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

"FOCUS will inform college stakeholders about
College of Arts and Sciences activities and encourage
their involvement in the life of the college."

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Cover photo by Jeff Dodd
‘A gift opens doors; it gives access to the great.’ – Proverbs 18:6.

In the spring issue of Focus magazine, you read about Drs. Norm and Carmelita Teeter, whose philanthropic efforts at Western Illinois University have helped students for the last several years. Their gifts have opened many doors to greatness for many WIU students.

On October 20, Norm and Carmelita announced that they have planned a gift naming Western Illinois University as a beneficiary of a $20 million trust. The income of this trust will support targeted initiatives at Western for a period of 20 years following their deaths.

This is the largest planned gift in Western’s history! Over the years, the Teeters have provided financial support for students in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Psychology, contributed to the upgrade of equipment in the Psychology Department, and supported international development on campus. Norm and Carmelita say that they were always interested in helping students and education.

Amazingly, the generosity the Teeters have shown to WIU has not stopped with this breathtaking contribution to the institution’s future. We actively work together to make many more academic opportunities available to students interested in coming to Western Illinois University and to Western students interested in attending programs in institutions in other countries.

Dr. Norm Teeter has graciously agreed to be on the College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Advisory Board, which will help the college meet its development goals for the future.

Norm and Carmelita are very generous and very humble people. It was really astonishing to see the surprise evident in the Teeters’ faces as the university community thanked them in various ways during the course of the weekend when the announcement was made.

“Education allowed us to do in our lives what we have accomplished,” Norm said. “We just wanted to give back to education what it gave to us.”

Norm and Carmelita, we are truly grateful for what you have done for WIU and the College of Arts and Sciences. “A gift opens doors; it gives access to the great.”

In this case, the door was opened by great people.
Busy director steers CAS development

By Hilary Simmons

The College of Arts and Sciences’ new director of development is accustomed to being busy and being in business. On the board of directors for the Macomb Education Foundation and the Macomb High School Booster Club, Hendrickson also worked in sales for the Ventiv Health U.S. Sales.

The difference now is that she’s busy selling on behalf of students. “Our focus is on our students, so increasing the number of full and partial scholarships is a priority,” she says. “Also, expanding the support for the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Fund will allow more students to benefit from the experience of hands-on research.”

CAS Dean Inessa Levi appointed Hendrickson on July 31.

“We are excited to have Ericka on board as our director of development,” Levi said. “Although we’ve engaged in numerous activities to get the ball rolling for advancement in the college, this marks the first time we’ve had a professional solely dedicated to the task.”

Hendrickson’s job is to increase endowments, secure major gifts and aid alumni and friends in their planned gifts.

“We have many initiatives underway that will impact not only the university and the region, but also the global community,” Hendrickson said.

The development of the Center for Education and Research on Substance Abuse and improvements planned for the Alice Kibbe Life Sciences Station are two examples of the college’s commitment to continually move forward, she says.

Hendrickson is the married to WIU assistant head football coach and offensive coordinator Mark Hendrickson. She received her master’s degree from Georgia State University in 1988 and her bachelor’s degree from Marycrest College in 1984.

Simons is a senior journalism major from Monmouth, Ill.

Western Illinois University and the College of Arts and Sciences celebrated Homecoming on October 14, 2006. Although the Leathernecks did not fare well against the Youngstown State University Penguins, alumni had a great time in “The Right Place,” the new hospitality tent hosting the four colleges in the university, the library, and the WIU Alumni Association. “This year’s success has virtually guaranteed that the hospitality tent will be ‘The Right Place’ to be at homecoming for many years to come,” said Jeff Dodd, marketing officer for the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition to 200 Homecoming survival bags stocked with goodies from local merchants, the College of Arts and Sciences provided entertainment through the kind help of “The EndNotes,” a band formed by several CAS faculty members.
State of College of Arts and Sciences: ‘Successful’

By Michael Bertacchi

Increases in undergraduate research participation and enrollment in CAS majors, plus a dramatic rise in faculty research funding dollars from external sources highlighted this year’s State of the College address by Dean Inessa Levi.

She encouraged college faculty and staff attending the October speech.

“I am tremendously thankful for your support of quality student experiences,” Levi said. “We had another extremely successful year.”

Levi’s words echoed the college’s recent performance, which includes an increase in undergraduate declarations in many of its major departments, with even the new forensic chemistry major gaining 31 majors in its first year.

To build on CAS’ current success, Levi pledged continued support of Western’s First Year Experience program to help recruiting and of ongoing expansion of undergraduate research and creative activity.

“Last year 165 students participated in Undergraduate Research Day; 135 of them were from our college,” Levi said. “Undergraduate research and creative activity is extremely important. It helps (students) catch ‘the bug’ of excitement and fulfillment associated with successful intellectual discovery.”

In the 2005-2006 school year alone CAS awarded 71 undergraduate research grants to students, significantly increasing over the 48 grants awarded during the 2004-2005 school year. Extramural funding of faculty research also increased dramatically over the previous two years as CAS’ faculty funding swelled from less than $810,000 in the 2003-2004 school year to nearly $1,359,000 in the 2005-2006 school year. Key renovations included electronic classrooms for the African American Studies and Psychology departments; new computers for the English and Journalism Department; a renovated computer lab for the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department; and new individual faculty office space and a conference room for the Women’s Studies Department.

CAS plans to expand its campus course selections in both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses with a proposed nursing program, a proposed Bachelors of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Masters of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Bertacchi is a senior journalism major from Orland Park, Ill., and Opinions Editor at the Western Courier.

Western Illinois University’s Chemistry Department received $189,000 in funding from the National Institute for Health for the project “New Adjuvant Technologies for a Marburg Virus Vaccine,” a collaborative project between WIU, the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Ala., and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Frederick, Md. Assistant Professor Ashish Pathak is principal investigator.

Chemistry faculty also received $33,375 in funding from July 1 through February 28, 2007, from the National Cancer Institute on the project “AREA: Synthesis and Evaluation of New Cathepsin D Inhibitors,” with department chair Rose McConnell as principal investigator.

Thottumkara K. Vinod, Ras K. Gurung, Rajini Gandhari and Padma Madukkuri together presented “The Catalytic Use of In-situ Generated 0-iodoxybenzoic Acid (IBX) for the Oxidation of Benzyllic Carbon” at the 37th Great Lakes Regional American Chemical Society Meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., last spring, when Professor Vinod also chaired the session “Catalyzed and Transition Metal Mediated Transformations.”

In English and Journalism, Tama Baldwin wrote a collection of nature poems published as Garden (Finishing Line Press, 2006).

Journalism Director Mohammad Siddiqi co-authored with Asad Husain “What Do We Want the Other to Teach About the Islamic Ethical Traditions?” in What Do We Want The Other To Teach About Us? (Sacred Heart University Press, 2006).

Retired Professor Maurine Magliocco launched a lecture series in October with “English Departments in an Age of Accountability” by Linda Ray Pratt, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Associate Professor Pearlie Strother-Adams of the Journalism program was one of 21 U.S. journalism educators who received an American Society of Newspaper
Undergraduate research growing, offering opportunities

By Bill Knight

Last April for the first time the College of Arts and Sciences had all its departments take part in Undergraduate Research Day, which more than doubled the number of CAS student participants from the inaugural year of 2003.

More than 80 percent of all undergraduate researchers showcased were in Arts and Sciences.

For faculty, undergraduate research provides some assistance and considerable opportunities to teach outside the classroom experience.

For students, such research offers prospects to develop skills and gain experience.

“My project was different than classroom learning because I was doing everything on my own,” says Lisa Suellentrop, a senior psychology major from St. Louis. “All the ideas I thought of, and I did all the research myself. It is very easy to look up articles on a topic that a teacher gives you but it is a lot more challenging to come up with an area of study yourself. Also, one cannot understand how much time research takes unless they do a study themselves.”

Throughout the process, the collaborative atmosphere was positive.

“The collegiality during the research portion was good, and the conversations very lively and beneficial,” said English professor Dan Colvin, who worked with student Sarah Cash on a podium presentation, “The Bible as Canon.”

“The presentation was just a single board,” he added. “What comments there were, were positive.”

Students’ presentations sparked ideas in peers, too.

“Through my participation in the poster presentation I was able to gain research ideas by looking at the other

Continued on page 18

Dean sets up research, creative activity grants

Dean Inessa Levi of WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences and her husband Dr. George Barnes of the Department of Mathematics contributed $5,000 to establish a student faculty research and creative activities grant program for outstanding projects within the college.

Awards of up to $500 will be granted each semester to the top arts and sciences undergraduate research projects. The funds will be used to support student research, assist in the development of presentation materials and support collaborative efforts between students and faculty.

“It is my hope to encourage and reward outstanding collaborative research and accomplishments within arts and sciences,” Levi said. “Additionally this program can serve as a model for other Western areas of excellence to recognize outstanding efforts in research and creativity.”

Criteria for recipients during this year focus on research proposals that support the University’s public service initiatives in the region and faculty-student collaboration.

John Maguire, University Relations, contributed to this report

Editors’ summer fellowship, which included a one-week seminar at the American Press Institute outside Washington, D.C., a six-week working residency at Gannett’s Rockford (Ill.) Register Star, and a de-briefing conference in San Francisco.


Journalism alum Kevin Mowbray was named publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch by Lee Enterprises. The 44-year-old Kewanee, Ill., native wrote for the Western Courier before graduating in 1989, but said he became interested in the business side of the newspaper industry. He most recently had been publisher of Lee’s Times of northwest Indiana in Munster.


Associate Professor of Journalism Bill Knight presented “Class Dismissed: Media and the Working Class” in September as part of WIU’s First-Year Experience program.

For the first time, the Foreign Languages & Literatures Department has a Spanish teaching assistant, Cristina Vega, sponsored by the government of Spain to assist with the teaching of Spanish language and culture. With the department through June, she is one of only 20 assistants sponsored in the United States by Spain.

Since April 2006, Professor Larry Chong, a vice president of Gyeongju University in the Republic of Korea, (South Korea) and former president of Sorabol College in Korea has been a visiting scholar at WIU. Here during his sabbatical year, he’s researching a number of projects and working with Western and the College of Arts and Sciences to establish international relationships with universities in Asia. Chong is the founding president of ASIA CALL, the premier organization for Computer-Assisted Language Learning there.

The department in October opened its new computer-based language lab featuring leading language-learning software by
Liberal arts can add to wonder, full lives, lecturer says

By Nicole Wiseman

Wonder, compassion and critical thinking are attributes that Tracy Knight, Ph.D., believes make up the bedrock of a good education – and a good life.

Knight, an associate professor at Western Illinois University’s Psychology Department, focused on this belief at the fourth annual College of Arts and Sciences John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture in October 4 in Western’s Union Ballroom.

“I’m hopeful one thing the lecture will do is allow people some time and space to just appreciate these quiet attributes that we don’t even talk about as much anymore,” Knight says. “Rare and precious, the liberal arts … invite you to live.”

Knight’s lecture, “Nothing but the Mystery: Wonder, Meaning and the Liberal Arts,” was derived from his interests in wonder as well as psychology.

“It (the lecture) forced me in a very nice way to explore areas in depth that I’m interested in,” he says. “It’s a really nice experience to be able to sit down and focus on them and let the thoughts develop.”

In his lecture, Knight discussed the concept of today’s culture experiencing a rapid transformation.

According to Knight, people have become much more linked through trade and communication that we have become a global society.

One way culture can deal with this is by becoming business-oriented, Knight says.

“Unfortunately, even though there are good things to all the technology that has developed right now,” Knight says, “it has eclipsed some of the quieter attributes that I think are just as important to a good life.

“Today we are merely becoming consumers,” he continued. “We must remind ourselves to cherish the softer aspects of life.”

Besides teaching at Western, Knight – a native of nearby Carthage who earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at WIU – is a practicing clinical psychologist and fiction author writing in the horror, fantasy, mystery and western genres.

In fact, according to Knight, fiction and psychology are closely related in that they both are based on language.

“You use language to connect and to help people find ways to change,” he says. “In writing you do the same thing.

“You find the best way possible to word something and I’ve always loved language and the more I get into it, they are both part of the bigger whole,” he says.

Knight is an author of two novels and more than 25 short stories published in the United States, England and Japan.

John Simmons, Chair and Professor of Religious Studies and chairman of the Liberal Arts Lecture Committee, says the lecture began as a way to celebrate the liberal arts.

Simmons says he thinks of the lecture as a reminder that it’s not just a work-a-day world.

“It’s not just about making a living,” Simmons says. “We live in a world of wonder and mystery and it’s important to engage the discussion of ideas.

Photo by Larry Dean

Psychologist and author Tracy Knight

Auralog for French, German and Spanish.

Professor of French Catherine Moore in October presented “A Game of Cat and Mouse: Erotic Wordplay in Apollonaire’s Le Bestiaire” as part of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series on Language, Culture, Meaning and Learning.

Meanwhile, the department is offering a number of Study Abroad opportunities:

The WISE – SPAIN semester abroad course is February 1-April 30, 2007, when students will study and learn the Spanish language and culture while living with Spanish families. Based in Salamanca and Castellón, the program will be led by Associate Professor Guada Cabeldo-Timmons.

Professor Moore will lead “A Journey to Paris” from March 3-17, 2007, a sequel to a highly successful Study Abroad program in 2005 that will feature visits to various sites in Paris.

Geography’s Jongnam Choi published “Natural Environment of GyeongGi Province” in GyeongGi Geography, Suwon, Korea.


Redina Herman this summer was an invited participant at a workshop on “Impacts of Aviation on Climate Change”for the Federal Aviation Administration and NASA in Boston, Mass., and consulted for the Boeing Corporation in Seattle, Wash.

In Geology, Professor L.A. Melim presented “Geology of a Mystery Microbe: Reticulated Filaments in Speleothems” with Michael Spilde and Diana E. Northrup at the National Speleological Society Convention in August in Bellingham, Wash.


That publication also featured Melim’s and co-author J.M.
Hearing the lecture, “people think, ‘Wow, it’s really great to be alive,’” Simmons adds.

The annual lecture was named for the most widely published author in Western’s history, who presented the first Liberal Arts Lecture in 2003.

Hallwas is a Western graduate who taught at WIU for 34 years before retiring in 2004.

Hallwas has been inspiring people in the region for decades, Simmons says.

“He’s a classic example of a university professor who embodies the liberal arts,” Simmons says. “He’s an English professor but his interests touch all the areas.”

Knight says it’s an honor to have the opportunity to present his lecture partly because he has great admiration for Hallwas.

“I was reading his books in my twenties,” Knight says, “so it’s really interesting that I’ve gotten to know him now.

“It’s certainly a personal honor to be affiliated with him in any way.”

Knight teaches graduate courses at Western to clinical- and school-psychology students. He also teaches and works in Western’s Psychology Clinic.

Nicole Wiseman is a senior broadcasting major from Athens, Ill. Erin Rickert, a senior journalism major from Hinsdale, Ill., also contributed to this article.

Faculty’s New Faces

In Biological Sciences, Macomb native and WIU alumna SUSAN PEITZMEIER ROMANO (M.S., 1990) joins the faculty after five years as a consultant on forest and wetland management, plus work with conservation agencies including the USDA Forest Service, USDA Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Also a graduate of SIU/Carbondale, where she earned her bachelor’s and doctorate, Romano researches the ecology, conservation and management of vegetation within large river systems.

Dr. ROSE McCONNELL recently joined WIU as the new chair of the Department of Chemistry. She comes from the University of Arkansas/Monticello with 16 years’ teaching experience, and a significant record of research, grant funding and service on many state and national committees.

Two faculty joined the English and Journalism Department this fall. Assistant Professor of Film ROBERTA DI CARMINE comes to Macomb having taught a wide range of courses, such as Italian Cinema, Comparative Literature, Introduction to Film, and Film Criticism, after earning graduate degrees from the University of Pescara (Italy), West Virginia University and the University of Oregon. She taught at Dickinson College (Pennsylvania) and the University of Oklahoma.

Assistant Professor AMY M. PATRICK teaches composition and professional writing, and works with Western’s Institute for Environmental Studies. A graduate of the University of Minnesota/Twin Cities, the University of Nevada/Reno, and the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, she researches the rhetoric of sustainability and environmental discourse, particularly issues concerning environmental and human health.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has two new assistant professors, Dr. SANDRO BARROS and Dr. JOSÉ-ANTONIO GONZALEZ. Barros received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. His teaching experience began in Brazil, where he taught English as a Second Language, Spanish and Musicology. He then taught Spanish, Portuguese and Portuguese Literature at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Michigan.

Queen’s “Biothems: Biologically influenced speleothems in caves of the Guadalupe Mountains, N.M., USA.”

Professor J. Bowman Bailey’s 345-page manual Fossil Invertebrates was published this year, a lecture and laboratory notes collection for Geology 330: Paleontology – an Introductory Course in Invertebrate Paleontology. Bailey’s second manual, Exercises in Earth History, also was published. The lab manual for Geology 112W: History of the Earth was a revision of a 2004 edition.

In History, Associate Professor Scott Palmer received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year in support of his book-length research project, “Forging Colossus; Monumentality, Modernity, and the Soviet Built Environment.” He is also the author of Dictatorship of the Air; Aviation Culture and the Fate of Modern Russia (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

In the Physics Department, Professors Efrain Ferrer and Vivian Incera received a U.S. Department of Energy research grant for $180,000 for a period of three years to investigate the effects of magnetic fields in extremely dense matter such as that existing in the core of neutron stars.

Ferrer also was invited to present a paper at IRGAC 2006, The Second International Conference on Quantum Theories and Renormalization Group in Gravity and Cosmology, held in Cosmocaixa, Barcelona and Catalonia, Spain in July, when Incera was invited to present the paper, “Color Superconductivity and Magnetic Field: Strange Bed Fellows in the Core of Neutron Stars.”

Professors Ferrer’s and Incera’s manuscript, “Magnetic Fields Boosted by Gluon Vortices in Color Superconductivity,” was accepted for publication at Physical Review Letters and was scheduled for publication this fall.

Last May, Physics graduate student Jason T. Orris and Professor Mark S. Boley provided an all-day invited workshop on magnetostriction, magneto elastic materials characterization and their applications to magnetic torque sensing for the Research and Development Division of Pollak, a division of the international Stone Ridge Companies, in Canton, Mass.

Dr. James Rabchuk and Donald Powers, Curriculum and
Gonzalez received his B.A. from Universidad de Oriente, his M.A. from Universidad de Camaguey, and his Ph.D. from Florida State University. He’s taught at the College of Education in Cuba, New Jersey City University and Florida State. His research includes 19th and early 20th Century Latin America Language Literature and Culture.

Dr. RICHARD FILIPINK is a tenure-track assistant professor in History and received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2004. His specialties include the United States since 1945, the Cold War and the Vietnam Era.

Dr. J. SCOTT McCONNELL recently joined WIU as associate director of the Institute for Environmental Studies and as an associate professor of Chemistry. McConnell comes from the University of Arkansas with 20 years of research in environmental science, as well as significant teaching and service experience.

BETH HANSEN is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Statistics this summer from the University of Iowa and her B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa. She was a teaching assistant at Iowa for the past seven years, and prior to that was a research assistant.

ZHIHUI YANG is an assistant professor in Mathematics. She received her Ph.D. in Statistics in 2005 from the University of Maryland/College Park, her M.S. from the China Textile University and her B.A. from the East China Normal University, both in Shanghai, China. Yang served as a mathematics teacher, grader and tutor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Maryland for five years before joining WIU’s Department of Mathematics as Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Dr. BRIAN POWELL, in Western’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Dept., received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Virginia. Teaching courses in Contemporary Moral Thought and Philosophy of Law this fall, his areas of interest includes moral, social/political and legal philosophy.

Dr. IGOR SHOVKOVY in the Physics Dept. received his doctoral degree from the Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kiev, Ukraine, in 1997. He has worked as a postdoctoral researcher in renowned institutions such as the J.W. Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany, the University of Minnesota and the University of Cincinnati.

Also in Physics, Dr. PENGQIAN WANG received his doctorate from Peking University and worked as a postdoctoral researcher in several large universities, including RIKEN (Japan), the Max Plank Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, and the Technical University of Munich. He also was a research associate at Kansas State University.

In Political Science, RICK HARDY this fall started at WIU as a professor and department chair. An alumnus of WIU, Hardy earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He’s taught American Politics, Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, the Supreme Court, Federalism, State Government, Policy Evaluation Methods, and Civic Leadership at Northern State University, Duke University and the University of Missouri/Columbia, and is a published author and one-time members of the Electoral College.

Three faculty members have joined the Psychology Department. SCOTT HEMENOVER received his B.S. from the University of Iowa, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln and previously taught at Mississippi State University, the University of Chicago and Kansas State University. His main research interests are in personality and emotion, stress and health. Educated at Marquette.
University, the University of Oregon and University of Texas/Austin. JEFF LAURENT has taught at Illinois State University and the University of Alabama. Laurent spent the last three years working as a school psychologist with Tri-County Special Education Association serving central Illinois’ rural schools. A member of the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Jeff’s main research interests are in anxiety and depression among youth.

A graduate of the University of Alaska/Anchorage and Washington State University, DANA LINDEMANN researches behavioral self-management, and specializes in strategies to reduce risky health behavior.

RICHARD L. GEE is a new assistant professor of sociology at WIU’s Macomb campus, specializing in criminology, organizations and environmental sociology. He is completing his Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Missouri/Columbia.

TAMMY L. WERNER is an assistant professor of sociology teaching at Western’s Quad Cities Campus, with specialties in race/class/gender and quantitative research methods. She also has an ABD from the University of Kentucky.

Elsewhere, two recent WIU faculty retirees returned to direct two key CAS programs. THOMAS C. DUNSTAN is the Acting Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies in the CAS Research and Outreach Center in Tillman Hall. Formerly with the Biological Sciences faculty, Dunstan plans to continue studying wildlife ecosystems with special attention to the research of bald eagles breeding and wintering in the Midwest. For such work he was recognized in the National Geographic book, *Eyewitness to the 20th Century.*

Also now in Tillman Hall is CHARLES HELM, new Director of the Western Survey Research Center. Former chair of Western’s Political Science Department, Helm earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill and researches civic engagement in American life and voter turnout, among other topics.

**Dean picks achievers for Arts & Sciences Advancement Board**

By Bill Knight

A cross-section of successful leaders will help Western’s College of Arts and Sciences to secure support for undergraduate and graduate programs, and assistance for faculty research, scholarship and service, and communicate with the global community, Dean Inessa Levi announced.

The new Advancement Board of CAS will include a number of prominent individuals.

CATHY EARLY (Macomb, Ill.), a businesswoman with State Farm Insurance, is a major contributor to WIU programs, a recipient of an Honorary Alumna Award and vice-president of the WIU Foundation. LORRAINE EPPERSON (Macomb, Ill.), owner of Purdum-Epperson Century 21 Real Estate, earned a B.S. degree from WIU in 1948 and an M.S. in 1952; formerly a WIU Trustee, she is a Foundation Board member and a recipient of a Distinguished Alumna Award. JOHN HALLWAS (Macomb and St. Petersburg, Fla.) is a Western graduate and author who also taught at WIU for 34 years before retiring in 2004. PAM HOFMAN (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.), a 1970 graduate of WIU, is currently Vice President of the Alumni Council. Dick Frichtenight (Alexandria, Va.), U.S. Navy Rear Admiral (ret.), is a 1954 WIU alum and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. TE-HSIU MA (Macomb, Ill.), a world-renowned specialist in cytogenetics, is retired from WIU’s Biological Sciences Department. MARTIN GREEN (Springfield, Ill.), is Executive Assistant Attorney General in the Illinois Attorney General’s office and President of WIU’s Alumni Council, earned a B.A. from WIU in 1987. ZACK STAMP (Springfield, Ill.), an attorney, earned his B.A. from WIU in 1975 and formerly served as a WIU Trustee and on the Alumni Council. NORM TEETER (Eads, Tenn.), a WIU Psychology graduate who built a large counseling practice including eight clinics in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Stamp is the board’s first president.

The board’s activities will include promoting CAS as WIU’s central academic unit, advocating for increased support for the College, and helping to establish partnerships with individuals and corporations that will benefit students and the cooperating parties.

The Board’s inaugural meeting is scheduled for December 9.
Alum, ex-Trustee brings real world of politics to the campus

By Lisa Kernek

As Zack Stamp stood in the vast Q parking lot on Western’s campus on an autumn afternoon, he pointed toward the nearby Tanner Hall dormitory – his home back in 1973.

Back then, Stamp was a new student at WIU and had his sights set on a career in politics.

More than three decades later, Stamp is a lawyer and lobbyist in Springfield and a veteran of former Gov. Jim Thompson’s administration.

And this fall, he has come full circle – teaching about politics and government on the campus where his own career got its start.

“It’s always been something that I thought I’d like to try,” Stamp said of teaching.

“For me, it’s fun to try to tell people how state government really operates,” Stamp said.

The political science course he teaches is Illinois Government and Politics. Stamp drives 90 miles from Springfield to Macomb every Wednesday to teach.

On this afternoon, Stamp was waiting in Western’s Q Lot to greet that day’s guest speaker – Pekin School Superintendent and WIU alumnus Don White.

Stamp and White first met several years ago when White was superintendent of schools in Pleasant Plains, the small town near Springfield where Stamp lives and serves on the school board.

White was to talk to Stamp’s students that day about Illinois’ system of paying for schools – a system White would describe as “completely broken. We rely too much on property taxes.”

Stamp has been teaching his students that to understand Illinois government, they need to understand two things: the state formula for providing money to schools, and the state’s road program.

“These are the two things that everybody seems to care about,” Stamp said.

That’s what Stamp has concluded from his nearly three decades of working in the state capital. Stamp traces his lifelong interest in politics to his childhood in Stronghurst, a village of 900 people about 30 miles northwest of Macomb. One of his neighbors was then-State Rep. Clarence Neff, a Republican. As a youth, Stamp worked as Neff’s “go-fer” and as his driver in Springfield and around the legislative district.

Later, when Neff stepped down from the seat he held for 20 years, Stamp ran for his seat in 1984 but lost the primary election.

After high school, Stamp enrolled at Monmouth College, where he’d hoped to make the football team. When he failed to make the team, he transferred to Western in 1973 as a junior.

For kids in Stronghurst “it was the big school,” he said of WIU. “It was big and it was cheap.”


Railsback served on the House Judiciary Committee that voted that year to impeach President Nixon.

“Sam Donaldson hung out in our office every day,” Stamp said. “It was a real fun time to be out there.”

While in Washington, Stamp befriended a young Karl Rove, then working for the College Republicans. Rove even visited Stamp in Macomb in the 1970s, back when Stamp was a senior sharing a $50-a-month trailer with two roommates. Rove stayed at the trailer, which “was a rat trap,” Stamp said, “but it was cheap.”

After he graduated from WIU with a B.A. in political science in 1975, Stamp moved to Springfield and worked for Thompson’s campaign for governor. He then went on to earn a law degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

After law school, Stamp returned to Springfield and worked for the Illinois Senate Republican staff. Later he directed legislative affairs for Thompson, a Republican, and then directed the Illinois Department of Insurance from 1989 to 1991.

Stamp – who received a Distinguished Alumni Award last spring – is married to attorney Diane Ford, who worked with Stamp on the Senate Republican staff. She also worked as legal counsel to...
Govs. Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar, and as chief counsel to Gov. George Ryan. She is now retired.

Stamp has worked in private practice since 1991. When Ryan was governor, he appointed Stamp to the state Court of Claims and also to WIU’s Board of Trustees. Stamp had to resign from both positions when the passage of ethics legislation barred lobbyists from filling such appointments.

Stamp has his own law firm in Springfield and lobbies for insurance companies concerning regulatory issues.

He waited until he’d been off WIU’s board for a couple of years before he approached the political science department about teaching at Western. He wanted to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

When Stamp was a student at Western, his political science professors included Jim Nowlan, a former state legislator. Nowlan is co-author of a textbook that Stamp now uses in his own class, and Nowlan also was scheduled to speak to Stamp’s students.

“You need the theory” in political science classes, Stamp said, but his class offers students the chance to hear from people who work in and around state government. His lineup of guest speakers this fall includes a public-radio journalist from Springfield, a former state transportation director and an advocate for campaign-finance reform, in addition to Nowlan and White.

“These are real people who are actually doing this stuff,” he said.

A former reporter at the Springfield (Ill.) State Journal Register, Lisa Kernek teaches journalism at WIU.

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hosted a debate between Democrat Philip Hare and Republican Andrea Zinga, running to represent Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. The televised event was moderated by Hardy, and Professor Janna Deitz was one of the questioners.


In Psychology, Ruth Kelly, Paula Wise and Tracy Cruise all took part in the 8th Annual Intern/Intern Supervisor Workshop at Illinois State University in September. Ruth was the planning group co-chairperson and was responsible for organizing the workshop and handling registration along with Bonnie Dickey.

The department’s presentation were “Navigating the First Year as an Intern Supervisor” (Cruise, D. Sibley and M. E. Swendlik), “Paperwork 101” (Dickey, Kelly and Wise) and “State and National Exams” (J. Wallis and Cruise).


Professor Ray Majeres’s research report “Sex Differences in Phonological Coding: Alphabet Transformation Speed” has been accepted for publication in the journal Intelligence.

Professor Valerie Smead presented “Cell Phone Use and Potential Abuse” with K. Spader, H. Kienol and E. Miller at a poster session at the American Psychological Society Annual Convention in New York City in May, when Smead also presented “Readings On-Line Instead of a Traditional Textbook” at another poster session.

“Language Exclusion and the Consequences of Perceived Ostracism in the Workplace” was presented by Associate Professor Kristine M. Kelly, Robert T. Hitlan, and Stephen Schepman in last March’s Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice.

Tracy Knight made two presentations at the Constructivist Psychology Network’s conference at California State University in San Marcos last summer: “The Canadian State: No Codes; Diagnosis as Cradle and Cage” and “Successful Single-Session Resolution of an Undisclosed Childhood Trauma and Its Sequelae: Challenges and Implications.”

In the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Sharon Baffa Keeling, Undergraduate Sociology Major Adviser – who also serves as Undergraduate Political Science Major Adviser – was selected as WIU Outstanding Adviser for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Oswald S. Warner wrote “...Africans, no matter where they come from, are not among the races sought...’: The Canadian State’s Racialization of Afro-Caribbean Immigration to Canada, 1900s to 1950s,” for Lobstick: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Creative Thought, Social Commentary, Scholarly Research, and Debate.

Patricia K. Anderson, editor of the ISAZ Newsletter (International Society for Anthrozooology), last summer conducted ethnographic observations at a Midwestern animal hospital specializing in avian and exotic medicine as part of her study of the human-avian bond. The results of this University Research Council Grant study were scheduled for presentation this fall at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Anthropology in Barcelona, Spain.

Poster sessions were presented by sociology graduate students at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in August in Montreal, Canada, where sessions included Robin Crawford’s “Contemporary Ethnic Films as a
Fossils Abound in Western Hall

Text and photos by Robert Johnson

Spring of 2007 will mark the 28th annual National Fossil Exposition at WIU sponsored by the Mid American Paleontology Society (MAPS). This is the world’s largest fossil exposition and it attracts vendors, collectors and enthusiasts from far and wide. Although the majority of participants are from the United States, the fossils they bring are global in origin – dinosaur bone from the Dakotas, trilobites from Morocco, or a Mammoth from China – and you never know what the next table might offer.

Fossils at the show are bought, sold and traded by collectors of all ages. A wide range of prices accompanies the great variety of prehistoric treasures. You will find rare and exquisite museum quality specimens worth thousands of dollars sharing space with more common ones priced for the most modest budget. Many vendors offer inexpensive specimens to help young collectors just starting out in this fascinating and educational hobby.

Western Illinois University has been the proud home for this perennial gathering for over a quarter century and the photos shown are from the 2006 EXPO. Over the years the Geology Department and Museum of Geology have, through the kind generosity of the MAPS membership, received many high-quality fossils to add to the teaching and display collections. At the 2006 EXPO last spring, Mildred Schefel-Tennant was presented with the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Geology Department and the Museum of Geology in appreciation for the numerous specimens she has donated over the years.

This “fossils only” show will return to Western Hall on
March 30, 31 and April 1 of 2007. Admission to the exposition is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

The Museum of Geology also will hold an open house Friday and Saturday in conjunction with the fossil EXPO. Area schools and organizations are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the MAPS-EXPO and tour the Museum. To arrange a group tour or obtain additional museum information, contact Robert Johnson at the Geology Department, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455 – email RE-Johnson2@wiu.edu

Further information about MAPS and the upcoming expo can be found at http://midamericapaleo.tripod.com/ or contact:

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When it’s EXPO time, Gill Norris (right) is often the man with the answers. He is just one of the many member volunteers who pull together each year to make the MAPS EXPO a success.

This Eurypterid or “Sea Scorpion” (left) would have been one of the dominant invertebrates of the Silurian and Devonian seas, over 400 million years ago.

Fossil collecting is a life-long hobby that can fuel the imagination and love of learning in many people, young and old.
Nancy Kwang Johnson’s personal journey into scholarship and research.

By Jeff Dodd

The maxim “Write what you know” usually pertains to inexperienced novelists, journalists, poets or other authors in the humanities, but an assistant professor in WIU’s African-American Studies Department proves that the axiom can apply to academia, too.

In fact, Nancy Kwang Johnson’s doctoral dissertation begins, “All dissertations are autobiographical.”

Johnson focused her dissertation at Cornell University – Senegalese “Into Frenchmen?” The Politics of Language, Culture, and Assimilation (1891-1960) – on the journey of a Senegambian mother’s migration from a rural area to one of four French colonies. Johnson’s life also has been one of journey and discovery – a past she brings to the classroom and to her continued research into politics, language and assimilation into groups.

Her own history has been a life of journey. Named after Nancy Wilson, a schoolmate of her father’s, and Nancy Kwan, the biracial actress in “The World of Susie Wong,” her first years were spent in Brooklyn before the family moved to her mother’s native Korea. Upon their return to the United States, Johnson lived in a different state every year until she attended high school in Chicago Heights, Ill.

Even more intense were the journeys made by Johnson’s family. In 1946, her maternal family escaped from North Korea to South Korea in a Sound of Music-like exodus. Wealthy, educated Catholics, their lives were the antithesis of the Communist rule in North Korea. Once in South Korea, still influenced by decades of Japanese colonial rule, the family faced a different sort of oppression and linguistic fascism. The family was forced to change their Korean last names to Japanese names. Speaking Korean in public was strongly discouraged through punishment by fine or death.

“Reverence for the colonizers’ language is bewildering,” says Kwang.

“For example, when my younger sister Monica was a baby, my maternal grandmother would sing two lullabies to her. The first lullaby was a traditional Korean song in which the singer reassures the baby that the mother will return shortly. This lullaby has sort of a national anthem appeal to the extent that it is a song, which any Korean, no matter how old, knows by heart. The second lullaby was a Japanese melody about a pigeon and a group of children.”

It is this idea of reverence for a colonizers’ language that forms the focus of her research and makes her work so personal.

Johnson’s paternal grandfather, a black sharecropper, fled southern racism in 1950 Arkansas by working as a Pullman porter in Chicago. In long stretches of solitude on trains traveling to and along the eastern seaboard, he became a self-educated man. Her paternal great-grandmother, a full-blooded Cherokee Native American, experienced her share of discrimination and assimilation, too.

A graduate of Vassar and Cornell, Johnson used her family’s journeys and experiences to propel her own academic and research interests. To gather research for her doctoral work, Johnson lived for 13 months in Senegal beginning in May of 1995.

Dr. William Safran, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Colorado in Boulder serves as a mentor for Dr. Johnson.

“She is a dynamic, resourceful, and intellectually curious person whose broad cultural interests — she speaks excellent French — are a reflection of her own multicultural background,” Safran said. “Her work so far in West Africa, South Korea, Canada and the United States constitutes an important contribution to the study of the relationship between ethnicity, language and identity.”

Johnson says she sometimes values experience as well as education.

“While I had been preparing for my journey academically and personally, I learned 13 months later that nothing could have prepared me in advance for my journey,” she says. “In fact, I often found myself ‘un-learning’ all that I had been taught through my years at Cornell and Vassar.”

It is this open-minded learning process that Johnson brings to Western Illinois University. In addition to her classroom teaching, last spring Johnson mentored 17 undergraduate students who presented their work at WIU’s Undergraduate Research Day. She also took 10 students to the University of Illinois to participate in a roundtable research panel discussion in the spring of 2006. Four of her students received undergraduate research awards from the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I am excited about the undergraduate research emphasis in the College of Arts and Sciences,” she adds. “The program is one of the assets of a liberal arts and sciences degree at Western Illinois University. This research-friendly environment helps lay the foundation for research at the graduate level. Our students will be prepared
for graduate work at Tier One research institutions because of their experiences here.”

Johnson continues to contribute to Western’s diversity and internationalism. Most recently she and Bill Thompson of the University Libraries proposed a circulating film collection to provide an overview of cinema by Africans and about Africa, in both documentary and theatrical forms. The collection will contain films representing every part of Africa from Egypt and Algeria to South Africa; from Chad and the Congo to Sénégal.

“We made a survey of the Online Computer Library Center database, looking at African film holdings of major Illinois academic institutions,” Johnson says. “This revealed that Columbia College, Northwestern University, DePaul University and the University of Illinois [at] Urbana-Champaign currently house the largest African film collections in the state. None of these institutions have inter-library loans of their audiovisual materials. A circulating collection of the kind WIU proposes will be unique as it will make African films readily available to faculty and students statewide.”

Also, Johnson and Thompson collaborated to bring an African Film Festival to WIU and nearby Monmouth College this fall. The festival hosted 10 African films and four of the filmmakers on the campuses of both schools.

“Dr. Johnson is one of the most dynamic, energetic and visionary persons I have worked with at WIU,” Thompson says. “We have cooperated on grants and, now, on the African Film Festival. I have no doubt we will work on more projects, as Dr. Johnson is always running past the horizon, on to the next new thing.

One of Johnson’s “next new things” is a panel-discussion radio show entitled In Other Words to air on WIUM-FM 91.3 in early 2007.

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

Anthropologist, undergrads study area ‘homesteader’

WIU professor takes students to farm to learn about plants, religion, self-reliance

By Michael Miller
The Howerton homestead in rural Fulton County is now a field-trip site.

David Casagrande, an assistant professor of environmental anthropology at Western, said that efforts by Tim Howerton and his late wife Wendy to build a self-reliant lifestyle intrigued him after stories about the family ran a year ago in the Peoria Journal Star.

So Casagrande took one class to the Howerton farm last spring and three more classes — including ethnobotany and an introductory course on cultural anthropology — this fall.

Casagrande said his goal is to expose students to a person like Howerton who has chosen to live independent of government support and whose knowledge ranges from biodiesel fuels to the medicinal use of plants.

“To give up that (government) security net requires a lot of self-confidence and a lot of knowledge and a lot of social skills,” Casagrande said.

Students have learned that “even though you live in America, you do have the option of engaging the system on your own terms,” he said, referring to the Howerters’ decision to leave the U.S. governmental system.

“I think people were really amazed at Howerton’s ability to identify plants on his property, located several miles north of Smithfield. “Tim has a lot of knowledge that goes back to pioneer days,” Casagrande said.

interpretations of the Bible and his rejection of organized religion and this notion you can believe in the Bible but that doesn’t mean you have to believe everything somebody tells you about it.”

Casagrande also said that while Howerton’s decision to live a more self-reliant lifestyle may sound individualistic, it isn’t.

“The only reason he’s able to be an individual like that is because he has such strong ties with his neighbors and farmers in Missouri,” he said.

Casagrande’s students were amazed at Howerton’s ability to identify plants on his property, located several miles north of Smithfield.

“Tim has a lot of knowledge that goes back to pioneer days,” Casagrande said.

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areas students were studying,” said Suellentrop, whose presentation was “Parental Divorce and Threats to Psychological Needs.”

“The poster presentation was a way to get to know other students that I might not of have the chance to get to know because they are not from my department.”

Each year, dozens of future scientists, attorneys, doctors and others supplement their classroom instruction with research projects, seeking practical experience and enjoying education. At WIU, 165 students participated in 2006.

From the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, which took part in the Undergraduate Research Day for the first time, Assistant Professor Iván Jiménez Williams and Professor Morris Vos mentored projects relating to the languages and cultures of their respective fields.

Working with Jimenez Williams, Summa Cum Laude Spanish major Claire L. Sharples Brooks combined an interest in feminist theory with her studies of Latin American Literature and focused on Mexican poet, playwright and essayist Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Using the poem “Hombres necios” (Silly Men) and the liturgical drama “El Divino Narciso,” Sharples Brooks investigated and presented philosophical, mythological, allegorical and biblical aspects of the texts, finding the poem to be an engaging critique of the male-dominated world.

“Senior Molly M. Savage majored in French with a minor in Spanish, and her interest in German took her abroad as part of her research project,” said Vos. “Molly [in a presentation titled “Cultural Differences”] gained further competence in her third learned language by studying typical patterns of interaction between travelers and shopkeepers.”

Other research involved case studies or test tubes, but all was more accessible and manageable for undergraduates. Such smaller projects can strengthen resumes and demonstrate students’ talents and achievements to prospective employers or schools.

Undergraduate advocate Scott F. Grover, writing in Eye on Psi Chi magazine, said, “Research experience is by far one of the most worthwhile ventures that undergraduates can undertake to further their professional and personal goals of continuing graduate education.”

Challenging while conducted on deadline alongside other obligations, the experience can be rewarding, Colvin said.

“There was great willingness, but limited time,” he said. “My student was an honors student, and she was doing extra work for most of her classes. Her ideas were good, but the time she had to complete them was too limited.

“Part of me, as a teacher, wants to be more directive and demanding,” Colvin continued, “but I also know I need to let the student do the work and set the schedule.”

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Reflection of Culture: A Content Analysis of Crash and Do the Right Thing” and Karin Spader’s “The Effects of Teacher Expectations on Student Advancements.”

David G. Casagrande – an editor for the Journal of Ecological Anthropology, associate editor of the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine and topical editor of the Encyclopedia of Earth—has co-authored “Drivers of Spatial Variation in Plant Diversity Across the Central Arizona-Phoenix Ecosystem” for Society and Natural Resources.

Heather McIlvaine-Newsad conducted anthropological research about the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the shrimping industry in rural Louisiana last summer, and this fall presented “Feminism, Nature and the Environment” in conjunction with Western’s Nature and Spirituality series for WIU’s First Year Experience program.

Tawnya Adkins Covert co-authored “Information Sources in Partisan Publications,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, in August in Montreal, Canada.

David E. Rohall – acting director of the Western Survey Research Center last summer – co-authored “The Role of Military Affiliation, Gender and Political Ideology in the Favoring of War in Afghanistan and Iraq” for Armed Forces and Society.


The Women’s Studies Department moved into new space in Currens Hall, where it will have individual offices, a conference room and main office space.

Dr. Lori Baker-Sperry wrote “Gendered Agency: Power in the Elementary Classroom” for the October issue of Women and Language.

Dan Grimm, a senior journalism major from Morrison, Ill., helped compile and edit this material. Bonnie Barker, University Relations, also contributed.
Engaging, witty Nielsen created WIU’s philosophy program

The Harvard-educated scholar recruited by Western to establish its program in philosophy died in Macomb in June.

Retired philosophy professor Maurice Nielsen was 88.

“Maurice Nielsen was a person of many notable qualities: a keen intellect, a truly wide range of interests, a deep appreciation of the arts, a fine sense of humor, an uncommon ability to relate to all sorts of people, and great personal charm,” recalled friend and colleague Mario Morelli.

“Perhaps what was most striking to me about him was how forceful and engaging a person he was, despite an always kind and gentle manner.”

“On a personal level, I can remember how often what started as a seemingly idle conversation turned into a rather deep and serious discussion, typically moved along by Maurice’s prodding questions or critical observations,” Morelli continued. “I know that in our department, all of the faculty looked to him for leadership, trusting his judgment and listening to his counsel. My impression is that the same was true of his standing with the other department chairs and deans he worked with, notably Deans Paul Weller and Bob Kindrick, who respected him and took seriously what he had to say. I think it was recognized that Maurice was not in the least self-serving, and would never try to intimidate people or obfuscate issues. He was willing to ask a lot of questions and, when he had a point of view on some matter, he was able to convey it effectively and argue for it cogently.”

Nielsen earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University and studied at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, after receiving a B.A. at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. After teaching at Arkansas Tech and Bowling Green (Ohio) State University, he moved to Macomb in 1959. Within a decade he’d received WIU’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

“Maurice was a genuinely gifted teacher who managed to be both very popular with students and very demanding of students,” said Morelli, who retired from the department last year. “He set high expectations for the work he wanted from students, and did not let them get by with mediocre exams and papers. He even insisted on their taking good class notes. Whenever students wanted to meet with him, Maurice always told them to bring along their notes, which he would inspect and offer a critical appraisal of.”

Nominated by Western faculty for WIU’s award based on professional commitment, constructive involvement with academic and cultural issues and intellectual and personal qualities that inspire, Nielsen won similar honors at Bowling Green.

“Our department was fortunate to have Maurice as its first chair,” Morelli said. “He had a positive impact on the department that continued after he retired. He set a tone for civility and cooperation among faculty in the department, which is especially important when you have faculty in two areas, philosophy and religious studies. He fostered a serious commitment to undergraduate teaching, including the introductory, general education courses. Finally he encouraged strong faculty involvement in the university.

“From his early years at Western, he had always taken seriously faculty responsibility for governance in the university, and he served on many committees and governance groups,” Morelli added, “always with the aim of seeking to improve the academic character of Western and the educational opportunities it afforded its students.”

Nielsen is survived by his wife Rita, daughters Eileen and Karen, step-daughters Barbara, Mary, Martha and Deborah, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a brother, Kenneth.

“It would give a terribly misleading picture of Maurice Nielsen to neglect his good sense of humor and quick wit,” Morelli added. “One example that comes to mind is when a faculty member in another department asked Maurice about why philosophy and religious studies enrollments had gone up. Maurice replied that it was probably due to the fact that the department gave S&H Green Stamps to students who took our courses. The faculty member initially took Maurice’s answer seriously, and was quite indignant that our department was allowed to give out Green Stamps.”

Memorial contributions may be made to the Maurice Nielsen Scholarship Fund, WIU Foundation, Sherman Hall 303, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 614545.
**1986- Challenger disaster**

“The Challenger disaster occurred on the morning of January 28, 1986, at 11:39 EST, when that Space Shuttle disintegrated 73 seconds into its flight,” remembers WIU Physics Professor Efrain J. Ferrer. “The nation was devastated, and NASA was shaken out of its complacency, brought on by years of successful space missions.

“A commission was formed, led by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and composed of politicians, astronauts, military men and physicist Richard Feynman, to investigate the accident and to recommend steps to prevent future failures. The fact that Nobel Prize winner Feynman was participating may have made the difference between answering the question of why the Challenger failed and eternal mystery. Feynman jetted all over the country to search for the truth. His report, perceived by the Commission as embarrassing to NASA, was relegated to an appendix. The Commission held a live press conference to answer questions, and Feynman – with one of the shuttle’s O-rings and a cup of ice water – dramatically proved that the failure of an O-ring seal in the lower segments of the right solid rocket booster was the cause of the accident. Feynman showed that the accident occurred because the warning of the engineers that it was too cold outside to go ahead with the launch went unheeded by managers eager to impress their bosses with their punctuality.”

**1986- Iran-Contra Affair**

“The Iran-Contra affair, revealed in November 1986, was a complex scheme,” writes Professor William Anderson of WIU’s Department of Political Science. “The U.S. sold arms secretly to Iran—then fighting a war with Iraq— in the hope that Iranian moderates would then work to secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon. Money gained from these Iranian arms sales was channeled to anti-Sandinista Contra rebels in Nicaragua. In this way, the Reagan Administration was able to circumvent a Congressional ban on direct U.S. government aid to the Contras. The revelation of this scheme damaged Reagan’s standing in the eyes of the public, as he had previously pledged not to negotiate with terrorists.”

**1976- The Bicentennial**

“I remember the centennial summer as being a very warm one, the 4th of July especially so,” recalls WIU History Department chair Larry Balsamo. “That year and its celebrations came hard on the heels of the Watergate scandals and the final evacuations and fall of South Vietnam.

“The centennial commemorations helped heal some of these traumatic wounds, but only temporarily,” Balsamo says. “The celebrations were intriguing, especially the passing of the tall ships in New York harbor, and we did feel better about ourselves as Americans, at least for a little while.”

**1966- Miranda v. Arizona**

“In the landmark case of Miranda v. Arizona, the U.S. Supreme Court delineated the rights of accused people during custodial interrogations,” remembers Rick Hardy, Chair of WIU’s Department of Political Science. “The case involved a 23-year-old, mentally unstable indigent named Ernesto Miranda, who confessed to committing a brutal sexual assault against an 18-year-old woman near Phoenix, Ariz., – after two hours of police interrogation and without the benefit of legal counsel. In reversing his conviction, the Supreme Court ruled that police had violated Miranda’s rights to due process under the Fifth (freedom from self-incrimination) and Sixth (right to counsel) Amendments. Speaking for a 5-4 majority, Chief Justice Earl Warren announced that, henceforth, prior to any police questioning, accused people must be informed of their rights to remain silent and have an attorney before making possibly incriminating statements. Proponents of the so-called “Miranda Warning” hail the decision as a cornerstone for protecting individual liberties against arbitrary governmental authority.

“Opponents of the ruling contend that criminals should not go free because police officers make technical errors during the interrogation process. Miranda was subsequently stabbed to death in 1976 during a bar room brawl. Ironically, the man who stabbed Miranda was read his ‘Miranda Rights’.”

**1956- Allen Ginsberg writes and performs his poem ‘Howl’**

“Howl is astonishing, and Ginsberg’s amazing first performance of it in San Francisco remains a seminal event in American letters,” says David Banash, an assistant professor in the English and Journalism Department at Western. “I encourage everyone to use the web to find one of the many recordings of Ginsberg reading the poem.

“Looking back, it is remarkable that Howl put poetry at the center of 1950s culture: an era marked by the
explosion of TV, rock ‘n’ roll, and a profound move toward new media technologies,” Banash continues. “With only his voice (and a wine-fueled audience), Ginsberg offered a howl of protest many people heard— not only at that first Gallery 6 reading, but throughout American culture, as the controversy over the poem’s celebrations of homosexuality, jazz and transgression played out in the federal courts and the national press. Howl, and especially Ginsberg’s dynamic reading, shows the power of poetry to both enchant and provoke change by testing the limits of convention.”

1916- Margaret Sanger establishes the first birth-control clinic

“Margaret Higgins Sanger was born September 14, 1879, in Corning, N.Y., and died September 6, 1966, in Tucson, Ariz.,” writes Polly Radosh, chair of WIU’s Women’s Studies Department. “Best known for her pioneering work in public accessibility to birth control, she founded the American Birth Control League, which was the forerunner of Planned Parenthood.

“Sanger’s early life in her Irish, working-class family influenced her thinking,” Radosh continues. “She watched her mother’s health decline through 18 pregnancies and 11 live births, and she was motivated to do something to help women gain access to contraceptives. Her highly controversial work met with political and social resistance. Through civil disobedience, education and advocacy for change, Sanger was successful in re-directing popular thinking about contraception. Laws slowly changed and birth control became accessible to the U.S. public. It took until the year before her death, however, before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the last law prohibiting married couples from having access to birth control (Griswold v. Connecticut, 1965). And it was not until the 1970s that laws prohibiting unmarried couples and minors from having access to birth control were finally challenged and nullified in the courts.

1906- Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen determines the position of the Magnetic North Pole.

“On every USGS topographic map, there is a magnetic declination symbol indicating the angle between where your compass points and the North Pole,” says Charles Ehlschlaeger, an associate professor in the Geography Department. “If you read the small print, the USGS map will tell you that the angle was only accurate at a specific year and how much that angle changes every year. (By the way, that compass you bought as a Boy or Girl Scout is no way precise enough to exploit this information, especially in Illinois.)

“Amundsen accomplished three things on his voyage: 1) a detailed ethnographic study of the Inuit people living near the magnetic pole, 2) showing that the Magnetic North Pole had shifted location from where James Ross found it in 1831; and 3) traveling from Norway (June, 1903) to Alaska (August, 1905) via the Northwest Passage.

“While accomplishments (1) and (3) had obvious impacts on the scientific community, what did the movement of the Magnetic North Pole demonstrate? The Magnetic Pole’s movement provided evidence that the Earth wasn’t a solid ball of rock. However, this knowledge did not help Alfred Wegener. Wegener’s theory on Continental Drift (1915) assumed that centrifugal force caused the continents to move. Wegener believed that large continents moved toward the equator. Ironically, Amundsen’s measurements of the Magnetic North Pole supported this disproved theory. Since the Magnetic North Pole had migrated northward, it provided (incorrect) evidence that North America was moving southward. It took the scientific community another 45 years before it could ‘clean up’ Wegener’s ideas. We now believe that the Earth’s core rotates at a speed slightly different than the surface, providing energy to keep the asthenosphere flowing, which moves our continental plates. “In conclusion: 1) Science takes time to get right, 2) Bad data doesn’t always result in bad ideas, 3) get paid before you brag about your work, and 4) buy a GPS so you don’t get lost hiking in the wilderness using that silly compass.”

1906- American college football team uses the forward pass

“On September 5, 1906, the first forward pass by an American football team was recorded, exploiting a rule change made for safety reasons after President Theodore Roosevelt met with leaders of major universities to take steps to cut down injuries,” writes associate professor Bill Knight, whose courses for Western’s English and Journalism Department include Sports Writing.

“Football then was a ground game – and much more rough-and-tumble,” he continues. “The 1905 season had had several serious injuries and even on-the-field deaths.

“The game was at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis., where SLU’s Bradley Robinson used what was then called a ‘projectile pass.’ (It was incomplete.) Then Robinson connected with teammate Jack Schneider, who scored a touchdown.”

Knight, who won a Best Sports Writing award from the Suburban Newspapers of America, adds, “Notre Dame’s legendary football coach Knute Rockne later said that SLU’s coach Eddie Cochems’ enrolled a few boys with hands like steam shovels who could toss a football just as easily and almost as far as they could throw a baseball.”

“SLU’s football team was disbanded in 1949.”
By Bill Knight

Since retiring from WIU in 1993 after 25 years of service as a teacher and program administrator, Donald W. “Bill” Griffin somehow seems even busier.

Appointed to Western’s Board of Trustees in 2006, the 73-year-old geographer also volunteers with a local food pantry, McDonough County’s Habitat for Humanity, and Macomb’s annual Gazebo Arts Festival, works as a member of the steering committee of the Macomb Area Chapter of the Compassionate Friends, and teaches about the Hennepin Canal, Illinois Waterway and the Upper Mississippi River for LIFE (Learning Is ForEver).

Griffin is living, working proof that people can make a difference if they get involved and stay involved — whether retirees or undergraduate students.

“Students are members of both a university and a community,” he says, “and here they have a role to play in making Macomb a better place to live and work.

“A student can relate his or her academic discipline and goals to volunteer in specific areas, such as social work and the Loaves and Fishes food pantry, or park and recreation with the Macomb Park District’s children’s programs,” he continues. “This also is a wonderful time to become involved in implementing Western’s strategic plan and the new campus master plan, which should be approved in March. Further, Macomb is working on a new comprehensive plan, University of Illinois planning students have prepared a concept plan for West Jackson Street, and Homeowners and Neighborhood Development Strategies (HANDS) is working to maintain and enhance the residential areas contiguous to campus.”

Reflecting on his academic career at WIU and before that at the University of California-Los Angeles and Rhode Island College, Griffin expresses satisfaction with teaching in classrooms and directing the Institute for Regional and Community Studies (IRCS) after it was established in 1971.

“I had the best of possible worlds,” he says. “I did not make a complete move away from teaching. I continued to teach 400- and 500-level courses and seminars in community and regional planning and environmental analysis. I advised graduate students and chaired thesis committees.”

A few years after the IRCS was founded, Griffin was instrumental in getting Western a seat as one of six members of the Western Illinois Regional Council. Other past activities included stints with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s Regional Advisory Committee, the Illinois Association of Regional Councils, chair of the Citizens’ Task Force on the Hennepin Canal set up by U.S. Rep. Lane Evans (D-Rock Island), and other endeavors.

“These experiences served me well as a trustee,” he adds. “Bob Cook and I are the first trustees who had been faculty members at WIU, and, I believe, the first faculty members of any four-year institution (to be Trustees).”

“My one regret was that I no longer taught undergraduate introductory courses,” he adds.

Born in Princeton, Ill., and raised in nearby Manlius and Sheffield, Griffin earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at Illinois State University and his Ph.D. from Clark University. He’d been away from Illinois for years when he accepted the offer to move back from California and teach at WIU in 1968, after which he rediscovered the region’s charms.

“The attraction was more my new position at Western rather than anything the Midwest had to offer,” he says. “Subsequently, that changed to where I saw the small towns and rural character of the landscape as qualities that make the Midwest a special place to live.”

Also in Griffin’s background were jobs with the military and government – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Worcester (Mass.) Planning Department – so higher education offered a refuge and a challenge for Griffin.

“What’s better about a university setting is the opportunity to be innovative in teaching and research, which allowed me to develop new programs and courses that coincided with my professional interests,” he says.

“What’s worse is what’s the opposite: when a university has little vision of its future, mainly because the leadership is reluctant to move beyond maintaining the status quo.”

Even now, Griffin is busy ensuring that WIU avoids such pitfalls and embraces the opportunities.

“As a trustee I have a role to play in implementing Western’s strategic plan,” he says.
**CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS**

Western Illinois University is pleased to thank the many companies who matched their employees' contributions to the University during fiscal year 2006. These companies contributed more than $80,000 in support to Western Illinois University through matching gift programs. A corporate matching gift increases the value of an individual's contribution to the University. Please contact your employer’s human resources office to learn if your company has a matching gifts program. If your company participates and you would like to take advantage of this employee benefit, please enclose your company’s matching gift form along with your gift to initiate the process for your company to match, or in some cases double or even triple, your contribution. Contributors can earmark their donations to specific scholarships, departments or the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole.

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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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