Western News

Alumni News and Notes from Western Illinois University

WIU-QC Riverfront Campus phase II grand opening

By Darcie Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Western Illinois University President Jack Thomas and numerous government and civic leaders gathered Sept. 3 to celebrate the grand opening of Phase II of the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront campus.

“It is a great day for Western Illinois University as we celebrate the grand opening of our new facilities on the WIU-Quad Cities Riverfront campus,” said Thomas. “As the only public higher education institution in the Quad Cities, Western Illinois University provides the citizens of this region with outstanding academic opportunities. Our success would not be possible without the backing we have received from this community. We are grateful for the support and the commitment we have received through the years from Gov. Pat Quinn, area legislators, our community college partners, civic and business leaders, as well as numerous Quad Cities organizations.”

The $4,800 square foot Phase II complex houses academic programs in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Services and Fine Arts and Communication, as well as the US Bank Writing Center, testing center, academic advising and student services. The new buildings also house programs and services from the current WIU-QC 60th Street campus, including the library and classes offered through the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center.

“Mark Twain knew it, and the people of the Quad Cities know it too – there is great opportunity along the river,” Gov. Quinn. “Western’s Riverfront Campus continues to grow and provide education for the jobs of today and tomorrow. With more than $60 million invested in Phases 1 and 2 of the campus, the State of Illinois is proud to be a partner in moving the Quad Cities forward.”

In 2003, a donation from Deere & Company of 20 acres of land on the Moline riverfront provided the stimulus for an expanded WIU Quad Cities campus. Six years later, Gov. Quinn announced the renovation of approximately 60,000-square-feet of space for the WIU-QC Riverfront campus. The funding was part of the Illinois Jobs Now! capital plan.

“It is an incredible honor and so humbling to witness today’s great accomplishment for the Quad Cities Region and Western Illinois University,” said Joe Rives, vice president of Quad Cities and planning. “Serving as the public choice, we have provided expanded facilities for expanded educational opportunities that will benefit current and future generations of students, faculty, staff and alumni that we recruit and retain in the region. Moreover, the past work of Phase I and the future work of Phase III is incredibly exciting as we help students and the community build our shared future.”

The first building on the Riverfront Campus, which is the former John Deere Tech Center, opened January 2012 and supports the College of Business and Technology, including the School of Engineering and WQPT-Quad Cities public television. The total cost of Phase I was $18.4 million.

“Phase II demonstrates Governor Quinn’s commitment to higher education, green building design and the people of the Quad Cities,” said Capital Development Board Executive Director Jim Underwood. “The Capital Development Board was proud to work on this project, which created jobs during construction and will continue to help fill jobs with well-trained graduates.”

The city of Moline also has an initiative underway to revitalize the area surrounding the WIU-QC Riverfront campus into a community and University-friendly development. WIU officials continue to work with campus and community leaders on Phase III planning. In 2003, a donation from Deere & Company of 20 acres of land on the Moline riverfront provided the stimulus for an expanded

Princeton Review once again designates WIU “Best in the Midwest”

By Darcie Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

Western Illinois University’s top ranking by The Princeton Review has reached a milestone this year. The 2015 ranking as a “Best Midwestern College” marks 10 years that Western has been named to The Princeton Review list.

Western is one of 159 regional universities, and one of three Illinois public institutions, named to the “Best in the Midwest” list by The Princeton Review. The colleges and universities included in the “Best in the Midwest” list are located in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Collectively, the 648 colleges named “regional best(s)” comprise 25 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges, according to The Princeton Review.

“It is a testament to the outstanding education, as well as the superb services, we provide to our students that we have been recognized for a decade as a ‘Best Midwestern College’ by The Princeton Review,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “We will continue to deliver the academic programs and resources that our students deserve.”

The Princeton Review editors select schools for the “Best Colleges: Region by Region” lists based on institutional data the company collects directly from several hundred colleges in each region, staff visits

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2014 UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

September

15 . . . Homewood (IL)
16 . . . Arlington Heights (IL)
17 . . . Schaumburg (IL)
18 . . . La Grange (IL)
19 . . . Chicago
20 . . . Evanston (IL)
21 . . . Washington D.C.
25 . . . Macomb
26 . . . Macomb

October

1 . . . Libertyville (IL)
3-4 . . . Macomb
13 . . . San Antonio (TX)
14 . . . Austin (TX)
15 . . . Houston (TX)
16 . . . Dallas (TX)
15-29 . . . Southern Africa
29-Nov .3 . . China & the Yangtze River

November

5 . . . Davenport (IA)
6 . . . Kansas City
7 . . . Mediterranean
13 . . . Des Moines (IA)
16 . . . St. Louis

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Dear Alumni & Friends,

Greetings! Once again, campus has come to life with the start of the 2014-15 school year. We are excited to have our new students join our Leatherneck family as we also welcomed back our returning Leathernecks. They will soon join you as members of our more than 125,000 strong Alumni Association! We know you will do all you can to help mentor them and help them succeed and we thank you for that.

As you’ll see from the calendar to the right, we will be out and about bringing the purple and gold to a city near you. We hope you will join us to celebrate our Western ties there or perhaps on campus for Homecoming Oct. 4. See you soon and remember IT’S ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A LEATHERNECK.

-Amy Spelman M.S. ’98

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**From the President**

While life on a college campus is always exciting, there are three special events that take place that I look forward to each year: the start of a new semester, Homecoming and commencement.

Beginning this fall, move-in day, and all associated first day activities, were moved to Friday to give students, particularly our new students, more time to make the transition to campus. We welcomed approximately 1,600 new students to our campus August 22, beginning with move-in, followed by a variety of events, including the New Student Convocation, the Family Picnic and Rocky After Dark. Classes began at 8 a.m. Monday, August 25.

The start of the new academic year also means Homecoming is right around the corner. I look forward to seeing many of you back on campus October 3-4. As always, there are many activities taking place, including the all-alumni social Friday evening and the Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround Saturday morning, followed by the parade, the alumni picnic and the Homecoming football game. Homecoming Week begins Friday, September 26 with our traditional “Paint the Paws” on University Drive. If you are in town September 26, join us as we kick off the Homecoming 2014 festivities.

Much has been accomplished over the summer. Phase II of the Quad Cities Riverfront campus has been completed, and our new buildings on that campus opened August 25. Governor Pat Quinn joined us on September 3 for the Ribbon Cutting. Students returned to a renovated University Union on the Macomb campus, as well as many other improvements. When you attend a Leatherneck Football game, look to the north end of the field at the new video scoreboard, which adds even more excitement to game day, while also providing hands-on experience to our broadcasting students. A new parking lot for the Center for Performing Arts/Arts Quadrangle is underway on the southeast side of campus, and a new basketball court has been installed in Western Hall.

This summer also was a time for exciting new beginnings. Western established a law enforcement training initiative with the City of East St. Louis and opened a new admissions center to serve the St. Louis Metro region. We entered into a partnership with the Moline Public Library that benefits not only Moline residents, but our campus community as well.

We look forward to a successful and productive academic year. As a result of our First Year Experience and Building Connections mentor programs, and with the outstanding support and guidance our students received from WIU faculty and staff, our freshman retention rate has significantly increased from 63.3 percent to 72.2 percent this fall. I look forward to bringing you even more news of our accomplishments and achievements as the year progresses.

Thank you for your commitment to Western Illinois University. I will see you at “The Right Place” tent Saturday, October 4, and at alumni events across the country this year.

All my best,

Jack Thomas
Delany-Barmann named chair of newly combined department

In July, Gloria Delany-Barmann was named the chair of the newly combined Western Illinois University Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies and Educational Leadership. According to College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) Interim Dean Erskine Smith, Delany-Barmann had served as the interim chair of the two departments since July 2013.

She started at Western in 1997 as a bilingual/English as a second language/linguistic specialist and as an assistant professor in Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies (EIS). In 2000, Delany-Barmann was promoted to associate professor and in 2006, to professor. Prior to coming to Western, she was a research and teaching assistant at Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff), where she taught bilingual and multicultural education and Spanish for teachers in two school-based elementary education programs.

At Western, Delany-Barmann has served as the codirector of Project Estrella, a nearly $1.5 million Title III professional-development grant project (2007-13) that helped future teachers in Illinois serve the state’s large population of English language learners. From 2002-07, she served as the director of Project SABE (Successful Access to Bilingual Education), also a Title III professional-development grant project (worth $1.34 million). She has also served two terms as a member of the WIU Faculty Senate.

Delany-Barmann has published her research in such peer-reviewed journals as Bilingual Education Research Review, the Journal of Language Policy and the Journal of Language, Identity and Education. She is also the co-author of the chapter, “Spanish Heritage Language Learners as Bilingual Education Teachers: Cultivating Spaces for Academic and Local Language,” in the 2013 edition of “Studies and Global Perspective of Second Language Teaching and Learning” published by Information Age Publishing. In addition, she has presented at state, national and international conferences, including the International Society for Language Studies (San Juan, Puerto Rico) in 2013.

While at WIU, she has been a recipient of two Fulbright awards: one as a Fulbright Scholar in Bolivia and one Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad to Guatemala. She also received two Spencer Foundation grants to conduct research in Beardstown (IL), where much of Project Estrella took place. From 1991-93, Delany-Barmann served in the Peace Corps as an agricultural extensionist for the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture.

“Since coming to WIU, Dr. Delany-Barmann has established an impressive scholarly and service record to the community, profession and the institution,” noted Smith. “I am sure she will continue to bring her energy, professionalism and commitment to excellence to Western.”

She received her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Northern Arizona University, her master’s degree in Spanish from the University of Oregon and her bachelor’s degree in language studies from the University of California-Santa Cruz.

Erskine Smith named interim COEHS dean

Erskine Smith, formerly associate dean for administration in Western Illinois University’s College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), has been named interim dean of the college.

Smith replaced Sterling Saddler, who requested to step down as dean and to be reassigned to the WIU educational leadership department.

“I am grateful to the service Dr. Saddler has provided to the college and the University since his arrival,” said WIU Provost Ken Hawkinson ’78 M.A. ’79. “Dr. Smith brings many years of administrative experience to the position. I am confident he will continue the college’s standard of excellence.”

Daytner appointed interim associate dean

Katrina Daytner has been appointed the interim associate dean for administration in the Western Illinois University College of Education and Human Services (COEHS).

Daytner joined Western’s faculty in 2001 as an assistant professor in the educational and interdisciplinary studies department, with primary teaching responsibilities in the area of educational psychology, methods research and clinical observations in human growth and development. In 2006, she served as the faculty associate for First Year Experience (FYE), and in that role, she was responsible for co-chairing a few committees, including the Foundations of Excellence Self Study, Committee on FYE Classes, FYE Review Committee and FYE Leadership Committee.

During her time at WIU, Daytner has published her research in Midwestern Educational Researcher, written numerous grant reports and presented at conferences for the American Educational Research Association, the Midwestern Educational Research Association and the Annual meetings of the First Year Experience. She has served on the Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards, the Academy for Persistence and Completion (Higher Learning Commission) and WIU’s Faculty Senate. In 2013, Daytner was promoted to the rank of professor.

“Given Katrina’s background, it is obvious that she has a passion for teaching and assisting students. In her role as interim associate dean, I believe she will be a great addition to the dean’s office and will help us provide professional and efficient services to the COEHS community of chairpersons, faculty, staff and students as she assists particularly with issues related to human resources, facility and financial management,” COEHS Interim Dean Erskine Smith said.

Daytner earned her doctorate in educational psychology (with a concentration in human development) from Indiana University—Bloomington, her master’s degree in developmental psychology from Illinois State University and her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin—LaCrosse. In 2013, Daytner won the COEHS Award for Excellence in Service and the WIU Provost’s Award for Academic Excellence in University/Community Service.

WIU educational leadership faculty contribute to redesign project

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

This past summer, the Education Commission of the States (ECs) recognized Illinois for its collaborative implementation of new school principal preparation and certification standards. In July, Illinois was honored with the 2014 Frank Newman Award for State Innovations for the years of work put toward designing and implementing the new standards, a project led by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

According to the IBHE July 1 press release, the ISBE and IBHE “successfully partnered with the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University (ISU) to engage leaders from pre-K-12 schools, colleges and universities, the state legislature, businesses and professional education organizations in a deliberate redesign strategy for preparing highly effective school principals through upgraded standards and professional development.”

Christopher Koch, state superintendent of education; Erika Hunt, senior policy analyst at the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University; James Applegate, IBHE executive director; and Harry Berman, IBHE’s former executive director, accepted the award on behalf of Illinois.

Faculty in Western Illinois University’s educational leadership (EDL) program are among the university-level educators significantly contributing to the ongoing research and work—known as the Illinois State Action for Education Leadership Project or IL-SAELP—that led to this award. The latest initiative in
Found field, purposeful preparation: RPTA alumnus heads Springfield park district

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

It was at Western Illinois University that Derek Harms ’00 was first introduced to two major parts of his life today. After starting at Western in 1998 (with an associate degree in hand), Harms—who was named the executive director of the Springfield (IL) Park District last February—found the recreation and parks field in which he has served since he graduated from WIU. He also met his wife, Angela Harms ’99, who also earned her undergraduate degree from the WIU Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA).

“One of the first courses I took at Western was an introduction to recreation, and I immediately fell in the love with the field. I talked to some of the department professors at the time, and they switched over a lot of my classes to fit with the bachelor’s degree program in [RPTA],” Harms explained. “It wasn’t long before I got heavily involved department activities, and I found myself spending a lot of time at Horn Field Campus (HFC). At that time, there was the annual Haunted Trail event that I volunteered at, and that’s where I met my wife. We got married soon after college.

It was also not too long after he earned his degree from Western that Harms began working at the suburban Chicago Wood Dale Park District. Prior to his graduation, he had completed an internship at the Bloomington Park District, one of the districts located in the northwest suburbs of the Windy City.

“I was offered multiple positions at different agencies. Ultimately, I accepted the position of recreation supervisor at the Wood Dale Park District because it was a very exciting time for the organization. They had just begun the construction of a new 36,000-square-foot recreation center, which presented a great opportunity for me to create and offer new and diverse programming opportunities to meet the needs of the community,” he noted. “I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet and work for Mike Brottman, one of the strongest organizational leaders in the field. Mike has become a close friend and mentor who has offered invaluable insight and guidance on pivotal decisions throughout my career, which has not only helped shape my career but also my life.”

In 2001, Harms was recruited back to the Bloomingdale Park District, where took the job as the full-time athletic and aquatics supervisor and oversaw the aquatic facility and athletic programming for the agency, including oversight for five youth athletic association boards.

“I enjoyed diversifying my career at the Bloomington Park District,” Harms said. “I had never taken a swim lesson in my life, so I was managing an aquatic facility. I quickly obtained a lifeguard instructor certification and began training lifeguards.”

Harms noted he also had fond memories of being involved with the creation and implementation of an ethics-based training program, which was designed to minimize some of the unwanted activity that can surround youth sports programming, and certified more than 3,500 coaches, parents and athletes.

“I also feel privileged to have worked for two strong professionals there, Steve Scholten and Sandy Johnson, who have become close friends and mentors, as well,” he added.

Then, in 2003, Harms’ desire to continue to diversify his career led him to accept a position at the Elk Grove Park District (also located in suburban Chicago), where he worked from 2003-05.

“There, as the aquatics facility manager, I was responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the district’s multiple aquatic complexes, including more than 300 staff members. Additionally, we successfully passed a referendum, which provided funding for a new $10 million waterpark complex and community center. I was fortunate to be involved in the design and construction phases of this project,” he said.

In 2005, Harms was promoted to the superintendent of recreation at the Elk Grove Park District, in which he served from 2005 until 2007.

“Through his progressively higher positions in park districts in the Chicago suburbs, Harms gained experience in a wide variety of operational areas in the recreation and parks field.”

“That’s part of the reason I moved around so much. I wanted to diversify my career by challenging myself to learn new things. This also allowed me the opportunity to gain a broad perspective on the different management philosophies necessary to operate a successful park and recreation agency in Illinois,” Harms explained.

As Harms’ career changed, so did his family. With three children, the Harms made a life-changing decision.

“Having children opened a new chapter in our marriage that deepened our relationship. We began discussing and defining the things we felt were important to teach our three innocent daughters about life—morals, ethics, hard work, making good decisions, standing up for what you believe in and the importance of family—all of the things my parents taught me so many years ago,” he noted. “I grew up south of Springfield, and I always considered that home. I had always felt a desire to move back to central Illinois to be closer to my family but, full-time positions in the recreation field are limited.”

So when an opportunity to work for the Springfield Park District (SPD), as the director of recreation, came about, Harms applied.

“I felt the position would allow me to fulfill two life goals: to continue to advance my career and to move closer to my family,” he said.

Harms was offered the position in 2007 and moved his family to Springfield; he served in that position for six years.

In 2013, the SPD’s Board of Trustees appointed Harms as the interim executive director. A year later, after a nationwide search, Harms was offered a permanent position to lead the SPD as the district’s executive director, one of the largest and more diverse park district’s throughout Illinois.

In a January 2014 State Journal-Register (SJR) article about Harms’ appointment to the permanent position, the Springfield newspaper’s Staff Writer John Reynolds ’92 wrote: “In announcing their selection at Thursday’s board meeting, board members complimented Harms on his work ethic since stepping into the interim position. The vote to enter into contract negotiations with him was unanimous.”

Reynolds’ article also included a quote from the Springfield Park Board president.

“Derek has done an outstanding job as interim director and earned the opportunity to move forward,” said Leslie Sgro. “His work ethic is nothing short of impressive. When he stepped in, there was quite a bit to deal with all at once. The man worked literally seven days a week for weeks on end without taking a break. He continues to have an amazing work ethic.” (see www.sj-r.com/article/20140116/NEWS/140119503/10367/NEWS)

A Varied Internship Experience

In addition to the vast services and types of facilities the SPD provides to its community, the organization also provides future practitioners—students studying in university and college recreation and park programs—with a varied internship experience.

“Due to the wide range of recreation programs and facilities we offer, our agency is able to provide interns with a very diverse experience they may not obtain at a smaller district,” Harms said. “All of our interns spend one week working in each of these different areas. They get to work directly with staff members who manage the day-to-day operations of our facilities and programs, which allows them to apply the facility management or program management concepts they learn about in school. They also spend a week at the administrative office working directly with department heads and the executive director.”

Since he has been at the SPD, many Western students have had the opportunity to learn from Harms’ varied experience and career successes. He noted he and his SPD colleagues are typically impressed with WIU RPTA students who come to intern there.

“It’s clear they are prepared, they are eager and they are passionate about the field. We’re always excited about that. I think WIU RPTA professors and instructors are doing a great job of preparing interns for their first jobs in the field. We’ve probably had more interns from Western than any other university, which I think speaks volumes towards WIU and the curriculum there,” he noted.

RPTA Associate Professor Paul Schlag noted he was able to meet Harms earlier this year while he was visiting Marah Icenogle ’14 at SPD, which was her intern site.

“Marah was excited to introduce me to Derek, since he was recently chosen as the new executive director,” Schlag said. “She was impressed with his professionalism and administrative abilities. After meeting him, I can say that Derek is the type of alumnum that gives me hope as a professor. He gained his degree from the RPTA department and quickly worked his way up to a prominent position within the field. He is the consummate professional and offers an example to which all RPTA students can aspire.”

According to Harms, pursuing a bachelor’s degree at WIU wound up being one of the best decisions of his life.

“Certainly Western provided me with a strong educational foundation that would later springboard my career, but, equally as important, Western introduced me to my wife and to the field of recreation, park and tourism administration,” he said. “I am grateful to my parents, WIU, my family and all of the strong friendships I have forged that have played a critical role in my career and my life.”
Alumni connect at NIRSA conference in Nashville

By Teresa Koltenburg '92 M.S. '11
Staff from Western Illinois University Campus Recreation hosted 30 alumni from around the U.S. and Canada at the "Western Connection," a special reception for collegiate recreation professionals who worked for Campus Recreation when they attended Western at the National Intramural Recreation and Sports Association (NIRSA) conference in late April in Nashville. According to Campus Recreation Business Manager Julie Terstriep '88 M.S. '13, alumni from such WIU departments as kinesiology; sport management; recreation, park and tourism administration; business and law enforcement and justice administration were treated to the event at Dave and Buster’s in the Opry Mills Mall.

“We host this reception annually because we feel it is important to keep in touch with our former student employees, and we actually call this event the ‘Western Connection’ because we get to know and become connected to employers and colleagues of our alumni,” said Campus Recreation Director Milly MacDonell M.S. ’00. “Through these relationships, the loyalty of our former students and the instilled value of giving back and paying it forward, we are able to make connections for internships and employment for our current and future graduate students.”

MacDonell also noted Campus Recreation Associate Director Judy Yeast M.S. ’81 has been instrumental in keeping in touch with former students, noting that she “is the constant who has been a part of Campus Recreation through the years.”

“It is fun to see our newer staff members also develop these lasting relationships. We have a wide variety of highly accomplished professionals throughout the nation in various areas of student affairs. Western Illinois University is a major influence and is well respected in the collegiate recreation profession,” MacDonell noted.

Terstriep, who serves on the Creative Excellence Award Selection committee and the Sustainability committee for the national organization, added WIU alumni were recognized during various events/activities at the conference. Some of those honored included Samantha Wallace M.S. ’14 (sport management), who was awarded a Professional Development Scholarship, Shane Bennett M.S. ’04, who serves on NIRSA’s fundraising committee, and John Washo M.S. ’03 (both grads of the kinesiology department) were awarded Will Holsberry Scholarships for professional development. In addition, three Western T-shirt designs entered in a design contest at the conference received honorable mention awards.

Current NIRSA Foundation Board of Directors Vice President Stan Campbell M.S. ’75, who received Western’s Alumni Achievement Award in Fall 2013, attended the reception; Campbell is the associate vice chancellor for student affairs and director of Campus Recreation at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Also attending the reception were J.T. Timmons M.S. ’02 (sport management), director, University of Iowa Recreation Services, as well as Brian Baxter 99 M.S. ’01 (kinesiology), lead assistant director—fitness operations at University of Illinois Campus Recreation. Other WIU alumni recognized for their service to the field and to the NIRSA organization include James Wayne ’03 M.S. ’06 (accountancy and sport management), president of the Illinois IRS (IIRSA) group, and Scott Vandermondo M.S. ’06 (sport management), who was honored with a service award in Fall 2013 by the IIRSA.

Every year, NIRSA’s conference provides professional-development opportunities to individuals who work in recreation on campuses or universities. Programs, presentations and events at the conference cover such areas as: equity/diversity; inclusion; experiential learning; facility management and planning and design; fitness, health/wellbeing; global perspectives; leadership; intramurals, officiating, extramurals; marketing/public relations; personal/professional development; risk management/legal; special event programming, sports clubs; strategic planning; student learning outcomes; sustainable communities and technology.

Learn more about NIRSA at www.nirs.org.

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which WIU EDL faculty are involved is a $4.64 million U.S. Department of Education School Leadership Grant-funded project. This grant is designed to study the effectiveness of the new principal preparation program internship and partnership development for preparing effective principals to work in high-needs schools (see wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=11402).

According to WIU EDL Assistant Professor Carol Webb, Quincy Public Schools and Western’s EDL department have committed to the IL-FART (Illinois Partnerships Advancing Rigorous Training) project through 2019. Other partnerships that received these grant funds include ISU and Bloomington Public Schools, as well as North Central College and the East Aurora District. The focus of the project is to prepare candidates for building leadership by working a full semester in a high-needs school with a principal mentor through the university-district partnership.

“The research involved in our partnership with Quincy Public Schools is another piece of the evaluation part of the principal preparation redesign. We will be evaluating the difference between those who have a full semester of release time to participate in the internship part of his or her principal preparation program, compared to those in the traditional model, who are participating in an internship but who are also continuing to teach or fulfill his or her regular position’s full-time responsibilities during the internship,” Webb explained.

“Through the internship, we will be evaluating the difference between those who have a full semester of release time to participate in the internship part of his or her principal preparation program, compared to those in the traditional model, who are participating in an internship but who are also continuing to teach or fulfill his or her regular position’s full-time responsibilities during the internship,” Webb explained.

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Learn more about NIRSA at www.nirs.org.

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which WIU EDL faculty are involved is a $4.64 million U.S. Department of Education School Leadership Grant-funded project. This grant is designed to study the effectiveness of the new principal preparation program internship and partnership development for preparing effective principals to work in high-needs schools (see wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=11402).

According to WIU EDL Assistant Professor Carol Webb, Quincy Public Schools and Western’s EDL department have committed to the IL-FART (Illinois Partnerships Advancing Rigorous Training) project through 2019. Other partnerships that received these grant funds include ISU and Bloomington Public Schools, as well as North Central College and the East Aurora District. The focus of the project is to prepare candidates for building leadership by working a full semester in a high-needs school with a principal mentor through the university-district partnership.

“The research involved in our partnership with Quincy Public Schools is another piece of the evaluation part of the principal preparation redesign. We will be evaluating the difference between those who have a full semester of release time to participate in the internship part of his or her principal preparation program, compared to those in the traditional model, who are participating in an internship but who are also continuing to teach or fulfill his or her regular position’s full-time responsibilities during the internship,” Webb explained.

“Through these relationships, the loyalty of our former students and the instilled value of giving back and paying it forward, we are able to make connections for internships and employment for our current and future graduate students.”

MacDonell also noted Campus Recreation Associate Director Judy Yeast M.S. ’81 has been instrumental in keeping in touch with former students, noting that she “is the constant who has been a part of Campus Recreation through the years.”

“It is fun to see our newer staff members also develop these lasting relationships. We have a wide variety of highly accomplished professionals throughout the nation in various areas of student affairs. Western Illinois University is a major influence and is well respected in the collegiate recreation profession,” MacDonell noted.

Terstriep, who serves on the Creative Excellence Award Selection committee and the Sustainability committee for the national organization, added WIU alumni were recognized during various events/activities at the conference. Some of those honored included Samantha Wallace M.S. ’14 (sport management), who was awarded a Professional Development Scholarship, Shane Bennett M.S. ’04, who serves on NIRSA’s fundraising committee, and John Washo M.S. ’03 (both grads of the kinesiology department) were awarded Will Holsberry Scholarships for professional development. In addition, three Western T-shirt designs entered in a design contest at the conference received honorable mention awards.

Current NIRSA Foundation Board of Directors Vice President Stan Campbell M.S. ’75, who received Western’s Alumni Achievement Award in Fall 2013, attended the reception; Campbell is the associate vice chancellor for student affairs and director of Campus Recreation at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Also attending the reception were J.T. Timmons M.S. ’02 (sport management), director, University of Iowa Recreation Services, as well as Brian Baxter 99 M.S. ’01 (kinesiology), lead assistant director—fitness operations at University of Illinois Campus Recreation. Other WIU alumni recognized for their service to the field and to the NIRSA organization include James Wayne ’03 M.S. ’06 (accountancy and sport management), president of the Illinois IRS (IIRSA) group, and Scott Vandermondo M.S. ’06 (sport management), who was honored with a service award in Fall 2013 by the IIRSA.

Every year, NIRSA’s conference provides professional-development opportunities to individuals who work in recreation on campuses or universities. Programs, presentations and events at the conference cover such areas as: equity/diversity; inclusion; experiential learning; facility management and planning and design; fitness, health/wellbeing; global perspectives; leadership; intramurals, officiating, extramurals; marketing/public relations; personal/professional development; risk management/legal; special event programming, sports clubs; strategic planning; student learning outcomes; sustainable communities and technology.

Learn more about NIRSA at www.nirs.org.
Join Western Illinois University alumni, current and former faculty and staff members, students, Friends of Horn (HFC’s advisory board) and members of the western Illinois community at “Lodge and Libations” from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at Horn Lodge. Remarks from WIU Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA) Professor Emeritus Frank Lupton are scheduled for 6 p.m.

In addition to kicking off the yearlong celebration that commemorates the 50 years that Horn Field Campus (HFC) has been part of Western (1965-2015), the fundraising event will also have a future focus. For the last few years, faculty and staff in WIU’s RPTA department and in the College of Education and Human Services have been working on the goal of raising funds for a new outdoor education building on the 92-acre campus. With the assistance of the Friends of Horn, RPTA and HFC faculty and staff have devoted years to creating a master plan and physical plans for a building.

To register, visit wiu.com/alumni.

Since 1971—when RPTA Professor Emeritus Frank Lupton (pictured here, facing the camera, at Horn Field Campus, c. 1973) first envisioned the 92-acre haven as an ideal location for the outdoor educational purpose of instructing his RPTA students—Horn Field Campus has continued to evolve. And while the large campus provides many amenities—it includes woodlands, prairie, several miles of nature trails, as well as a challenge course (that features a high ropes course) and a 40-foot climbing wall—for the faculty, students and community members, the building infrastructure situated on the campus is close to 80 years old.

Lupton will make the trek back to his beloved HFC, from his home in Minnesota, for the Lodge and Libations event later this month.
Communication professor studying addiction recovery of veterans

Western Illinois University Assistant Professor of Communication Brendan Young has devoted his research efforts to the study of how social support groups help alcoholics and addicts, particularly United States veterans, in their recovery.

As Young began his undergraduate education and continued on to graduate school, he began research with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Iowa City (IA). His current research is also funded through the VA.

Young came to Western in 2012 after completing a fellowship with the VA. His interest in veterans came because his late father was an Army veteran and during his time working in Iowa City, Young saw first-hand the physical and mental health problems veterans struggle with, particularly those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I still find it remarkable that simply communicating with other people can actually heal people afflicted with substance use disorder,” Young said.

Young hopes to have some preliminary results of his research soon to determine whether the intervention in addiction patients reduces the occurrence of relapses and whether encouraging family members to foster support-group meeting attendance makes a difference. The program also connects veterans with at least one recovering person in their hometown.

“Earlier research with veterans in urban areas resulted in a 24 percent increase in abstinent rates, and we hypothesize similar outcomes with rural veterans,” Young said. “Going forward, our study’s results and feedback together will help us streamline the intervention and retain only the components that are most beneficial and least disruptive to the status quo in both residential and outpatient facilities.”

Young received his bachelor’s degree from Duke University in public policy studies and political science, his master’s degree from the University of Florida in communication arts, his MBA from Tulane University and his doctoral degree from the University of Iowa.

Communication professor studying farm culture in India

A communication professor starting his first semester of teaching at Western Illinois University this fall is conducting research on food insecure farmers in central India.

Assistant Professor Rahul Rastogi is looking at suicides among Indian farmers for the past decade, which alarmingly measure one every half hour for the past 10 years.

“For my research, I document this distress as experienced by rural communities in central India,” Rastogi said. “I do this by humbly listening to the voices of the people affected by this problem. I have spent a total of 10 months in villages of central India to study this phenomenon.”

A primary purpose of Rastogi’s research is to understand the phenomenon of agrarian distress in central India through the personal stories of the farmers. He said he learned of this “unfortunate phenomenon” during his first year of graduate work and was immediately interested in the topic.

“One of the main lessons from my research has been in the area of local organizing for change,” he said. “While documenting the problems of struggling farmers in central India, I was able to closely observe cultural initiatives that farmers took to confront their disempowerment. One insight Rastogi gained from his research has been to recognize community members as “agents of change,” which he said led him to create pathways to integrate local knowledge and expertise to help solve problems in that society.

Rastogi has also worked with members of an Indian community to start a weekly “haat,” which is a local market. The result has been better selling prices for farmers than if their products were purchased by big markets, which are run by the government or “private players.”

“This organizing has resulted in providing a local solution to counteract the problem of poverty and food insecurity,” he said.

Rastogi received his bachelor’s degree in English literature at the University of Lucknow in his hometown in India, his master’s degree in English from The English and Foreign Languages University and is finishing his doctorate at Purdue University.
WIU faculty and graduate students use two-part grant to study Asian carp

By Jodi Pospeschil

The invasion of Asian carp into western Illinois waterways and their life history and interactions are part of a grant-funded research project being conducted by two Western Illinois University faculty and four graduate students.

The faculty and students are studying the invasive species in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and more specifically at WIU’s Alice L. Kibbe Field Station near Warsaw (IL). The field station is made up of 222 acres of WIU-owned property and 1,260 acres of land owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

WIU Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Sean Jenkins and Kibbe Field Station Manager Jim Lamer ’01 MS ’06, have been awarded $30,000 by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to continue their research of Asian carp. The award is the second part of a grant that started with a 2013 award of $45,777.

The WIU-based study is called, “Ecological Studies on Asian Carp to Assess Habitat Selection, Migration, Feeding Behaviors and Potential Recruitment Constraints to Inform Control Measures.”

“Over the past two years we have developed a productive and rewarding relationship with the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) (USGS, LaCrosse, WI) to investigate Asian carp life history and their interaction with native fauna as their densities continue to increase in the Upper Mississippi River Basin,” said Lamer. “Each agency is working on different aspects of the project, bringing all the pieces together at the end for a comprehensive examination of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River.”

Jenkins and Lamer said they hope the WIU study will add to the limited amount of habitat information available on juvenile Asian carp.

“Habitat use by juvenile Asian carp is poorly understood within the invaded range of the Mississippi River Basin, but it is suspected that this critical life history stage utilizes shallow, nutrient rich habitats for recruitment and predator avoidance,” said Lamer. “The increase in Asian carp density and recent detection of eggs from several locations above Lock and Dam 19 (LD19) have created a need to better understand juvenile Asian carp behavior, be able to predict their preferential habitat use, and determine the role they serve as forage for our native predatory fish species.”

Pool 19, located just north of the Kibbe Field Station, is unique on the Upper Mississippi River because of its abundance of aquatic vegetation and shallow water habitats, providing potential ideal living areas for juvenile Asian carp.

Eli Lampo ’14, left, and Tad Locher ’12 pulling a tandem fyke net as part of the Asian carp habitat use study.

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Through the WIU study, the faculty and graduate students will sample random sites in Pool 19 through October to check for the presence of juvenile Asian carp.

If Asian carp are found within the pool, all potential predators in the pool will be captured and studied to check whether carp are part of their regular diet.

Through the WIU research study, the hope is to ultimately help with plans for management and control of Asian carp.

Graduate students working as part of this study came from the WIU Department of Biological Sciences and include Cory Anderson, of Morrison (IL); Rebekah Haun ’10, of McNabb (IL); Eli Lampo ’14, of Crystal Lake (IL), and Tad Locher ’12, of Springfield (IL).

Anderson and Haun are working on their second year of sampling through the study, looking at the diets of potential predators of Asian carp. The samples were collected from 168 sites in Mississippi River Pools 19 and 20.

Through his first summer on the project, Lampo is sampling 184 backwater and vegetated areas to assess the habitats of juvenile Asian carp and their predators. Locher is doing his own research on qualifying the carp as part of the diet of adult blue catfish.

The grant-funded research is being conducted to also provide information about the native fish community in the Mississippi River and will also help with the analysis of the community’s attributes, such as structure and composition.

For more information about the Kibbe Field Station, visit wiu.edu/kibbe.

Eli Lampo ’14 is pictured in front of a paired tandem mini-fyke/tandem fyke net set in shallow water habitat.

Rebekah Haun ’10 is pictured recording data for her electrofishing project.

Cory Anderson displays a largemouth bass captured during electrofishing (diet examined as potential juvenile Asian carp predator).
History professor brings experience to the CAS Advancement Advisory Board

By Bryce Dexter

Being actively involved with committees and boards has been a way of life for Western Illinois University alumnus Jim Phillips '98 M.A. ’00.

“I have always liked operating behind the scenes and hoping that I can help make an experience as good or better than I had, so that someone else will want to do the same, and in time they will also want to give back,” Phillips said.

Phillips has served on over two dozen boards and committees since graduating from WIU. Among those roles, he has served as vice president of the Forrestville Valley School Foundation, the chair of the WIU Alumni Admissions Committee while a member on the Alumni Council and now, his most recent role, as president of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Advancement Advisory Board.

“Jim has been a wonderful source of support for the history department and the College of Arts and Sciences,” said CAS Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez. “We are all pleased that Jim will be assuming the leadership role on our Board.”

Phillips was a transfer student from Highland Community College in Freeport (IL). Visiting a high school friend one weekend at WIU convinced him that Macomb was the place for him.

As an undergraduate, he majored in history, with a minor in political science, and continued his love for U.S. history as a graduate student. He had always wanted to be an instructor at a community college, which led him back to Highland Community College. Phillips has been with Highland for the last 15 years, where he teaches European history and political science and was the founding director of the school’s Honors College.

When asked if there were any professors who made an impact on his life and career, he added, “Drs. Virginia Boynton, Darrell Dykstra, Virginia Jelatis and Tom Watkins.”

“All of them, in their own unique way, made learning fun and confirmed to me that I wanted to be a teacher,” he said. “Also, they each pushed me to achieve more and encouraged me to go after my goals. As I said in my WIU Department of History Distinguished Alumni Speech in 2009, I have always felt the history department has tried to develop scholars, but also build a sense of community. I learned more than content and how to be a scholar from my professors; I learned how to be a good teacher and mentor to my students.”

Phillips’ involvement with boards and committees has fostered his belief to give back to those places that have helped him.

“I have gotten so much from these places, and as far as what Western gave me, there is not any amount I could give back that would compare to what I received.

- JIM PHILLIPS ’98 M.A. ’00

Western alumnna honored with fellowship to study in Ireland

Western Illinois University alumnna Jessica Toops ’13, of Aledo (IL), has been awarded a $5,000 fellowship from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, which will allow her to further her studies in Northern Ireland.

Toops, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history and a minor in English, will move to Belfast, Northern Ireland in September to attend Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) for Irish studies.

“I received an international student bursary from QUB that will cover 100 percent of my tuition/fees, but it has no maintenance component,” Toops said. “The fellowship from Phi Kappa Phi will make it possible for me to afford my living expenses in Belfast.”

While at Western, Toops said her support system through the WIU Department of History and the Centennial Honors College helped her prepare to be the University’s nominee for the national fellowship.

“Dr. Jennifer McNabb and Dr. Jill Myers in particular deserve my special thanks for their guidance with the fellowship application,” she said.

McNabb, who was a thesis adviser and a mentor for Toops at Western, said the fellowship award is a tribute to Toops’ undergraduate career and her potential for academic success in Ireland.

“Jessica was an exceptional student during her time at WIU, and she served as an excellent ambassador of the WIU Department of History, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Centennial Honors College,” McNabb said. “Her accomplished Honors thesis, ‘Institutional and Societal Treatment of Homosexuality in Northern Ireland during the Troubles,’ demonstrates her considerable vision and skills as a researcher and writer, and I was privileged to have the opportunity to serve as her research supervisor and to learn with and from her.”

Toops said he has an eventual goal of teaching at the university level after completing her studies in Ireland and pursuing a doctorate in history.

Phi Kappa Phi awarded a total of $345,000 in fellowships to 57 students in 2014. The awards are given to students in their first year of graduate or professional study. Students are chosen based on graduate potential, undergraduate academic achievement, service and leadership experience, letters of recommendation, a personal statement of educational perspective and career goals and acceptance in an approved graduate or professional program.

The Phi Kappa Phi national honor society was founded in 1897 and is the oldest and most selective collegiate professional program.

The Phi Kappa Phi national honor society was founded in 1897 and is the oldest and most selective collegiate professional program. The society inducts an estimated 32,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni each year.

There are more than 300 Phi Kappa Phi chapters on college and university campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Students in the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors are recruited for membership each year. Faculty, professional staff and alumni with scholarly distinction also qualify to be members.

For more information on the fellowship program, visit phikappaphi.org.

Biology alumnna named Teaching Fellow

Western Illinois University alumnna Lauren Kline M.S. ’13, has been named a teaching fellow by the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF).

Kline, who received her master’s degree in biology and a post baccalaureate certificate in zoo and aquarium studies from Western, is a science teacher at Kenwood Academy High School in Chicago. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from The College of Idaho and a master’s degree in teaching from the University of Chicago.

KSTF chose Kline as one of its 32 fellows from a field of 180 applicants. The teaching foundation has a goal of improving teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and training and supporting them as leaders from the beginning of their teaching careers.

KSTF offers its fellows stipends, money for professional development, grants for teaching materials and opportunities for leadership development and mentoring through the five-year fellowship program.

The KSTF was established in 1999 by Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles to increase the number of quality high school science and mathematics teachers and to improve math and science education in the United States.

For more information about the KSTF teaching fellowships, visit kstf.org.
Stevenson returns as track and field coach

Western Illinois University Athletics announced the return of a standout student-athlete and coach as Mike Stevenson ’87 M.S. ’91 was hired as the head coach for the men’s and women’s cross country/track and field programs.

“As we evaluated the candidate pool for our head cross country/track and field coach position, we received interest from a lot of qualified coaches. Mike Stevenson stood out on our list. Mike knows what it means to be a Leatherneck. He competed here as a student-athlete and had a successful coaching career at Western,” said WIU Athletic Director Tommy Bell. “We feel Mike will be a great role model for our current student-athletes and will do a great job representing the University. We welcome Mike’s return to Western Illinois University.”

“I am excited to rejoin the Leatherneck family,” Stevenson added. “It’s a great opportunity for my family and me to come back to Western Illinois University, Leatherneck Athletics and the city of Macomb. I want to thank [Athletic Director] Tommy Bell, [Deputy Director of Athletics] Matt Tanney and the search committee for this opportunity.”

Stevenson rejoins Western after spending the last two years as the director of cross country/track and field at the California Institute of Technology. During his tenure, the program set 10 school records. The women’s team had their highest conference championship placing ever in back-to-back seasons. Several male and female student-athletes ranked among the “Top 50” nationally. Academically, the men’s track and cross country teams each ranked No. 1 nationally in grade point average in 2013.

He spent from 2010-12 at Purdue University as the assistant track and field coach. Stevenson was responsible for sprints and hurdlers. While with the Boilermakers, he helped bring home the program’s first Big Ten sprint championship in seven years. The Purdue sprint and hurdle athletes set five school records and produced multiple NCAA Championship qualifiers. During the 2011 season, Stevenson served as the interim throws coach and led that group to nine first-round berths, three national qualifying berths and one All-American honor.

For 19 years, Stevenson coached the Leatherneck track and field program—including the final eight as the head coach overseeing both the men’s and women’s team. In those eight years, Stevenson was a five-time Coach of the Year and the program won five championships.

“Coach (Mike) Stevenson distinguished himself from a talented pool of applicants during the interview process,” said Tanney. “We are confident Mike can build a championship culture in our cross country/track & field programs. We are excited to welcome him and his family back to Macomb.”

He guided 104 student-athletes to individual conference championships and coached 23 NCAA Division I national qualifiers. Eight WIU athletes earned conference Player of the Year honors under Stevenson, as well as six athletes named conference Newcomer of the Year. Before being named head coach in 2000, he served as the assistant track and field coach from 1991-99.

“Western Illinois University has a great tradition in track and field, and I am proud to say that I was a part of that and will be again,” said Stevenson. “I’m looking forward to the challenges ahead. There are a lot of great pieces to the puzzle already in place, now we’ll start putting everything together and build for the future.”

In 2001, Stevenson was selected to teach at both the NCAA’s YES (Youth Education Seminar) and the World Scholar-Athlete Games. A published author, Stevenson has had his work appear in Scholastic Coach and Administrator magazine. Stevenson is a USA Track and Field (USATF) Level II certified coach.

A former Leatherneck standout in the classroom and on the track, Stevenson was a multiple all-conference academic and athletic selection. The two-time team captain still ranks among Western’s all-time top sprinters. Stevenson earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1987 and his master’s degree in physical education in 1991.

Women’s basketball posts fifth highest GPA in Division I

Western Illinois women’s basketball excelled in the classroom this past season, posting the fifth highest GPA among Division I women’s basketball programs. The Leathernecks recorded a cumulative team GPA of 3.607, highest among all programs in The Summit League.

“Our coaching staff made a commitment when we arrived three years ago to build this program the right way, and I think being ranked in the top five nationally for GPA is a direct result of the type of student-athletes we are bringing to Western Illinois University,” said head coach JD Gravina. “These young women are intelligent, hard-working, and very intrinsically motivated. I’m incredibly proud of our team and thankful to the WBCA [Women’s Basketball Coaches Association] for giving them this recognition.”

Seven members of the team were named to The Summit League Academic Honor Roll in 2013-14, posting a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Of those seven, four earned the Distinguished Scholar award: Rebecca Henricson, Ashley Luke (Macomb), Tori Niemann ’13 and Liz Skotowski (Mt. Vernon, IL). During the Spring 2014 semester, Michelle Farrow (Waukesha, IL), Henricson, Luke and Niemann earned a 4.0 GPA.

The WBCA Academic Top 25 annually recognizes NCAA Division I, II and III; NAIA; and junior/community college women’s basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined grade point average inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2013-14 season is the 19th in which the WBCA has compiled the honor rolls.

The Fighting Leathernecks kick-off the 2014-15 season Nov. 6 when they play host to William Jewell in an exhibition, set to tip-off at 7 p.m. CT. The regular season opens Saturday, Nov. 15 with a road contest against the University of Missouri, while the Leathernecks open the home slate of the regular season against William Woods at 7 p.m. Nov. 17.

Allen named women’s tennis coach

Western Illinois University Athletics named Raquel Allen as the head coach of the women’s tennis program. Allen joins the staff after spending the past two seasons as the women’s tennis head coach at Indiana Tech.

“We are excited to have Raquel join the Leatherneck family,” said WIU Athletics Director Tommy Bell. “Already in her brief coaching career, Raquel has twice been named Coach of the Year. She will work hard to build our women’s tennis program into a contender in The Summit League.”

“I want to thank Tommy Bell for this incredible opportunity to be a part of such a great institution like Western,” said Allen. “I also would like to thank my former coach Eric Burns and Ron Clark at Fort Wayne for all the mentoring they have provided me, which has helped me to prepare for this incredible opportunity at WIU.”

In each of her two years at the helm of the Warrior program, Allen was the recipient of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Women’s Tennis Coach of the Year Award.

This will be the second stint in the Summit League for Allen, as she was a member of the Fort Wayne women’s tennis team from 2009-12. A co-captain her junior and senior seasons, Allen was named the team’s Most Valuable Player in 2012 and was a two-time Summit League all-league selection. She was also named a Chancellor’s Merit Award recipient all four years.

Allen was a member of the Mastodons team that made their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 2010 against Notre Dame, and followed that with back-to-back appearances in 2011, facing Northwestern.

Allen graduated from Fort Wayne with a bachelor’s degree in interpersonal and organizational communication and a minor in psychology. Allen went on to earn her master’s degree in organizational leadership from Indiana Tech.
New Western Hall court named LeRoy A. Ufkes Court

Over the summer, the playing court inside Western Hall underwent a renovation. Not only will the court for Leatherneck basketball (and used by other programs) have a new look, thanks to a donation from the family of a Western Illinois University Athletics Hall of Fame member, it now has a new name as well.

WIU Athletic Director Tommy Bell announced the Western Hall playing court is now known as the LeRoy A. Ufkes Court, honoring the 1996 Hall of Fame inductee. The Leathernecks received a generous donation by Joan Aleshire-Ufkes ’54 and the late LeRoy Ufkes, and the court will be officially dedicated during the 2014-15 basketball season.

“Thank you to the Ufkes family for their generous gift to make the basketball court project a reality. The new floor will give our men and women a top level playing surface, and I think our fans will really like the court design,” said Bell.

Ufkes was a long-time contributor to the WIU Athletics Department. A lifelong resident of nearby Carthage, Ufkes and his wife, Joan, have supported the Leathernecks for more than 25 years.

The new look features the anchor/bulldog logo at mid-court with a dark stained area inside the 3-point arc. Both endlines are shaded in purple with gold Western Illinois lettering across the east endline and Leathernecks across the west endline.

The court is a product of Horner Sports Flooring. A maple wood floor, the controlled response performance system floor is designed to take the rigors of a heavy-use facility. Trotter Construction was the contractor for the job, and Top Performance did the installation.

It replaces the parquet floor (similar to the old Boston Gardens), which was in place for the last 21 years. From 1973-93, the Western Hall court consisted of a tartan floor look. The previous court was named thanks to the sponsorship of Waste Management.

“On behalf of Leatherneck Athletics, I’d like to thank Waste Management for their continued support. We are excited to welcome them as one of our inaugural partners in our new Elite Corporate sponsorship program,” said Bell.

All 20 sports programs utilize Western Hall in some capacity, whether for practice, workouts or home events. In addition to being the main location for Leatherneck Athletics, Western Hall also serves as the venue for numerous physical education activities and major Bureau of Cultural Affairs events, including concerts, musicals and multi-cultural entertainment for all ages, as well as convocation and commencement.

Leatherneck Club hits 13-year high

During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, supporters of Western Illinois University Athletics have responded, and in a big way. With the fiscal year now complete, contributions to WIU Athletics totaled more than $636,000, and the Leatherneck Club grew by more than 300 members.

“Let me start by thanking all the loyal Leathernecks who helped us reach our highest membership level since 2001,” said Director of Athletics Tommy Bell. “Our goal was 750 members, and while we fell short of that, this was just the first year of a five-year strategic plan for Athletics development. I have no doubt we will reach our future goals with the tremendous support of our boosters.”

From October 2013 to June 2014, Leatherneck Club membership climbed from 343 to 650. For the first time since 2001, total cash exceeded $300,000 to the Leatherneck Club, and total giving to WIU Athletics exceeded $636,000.

The Leatherneck Club saw increases in five of its eight giving levels, including All-American ($1,000-2,999), which jumped from 50 members in 2012-13 to 88 members in FY 2014. The number of VIP ($3,000-4,999) donors doubled, increasing from seven to 14.

“The Leatherneck Club must be strong in membership for WIU Athletics to be successful,” said Assistant Director of Athletics for Development Michael Jones M.S. ’12.

“This is a fantastic start, and while we are pleased with what we have accomplished, we have our sights set on facility upgrades, increased scholarship support and ensuring the very best Division I experience for our student-athletes.”

Founded in 1971, the Leatherneck Club is the primary fundraising program of WIU Athletics. It provides annual funding for more than 430 student-athletes, allowing them to excel in the classroom and compete at the NCAA Division I level.

To join the Leatherneck Club, visit GoLeathernecks.com or call (309) 298-1190. Membership benefits begin at just $50 and increase with gift level.

WIU Athletics announces staff promotions

Western Illinois Athletic Director Tommy Bell announced staff promotions and department changes as part of the department’s reorganization.

Matt Tanney has been promoted to deputy director of athletics. Tanney joined Western in 2012 as associate athletic director in charge of student-athlete services, in addition to being the liaison with facility management and holding sport administrative duties.

Tanney now oversees business operations and human resources/personnel matters, while adding sport supervision of women’s basketball. He will continue to oversee compliance, academic services, athletic training, game administration and strength and conditioning. In addition to women’s basketball, he serves as the sport administrator for baseball, men’s soccer and the cross country/track and field programs.

Lisa Melz-Jennings M.S. ’94 received a promotion to associate athletic director. She continues to oversee the academic services area, while also serving as the department’s senior woman administrator. Melz-Jennings, who served as the interim athletic director last summer prior to Bell’s arrival, has sport supervision of softball, swimming/diving, men’s tennis and women’s tennis. She begins her 16th year with the department.

Julie Gibbes, director of compliance for the last year, added the title of assistant athletic director. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the compliance office, financial aid and eligibility certification for all 20 sports programs.

Kelsey Laverdiere has been promoted to assistant athletic director in charge of corporate relations, promotions and special events. She is also the liaison with the cheerleading program. Laverdiere begins her third year with Leatherneck Athletics.

As part of the restructuring, the men’s basketball, football, women’s soccer and volleyball programs will report directly to Bell as he enters his second year in charge. He will directly oversee all of the department’s external relations areas.

Another department will undergo a name change. The former media services department will now be known as athletic communications. Assistant Athletic Director Patrick Osterman enters his sixth year in charge of the athletic department’s website (GoLeathernecks.com) and publicity of all 20 sport programs and the student-athletes. Osterman serves as the sport supervisor of men’s and women’s golf, while serving as the liaison with the broadcasting department.

“I did an evaluation of the athletic department upon completing the first fiscal year of my administration, and decided we needed to make some necessary changes,” said Bell. “I wanted to streamline our day-to-day internal operations, allowing me to spend more time on our external relations. We are putting together our facility master plan, but in order to make this a reality, we need to put an increased emphasis on our external relations—cultivate corporate relations, increase membership in the Leatherneck Club and increase ticket sales. WIU Athletics is very fortunate to have a dynamic staff in place that works hard each and every day to enhance the student-athlete experience. The title promotions represent a reflection of their hard work and dedication.”

Golf Classic a success

The 2014 Leatherneck Club Golf Classic featured 32 teams and raised more than $9,000 for WIU Athletics.

Photos from the 37th annual event can be seen on the Golf Classic homepage at GoLeathernecks.com / LeatherneckClub. Founded in 1971, the Leatherneck Club is the primary fundraising program of Western Illinois University Athletics. It provides annual funding for more than 430 student-athletes, allowing them to excel in the classroom and compete at the NCAA Division I level.
Foundation

Dear Alumni and Friends

Thank you!

On December 31, 2013 the Foundation completed and exceeded its goal of $60 million for the Higher Values in Higher Education campaign for Western Illinois University. Words alone cannot express my sincere appreciation for the gifts in support of this monumental effort. Not only has the impact been felt immediately with millions of dollars in cash gifts and pledges, our future students benefitted from this campaign with the influx of charitable estate plans.

In 1990, the foundation had an endowment of approximately $1 million. By 2004 the endowment had grown to $14 million. Now, ten years later and having weathered a severe downturn in the economy during the last decade, the endowment has grown to nearly $43 million and the foundation now has total assets approaching $60 million. Your support and the growth of the endowment and our scholarship program have had a significant influence on our students.

How wonderful it was at a recent banquet on campus to hear so many of our students talk about the education they have received at Western, the careers they were about to embark upon, and the fact that because of scholarships they were graduating with little, or in some cases, no debt. Even better, it was moving to see many of our donors in the crowd and to hear the student speakers mention their scholarship donors from the podium and to see the pride on the faces of the donors.

I am a first generation college graduate; I know that you and many of our 125,000 alumni can make that same statement or that you followed another family member who was the first to attend college. And like you, Western had a tremendous impact on so many different areas of my life. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had because of Western, and I am more than happy to give back to help my alma mater through some difficult times being faced by higher education in Illinois.

The largest portion of our student body is still comprised of first generation college students. It is absolutely heart-warming to hear a student thank a benefactor for a scholarship and then hear the student say I might not have graduated with your support. We need your support to continue our mission of keeping our students in school through graduation. Please contact my office, or the offices of our development officers, if you would like to make a gift or discuss your charitable estate plans. I promise, you will not regret it.

Please visit us in Macomb or in the Quad Cities or at one of our many alumni events around the country in the coming months. Thank you for your generosity!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brad Bainter ’79 M.S. ’83
Vice President, Advancement and Public Services
Executive Officer, WIU Foundation

Major gift highlights 2014 Foundation year in review:

- Seven figure combination outright and planned gift from alumni and longtime supporters Ken ’46 MS-Ed ’52 & Lorraine ’48 MS-Ed ’52 Epperson met the Foundation’s $60 million Higher Values in Higher Education campaign goal. The gift directs $1.5 million to the Center for the Performing Arts (CPA).
- $313,000 from the estate of Gordana Rezab for TriStates Public Radio, Television Services and the general scholarship fund.
- $253,000 estate gift from Robert L. Hodges, 1943 English education alumnus for English education majors aspiring to teach English literature or language in a public school setting.
- $125,000 from former WIU Foundation Board member Jean Aleshire-Ufkes ’54 for WIU Athletics.
- Nearly $60,000 from the estate of Dorothy Allen ’32 MS-Ed ’57 to benefit WIU math majors from McDonough County.
- $55,000 from WIU alumni and friends around the country who participated in the NCAA’s 6th Fan Competition to see which college or university had the best fans in the nation.
- $50,000 stock gift from the estate of Maxene Brooks ’40

Scholarships—Helping students succeed

The Foundation Scholarship Program at Western Illinois University attracts talented and promising students to the University, rewards academic achievement and makes a Western education more affordable to qualified students; scholarships enable many students to complete their education and meet academic career goals. The Western Illinois University Foundation Scholarship Program awards hundreds of named scholarships to students each year thanks to the financial support of alumni, friends of WIU, businesses and corporations, faculty and staff and private individuals. Donors often choose to perpetuate a family member or family name by establishing either an annual or endowed scholarship through the WIU Foundation. Below are highlights of the support and generosity from donors in Fiscal Year 2014:

- The WIU Foundation distributed more than $2.6 million in student scholarships this past year. Including institution-based aid and more scholarships, more than $4.8 million was awarded to over 4,200 WIU students in fiscal 2014.
- Scholarship awards represented more than 33 percent of the Foundation’s total expenditures for the year.
- New contributions added an additional $1.5 million to the endowment for scholarships, assistantships, research and similar areas.
- Donors to the WIU Scholarship Program include alumni, parents and relatives of WIU alumni, students, current and retired faculty and staff members.

The following new scholarships were established through the WIU Foundation in Fiscal Year 2014. We thank the individuals, corporations and foundations whose generosity made these scholarships possible.

- Dorothy Allen Scholarship Fund
- Dale & Esther Armstrong Scholarship Fund
- Bea Jeans for Scholarships (Beu Health Center Employees)
- Clyde Brooks Scholarships
- Dean & Sharon Chenoweth Agriculture Scholarship
- Robert “Bob” Erekson Construction Management Scholarship
- James T. Greer Agriculture Scholarship
- Hawkinson Study Abroad Scholarship
- George Hermann Scholarship in Sports Management
- Hurh Scholarship in Sociology
- Oluseye Kolawole International Student Scholarship
- Patrick H. Kulisek Fund
- Pete Lackey Memorial LEJA Scholarship
- Charolette Megginson Scholarship
- Paul & Sheila Nollen Biological Science Research Fund
- Phi Sigma Sigma Textbook Scholarship
Higher Values in Higher Education: The Campaign for Western Illinois University

Western Illinois University President Jack Thomas, along with the WIU Foundation and its Board of Directors, announced the successful completion of the $60 million Higher Values in Higher Education campaign. The campaign officially ended Dec. 31, 2013, raising a total of $62.1 million.

“Tremendous support we received and our dedicated Foundation Board. I am especially grateful to the leadership provided by President Thomas, President Emeritus Al Goldfarb and our dedicated Foundation Board. I am extremely grateful to the leadership provided by President Thomas, President Emeritus Al Goldfarb and our dedicated Foundation Board. I am especially appreciative of the tremendous support we received from our alumni and friends. Finally, I want to thank all Western’s development officers and Foundation staff members for their hard work to help us exceed our goal.”

According to Bainter, the success of the campaign has had a tremendous impact on the WIU Foundation. The University’s endowment has increased to $40 million from $16 million and the institution’s total asset base is now nearly $16 million. Earnings from the endowment support student scholarships, academic programs, critical University needs and many initiatives on both campuses. Planned gifts also comprise part of the $62 million total.

“On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I thank each and every donor who contributed to the success of this campaign,” said Foundation Board President Jim Lodico ’62 MS-Ed ’75 of Geneseo, IL. “From the one-figure to the seven-figure gift, each makes a difference and improves the education we offer our students.”

Many campaign funds have gone directly to scholarships, academics, athletics, performing arts, lab equipment and research activities.

“Western has achieved so much and experienced so many positives during these difficult economic times,” said Bainter. “Words really cannot express our appreciation for the generosity shown during this campaign. The real success of the campaign is the impact on our students and our campuses. I invite you to visit either the Macomb or Quad Cities campus to see for yourself how your investment contributes to the vitality of this great University.”

Dear Alumni & Friends of Western,

In serving as President of the WIU Foundation Board of Directors, I am impressed by the support and commitment the many alumni and friends give to the University. Because of you, the $60 million Higher Values in Higher Education campaign goal was met and surpassed. Thank you!

The generosity helps sustain our scholarship program that distributed more than $2.6 million to students this past year. Scholarship support represents 34 percent of the Foundation’s expenditures.

With the continued support of our many donors, WIU will remain one of the top universities in the Midwest.

I hope you have the chance to visit our new WIU Riverfront campus in Moline. With Phases I and II now complete, the campus is a great addition to the Quad Cities region.

On behalf of the WIU Foundation Board of Directors, we thank you all for your continued support.

Think Purple – Think Success – Think Western!

Sincerely,

Jim Lodico ’62 MS-Ed ’75
President, WIU Foundation Board

WIU-Quad Cities Foundation Year in Review

Growth, progress, and success characterized Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 for Western Illinois University-Quad Cities. Enrollment increased again in fall 2013, highlighted by a record-high undergraduate enrollment of 962 students (up 20 percent from 2012) and leading to a record total enrollment of 1,502 students.

The Phase II complex on the Riverfront Campus was completed this summer, and the five interconnected buildings featuring state-of-the-art facilities and technologies opened for classes on August 25, 2014. The new facilities are accompanied by the academic excellence of over 40 educational opportunities, including a new minor in Spanish, major in bilingual/bicultural education, and Ph.D. in environmental sciences.

Western Illinois University is an integral and contributing member of the Quad Cities region. Quad Cities students, faculty and staff are routinely featured for their expertise. In the past year, Quad Cities online featured 142 news articles about Western. Included were articles about new scholarships and recipients, degree programs, Phase II construction, alumni accomplishments, and editorials in support of the University.

Paul Plagenz joined the WIU-Quad Cities Team in early 2014 as Development Officer. Plagenz brings an established record of Quad Cities fundraising, most recently serving the Quad Cities Symphony. Meet Plagenz at a campus event or at Western After Hours in the Quad Cities sponsored by the Alumni Association. Plagenz and progress are synonymous.

All gifts to Western Illinois University-Quad Cities are appreciated and important. When you invest in Western Illinois University you are investing in life changing moments for students. Your support enables Western Illinois University to enhance educational opportunities for students and advance our mission of preparing a socially responsible, diverse student, faculty and staff population to lead in the in the global society.

Whether you are at our annual scholarship recognition ceremony pairing donors with recipients, at a campus event, honors convocation, and/or commencement reception or ceremony at the iWireless Center in Moline, you will feel a sense of pride with your gift—knowing that you support student success, and more people like you are investing in Western Illinois University in the Quad Cities.

“The numerous, diverse investors, both public and private, in the Quad Cities region that have supported the progress of the WIU-Quad Cities Riverfront campus reinforce the community’s commitment to the betterment of the regional economy and the educational landscape of the Quad Cities,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “Because of the generosity of so many individuals, businesses and organizations, the University has advanced student scholarships, technology, facilities and the public service mission of WQPT.

“Every gift strengthens our community and makes an immediate impact on our campus and the students that we serve,” said Joe Rives, vice president of Quad Cities and planning. We have a strong foundation, a culture of giving and support, that benefits current and future generations of students. We will continue to build on our fundraising successes in the years ahead so we can remain the public choice for higher education in the Quad Cities, and help students stay local and go far.”
Foundation Year in Review

On behalf of the entire Western Illinois University community, the WIU Foundation thanks all of the generous individuals who made contributions to the University this past year. The following report highlights financial information, programs and services, and contributions to the Western Illinois University Foundation covering the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

- Private support received through the WIU Foundation, including cash gifts, gifts-in-kind, pledges and testamentary/deferred gift commitments totaled $8,551,048.
- The WIU Foundation processed 29,101 gifts from 12,799 alumni, friends, parents, faculty and staff members, corporations and business, foundations and other organizations.
- The average alumni contribution for all purposes was $482.16.
- WIU Foundation expenditures in support of the University for all purposes totaled $7,670,311.
- Contributions to the endowment added $1.5 million to the WIU Foundation’s permanent asset base.

TOTAL DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED BY CATEGORY–FY14*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
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<td>Corporations/Businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff &amp; Emeriti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations/Organizations/Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends/Parents</td>
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</table>

** Does not include $1,280,611 in outside scholarship donations for student support.

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS BY CATEGORY–FY14*

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations/Businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff &amp; Emeriti*</td>
<td>493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations/Organizations/Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends/Parents</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Does not include 411 parents included in alumni count.

* Does not include 533 employees who are included in the alumni count.
Financial Summary

CONTRIBUTIONS BY PURPOSE–FY14*

- **Academic Enhancements Instructional Initiatives** $1,944,954–25%
- **Student Aid** $2,601,568–33.9%
- **Athletics** $511,902–6.7%
- **Foundation Operating and Other Fundraising Expenses** $754,032–9.8%
- **Alumni-Sponsored Programs and Activities** $266,152–3.5%
- **Cultural Activities and Other Regional Outreach Efforts** $1,222,382–15.9%
- **Capital Projects Equipment/Property** $369,319–4.8%

* Income only; outstanding pledges and testamentary gifts not included.

Includes all gift-in-kind and contribution income, including outside scholarship donations.
Library co-hosts Environmental Walks

The Western Illinois University campus is a complex natural, constructed, social and symbolic environment. The buildings, the people, the plants and the animals constitute a dense, interdependent web, connected to the larger environment around WIU.

To better acquaint people with the environment that hides in plain sight, University Libraries co-sponsored, along with the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, Facilities Management and the WIU Sustainability Committee, two environmental walks at the start of the Fall 2014 semester.

29,000 New Books

University Libraries recently gained access to approximately 29,000 new digital books via Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Illinois’ academic library consortium. By providing all libraries within the consortium access to a particular book, there is no need for a library to purchase hard copies, and several people can simultaneously access the books.

While traditional books will remain on library shelves, the rise of e-books means that libraries can purchase more books in certain areas of special interest, noted Libraries Professor Bill Thompson.

For more information on the University Libraries digital/e-book collection, visit wiu.edu/libraries.

University Libraries Updates

The Physical Sciences library, which many may remember as the two-story saucer-shaped appendage to Currens Hall, is now in the process of being renovated into a modern learning space. The first story remains as a traditional library, while the second floor is being transformed into a learning space. The new space will feature new tables, chairs and whiteboards.

In the addition, over the summer months, the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities (WIU-QC) Library moved from the 60th Street campus to the new Riverfront campus. According to Librarian Tom Finley ’90, the Riverfront campus has more room for the library’s collections and added study spaces, including collaborative work spaces and five breakout rooms with flat screen monitors where students can practice presentations. In addition, The Jeff Leibovitz Collection of Holocaust Education Materials has a room dedicated to the collection. The WIU-QC Library is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

WIU, Moline Public Library Sign Agreement

Western Illinois University students, faculty and staff, along with Moline Public Library (MPL) patrons, now have access to numerous other books and resources thanks to an agreement signed Aug. 7 between the two entities.

Western and the Moline Library signed a reciprocal agreement that allows patrons from both library systems to borrow books from the other. In addition, patrons from both institutions can visit and use the materials and resources in any of the MPL or WIU libraries, both in Macomb and Moline, noted WIU Dean of Libraries Michael Lorenzen.

“We are pleased to enter into this partnership with the Moline Public Library. This provides yet another wonderful resource for our campus community, as well as area residents,” said WIU President Jack Thomas.

Another unique feature of the partnership allows individuals to return books from either library system at any WIU or Moline library location, Lorenzen noted. “WIU is fortunate to have beautiful libraries, with numerous resources, at both its campuses. The services we provide are beneficial not only to our campus communities, but to the entire Quad Cities community,” Lorenzen added. “I hope this agreement will make everyone feel welcome to visit our campuses and enjoy our libraries.”

Moline Public Library Director Lee Ann Fisher noted that the partnership is the ideal opportunity to share resources.

“This benefits everyone involved, and makes the WIU community feel like a part of Moline,” she added.

Joe Rives, WIU vice president of the Quad Cities and planning, added that the partnership illustrates the common bond between the University and the communities it serves.

For more information, contact the WIU Malpass Library at (309) 298-2762; the WIU-QC Riverfront Library at (309) 762-1598; or MG-Lorenzen@wiu.edu.

WIU Library Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Jeanne Stierman has been named assistant dean for library operations. In addition to her new role as assistant dean, Stierman will continue assisting with the reference desk.

Associate Professor of Libraries Rod Sharpe presented a paper at Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Sharpe discussed an important piece of music that was anonymously sent to the WIU School of Music.

Library Instruction Coordinator Sean Cordes will deliver a paper on multiple literacies at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Limerick, Ireland.

Greg Phelps ’93, library specialist and curator of the Malpass Library’s Graphic Novels Collection, reported that the WIU collection has moved from the triple digits to four, clearing the thousand title mark in July.

Rod Sharpe (standing) traveled to Salzburg, Austria to present a paper at the Biennial International Conference on Baroque music.
**Alumni Spotlight**

**Edward Bridge II: Senior technical consultant at IBM**

*By Alisha Barnett M.S. ’13*

For Edward Bridge II ’10, of Cambridge (MA), coming to Western Illinois University was a simple decision. “Western had the program I was interested in; I really liked the faculty to student ratio and it was a military friendly school,” Bridge said.

Bridge, who is a senior technical consultant for PureSystems and Cloud at the IBM Innovation Center in Cambridge, got a bachelor’s degree in business at WIU and an MBA at the University of Illinois. He describes his position with IBM as a comprehensive IT professional who does more than just computer coding or networking. Bridge works directly with business partners, who can range from start-up companies to multibillion-dollar companies with millions of employees, to educate them on IBM’s technology, develop strategies for businesses to utilize the technology in the best way that suits their company and serve as a general consultant for issues and concerns business partners might have with either PureSystems or Cloud. PureSystems is an IBM product line of factory pre-configured components and servers used to run business application systems.

“I love working for IBM because your success is really dependent on the level of initiative you take,” Bridge said. “It’s a cutting-edge company with a very steep learning curve, but I thrive in those environments and wouldn’t want it any other way.”

Bridge came to WIU as a U.S. Air Force veteran to major in business. While in school, he was very involved and was a member of the WIU Honors College, Beta Gamma Sigma, student government, the Mortar Board, Phi Eta Sigma and the Blue Key Honor Society. He also participated in the Undergraduate Research Day, and he said his winning solution is still being used by the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Western set a great foundation for me,” Bridge said. “It was very clear that at Western, anyone who took their education seriously could go places. Opportunities for success were readily available. I was able to interface with faculty easily; I got to do research and community service. When you put all the pieces together, my time at Western was amazing.”

Bridge mostly credits WIU Department of Economics Chair Tej Kaul and former Dean Tom Erikson as his mentors from WIU. He still keeps in contact with them and lets them know when IBM was has positions open to help recruit Western graduates.

“I like being that link between Western and IBM and helping to build and grow that relationship,” Bridge said.

**Derek Bloomfield: Facilities engineer at Sivyer Steel Corporation**

*By Alisha Barnett M.S. ’13*

Alumnus Derek Bloomfield ’11, of Davenport (IA), is paying it forward with Western Illinois University.

Bloomfield, who graduated from WIU with a bachelor’s in engineering, was hired by his employer, Sivyer Steel in Bettendorf (IA), after finishing his senior design project at WIU. He was tasked with redesigning the cleaning room, an eight-month project that was projected to cost between $3 and $4 million, during his final year at Western. Toward the end of the project, Sivyer was so pleased with Bloomfield’s work, they offered him a full-time position as a production engineering department manager. After working in that position for a year and a half, his supervisor decided he was better suited to manage projects, and he moved into his current position of facilities engineer.

Bloomfield said that title doesn’t necessarily cover everything he does though. Depending on project requirements, he might cover anything from electrical, civil or mechanical engineering to computer programming, robotics or research and development.

Because Bloomfield was so grateful to Western for the experience and job opportunity, he started a scholarship, the Derek Bloomfield Engineering Scholarship, offered to WIU engineering students.

Western was Bloomfield’s school of choice for several reasons. He wanted to stay close to home (the Quad Cities area); he wanted something that was cost-effective; and he was already attending Black Hawk College, which made the transition seamless. Once he started attending classes, he realized the small class sizes were beneficial, as well.

“People go to bigger schools for engineering; but they go places. Opportunities for Western were readily available. I was able to interface with faculty easily; I got to do research and community service. When you put all the pieces together, my time at Western was amazing.”

Bloomfield said he still keeps in contact with a few of his fellow engineering students, as well.

“The best advice I can give to any current or future Western students is to stay disciplined in school,” Bloomfield added. “You will still have a life after school, and there will still be plenty of time for fun then, too.”

**Get Social**

Connect with CBT

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wiu.edu/cbt/youtube

wiu.edu/cbt/linkedin
Alumnus works to help endangered Peregrine falcon population in the midwest

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 M.S. ’11

Joe DeBold ’02 M.S. ’06 spends his workdays doing many of the things he loved to do as a boy growing up in rural western Illinois. The Blandinsville (IL) native and graduate of Western Illinois University is now an urban wildlife biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Although his job is based in the urban setting of Kansas City, his work—he’s in charge of Kansas City’s urban deer management program, as well as serves as the Missouri peregrine falcon recovery leader and member of the Midwest Peregrine Falcon Coordinators Group—keeps him connected to the natural environment that inspired his career choice.

“I was raised by a father who taught me all about hunting, fishing and trapping from the time I was about five years old,” DeBold—who graduated with his bachelor’s degree (with a concentration in forestry) from Western’s School of Agriculture and his master’s degree from WIU’s Biological Sciences Department—noted. “That was the number one love in life, and it still is for my father, brother and me. When I was considering a career, I thought, ‘I’m going to do something that I love.’ Because you hear about people all the time working at jobs they hate. I didn’t want to do that.”

The Missouri peregrine falcon recovery and tracking group, which DeBold manages across the Show Me state, is part of the Midwest Peregrine Falcon Coordinators Group, based out of the Raptor Center in the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Last month, DeBold’s work with the MDC and the Raptor Center made the front page of the Kansas City Star in Linley Sanders’ “Peregrine chicks banded at the Iatan power plant.” The article highlighted the work—the banding and tracking of peregrine falcons—that DeBold and his colleagues are doing to help this endangered species in the Midwest recover, decades after DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) exposure greatly reduced their numbers.

“The work with the falcons started long before I was here. It was around 1992 when they started ‘hacking’ them, which means raising them as chicks and then releasing them into the urban area,” DeBold explained. “We use the urban areas not only because it is a biological tool to help with pigeon control, but the urban area also gives the falcons a habitat they prefer in which to nest because the prey species are here. If you were to go into a natural area where the falcons are living (for example, out west), you would find their nests on cliff ledges and on big rocky faces. In an urban setting, skyscrapers and smokestacks provide those artificial areas for them to nest.”

The Midwest Peregrine Falcon Coordinators Group’s work covers a huge swath of the U.S., noted DeBold, including Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio. In Missouri, DeBold and his colleagues are setting up a geographic information system (GIS) database, which will provide a map of all the artificial nest boxes—like the one highlighted in the KC Star’s story about the nest box at the Iatan power plant—across the state.

“The GIS database will provide us with a map from St. Louis to Kansas City and all the municipalities in between, as well as any possible natural areas that we know of in Missouri, which are none as of today,” he said. “Using the GIS, we can track how many birds we’ve banded and how many successful nests we have. With these bands, we can tell where our birds are going to, whether they are staying in Missouri or whether they are migrating. Hopefully, we can get them to stay here, where they will have more young. That is what the hope is for us when we start to use this GIS database. Once we get it up and running this year, we will be able to map out Missouri and really tell, for the first time, where we are at exactly in terms of the peregrine falcon population in Missouri.”

DeBold said he decided to pursue his undergraduate degree with a concentration in forestry because he wanted to get a grasp of the habitat he knew he would be working with in his career. “Instead of going straight into biology, I went into the School of Agriculture’s forestry program to learn that part of it, and then I went into biology in order to learn the animal species part of it,” he explained. “Along the way, a few professors really helped mentor me, including Andy Baker in the School of Ag, as well as Tom Green ’69 M.S. ’72, who is retired now, but was the urban forestry professor there when I attended. Dennis Sigwart also became instrumental in helping with my direction, and in biological sciences, Richard Anderson, and my adviser, Tom Dunstan, were all mentors for me.”

DeBold said he was Dunstan’s last graduate student before Dunstan—who was recognized in National Geographic’s 2000 “Eyewitness to the 20th Century” and appeared in two 1975 episodes of Mutual of Omaha’s “Wild Kingdom” for his own raptor rescue efforts involving the once endangered American bald eagle—retired from Western in 2004.

“Those professors all really took an interest in me, saw something in me, I think,” DeBold said. “I used to talk with them outside of class often, and they would help me with my resume. I don’t think it is a coincidence I was offered the first two jobs I applied for (although I had already accepted the job with the MDC when my first application resulted in a job offer). I think that speaks very highly of Western’s programs and what the faculty members at WIU offer their students. I still have personal friendships with all of them today, and that is very special.”
School of Agriculture greenhouse breaks ground

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

Construction crews broke ground in early July for the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture’s greenhouse project. According to School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker, in the initial phase, two 16 ft. x 48 ft. greenhouses (with a connecting hallway) are being built near the University’s Livestock Center, located north of campus, south of the Harry Mussatto Golf Course’s parking lot.

Baker noted the new greenhouse facilities will extend the School of Agriculture’s research capabilities in the plant-science area.

“This year, we were awarded the funds to begin the greenhouse project, one that we have requested in our annual consolidated report for several years. We believed it was the one piece missing from the AFL (Agricultural Farm Laboratories) that would support the curricular needs of our comprehensive degree program,” he said. “One of the two greenhouses will be solely intended for classroom and laboratory utilization. We will use one facility to house parent material for instructional use. The other unit will be strictly utilized for research purposes.”

Baker said the University, the College of Business and Technology and the School of Agriculture are all contributing funding for the initial phase of the project.

“We envision a full greenhouse complex, which will be built in phases and over several years,” he explained. “The overall complex will include six individual greenhouses, stacked side-by-side with a connecting hallway that leads to a head house, which will include a classroom, restroom facilities, chemical-mixing area and storage facilities. It is our intention to connect with agricultural industry leaders to assist in funding with the additional phases of the greenhouse complex.”

Once the greenhouse facility is up and running, that will open up the research possibilities for School of Ag faculty members, Baker added.

“Until now, we were limited on the number of research proposals we could submit for external research funds, because we lacked a greenhouse facility to fulfill grant requirements. A greenhouse will enable us to apply for external grants that require experimental designs in a controlled environment, as well as provide faculty the capacity to conduct experimental trials before moving the research to field trials. The facility, which is designed to be state of the art, will also assist us in securing additional external funds to help support our research efforts in plant science. It will help us, too, extend our capacity to conduct more student-centered research, which will add value to our degree programs,” he said.

Baker said they hope to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in December.

For more information about the tentative schedule for the open house, contact Baker at (309) 298-1080 or via email at AJ-Baker@wiu.edu.

CBT Advisory Board contributes to student scholarships

The College of Business and Technology (CBT) Advisory Board recently contributed more than $13,000 for student scholarships.

The goal of the new scholarship, which will be awarded each semester, is to address the gap between the traditional aid available to students and the cost of attending Western. Criteria consists of not only grade point average, but other less common factors as well, including students’ dedication to their coursework and field of study, extracurricular activities, work experience and community involvement.

“I was surprised when I realized that so many students walk such a fine line between being able to return to school each semester and having to stay home to earn enough to return at a later time to finish their education,” said Laura Janus ’70, President Thomas’ National Advisory Board, CBT Advisory Board and scholarship selection committee member.

According to Becky Paulsen, CBT director of development, advisory board members have committed to making annual contributions to the scholarship, and they hope their annual giving will encourage others to participate.

For more information, or to contribute to CBT scholarships, contact Paulsen at B-Paulsen@wiu.edu or (309) 298-2442.

MBA available online

The Western Illinois University College of Business and Technology (CBT) recently announced the development of online courses making the entire master of business administration (MBA) program available online, beginning Fall 2014.

The degree program, which is fully accredited by the AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), is the same as the current face-to-face program and will have the same requirements and courses, which will have identical content and are taught by the same faculty. The courses will be in rotation so each one is offered periodically face-to-face and online, and students can take courses in either format to complete their degree.

“Location is no longer a constraint for students as they now have access to the entire degree program via distance learning,” said WIU CBT Interim Associate Dean and MBA Director William Polley. “This is also attractive for students who begin the program in either Macomb or the Quad Cities, but are unable to finish the degree in-person because of a family move or job transfer.”

Western has been offering online MBA courses; however, many required courses were not available in this format until now.

“The faculty teaching these courses have done a tremendous job converting their courses to the online format,” Polley added. “The conversion is something that takes a good deal of work in order to do it right and provide a quality course. That work has now been done, and we look forward to serving the online market with an MBA from WIU.”

For more information, visit wiu.edu/cbt/mba.

In memory of

Western Illinois University Management Professor Emeritus Lewis Wall: Lewis was department chair from 1972-75 and again from 1978 until his retirement. He also authored articles in professional publications and two chapters in yearbooks. He received several grants for research and teaching from the U.S. Department of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the American Association of Junior Colleges.

Western Illinois University Management Professor Stephen Axely: Axely co-directed a University consortium with international students; taught courses in organization behavior and development and was the author of “Communication at Work: Management and the Communication-Intensive Organization.” He was named a College of Business Outstanding Teacher in 1996, and was initiated in the WIU chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 1987.

Western Illinois University Industrial Education and Technology Professor J. Pat Spicer: Spicer taught vocational education at Western from 1982 to 2004. During his time at Western, he taught graduate level drafting courses, among other teaching assignments, and served as adviser for independent study students. He also worked with the Lamoine Valley Vocational System (LVVS), which provided vocational training at Western for area high school students. Spicer received the outstanding teaching award in 1987, and received a Professional Achievement Award in 2002.
Business and Technology

Engineering technology students present winning design at national conference

By Alisha Barnett M.S. ’13

Western Illinois University students Scottie Waldhaus, from Quincy (IL), and Darren Walker, of Fort Madison (IA), presented their winning design at the 2014 national RAPID Conference in Detroit.

The two engineering technology students won first place in the 2014 Direct Digital Manufacturing (DDM) Design Competition in February, which awarded them the opportunity to present their project during the DDM Tech Group meeting and have their design distributed by show-floor exhibitors as pieces for the conference. They also received a complimentary pass to RAPID 2014, the industry-leading forum for discussion of the latest developments, trends, and techniques specific to additive manufacturing, rapid technologies and 3D printing and scanning; a stipend of $300 to use for traveling to and lodging for the conference; a recognition award and a complimentary one-year student Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) membership.

“The fact that two of our students won the competition is huge,” said Engineering Technology Professor Rafael Obregon M.S. ’91. “It is the largest exposition of its kind in the world, and it shows that Western and our students are very in tune with what’s happening outside of this area.”

Waldhaus and Walker were enrolled in the prototype design and production course at WIU, which focuses on the development and creation of prototypes by additive manufacturing and 3D printing techniques.

Obregon taught the class and encouraged his students to participate in the DDM Design Competition.

For more information about the conference, visit rapid.sme.org. For more information about WIU’s engineering technology program, visit wiu.edu/cbt/engineering_technology.

CBT welcomes new faculty and administrators

Jack Elfrink joined the College of Business and Technology as interim dean July 2014. Elfrink received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University and his MBA in accounting and B.S. in mathematics from Southeast Missouri State University—Cape Girardeau (MO).

Elfrink first came to WIU in August 2006 as the Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance. He served as the Associate Dean from 2009-10 and was vital to the success of the college in retaining the AACSQ (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation for the undergraduate and graduate programs in the accountancy and business fields. He has also served as the college’s Assessment Coordinator.

Prior to his appointment at WIU he spent 12 years at the University of Central Missouri where he served as Dean, Director of the Financial Planning Program, Chair and Professor in the Department of Accounting. In addition, he taught at Ferris State University, Big Rapids (MI); Southeast Missouri State University—Cape Girardeau; McKendree College, Lebanon (IL); Lincoln University, Jefferson City (MO); and William Woods College, Fulton (MO).

Elfrink is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with several years of experience in public accounting.

William Polley joined the faculty of the Department of Economics (now the Department of Economics and Decision Sciences) in 2005. He served as chair of the graduate committee and graduate adviser for the department from 2008 through 2014. He has chaired the Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards and has served as vice-chair of both the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate. In 2012, he received the college’s award for Excellence in University/Community Service.

Polley teaches macroeconomics at the principles, intermediate, and graduate levels. In addition, he has served as the adviser for the department’s “Fed Challenge” team. The Fed Challenge is a competition for college students sponsored by the Federal Reserve System.

He received his Ph.D. in economics from The University of Iowa in 1999. His primary research interests are in macroeconomics and international economics. Polley enjoys communicating economics to a wider audience both in person and through the mass media.

The CBT wishes the retiring members of the college well in their future.

- Marie Bell – 26 years, Office Support Specialist - Engineering Technology
- James Bennett - 17 years, Instructional Technology Systems Manager - College of Business and Technology
- Jo Davis – 23 years, Grants and Contracts Administrator - Management and Marketing
- John Drea - 19 years, Associate Dean - College of Business and Technology
- Thomas Erekson – 8 years, Dean – College of Business and Technology
- Joseph Fosu – 27 years, Associate Professor - Economics and Decision Sciences
- Hong Liu – 12 years, Associate Professor - Engineering Technology

Welcome new faculty!

- Huishan Wan – Instructor of Accounting and Finance
- Vitaly Brazhkin - Instructor of Management and Marketing
- Jonathan E. Devereueawax ‘12 M.A. ’14 - Instructor of Economics

Pictured left to right: WIU Engineering Technology Professor Rafael Obregon M.S. ’91, Scottie Waldhaus and Darren Walker.
**Alumni Benefits & Services**

Western Illinois University students become MEMBERS of the Alumni Association the day they graduate! As non-dues paying members, ALL WIU ALUMNI are entitled to the following benefits and services provided by the Alumni Association:

**WIU License Plates**

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is proud to announce that collegiate license plates have been available to students with scholarship money at WIU since 1997. A portion of each sale and renewal of the WIU Illinois license plate goes to a scholarship fund for students at the university. These license plates allow current students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members to support their school on their vehicles.

“With over 480 WIU license plates on the road today, supporters are proudly representing this university across the state of Illinois,” said White. “Because of this program WIU supporters are able to provide financial assistance for students.”

The WIU license plates raised over $11,800 in the scholarship fund for fiscal year 2014. To show your support, purchase the WIU license plate by visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

**QC International Airport**

Your WIU Alumni Association has partnered with the Quad City International Airport and we are pleased to offer the “WIU Easier Card” for alumni who frequently use the airport for travel! The card offers access to the airport’s Destination Points business center, located on Concourse B. Once inside, enjoy cozy seating, a TV, fireplace, and a complimentary bottle of water or cappuccino. The card never expires, but we do request that you be a patron of the Quad City International Airport at least twice a year and, live within a reasonable geographic area to the Quad City International Airport in order to be a cardholder. If you do not live within the regional area, the airport may ask you to verify your travel plans from/to the area to qualify. The Quad City International Airport makes travel “easier” with this business center access for alumni from Western Illinois University!

For more information, visit www.qcairport.com/ wiualumni.

**USI Travel Insurance**

Are you putting the trip of a lifetime at risk? Anticipating terrible weather, a family emergency, or becoming ill, is one of life’s unpredictabilities. USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services is here to help you travel smart.

For over 30 years, Travel Insurance Services has provided expertise, knowledge, and access to travel-related insurance solutions and services. From coverage for trip cancellation, to coverage for trip interruption, baggage loss, and 24-hour access to emergency assistance services, Travel Insurance Services will help ease your mind so that you can worry less. This is one of the many reasons the Western Illinois University Alumni Association has chosen Travel Insurance Services to provide travel insurance plans to alumni.

So, don’t let all the time you’ve spent saving, planning, and dreaming go to waste. Instead, get your complimentary, no-obligation insurance quote today! After all, you deserve to travel knowing your investment is protected.

For more information, visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel-insurance.php or call 800-937-1387.

**Travel with WIU alumni**

**AHI Travel**

For over 50 years, AHI Travel has been offering exciting opportunities to explore the globe in ways that connect travelers to the people, places and cultures of these destinations. From exotic locales in distant lands to in-depth journeys in more familiar destinations, you will find a comprehensive and expansive variety of programs, all exclusively designed for the educated and curious traveler. Best of all, AHI’s dedicated team of travel experts, the very best professionals in the industry, stand ready to serve you.

Call 800-323-7373 for more information or to make a reservation.

**Go Next Travel**

Go Next has been serving alumni association travelers for over 40 years and offers three exclusive product lines including: Leader in alumni international cruise travel; OCEANIA CRUISES, Leader in alumni domestic travel; AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT CO and Leader in alumni Cuba travel. Go Next offers the most value oriented and highest quality travel opportunities in the market today focusing on exemplary customer service.

For more information, visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel. php or call 800-842-9023.

**WIU Platinum Visa**

Four years ago in August 2010, the WIU Alumni Association entered into a partnership with INTRUST Bank to provide the Western Illinois University Platinum Visa card. Today, we’re happy to report some great results and proud to continue this wonderful partnership in support of the Alumni Association.

To date, the program has 558 current accounts and has brought in nearly $91,000 to benefit the Alumni Association. These dollars are put to good use — helping to fund student scholarships, publish the Western News, support alumni and friends events across the United States and promote other objectives of the university.

**Apply for your card today**

Not only does the WIU Platinum Visa provide support for the Alumni Association, it’s also a good value for you. You’ll show your purple and gold pride with every swipe, receive a low APR and enjoy these great benefits:

- **FREE rewards** — earn cash back, gift cards, merchandise and travel
- **Superior customer service** from INTRUST Bank — one of the oldest financial institutions in the Midwest
- **24/7 security protection** — free Personal Identity Theft coverage and Zero Liability Fraud Protection

Ready to apply? Visit intrustbank.com/wiu, or call 800-222-7458, and choose from two great designs — Leathernecks and Sherman Hall. Then join your fellow alumni in showing your loyal support for the Fighting Leathernecks.

**“Honoring Your Achievement, Framing Your Future” ®**

Churchill Classics offers an exclusive selection of custom USA-made diploma frames for Western Illinois University featuring the WIU name and seal. Customize a frame online by choosing your favorite molding, matting and upgraded glass options. Protect your valuable diploma and support your WIU Alumni Association by purchasing a quality diploma frame. View diploma frames and desk accessories online at: www.diplomaframe.com/ WIUalumni.

**Keep your WIU memories close at hand with a college ring from Jostens**

You Create It. We Make It.

Your Western Illinois University class ring: The ultimate personal storyteller. It’s more than just a piece of jewelry—it is the perfect way to commemorate one of the most important events in your life.

Over the last century, Jostens has continued to innovate to provide unique, lasting experiences for everyone that comes to us to share stories and celebrate achievements. With every custom item we create, from a preschooler’s cap and gown to an All-Pro’s championship ring, we’re passionate about what we do and would like to make a unique ring for you.

Today with Jostens new Ring Designer, you can now create a ring that brilliantly reflects every facet of your journey. And with just a few easy clicks you will be able to design a ring to wear and keep your memories close at hand.

**See more benefits on p. 27.**
WIU announces four new members to the Alumni Council

Four new members will serve the Western Illinois University Alumni Council for the 2014-15 year. Comprised of 25 alumni appointed to three-year terms and the president of the Student Alumni Association, the Alumni Council represents the interests of Western’s more than 125,000 alumni.

Kellie Esters M.S. ’93, the vice president of Fund Development and Donor Relations at UnityPoint Health – Trinity Health Foundation in Moline (IL), graduated from WIU with a masters degree in college student personnel. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Monmouth College.

Erika Lowe ’09, the associate director of Board & Committee Relations at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, graduated from WIU with a bachelor of arts degree in communication. She received a master of education degree from the University of South Carolina in 2013.

John Meixner ’95 M.S. ’05, the regional superintendent of schools for the Hancock/McDonough Regional Office of Education in Macomb, graduated from WIU with a bachelor of science degree in Kinesiology and a master of science degree in educational administration.

Tom O’Brien ’07, an attorney at O’Brien & Somer in Mokena (IL), graduated from WIU with a bachelor of science degree in law enforcement and justice administration. He received his Juris Doctor from The John Marshall Law School.

Members serve as liaisons to various University areas and on advisory boards. The council assists in the recruitment of students, selects Alumni Award recipients and was instrumental in establishing the Student Alumni Association and the new stone wall in front of the Alumni House. The council meets on a quarterly basis.

Jeff McElroy ’97, an attorney in Yorkville, IL, serves as president.

Alumni-Admissions Initiative Update

Impetus for creating the Western Commitment Scholarship (WCS) program was the understanding that the WCS program has been a very successful program by offering new students $1,000-$3,000 merit based scholarships upon acceptance to the university as an incentive to enroll.

The number of new students with at least a 22 ACT and 3.0 GPA has increased by 10-20 percent annually. Unfortunately, other state universities in Illinois have copied our scholarship program, and in many cases offered similar or more generous scholarships to attract talented students. This fall, we saw the number of new students at WIU with at least a 22 ACT and 3.0 GPA fall by 13 percent.

In order to compete for these students, beginning in the Fall 2015 semester, Western Illinois University will upgrade our Western Commitment Scholarship program to include both merit and need based scholarships. Upon acceptance to the University, a student with at least a 20 ACT and 3.0 GPA will receive a $2,000-$3,000 merit based award and then depending on financial need the award may increase to a maximum of $5,000-$7,000 annually. These need-based amounts are notable, because it will essentially meet the financial need of students’ tuition, fees, room and board regardless of family income. This is a big deal for our low-income and middle-income students! For most students applying to WIU and other public universities in the state, this will be the best financial offer they will receive from any college or university.

We know that other colleges and universities will again work to negate our program, which is why our alumni and donor support for general freshmen scholarships and specifically to the Western Commitment Scholarship program, is critical to our ability to compete for top students. As always, thank you for all that you do to help us recruit future Leathernecks!
WIU student serving in Afghanistan raising funds to bring puppies to U.S.

By Teresa Kolczenburg '92 M.S. '11

Western Illinois University senior Garrett Rogers (Lindenhurst, IL), who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan, is looking to have a furry friend in tow when he returns stateside later this year. Rogers, a law enforcement and justice administration major, was called to active duty in January and will be returning to Western to take classes in Spring 2015. A few weeks into his latest deployment, he met Anastasia, “Anna” for short, a mixed-breed puppy, who is living with her family (two sisters, one brother and her mother) in a “makeshift shelter on the side of a dusty little road” outside the camp where Rogers and his fellow sailors are serving.

With the help of the Puppy Rescue Mission organization, Rogers has started an online fundraiser, through which he is taking donations to help bring Anna and her whole family back to the United States. On the fundraising website he noted, “They have been a simple blessing that has helped us to decompress after long hot days on the job.” “Anna and her family have helped us tremendously,” Rogers said. “There are numerous studies and reports detailing the benefits animals have on humans, specifically in reducing stress and anxiety. Both of which there are plenty of here. Our daily interactions gave us a chance to shut out work, shut out our problems and just focus for a bit on something else. They gave us a chance to let go of stress and allow us to feel positive emotions (i.e., joy, love, compassion), which are often lacking in a place like this. We took care of this little family. We got to see them grow, and while we helped them, they helped us.”

Although Rogers knows there are many shelter and rescue dogs here in the U.S. in need of homes, after becoming attached to Anna and her family, he decided to move forward with the effort to try and bring them home. According to Rogers’ post on the online fundraising webpage, Anna has had a particularly rough start. “Anna was the smallest and weakest of the group, and for a long time [she] would barely venture outside of the shelter. Before long, it was apparent that she was having difficulty walking, and was abnormally lethargic compared to the rest of her siblings. Upon further investigation, I noticed a large dirt-encrusted wound on her left hind leg that was badly infected. With the help of one of my teammates, I was able to expose the wound, which required cutting chunks of dirt from the fur, and relieve the buildup of fluid. The wound was a bad one, and went all the way down to the bone. Stitches would generally have been called for in a case like this, but my medical skillset is limited. I was able to wash and wrap the leg with antibiotic ointment and a clean dressing,” he explained.

Since treating her, Rogers noted that Anna has made a full recovery and is “every bit as rambunctious as her brother.” Through the Puppy Rescue Mission, Rogers was able to raise $3,800; however, he is still required to raise $1,000 on his own to bring Anna and her siblings to the U.S. He said all four puppies have been spoken for, and they will have “good homes and live full lives back home.” He added he has hopes that two other dogs living in the shelter, Lana (Anna’s mother) and Ginger, will both find deserving homes, as well.

To read more and/or to donate, visit www.youcaring.com/nonprofits/anastasia-soldiers-companion/207545.

WIU unveils new website

Alumni visiting wiu.edu will notice a new look for their alma mater’s website.

The website, which debuted Aug. 4, provides a new look, and also features a new responsive design technique, which improves the way the website is displayed on various sizes of monitors and mobile devices, said Jeremy Merritt '02 MBA 07*, coordinator of University Technology Web Services.

“We are seeing a significant increase in the utilization of mobile devices as users access our website,” Merritt added. “The new responsive design helps ensure that prospective students are able to access our complete website content regardless if they are browsing on an iPhone/Android phone, a tablet/iPad or their desktop or laptop computer.”

According to Richard Chamberlain, executive director of University Technology, the Internet Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), comprised of University faculty and staff across multiple departments and disciplines, worked on the redesign efforts over the past year to come up with the new design, navigation and technical build.

“ITAC’s redesign sub-committee evaluated peer websites, looked at trends in higher education and used website usage analytics during the redesign process,” Chamberlain said. “Over the last year, the design has been reviewed and modified based on suggestions from ITAC as a whole and the President’s Leadership team, but a key feature of the new site design is that it is mobile ready.”

The new WIU website design will take effect during the afternoon of Aug. 4. The website will be unavailable during portions of the day as the changes are put into place.

“Western’s web professionals have been working diligently behind the scenes for the past few months preparing their websites for the new design,” Merritt said. “That being said, with upwards of 80,000 web pages on wiu.edu, improvements on some sites will be ongoing after the Aug. 4 launch date. Preparing existing pages to utilize this new responsive design can be a time-consuming, challenging endeavor, so we appreciate the University community’s patience as our web professionals and content providers address issues as they are found.”

Feedback on the new design can be provided via a contact form that will be linked from the new wiu.edu homepage after Aug. 4.

Updates from the Career Development Center

WIU Career & Internship Fairs

The Career Development Center is hosting two career fairs this fall for students and alumni. The Fall Career & Internship Fair will be held rom 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7 in the University Union Grand Ballroom. The Law Enforcement & Justice Administration Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16 in the University Union Grand Ballroom. If you are currently seeking employment, these career fairs are open free to the public. Companies interested in hiring WIU students and graduates, can register at wiu.edu/student_services/career_development_center/fair/index.php

Registration is $150 and includes one 6-foot table, lunch and refreshments throughout the day for one recruiter. Additional recruiters are an additional $10 per person.

Companies that send WIU Alumni to recruit will receive a $25 discount off of the total registration cost. For more information, contact the Career Development Center at 309-298-1836.

WIU Quad Cities campus.

Like Building One on the Riverfront campus, Phase II buildings are sustainably constructed and operated. Green amenities will include geothermal heating and cooling, emphasis on use of daylight, native landscaping, green roof treatments and an emphasis on energy efficiency. Western will pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification, which builds on the LEED Silver certification received for Phase I.

In addition, WIU-Quad Cities hosted a classroom unveiling ceremony in August to celebrate Modern Woodmen of America’s ongoing commitment to the WIU-QC Riverfront campus and to the region when Modern Woodmen made a $75,000 commitment to Phase II of the WIU-QC campus.

Pictured l to r: Kenny Massey, Modern Woodmen president; Rives; Nico Moreno, WIU Student Government Association president; and Jill Weaver, Modern Woodmen corporate communications manager.
Inaugural Quad Cities Western Wednesdays
The Barrel House, Moline, IL
May 7, 2014

Front row l-r: Assistant Director Quad Cities Student Services Audrey Wheeler Adamson ’01, Foundation Board President Jim Lodico ’62 ’75, Publicity Promotion Specialist for Quad Cities Bea Brasil ’01, Mary Carlson Brennan ’81, Development Director for Quad Cities Paul Plagenz, Bill Horrell ’89 ’95, Mike Baumann ’07 and John Reynolds ’91 ’08. Back row l-r: Board of Trustees member and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Roger Clawson ’77, Ann Rhinehart ’94 ’98, Assistant Director Quad Cities Student Services Scott Broutte ’10, Steve Nelson ’70, Regina Wilson Nelson ’91, Scott Williams, Jeff Blackwell ’69 ’80, Liz Blackwell, John Baumann ’83, Tom Ahlstrand ’69, Board of Trustees member and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Bill Epperly ’68 and Byron Carlson ’68 ’71.

Chicago Western Wednesdays
Nevin’s Brewing Company, Plainfield, IL
June 4, 2014

L-r: Alumni Council President Jeff McElroy ’97, Chase Meadows, Dave Hookstadt ’83, Susan Livengood Meadows ’89, Kim Dockus ’80, Kathleen Murphy ’77, Kevin Froehlich ’05, Kevin Stock ’95, Michele Rickerson ’97, Sheila Savage, Cruse ’03, Sarah Embree ’09 and Tom O’Brien ’07.

Indianapolis Alumni & Friends
Cooper’s Hawk Winery, Indianapolis, IN
May 29, 2014

Seated l-r: Allison Maguire, Anttwon Harris ’01, Diana Sims Harris ’02, Gary Anerino ’73, President Jack Thomas, Mary Anne Budd Anerino, Leslie Wilson ’93, Aura Landen Day ’93 and Cara Benstone Cowlin ’93. Standing l-r: Tim Maguire ’08, Toby Powell ’90, Marie Nolan Powell, Will Lance ’94, Rusty Loy Lance ’05, Megan Coons Leahy ’01, Cindy Krider Goldsberry ’79, E.J. McNaughton ’94, Michael Crouch ’70, John Burkhart Millenberger ’77, Kathy Dalla Costa ’97, Carmen Stockberger ’14, Jeff Nemeth ’98 ’08 and Alumni Director Amy Spelman ’98.

Dean of Student Services at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold. (jacquie@002@gmail.com)

1981
Patrick Connolly, Potomac, MD, was recently promoted to the Sodexo Group Executive Committee in Paris, as a member of a new executive team formed to lead a company wide reorganization around seven global segments. (pat.connolly@sodexo.com)

1982
Bruce Gates, San Tan Valley, AZ, is an adjunct trumpet instructor at Scottsdale Community College. (bgatesrtp@yahoo.com)

Patti Henery Spohnholz, Lake Worth, FL, is a communications manager for Office Depot in Boca Raton. (pspohnholz@gmail.com)

1983
Dorothy Forman Billingsly MBA ’85, Brooksville, FL, is a managing director at Ferguson Partners Ltd.

Angel Heredia, Wayne, is a physician in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at The Prairie Clinic in Geneva. (ahrensdpshpc@sbcglobal.net)

Daniel Hoeft, New Lenox, is a director of operations for Griffith Laboratories. (dhoeft@innovaflavors.com)

Kevin Holbrook, Escondido, CA, is a sales director for CommScope.

1985
Randolph Butler, Warrenville, is a senior estimator for The Lombard Company. (famous40@yahoo.com)

1986
Daniel Nardini MA, Chadwick, has written a book “South Korea: Our Story” which is a non-fiction memoir about his time in Seoul and a personal viewpoint of the historic events that took place in South Korea going into the 21st century.

Marilyn Smith Seal, Rockton, has retired after 27 years teaching middle school science.

CLASS NOTE CRITERIA
Information received will be published in the next edition of Western News only if any of the following have occurred in the past 12 months: a job change; promotion; special honor; retirement; marriage/civil union (include date); births or adoptions (include date).

Due to the high volume of address changes, information will not be published if there simply has been a change of address. All information submitted will be updated in the alumni database and can be viewed in the online alumni directory as well as in the online version of Western News at wiu.edu/alumni.

— WIU Alumni Programs
Quincy Gems Social & Baseball Game
Quincy Stadium, Quincy, IL
June 18, 2014

L-r: Retired UHDS Director Jack Schoonover ’75 ’93, Retired Clerk Sue Harding Schoonover ’81, Alumni Council member and UHDS Director Joe Roselieb ’07 ’09, President Jack Thomas, Keith Smith ’49 ’50, Dwain Preston ’57 ’67, Eric Foster ’12, Blake Harper ’12 and Alumni Council member Jerry Cremer ’89.

New York Alumni & Friends
Brooklyn Winery, Brooklyn, NY
July 13, 2014


Princeton Alumni & Friends
Wise Guys Bar and Grill, Princeton, IL
July 24, 2014

Front l-r: Steve Bouslog ’73, Barb Koller, President Jack Thomas, Marti Killer ’76, Denny Miller ’83 and Beth Huizenga Bickerman ’72. Middle l-r: Bill Cox ’73, John Garvin ’73, Sue Pizzuto Garvin ’75, Susan Lane Doty, Sharon Smith, Lee Fence ’54 and Greg Elliott ’79. Back l-r: Jayson Stamberger ’95, Alumni Council member Jim Carter ’75, Debra Novotny Carter ’75, Sue Scruggs, Jim Scruggs ’77, Jim Smith ’65, Terry Doty and Mike Brown ’77.

Washington Western Wednesdays
Clyde’s Tower Oak Lodge, Rockville, MD
July 30, 2014

L-r: Washington Committee member Bob Klannukarn ’90, Alumni Director Amy Spelman ’98, Mike Whitehurst, Nan Scheck-Whitehurst ’82, Pam Eason ’83, Bryant Wynes ’71 ’72, Washington Committee member Rob Taflinger ’01 and Marty O’Connor ’78.

1987
John “Marty” Green. Springfield, recently received a promotion from Lt. Colonel to Colonel from the Secretary of the Air Force and serves as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Illinois National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters. (greenm@icpas.org)

Donald Luy MS, Caledonia, IL, currently is an adjunct sport management instructor for Davenport University and was honored as Assistant Professor Emeritus in Exercise Science and Sport by Millikin University after 34 years of service to the university. (dluy25@gmail.com)

1988
Deanna Slick Espana. Arlington, TX, is a senior social work case manager for WellPoint/Amerigroup Corporation in Grand Prairie. (deanna.espana@amerigroup.com)

Craig Sewell. Carlsbad, CA, is director of security for ARRIS Group in San Diego. (craigsewell1988@gmail.com)

1989
Brad Beckman. Plainfield, is vice president of servicing and human resources for The Vitality Group.

Thomas Lehman MA ’95, Augusta, GA, is an assistant professor of Sociology at Palm College.

1991
Debbie Colucci MS. Kensington, CT, is the Equity Compliance Director & Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Wesleyan University in Middletown.

William Vick. Mt. Pleasant, IA, is an RN at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City.
account manager for the Indianapolis Colts.

2002
Carla Johnson Teslicka, Macomb, has been named CEO of the YMCA of McDonough County.
(ymcacarla@gmail.com)
Ryan Van Dyke, Naperville, is a director of product lifecycle management for Sears Holdings.

2003
Bernard “Chip” Owens III MBA ‘04, Quincy, is an attorney and recently opened the new law firm of Hauk & Owens, LLC. (owens@haukandowens.com)

2005
Kristina Flowers, Belleville, is a convention services manager for the St. Louis Union Station Hotel.
Kelly Noel Marinelli, Sherman, is a police dispatcher with the Springfield Police Department.

2006
Lori Johnson VICK MAT, Mt. Pleasant, IA, is a research assistant at the University of Iowa – College of Dentistry in Iowa City. (lvick423@gmail.com)

2007
Ashley Eberle, Arroyo Grande, CA, is a career counselor at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. (eberleashley@gmail.com)
William Ramsey, Chicago, works in component demand forecasting for United Air Lines.
Justin Smoot, Dubuque, IA, is a safety consultant for Cottingham & Butler. (justin.smoot@cb-sisco.com)

2008
Justin Boeens, Moline, is a manufacturing engineer for John Deere in East Moline.
(boeensjustin@johnndeere.com)
Allison Southwood, Chicago, is a travel and cruise consultant for AHI Travel. (asouthwood@gmail.com)
Christie Uvodich, West Chicago, is an implementation analyst for Sungard in Geneva. (cmuvodich@yahoo.com)

2009
Bradley Davis, Washington, has joined HBT Investment Services as a LPL Financial Advisor and is located at Heartland Bank and Trust Company.
Shawn Wilber Fite, River Ridge, LA, is a recruiter / HR generalist for the Archer Daniels Midland Company.
Marty Lamb, North Liberty, IA, is vice president of Peoples Savings Bank in Crawfordville.

2010
Lori Pankratz Conrad, Roselle, is a physical therapist for Athletico in Arlington Heights.
Sarah Russell Mann, Tennessee, is a life enrichment coordinator for Bickford Senior Living in Macomb.

2012
Lauren Kline MS ‘13, Downers Grove, has been awarded the 2014 Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Teaching Fellowship.

2013
Jacob Roberts, Macomb, is a police officer for the Macomb Police Department.
Dena Shaw, Belleville, is a teacher for the Astoria School District. (denateach13@gmail.com)

2014
David Mills MS-ED, Galesburg, is the principal at AlWood Middle/High School in Woodhull.
Daniel Mitchell, Mt. Pleasant, WI, is a product support manager trainee with CHN Industrial – Case Construction.
Aaron Snyder, Macomb, is a programmer support analyst for NTN-Bower.

Marriages
Joan Hollein ‘03 and Deron Sommers ‘02, May 3, 2014.
Matthew Verscheure ’88 and Paul Eide, Apr. 18, 2014.
Lori Wells ‘94 MS-ED ‘00 and Charles Palmgren, Mar. 21, 2014.

Births and Adoptions
Becki Driver Becker ‘00 and John, a daughter, Anne Lee, Sept. 24, 2013.
Nicholas Cleesen ‘03 and Jennifer, a son, Christopher Robert, Apr. 14, 2014.
Stephanie Aimi Crockett ’12 MS ‘14 and Joshua Crockett ’14, a daughter, Kayla, Sept. 3, 2013.
Jason Cunningham MS ‘05 and Jennifer, a son, Cameron Lee, Dec. 11, 2013.
Bart Ellefritz ’03 MA ‘07 and Ashley, a son, Charley Tobias, July 17, 2014.
LeAnn Gruber Heide ‘97, a daughter, Mar. 4, 2014.
Kelly Noel Marinelli ‘05 and Mark, a daughter, Avery Noel, June 13, 2014.
Linda Birnbaum Nowack ‘05 and David, a daughter, Amelia Anne, May 10, 2014.
Renae Willkerson Phillips MS ‘01 and Eddie, a daughter, Skylar Leilani, Oct. 21, 2013.
Amber Peak Range ’04 and Jess Range ’03, a daughter, Jade Nicole, Mar. 28, 2014.
Bridget Sarrazin ‘13, a son, Greyson Alan, May 27, 2014.
Joel Storm MS ‘07 and Hillary, a son, Liam Bradley, May 21, 2014.
Janely Rivera Torres ’04 and Antonio Torres ’05, a son, Benjamin Edwin, May 7, 2014.
Kelly O’Connell Underwood ’06 and Nicholas, a son, Jameson Michael, Apr. 4, 2014.

Deaths
Paul V. Arostrois, Kewanee, July 14, 2014.
David B. Beaver, Macomb, July 20, 2014.
Mary A. Byers, Yuma, AZ, Dec. 1, 2013.
Nancy A. Stewart Duskey, Rotonda West, FL, Oct. 8, 2013.
Norma J. Roberts Eliaison, Knoxville, TN, May 9, 2010.
Gary L. Fox, Camanche, IA, Feb. 18, 2014.
Richard W. Grask, Naperville, May 2, 2011.
Jim Harkness, Moline, Apr. 2, 2011.
Paul W. Hutinger, St. Petersburg, FL, July 17, 2014.
Harrison Pulsifer, Cincinnati, OH, Mar. 8, 2012.
Rene M. Raatjes, Frankfort, June 22, 2014.
Don C. Richmiller, Moline, July 8, 2013.
Ned A. Shearer, Macomb, June 1, 2014.
A. Jerry Shryock, Macomb, May 18, 2014.
Lois V. Sieben, Geneseo, Nov. 29, 2012.
CLASSNOTES

Alumni Benefits & Services
Continued from p. 21

Other Alumni Benefits Include:
• Access to the Leslie F. Malpass Library
• Ability to purchase memberships at the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center
• Quarterly issues of the Western News and monthly issues of RockeNews
• Continued access to the Career Development Center
• 21 scholarships awarded to children or grandchildren of alumni annually
• Access to the Online Directory exclusively for WIU alumni

Take a Study Trip to Italy
May 18–June 1, 2015
Exploring the Great Beauty of Rome and Beyond.

All alumni, friends and students are welcome.

A Study Abroad Course to introduce you to Italian contemporary society from a film and cultural studies prospective. Earn credit or audit for one or more of the following:

• ENGL/BC 290 “Introduction to Film” or ENGL Elective credit
• EIS 202 “Multicultural Foundations of Education”
• EIS 435 (G) “Cultural Studies of Second Language Learners in the Classroom” (also for ESL endorsement undergraduate and graduate students)

Contact Roberta Di Carmine (for ENGL/BC 290) at r-dicarmine@wiu.edu or Carla Paciotto (for EIS 202/435) at c-paciotto@wiu.edu for more information.

Win an iPad Mini!

WIU alumni are invited to update their information and be entered in a contest to win an iPad Mini. If you have had a job change, promotion, special honor, retirement, marriage, birth or adoption, update us through the form on page 31 or online wiu.edu/alumni. Updates submitted between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014 will be entered. One winner will be randomly selected to win an iPad Mini.

Thousands of Leathernecks have connected with the Western Illinois University Alumni Association on social media sites! Join us today!

Celebration of Life

Patti Hutinger, the longtime former director of Macomb Projects (later, The Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education), and professor of early childhood education, at Western Illinois University passed away March 26 in Macomb.

A celebration of life event will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Western Illinois University Art Gallery.
“The Western Open” Chicago Alumni & Friends Golf Outing • Seven Bridges in Woodridge, IL • June 9, 2014
Quad Cities Alumni & Friends Golf Outing • TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL • June 16, 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Itinerary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruise the Mosel, Rhine &amp; Main Rivers</td>
<td>September 22–30, 2014</td>
<td>See picture-perfect villages and pristine German countryside during a journey down the Mosel, Rhine and Main rivers. Along the Mosel, discover Bernkastel-Kues, admire medieval architecture and Roman ruins in Trier, and visit Cochem. Explore the historic town center of Koblenz and see the legendary Loreley Rock on the mighty Rhine. Cruise the Main River, explore the university town of Heidelberg and marvel at the architectural treasures of Würzburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasures of Southern Africa</td>
<td>October 15–29, 2014</td>
<td>Begin your journey in Cape Town, South Africa. Walk in Nelson Mandela’s footsteps on Robben Island. Ascend Cape Point and marvel at the panoramic view of the ocean. The Rovos Rail will take you on a two-night train journey across the country to Pretoria. Close the program by experiencing the power and majesty of thundering Victoria Falls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China and the Yangtze River</td>
<td>October 20–November 3, 2014</td>
<td>Travel to famous landmarks, including the sprawling Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall. Walk through sprawling Tian'anmen Square, and step inside the massive walls of the Forbidden City. Volunteer for a day at the Chengdu Panda Base and cruise the Yangtze River to marvel at the spectacular Three Gorges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls of the Mediterranean</td>
<td>November 7–15, 2014</td>
<td>Discover some culturally-rich pearls of the Mediterranean, as you cruise from Monaco to Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruise the Panama Canal</td>
<td>November 19–30, 2014</td>
<td>Set sail on Crystal Serenity and escape the chill of November for the sandy beaches, sunny skies and easygoing spirit of the Caribbean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayan Mystique</td>
<td>January 6–16, 2015</td>
<td>Experience awe-inspiring, tropical lands infused with vibrant cultures and riveting ancient ruins as you cruise the Caribbean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polynesian Paradise</td>
<td>March 15–25, 2015</td>
<td>From luxurious white-sand beaches to velvety emerald mountains, indulge your senses with the wonders of French Polynesia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Coastal Hideaways</td>
<td>April 24–May 3, 2015</td>
<td>Discover the captivating cultures of the Mediterranean aboard the elegant Oceania Cruises Riviera. Explore the lovely Spanish cities of Valencia and Palma de Mallorca, take in Marseille’s old town and glamorous Monte Carlo, and enrich yourself among celebrated art and natural beauty in Portofino, Cinque Terre, Florence and Pisa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain ~ Valencia and Barcelona</td>
<td>May 18–27, 2015</td>
<td>Visit Xàtiva and Tarragona, the first and oldest Roman settlement on the Iberian Peninsula, and Barcelona. Walk through the medieval streets and alleyways of the Gothic Quarter and see the Olympic Stadium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris Immersion</td>
<td>June 5–16, 2015</td>
<td>For 10 nights, explore the City of Light. Visit the Latin Quarter and the palace at Versailles. Discover the places that played a role during the WWII occupation of Paris including a journey to Rouen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls of the Mediterranean</td>
<td>June 13–23, 2015 (Please note new date.)</td>
<td>Revel in the esteemed architecture, natural beauty and cultural gems of the Mediterranean, while cruising aboard the luxurious Oceania Cruises Riviera, stopping in Amalfi, Sardinia, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona, Marseille, Antibes and Monte Carlo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Alaska</td>
<td>July 7–14, 2015</td>
<td>Travel to Alaska, a natural wonder of stunning landscapes and unspoiled wilderness, aboard the elegant Oceania Cruises Regatta. Depart Seattle and sail to Ketchikan, through the stunningly scenic Tracy Arm Fjord to Wrangell, with a stop in Prince Rupert, B.C. on your return to Seattle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>August 5–13, 2015</td>
<td>Discover the best of Scotland’s Celtic, Norse and Norman cultures and enjoy British afternoon tea, festive Highland dancers, bagpipe playing and a traditional haggis ceremony. Visit the magnificent Stirling Castle and National Wallace Monument. Roam the medieval and Georgian architecture of Edinburgh, then tour Scone Palace before exploring St. Andrews. Then cruise along Loch Katrine and learn the secrets of Scotland’s whiskey artistry at its oldest distillery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Marvels</td>
<td>August 13–21, 2015 (Please note the new date.)</td>
<td>Marvel at the storybook settings, deep-rooted history and canal-laced capitals of the Baltic as you sail from Copenhagen to Stockholm aboard the elegant Oceania Cruises Marina, with unforgettable interludes in Germany, Estonia, Russia and Finland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Isles Odyssey</td>
<td>September 26–October 5, 2015</td>
<td>Discover incredible ancient wonders and alluring sun-soaked islands on this Aegean adventure aboard the graceful Oceania Cruises Riviera. This odyssey to Turkey and the Greek Isles transports you to the stunning cities and islands of Volos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini and Mykonos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rediscovered Tuscany</td>
<td>October 14–22, 2015</td>
<td>Experience the charm of Tuscany on a program that combines guided sightseeing excursions with ample free time to immerse yourself in local culture. Wander through the winding streets of Colle di Val d’Elsa. Witness the Etruscan heritage of Casole d’Elsa then tour Cortona and the Etruscan Academy. Discover the architectural treasures of Renaissance Florence and then visit a farm for a tasting of pecorino cheese and learn the essence of Tuscan cooking during a private demonstration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern &amp; Oriental Express: Bangkok to Bali</td>
<td>November 6–18, 2015</td>
<td>Experience an exotic kaleidoscope of colors, sounds, cultures and ancient histories in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Discover Bangkok on a tuk-tuk, marvel at the opulence of the Grand Palace, visit Wat Po and see other key landmarks. Then, celebrate the golden age of travel for three nights aboard the legendary Eastern &amp; Oriental Express Train. Explore lively Singapore before flying to Bali where you will be able to admire Bali’s breathtaking scenery, volcanoes, jungles and white-sand beaches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional trip information, visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php.
Refer a Student to Western Illinois University

Do you know a student who would be a great fit for Western Illinois University? Let us know by completing the form below. We also welcome recommendations for students who may wish to transfer to WIU.

The WIU Admissions Office or School of Graduate Studies will personally follow up with the student and give him/her the option of registering as a prospective student. The student will receive information from WIU, will be added to our contact list and will be invited to special events in his/her area and in Macomb. The student will also be notified that you took the time to refer him/her to Western Illinois University (if you would like us to share that information).

**STUDENT’S INFORMATION**

First Name: __________________________
Last Name: __________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______
School Currently Attending: __________________________
Expected Graduation Date From Above: ______
E-mail: ____________________________
Cell Phone: _________________________
Home Phone: _________________________
Gender: □ Female □ Male

**REFERRED BY**

First Name: __________________________
Last Name: __________________________
WIU Graduation Year: __________________________
Relationship to Student: __________________________
E-mail: ____________________________
Cell Phone: _________________________
Home Phone: _________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______

*Why would this student be a good candidate for WIU?*

☐ Yes, I would like to pay the application fee ($30) for this student when he/she applies.
If this student chooses not to apply:

☐ Please use the application fee for another deserving student.
   OR
   ☐ Please refund me.

☐ Yes, I would like this student to know I recommended him/her.
☐ No, I would prefer this student not know I recommended him/her.

Please mail form to: WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455-1390, or visit wiu.edu/alumni/recommend.php to complete the form online.

**Send Us Your News**

Full Name __________________________ Maiden Name __________________________ Grad. Year __________
Mailing Address __________________________

City __________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Prefer ☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Cell

Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________

Do you want email published in the Western News? ☐ No ☐ Yes Spouse’s/Domestic Partner’s? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Home E-mail __________________________ Business E-mail __________________________

Title/Position __________________________ Employer __________________________

Employer Mailing Address __________________________

City __________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______

Business Phone __________________________

Marital Status: ☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ Domestic Partner

Is spouse/domestic partner a WIU graduate? ☐ No ☐ Yes, Graduation Year __________
If yes: Spouse/Domestic Partner Full Name __________________________ Maiden Name __________________________

Title/Position __________________________ Employer __________________________

Employer Mailing Address __________________________

City __________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______

Business Phone __________________________

Prefer ☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Cell
Do you want to receive text messages from the university? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Include Information in Western News? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Information for Western News:

**Send Us Your Feedback** Western News wants to know! How are we doing? What items are your favorites, or which items don’t you read, in Western News? Tell us what you think.

☐ Please accept the enclosed gift to assist with printing and postage of the Western News.

Send updates and feedback to: Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455-1390, fax (309) 298-2914, or online at wiu.edu/alumni

*NOTE: Information will be included in Western’s online directory and in the online Western News.*

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**Western News 31**

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**Kick off WIU Homecoming 2014 with…**

**Celebrating Town & Gown 2014**

Sept. 25 • Location: The Forum • 5:30-7:30 p.m. with a short program at 6:15 p.m. • Price: $20/person

Help Western Illinois University and the city of Macomb start WIU Homecoming 2014 in style. Join us to celebrate all President Jack Thomas and Mayor Mike Inman have accomplished this past year for the WIU and Macomb communities. Call (309) 298-1914 or visit wiu.edu/alumni for more information or to register.
Upcoming Texas Alumni Events

Join your WIU Alumni Association as the Western Wednesdays After Hours tradition continues! We began in Chicago, then launched Washington D.C. Western Wednesdays last January, and kicked-off our Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in May. We'll rotate every other month in the Chicago, Washington D.C. and Quad Cities areas this year! Hundreds of alumni have joined us every month for great food, great conversation and a few beverages!

Chicago
October 1
Libertyville at Mickey Finn's

December 3
Downtown at Butch McGuire's

February 4, 2015
Suburb

April 1, 2015
Downtown

June 3, 2015
Suburb

August 5, 2015
Downtown

October 7, 2015
Suburb

Quad Cities
November 5
Davenport at Me & Billy

January 2015
No event due to holiday

March 4, 2015
Bettendorf

May 6, 2015
Moline

July 2015
No event due to holiday

September 2, 2015
Rock Island

November 4, 2015
Davenport

Washington D.C.
September 24
Downtown D.C. at Clyde’s of Georgetown

November 19
Reston, VA (one week earlier due to holiday)

Western Wednesdays
Join your WIU Alumni Association as the Western Wednesdays After Hours tradition continues! We began in Chicago, then launched Washington D.C. Western Wednesdays last January, and kicked-off our Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in May. We'll rotate every other month in the Chicago, Washington D.C. and Quad Cities areas this year! Hundreds of alumni have joined us every month for great food, great conversation and a few beverages!

Upcoming Florida Alumni Events

January 25 – Orlando Social
January 26 – Tampa Social
January 27 – Bradenton Luncheon
January 27 – Naples Social
January 28 – Miami Social
January 29 – West Palm Beach Social

Upcoming Texas Alumni Events

Monday, October 13
Boiler House & Texas Grill & Wine Garden
312 Pearl Parkway, Building 3
San Antonio, TX
Social: 6-8 p.m.
$15 includes social, succulent appetizers & cash bar

Tuesday, October 14
Perry’s Steakhouse & Grille
114 W. 7th Street
Austin, TX
Social: 6-8 p.m.
$15 includes social, appetizers & cash bar

Wednesday, October 15
The Tasting Room – Uptown Park
1101-18 Uptown Park Boulevard
Houston, TX
Social: 6-8 p.m.
$15 includes social, appetizers & cash bar

Thursday, October 16
Max’s Wine Dive
3600 McKinney Avenue, Suite 100
Dallas, TX
Social: 6-8 p.m.
$15 includes social, hors d’oeuvres & cash bar

President Jack Thomas and Vice President Gary Biller will join us in Dallas! President’s National Advisory Council member Andi Frieden Gulley ’96 will join us in Houston. Alumni Director Amy Spelman ’98 will be your host for the tour. Register at wiu.com/alumni or call 309-298-1914.

For more information, contact the Alumni Association at A-Association@wiu.edu or visit wiu.edu/alumni.