Jim and Betty Garner Alumni Legacy Project

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95
Susan Wenzel ’86 and her husband, Tom, have been searching for a meaningful way to honor her late parents, James R. (Jim) ’50 and Betty Garner ’48, since Jim’s passing in January.

“They lived such fulfilling lives and did so much for their community and for Western Illinois University,” said Wenzel. “I really just want to provide them with a legacy reflective of their values and their lives.”

Wenzel learned of the WIU Alumni Legacy Project and knew immediately this was the project she wanted her parents to be associated with.

“Growing up, anyone and everyone was welcome in our home; my parents were very hospitable and social. Naming the Alumni House Expansion—a place to welcome everyone home—for Jim and Betty is perfect,” she said.

Jim Garner and Betty Spurgeon met while attending Western Illinois University in the 1940s. Jim’s studies were interrupted by World War II service in the Philippines and later, while he convalesced in Japan. “My parents were soulmates, and their love and respect for each other set the foundation for our family life,” Wenzel said. “I have letters that my dad wrote every day (sometimes twice a day) from Korea, and later, while he convalesced in Japan,” Wenzel said. “My parents were soulmates, and their love and respect for each other set the foundation for our family life.”

Betty devoted her time to her growing family—sons David, John and Joe and daughter Susan—and church, and Jim was an agent and manager for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, an active member of the WIU Foundation Board and Performing Arts Society, recipient of the “Award of Recognition” presented by Western and Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and a 1987 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

The Wenzel’s gift will fund Phase II of the Alumni Legacy Project (Phase I was completed in 2012), improving the front of the Alumni House and grounds, creating better accessibility and more space for activities.

“Tom and I are happy to be able to help Alumni Programs with this enhancement to honor my parents,” Wenzel said. “It just feels right that this important campus space, where people will gather and be welcomed back, will carry their names.”

“We are grateful for Susan’s and Tom’s gift,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 MS ’83. “Jim and Betty Garner gave so much to the community and to Western.”

For more information about the legacy project, visit wiu.edu/alumni/groundsrenovation.php.

Western News

Alumni News and Notes from Western Illinois University

Jim and Betty Garner Alumni Legacy Project

I read a letter that my mom wrote to my dad in 1945 while she was a student at Western; he was somewhere in the Pacific waiting to invade Japan. Her letter said she was so happy they had decided to ‘go together’ on December 19, 1944,” Wenzel shared. “That made me realize WIU is the place to honor them, because this is where it all began for them.”

Jim returned from the war, and he and Betty married in 1947. Betty completed her degree in English education in 1948, while Jim earned his business and physical education degree in 1950. Jim went overseas again, this time to Korea, where he was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart.

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For more information about the legacy project, visit wiu.edu/alumni/groundsrenovation.php.

WIU continues to receive high marks

By Darcie Shinberger ’89 MS ’98
From the Princeton Review to U.S.News and World Report to GI Jobs Magazine, Western Illinois University continues to be ranked among the best.

For the 10th consecutive year, Western has been named as a “Best Midwestern University” by U.S. News and World Report, and as a “Best Midwestern College” by The Princeton Review. The University, for the sixth consecutive year, has also been designated a “Military Friendly School” by GI Jobs magazine.

In the most recent U.S.News rankings, Western moved up nine spots in the rankings to 39th of 109 public and

Continued on p. 19

Founders’ Day 2014


To watch it, visit wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=11947.

2014 Fall Alumni Achievement

Five Western Illinois University alumni have been selected to receive the WIU Alumni Achievement Award at the Saturday, Dec. 20 Commencement exercises.

This year’s Alumni Achievement recipients are Kristin L. Andress ’89, CEO of Andress Consulting in Solana Beach, CA and bestselling co-author of the book, “Imagine Being In a Life You Love;” Richard M. Beuke ’77, founding partner of Beuke and Beuke Attorneys at Law in Clarendon Hills, IL; Matthew A. Bills ’99, principal with Grippo & Elden LLC in Chicago; Nick Padgett ’88, co-founder of Frontaura Capital LLC in Chicago; and Tom Stalf ’92, president and CEO of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Bills, Padgett and Stalf will be recognized at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, while Andress and Beuke will be recognized at the 1 p.m. ceremony.

Western’s Alumni Achievement Award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in one or more of the following: exceptional accomplishment in one’s chosen field of endeavor; exceptional service in community affairs at the local, state or national levels; or exceptional service in support of the advancement and continued excellence of WIU.

Continued on p. 18
increasingly global society, and it is an expectation that college graduates have an opportunity to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. I believe that our campus should be a catalyst for said experiences. As we turn the page on another successful semester, I will begin to focus on the spring 2015 semester. We will not rest on the laurels of a successful past; we will continue to press toward our goals. We will continue to pursue greatness and move forward in a positive direction. I know these successes are not due to my efforts alone. The successes of Western Illinois University rest on the shoulders of many people. I graciously thank delightful students, fantastic faculty, superb staff, amazing alumni, and fantastic friends.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of Western Illinois University.

All my best,

Jack Thomas

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See “Send Us Your News” (page 27).

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WIU alumni family named Illinois Farm Family of the Year

By Teresa Koltzenburg ‘92 MS ‘11

“I told my mom, if it wasn’t for Andrew, we wouldn’t have been up there on that stage receiving the Illinois Farm Family of the Year Award.”

That’s what Western Illinois University School of Agriculture alumna Kate (Wedekind) Niemeier ’10 said of her late brother, Andrew K. Wedekind, and her family’s recent recognition as the Illinois Farm Family of the Year. Her comment was related to a family history profile that Wedekind—as a student of WIU School of Agriculture Assistant Professor Joel Gruver—had begun as part of his studies at Western.

In early 2014, Wedekind passed away while still a student, but the profile he had started about his family—descendants of Jonathan Baldwin Turner, whose heritage is connected to the early expansion of agricultural research, the creation of “industrial” education, abolition and the idea of land-grant universities—helped lead to his family’s honor as the 2014 Illinois Farm Family of the Year. The award, now in its 16th year, is sponsored by Burris Hybrids and the agricultural publication, AgriNews, and honors the selected family “for the members’ work on their farm and contributions in their community.”

In early September, Niemeier—who earned her degree in agricultural education in 2010 and now teaches agricultural education at Lewis High School—and Wedekind’s parents (Wayne and Rebecca) and grandparents (Jack and Anita), her aunts and uncles and their family’s farming operation, Evergreen Farms (Butler, IL), were recognized at the University of Illinois’ Salute to Ag celebration. According to Tom Doran, in his Sept. 19 AgriNews article, “Evergreen Farms Earns Farm Family of the Year Honor,” the farm’s patriarch, Jack Randquist, and matriarch, Anita (Turner) Rundquist, “still live on the farm and are involved in every aspect of the operation. They met when they were both enrolled as students at the U of I in 1945.”

Gruver, who wanted to share his student’s work with Wedekind’s mourning family, nominated the Randquist family and Evergreen Farms for the annual award this year.

“When Evergreen Farms incorporated many years ago, all of the siblings were brought in as directors. All directors (including new family members) assemble several times a year to make decisions for the farm. All five of the siblings have different educational backgrounds and life experiences, and thus bring together diverse views of agriculture, which help to keep the farm viable and sustainable,” Gruver wrote of the family in the packet he submitted.

“Jack and Anita Randquist are long-standing community leaders who have donated generously to the University of Illinois, Illinois College, Hillsboro School District, Montgomery County 4-H and many other charities. Perhaps even more important, they have instilled in family members a drive to continually make things better, not only on the family farm, but also in other professional activities and throughout the world.”

Also among the information pieces Gruver submitted with his nomination were a detailed list of community service the Randquist family had taken part in over the years and the three-page profile Wedekind had begun work on as Gruver’s student.

“Andrew had a good start on the profile when he submitted it to Dr. Gruver,” Niemeier explained. “So after Andrew passed away, Dr. Gruver sent it to me and said, ‘I’d really like to do something nice for your parents and for your grandparents. Will you help me polish this up, and then we can print and bind it and send a copy to your parents and grandparents? So I sneekily enlisted one of my aunts to help me. With her help, we confirmed dates and found photos and added them. Overall, with the help of my aunt and Dr. Gruver, I think we turned it into a pretty nice paper,” she added.

“This is an extraordinary family with a rich agricultural heritage tracing back to one of the great academics, agriculturalists and humanitarians in Illinois history, Jonathan Baldwin Turner,” Gruver noted. “Jack and Anita Rundquist are shining examples of J.B. Turner’s humanitarian legacy.”

A Legacy of Love Continued

As a tribute to their grandson, son, brother and nephew, the family set up the Andrew K. Wedekind Memorial Fund, which Niemeier said has been able to provide funds for causes about which Wedekind cared.

“We received an amazing amount of donations after Andrew’s passing, so we’re supporting projects that have to do with things he loved. Showing pigs was his absolute favorite thing to do, so we’re starting a program with our local 4-H that will help with that. He enjoyed youth groups at our church, so we’re supporting some of the activities for that, too. He also loved the FFA, so we’ve given some scholarships and helped with convention trips,” Niemeier said.

The family also donated two gifts of Wedekind’s to Western. Additionally, the family donated funds that have gone toward purchasing a new trailer for Western’s Livestock Judging Team, which is coached by WIU School of Agriculture Professor Mark Hoge.

“While I was the first person in my family to attend Western—and Andrew knew of the great experience I had—the biggest deciding factor for him was Dr. Hoge. When Andrew was on the Livestock Judging Team while he attended Lakeland College, he visited with Dr. Hoge, and they hit it off. After that, he decided to attend Western to finish his degree, and things just kind of fell into place there for him,” Niemeier explained.

During Western’s Homecoming festivities, Niemeier, her parents and her husband (Steve Niemeier), traveled to Macomb to visit with School of Agriculture Director Andrew Baker, Gruver, Hoge, as well as some of Andrew’s Livestock Judging Teammates. While here, the family took time out to pose with photos of the trailer the donation they provided helped to fund.

“This is just perfect,” Rebecca, said, with tears welling up in her eyes, of the large group of Livestock Judging Team students and faculty who surrounded her during a photo op by the trailer.

“She’s made it through most of our time here without tearing up,” Niemeier said as she looked at her mother nestled among the students and faculty who also loved Andrew. “I’m very proud of her.”

The Randquist family will remain the Illinois Farm Family of the Year until another family is nominated and chosen next year—similar to how the crops are harvested each fall and planted to grow anew each spring. In the nomination packet, Gruver included a quote from Niemeier that sums up the sentiment of her family’s recent honor perfectly.

“Even with the tremendous loss of loved ones, my family is stronger because of it. Agriculture is an excellent way of life. After the dark times of a flood, a drought or even just a hard winter, eventually the sun comes out, favorable growing conditions arrive and a new crop begins to grow. Once again, life is good and farming can continue.”

For more information, about AgriNews and Burris Seeds’ Illinois Farm Family of the Year Award, see bit.ly/11KpBm1 and “Rundquists Honored As Family of the Year” in the Journal-News (Hillsboro, IL), bit.ly/1zA5wZ.
Professor Joe Dobson: My time in Romania

WIU Professor of Management and Marketing Joe Dobson was awarded his second Fulbright Scholarship in March 2013 from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which allowed him to spend the Spring 2014 semester in Romania teaching management classes at the University of Babes-Bolyai. Dobson gives his account below of what he took away from the prestigious experience.

By Joe Dobson

February 2, 2014: Two suitcases, a carry-on and my laptop. That’s what I brought with me for my sabbatical in Romania. I’ve always wanted to spend time in Eastern Europe, and when the opportunity to teach in Romania came, I jumped at the chance. The right contact, a Fulbright grant and plain good luck resulted in my chance to board the plane for my five month adventure.

I taught at Universitatea Babes-Bolyai in Cluj-Napoca for the Spring 2014 semester. Set in the Transylvania region of the country, I found that most of the people I met there did not care to be associated with the legend of Dracula. The exception was those who lived in the town of Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler aka Vlad Tepes aka Dracula. They didn’t mind, since the tourist money is a boon to their local economy.

Cluj is home to several universities. During the school year, there are approximately 100,000 university students living there. Babes-Bolyai will have up to 50,000 students alone. At Babes, students can take classes in Romanian, Hungarian or English. Fortunately for me, I was able to teach my management course in English.

Faculty and administration were extremely helpful in every way possible. In addition to teaching regular classes, I also conducted workshops on entrepreneurship, participated in a joint Romanian-Dutch planning project for the city of Cluj, consulted with my host academic unit on its promotion and tenure procedures and laid the groundwork for future faculty and student exchanges.

Currently, there is one Romanian professor making arrangements to come to Western for the next year, and in 2016, I will be taking my study abroad group to Cluj.

Having traveled to Western Europe many times, I was curious to see what the eastern part of the continent was like. I found the people there friendly, happy to be a free country after rules of dictatorship and most curious about life in America.

Each year, I take a group of students to Western Europe for a study abroad course. I enjoy watching them experience new cultures and discovering how life can be different, yet in some ways similar, to their own country. They are well-prepared for the trip, and make careful observations to compare to the U.S. I envy them for that first time joy of discovery they feel. For me, this was an extended version of that same experience and was significantly enriching. I learned to view daily life, prices and customs through the eyes of a Romanian.

Although there is no way to report with any depth those experiences in a page or so, I can give you a smattering of somewhat random observations that will begin to show you what life was like.

Life in Romania

I went to the doctor on campus to get my medical certificate as part of the requirement for my temporary resident permit. It was fast and cheap, and they only asked two questions: How old are you? Are you in good health? It was also free of charge.

In a large hyper mart (think Super Walmart), I passed by a display of ceramic dishes and bowls with a butcher-type scale. They sell them by weight, priced per kilo.

As part of an environmental initiative, the stores charge for bags. Also, escalators are designed to be environmentally sound. To conserve energy, they barely move until you step on it, then it moves to full-speed.

Remember the jingle, “Mr. Clean, Mr. Clean, Mr. Clean?” In Romania, he is Mr. Proper.

I bought a cell phone just to use in Romania. It cost me $1.22 for the phone, and about $14/month for 3,000 Romanian minutes and 60 international minutes per month.

On campus, there was a concert auditorium, which held classical concerts performed by the state philharmonic orchestra every Friday at 7 p.m. for $6.10. When the audience applauded, the clapping started out as usual, then became rhythmic, with everyone clapping in unison in a clap…clap…clap…clap beat.

Never play “Chicken” with a Romanian! In many places, if a pedestrian steps into a marked crosswalk, drivers are required to stop and yield to the pedestrians. However, most pedestrians still look before crossing the street. The locals in Cluj didn’t do that. They just stepped out and went. And drivers simply stop, as if they expect it.

Well, there you have it, a bit of observation about life in Romania from the perspective of a Midwestern guy. It was a wonderful experience that I will relish for many years. I’m already figuring that with the low cost of living there, I might spend a month a year there in my retirement years. Even if that plan doesn’t happen, I will go back. It’s a beautiful country with beautiful people.

USDA NRCS’ Kirk Hanlin: WIU 2014 CBT Executive in Residence

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 MS ’11

Western Illinois University alumnus Kirk Hanlin ’82, assistant chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), was chosen as the College of Business and Technology’s 2014 Executive in Residence (EIR). Started in 2005 by retired WIU professors, Jim and Carolyn Tripp, the EIR program brings speakers to Western’s campus to share stories of their careers and provide their professional insights to students.

During his keynote presentation as the 2014 EIR, Hanlin, who was born in Keokuk (IA) and grew up in Hancock County (IL), talked about how he got his start in politics and his career in government service.

“I got started in my professional career by getting a job on Walter Mondale’s presidential campaign,” he explained during his keynote address. “But it was at Western when I first got involved with government. I lived in Tanner Hall, so I wound up serving as the Student Government Association (SGA) representative for Tanner.”

While a student at Western, Hanlin lived in Tanner and Higgins halls and also served as a floor president for the Tanner Hall Government, as well as Tanner Hall’s senator to the SGA. He was elected as both speaker pro tempore of the SGA and speaker of the senate for SGA.

“While serving as speaker of the SGA senate, to engage students in the political process, I arranged for a series of debates on campus between state representative candidates, state senate candidates, U.S. congressional candidates and for speeches on campus by the gubernatorial candidates,” Hanlin noted.

“The experience I gained in arranging those appearances led to a career in politics, including eight years in the White House and my current position at the Natural Resources Conservation Service.”

While at Western for the EIR, Hanlin was interviewed for University Television’s series, “The Purple Chair,” and attended Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 3-4). He wrote about his experience, “only three days on campus…a whirlwind tour,” in a blog post following his trip back to Washington, D.C.

“Recently, I was able to spend time at my alma mater, Western Illinois University, as the honored 2014 Executive in Residence. It was a privilege to serve in this capacity at a university that stands at the forefront in educating and training the next generation of farmers, agricultural producers and business people,” he wrote.

“Each day, I addressed agricultural and political science classes, spoke with students about my career and the issues they will face as they enter their career field, and answered questions on every topic imaginable…My message to the students was simple—seize the opportunities here. Nearly 30 years ago, I was a student sitting at the same amazing University with great
By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 MS ’11

Four Western Illinois University School of Agriculture students recently brought home a team award from the North Central Weed Science Society’s competition in Johnston (IA). According to School of Agriculture Assistant Professor Mark Bernards, WIU’s “weed team 1,” comprised of Zane Higgins (La Prairie, IL), senior; Grant Dempsey (Loraine, IL), senior; Aaron Prins (Olney, IL), senior; and Matthew Layher (Manchester, MI), senior, earned third place in the undergraduate category in the late July competition. In addition, Higgins earned the second place undergraduate individual award, and Prins garnered second place in the undergraduate farmer problem contest.

Bernards said the team award is based on the combined scores of the top three members of the team and one team event, the sprayer calibration event. The team with highest cumulative total won the contest. Approximately 90 students (both graduate and undergraduate) from the north central region of the United States participated in the event. The team with highest cumulative total won the contest. Approximately 90 students (both graduate and undergraduate) from the north central region of the United States participated in the event.

“The purpose of the competition is to allow students to apply their understanding of weed identification and accurate herbicide application, as well as their abilities to calculate math related to crop production and to identify which herbicide was applied based on which plants were controlled and the plants’ symptoms. In addition, they were evaluated on their abilities to troubleshoot agronomic problems. The students worked with a ‘farmer’ who posed a problem in the field, and they then had to identify the cause of the problem and make recommendations about how to address it that year, as well as how to prohibit it from occurring in subsequent years,” Bernards explained.

A second team of WIU School of Agriculture students also participated in the July 24 contest, including Brittany Parker (Kilbourne, IL) senior; Kyle Russell (Macomb, IL), junior; and Kristina Simmons (Ashland, IL), junior. Bernards said the students prepared for their competition during the Spring 2014 semester, as well as took part in a couple of practice sessions over the summer. He also noted their summer internships and jobs helped them prepare for the parts of the contest that covered weed identification and farmer problems.

“The competition is one of the best practical learning exercises an agronomy student can participate in,” Bernards added. “It allows them to apply many of the skills they will use after they graduate, when they work in jobs related to agronomy and crop production. This is a great opportunity for each student to meet people in the industry and determine if this is the type of job he or she would enjoy. It also provides an opportunity for participating companies to identify outstanding future professional talent.”

After the competitive part of the event, participating students toured DuPont Pioneer’s headquarters and the company’s highly automated greenhouse. In addition, DuPont Pioneer officials presented information about career opportunities within the company and explained how students could best prepare for the types of jobs available in the organization.

For more information, contact Bernards at (309) 298-1569 or via email at ML-Bernards@wiu.edu.
**Business and Technology**

**WIU welcomes visiting scholars from China**

*By Darcie Shinberger* '89 MS '98

“Huànyìng.”

Translation: “Welcome.” Five visiting scholars from Shanghai Donghai Vocational Technical College in China are joining the ranks of faculty in the colleges of Fine Arts and Communication and Business and Technology at Western Illinois University for Fall 2014 as part of a partnership between the two schools. Yuan Xuefei, Wang Hui, Wu Xieling, Hou Dan and Zhang Yunyun arrived in Macomb Aug. 17, and have been conducting research, visiting classes and observing faculty since Aug. 25. In addition to the five visiting faculty, eight other administrators and faculty from Shanghai Donghai visited Macomb to tour the school for possible future programs, according to Rick Carter, executive director of the School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach.

Western’s partnership with Shanghai Donghai Vocational Technical College began in 2013 following Carter’s participation in the 2013 State of Illinois educational trade mission to the country. Shanghai Donghai Vocational Technical College President Xiang Jiaxiang visited WIU to learn more about the school.

During the Spring 2014 semester, the first delegation of 25 students from Shanghai attended Western’s English as a Second Language (WESL) program, while three teachers called Western’s Macomb campus home for five weeks as they undertook intensive ESL training. During the 2012-13 academic year, Nolan Zuo, a professor at the college, served as a visiting scholar at Western.

It is a privilege to have a partnership in place, and lasting friendships, with the faculty and leaders of Shanghai Donghai Vocational Technical College,” noted WIU President Jack Thomas. “Building long-term relationships with educational institutions abroad is essential to our internationalization efforts at Western Illinois University.”

Carter also traveled to China in March 2014 as part of Illinois’ 15-day higher education trade mission.

“It is always a pleasure to visit with our friends at Shanghai. We are honored that Dr. Jiaxiang and the visiting scholars think so highly of Western Illinois University and continue to work with our institution on continuing education initiatives,” Carter added.

In addition to the recent Shanghai Donghai Vocational Technical College exchange, leaders from Beijing Prepare Education Consulting Co., representing Beijing WUZI University, were recently at the Macomb campus to discuss a 2+2 agreement with Western’s Supply Chain Management degree program, Carter added, as well as to recruit students from WUZI to attend WIU. Five Western Illinois University students are studying abroad at various Chinese universities this fall.

For more information on Western’s Center for International Studies, including WESL and study abroad programs, visit wiu.edu/CIS.

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**Professional development series**

In September, the College of Business and Technology hosted a Professional Development Series for students; the event offered an array of sessions to help students prepare for their job searches and careers in business.

The keynote address, “Imagine Being in a Life You Love,” was presented by Kristin Andress ‘89, CEO of Andress Strategy Consulting. Andress’ belief is each person is 100 percent responsible for his or her own life. She discussed how to develop a personal brand and image; tips for overcoming excuses about time, energy, money, and people (TEMP); the value of “super champions,” how to get what you want and need and the call to contribute.

Sessions, mostly presented by WIU alumni, included Get LinkedIn, where students learned how to create their own LinkedIn accounts and maximize their experiences with it; Dress for Success, during which students were instructed on how to present themselves professionally; Preparing a Professional Resume; ROTC Leadership Course, in which students were given a chance to test their leadership skills on a challenge course conducted by WIU’s ROTC; Ace the Interview, a session in which students were offered a behind-the-scenes look at how employers conduct interviews; Etiquette Dinner; Alumni Panel, during which alumni answered career questions; Employer Panel, during which employers answered questions about the job search and a Student Organization Fair.

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**College Career Fairs**

**Meet the Firms Recap**

On Sept. 10, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its annual “Meet the Firms” career fair in the MAC Gym at the Spencer Recreation Center. “Meet the Firms” allows WIU accounting and finance students the opportunity to meet in person with potential employers. This year, the event was combined with Supply Chain Management (SCM) Day. Over 40 firms attended the event.

**SCM Day Recap**

Sept. 10 marked the WIU SCM program’s 11th Supply Chain Management Day. This year’s SCM Day was a record-breaking year with approximately 215 people registered in advance, including company representatives, students and WIU administration, faculty and staff. Of the 69 company representatives, nearly 40 percent are WIU alumni. The SCM program has an advisory board that meets every SCM Day, as well as once during the spring semester. The SCM Advisory Board is comprised of 20 strategic recruiting companies, including representatives from ADM, John Deere, CAT Logistics, Monsanto, Dot Foods, Group O and many others. In addition to regular board members, this year’s meeting also included many first-time SCM Day companies, such as Prime Inc.

**Agriculture Career Fair**

The annual Agriculture Career Fair was held Oct. 8 with 264 students in attendance and 46 companies present to meet with students from various majors.

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**Neumann named Interim CBT Dean**

Kathleen Neumann ‘86 MS ’88, associate provost for budget, planning, personnel and technology at Western Illinois University, has been named interim dean of the WIU College of Business and Technology (CBT), according to Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkison ’78 MA ’79.

Neumann replaces Jack Elfrink who stepped down from the post due to personal reasons. Neumann continues her duties as associate provost.

Neumann has served as associate provost since July 2012. Previously, she was the interim associate provost for budget, planning and personnel. Neumann joined the WIU faculty in 1995 as an assistant professor in computer science and was named a full professor in August 2004. She was named chair of the computer science department in December 2000 (the department became the School of Computer Sciences in Fall 2010).

“Dr. Neumann’s many years of experience and leadership as a department chair, and as the associate provost, have prepared her to assume the dean’s position in the College of Business and Technology,” Hawkison noted. “I would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Elfrink for his tenure as CBT dean. He has done an excellent job leading the college following Dr. Erekson’s retirement.”

Neumann received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WIU, and her Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

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**Westen awarded Outstanding Adviser Award**

Western Illinois University Accountancy Instructor Cheryl Westen ‘92 MBA ’00 was presented the Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award at the Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, in August. Westen is the adviser for Western’s Zeta Beta chapter.

The award, sponsored by McGladrey LLP, recognizes faculty advisers who make substantial contributions to the professional growth and development of business and financial information students. Samantha Simunyu, of Beta Alpha Psi, said faculty often work many additional hours to be present at various BAP meetings, community service activities, firm receptions, member initiations and to meet with chapter officers to plan for the months ahead.

“It’s an amazing honor to receive the Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award,” said Westen. “As a faculty adviser of BAP, it has been an incredibly rewarding experience working with so many outstanding students as they prepare for their careers in accounting. I am thankful for all of my colleagues who help advise me in this role.”

Westen received a plaque and $5,000 from McGladrey. Beta Alpha Psi is a financial information honorary organization for students and professionals with the primary objective of encouraging or giving recognition to scholastic or professional excellence.
Curry talks about his career with KC Royals

By Jodi Pospeschil

Western Illinois University alumnus Colby Curry ‘02, the coordinator of communication and broadcasting for the Kansas City Royals baseball team, recently met with WIU students to talk about his career path.

Curry received his bachelor’s degree in communication. After graduating from WIU, the Hamilton (IL) native went to graduate school in Oregon and received his master’s degree. He then began an internship with the Portland Trailblazers NBA team.

Curry is spending his ninth season with the Royals, a team that made it to the World Series this year for the first time since 1985.

On Oct. 9, Curry met with students from several WIU broadcasting classes via Skype. He told the students about how he came to work for the Royals and about how his journey was helped by his time at WIU.

“So many of my professors at WIU emphasized attention to detail and the importance of grammar and spelling,” he said.

Curry’s job entails working on the team’s media guide and other publications, coordinating media interviews and working on the team’s social media presence.

WIU professor, alumnus part of international opera

A Western Illinois University professor and a WIU alumnus were part of a summer opera production of “The Magic Flute” in Germany. Associate Professor Richard Hughey, who also directs the WIU Symphony Orchestra, and alumnus Dan Reem ’10 were part of the production staged in Wetzlar, Germany by Opera Classica Europa. The organization is run by the American tenor Michael Vaccaro, who has lived and worked in Germany since 1988.

Vaccaro invited Hughey to conduct “The Magic Flute” with a cast of professional singers. Among the singers was Reem, who sang the role of Papageno.

For more information on Opera Classica Europa, visit operaclassica.de/03_opera_classica_europaeng.htm.

WIU Alumnus Dan Reem ’10 played Papageno in the summer production of “The Magic Flute” in Germany.

PAS Award

Illinois Arts Council Agency Chair Shirley Madigan was recognized with the Western Illinois University Performing Arts Society’s (PAS) William E. Brattain Distinguished Service Award at an event held recently.

The Brattain Award, named for WIU Associate Vice President for Student Services Emeritus William E. Brattain, is given for significant contributions and support of the arts in the community. Madigan was appointed to the Illinois Arts Council Agency in 1976, and has served as chair for 25 years.

Penelope Shumate performed as the soprano soloist in Handel’s “Messiah” at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York (NY) Nov. 30, presented by Distinguished Concerts International New York. Shumate made her debut in the venue performing the role, which was praised by The New York Times as having “appealing bell-like clarity and surpassing sweetness.”

In addition to this presentation of “Messiah,” which marks her third appearance in Avery Fisher Hall, Shumate has performed at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Also in New York, she performed multiple times at Carnegie Hall.

“Singing in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center is exhilarating for me,” said Shumate. “I once sat in the audience enjoying an operatic presentation and dreamed that one day I would stand on the stage. When I perform at this historic venue, I savor the grandeur of the hall, which seats almost 3,000 audience members. It is thrilling for me to be a part of the large group of artists that have appeared in this magnificent hall before me, as well as those to come.”

In her career, Shumate has gained critical acclaim for her performances with opera companies and orchestras across America.

She is completing her first semester teaching voice at WIU. She was hired as the successor of Professor Emeritus, Charolette Megginson, who retired in Spring 2014.

For more information on Shumate’s career, visit PenelopeShumate.com.

Hei Chu and Hyung Ja Kim Piano Scholarship

By Julie Murphy ‘94 MS ‘95

Hyung Ja Kim MA ‘72 and her family have endowed the Hei Chu and Hyung Ja Kim Piano Scholarship to support graduate and undergraduate piano study at Western Illinois University.

“The scholarship is intended to honor my late husband, Hei Chu Kim, and to financially assist international piano students,” said Kim.

Hei Chu Kim was born in Korea in 1931 and served in the Republic of Korea Army for nine years. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana in 1961, his Master of Arts degree in Communication at the Graduate Division of Queens College in the City University of New York in 1964 and his Ph.D. in Political Science from the New School for Social Research in New York City in 1973. Hei Chu Kim joined the Western Department of Sociology in 1968 and taught until his death in 1978.

Kim had a deep appreciation and love of classical music, which influenced two of his three sons. Violinist Benny Kim and cellist Eric Kim are professional musicians; both made their solo debuts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as teenagers. Andy Kim MS-Ed ’85 is assistant to the dean of the College of Engineering at Michigan State University.

“My husband was a wonderful father and encouraged the boys in their music,” said Hyung Ja. “He sacrificed for the boys’ music; he made sure they had the time required for practice and quality instruments to play. We would like to honor him by helping others in his memory.”

The Hei Chu and Hyung Ja Kim Piano Scholarship will be awarded to an international graduate or undergraduate student who demonstrates outstanding piano performance and/or outstanding skills as an accompanist. “International students have extra expenses, and I would like to help with that,” said Kim. “I also hope the scholarship will encourage international students to attend Western.”

“I have established this scholarship first for my husband, because he was so special,” explained Kim. “Secondly, I would like to show my appreciation for the music department, the University, the community and the Presbyterian Church, which were all very supportive of my family. I am very thankful and would like to show my gratitude with this scholarship.”

“It was a privilege to be Hyung Ja Kim’s piano colleague for her final eight years of teaching before retirement,” said WIU piano Professor Tammie Walker.

“Her devotion to her students is limitless, and her legacy will live on with this scholarship which will be awarded to some of the brightest and most talented piano students. The piano area is very grateful to Professor Kim for her generosity and commitment to the piano students at Western Illinois University.”

Hei Chu and Hyung Ja Kim MA ’72
The Learning Garden

By Jodi Pospeschil

A unique garden on the Western Illinois University campus is providing a learning experience for both University students and children served by the WIU Preschool program.

The garden, located behind Morgan Hall, was started in 2011 and has grown through a cooperative effort between the WIU Departments of Sociology and Anthropology and Parks, Recreation and Tourism Administration (RPTA) and WIU’s Facilities Management office.

Students in Professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad’s cultural anthropology class, the WIU Centennial Honors College and volunteers from the Student Leaders Forever organization on campus work with preschoolers to plant mums, pick flowers and harvest vegetables. The mums and gardening tools are provided by Facilities Management, and expertise in gardening procedures is provided by Landscape Maintenance Grounds Gardeners Grant Dinnick ’12 and Ginger Camp.

“We are learning about our environment, what food we can grow ourselves and what is good for our bodies and our environment,” said McIlvaine-Newsad.

The anthropology program at Western is the only one established at an Illinois public or private school to offer an academic concentration in environmental issues.

Through the outdoor classroom, McIlvaine-Newsad said students gain firsthand experience in understanding the influence of climate change on their immediate environment.

“These activities, because they are based around food and being outside, break down barriers and allow the students to begin to relax and become part of the WIU community,” she said. “Students routinely comment about how they learn about anthropological concepts like ‘enculturation,’ or how we learn about our culture, from working in the garden.”

Students visit the garden at various points throughout the semester.

Band of Brothers: WIU fraternity brothers from the 1950s are friends forever

By Bryce Dexter

For most students, some friendships are created at college and last a lifetime. For a group of Western Illinois University alumni from the 1950s, being a part of a fraternity brought them friendships and memories that have lasted over 50 years.

Delta Sigma Phi members Richard Crain ’56, James Grover ’57, Robert Reynolds ’56, Max Biddle ’58, Corwin Biddle ’57, Jim Zinck ’57, Don DeWolfe ’56 and Henry “Hank” Sale ’56, have remained close “brothers” over the years.

Crain, the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni recipient in 2010, was one of the first pioneers in the anti-pollution movement through his career with Industrial Filter and Pump in the Chicago area. He credits much of his success in business to the management experience he gained from being a member and eventual president of the fraternity in 1955. WIU was known at the time as Western Illinois State College, and the fraternity had only been charter a few years before he joined.

“You can learn a lot about how to manage people and records when you are placed in charge of running an organization like a fraternity,” said Crain.

“My four years at Western were among the best times of my life, and I have had a very good life,” said Grover, who became president of the fraternity after Crain. “I acquired a degree, a wife, a scholarship to graduate school and a group of friends who will last a lifetime.”

After graduate school, Grover became a teacher, but was drawn to the personnel management field and later opened Grover and Associates, based in Worthington (OH).

All of the men had successful careers after graduating from WIU. Several went into top sales and manufacturing positions with major companies, and there were also a few who were teachers and school superintendents. Although they were scattered around the country through job placements and now retirement, the men have remained close.

These men stood up at each other’s weddings, vacationed together and have attended their fraternity reunions at WIU. It has never mattered where in the United States the friends lived, they have managed to get together to share memories and tales of their time at WIU.

Age and health issues have become a factor in recent years and have limited all of the former Delta Sigma Phi members of getting together as often, but the exchange of Christmas cards, e-mails and phone calls keeps them connected.

Today in a high tech world where friends are sometimes randomly selected from a website, it is refreshing to know that these “brothers” embody the true meaning of friendship that has lasted a lifetime.

Wong named Distinguished Alumna

By Bryce Dexter

Western Illinois University alumna Margaret Wong ’73, of Cleveland (OH) is the 2014 College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Distinguished Alumna recipient.

Wong, who received her bachelor’s degree in biology and has been supportive of CAS over the years, was presented her award at the Nov. 1 CAS scholarship dinner. During the dinner, Wong spoke about her personal history, the language and cultural barriers she faced throughout her life and about the need for immigration changes.

Serving as an attorney for more than 35 years, Wong has grown Margaret W. Wong and Associates Co., LPA, into a national and international legal firm known for its knowledge of immigration and nationality laws. She has also been named a “Leading Lawyer” and a “Super Lawyer” by her peers, an honor given to the top five percent of attorneys and has been listed as one of the “Best Lawyers in America.”

Just before Wong was born in Hong Kong in 1950, her parents fled political repression and civil war caused by the Communist takeover of China. Wong received her law degree in 1976 from the State University of New York, Buffalo School of Law.

Wong received the highly coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1998. In addition to her professional awards, Wong has won numerous awards for philanthropy. She has been awarded the Margaret Ireland Award from the Cleveland Women’s City Club and the 1997 Creative Philanthropy Award from the Women’s Community Foundation. Crain’s Cleveland Business has named her to their “Women of Influence” list, and Cleveland Magazine has included her with its “Most Interesting People.”

Wong also serves as a volunteer for numerous organizations and a mentor for young professionals. Her list of volunteer efforts includes Notre Dame College, Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, Northeast Ohio Commission on Higher Education, Cleveland Bar Foundation, Ohio State Bar Foundation, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Asian Bar Association, Town Hall, University Hospitals Health System, St. Vincent Hospital Health Care System, United Way Services and the Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University Law School Advisory Boards.

Her practice has offices in Cleveland and Columbus, (OH), New York (NY), Atlanta (GA), Los Angeles (CA) and Nashville (TN). She is admitted for practice in Ohio, New York, Illinois, Georgia, the District of Columbia and Michigan.

For more information about the WIU College of Arts and Sciences, visit wiu.edu/cas.
WIU alumnus developing purification system

A Western Illinois University alumnus is helping develop a cost effective way to purify water without the use of chemicals, membranes or heat.

Keith Ervin ’05, ’08 received his bachelor’s degree in psychology and later returned to WIU to earn his bachelor’s degree in sociology. He is the chief technology officer of Gulp Clear Water LLC in Lakeland (FL). With his partner, Jerry Hageman, who also attended WIU, Ervin designs “the most advanced and efficient water purification systems in the world.”

“We also design integrated purification systems for surfaces, air and blood using precision technology,” he said. “No chemicals or old, inefficient energy processes are allowed.”

Ervin said his company’s new system was born in 2008 after his uncle was stricken by a microorganism and was hospitalized. He said he was shocked at some of the medical procedures that were used in dealing with an infectious disease.

“The biology and microbiology I learned at WIU taught me that I was watching proteins, enzymes and nucleotides or harmful microorganisms being tracked all over the hospital, patient-to-patient, in the air, water, surfaces and eventually the blood,” Ervin said. “After that experience, I went home and literally put all of the critical thinking and research skills I had learned into one direction and tore into finding answers and hopefully solutions. Research showed me the horribly astounding loss of life that occurs every day from unclean drinking water and the civil, financial and geopolitical friction that occurs due to water stress and drought.”

It was during this time that Ervin discovered his life path. “The universe will call you out like that,” he said. “Complain and be a victim or fix the system. Western makes fixers. For years I researched the best possible current and future technologies in order to figure out which disciplines to combine together to solve the biggest problems I could possibly crush in my lifetime.”

Ervin’s work and that by his wife and his business partner, resulted in the development of a cost-effective way to purify any volume of water.

“All we need is waste water and elevation,” said Ervin. “We have also designed a way to move any volume of water up any incline in the most efficient way possible in order to create pre-engineered rivers with hydroelectric turbines that can produce an astounding amount of clean energy.”

Through the new process, many of the high conflict places on earth and many places with questionable nuclear ambitions can now have an abundance of clean water and more energy than any nuclear process.

Ervin said his blueprint to “upgrade humanity” is the Trickles Down Economy Model “at its best.” His future plans include starting an “environmental, financial and humanitarian renaissance.”

“They’ll teach you to want to do that at WIU in some really cool way—it all started there for me,” he said. “Our process is scalable to purify up to hundreds of millions of gallons of water per day. The worldwide applications are endless.”

For more information about the water project, visit ndiegogo.com/projects/the-gulp-system-unlimited-clean-water-and-energy.

Professor researcher human-avian bond

Research of the human-avian bond by a Western Illinois University anthropology professor has recently received praise from the academic journal, “Anthrozoös.”

Anthrozoös Associate Professor Patricia Anderson ’78 MA ’83 began her field of study because of her fascination with a pet parrot. Anthrozoology is the interdisciplinary study of human-animal interactions, which began about 30 years ago at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

“Anthrozoös” is published by the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) and Bloomsbury Publishing of London. Anderson also serves as co-editor of the journal.

“There are many anthrozoological studies of pet keeping, but most of these focus on dogs and cats,” Anderson said.

Anderson is one of the few anthropologists in the world who studies the human-avian bond. Her interest in the human-avian studies began shortly after she joined the faculty of WIU.

Dr. Anthony Podberscek, editor of “Anthrozoös” commended Anderson’s research, saying it “provides intriguing insights into how birds can be beneficial to their owners’/guardians’ health and well-being, especially through the provision of social support.”

Anderson has been teaching at Western since 1999. Her research is funded, in part, by a WIU Research Council (URC) grant.

Alumnus part of shark research team

By Kolette Herndon, University Relations Student Writer

Western Illinois University alumnus Jacob Jerome ’13 is taking swimming with the sharks to a new level as he conducts graduate research in the University of Miami’s (FL) RJ Dunlap Marine Conservation Program (RJD).

Jerome received his bachelor’s degree from WIU in biological sciences, with a zoology option. He is currently part of a research expedition team, serving as a shark research intern.

After graduating from Western, Jerome moved to the University of Miami to pursue his master’s degree in the conversation program.

“I was able to join the research expeditions to help collect data for the multiple projects that are currently benefitting from our shark tagging trips, including my own research,” said Jerome.

“While working with RJD, I have had the chance to help support the program in its community outreach work, as well as help collect data to be used for research. The RJD program aims to advance ocean conservation and scientific literacy through research and meaningful outreach opportunities for students of all ages.”

Part of that goal, Jerome said, is to teach high school students from around the U.S. with diverse backgrounds who are chosen to join the expedition team to learn research methods.

In addition to the outreach work, Jerome posts to the lab’s blog on a variety of marine conservation topics.

“The experience alone that I have gained from being out on the water collecting data will undoubtedly help advance my future career,” said Jerome.

“Seeing first hand how students react to real research that they have never seen before is priceless. Being able to lead that outreach is even more rewarding.”

Jermone said his education from WIU has aided in his progress. After completing his master’s degree, Jerome hopes to continue working with the RJD program and to help further advance ocean conservation.

“From the classes that I took, to the connections I made, WIU has helped lead me to where I am now,” he added. “Being involved inside and outside my classes and department gave me the experience that I needed to get into a graduate program.”
Former Leatherneck Palazoglu competes in FIBA Women’s World Championships

Western Illinois women’s basketball alumna Tugba Palazoglu ’03 helped lead the Turkish women’s national team to a fourth place finish at the 2014 FIBA Women’s World Championships. The championships, which concluded Oct. 5, was the first ever FIBA World Championships appearance for Turkey.

Turkey, who fell to Australia in the bronze-medal game, received a strong performance from Palazoglu, who knocked down a pair of three pointers and added three assists in 22:44 of court time. For the tournament, Palazoglu scored 20 points and had 14 assists while adding seven rebounds.

Softball honored for academic achievement

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) announced the 2013-14 NCAA Division I All-America Scholar Athletes and All-Academic Teams Oct. 2. Western Illinois University had nine student-athletes named All-America Scholar Athletes and were one of only three Summit League schools honored by the NFCA.

The Leathernecks ended the 2013-14 academic year with a 3.353 cumulative GPA, good for 44th in the nation. In addition to departing senior Megg Kelly, eight current members are Alexis Ensminger, Karissa Kouchis, Tierney Bottino, Kaceyee Hart, Teagan Walsh, Kayla Kirkpatrick, Lia Romeo and Sammy Marshall.

This marks the sixth time in seven years that Western Illinois was honored by the NFCA for its academic achievements.

While at Western Illinois University, the Bolu, Turkey, native appeared in 58 games, started 53 times and tallied 1,699 minutes. The guard’s .384 three point percentage ranks fifth in the Western Illinois women’s basketball record book and her 75 three-pointers made ranked her 10th until 2012. She finished her playing career for WIU with 583 points, 253 assists and 108 steals.

The FIBA Women’s World Championships marks the fourth appearance in international competition for Palazoglu after receiving international medals from EuroBasket 2011 and 2013, and appearing in the 2012 London Olympics. She graduated in 2003 from WIU with a degree in recreation, park and tourism administration.

Women’s Basketball supports Leatherneck Club

The Western Illinois women’s basketball program recently made history when the entire roster—players and coaches—supported the Leatherneck Club. They are the first team in Western Illinois history to have 100 percent of its members join the Leatherneck Club.

“I’m really proud of our entire team for stepping up and making a financial commitment to the Leatherneck Club,” said Head Coach JD Gravina. “Our players are very grateful for everything the University provides them, and understand the importance of the Leatherneck Club to our program. I think they are setting a great example of how to be invested in their sport, school and athletic department.”

The Leatherneck Club is an organization of alumni, friends, fans, parents and businesses, which provides annual funding for more than 430 student-athletes. These funds provide WIU student-athletes with the resources they need to succeed in the classroom and compete at the NCAA Division I level. The funds from the Leatherneck Club assist with scholarships, capital facility projects, athletic equipment and apparel, computer software, travel expenses, as well as broadcasting production assistance.

“I would like to thank JD, his staff and his players for setting such an outstanding example,” said Assistant Director of Athletics for Development Michael Jones MS ’12. “The Leatherneck Club is crucial to the success of WIU Athletics, and having this level of participation from one team is unprecedented. The women’s basketball team is helping build on our ‘Restore the Glory’ momentum, and we hope others will follow their lead.”

WIU in top 30 for Senior CLASS Award

Leatherneck men’s soccer senior captain Charlie Bales and women’s volleyball senior outside hitter Ann Miller were recently selected as part of the nation’s top 30 candidates for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS® Award (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award—Bales for the collegiate men’s soccer Senior CLASS Award and Miller for the collegiate women’s volleyball Senior CLASS Award.

The award is given to one senior athlete in 10 different NCAA Division I sports for notable achievements and excellence in community, classroom, character and competition.

Of the 30 candidates, 23 have grade point averages of 3.0 or higher. Including Miller, 15 of those candidates have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. There are also five returning American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Americans, and 10 are members of teams ranked in the AVCA top-25 coaches pre-season poll.

“Just being considered for an award of this magnitude is a dream come true,” said Bales. “Making it this far in the selection process is testament to the opportunities on and off the field for athletes at Western Illinois University. It also allows me to look back on everything I’ve accomplished here at WIU and serves as a reminder that my journey has been about more than just sports.”

Bales and Miller join past Leatherneck nominees Amber Davis and Jenny Green ’11 as a candidates.
Luke Named 2014 Lincoln Laureate

Ashley Luke

Student-athlete Ashley Luke, of Oak Creek (WI), has been named the Western Illinois University recipient of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois’ Student Laureate Award for 2014. The award, presented annually to an outstanding senior of each of Illinois’ four-year degree-granting institutions, honors a student’s overall academic excellence and extracurricular activities.

Luke, a senior political science and journalism double major, is a member of WIU’s women’s basketball team. She has also been named the WIU College of Arts and Sciences College Scholar this semester and plans to pursue a master’s degree in economics from Western.

“I am very honored to have been chosen as this year’s Lincoln Laureate for WIU,” Luke said. “I am grateful to both the staff and the students who helped me achieve this through their support and collaboration with me. I hope to represent WIU in a positive way through this award.”

Luke is the president of the Associated Students of Political Science and Pi Sigma Alpha, the vice president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the founder of the WIU Athletic-International Ambassadors, the public relations director for the Gold Key International Honour Society, committee member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, the student-athlete representative of the WIU Council on Intercollegiate Athletics, political science student representative for “Discover Western,” a member of Phi Eta Sigma and a volunteer for the McDonough County Humane Society, McDonough District Hospital, Rocky’s Reach, Adopt-a-Classroom, “We Care” campus beautification, Trick the Town and the Stuff the Bus food drive.

Luke was named the first Academic All-American in WIU women’s basketball history and has been named the Summit League 2012-13 Newcomer of the Year and First Team All Summit League. She has regularly been a leading scorer, rebounder and defender on the women’s basketball team.

“This honor is a well-deserved recognition of Ashley’s outstanding performance in the classroom and in extracurricular activities,” said WIU Political Science Chair Keith Boeckelman. “She excels academically, on the basketball court and through her commitment to helping others.”

Luke was presented the Lincoln Laureate Award during an awards ceremony in Springfield Nov. 1. Each fall, a senior from each of Illinois’ four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named the Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student laureates are honored for their excellence in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Western Illinois Athletics announced its Elite Corporate sponsors beginning with the 2014-15 season. The Leathernecks are proud partners with six businesses to support coaches, student-athletes and the mission of the department.

Citizens Bank, Coca-Cola, Hy-Vee, McDonough District Hospital, Buffalo Wild Wings and Kunes Country Auto Group of Macomb have partnered with Leatherneck Athletics.

“We developed the Elite Corporate sponsor level to take our already existing partnerships and newly created partnerships to the next level. That’s done by greater exposure for our sponsors through print and digital advertising, promotions and new products, just to name a few ways to create a brand identity with Leatherneck Athletics,” said Tommy Bell, director of athletics. “The more fans we can get to our sporting events or visit our website will lead to more people learning about our Elite sponsors. This benefits both the sponsor and WIU.”

The Athletic Department works with its Elite Corporate sponsors on a marketing strategy for a winning combination that fits their needs. Elite Corporate sponsors receive opportunities to entertain clients and employees, increase consumer traffic and sales, branding opportunities, positive community advertising and introduce new products and services.

During the 2014-15 season, WIU Athletics will offer various promotional items, including season schedule magnets, key-tag schedules, asphalt clings, stair signage in Western Hall, schedule cards, posters, tailgate sponsorship, event sponsorship and various promotional items at home events.

For more information on becoming an Elite Corporate sponsor, call Assistant Athletic Director Kelsey Laverdiere at (309) 298-1190 or via email at K-Laverdiere@wiu.edu.

25th Annual Purple and Gold Gala raises more than $45,000

Nearly 475 people attended the 25th annual Purple and Gold Auction Aug. 16. The event raised more than $45,000 for Western Illinois Athletics. Director of Athletics Tommy Bell announced that a portion of the proceeds will support the new ‘Purple and Gold Scholarship.’

Guests were greeted by student-athletes and received a piece of the old Western Hall court as a commemorative item. The event included a live and silent auction, a dinner and speeches from current student-athletes Tiara Herron (women’s soccer) and JJ Raffelson (football).

The 2015 event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 15 at Western Hall.

For information on joining the Leatherneck Club, contact Assistant Athletic Director for Development Michael Jones MS ’12 at (309) 298-1190 or M-Jones2@wiu.edu.
Mary Luman Shortness '41

Shortness enjoyed classes with Drs. Grote and Ray lived in the hall; the rules were strict, but parties were held in the parlor. Students were expected to be “ladies,” mind their manners and respect their elders.

“Monroe Hall was a highlight of my life,” said Shortness. “We sat at tables of eight for dinner every night and always said grace. We also sang together in harmony. I formed a group of friends who I remained close to all through my life. We got together annually over the years, until just recently.”

School Shortness enjoyed classes with Drs. Bennett, Tillman, Waggoner and Garwood. Following her graduation in 1933, she taught in country schools at Pisgah, Lease and Pleasant Hill, and her beginning salary was $45 per month. She attended Western during summers (and one year in residence) to earn her four-year degree in 1941, thereby qualifying for a higher salary.

At that time, schools did not hire teachers who were married, so when Luman married Mac Shortness in 1943, she gave up teaching to become a farm wife and mother of three.

“She’s got to be done as a farmer’s wife,” said Shortness. “All the cooking, washing, bookkeeping and helping with fields.”

She returned to teaching when her youngest child started kindergarten, and taught at London Mills Elementary and Valley District No. 4 until her retirement in 1975. She turned 100 June 10, and in her words, is “a farmer’s daughter, a farmer’s wife and a farmer’s mother.”

Although she spent 27 years of her life as a teacher, her family and the family farm are her principal identities. The son who facilitated Shortness’ return to the classroom when he started school is now the farmer’s son, and he recently endowed a scholarship in his mother’s name.

“Education has always been a big part of her life, and of our family’s,” said Ernie Shortness ’75. “My mother doesn’t care for gifts, so this is a way I can honor her. She is one of the few people I know who truly wishes everyone success. It is fitting that someone studying to be a teacher will receive support every year in her name.”

“It’s unbelievable, really,” said Mary. “I’m impressed that Ernie did this, and I certainly feel honored.”

What is impressive is this 100-year-old, unassuming, remarkable woman lives in the house she was born in and keeps the books (by hand) for the farming business that was established by her father and continues today with her son. Shortness’ father did not complete eighth grade, yet she traveled to Western where she earned a degree. She taught school and instilled in her family an educational priority (her sister, two of her children, a niece and a nephew are graduates of Western). Now her legacy will continue with the Mary Luman Shortness Education Scholarship, established to honor Mary by assisting teacher education students.

For information and an application for the Mary Luman Shortness Education Scholarship, contact the College of Education and Human Services at (309) 298-1690 or the University Scholarship Office at (309) 298-2001.

William E. Brattain lounge dedication

William “Dr. B” and Jacqueline Brattain

“As I walked about a mile to my country school at home,” explained Shortness. “In bad weather, my father would drive us in the surrey or bobsled, so I was prepared to get to the University however I needed to.”

Shortness lived in Monroe Hall while working on her two-year teaching certificate. Miss Grote and Miss Ray lived in the hall; the rules were strict, but parties were held in the parlor. Students were expected to be “ladies,” mind their manners and respect their elders.

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“Education has always been a big part of her life, and of our family’s,” said Ernie Shortness ’75. “My mother doesn’t care for gifts, so this is a way I can honor her. She is one of the few people I know who truly wishes everyone success. It is fitting that someone studying to be a teacher will receive support every year in her name.”

“It’s unbelievable, really,” said Mary. “I’m impressed that Ernie did this, and I certainly feel honored.”

What is impressive is this 100-year-old, unassuming, remarkable woman lives in the house she was born in and keeps the books (by hand) for the farming business that was established by her father and continues today with her son. Shortness’ father did not complete eighth grade, yet she traveled to Western where she earned a degree. She taught school and instilled in her family an educational priority (her sister, two of her children, a niece and a nephew are graduates of Western). Now her legacy will continue with the Mary Luman Shortness Education Scholarship, established to honor Mary by assisting teacher education students.

For information and an application for the Mary Luman Shortness Education Scholarship, contact the College of Education and Human Services at (309) 298-1690 or the University Scholarship Office at (309) 298-2001.

William E. Brattain lounge dedication

“Fort Dearborn 1820” was previously partially restored to show the difference conservation makes.

Sherman Hall art restoration

“If conditions were muddy, she would have to first travel into Macomb. If conditions were muddy, she would have to first travel into Macomb.

William “Dr. B” and Jacqueline Brattain

“The fundraising effort for the naming has been led by Sandy Keiser Edwards MS-Ed ’71, deputy director of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; Brian O’Connell, president of Live Nation Country Touring; andbeth triplet ’81, vice president for enrollment management at Clarke University.

“I am honored to have been taught by Dr. B, and any success that I have achieved in the music business, and more importantly, in my day-to-day life, can be traced back through my years at WIU and specifically to Dr. William E. Brattain,” said O’Connell. “No professor, bartender, teacher, priest or mentor had a bigger impact on me in those years than Dr. B, and I am not alone.”

“Bill was adept at creating an open and rather free-wheeling environment that nurtured the imagination and the entrepreneurial spirit. He’d speak of serendipity and encouraged us to view open spaces and venues unconventionally and as fair game for complex events or an impromptu performance,” said Edwards. “He had us thinking outside the box before there was a jargon that defined the practice.”

Brattain received the Honorary Alumni Award from the WIU Alumni Association in 2007.

Funds raised will be dedicated to acquiring new furnishings for the Brattain Lounge with the remainder dedicated to the Brattain Leadership Award. Contributions can be sent to the WIU Foundation, 303 Sherman Hall, or made online at wiu.edu/giving.
Curiosity is a trait that can help make a good librarian, a great librarian. Several people would say that about Western Illinois University’s librarians. A willingness to explore new and old things is a common trait among the faculty and staff at Western’s Libraries. Following are a few of the listening, reading, writing and looking activities Western’s librarians have been engaged in recently.

WIU Music Librarian Rod Sharpe has been listening to the music of Josef Myslivecek, a relatively obscure composer from the mid-18th century. Born in Prague, he spent most of his professional career writing operas in Italy (where a certain genre, “Opera Seria,” was in the ascendant). Unable to cope with his Slavic name, the Italians referred to him as “Il Boemo,” or “the Bohemian.” He was the most prolific opera composer during the late 1760s and 1770s. He worked in the family business as a miller in Prague until deciding to quit and become a composer in his mid-20s.

He would be all but forgotten, except for his friendship with the Mozart family, whom he met first in Bologna in 1770. The young Mozart was impressed both by his music and by his dashing personality. They met again in 1775—but in less happy circumstances this time—in Munich, where Myslivecek had his face severely disfigured in a botched attempt to remove growths from his nose. His career continued to flourish for a time, but then he experienced a couple of setbacks, which severely undermined his health, and he died in penury a couple of years later.


The Lane Evans Collection at Western Illinois University contains many materials documenting Congressman Evans’ career in government.

According to the Nov. 6 Chicago Tribune, former U.S. Representative Evans died Nov. 5 in East Moline at the age of 63 after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease (see www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-lane-evans-dead-20141106-story.html).

Western Illinois University Libraries Professor, Librarian and Archivist Jeff Hancks MS ’10 said the Evans Congressional Collection, which is available to the public by appointment, includes information about the legislation he sponsored and co-sponsored, the constituents he represented (e.g., the mail he received from western Illinois residents and his responses); correspondence from the committees he sat on; information about business, industry, education, the environment and general life in western Illinois; and photographs, campaign materials (including his commercials) and other interesting tidbits.

“The Lane Evans Collection is a signature collection in the WIU Archives and Special Collections Unit. It truly contains a goldmine of information about Congressman Evans and his career in government—24 years of information detailing life in west central Illinois, his many contributions on critical national and international issues and especially his dedication to serving our nation’s veterans,” Hancks said. “Evans worked hard to represent the 17th Congressional District in Washington, and we are honored to be the permanent stewards of the records documenting his life’s work in our nation’s capital.”

New Mexico State University Assistant Professor Adam Heien, a 2014 WIU graduate, who worked on processing the collection’s papers in 2013-14 while a graduate student in Western’s history department, noted his work with the collection taught him how much Evans cared for the people in his district, as well as his tireless dedication to veterans’ causes.

According to Ann Rosentraeter, a WIU history master’s degree candidate who is also finishing the processing of the Lane Evans Collection for the WIU Archives and Special Collections Unit, she has learned that Evans worked for things that “really mattered to the people he represented.”

“In working with Congressman Evans’ collection, I can tell that he was greatly respected, by both his constituents and his staff,” she said. “I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to help make Congressman Evans’ collection accessible to the public. I know that working with a congressional collection will be extremely beneficial to my future in the archives profession, and I am glad that I am able to gain this experience from the collection of a congressman for whom I, too, have great respect.”

Hancks added staff and students in the unit hope to have the entire collection processed by the end of this year. For more information or to make an appointment to access the Lane Evans Collection, contact Hancks at (309) 298-2717 or via email at JL-Hancks@wiu.edu.

Donations are always welcome

University Libraries welcomes gifts in all forms, including monetary gifts, materials and Western Illinois University artifacts and memorabilia. Gifts of materials can be directed to Greg Phelps ’93 at (309) 298-2730 or via e-mail at GW-Phelps@wiu.edu. Historical WIU artifacts and memorabilia donations can be directed to Jeff Hancks M.S. ’10 at (309) 298-2717 or JL-Hancks@wiu.edu. All other donations, including monetary and planned gifts, should be directed to Lora Adcock at (309) 298-2356 or LJ-Adcock@wiu.edu.
Grant enables WIU education faculty members to visit Canton (IL) elementary school to help inform teacher prep programs

By Teresa Koltzenburg, ’92 MS ’11

A daylong visit to Westview Elementary School in Canton (IL) last September provided 15 Western Illinois University College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) faculty members with the opportunity to observe how Response to Intervention (RtI) principles are put into practice in an elementary school setting.

Pictured are some of the individuals who participated in the visit and panel discussion. Back l-r: Sara Simonson MS-Ed ’87, WIU professor, C&I; Krista Smith ’12, Canton, first-grade teacher; Michelle Franzoni ’03 MS-Ed ’10, Canton, K-12 reading specialist; Joanne Sellen, WIU assistant professor, education and interdisciplinary studies/educational leadership (EIS); Pam Campbell MS-Ed ’93, WIU assistant professor, C&I; Sebastian Szynka ’99 MS-Ed ’04, WIU assistant professor, C&I; Tami LaPrad, WIU instructor, EIS; Tom Cody, WIU professor, EIS; Gary Dayton, WIU associate professor, EIS; and Heather Crouch ’02 MS-Ed ’10, WIU instructor, C&I. Middle l-r: Heather Medina, Canton, fourth-grade teacher; Cortney VanHouten ’03 MS-Ed ’11, Canton, K-12 reading specialist; Melissa Stimnett, WIU associate professor, C&I; Monica Wright, WIU instructor, C&I; Megan Lyons, WIU assistant professor, C&I; Mary Jensen, WIU professor, C&I; and Melinda Grimm ’MS-Ed ’99, WIU instructor, C&I. Front row center l-r: Jeanine Wilker, WIU assistant professor, curriculum and instruction (C&I).

A daylong visit to Westview Elementary School in Canton (IL) in September provided 15 Western Illinois University College of Education and Human Services and the Office of Special Projects (OSEP), the Sept. 12 trip, according to WIU Department of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Literacy Professor Sara Simonson MS-Ed ’87, enabled Western faculty from the C & I and the education and interdisciplinary studies/educational leadership (EIS) departments to connect with the Westview and Lincoln Elementary School educators—many of whom are WIU alumni—to learn about their daily routines, assessment practices and data-collection methods. Simonson noted the knowledge they garnered during the trip will inform the faculty members’ instruction and practices at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

“Our primary objective is to increase the number of undergraduate and graduate educator preparation programs that integrate RtI content into their program curricula [courses and field experiences]. The project’s key principles of RtI include multi-tier system of supports [MTSS], universal core instruction, evidence-based practices, the problem-solving process, formal and informal assessments, data-based decision making, positive behavior supports, parent involvement/collaboration and integrity of implementation,” Simonson explained. “The long-term objectives of this project incorporate increasing the supply of educators prepared to implement RtI practices after completing approved courses of study, increasing the capacity of educator preparation programs to partner with school districts to increase the number of field placement sites in districts and schools effectively implementing RtI and increasing the capacity of educator preparation programs to partner with school districts to increase the number of highly qualified graduates employed by low-performing districts with high populations of students from low-income backgrounds.”

Simonson noted 10 members of Westview and Lincoln elementary schools provided the WIU faculty members with invaluable firsthand perspectives of how RtI is practiced in such a setting.

“The four administrators [Roy Webb ’90 MS-Ed ’01 ED-Sp ’06, SueEllen Stephenson, Tad DeRenzzy MS-Ed ’09 and Bridgette Dennis ’98 MS ’00], two reading specialists [Cortney VanHouten ’03 MS-Ed ’11 and Michelle Franzoni ’03 MS-Ed ’10], and the four classroom teachers [Heather Medina, Krista Smith ’12, Nicole Cain ’01 and Kenny VanHouten ’11] added a great deal to our discussion and knowledge base through a panel discussion, classroom observations and the RtI presentation. The highlight for me was the extended discussions this trip generated among my colleagues and across the curriculum and instruction and the educational and interdisciplinary studies departments, not only on the ride home but also during the following days, too. It was an extremely rewarding experience,” she said.

According to Simonson, this is the fifth and final year of the grant (2011-15), during which time she has served as the technical assistance coordinator (TAC) and representative for the grant at WIU. In this role, she has worked with representatives from eight other universities across Illinois.

“Priority was given to the eight Illinois institutions, with the largest educator preparation programs, with the Illinois Higher Education [IHE] Partnership includes Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago State University, National Louis University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Western Illinois University,” Simonson explained. “The first major task of the project staff [program coordinators and technical assistance coordinators] was to perform a ‘crosswalk’ among the revised Illinois Professional Teaching Standards [IPTS], the 13 Illinois State Board of Education training modules and the IHE Blueprint. The project staff identified common language, concepts or principles among the data sources, and the crosswalk then served as the framework for establishing a foundation for consensus building with IHE deans and program chairs. This enabled the IHE Partnership to standardize the delivery of RtI content as it revised the IPTS and IHE Blueprint. The IHE Partnership collaborated with the RtI Network and their regional/area wide coordinators and invited IHE faculty to participate in scheduled training opportunities. The TAC at each institution provided the IHE teams with professional development as it related to the revised IPTS and integration of RtI content into course curricula. The TACs provided ongoing support and technical assistance to the IHE teams through conducting and supporting the review of pre-service and graduate program syllabi.”

WIU faculty members who attended include: Pam Campbell ’94 ’MS-Ed ’92, assistant professor, C&I; Tom Cody, professor, EIS; Heather Crouch ’02 MS-Ed ’10, instructor, C&I; Gary Dayton, associate professor, EIS; Anne Gregory, chair, C&I; Melinda Grimm MS-Ed ’89, instructor, C&I; Mary Jensen, professor, C&I; Tami LaPrad, instructor, EIS; Megan Lyons, assistant professor, C&I; Simonson, professor, C&I; Joanne Sellen, assistant professor, EIS; Melissa Stimnett, associate professor, C&I; Sebastian Szynka ’99 MS-Ed ’04, assistant professor, C&I; Jeanine Wilker, assistant professor, C&I; and Monica Wright MS-Ed ’13, instructor, C&I.
By Teresa Koltzenburg, ’92 MS ’11

A charitable organization founded by a Western Illinois University alumna in 1999 to help the people of Sierra Leone, Africa, is now helping to provide supplies for those affected by the Ebola virus there.

Nancy Peddle ’78, who earned a Kaskaskia degree from Western and is now an international psychology dissertation affiliate member for the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, said she began LemonAid Fund after experiencing the effects of violence there.

“In 1996, I was working in the war-torn country and witnessed the truly devastating effects of Sierra Leone’s Bloody Coup. As I was being evacuated, I decided I wanted to do something for the people who didn’t have the option of leaving the violence. I saw that with just a little support, people’s lives, which had been devastated by the war, could be positively affected,” she explained.

“Everyone who works for LemonAid Fund is a volunteer, including me. We have a working board of five people, one of whom is WIU School of Agriculture Professor Mari Loehrlein, and typically, we have between five and 30 volunteers. Specifically for LemonAid Fund’s Ebola crisis strategy, we have raised $13,000 and distributed $15,000 from our general funds. We hope to at least double that before the end of 2014,” she added.

Peddle, who earned her master’s degrees at Bank Street College and Fielding Graduate Institute and her doctorate from Fielding Graduate Institute and who serves as an international consultant for UNICEF, noted her customized bachelor’s degree at Western was ideal preparation for establishing an organization like LemonAid Fund.

“With that Kaskaskia degree, I was able to put together social work, psychology, political science and law enforcement. Because of this broad base of understanding humans from multiple perspectives, I have been able to work both locally and internationally, and I have been able to meet the many challenges and opportunities along my divergent life path,” she said.

Peddle noted, recently, people in Sierra Leone have experienced a countrywide lockdown, with another one planned, due to the Ebola virus epidemic.

“Sierra Leone has approximately five new cases a day. According to the World Health Organization, as of October 8, the total confirmed cases of those tested are 2,028. There are 30-day quarantines in many areas, cancelled national schools and restricted hours of work and skyrocketing prices of everything from food to the materials that help protect people from infection,” she said. “LemonAid Fund works with a network of schools and organizations throughout Sierra Leone who, in turn, have communities in which they work.”

According to Peddle, 100 percent of the donations to LemonAid Fund for the Ebola crisis strategy have gone toward buying and distributing emergency food and clean water; hand-washing supplies and cleaning materials, such as soap, disinfectants; water buckets that have taps on them to allow for running water; and small stipends to more than 200 LemonAid Fund teachers, staff, scholarship families and their constituencies.

“For instance, one orphan student received his allotment that he brought back to his foster care home to benefit 15 other orphans and the parents,” she noted. “In addition, through the LemonAid Fund, we are educating 100 communities about how Ebola spreads and how to address this growing epidemic, with limited services and resources available in their communities. Some of the messages may include how to use plastic bags as barriers, wearing long-sleeve shirts when out, how to look for signs of Ebola, how to find new ways to respect those who have died (instead of going to funerals and washing dead bodies) and to better implement sanitation protocols.”

She added, via the fund, they hope to buy and distribute: 1,000 thermometers (200 purchased so far); more hand-washing materials and disinfectants to distribute to more than 100 local schools, organizations, communities and food markets; and food and a small amount of financial support to families who have lost a wage-earning member to Ebola, with the focus specifically on health-care workers.

“We also have a plan to fund the teachers in the development of at-home school exercises, as it’s looking like schools will remain closed until 2015. In addition, we would like to develop and disseminate TV and radio programs to raise awareness and reduce stress through LemonAid Fund’s evidence-based forgiveness, appreciation and gratitude practices,” she explained. “We work specifically through our project director, Frances Browne, who is currently the acting country director for LemonAid Fund in Sierra Leone and owner of Dele Preparatory School and Dele Peddle International High School (Allentown). She ensures the money and activities are accounted for through reports, pictures and signed documents.”

To support LemonAid Fund, visit lemonaidfund.org and click on the “Support” tab. For more information, contact Peddle at (312) 714-9370 or via email at nancyped@earthlink.net. Follow LemonAid Fund on Facebook at facebook.com/LemonAidFund.
Lodge and Libations

Celebration of 50 Years of Horn Field Campus at WIU

Western Illinois University alumni, current and former faculty and staff members, students, Friends of Horn and members of the western Illinois community gathered Sept. 27 for “Lodge and Libations” at WIU’s Horn Field Campus (HFC). The event kicked off the yearlong celebration that commemorates the 50 years that HFC has been part of Western (1965-2015). WIU Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA) Professor Emeritus Frank Lupton was also honored.

For the last few years, faculty and staff in WIU’s RPTA department and in the College of Education 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 (HFC’s advisory board), RPTA and HFC faculty and staff have devoted years to creating a master plan and physical plans for a building.

To donate via your mobile phone, text HORN50 to 41444 with your gift amount and your name. For more information about ways you can get involved to help HFC, contact Mindy Pheiffer ’91 MS ’92 at (309) 833-5798, via email at MJ-Phieffer@wiu.edu or the RPTA office at (309) 298-1967.
In memory of

Western Illinois University Physical Education Professor Emeritus Alice Kellogg ’52 MS-Ed ’69. Kellogg, who hailed from Canton (IL), received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WIU. Before joining the physical education faculty, she taught PE at Cuba (IL) High School and Hugh Morrison High School in Raleigh (NC). She also served as a faculty assistant and graduate assistant at WIU before being hired full-time in 1969.

Kellogg was an active participant in the Senior Olympics, earning top medals at the state and national levels. In the 1997 state event, at the age of 68, she captured six first place finishes and set the record in two events (200-meter run and high jump). At the 1995 national event, she took silver honors in the high jump and bronze honors in the long jump. She also finished in the top five in the 100-meter run.

The Western Illinois Fall Tennis Tournament Hinds-Kellogg Classic is named in honor of Dee Hinds and Kellogg for their contributions to WIU tennis.

Western Illinois University Counselor Education Professor Emeritus Bev Wehrly: Recognized as a pioneer in her field, Wehrly was the first woman at Texas A & M to earn a Ph.D. in the Department of Education. She joined the faculty at Western in 1969 as a part-time elementary counselor at the WIU Laboratory School and a half-time instructor in the College of Education. When the lab school closed, Wehrly became a full-time faculty member in the WIU Counselor Education graduate program, where she taught multicultural/interracial counseling, counseling children and lifestyle and career development. She was promoted to full professor in 1976. Wehrly remained active in her profession, including post-doctoral studies, which included her 1982-83 sabbatical at Harvard University in cross-cultural counseling and many other professional development institutes.

She was program director, organizer and leader for six WIU international summer study programs from 1977-87. In 1991, she represented WIU on a recruitment trip to the Far East, and she made numerous presentations at professional meetings at national and international locales throughout the years. Over her career she authored over 35 professional publications. Wehrly retired in 1994.

Kenneth Epperson, retired community college relations director for Western Illinois University Admissions: A WIU alumnus, Epperson worked at Western for 22 years. Prior to working in the WIU Office of Admissions, he was a teacher, principal and superintendent in west-central Illinois. Following his retirement from WIU, Epperson joined his wife, Lorraine, also a WIU graduate, in real estate. They launched Century 21 Purdum-Epperson in 1990. The Eppersons have been long-time supporters of the University. Recently, they pledged a seven-figure gift to Western in support of scholarships and the Center for Performing Arts.

He was awarded WIU’s Alumni Achievement Award in 1987, and was initiated into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996. A talented woodworker, Epperson crafted the large WIU seal on display in the Registrar’s Office (made in 1974 in honor of Western’s 75th anniversary) and the Ceremonial Mace (a symbol of university scholarship and integrity since the 11th century) featured in convocations and commencements. He learned basic woodturning skills while at Western, nearly 70 years ago, from Wayne Weitzel, for whom Weitzel Hall was named. Epperson had served as president of the Leatherneck Club and was a member of the WIU Performing Arts Society Board.

Education and Human Services

WIU COEHS 2014 Faculty Excellence Awards

Five Western Illinois University College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) faculty members were honored over the summer with the 2014 COEHS Excellence Awards. They include:

- Cathy McMillan MS ’85, assistant professor, kinesiology, Excellence in Internationalizing the Campus
- Seungmug Lee (Zech Lee), assistant professor, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (LEJA), Excellence in Scholarly/ Creative/ Performance/ Professional Activities
- Mary Jensen, professor, curriculum and instruction, Excellence in Teaching Award
- Algerian Hart, assistant professor, kinesiology, Excellence in University/ Community Service Award
- Seung Won Yoon, professor, instructional design and technology, Excellence Award in Teaching with Technology

Greathouse Selected as 2014 Jackie Thompson Wellness Lecturer

Western Illinois University Dietetics Professor Emeritus Karen Greathouse was selected as the fourth annual Jackie Thompson Wellness Lecture this year. She presented her lecture, “Nutrition: Then and Now,” Oct. 15. In her presentation, Greathouse covered current nutrition trends, as well as her thoughts on the use of supplements for selected nutrients, paired with practical ideas for meeting the recommendations.

“Nutrition is a relatively young science. The fundamentals of nutrition were discovered just over 100 years ago with a vast amount of research now being conducted,” noted Greathouse, who began teaching at Western in 1989 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 2004.

Greathouse received a teacher of the year award in 1994 from the College of Education and Human Services and was named the Illinois Dietetics Association Outstanding Educator of the Year in 2000. In July 2009, she was appointed interim chair of the WIU Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality (DFMH), and in 2011, she was named permanent chair. She retired in 2013 and currently serves as an instructor in the DFMH department.

In 2011, the Employee Wellness Committee established the annual lecture series in recognition of Jackie Thompson ’85 MS-Ed ’94, vice president emeritus for Administrative Services, for her diligent advocacy of employee wellness. Employee Wellness Committee Chair Judy Yeast MS ’81 said Greathouse was chosen, as all three previous selectees had been, by members of a selection subcommittee based on their years of service and their contributions to the WIU and Macomb communities.

“The lecture series is designed to recognize the importance of employee health and wellness to the long-term success and well-being of WIU employees and the surrounding community,” Yeast explained.

“It’s a way to celebrate the contributions and benefits of promoting and living a healthy lifestyle.”

Thompson retired from Western in July 2011 after 41 years of service. Under her direction, WIU created a wellness program for University employees, including Western Walks, which led to a full-time employee in Human Resources dedicated to training and development.
Andress, a 1989 WIU mass communications graduate, founded Andress Consulting in 2003. Her firm provides strategic planning, marketing and communication solutions to corporations and thought leaders. She serves as a strategic consultant to Stedman Graham, CEO of S. Graham & Associates, a management consulting firm that specializes in corporate and educational markets. She is president of Legacy Wisdom, with the mission to impart the collective wisdom of leaders who have learned, earned and served, as a legacy to the Millennial generation. She is a partner in the companies, RealizeX and Varsity Quad, which focus on personal leadership and education. Andress began her career at Arthur Andersen. She fast-tracked to a leadership position, and before age 30, she managed a multimillion dollar budget, led a team of 52 in the United States and oversaw teams in England and in Asia. Andress earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Missouri.

In her community, she is active in promoting animal rights and participates in supporting social responsibility. Andress is writing her next book, “The Economics of Goodness,” and will be traveling to Africa and the Middle East to combine her business skills with her profound curiosity about how disparate parts of a business or a community can come together in scale and through innovation. At her alma mater, she has served as the keynote speaker at Parent’s Weekend, and recently returned to speak to students and give the keynote address as part of College of Business and Technology Week, sharing her experiences and offering tips on designing life, rather than leaving it to chance.

During her time at Western, Andress served as president of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and as vice president of the PanHellenic Council. She received the awards of President of the Year and Greek Woman of the Year. She was on the cabinet of the Student Government Association, and a member of the Student Alumni Council, Phi Kappa Phi, Order of Omega, was a contributing writer to the Western Courier and graduated with honors. Andress is the daughter of Sandy Henry and Richard Andress.

Beuke, a 1977 marketing graduate, is the founding partner of Richard Beuke and Associates PC (now Beuke and Beuke Attorneys at Law), where he has served as an attorney in the Chicago-area for 33 years, and has been practicing criminal law since his admission to the Illinois Bar in 1980. After graduating from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Beuke joined the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. A skilled litigator, he rose swiftly through the ranks during his eight years there, eventually becoming one of the head prosecutors in the Gang Prosecution Unit, where he learned a great deal about how the police gather evidence and how prosecutors build cases against defendants. He tried over 60 murder trials to verdict during his career, earning the respect of countless judges, fellow prosecutors and the top criminal defense lawyers in the state.

Beuke, who began his career as a criminal defense attorney in 1988, has tried cases nationwide and has represented hundreds of clients on the wide spectrum of criminal charges from traffic offenses to homicide. He has defended a number of high profile clients in Illinois and nationally, such as the Hinsdale Police Department, Railroad Policeman and Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge. Beuke has appeared several times on Chicago news stations serving as an expert and consultant.

Beuke has been extremely supportive of his alma mater and is an active member of the WIU Alumni Association. He has hosted and attended many University and alumni events over the years, and has provided financial support to several areas including the Alumni Association, athletics and scholarships.

In his community, Beuke has served on numerous committees and has joined with several local law enforcement agencies to develop programs to ensure and enhance relationships between the police and the citizens they serve and protect. Over the years, he has taken several pro bono cases to represent those who are unable to afford legal services. Beuke has been actively involved with a number of inner-city social and church organizations to promote social and athletic programs keeping the youth of those communities on a positive path.

During his time at Western, he was a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and was active in many student activities.

He has been married to his wife, Re, for 32 years and they have three sons, PJ, Matt and Rick Jr.

Bills, a 1999 management graduate, is a principal at the Chicago law firm of Grippio & Elden LLC, where he represents companies and individuals in complex business litigation nationwide. He became a partner at Grippio & Elden in 2010 and regularly represents clients in a variety of high stakes commercial disputes involving breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, non-competes, post-closing disputes, and insurance coverage. In addition, Bills regularly consults, speaks, and writes on a variety of electronic discovery issues. He is a member of the Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program Committee and serves as chair of his firm’s Electronic Discovery Resource Group. He also represents clients in pro bono matters. Bills has been named an “Illinois Rising Star” every year since 2011. In 2013, Bills was profiled as one of “40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch.”

Following law school, Bills worked as a law clerk to the Honorable James F. Holderman on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Bills then entered private practice as an attorney at Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago. He is a 2002 University of Illinois College of Law graduate. In law school, Bills was on the editorial board of the University of Illinois Law Review, a member of the trial team and graduated summa cum laude, Order of the Coif.

Bills has continued to serve his alma mater since graduation, regularly attending WIU and alumni events, serving two terms on the WIU Alumni Council, delivering the 2012 keynote address at the Centennial Honors College Pre-Law Symposium and providing financial support to many areas, including the Alumni Association, University Housing and Dining, the Centennial Honors College, the College of Business and Technology, the Department of Management, Student Activities and the University Union.

While at WIU, Bills was the Student Government Association president for three years, the College of Business and Technology and the Department of Management Outstanding Senior, recipient of the William E. Brattain Outstanding Student Leader Award and served on the Western Courier staff, as a Student Orientation Team leader, and as a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Sigma Iota Epsilon. In addition, he was an officer of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He was also a Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate, the 1998 Student Convocation Speaker and graduated summa cum laude.

Padgett, a 1988 computer science graduate, with minors in finance and math, co-founded Frontaura Capital LLC in July 2007 after researching and visiting Africa’s frontier companies and stock exchanges. Since its founding, Frontaura has established itself as one of the world’s best performing global frontier market funds. Frontaura was conceived while Padgett was on a two-year sabbatical, which culminated in a 65-country trip around-the-world honeymoon with his wife. Previously, he was involved with Inforte Corp., a global technology-consulting firm. He provided the seed money for the 1993 founding of the business, served as a member of its board of directors and was one of its largest shareholders. Padgett joined the company full-time in 1997 as its chief financial officer, a job he held through 2003. He coordinated the company’s initial public offering in 2000. Prior to its IPO, Inforte placed 14th on the Inc. 500 list of fastest American growing companies in 1999.

Prior to Inforte, Padgett worked as a research analyst at investment bank William Blair & Company, covering technology stocks from 1994 through 1997.

The American Business Awards named Padgett as Financial Executive of the Year in 2003, highlighting his ability to accurately forecast revenue, manage costs and meet earnings guidance in an environment that bankrupted many direct competitors. He graduated in 1994 with an MBA from The Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Prior to business school, he worked as a consultant for Andersen Consulting (now Accenture), with assignments in Chicago, London and Manila. He has held the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation since 1997.

Over the years, Padgett has supported Western in many ways. He currently serves on President Thomas’ National Advisory Council, the College of Business and Technology (CBT) National Advisory Board and was named the 2012 College of Business and Technology Distinguished Alumnus. In addition, he has sponsored a scholarship in computer science for 20 years, and has provided funding and donations to many areas, including the CBT and the Malpass Library.

While at WIU, he was a member of the Student Government Association, the Student Orientation Board and worked at WIUM-FM, WUI-FM and what is now Administrative Information Management Systems. He was co-vedilctor, graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average. Padgett’s travel pursuits have earned him membership in the Travelers’ Century Club, for visiting 100 countries, and the Circumnavigators Club, for traveling around the world. He is also a member of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Stalf, a 1992 biological sciences bachelor’s degree graduate, has served as president and CEO of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium since February 2013. The zoo employs 2,000 people, earns $76 million in annual revenue and has a $240 million economic impact each year. It is home to more than 10,000 animals, and includes a 22-acre water park, an 18-hole golf club, a 100-acre conservation center and safari park. The zoo recently completed the largest expansion in history, the Heart of Africa, where a soybean field was turned into a savanna. Previously, he served as interim CEO, chief operations officer and senior vice president of operations at the zoo. Prior to moving to Ohio in 2010, Stalf was the zoo director at Niabi Zoo in the Quad Cities for 15 years. When he became director at Niabi, he was youngest individual ever named to a zoo director’s position. It was also during that...
private schools on the top tier list of “Best Regional Universities.” Western is one of four Illinois public universities appearing in the top 50. Of the 39 Midwestern public universities included, Western also moved to the number 10 spot, from number 13 in 2014 rankings, among the 109 Midwestern universities recognized as a “Best Midwestern University.” Since 2011, Western has risen in the U.S. News rankings, from 53rd in 2011 to 49th in 2012. Last year, Western was ranked 48th.

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 bests” comprise 25 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges, according to The Princeton Review.

Students commented that WIU faculty at Western are “knowledgeable” and “Most professors I have encountered seem genuinely pleased to go out of their way to help you.” Students also noted that “It is very easy to find a place where you belong, and you’ll find “a very homelike atmosphere,” “fun events” and “plenty of organizations.” As a “Military Friendly School,” WIU will be featured in the “GI’s Guide to Military Friendly Schools,” among other Victory Media publications. According to Victory Media, the 2015 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Rounding out the accolades is the 2014 Washington Monthly College Guide recognizing Western Illinois University as a “Best Bang for the Buck” school. Western was ranked 147th among 386 colleges and universities from across the nation and 69th among 176 master’s degree granting institutions. WIU is among five Illinois public universities in the top 150, and is one of two Illinois state schools in the top 50 among master’s granting institutions ranked in the college guide.

According to Washington Monthly, institutions are ranked for their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).

**Where in the world is Rocky?**

Last semester, we were excited to announce “Where in the World is Rocky?” He took his first trip with the Alumni Association during WIU’s Spring Break in March. We’ll continue to post pictures and send tweets to show you “Where in the World Rocky is” as he travels with us around campus, town, the country and the WORLD! We hope you’ll get in on the action, since we know that Leatherneck Nation is everywhere. Grab your favorite Rocky (on a shirt, hat, etc.), snap a picture and send it in via email to A-Association@wiu.edu or by mail to Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455.

We’ll share “Where in the World your Rocky is” on our web site and through our social media during the last week of each month as we’ll post a new shot of Rocky somewhere he’s been earlier that month. You’ll have until the end of that month to guess. We can’t wait to see where your travels take him!

**Continued from p. 18**

time with Niabi that Stalf began traveling with famed zookeeper Jack Hanna, presenting educational programs and zoo promotions, and making television appearances, across the U.S.

In addition to his work at the Columbus Zoo, Stalf speaks on behalf of state and federal legislation that impacts wildlife and makes it a priority to educate communities about the welfare and conservation of animals and wildlife protection. He is a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, serving as an accreditation mentor and on the government affairs committee.

Stalf has hosted WIU events at Niabi and Columbus zoos, and has returned to campus to speak to students about his career.

**Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation**

Publication title: Western News. Publication no.: 679-980.
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**Average # copies each issue during preceding 12 months**

A. Total # copies (net press run) 106,524
B. 1. Paid/ requested circulation outside county 104,244
2. Paid in county subscription 0
3. Sales through dealers & carriers, etc. 2,280
4. Other classes mailed through USPS 0
C. Total paid/ requested circulation 106,524
D. Free distribution by mail 0
1. Outside county 0
2. In county 0
3. Other classes mailed USPS 0
E. Free or nominal rate distribution 0
F. Total distribution 106,524
G. Copies not distributed 0
H. Total 106,524
I. Percent Paid 100%

**Average # copies published nearest to filing date**

A. Total # copies (net press run) 107,280
### 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).

Information will be listed by year of first degree earned. 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.

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**1964**
- Mary Crabb Kerr, Washington, has co-authored a book, Mary Lincoln's Journey.

**1968**
- Ernest Blomquist, III, Palatine, received the 2014 Addis E. Hull Award from the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

**1970**
- Michael Ashby, Carol Stream, is retired after 41 years as general manager of the DuPage County Farm Bureau and executive director of the DuPage County Farm Bureau Foundation.
- Michael Gibson, Tulsa, OK, is retired after 42 years in banking.

**1971**
- Kurt Jahneke, Castalin Springs, TN, is a retired master electrician at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**1972**
- Mary Foley, Woodridge, is the assistant director librarian at Indian Prairie Library in Darien.
- Scott Lewis, Batavia, is the procurement specialist at Loyola Health in Maywood.
- Patricia Wahlsstrom, Austin, TX, is a senior consultant at the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

**1973**
- Constance “Connie” Murphy Blalock, Piney Flats, TN, is a math instructor at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and received her Master’s in mathematical sciences from ETSU in August 2014.
- Ginger Graham Smith, Spokane, WA, is retired.

**1974**
- Leslie Boston, Springfield, is retired after 32 years of teaching art.
- Rene Daniels, Chicago, is retired from the City of Chicago.
- Mike Drews, Aurora, is the president-elect of the Illinois Association of Realtors.
- Dennis Hetzel, Hebron, KY, released his first novel Killing the Curse.
- Terri Weller Izzo MA ‘76, Baton Rouge, LA, is retired.
- Michael Mann, Oswego, is retired from Farmers Insurance.

**1975**
- Angela Dahm Boe, Woodstock, is a retired art teacher from Crystal Lake School District 47.
- Carolyn Parham, Madison, WI, is retired from Dane County Housing Authority as executive director.
- Victoria Steksal, Elk Grove Village, is an analyst for Fort Dearborn Company.
- Margaret Linder Stukey, Wichita, KS, is a para educator at the Wichita Public Schools USD # 299.

**1976**
- Charlie Boe, Woodstock, is a senior financial consultant at Wells Fargo Advisors.
- Doug Mills, Roswell, GA, is the business manager at MapShots.
- Kay Miller Moore, Henrico, VA, is the district controller at Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.
- Patricia Speichers Ostenburg, Clermont, FL, is a chemistry teacher at Lake Minneola High School.
- Edward Smith, San Diego, CA, is the commercial loan underwriter at North Island Credit Union.

**1977**
- Victoria Taus Aquin, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, is an entrepreneur/innovation facilitator for the Ministry of Economy & Development of Georgia.
- Christopher Olds, Bellwood, is a retired educator after 36 years of service with Chicago Public Schools.

**1978**
- Marilyn Pinar Achepolli, Orion, is retired from teaching after 35 years.
- Donna Miles, Lombard, is the regional recruiter for the Gulf Coast and South regions of Office Depot, Inc.
- Katherine Klink-Gordon Rosenbaum, Arthur, is a voice, instrumental, and general music teacher at Arthur Lvingston Aitken Hammond School District # 305.

**1979**
- Jodie Paustian, Alexandria, VA, is a senior contract specialist for Internal Revenue Service in Oxon Hill, MD.

**1980**
- Debbie Davidson Salmela ‘81, Ft. Collins, CO, works at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Cheyenne, WY.
- Kirk Samela MA ‘84, Ft. Collins, CO, is the principal at Springfield High School.
- Glenn Shirley, Rock Falls, is a retired state trooper from the Illinois State Police.
- Kevin Warrender, Pompano Beach, FL, is the president at Triocarpet, Inc.

**1981**
- Mollie Harrison Pennock MBA ’83, W. Lafayette, IN, is a senior research associate at Purdue University.
- Steve Robinson MS ’83, Bolingbrook, is the child protection investigator for Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

### Career Development Center
**WIU Alumni Association - You’re a Member! Reap the Benefits!**

**1982**
- Lawrence Branz, Middletown, FL, is the regional controller at WCA.

**1983**
- Jill Eckardt MS, Boca Raton, FL, was inducted into the ACHOO-I Parthenon Society.
- Brenda Belcher Green, Villa Park, is the customer service representative at FlavorFocus in Addison.

**1984**
- Randy Leffelman, Aurora, is the vice president and branch manager for the International Airport to offer the “WIU Easier Card” for alumni who use the airport for travel. The card offers access to the airport’s Destination Points business center on Concourse B.

**1985**
- Tom Quinn, Lakewood, CO, serves on the city council for the City of Lakewood and published the book American Massacre, Fort Pillow and the Day That Changed a War.
- Victor Wagher MA ‘86, Bowie, MD, is a records management officer for the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, DC.

**1986**
- Charles Baker-Clark MS-ED, Grand Rapids, MI, is a full professor at Grand Valley State University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the University of Montenegro, Kotor during the 2014-15 academic year.

**1987**
- Diana Price Lazoun, Riverside, is the director of nutrition and dining services for LTC Support Services, REMS in Galesburg.

**1988**
- Tim Flynn, Englewood, CO, is a self-employed artist.
- Rachelle Carter Hollinshed, Kodak, TN, is retired from the University of Tennessee Extension and is now the president/owner/CFO of L & J Waterwell Services, Inc.

**1989**
- Lisa Knopp MA, Lincoln, NE, is a full professor in the English Department at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.
- Randy Leffelman, Aurora, is a retired state trooper from the Illinois State Police.

**1990**
- Linda Klink-Gordon, Lombard, IL, is the regional recruiter for the Gulf Coast Support Services.

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- Lisa Knopp MA, Lincoln, NE, is a full professor in the English Department at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.
1987
Scott Benton, Franklin, TN, is retired from being the assistant chief inspector for the US Marshall Service.
David James, Dumfries, VA, is the director of logistics plans and programs, assistant secretary of the Army, Acquisition Logistics and Technology for the US Army.
Shawn Kasserman, Glen Ellyn, is a founding member of Tomaski Kotin Kasserman, LLC in Chicago and has been elected first vice president of the Illinois Bar Foundation.

1988
Leesa Maki Clifton MS ’90, Lorima, WI, is a commercialization manager at Lonza in Germantown.
Kathy Kaler MS, St. Joseph, is the assistant director of academic services/student-athlete development at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Brenda Fink Lincoln, Rochester, NY, is a self-employed preschool teacher.
Jeff Maynard, Alton, is the vice president of administration at Cope Plastics, Inc.
Michael Sexton, Decatur, is a member of the choral group, Opus 2.
Elizabeth DeMovic Weissman, White Plains, NY, is the executive director of Americas Head of Human Resources & Corporate Communications at MUFG in New York, NY.

1989
Cynthia Dochterman Burke, Lyman, SC, is a safety & training representative in the performance pipeline division for Chevron Phillips Chemical Co., LP in Waddell.
Kevin Skoien, Round Lake, is the security supervisor at Universal Protection Services.
Kathy Hutcheson Tuminaro, Batavia, works in sales at Target.

1990
John Hahn, Sycamore, is the art teacher at DeKalb USD # 428.
Rob Paulsgrove, Arlington, TX, is the new fire chief of the Denton Fire Department.
Allan Whitney, Aledo, is an unloader at Walmart.

1991
Alaine Rovenhagen, Newark, is a teacher at Jennings Lyon Learning Center in Sheridan.
Janis Thornbloom Smelek, Davenport, IA, is a human resources manager at UnityPoint Health-Trinity in Rock Island.

1992
Holly Sanders David, Wentzville, MO, is the pro shop associate at Bear Creek Golf Club.
Chris Martin Foy MD-ED ’99, Springfield, is the assistant director at My Friends Discovery Center.
Shirley White Johnson, Champaign, is a teacher’s aide at Champaign Unit #4 Schools and is the author of 2 novels, I heart DeKalb and The Joy of Marketing.
Deborah Bruce Salazar, Marquette Hts, is the executive officer senior communicator at Caterpillar, Inc. in Peoria.

1993
Jaime Toth Barbee MS ’97, Littitz, PA, is a speech language pathologist at Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13. (jsbarbee@comcast.net)
Lorri Graves Kachinovas, Macomb, is the admissions & records representative in the Center for International Admissions at Western Illinois University.
Susan Pacek, Davenport, FL, is the front desk cashier at Walt Disney World.
Derek Van Lerberghe, Riverview, FL, is a ship dock manager at Amazon.com.

1994
Amanda Priest Daigneault, Mt. Pleasant, SC, is the mental health technician at Palmetto Low Country Behavioral Health and received her Master’s in Professional Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.
Steve Laing, Plainfield, is the human resource manager at John Morrell Food Group in St. Charles.
Susan Wilson Turner, Seattle, WA, is the owner/landscape designer at Wild Coast Landscapes.

1995
Joshua Dobereiner, Washington, is a contracting officer for the USDA in Peoria.
Dawn Hammond Marseilles, Wabash, IN, is an independent living & aftercare coordinator at White’s Residential and Family Services.
Richard Moore, Sun Lakes, AZ, is a property and procurement specialist for Bureau of Land Management in Phoenix.
James Scheffel, Alton, is the producer / director at Charter Media and received a Master’s in Digital Media from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.
Constance Stoeter Weaver, Metamora, is the spokesperson and executive director of public relations at Bradley University in Peoria. (cweaver@bsmail.bradley.edu)

1996

1997
Tim Entrup, Quincy, is a network technician at AT&T.
Emily Doerr Gomolchak, Bloomington, is an administrative assistant III of apt business at Commerce Bank.
Shauna Gollinzitt Musselman MA ’99, Peoria Hts., is an assistant director of human resources at Peoria County.
Gustave Neumann, Cary, NC, is a SAP security analyst at John Deere.
Shelly Russell, Medford, WI, is the CEO of the Mitchell County Regional Health Center.
Matthew Sager MA ’99, Peoria, is the human resource manager at Caterpillar, Inc.
Kathy Croxton Sloan MS-ED ’01, Carmel, IN, is a licensed mental health counselor and life coach at CKS Counseling & Coaching LLC. (ckslane@gmail.com)

1998
John Haavig, Chicago, is a welder, fabricator and tank inspector at EWS, Inc.
Scott Yerbic, Canton, is the global technology support manager at Weatherford International.

1999
Kristin Collard Grunewald, Denver, CO, is a senior sales manager at RMC in Aspen.
Jennifer Hawbaker Kelner, Mt. Ayr, IA, is a marketing coordinator at Snyder & Associates, Inc.

2000
Nicole Deckard Diedrich, Winnebago, is a physical therapist/ facilitator manager at Accelerated Physical Therapy.
Darcy Mewes Frazee MBA ’01, Columbia, MO, is a financial specialist – Medicare at Missouri School Boards’ Association.
Troy Horton ’04, Petersburg, is an IT director at Burrrs Seed Farms.
Keenya Howard Sisson, Thornton, CO, is the benefits administrator at Professional Case Management.
Erin Lageman Verbeck, Robinson, TX, is the chief joy officer at Joy of Marketing.
Chris Vorac, Geneseo, is an IT project manager at John Deere.

2001
Chris Adams, Doniphan, MO, is the director of enrollment services at Three Rivers College.
Danielle Brown-Hessler, Bemidji, MN, is a department supervisor at JC Penney.
Sara Usrey Dykstra MA ’07, Geneseo, is a US probation officer for the US Courts in Rock Island.
Tom Eckert, Goodyear, AZ, is a police officer for the City of Goodyear.
Kelly Maze Gras, Grenta, NE, is a social worker at Life Care Center.
Carrie Bohannon Horton, Petersburg, is an echo tech at Decatur Memorial Hospital.
Steve Rieger, Arlington Hts., is a benefits administrator at Aon.
Lisa Wheat Sharp, Morton, is a mission delivery specialist for the American Legion.
Jenna Wagner, Anadusia, is a family advocate at Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center.

2002
Denise Foy Bausch MS, Creston, WA, is the chief of interpretation and education at National Park Service in Davenport.
Doug Eck, Humble, TX, is an assistant dean of students at the University of Houston. (dtgeck@uh.edu)
Geoffrey Gilliams, Las Vegas, NV, is an NBC reporter for the US Air Force in Wrightstown, NJ.
Austin Hodge, Phoenixville, PA, is a programme controls manager at Mace Group NA.
Jessica Sherwood Swissegood MS ’06, Indian Lake Est., FL, is the director of therapy at Royal Care of Avon Park.
Toma Tomov, Beaumont, TX, is a retail relationship manager III/ investment representative at BBVA Compass in Port Arthur.
Tony Whereley, Mason City, is the head boys basketball coach at Illinois Central High School.

2003
Tiffany Bailey, Mebane, NC, is the director of accessibility resources at UNC in Chapel Hill.
Jessica Wiemelt Beaston, Quincy, is a guidance counselor at Quincy High School. (jbeaston7212@comcast.net)
Elizabeth Boardman, Colorado Springs, CO, is an information systems security specialist at Lockheed Martin IS & GS.
Kristi Cockerill Griffith, Florissant, MO, is the owner/graphic designer at Thumbprint Creative.
Burlington Bees Social & Baseball Game
Community Field, Burlington, IA
August 13, 2014


St. Louis Cardinals vs. Cubs Social & Baseball Game
Ballpark Village's Cardinal Nation, St. Louis, MO
August 30, 2014

Front l-r: Board of Trustees Chair and 1997 Honorary Alumni Award recipient and President’s National Advisory Council member Cathy Early, Cathy Borst, John Borst and Jacob Borst. Middle l-r: Professor Virginia Diehl, Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ‘79 ’83, Admissions Director Andy Borst and President Jack Thomas. Back l-r: David Waldorf ‘93, Karen Nord Waldorf, Jim Carter ‘86, Centennial Honors College Director Rick Hardy ‘70, Sandy Carter, Jim Nuss, Linda Hardy and Judy Nuss.


Front l-r: GIS Director Chad Sperry ‘95 and Professor Lori Baker Sperry ‘96. Middle l-r: Robert Shouse ‘95, Women’s Studies Chair Aimee Shouse, Jamie Hartman Farnick ‘02 ’06 and Dick Archer ‘74. Back l-r: Mary Person, Caitlin Person, Tim Farnick ‘84, Della Magno Archer ‘74 and John Bailey ‘74.

L-r: Julie Biebel Ledger ‘05, Brooklyn Ledger and Adam Ledger ‘05.

Galesburg Alumni & Friends
Iron Spike Brewing Company, Galesburg, IL
August 21, 2014


Jason Hawkins, Plainfield, is the director of choirs at Plainfield North High School.
Abigail Kerrn, Haltom City, TX, is a tele communicator at North Richland Hills Police and received certification to be an instructor for the State of Texas.
David Lorance, Fayetteville, AR, is the stage manager at Theatre Squared.

2004
Colleen Jack Cline, Davenport, IA, is retired.
Lance Gentle, Bradford, is the owner of Gentle Seed Sales.
Brenda Kozza McGinley, Haymarket, VA, is the vice president program manager at TD.
Chris McIntyre, Cantrall, is a Lieutenant Colonel/Commander 1st Battalion 106th Aviation in the Illinois Army National Guard.

2005
Ellyn Bartges, Clearwater, MN, received her PhD from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in Kinesiology and is the director of equity and access, title IX & ADA coordinator, chief diversity officer at St. Cloud State University.
Rebecca Cooley, Belton, TX, is a community service specialist at Belton Police Department.

Quad Cities Western Wednesdays
On the Rock Grille & Bar, Rock Island, IL
September 3, 2014

L-r: Sue Seaver Goetz ‘82, Ila Mishner ‘04, Keith Miller, Chris Connolly ‘82, Bethany Whewell Mital ‘01 and Tony Mital ‘02.

Seated l-r: Bethany Whewell Mital ‘01, Sue Seaver Goetz ‘82, Alumni Council member Kellie Kohler Esters ‘93, Heidi Parkhurst, Judy Anderson Tumbleson ‘63 and Kimberly Smith Wittrock ‘94. Standing l-r: John Reynolds ’91 ’04 ’08, Tony Mital ‘02, Chris Connolly ‘82, Foundation Board member and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Steve McCann ‘78, Jack Tumbleson ‘64, Tom Ahlbrandt ’69, Byron Carlson ‘68 ’71, Board of Trustees member and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Bill Epperly ’68, Foundation Board President Jim Lodico ’62 ’75, Jeff Edwards ’75, Board of Trustees member Yvonne Savala, Victor Moreno ’86 ’02 ’04 and Public Safety Director Scott Harris ‘04.

WIU vs. Wisconsin Pre-Game Social & Game
Whiskey Jack’s, Madison, WI
September 6, 2014

Jason Hawkins, Plainfield, is the director of choirs at Plainfield North High School.
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Rebecca Cooley, Belton, TX, is a community service specialist at Belton Police Department.
Celebrating Town & Gown
The Forum, Macomb, IL
September 25, 2014

L-r: Steve Silberer, Foundation Board member and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Lorraine Barnhart Epperson ’48 ’52, Laura Swanson Leezer ’84 ’98, Amanda Nave Silberer ’95 ’97 and Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond.

L-r: President Jack Thomas, Foundation Board member and Board of Trustees Chair and 1997 Honorary Alumni Award recipient Cathy Early and Mayor Mike Inman.

Front l-r: Alumni Council member and Director of Residence Life Mishelle Banas Oaks ’97 and Stacey Watson Bierman ’96. Back l-r: Director of Budget Matt Bierman ’97 ’03, Assistant Director of Residential Facilities Keta Russell ’09 ’11, Alumni Council member and Director of Residential Facilities Joe Roselieb ’07 ’09 and Vice President for Student Services Emeritus Garry Johnson.

Kevin Froehlich, Naperville, is a banking officer and financial services representative at Hanmi Bank. Robert Hanerhoff III, Bolingbrook, is the director of bands at Bolingbrook High School.

Angela Maestas Craig, Lincoln, is a special investigation unit senior analyst at Country Financial in Bloomington.

2006

Matt Budre, Roselle, is the assistant director of public information at the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in Evanston.

Jeff Damhoff MS ’09, Orland Park, is a technology systems specialist at North Palos School District.

Michelle Gross MS, Wauwatosa, WI, is the director of college advising at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

AJ Lutts MS, Chicago, is the associate director for administration in campus housing at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Matt Mullen, Winnebago, is the branch executive director for the new Family YMCA of Barnwell County.

Gina Delcorte Virginii, Arlington Hts., is a tutor at Options for College Success.

2007

Jacob Hanson, Aurora, is in operations management at Scot Industries in Sugar Grove.

Michael Jandt, Maryland Hts., MO, is a k-2 general music teacher at Wentzville R-4 School District.

Matthew Kozlowski, Chicago, is a police officer for the City of Chicago. (mkozlowski5@gmail.com)

Jorge Magana, Joliet, is a stand-in for NBC Universal: Chicago Fire TV Series in Chicago and Los Angeles, CA.

Clay Plumtree, Warrenville, is a police officer for the Oakbrook Terrace Police Department.

Craig Stocker, Vernon Hills, is a teacher for CHSD # 117 at Lakes High School.

Angela Sanders Wierzbicki MS, Missouri City, TX, is the executive director at Fort Bend Cares Foundation.

2008

Pam Fahey MS-ED, Springfield, is the principal at Christ the King School.

Justin Hallgren, Rock Island, is a network and systems administrator at Tennant Truck Lines in Colona.

Lauren Carrier McKinnis MS, Durham, NC, is the waste reduction and recycling outreach coordinator at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Matthew Meyer, Newark, is the agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor at the Mendota Township High School.

James Nardelli, Southern Pines, NC, is a battalion intelligence officer for the US Army.

Brett Pendell, Suffolk, VA, is a commodities hedging & research manager at Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Ashley Brown Radosav MS ’09, Aurora, is a marketing/training coordinator at Unilock.

Huski Sargyany MA, Yerevan, Armenia, is a zonal development manager at World Vision International Armenian branch.

Sarah Smith, St. Louis, MO, is a jeweler at Sterling Corporation (Jared the Galleria of Jewelry).

2009

Michael Svoboda Britz MLA&S ’12, PB-CER ’13, Rockford, is an adjunct student success instructor at Rock Valley College.

Christopher Leighton M.Acct ’10, Canton, is a staff accountant II at Caterpillar, Inc.

Sasha Wolfe Logan, Sterling, is the testing center coordinator at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.

Samantha Brooks Morton, Lake in the Hills, is a health & AVID high school teacher and also the head track & field coach at U-46.

Derek Nathan, Forest Park, is a business analyst at US Bank.

Michael Pisula, St. Louis, MO, is a software developer at NuCloud Global.

Luke Simmons, Mahomet, is an operating engineer for Custom Service Crane, Inc. in Fisher. (lscranes@gmail.com)

2010

Igor Bozie, Elk Grove Village, is an assistant state’s attorney for Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Eric Eden, Hillsborough, is the head baseball coach at Hillsborough High School.

Amanda Hulme MS, Downers Grove, is the director of leadership and education for Beta Theta Pi Fraternity in Oxford, OH.

Zach Stuaua, Viola, is a seedsmen with Channel Seeds.

2011

Katie Gansel, Chicago, is a marketing specialist at BankFinancial.

Larry Gilman, New Lenox, is a customer advocate at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

Marc Kessler, Macomb, is an athletic trainer at McDonough District Hospital.

Cailtin Lohman, Richmond, TX, is a veterinary technician at Sugar Land Veterinary Specialists and Emergency.

2012

Kyle Fenimore, Mt. Sterling, is a signalman for BN&S Railroad.

Angela Furio, Buffalo Grove, works in case management at AccuQuote.

Chicago Western Wednesdays
Mickey Finn’s, Libertyville, IL
Oct. 1, 2014

Nick Knaffman, Springfield, is a coffee manager at Hy-Vee.

Michael Ready MS ’14, Bloomington, is a business analyst for State Farm Insurance.

Heather Hardwick Springer, Bloomington, is a photographer at Heather Springer Photography.

2013

Marcy Barrows, Troy, is a police officer at Western Illinois University College Police Department in Belleville.

Jamie Chara, Murrells Inlet, SC, is an English language arts teacher and head cheerleading coach at Georgetown County School District.

Kimberly Deschamps Drobusheski MS-ED, Dahinda, is an administrator and special education supervisor at Knox-Warren Special Education in Galesburg.

Elizabeth Elta, Everett, WA, is a development associate and policy analyst for Tenants Union of Washington State in Seattle.

Sarah Beard Kimm, Bettendorf, IA, is an accountant at Brown Traffic Products.

Mary Stika, Tampa, FL, is an independent audiobook narrator/producer at Audio Creation Exchange.

Russell Thornton, Macomb, is a network administrator at Bridgeway Inc.

2014

Amber Bedee MS, San Marcos, TX, is an academic advisor I at Texas State University.

Sarah Bielarski, Westmont, is an administrative assistant/student advisor at G Skin and Beauty in Oakbrook.

Nick Markel MS, Erie, PA, is a box office manager at Erie Seawolves.

Joe Ricchio, Kewanee, is an emergency preparedness coordinator at Henry County Health Department.

Javier Skwara MS, Quincy, is an overnight facility supervisor at Quincy Family YMCA.

Aaron Snyder, Macomb, is a programmer support analyst at NTT-AT.

Kelsey Thompson, Grayslake, is an event staff and administrative support at The Village of Round Lake Beach.

April Ault Young, Monmouth, is a teacher at Monmouth Roselle School District # 238.

Marriages


Kelly Carter ’09 and Nick Ferguson, July 11, 2014.


Joan Hollein ’03 and Deron Somsers ’02, May 3, 2013.

Antonia Michanicou ’05 and Doug Sarris, Aug. 22, 2014.


Jared Pollock ’05 and Delta George, Jan. 11, 2014.


Births and Adoptions

Sara Pump Allen MS ’04 and Nick Allen ’99 MS ’03, a daughter, Carmella Diana, Aug. 22, 2014.

Lacey Skelton Austin ’10 and James, a daughter, Rhiannon, July 13, 2014.

Jessica Wiemelt Beaston ’03 and Bryce, a daughter, Olivia, May 14, 2014.

Matt Bills ’99 and Carrie Shorge Bills ’98, a daughter, Lauren Emerson, June 12, 2014.
Homecoming 2014 - WIU: A Hero’s Homecoming. Who’s Your Hero?

WIU Chicago Homecoming
The Fifth Quarter, Homewood, IL
September 15, 2014

Seated l-r: Bill Sander ’78, Julie Caulfield Niswaco ’81 ’82, Judy Breen ’82, Paula Frost Tomaszewski ’72, Clowana Gardner Walker ’91 and Jim Druetzler ’69. Standing l-r: Alumni Council member Tom O’Brien ’07, Paul Connery ’73, Steve Nemitz ’82, Byron Williams ’86, Alumni Council member Jim Carter ’75, Kerry Ingram ’75 and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Darryl Hollimon ’83 ’93.

Peggy Kinnane’s, Arlington Heights, IL
September 16, 2014


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September 16, 2014

Old Stompin' Ground Runaround

28th Annual Old Stompin' Ground Runaround Winners

WIU alumni and friends joined in the 28th annual Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround 5K run/walk held Saturday, October 4, 2014 with 145 participants. Michael Strachan was the overall male winner with a time of 19:03 and the female overall winner was 13 year old Maya Stovall with a time of 19:17.

Male Winners
15 and under: Rhett Lowderman, first place; Trent Boggs, second place and Lane Miller, third place.
16 to 22: Josh Bendorf, first place; Kody Parkins, second place and Davy Mueller, third place.
23 to 29: John Mannix, first place; Preston Gray ‘11, second place and Peter Hummel ‘09, third place.
30 to 39: Ryan Zachary, first place; Scott Lawson ‘01 MS ‘08, second place and Adam Leonard ‘06, third place.
40 to 49: Victor Lidya ‘05, first place; Mike Spann ‘88, second place and Joel Gruver, third place.
50 to 59: William “Buzz” Hoon ‘86 MA ‘91, first place, Terry Hostert, second place and Anthony Laye, third place.
60 and over: Dennis Werling MA ‘01, first place; Deckle McLean, second place and Lawson Barclay, third place.

Female Winners
15 and under: Maleigna Huston, first place; Joey Trost, second place and Lucy Gruidi, third place.
16 to 22: Madison Cirks, first place. There were no other female participants in this age bracket.
30 to 39: Kerri Trost, first place; Chelsea Zachary, second place and Stacie Marler Petigout ‘05 SSF ‘09, third place.
40 to 49: Holly Stoval ‘91, first place; Lori Linda Harmes ‘89, second place and Diana Kuraz, third place.
50 to 59: Rhonda Hickman Huston ‘85, first place; Gloria Delany-Barmann, second place and Lori Laye, third place.
60 and over: Hiroko Sotozaki, first place, Brenda Martin ‘73, second place and Ronda McKee ‘82 MS-ED ‘98, third place.

Walkers
Victor Lantz ‘77 ‘78, first place; Michael Williams ‘96, second place and Kristain Johnson Williams ‘97, third place.

The Right Place Tent


Homecoming Parade at the Alumni House


L-r: Michelle Frank-Northcutt ’88, Debbie Pfister Bay ’89, Sandy Kelly Sameshiama ’88, Tammy Jones Thomson ’89 and Dan Woods ’74 ’77.

L-r: Ryan Kast ’01, Meredith Kast, Jesse Reimer, Sarah Slemons Reimer ’01 and Tom Pogue ’71.

L-r: Heather Hardwick Springer ’12, Brandt Springer ’12, Zach Gould ’12, Samantha Heaton, Nathan Whitham ’14, Sara Stockert ’13 and Amy Quam.

25 - 40 - 50 Year Reunion

Sitting l-r: Julie Barry Phillips ’74, Cathy Reynolds Woodall ’74, Linda Comfort Domel ’74 and Carol Grab Schneider ’74 ’00. Standing l-r: Dan Woods ’74 ’77, Kandy Kost Hammond ’74, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Micki Emmett ’74 ’76, Patricia McNary Roberts ’74, Steve Roberts ’74, Rob Williams ’74, Sid Knight ’74, Greg Boynton ’74 and Rick Marsh ’74.
**Mayan Mystique**  
**January 6-16, 2015**  
Experience awe-inspiring, tropical lands infused with vibrant cultures and riveting ancient ruins as you cruise the Caribbean.

**Polynesian Paradise**  
**March 15-25, 2015**  
From luxurious white-sand beaches to velvety emerald mountains, indulge your senses with the wonders of French Polynesia.

**Mediterranean Coastal Hideaways**  
**April 24–May 3, 2015**  
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.

**Spain ~ Valencia and Barcelona**  
**May 18-27, 2015**  
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.

**Paris Immersion**  
**June 5-16, 2015**  
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.

**Pearls of the Mediterranean**  
**June 15-23, 2015 (Please note new date.)**  
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.

**Coastal Alaska**  
**July 7–14, 2015**  
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.

**Scotland**  
**August 5-13, 2015**  
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.

**Baltic Marvels**  
**August 13-21, 2015 (Please note the new date.)**  
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.

**Greek Isles Odyssey**  
**September 26–October 5, 2015**  
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.

**Rediscovered Tuscany**  
**October 14-22, 2015**  
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.

**Eastern & Oriental Express: Bangkok to Bali**  
**November 6-18, 2015**  
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 & 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.

**Atolls & Islands of French Polynesia**  
**March 25–April 4, 2015**  
Experience French Polynesia on one of the finest vessels afloat, Oceania Cruises' elegant Marina, where every port of call is a stunning Pacific dream. Savor the tropical islands and atolls of Moorea, Bora Bora, Rangiroa, and more on this extraordinary voyage.

**Liberty Mutual**

Get quality auto and home protection through Liberty Mutual! Liberty Mutual has partnered with WIU to offer you exclusive savings on quality auto and home insurance tailored for the way you live today. You could also enjoy valuable discounts such as New to Liberty, Newly Married, New Move, Hybrid Vehicle, Loss Forgiveness and Recent Homebuyer, New / Renovated Home and Protective Devices.”

Read more about alumni benefits on page 20. Call 844-652-2353 or visit LibertyMutual.com/wiu to learn more or get a free quote.

Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.

More 2016 trips coming soon!  
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

Full Name __________________________ Maiden Name __________________________ Grad. Year ____________

Mailing Address __________________________

City __________________________ State ____________ Zip ____________

Is this a new address? □ Yes □ No

Prefer □ Home □ Business □ Cell

Home Phone __________________________

Prefer □ Home □ Business □ E-mail

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 □ E-mail

Home E-mail __________________________

Business E-mail __________________________

Home 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:
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Please refer a student who would 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.

Save the Date

Homecoming & Reunion 2015

Oct. 2 - 3

Visit wiu.edu/alumni for the tentative schedule

Send Us Your 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.

________________________________________
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________________________________________

□ 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) 298-2014, or online at wiu.edu/alumni

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

January 21 - Miami
Monty’s Sunset
300 Alton Rd., Miami Beach, FL
Social: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Social, hors d’oeuvres and cash bar - FREE

January 25 - Orlando
Quantum Leap Winery
1312 Wilfred Dr., Orlando, FL
Social: 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Social, appetizers, cash bar - $20/person

January 26 - Tampa
717 South Restaurant
717 S. Howard Ave., Tampa, FL
Social: 6 pm – 8 pm
Social, hors d’oeuvres and cash bar - $20/person

January 27 - Sarasota/Bradenton
Mattison’s Forty One
7275 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
Luncheon: 11 am – 1 pm
Blackened Grouper sandwich and cash bar: $20/person
Penne Pasta with chicken and cash bar: $20/person
Grilled Polenta and cash bar: $20/person

January 27 - Ft. Myers
Coconut Jack’s Waterfront Grille
5370 Bonita Beach Rd, Bonita Springs, FL
Social: 6 pm – 8 pm
Social, hors d’oeuvres and cash bar - $15/person

January 28 - Naples
Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar
4270 Gulf Shore Blvd. North, Naples, FL
Social: 6 pm – 8 pm
Social, hors d’oeuvres and cash bar - $15/person

We’ll also continue celebrating our Western ties in the Washington D.C. area this coming year! Watch your Western News, email and our website for details as we’ll be visiting with you on special occasions throughout the year.

Purple & Gold Day 2015

Western Illinois University and your WIU Alumni Association will celebrate Purple and Gold Day 2015 with 15 simultaneous events around the world on Friday, April 24.

The Purple and Gold Day tradition began April 24, 2000, when the University closed its year-long 100-year celebration with the “Centennial Finale: A Celebration of Purple and Gold.” That date in 2000 marked 100 years to the day (April 24, 1899) that the Illinois Legislature approved the creation of Western Illinois University, then Western Illinois State Normal School. Members of the University community are encouraged to wear the colors to express their school spirit on that day, and this year, are also encouraged to attend one of the 15 events.

Events will include an evening social with food and drinks, along with a message from WIU streamed live to all 15 locations. Be sure to save the date to help us celebrate this great tradition in a way like never before! Join us at a city near you on Purple and Gold Day April 24, 2015.

Warm Holiday Wishes From the WIU Alumni Association

Registration Form for WIU Alumni & Friends Events

| Name ____________________________ | Class year __________ |
| Address __________________________ | City, State, Zip |
| Home phone ______________________ | Home e-mail |
| Cell phone _______________________ | Do you want to receive text messages from the university? [ ] No [ ] Yes |
| Name of business __________________ | Job title |
| Work phone ______________________ | Work e-mail |
| Work address ____________________ | City, State, Zip |

| Name of event: __________________ | Number attending/Name(s): ____________ | Price: ____________ |
| _______________________________ | ________________________________ | ____________ |
| _______________________________ | ________________________________ | ____________ |
| _______________________________ | ________________________________ | ____________ |
| _______________________________ | ________________________________ | ____________ |
| _______________________________ | ________________________________ | ____________ |

Total: ____________