

Western now has accessible golf cart for aging, disabled

To give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to hit the links, the WIU Harry Mussatto Golf Course has added an accessible golf cart to its inventory. According to **Mel Blasi**, director of golf operations, the accessible cart—a SoloRider—is ready for the 2009 golf season.

In 2007, Dany Baker, an avid golfer who is paralyzed from the waist down due to an automobile accident nearly 16 years ago, visited the WIU golf course to demonstrate the SoloRider. According to Roger Pretekin, founder and president of SoloRider, accessible carts are similar in price to a traditional golf cart and have been designed in a way that will not damage greens or slow play.

"While golf is a lifelong sport, some people may find themselves unable



Dany Baker demonstrates the SoloRider accessible cart on the WIU Harry Mussatto Golf Course putting green.

to continue play due to illness, aging or disabling conditions," Blasi said. "Accessible golf carts, which feature

swivel seats, make it possible for those with mobility impairments to continue in the sport."

The SoloRider will be used during the WIU Spring Disability Awareness Day, which will be held **Wednesday, April 1** in the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center on the WIU-Macomb campus.

"Access for individuals with disabilities is important in recreation activities as a part of the complete education experience," said **Cathy Couza**, director of Western's Office of Equal Opportunity and Access. "We are excited to have the accessible cart in place to better serve all members of the University and local communities."

For more information, contact the Mussatto Golf Course at (309) 298-3676 or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access at (309) 298-1977.

Thompson chair geography

Sam Thompson, associate professor of geography and acting chair of the geography department, was appointed department chair, effective Jan. 1, according to College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean **Inessa Levi**.



"The Department of Geography's baccalaureate major in meteorology is one of the fastest growing in the college," said Levi. "The GIS Center is an important part of our regional service goals. I am delighted that we have someone of Sam's caliber to ensure these programs, as well as the department's other programs, continue to thrive and grow."

Thompson had served as the department's graduate program coordinator since he joined Western's faculty in 2002. In this capacity he oversaw graduate admissions, coordinated the awarding of assistantships and contracts and performed numerous administrative duties. He has been involved in administrative decisions through departmental planning processes in the graduate and undergraduate programs.

He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in geography, and he has served on departmental and college committees.

For more information on Thompson and the department, visit wiu.edu/news.

Shouse heads Women's Studies

Aimee Shouse was appointed chair of the Department of Women's Studies, effective Jan. 1, according to CAS Dean **Inessa Levi**.

Shouse had been the acting chair since Aug. 1, 2008. With this appointment, Shouse is also an associate professor of women's studies. She previously was an associate professor in the political science department.

Shouse has been involved in developing and delivering both political science and women's studies curricular offerings since she came to Western in 1993. Her current research focus examines the political identity and participation of trade and professional organizations for highly sex-segregated occupations.

"I'm excited to have been named the women's studies chair, and I thank Dean Levi and the search committee for their support. I'm joining a wonderful group of faculty and students, and I look forward to working with them to further the goals of the department," said Shouse.

"As a new department, women's studies has come a long way in a few short years. I hope to contribute to the department's continued growth and progress," she added.

For more information on Shouse and the department, visit wiu.edu/news.



Boley is interim chair

Physics Professor **Mark Boley** was appointed interim chair of the physics department, effective Jan. 2. Boley takes over from **Vivian Incera**, who resigned from the university to assume a post at the University of Texas–El Paso.

Boley has served on the University Research Day Committee since its inception, the University Honors Council, the college curriculum committee, faculty council, Environmental Studies minor committee, college assessment committee, and grade appeals and search committees. Within the physics department, he has chaired the personnel committee; served on search committees, the curriculum and scheduling committee; and chaired the graduate program committee, for which he has served as coordinator since 1994.

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.

He was recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2005 for excellence in research/scholarship and undergraduate research career mentoring. For more information, visit wiu.edu/news.



Art Gallery features work by alumnus, student

The Western Illinois University Art Gallery has launched its Spring 2009 season with two exhibits on display through **Wednesday, Feb. 11**: "Inanimate Objects: Still Life Selected from the Permanent Collection" and "Satellite City Transmissions: A Collaboration of Twelve Peoria Area Artists."

The pieces in the "Inanimate Objects" exhibit have been selected from the WIU Art Gallery's Permanent Collection and include a range of mediums such as paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. The exhibit also includes a still life in progress over the duration of the show to demonstrate the process of creating a still life piece in the studio.

Western Illinois alumnus **Doug Goessman** (1991) is one of the 12 featured artists in the "Satellite City Transmissions" exhibit. He reached out to other artists to exhibit together as a unified group that became known as the "Satellite City

Transmissions." Each member of the group is unique in talent, but they all share the desire to pool together their talents, time, contacts and experience to create contemporary art to exhibit as a group. In addition to Goessman, the group is comprised of Heather Brammeier, William Butler, Jennifer Costa, Cheryl Dean, **Chad Ellison**, Jacob Grant, Chris Hutson, Richard Kirchgessner, Erin Robert, John Tuccillo and Steph Van Doren.

Ellison, born and raised in Galesburg (IL), is currently a Western student, completing his teaching certification for art education.

Goessman uses familiar pop culture icons, such as Uncle Sam, in his colorful, mixed-media paintings to focus on the relationship between pop and abstraction in his works. The WIU art graduate, with an emphasis in printmaking, was a designer and screen printer in Chicago after graduation before moving to the



An exhibit by work of 12 Peoria area artists is on display through Feb. 11. Peoria area to work as a graphic designer for the University of Illinois' College of Medicine for nearly 14 years. Since 2004, he has maintained a studio at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria, and he teaches in the Peoria school district.

The gallery is open free to the public from **9 a.m.-4 p.m.** weekdays and from **6-8 p.m. Tuesdays** during exhibitions.

For more information, visit wiu.edu/artgallery or call (309) 298-1587.

Civil Service news

NEW EMPLOYEES

Clemmens, Keel, Library Assistant, Library, 1/26/09, Malpass Library, (309) 298-2717.

Dunn, Jessica R., Accountant II, Financial Aid, 1/12/09, 121 Sherman Hall, (309) 298-2446.

Klingler, Samantha J., Medical Technologist I, Health Center, 1/20/09, Beu Health Center, (309) 298-1888.

PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS/ REASSIGNS

Barnett, Stephen A., Stationary Engineer, Building Mechanical Maintenance, lateral move to Utilities & Maintenance Repairman, Building Mechanical Maintenance, 1/26/09.

Britton, Arlen L., Clerk, University Housing & Dining Services promoted to Building Service Worker, Building Services, 2/16/09.

NAME CHANGES

Eckerly, Judith D., Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, Alumni, 1/5/09. Former name: **Judith Edwards**.

RETIREMENTS

Billeter, Irene T., Library Specialist, Malpass Library, 1/31/08.

Employee of the Month

Jeanine Pollmeier, admissions/records representative in Admissions, has been named the WIU January Civil Service Employee of the Month.

According to her nominators, Pollmeier is dedicated to her job and to her co-workers.

"The processing area in undergraduate admissions is quite busy and sometimes stressful, with constant interruptions, but Jeanine is always positive and willing to put her work aside to help someone else. One of the most important characteristics she possesses is her patience, which she demonstrates on a daily basis.

"Even though she has her own daily tasks to accomplish, she has carried the extra load to provide training to new employees in a caring and thoughtful manner," her nominators added.

Pollmeier began working at Western in 2003 as an admissions clerk. In 2005, her position was reallocated to admissions/records specialist I. She was promoted to her current position in January 2007.

To nominate a civil service employee, call (309) 298-1000 or e-mail LM-Caldwell@wiu.edu.



Black History Month talk to focus on Creoles

Jeffery Darensbourg, marketing and outreach librarian, will give a lecture, "Louisiana's Creoles of Color: Family Stories of Cultural Identity," at **3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18**, Malpass Library Room 180.

Darensbourg, who comes from a Louisiana Creole ethnic background, will discuss the culture, heritage and attitudes of the Bayou State's mixed-race people of color, using his own family's anecdotes, photos and history as examples.

For more information, contact Darensbourg at JU-Darensbourg@wiu.edu or (309) 298-3014.

Databases available for Black history research

University Libraries has made available three electronic databases of materials about African American history and culture for February: African American Biographical Database; Black Studies Center; and ProQuest Historical Newspapers-Black Newspapers.

Full descriptions and links to these databases are available at wiu.edu/library/databases/trials.

For more information contact **Jeff Matlak**, Electronic Resources Librarian, at (309) 298-2720 or JG-Matlak@wiu.edu.

Grants

Rori Carson, College of Education and Human Services (COEHS)—\$15,000 in supplemental funding from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for “West Central Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative - FY09.”

Richard Chamberlain and Crystal Hack, Center for the Application of Information Technologies—\$60,707 from the Illinois Community College Board for the project titled, “Career and Academic Readiness System (CARS).”

Fred Iutzi, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA)—\$127,635 from the University of Minnesota for “Alternative Oilseeds for Sustainable, High-Quality Biodiesel.”

Dworkin joins psychology dept.

Steve Dworkin, internationally recognized for his research on the neuropsychopharmacology of abused substances, has been appointed chair of Western’s Department of Psychology, effective Jan. 12.

He came to WIU from Jacksonville (AL) 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 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.

For the full obituary, visit wiu.edu/news.

‘Po’ Girl’ to perform Saturday, Feb. 14

The group Po’ Girl—two principal singers and writers, Allison Russell and Awna Teixeira—will perform at **7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14**, in the Tri-States Public Radio Performance Studio as part of the Celebration Concert Series.

Hailing from Canada, both women left unstable home situations at 14, found music and lived to sing the tales. For more information visit tristatesradio.com.

Seating is limited and advance purchase is encouraged. Admission is \$10 for public radio members and \$15 for the general public and may be purchased by calling (309) 298-1873 or (800) 895-2912. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or personal care product to be donated to Macomb Loaves and Fishes.



International Film Series lineup

Western Illinois University’s Spring 2009 International Film Series offers unique films on Wednesdays and Thursdays at Macomb’s Cinema I and II Theatres, 306 University Drive.

Show times are at **3:30 p.m.** and **7 p.m.** for the films, which are presented in collaboration with Western’s College of Fine Arts and Communication and Cinema I and II. Tickets are \$5.75 at the door. For more information, contact the Cinema I and II Theatres at (309) 833-2122.

The remaining spring lineup is:

Feb. 18-19—“A Girl Cut in Two” (Unrated, 1:50, in French)

Feb. 25-26—“A Thousand Years of Good Prayers,” Directed by Wayne Wang (Unrated, 1:30)

March 4-5 — “Let the Right One In” (R, 1:54, in Swedish)

March 11-12—“The Boy in the Striped Pajamas,” (PG-13, 1:35)

March 25-26 “Happy-Go-Lucky” (R, 1:58)

April 1-2— “Rachel Getting Married”

April 8-9— “Milk” (R, 2:10)

April 15-16— “The Class” (PG-13), 2:00)

April 22-23—“A Waltz with Bashir” (R, 1:35)

April 29-30—“The Wrestler” (R, 1:45, Drama)

May 6-7— “Slumdog Millionaire” (R, 2:00, Drama)

For descriptions of each film, visit wiu.edu/news (Jan. 27 release).

RAD self-defense classes offered

To better prepare Western Illinois University female community members in defending themselves against potential assaults, WIU’s Office of Public Safety (OPS) will offer the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course beginning **Tuesday, Feb. 17**.

The courses, which will run from **6-9 p.m.**, will be held **Tuesdays, Feb. 17** and **24** and **March 3** and **10** in the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center.

The class is designed for women only, said OPS Lt. **Sam Moran**. Topics covered include avoiding victimization, patterns of date rape encounter, basic principles of defense, full-speed hands-on exercise and dynamic simulation training.

Cost of the 12-hour course, which is taught by RAD-certified police officers **Jerry Allen**, **Kerry Bishop**, **Nate Garlick** and **Derek Watts**, is \$20 per person, which includes a RAD manual.

Lifetime re-training is free. Previous participants are welcome to attend the courses at no cost.

Due to limited class size (15 per class), pre-registration is required. While WIU female students will be given first priority to enroll, all University women are encouraged to participate. Students may charge the \$20 to their University accounts.

The RAD courses are sponsored by Western’s Office of Public Safety, Office of Student Judicial Programs, Campus Recreation and the Women’s Center.

For more information or to register, visit the Office of Public Safety (Mowbray Hall) or contact Moran at (309) 298-1949.

Chili cook-off Feb. 19

Chili lovers will soon be able to sample a variety of the bountiful bean creations, all cooked by WIU agriculture club members and ag department faculty and staff. The department's 2009 chili cook-off is slated for **Thursday, Feb. 19**, with chili being served from 5-7 p.m. at the American Legion in Macomb.

The event is a fundraiser for the cost of the department's annual spring banquet, making tickets more affordable for students. Entry is open to the 15 different agriculture clubs and agriculture faculty and staff on campus. Each club will choose the students who will do the cooking, and each group or individual will have the option to begin cooking here on campus or at the American Legion earlier in the day. At-home cooking is allowed for this contest. The chili must be prepared at the designated locations.

"Celebrity" judges include

Karen Greathouse, dietetics, fashion merchandising and hospitality; Eric Jameson, McDonough County Coroner; Hugh Anderson, co-owner of Gumbart's; Kelly Finch, manager of Adams Street Coffee; and Scott Vogler, meat manager at Hy-Vee. Each judge will pick his or her favorite chili dish. The public will also have an opportunity to choose the 'People's Choice' chili.

Prizes, which are donated by the participating organizations and businesses in Macomb, include: \$100 for first place; \$50 for second place; and \$25 for third place. Magnolia's restaurant in Macomb has donated a \$25 gift certificate to the winner(s) of the People's Choice chili dish.

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door and are available from Agriculture Council members or at the agriculture department office in Knoblauch Hall 145.

One ticket buys admission to the event and includes all-you-can-eat chili, a hot dog, relishes, dessert, a drink and a chance to vote on the People's Choice chili award.

The American Legion is located at 221 E. Washington St. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact the ag department at (309) 298-1080.

Preview kids' show Saturday, Feb. 14

The WIU and greater Macomb community can preview WIU's Regional Touring Theatre Company (RTTC) spring show, "Pipeline Reloaded," at **11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14** Simpkins Hall Theatre. The one-hour show is open free to the public. For more information, call (309) 298-1618.

Shoemaker promoted

Amanda Shoemaker, who has served as Western's assistant director of alumni programs since 2005, has been named associate director of alumni programs, effective March 1, according to Alumni Programs Director **Amy Spelman**.



In her new position, Shoemaker will be responsible for assisting with management and administration as well as planning alumni events; coordinating marketing and public relations efforts; working with colleges and departments—including athletics, admissions and career services—on alumni-related topics; supporting the WIU Alumni Council; and advising the Student Alumni Association.

"Amanda's level of experience is outstanding, and we look forward to her stepping into this new role," said Spelman.

Obituary

Stephen Straub, professor emeritus in information systems and decision sciences (ISDS), died, Jan. 20 at his home in Macomb.

Straub joined the faculty in WIU's College of Business and Technology (CBT) in 1981 and retired as a full professor in May 2008.

His teaching interests included descriptive and inferential statistics, systems analysis and design, decision support and cyber crime.

Although retired, Straub taught one course in the ISDS department in Fall 2008 and was contracted to teach one ISDS course in Spring 2009. He was recognized for outstanding teaching in the CBT in 1997.

In addition to his nearly 30 years at WIU, Straub worked as a consultant and administrator at a computing laboratory that served 17 departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of South Carolina.

He also reviewed several monographs on the topic of information systems; authored and presented academic papers on information systems and computerization; and attended the Management Information Systems Faculty Development Institute at the University of Minnesota in the summer of 1985.

For the full obituary, visit wiu.edu/news.

Smith joins Beu staff

John W. Smith was named assistant director at Western's Beu Health Center, effective Jan. 16.



Prior to his new position, Smith was the compliance specialist in WIU's Office of Sponsored Projects, where he worked to ensure that University-based research meets federal guidelines and integrity standards. Since 2005, Smith has also served as an adjunct faculty member for the psychology department.

Smith will be integral in Beu Health Center's substance-use research by providing oversight of WIU's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Resource Center; he will be working closely with the steering committee charged with helping to develop a comprehensive alcohol risk-reduction plan for the University community; and he will be involved in helping to develop Beu's initiatives for health education at Western. In addition, Smith will not only help Beu seek and apply for alcohol research-related grants, but he is also developing an on-campus symposium in late February that will feature alcohol research and Western's faculty and personnel engaged in alcohol research efforts.

Libraries site sees most traffic

The University Libraries website, wiu.edu/library, was the most visited of Western's web pages during 2008.

The site is maintained by **Hunt Dunlap** with the assistance of web specialists **Nancy Laverdiere** and **Sean West**, all of whom are part of the Information Systems Unit located in the Malpass Library.

"We are very pleased that people are finding our site and using it," said Dunlap. "We work to provide a user-friendly interface that effectively directs people to our outstanding services and collections."

The site is frequently updated and provides access to the University Libraries catalog, electronic article databases and news about library events and services.

CITR film series

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) and University Libraries will show the film "To Sleep with Anger" at **3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16** in the Malpass Library as part of its spring "People in Trouble" series. For more information, visit wiu.edu/news.