Violence in Late Eighteenth-Century Avignon.”

Woell also presented at the DuPage Valley Social Studies Conference in Naperville, Ill., and at Western’s Teaching American History Spring Workshop.

**Mathematics:** Associate Professor Rumen Dimitrov presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, D.C., in January.

Assistant Professor Clifton Ealy gave presentations at the Model Theory Seminar at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, at the University of Illinois-Chicago campus’s Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science and the Urbana-Champaign campus, and at the American Mathematical Society eastern sectional meeting. He also attended a February discussion about the Stability Theoretic Methods in Unstable Theories at the Banff Research Station in Banff, Canada.

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America selected department chairman Iraj Kalantari Chair-Elect for the the Board during the academic year 2009-2010.

Professor Marko Kranjc gave a presentation at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, D.C., in January.

Instructor Mario Maican presented “Quotients Modulo Nonreductive Groups and Moduli Spaces of Sheaves” at a Department Colloquium in October.

Associate Professor Bob Mann attended the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) conference as a coordinating board member in October and the Teaching Children Mathematics Editorial Board meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., in December.

Professor Jim Olsen gave presentations at a university Teaching with Technology seminar and, with students Megan Orton and Kirsten Goranson, at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics 59th Annual Meeting in Peoria, Ill., in October.

Instructor Candy Rosene presented “Using the Smartboard and TI-Smartview in Math 100 and Math 128” at a WIU Teaching with Technology seminar in Macomb in February.

Emeritus faculty member Dave Voss was on the steering committee for the 2009 Midwest Numerical Analysis Day in conjunction with the SIAM Great Lakes Numeric PDEs 2009 Spring Conference at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., in April.

**Philosophy and Religious Studies:** Dr. Amy Carr and Dr. John Simmons jointly presented a paper at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago in November.

Simmons, department Chairman, also gave a presentation in the University Union as part of the LEJA-sponsored lecture series American Violence.

Assistant Professor Joongol Kim presented “What Are Numbers?” for the Department of Philosophy at the University of Warwick in England in October. Dr. Kim also refereed for two prestigious philosophy journals, *Dialectica* and *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*.

Dr. Betsy Perabo had an article published in the *Journal of Military Ethics* and presented a paper at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago.

**Physics:** Assistant Professor P.K. Babu gave a presentation at the American Physical Society March Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. Mark Boley, chair, presented “Magnetic Force Microscopy Field Mapping Under Torque to Analyze Solid and Hollow Transducer Response in High Alloy Stainless Steel” at two November conferences: the CSUI Research Conference at Argonne National Laboratory and the International Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials in Austin, Texas.

He also served as materials science session chair at the CSUI (Central States Universities, Inc.) annual Argonne/CSUI Research Symposium and participated in the CSUI board meeting in November. Boley is treasurer of the CSUI organization.

Professor James Rabchuk gave a presentation at the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting in Chicago in February.

**Psychology:** Assistant Professor Melanie Hetzel-Riggin wrote an article for the journal *Traumatology* and presented a paper at the annual convention of the International Society...
for Traumatic Stress Studies in Chicago, Ill.

Professor Kris Kelly received a $1,570 grant from the Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology to fund a project entitled “Creating a Culture of Integrity: A Proactive Approach to Encourage Academic Honesty.” It was one of three Thelma Hunt grants awarded nationally. Kelly also presented three papers at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Tampa, Fla., each of which involved co-authors who are WIU alums now in doctoral programs: Adam D. Carton, Matthew B. Findley, Eugene W. Mathes and Raymond Serra.

**Sociology and Anthropology:**
Associate Professor Tawnya Adkins Covert wrote a review for the *International Journal of Modern Sociology.*

Assistant Professor Davison Bideshi co-authored an article in the *Western Journal of Black Studies.*

Assistant Professor David Casagrande co-wrote an article for *Environment and Behavior* and co-authored with Assistant Professor Amy Patrick (English) and Associate Professor Gordon Rands (Management) a paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Durham, N.C.

Assistant Professor Robert J. Hironimus-Wendt, in February was featured on two public-affairs radio programs about worker displacement and unemployment policy, on WILL-AM 580 in Urbana-Champaign, Ill., and on WUIS-FM 91.9 in Springfield.

Assistant Professor Robert J. Hironimus-Wendt, in February was featured on two public-affairs radio programs about worker displacement and unemployment policy, on WILL-AM 580 in Urbana-Champaign, Ill., and on WUIS-FM 91.9 in Springfield.

Assistant Professor Jessica L. White co-wrote an article for the *American Journal of Physical History* professors mentor graduate students for presentations

Eleven graduate students in the Department of History made 15 research presentations at academic conferences around the nation this spring, mentored by nine faculty members, according to WIU History Graduate Director and Associate Professor Virginia Jelatis.

Austin Schwartz (under the direction of Dr. Walter Kretchik) gave a presentation at the Third Regional International Security and Internal Safety Conference.

Schwartz also was one of six graduate students supervised for presentations at the 52nd Annual Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, Neb., in March. The others were Ryan Buller, Adam Carey, Ryan J. Lewis, Daniel Marten and Rob Deveraux. Deveraux’s paper won this year’s Kevin Carroll Award for the Best Graduate Student Paper in Military History.

Kretchik, Dr. Richard Filipink and Dr. Timothy Roberts helped the six.

Also in March, graduate student Darren Miles presented work at the University of Alabama Graduate Student History Conference on Power and Struggle, in Tuscaloosa. His paper was based on research he did for Associate Professor Greg Hall and he is refining it for a Master’s thesis under the direction of Assistant Professor of History Barclay Key.

Elsewhere, presenting at the Phi Alpha Theta Midwest Regional Conference, held at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., were Deveraux and Schwartz, plus fellow graduate students Aaron Davis, David Sprung and Aaron Sprung, mentored by Roberts and Associate Professor Greg Hall. Dr. Lee Brice coordinated the conference trip and Brice and Dr. Ute Chamberlin accompanied the students to the conference.

In April, grad students Elizabeth Carlson, David Sprung and Eric Willey presented papers at the Fifth Annual Loyola University of Chicago History Graduate Conference at the Lakeshore Campus of Loyola University. All three papers were based on research papers written for Assistant Professor Jennifer McNabb.
Focus

Anthropology.
Chairman John F. Wozniak co-authored a paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in St. Louis.
Faculty assistants Richard Mathers and William Faulkner received $200,000 in funding from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for a project on test construction, delivery, scoring and evaluation.

Women’s Studies:
Associate Professor Lori Baker-Sperry co-edited Interdisciplinary Views on Abortion: Essays from Philosophical, Sociological, Anthropological, Political, Health and Other Perspectives (McFarland Press) along with Associate Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez and Associate Professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad (Sociology and Anthropology).
Baker-Sperry, Chairperson Aimee Shouse – plus Associate Dean Jim Schmidt (College of Arts and Sciences) and Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Judi Dallinger -- presented a paper at the Higher Learning Commission in April on general education assessment.
Shouse also wrote a chapter in Interdisciplinary Views on Abortion: Essays from Philosophical, Sociological, Anthropological, Political, Health and Other Perspectives (McFarland Press).
Instructor Holly Stovall gave a presentation at the Midwest Modern Language Association’s 50th annual convention in Minneapolis in November.

Chairs named
Boley named Physics’ interim chair
Physics Professor Mark Boley was appointed interim chair of the physics department, in January, taking over from Vivian Incera, who resigned from the university to assume a post at the University of Texas–El Paso.
A WIU alumnus with a bachelor’s degree (1987) and a master’s degree (1989) in physics, Boley returned to his alma mater in 1993 as a physics faculty member. He has held posts at Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he earned his doctorate in experimental condensed matter physics (1993). He was promoted to full professor at Western in May 2002.

Dworkin named Psychology chair
Steve Dworkin, internationally recognized for his research on the neuropsychopharmacology of abused substances, was appointed chair of Western Illinois University’s Department of Psychology in January.
He came to Western Illinois from Jacksonville (Ala.) State University, where he was a professor and head of the psychology department.
Dworkin has received both private and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, and he has published extensively in several areas, including behavior analysis, behavior pharmacology and the neuroscience of addiction. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and a member of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), the Society for Neuroscience and Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA) International. He has reviewed manuscripts for the major journals in the field and served on NIH and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) study sections.
A Baltimore (Md.) native, Dworkin earned his baccalaureate degree at the University of Maryland. He earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Florida, and he completed post-doctoral training in neuroscience at the Louisiana State University Medical Center (Shreveport) in psychiatry and pharmacology and the Wake Forest School of Medicine in pharmacology and physiology. He’s worked at Louisiana State University, Wake Forest University’s Bowman Gray School of Medicine, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Duke University and Med Associates, Inc.

Shouse named chair of Women’s Studies department
Aimee Shouse was appointed chair of the Western Illinois University Department of Women’s Studies in January.
Shouse had been the acting department chair since Aug. 1, 2008. With this appointment, Shouse is also an associate professor of women’s studies. She previously was an

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These two photos are related and represent a up close look at an important time for Illinois. Don’t recognize them? The answer and explanation to what you’re looking at is on page 26.
of the College of Arts and Sciences, his primary areas of responsibility have been budget and space, although he has also spent considerable time in areas such as Teacher Education and Summer School.

I.L. He also regularly teaches a course each spring, despite his busy schedule as Associate Dean. In this role he serves as an adviser to me on matters concerning the college’s budget, management of space and facilities in the college, issues related to secondary teacher education, and CAS matters on the WIU-Quad Cities Campus.

Dan is a spectacular member of the College’s management team. He truly understands the operations of the university and functions in this environment very well. I am fortunate to have an outstanding team of administrators in the College of Arts and Sciences; they function very well as a team and we can depend on each other’s skills and experience.

P.W. I know that Dan will be missed by his co-workers past and present for his strong work ethic, his knowledge of the workings of the university, and his sense of humor. I look forward to having him home more often and not setting the alarm in the mornings! We plan to travel more to see our son, Ben, our mothers, and other interesting places around the world. Macomb, however, will likely be our home base and we hope to see our many friends and acquaintances around town.

I.L. I will miss Dan’s humor and his experience working with people across the university. He has been a good administrator and a great friend to me.

The university will be conducting a national search to fill Wise’s position.

Alisha Cowan, Western Courier editor-in-chief: A Child Called It, by Dave Pelzer. This book is not exactly uplifting, but the author’s life story following his hard childhood is. The book is a true story based on a young boy being abused in every way by his mother, ranging from not feeding him for days to beating.

Robert P. Dulski, Student Government Association President: My personal favorite book as of recent times has to be the biography Gang Leader For A Day by Sudhir Venkatesh. Sudhir was a sociology graduate student at the University of Chicago who was assigned to research gang life. He wound up in the roughest part of Chicago, the Robert Taylor homes. His life was in jeopardy often, but the book is mostly about a community that relies on a street gang for day-to-day services. Great for LEJA and Sociology majors!

Al Goldfarb, WIU President: As a child of Holocaust survivors, I frequently recommend Elie Wiesel’s Night. It poses all of the unanswerable questions about this incomprehensible moment in twentieth-century history.

Inessa Levi, Dean of WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences: I found Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most by Douglas Stone, Bruce Patto and Sheila Heen a very thoughtful reading about the nature of difficult communications. The book is a great and effective guide for anybody who is involved in any professional or personal relationships. We have purchased copies of this book for the CAS Chairs’ Council.

Professor Joan Livingston-Webber, Interim Chair, Department of English and Journalism: Midnight Robber is speculative fiction by Afro-Caribbean (now Canadian) writer Nalo Hopkinson. Much of the book uses a Caribbean-like patois (both the narrative and the dialogue) that reads best as hearing it in your head. Once you hear the rhythm of the language, you hear it as familiar, and it adds to the power of the book. The
story begins with seven-year-old Tan-Tan during Carnival on the Caribbean-colonized planet “Toussaint.” It ends on the planet “New Half-Way Tree,” where Tan-Tan grows up and becomes the Robber Queen in order to survive. The book reads like fantasy the first time, but the ending startles you with the underlying science of the fiction that earned Hopkinson science fiction’s John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. I love the crafting of the language. As a reader, I love the startling ending that demands re-reading the book. And since I very much enjoy re-reading, that demand is another reason I recommend this book.

Professor Mohammad Siddiqi, Director of WIU’s Journalism program: My pick would be The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding Islam, by Yahya Emerick. With lots of fun at “the Beach,” this would provide an interesting reading about the culture, beliefs and mysteries of one of the world’s great religions.

Professor John Simmons, chair of the Department Philosophy and Religious Studies: A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose by Eckhart Tolle. Without framing the journey within a particular religious tradition, Tolle explains why human beings are alienated from their own experience and, thus, are prone to unhappiness, anger, envy and violence.

According to Tolle, the way out is to transcend our ego-based consciousness and discover present-moment awareness. For the spiritual but not religious, this book is life-changing. During the first several months of 2008, Oprah Winfrey conducted a “webinar” in which she and Tolle engaged millions of people around the planet in a global discussion of the insights presented in this book.

One disclaimer; for some people, this book is filled with “ah ha!” moments; for others, it is filled “huh?” moments. If you’re not ready (meaning, in the intellectual/spiritual mood) to read this book, you’ll probably put it down before finishing the first chapter. So try to borrow a copy before purchasing the book!

Don Patterson, Leatherneck head football coach: Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy. It was given to me when I went in to cancer treatment, but I think most people would find it a worthwhile read. It’s not just about the nuts and bolts of football. Dungy is a wonderful role model. It’s got a lot of depth to it. Rewarding.

Jack Thomas, WIU’s Provost and Academic Vice President: I suggest Invisible Man by Ralph W. Ellison. I selected Invisible Man because it is a story about identity, race and racism in America. The author narrates an incredible story that effectively teaches life lessons about perception, depth, reality and truth.

Associate Professor William Thompson of University Libraries: I read Just the Thing, James Schuyler’s selected letters, edited by William Corbett, at the beach. This aptly titled book is in many ways a perfect beach read: gossipy, smart [and] many of the letters were written from the seashore. There are love stories, reading lists (Schuyler was an omnivorous reader), emotional highs and lows. Just the Thing is long enough to get lost in, the personalities involved rich and complex. And when the book ended, I immediately wanted Schuyler back. So I bought his diary.

Spring/Summer 09
FOCUS: Do you have a feel for how things are looking statewide—and specifically for WIU—concerning old payments and new money?

The state is facing an $11 billion shortfall, and the University is still owed nearly $21 million in payments from the state. However, after listening to Gov. [Pat] Quinn’s budget address in March, we remain optimistic. He announced an additional $40 million in operating budgets for higher education in Illinois, and recommended a capital bill, which includes funding for the Performing Arts Center on the Macomb campus and Building One on the WIU-QC Riverfront campus.

Because of the state’s fiscal crisis, we have prepared for budget emergencies and continue to carefully monitor all budgets. We have asked University administrators to conserve department/division travel and equipment funds, and to monitor hiring as well as overtime and overload. We need to safeguard the University’s remaining budget until we gain a clearer picture from the state for the remainder of this fiscal year and the legislature approves the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Our primary goals continue to be providing quality academic programs and educational resources to our students and retaining all of our employees.

The University is heartened that Gov. Quinn is serious about capital funding, and we will continue to lobby for this. It is hard to believe that we have gone seven years without a capital bill. We must make sure that the Performing Arts Center and the Riverfront campus—as well as deferred maintenance—remain top priorities and are fully funded.

We are quite fortunate to have had a successful year of fundraising. Last year we raised over $8 million and we expect to raise over $9 million this year. Our alumni and friends continue to be generous donors despite the current economic climate. We are currently in the quiet phase of the University’s $60 million comprehensive campaign, which focuses on faculty support, information and technologies, capital improvements, and student scholarships, and we are committed to providing more grant and scholarship opportunities for our students. This year (FY09) an additional $120,000 was reallocated to provide funds for scholarships and book awards.

Western Illinois University Foundation Growth Over Time

As of February 28, 2009, the Total Foundation was valued at $22.9 million:

- Endowment Fund $17.4MM
- Non-Endowment Fund $5.5MM
- Donor Advised Fund $70k

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Numbers seem to show shelter

“Arts and Sciences faculty in Fiscal Year 2009 have received $865,000 in extramural research funds, an 11.9% improvement from Fiscal Year 2008’s $773,000,” said CAS Dean Inessa Levi.

“Major gifts and commitments were received, earmarked for the Political Science, History, and Philosophy and Religious Studies departments.

“Donors continue to strongly support the College of Arts and Sciences. At the end of March, our annual fund proceeds were up more than 13% over the same period last year,” she continued.

“The annual CAS Campaign and Phone-a-thon together generated $115,000 in gifts and commitments: $47,000 in annual-fund pledges, $40,000 through the Phone-a-thon, and $29,000 in receipts.

“The College’s second Scholarship Dinner in the fall raised $30,800 for CAS scholarships, four times the amount raised in the inaugural fund raiser the previous autumn.

“As far as enrollment, applications in the College of Arts and Sciences are 19% higher than last spring, and acceptances of those declaring CAS majors are up 12% — including a 178% increase in Biological Sciences majors.”

Four-year guarantees ease families’ budget concerns

In any economy, students and families wonder about higher education’s rising costs, so Western Illinois University created its Cost Guarantee program.

“The program ensures that during students’ continuous enrollment at WIU, they’ll pay no more than what they pay when they entered the university as freshmen, transfers or graduate students, with no unexpected expenses along the way,” said CAS Dean Inessa Levi.

“Other public universities in Illinois offer fixed tuition rates for students, but Western is the only university in the state to offer an exclusive Cost Guarantee that includes fixed tuition, fees, room and board.”

“In these hard economic times, it pleases me to know that our bill will not increase each year,” said Gina Colley. “Western’s Cost Guarantee program has been a huge benefit to our family. As a parent with two children currently attending Western, and one who graduated from WIU in 2007, you can understand why budget planning is a necessity.

“Even though we do not know what the future holds in our careers and investments, we do know how to budget for the next four years,” she said.

Western also offers GradTrac, a guarantee that students who stick with their academic plan will graduate in four years. If eligible students meet the requirements, but don’t graduate in four years, WIU will pay the tuition for the remaining courses needed for graduation.

“Western has established its role as a leader in providing a predictable and affordable education with its Cost Guarantee and GradTrac programs,” said WIU President Al Goldfarb. “Our commitment to providing a high quality, accessible and affordable education has been recognized by the Princeton Review and the College Guide for Access and Opportunity.”
History in the making

By Lee Brice

Western’s Department of History has launched a new journal – The Western Illinois Historical Review. The project is an effort by the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society, to provide students with a place to publish their work and for the department to display the work of current students and to recruit new students. The department had once produced an annual collection of student articles, Essays in History, but that ceased production in 1997. The time is ripe for a new journal of history.

The process of creating the journal began a couple of years ago. As chapter adviser I wanted to come up with a way to increase the organization’s visibility and to provide an opportunity for students who were interested in publishing their work. Chapter officers were excited not only by the prospect of publishing, but also the opportunity for students to gain experience as editors. Last year I worked with that year’s officers Alex Heuer and Andrea Van Drew in developing the idea and researching its feasibility.

In their words, “This is a cool project that will do lots for the department.”

We concluded that bringing an electronic journal into production was possible in terms of effort and cost. Our plan was to create a genuine historical journal that would come out at least once a year and highlight student work – all of which would be juried and then copyrighted and registered. The Internet permits us to avoid prohibitive printing costs and move toward publication.

This academic year we launched the journal and set up the editorial board with students and faculty from the department. Adam Bednar, an undergraduate history-education major, and Shane Leadbetter, a graduate student in the history master’s program, were selected as editors. Our mission statement is to publish the best work from the Department of History every year. Submissions for the journal are made only by faculty nomination.

For now, all the articles are long papers, but we expect that we eventually will add book reviews and shorter essays. We expect submissions to demonstrate appropriate historical methodology and reflect original work. Submission to the journal is open to any student who has completed work for credit in a history course.

Leadbetter and Bednar have been enthusiastic and diligent editors, but it has still been a time-consuming process. “Throughout the two semesters of working on the journal, it has been difficult to sort out the petty tasks that need to be completed in order for the journal to become official,” Leadbetter said.

“Although they may be miniscule, they are still essential to the overall outcome of the journal.” Setting up the articles on-line has been “a steep learning curve for all of us,” commented Dr. Virginia Boynton, department chairwoman.

We have now posted our first issue online. We have three articles by undergraduates and one by a graduate student, all written for credit last year and on various topics, including Ancient Rome, the Chicago Women’s Movement, Illinois’ U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen, and World War II espionage.

Reflecting on the selected works, Bednar said, “I hope that our dedication and desire to represent the outstanding history community of WIU is clear in the research we selected.”

We have applied for an international serial number and copyright and will have those soon. For anyone wishing to read the articles, the inaugural volume of the journal is now live at www.wiu.edu/wihr/.

Now we can look back on the process and learn for next year’s volume.

When asked what their favorite part of the project has been, the editors replied, “One of the more enjoyable aspects of working as a co-editor of the Western Illinois Historical Review is the opportunity to read the papers of my peers. It is exciting and interesting to read and learn about various areas in history, and it also gives me a chance to expand my knowledge.”

Next year we expect to have enough submissions to have a second volume, and, eventually, we would like to have topical or regional issues that would include other forms of historical writing such as historiographical essays.

“The students have really stepped up to the plate to put their own stamp on this effort,” Boynton said, “and have produced a journal of which WIU, its faculty, and its students can be proud. I am pleased that the History department now has this new venue to showcase the best in historical research produced by our students – both graduate and undergraduate.”

Dr. Lee Brice is an Associate Professor of History and a member of the WIHR editorial board, along with Dr. Boynton, WIU Phi Alpha Theta president Amy Kallenbach, and WIU Phi Alpha Theta past president Alex Heuer.
WIU continues to grow in the Quad Cities, and its presence and service are, too. Shown above are the Milan Bottoms, a 1.25 square-mile wetland adjoining the Rock River as it joins the Mississippi River and, on the Iowa side of the river, the Nahant Marsh, a 513-acre urban wetland that used to be an EPA Superfund site and now contains bottomland forest, open water habitat, and a marsh. WIU is cooperating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Davenport’s grassroots River Action organization, and has a pending pact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in such area for various projects along the Mississippi River near the Quad Cities.
Reflections

Bob Sutton: Renaissance Man for history, the region, and WIU

By Bill Knight

When 68-year-old Robert P. Sutton died in February, he not only left behind a grieving family but many people he touched in various ways through a decades-long career at Western Illinois University.

The retired history professor truly was a Renaissance Man, having become an effective and well-liked teacher and colleague, an internationally respected scholar and author, a valuable labor union representative, a community volunteer, a musician, and an enthusiastic advocate for aspects of the state’s and region’s overlooked past.

“I was on the search committee that hired Bob Sutton in 1970 and I did some of the preliminary negotiations with him by phone when he agreed to join history here,” recalls Larry Balsamo, retired chair of the Department of History. “He was the most prolific scholar in our department, and if you saw his work discipline, you would understand why. Every day he stayed at his desk working except for checking his mail box, an occasional cup of coffee which he always took back to his desk, and a daily visit to the local YMCA to exercise and swim. Only his classes and his union grievance duties allowed him to deviate from his daily productive habits of work.”

That said, Sutton had a lighter side, too, Balsamo remembers. “Bob and I played in a sort of beer-and-pretzels faculty jazz band for parties sponsored by the old American Association of University Professors chapter here in the 1970s,” he continues. “He had led a dance band in high school and was a talented clarinet player.”

Sutton was recalled as a prolific scholar and busy man who achieved success without sacrificing quality in his various efforts. "He had expertise in Illinois history, in American communal societies (like Bishop Hill, Icaria at Nauvoo, and Brook Farm), and in the history of Constitutional law. He and I worked together with a few others to establish the journal Western Illinois Regional Studies, which operated for many years. I am President of LIFE (Learning Is ForEver), and so after he retired, I asked him to join the LIFE Curriculum Committee, which he did. He was a pleasure to work with.”

Sutton became director of the Center for Icarian Studies in WIU’s Malpass Library (which contains the world’s largest collection of Icarian history), the director of Local and Regional Collections for Western Illinois University Libraries, and a productive writer, authoring 13 books. “In Illinois History he is probably best known for editing a two-volume Documentary History of Illinois,” recalls Rand Burnette, Professor...
Emeritus in History at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, and a past president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

“Robert was the world’s foremost expert on the Icarians,” Burnette continues. “His book published by University of Illinois Press, Les Icariens: The Utopian Dream in Europe and America, is the standard general account of the movement in English.”

Indeed, a first-edition copy of the classic Voyage in Icaria, by Etienne Cabet, is housed at WIU, and Sutton was the only person to translate the work into English.

Sutton also enlivened Illinois history by means of the 12-episode television documentary Illinois Historic Panorama, and was busy throughout academia. He was on the National Communal Studies Association board of directors and on the historic markers committee of the Illinois State Historical Society, and served as a manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press, the University of Chicago Press and several journals, including the William and Mary Quarterly, Utopian Studies and the Journal of the Early Republic.

For seven years, Sutton also was responsible for investigating and advocating grievances by unionized WIU faculty members.

“Bob’s role with the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) as grievance officer called for him to enforce the collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the 700 people in our bargaining unit,” said Karen Sears, UPI/WIU Chapter President. “I recall Bob taking routine evening strolls by my house, and I would occasionally accompany him to discuss recent complaints that he was working on. We spent hours talking about contents of the contract, interpretation, strategy – people. Bob always conducted himself as the ultimate professional in his role with the union.”

Somehow, before retiring in 2004, Sutton managed to achieve success in such varying endeavors without sacrificing quality in any of them, as shown in his long list of awards. He earned seven Faculty Excellence awards, three Professional Achievement awards for outstanding teaching and research, and the College of Arts and Sciences’ 1993 Outstanding Research Award. Elsewhere, Sutton received the Illinois State Historical Society Certificate of Excellence Award for his book Rivers, Railways, and Roads: A History of Henderson County, Illinois, and his book Revolution to Succession: Constitution Making in the Old Dominion was nominated for the Merle Curti Award in American Intellectual History. In 1998 he received the Donald E. Pitzer Distinguished Service Award from the Communal Studies Association.

His 13th and final book, Heartland Utopias, is scheduled to be published this summer by Northern Illinois University Press.

In an essay in the Macomb Journal the week after Sutton was buried, WIU faculty member Patrick Stout commented about Sutton, “He helped a lot of people.”

Sutton is survived by his wife Jill and his former wife Alice Trimmer, both of Macomb, plus three children – Christopher Sutton of Macomb, a geography professor at WIU, Rebecca Sutton of Provo, Utah, and Abigail Wondrasek of Hainesville, Ill. – two stepchildren – Michelle Bannan of Washington, Ill., and Angela Thornton of Macomb – and 13 grandchildren.

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

Bonnie Barker also contributed to this piece.
By Bill Knight

Two small-town residents discovered big opportunities, rewarding fields, and each other as WIU graduate students in the 1960s, after which they pursued careers that took them to Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Atlanta and back to western Illinois. Throughout, Richard and Nancy Coon have tried to seize the moments and value lifelong learning.

“We both would advise taking opportunities as they arise,” said Richard, a 69-year-old Elmwood native who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at WIU.

“Undergraduate and graduate degrees are very important steps, particularly today. Staying with family and within ‘comfort zones’ should not be prime considerations. Also, spouses can ‘work it out.’ Each student should set their sights high.”

Nancy – a Little York, Ill., native who earned her bachelor’s at Monmouth College before enrolling at grad school at Western – firmly believes in a broad liberal arts background as an undergraduate. For many years, she held an Illinois state teacher’s certificate in biology and chemistry, which resulted from undergraduate course work. Her graduate courses at WIU were exclusively in biology.

Richard agreed, adding that a liberal arts foundation also prepared him well for broader experiences in the U.S. Navy and during a Ph.D. program at a “large” university, Penn State, where his doctorate was in forest resources.

“We both got M.S. degrees from Western in 1965, both in Zoology,” Richard said. “Nancy taught at Western as an instructor of General Biology during the preceding year.”

After Western, Nancy and Richard got married and Richard was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Springfield, Ill., where Nancy got a job cataloging biological specimens at the Illinois State Museum. In the Naval Reserves, Richard was called to active duty in 1966 and was stationed at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

At a time when there were few women biologists, Nancy was fortunate to meet and be interviewed by Dr. Lucille Stickel, an internationally acclaimed figure and Senior Scientist with the federal government in nearby Laurel, Md. Nancy was hired at a major wildlife facility there, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, where she spent about 20 years as one of the few female research biologists and administrators. She was selected for the Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Level Manager Program, and upon completion of that, left Patuxent and took a position as Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service at one of its regional headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

Meanwhile, Richard progressed from Wildlife Biologist/Management through Wildlife Biologist/Research to Wildlife Biologist/Program Analysis in Washington, D.C. He worked in budget development at the Department of the Interior in Washington for several years and ended his service as Regional Coordinator for Migratory Non-game Birds in Atlanta. Together and separately, the Coons studied the harmful effects of oil pollution and commercial repellants on animals. In fact, research at Patuxent on the pesticide DDT’s effects on migratory birds influenced a federal ban on the chemical in the 1970s.

Throughout their careers, the couple attended multiple grad schools since WIU. Nancy took graduate courses at the University of Southern California’s Washington Public Affairs Center, the University of Maryland, and George Mason University. Richard took courses at Ball State and the National Institutes of Health.
But Western Illinois University has remained a unique and influential experience for them. Besides their core courses, Richard said he enjoyed geography at WIU, especially meteorology, and a summer course in photography that included darkroom techniques. Richard developed and printed many images later for his master’s and doctorate.

“I especially remember Dr. Yale Sedman of biology and Dr. Robert Gabler in geography,” he said. “We both have great admiration and respect for Dr. J. Henry Sather and Dr. Robert Henry, both from biology.”

Nancy noted how key faculty can be.

“It’s very important to have a mentor,” she said. “We have been very fortunate, both to have had good mentors and to have been able to pursue careers that were both challenging and rewarding.”

In fact, it was studying itself that brought them together.

“I was working on a project taking samples at Lake Ruth and I needed someone to row my boat,” recalled Nancy, one of Western’s first women grad students in biology.

Richard chimes in: “I volunteered.”

In some ways, the Coons have had a front-row seat to the environmental positives and negatives of which the general public is increasingly aware.

“We have, because of our educational and work backgrounds, long been aware of growing threats to the environment caused by increased development and population density,” Nancy said. “Society at large needs to be continually made aware of the importance of environmental health. At this time of economic stresses, we all need to consider our basic needs and use natural resources wisely. We must not assume that technology will continue to solve all our problems. Here in the Midwest, people are protected from realities that others are experiencing today. Therefore, they don’t appear to be as concerned as they should be.

“We all need to be better informed and broader looking,” she continued. “Recent changes at Caterpillar (layoffs, buyouts, etc.) are indicators of problems that we do not control the outcome of locally, for example.”

After 10 years in Atlanta and three decades as wildlife biologists, they retired and relocated back to west-central Illinois.

As biologists, the Coons remain engaged in environmental issues.

“We returned to Elmwood because of family and we thought we were basically Midwesterners even though much of our adult life had been spent in suburban/urban environments in the East,” Nancy said. “The world is so much bigger. We see the bigger picture and have a different perspective than others, having lived in bigger cities and different areas. Unfortunately, the U.S. is behind in conservation efforts compared to other countries.”

Richard said he still appreciates the atmosphere of a healthy small town.

“Some very good things have not changed in the last 40 years,” Richard said. “We still have summer band concerts in the park, the Palace Theater, our hardware store, the Fair Store [general store], our own police department, doctors and dentists.”

Nancy adds that opportunities for continued learning and involvement continue in retirement. For instance, both are now Master Gardeners through the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension. In that role, they have the opportunity to play a role in counseling consumers on how to support local farmers.

“[Elmwood’s] strength is a relatively vibrant downtown area, its active and very committed older generation and its excellent school system,” she added. “Those in the middle are busy with young children, demanding work, and commuting.”

WIU remains a fond memory with which they’re still in touch.

“We have returned to the campus twice in the last few years,” Richard said. “Once to have lunch with our former biology professors, and once to attend a public meeting on the proposed Performing Arts Center.”

Richard’s overall outlook could be described as “keeping on keeping on.”

“I believe the challenge in the future is to keep positive momentum going and not to be afraid of change,” he said.

Nancy added, with the attitude of an engaged biologist, “We want to make a difference, and we still can. If not, we’re just sopping up resources.”
The University’s new engineering program will begin in Fall 2009 in the Quad Cities; we received final approval to offer the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) on our Macomb campus beginning Fall 2009; and in Fall 2008 we started the RN-BSN completion degree program, which allows associate degree and diploma nurses to develop skills for a higher level of nursing practice.

We also have many new academic programs on the horizon. Doctoral degrees in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and Environmental Sciences are in the planning stages. We must, as Provost Jack Thomas points out, continue to review the feasibility of new academic programs that build on our strengths, clearly defined needs, and institutional mission.

We have started a new 2+2 partnership with Black Hawk College, which allows students interested in engineering, nursing and liberal arts and sciences to take classes simultaneously at Black Hawk and WIU-QC, and a new program, the Western Illinois Advantage, was recently signed with Carl Sandburg College (CSC). The CSC/WIU partnership allows full-time students to take courses at CSC and at Western (Macomb or Quad Cities) simultaneously. Eligible degree programs include engineering, nursing and liberal arts and sciences on the WIU-QC campus and all undergraduate programs on the WIU-Macomb campus. Students will earn an associate degree from their community college and a bachelor’s degree from Western; and they are eligible for Western’s Cost Guarantee.

These new partnerships with community colleges provide yet another option for individuals pursuing a college degree. The program provides students with the flexibility to meet their academic needs — and schedules.

Focus
WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences Scholarships

Earmark your giving; call CAS (309) 298-1828 or Development (309) 298-1861.

**Biological Sciences**
- Mary A. Bennett Award
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- Mary McCutcheon Freshman Scholarship
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- Whitetails Unlimited Inc. Scholarship

**Chemistry**
- Chemistry Award for Entering Freshman
- Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Hardin Scholarship
- F. H. Currens Memorial Award
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**English and Journalism**
- Dr. Paul Blackford British Literature Scholarship
- Bill Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship Fund
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- New Graduate Fellowship in English
- Beth M. Stiffler Scholarship
- Drs. Nai-Tung and Lee-Hsia Ting English Scholarship
- Wanninger Foundation Scholarship

**Foreign Languages and Literatures**
- Foreign Languages Alumni Scholarship
- Foreign Languages and Literatures Western Opportunity Scholarship
- Blenda Olson Scholarship
- Jerry Purdum Memorial Scholarship in French

**Geography**
- Robert K. Fryzek Memorial Award
- Ruth Russell Memorial Scholarship in Geography
- Tillman Scholarship

**Geology**
- Richard Schafer Freshman Geology Scholarship
- Geology Outstanding Student Award
- Richard Schafer Community College/Transfer Student Geology Scholarship

**History**
- Darrell and Ginger Dykstra History Scholarship
- Emily V. Leonard History Memorial Scholarship
- David P. Pasquini Award
- Charles G. Sadler History Memorial Scholarship
- Larry Balsamo Scholarship

**Mathematics**
- H. Glenn Ayre Award
- Jacob Burlak Scholar Scholarship
- The Elizabeth Glenadine Gibb Mathematics Scholars
- Mathematics Alumni Scholarship
- Ronald Maurer Memorial
- Fred Rattner Memorial Mathematics Scholarship
- The Joseph and Mary Stipanowich Mathematics Scholarship

**Nursing**
- Bertha Grieshaber Fink Scholarship
- Dorothy Hanson Scholarship
- The Norman and Carmelita Teeter Scholarships in Nursing
- CAS Nursing Scholarship

**Philosophy and Religious Studies**
- Maurice Nielson Scholarship
- Mary Olive Woods Scholarship
- Mary Olive Woods Scholarship for Minors in Religious Studies
- Paul Mundschenk Scholarship

**Physics**
- Physics Department New Freshman Scholarship
- Dr. Yan N. Lwin Scholarship in Physics

**Political Science**
- Marcy G. and Lulu Bodine Scholarship
- Clifford A. and Rosa Julstrom Scholarship—Foreign Languages and Literature
- Charles A. Leonard Memorial Continuing Student Scholarship
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**Psychology**
- Jim Joyce Scholarship for Incoming Freshmen
- Donald Poindexter Research Award Fund

**Western Opportunity Scholarship**

**Womens Studies Scholarship**
Our VISION: Western Illinois University will be the leading comprehensive university in the United States.

Our MISSION: Western Illinois University, a community of individuals dedicated to learning, will have a profound and positive impact on our changing world through the unique interaction of instruction, research, and public service as we educate and prepare a diverse student population to thrive in and contribute to our global society.

Our VALUES: Academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

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