



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Campus Connection

News for the Campus Community

Oct. 2, 2009 • Vol. 25, No. 4

HR offers courses for new managers

Western Illinois University employees who are in a new supervisory role or those who just want to brush up on their team leader skills can take advantage of a professional supervisor training certificate program. Offered through the human resources department's training and development program, the sessions will help supervisory employees acquire the skills that will enable them to communicate through conflict and increase motivation.

The certificate program is comprised of six core sessions and two electives and will be offered in Fall 2009, Spring 2010 and during the 2010-11 academic year.

"These interactive sessions will provide supervisors with valuable theories, tips and techniques, as well as encourage discussion and networking among supervisors," said **Anita Sells**, human resources associate at Western.

Although the core sessions are full for the 2009-10 academic year, Sells noted the human resources department will again be offering them in fiscal year (FY) 2011. (Information about the core courses offered this academic year is available at wiu.edu/hr/training). Available elective sessions offered in 2009-10 include:

Harassment/Discrimination Prevention

9-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, University Union Capitol Room

Facilitator: **Andrea Henderson**, director, equal opportunity and access office

Interviewing

9-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, University Union Cardinal/Oak Rooms

Facilitator: **Anita Sells**, human resources associate

Meeting Management

1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, University Union Capitol Room

Facilitator: **Anita Sells**, human resources associate

See "Courses," p.2

Paint the Paws, Homecoming kickoff, Oct. 9

Students, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to take part in Western Illinois University's annual Homecoming kickoff tradition, Paint the Paws. This year, the event is slated for **Friday, Oct. 9** as the official start to Homecoming Week 2009 (Saturday, Oct. 10-Saturday, Oct. 17) on the WIU-Macomb campus. Hosted by the Student Alumni Association (SAA), the Paint the Paws event involves the painting of nearly 200 paws along University Dr. and Western Avenue.

On Friday, Oct. 9, SAA will host two Paint the Paws shifts, the first beginning at **1 p.m.** and the second at **2:30 p.m.** From **noon-3 p.m.**, all participants are welcome to eat a complimentary lunch that will be served on Western Hall's lawn.

Painters should check-in at Western Hall prior to their shifts; SAA will provide supplies to all attendees and groups. Each student group will be paired with an alumni group or a participating office on campus.

Student groups interested in participating should contact **John Venzon** at JA-Venzon@wiu.edu. Faculty, staff and alumni interested in participating should contact **Rob Carroll** at RP-Carroll@wiu.edu. Pre-registration is not required; all are invited to participate.



Western Illinois University will welcome back alumni and friends Friday-Saturday, Oct. 16-17 for Homecoming Weekend. Activities will begin Friday, Oct. 16 with an All-Alumni Social from 5-10 p.m. at the Alumni House on West Adams Street, across from Lake Ruth. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided. Homecoming Day (Saturday, Oct. 17) activities include the Old Stompin' Ground Runaround 5K Run/2 Mile Walk; Homecoming Parade at 10:30 a.m.; noon-3 p.m. Alumni cookout at "The Right Place" tent; and Fighting Leathernecks football vs. Missouri State. Kickoff is at 3:05 p.m. at Hanson Field.

Learn more about Homecoming 2009, "All Around the World," at wiu.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.

Employee flu shots to be offered Oct. 13-14

WIU employees and retirees covered by the state health plan will be given free flu shots from **8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday Oct. 13-14** in the University Union Lincoln Room. Participants will need to present their health insurance card and WIU ID card to receive the immunization. A benefits counselor will check eligibility at the door. Shots will be given on a first come, first serve basis due to seasonal flu vaccine production being stopped to produce the H1N1 vaccine by the manufacturer.

Please note that spouses and dependents of employees and retirees are not eligible to receive the shot.

All retirees that are Medicare eligible will need to bring their Medicare card.

The H1N1 vaccine is not expected to be available until November and is not part of the free seasonal flu shot program. People interested in receiving the H1N1 vaccine should contact either their county health department or family physician's office

If you cannot attend the flu clinic at the Macomb campus, you may log on to the CMS website to find another state-sponsored clinic in your area: state.il.us/cms/3_servicese_ben_choice/flushot.htm

For more information, call the Benefits Office at 298-1853.

Professor taking geography by storm

By **Jared Dye**, *University Relations student writer*

While most people are hunkered down in a basement when the tornado sirens are wailing, WIU Geography Professor **Tom Williams** heads right into the storm.

Williams, who teaches geography and meteorology classes and serves as adviser for Western's Severe Weather Club, has chased storms through Tempest Tours, located in Arlington, TX, during the summers of 2004, 2007 and 2008. These "guided tours" included storm chasing through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado and parts of Canada. The tours leave from Dallas, Oklahoma City and Denver and go through the various states.

"I always had an interest in participating in the storm chases, and after learning that a famous researcher would be involved and that I could take students along it piqued my interest to go for the first time in 2004," Williams said. "The group provides the transportation with vans that have radars and everything you'll need, plus the expertise."

In Summer 2008 – a prime year for storm chasing – Williams participated in a storm chasing "photo tour." It was reported that there were 25 tornadoes in the areas where he was traveling.

"I'm interested in all things weather," he said. "I thought to myself, 'I've never seen a tornado,' so the opportunity came along and I did it."

Williams added that he has a unique mix of feelings when going into the storm: adrenaline, fear and excitement.

"It gets the heart racing. On my first day (in 2004) and in the first hour, we tracked a tornado, and it looked like we were driving straight into the pit of hell," Williams said. "There was darkness surrounding us everywhere."

During the 2004 tour, Williams witnessed three tornadoes touching ground at one time. He also has witnessed a tornado cloud that stretched two-and-a-half miles. This kind of activity certainly can be dangerous, but the guides are as cautious as possible when observing a storm, Williams noted.

"The tour guides know what they're doing, but we're still talking about an unpredictable force of nature," Williams said. "Once in Kansas there was a tornado running parallel with our van about one-quarter mile away. One mile is a safe distance and we had to veer off to avoid the tail end of the tornado, which was moving towards us."

Williams uses his storm chasing experiences in the classroom from showing pictures from his trips to a lab exercise involving tornadoes. He has also done presentations about a storm chaser's perspective at conferences.

"When I talk about severe weather in class, I can incorporate my experiences into the class," Williams said. "I still show pictures from my 2004 trip."



Williams uses photos from his trips, such as the one above, in the classroom. He has chased storms in Texas, Nebraska, and elsewhere.

Locally, when the skies turn ominous, Williams tracks the potential severe weather online using a radar from the National Weather Service, which just so happens to be his homepage when he logs into the internet. Williams checks storm and wind velocity and has saved radar images from previous storms on his computer.

For more information on Williams' storm escapades or to get involved with Western's Severe Weather Club, contact Williams at TB-Williams@wiu.edu or visit wiu.edu/severeweather.

Courses, cont'd

The Audit Process

9:30 a.m.–11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010,
University Union Cardinal/Oak Rooms
Facilitator: **Linda Farr**, human resources officer

Developing Goals and Expectations

6–8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010,
University Union Capitol Room
Facilitator: **Jeff Uddin**, associate, McClure Engineering

Life Management

9 a.m.–noon Tuesday, March 23, 2010,
University Union Capitol Room
Facilitator: **Jude Kiah**, director, University Bookstore and Go West Transit

Civil Service 101

9:30–11 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2010,
University Union Cardinal/Oak Rooms

Facilitators: **Stuart Clauson**, associate director, human resources; **Diane Sayers**, human resource manager

Supporting Change

9 a.m.–noon Thursday, April 29, 2010,
University Union Sandburg Lounge
Facilitator: **Denise Hollonbeck**, St. Ambrose University (College for Professional Studies)

Corrective Actions

9:30–11 a.m. Thursday, May 6, 2010,
University Union Cardinal/Oak Rooms
Facilitator: **Pam Bowman**, director, human resources office

Class size is limited. For more information or to register, contact **Sharon Chenoweth**, office manager, human resources department, at 298-1971 or S-Chenoweth@wiu.edu. Learn more at wiu.edu/hr/training.

Bushaw retires

Bill Bushaw, director of financial aid, retired **Sept. 30** after 23 years of service.

Bushaw has been director of Western's Financial Aid Office since 1986. Prior to joining Western's staff, Bushaw was the director of financial aid at Pittsburg State University. He also served as financial aid director at Cornell University and associate director of financial aid at University of Iowa.

"Bill has provided exceptional leadership to the financial aid office and the division. He will be missed," said Vice President for Student Services **Garry Johnson**.

Bushaw received his doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Iowa.

An interim director will be named and a national search will be held to fill the director's position.

Physics dept. open house Oct. 10

The Western Illinois University physics department will host an open house for prospective students and their parents from **10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10** to highlight the options available for students who come to WIU to obtain a B.S. degree in physics, or to complete a pre-professional program in engineering or architecture. Activities will be held in Currens Hall 205.

The event will highlight the new options available to WIU pre-engineering students, including the engineering program at the Quad Cities campus; a new articulation agreement between WIU and the University of Iowa's College of Engineering; and the engineering physics degree for physics students who go on to complete their engineering degree elsewhere.

The morning session will include presenters from the physics and pre-engineering programs at WIU-Macomb and the engineering program at WIU-Quad Cities, and representatives from the engineering colleges at the University of Iowa and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A panel of WIU alumni from the pre-engineering and physics programs will conduct a question-and-answer session, followed by a pizza lunch for all attendees. The afternoon will include a problem-solving design competition, with prizes given for those who participate.

For more information, contact **James Rabchuk**, physics professor, at JA-Rabchuk@wiu.edu or 298-2577.

Hejab Day panel discussion

Western Illinois University's Muslim Student Association will host the "Hejab Day Panel Discussion" at **6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6** at the University Union Sandburg Lounge.

The discussion's focus will be on the use of the head-covering worn by the Muslim women. There will also be non-Muslim women in attendance to discuss their experiences from wearing the Hejab on campus for one day.

For more information, contact **Eshraq Alkhabbaz** at Ega-Alkhabbaz@wiu.edu.

Seeing the 'Big Picture'



Members of the Western Illinois University Macomb campus community show their support for the fifth annual "The Big Picture" event Sept. 23. Sponsored by the University Committee on Sexual Orientation (UCOSO), the purpose of the photograph is to show support and create more awareness and understanding of the GLBT community.

'Let's cook' sessions offered for employees

This fall, Western Illinois University students studying dietetics will provide their nutrition and cooking expertise to WIU employees through a series of cooking classes. Offered through Western's human resources office, the four "Let's Cook!" sessions will provide hands-on lessons for preparing meals that are tasty and figure-friendly. Each session will be held on Western's Macomb campus, Knoblauch Hall 230.

5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14: fish meal

5-6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26: chicken meal

5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4: vegetarian meal

Each session is limited to 20 participants and will be guided by students studying dietetics in WIU's dietetics, fashion merchandising and hospitality (DFMH) department.

For more information or to register, contact **Sharon Chenoweth**, office manager in WIU's human resources office, at (309) 298-1971 or S-Chenoweth@wiu.edu.

Learn more about other training and development sessions offered through human resources at wiu.edu/hr/training/eventsdetail.

Depression screening

The WIU Counseling Center will offer students, faculty and staff the opportunity to learn about the signs and symptoms of depression, as well as to participate in an anonymous free depression screening, as part of National Depression Screening Day from **8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8** in Olson Hall 247.

Participants will receive informational material and view a brief video on the causes, symptoms and treatment of depression. They will also anonymously complete a written screening for depression and will have the opportunity to discuss the results with a counselor.

For more information, contact the University Counseling Center at (309) 298-2453 or e-mail **Michael Illovsky**, acting director, ME-Illovsky@wiu.edu.

AOD open house Oct. 13

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Resource Center will host an open house from **11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13** in Seal Hall on the WIU-Macomb campus.

The event (rescheduled from a previous date) will celebrate the AOD Resource Center's new location at 317 Seal Hall (east end).

Learn more about the AOD Resource Center at student.services.wiu.edu/beauod.

Grants

Bill Bushaw, Financial Aid—\$550,689 from the Illinois Department of Human Services for TANF Scholarships.

Debbie Carithers and Jane Coplan, University Advising and Academic Support Center—\$250 from NACADA Region V for “2009 NACADA Region V Advisor Training and Professional Development Grant.”

Douglas Druckenmiller, Information Management and Decision Sciences—\$170,055 from the U.S. Department of Education for “A Transatlantic Dual-Degree Program: Preparing Students for Success in the Flat World of the 21st Century - Year 4.”

Tom Erikson, College of Business and Technology—\$158,310 from the Western Area Career Services for “WACS - FY10.”

Karen Mauldin-Curtis, IIRA—\$126,000 from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the project entitled, “AmeriCorps Project 7-9” and \$5,000 in supplemental funding from various sources for “Peace Corps Community Contributions.”

Chris Merrett, IIRA—\$55,800 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for “Creating Strategies for an Entrepreneurial Culture in Rural Illinois Communities.”

Andrea Porras-Alfaro, Biological Sciences—\$100,000 from the National Science Foundation for “Collaborative Research: Dynamics of Plant-Soil Feedbacks in Changing Environments - Year 1.”

Kimberly Sikes and Richard Chamberlain, CAIT, —\$180,667 from the Illinois Community College Board for “DAISI Project FY10.”

T. K. Vinod, Chemistry—\$65,000 from the American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund for “Oxidation of Alkenes in Aqueous Solvent Mixtures Using Environmentally Benign Reagents.”

Ann Walsh, Marketing & Finance—\$23,920 from Western Kentucky University for “Alliance to Enhance Entrepreneurial Impact to Stimulate Economic Growth Among Underserved Groups in North America - Year 2.”

Thank you note

I would like to express my appreciation for the caring thoughts, cards, flowers, food and donations received during the loss of my dad. WIU friends are the greatest.

Carolyn Bowman (Center for International Studies)

Enjoy fall events, open tower hours at HFC

Challenge yourself and attempt to rise to new high heights physically and mentally by climbing a 40-foot wall or pushing yourself through a high ropes course, also 40 feet off the ground. Western Illinois University’s Horn Field Campus (HFC) has both—a 40-foot vertical wood structure for climbing and rappelling (with three sides for climbing, complete with rock-like handholds, with one side designed for rappelling) and a high ropes course through which individuals are challenged to solve a series of rope and cable elements while suspended 40-feet above the ground.

Open tower hours will be held 1–4 p.m. **Saturdays Oct. 3, 10, 24 and 31.** The open high ropes course will be offered 1–4 p.m. **Saturday Oct. 10, 24 and 31.**

There is a \$5 fee for use of the tower and a \$10 fee to go through the high ropes course. Fees include all equipment (harnesses, helmets and safety ropes) and instruction. A parent or guardian must accompany climbers under the age of 18. For more information or to inquire about groups of 10 or more using the facilities, contact Horn Field Campus at HF-campus@wiu.edu or (309) 833-5798.

In addition, Horn Field Campus will offer a number of activities throughout October.



Take the “Fall Colors Walk” from 1–4 p.m. **Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 10-11.** The Corn Maze will be open from 1–4 p.m. **every Saturday and Sunday in October.** Admission is \$5 per person; \$2 for ages 6-12; children five and under are free. Maps are available at <http://wiu.edu/rpta/HFC/index.html>. Also, check the website for more information on the Haunted Maze and Flashlight Night

For more information, contact **Mindy Pheiffer** at (309) 833-5798 or MJ-Pheiffer@wiu.edu. Learn more about HFC at wiu.edu/rpta/HFC/index.html.

Sustainability brownbag sessions

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) will once again sponsor a series of Sustainability Brownbaggers events. The bring-your-own-lunch events, held from 12:30–1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, are described as “conversations for the natural and social sciences, business and the arts and humanities.”

The Sustainability Brownbaggers events will be held in Malpass Library, Room 180. Upcoming presenters and topics include:

Tuesday, Oct. 6: “The New Prairie Land Conservancy” by David King, Prairie Hills Resource Conservation District, and Alice Henry, Prairie Land Conservancy

Tuesday, Oct. 13: “An Overview of Wind Energy” by **Fred Iutzi**, IIRA

Tuesday, Oct. 20: “Sustainable Landscaping on WIU’s Campus” by **Tara Beal**, grounds superintendent, WIU Physical Plant

Tuesday, Oct. 27: “Open Access to Libraries as a Sustainability Issue” by **Linda Zellmer**, assistant professor, WIU Libraries

Tuesday, Nov. 3: “Perspectives on Sustainability” by WIU Honor students, organized by **William Knox**, director, Centennial Honors College

Tuesday, Nov. 10: “What’s in the Future for Sustainability?” A panel discussion organized by: **Eric Ribbens**, associate professor, Western’s biological sciences department; **William Knox**, director, Centennial Honors College; and **Timothy Collins**, assistant director, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

The series is presented in cooperation with the Malpass Library, the WIU Institute for Environmental Studies, the Centennial Honors College and the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) at Western.

For more information, contact Collins at (309) 298-3412 or T-Collins@wiu.edu, or visit iira.org.

Western Walks, health fair & screenings offered

Make this the year you come out for "Western Walks!" Participants can join in anytime between **6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Wednesday, Oct. 7** Check in at the University Union, North entrance for a bottle of water and free t-shirt. The event is free.

The Western Walks program will also present a "Mini Health Fair" from **10 a.m. -1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7** in the University Union Sandburg Lounge. Stop by to learn more about these topics:

- "Calcium in Your Diet" by HyVee's Jennifer Soucie, RD, LDN, and receive a free yogurt sample.

- "Foot Massage" by McDonough District Hospital Reflexology Department's Kandi Promisson,

- "Horn Field Campus" by **Mindy Pfeiffer**, program coordinator

- "Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic: Information about Clinical Services on Campus" by **Ellen Ehergott**, assistant

professor, communication sciences and disorders

- blood pressure screenings provided by senior-level students in the kinesiology exercise science program, free of charge

- bone density screenings provided by McDonough District Hospital Outreach Services for a \$10 fee and receive a free wellness tote bag.

In addition, the Employee Wellness Bone Density Screening and Blood Pressure Screening will be available from **2-4 p.m.** in Horrabin Hall 1. Employee cost is \$10 for the Bone Density Screening, which is provided by the Outreach Services of MDH. Make checks payable to McDonough District Hospital. There is no charge for the blood pressure screening, which will be provided by senior-level students in the kinesiology department's exercise science program.

For information, contact **Judy Yeast** at 298-1228 or JA-Yeast@wiu.edu.

Civil Service news

Employee of the Month

Alison Shook, office support specialist for WIU-Quad Cities administration, was named the WIU September Civil Service Employee of the Month.



According to her nominator, Shook provides "great faculty support and is positive, attentive to detail and conscientious."

Shook began working at Western's QC campus in March 2007 as secretary III. She was reclassified, per audit, to her current position in March 2009.

Anyone wishing to nominate a civil service employee for this recognition should contact **Laura Caldwell** at 298-1000 or e-mail LM-Caldwell@wiu.edu.

Folksingers to perform Sec of State mobile

Two activist folksingers who call themselves 'cultural workers' will perform at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6** in Western's COFAC Recital Hall, located in Simpkins Hall. They will visit WIU classes the next day.

Anne Feeney and David Rovics' fall tour of the Midwest is called "Union Makes Us Strong." Feeney, a former civil rights lawyer and founder of a rape victims' advocacy group, has previously appeared in Illinois at labor-backed cultural events, progressive venues such as Chicago's Heartland Café and union struggles, such as the early '90s "war zone" in Decatur (IL), where Staley, Caterpillar and Bridgestone/Firestone locked out workers or forced them to strike, said **Lisa Barr**, assistant professor of mass media law and journalism at WIU.

The granddaughter of a union organizer and folk singer, Feeney's (annefeeney.com) recordings include "Heartland," recorded live at the annual Mother Jones banquet in Springfield, and 2008's "Dump The Bosses Off Your Back."

Rovics' CDs, such CDs as "Living in These Times" and "Halliburton Boardroom Massacre," are available online.

Despite their musical similarities, Feeney and Rovics stand on different sides in regard to downloading and electronic commons issues. They will debate their opinions in Mass Media Law at **11 a.m.** (Oct. 6) in Simpkins Hall 214.

Sec of State mobile services unit dates

The Secretary of State mobile services unit has returned to campus for the 2009-2010 academic year, and will be set up from **9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.** in the University Union Concourse for each visit. Dates during the Fall 2009 semester include: **Friday, Oct. 30; Monday, Nov. 30.** Spring 2010 semester dates are **Fridays, Jan. 29; Feb. 26; March 26; and April 30.**

Western Illinois students, faculty, staff and local residents can take advantage of a range of convenient products and services including driver's license and state ID card renewal, replacement and corrections, vehicle sticker sales, and much more. For more information and a complete list of acceptable forms of identification, visit cyberdriveillinois.com.

RAD course added

Due to an overwhelming response for the initial Fall 2009 Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course, a second RAD class will be offered beginning **Wednesday, Oct. 21.**

The courses, which will run from **6-9 p.m.**, will be held **Wednesdays, Oct. 21 and 28 and Nov. 4 and 11** in the Student Recreation Center. The class is designed for women only, said OPS Lt. **Sam Moran**. Cost of the 12-hour course, taught by RAD-certified police officers, is \$20 per person and includes a RAD manual. For more information or to register, contact Moran at (309) 298-1949.

Quincy Symphony Orchestra free to WIU

An exciting 62nd season, New Encounters, featuring a range of orchestral performances and chorus concerts and including a number of premieres, promises to be a worthwhile, not to be missed opportunity for the WIU community. WIU employees and students can attend performances at no charge simply by showing their WIU ID card at the door. The Quincy Symphony Orchestra is directed by **Bruce Briney**, a professor in Western's School of Music and former WIU Symphony Orchestra director.

For more information and performance dates and details, visit qsoa.org and click on "Current Season."

Social Security presentation Oct. 14

A Social Security presentation will be offered for employees at **1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14** in Sherman Hall 3rd floor auditorium. Gary Rehahn, the Social Security district manager based in Quincy, will conduct a presentation and question and answer session. He will provide information regarding Medicare and the offset of benefits for SURS retirees.

Register by calling the Benefits Office at 298-1853 to assure adequate seating and informational handouts.