Quinn releases CPA funding

By Darcie Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

Gov. Pat Quinn recently announced the release of $60 million for the construction of Western Illinois University’s Center for Performing Arts (CPA) in Macomb. Quinn made the announcement at an event on the Macomb campus.

“We are elated that Gov. Quinn has released the full funding for the construction of the Center for Performing Arts in Macomb,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “We are excited about beginning construction on this new facility that will benefit our students, faculty and staff, as well as the region. We want to thank President Emeritus Al Goldfarb who worked tirelessly in obtaining the funding for this project prior to his retirement. We also want to thank our local and regional legislators, businesses, alumni, friends, donors, the General Assembly and the governor for their continued support.”

The $71.8 million capital project is funded by the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB). “The Center for Performing Arts will increase Western’s educational offerings and provide Macomb with a state-of-the-art music, dance and theater production facility,” said WIU President Jack Thomas.

Scholarship support in honor of 6th Fan voters

By Julie Murphy ’94 M.S. ’95

What started in mid-January with 340 schools across the country came down to Western Illinois University and Brigham Young University in March. Thousands of Western alumni and friends across the country and around the world participated in the NCAA’s 6th Fan Competition to see which college or university had the best fans in the nation.

The contest was designed to award scholarship funds to 16 schools with NCAA Division I athletic departments that sponsor men’s basketball. For schools to advance, fans voted via the web, Facebook and Twitter, and over the course of several weeks, Western moved from the rounds of Sweet 16 and Elite 8 to the Final Four, and then to the Championship round. In the final competition, the Leathernecks faced Brigham Young University for a chance to see which college or university had the best fans in the world.

“I would like to thank Vice President Bainter, the WIU Foundation and Cathy Early for this special fundraising initiative,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “I would also like to express my appreciation to the individuals who came forward to donate to this scholarship drive. This particular effort is indicative of the loyalty, pride and spirit that makes Western Illinois University the outstanding institution it is.”

Distinguished Alumnus and Honorary Doctorate


Lavin, a 1976 sociology graduate, was appointed to his post at Commercial Vehicle Group in May 2013, following a successful 28-year career with Caterpillar. In addition to serving as president and CEO at CVG, which makes cab products and systems for commercial trucks and heavy-duty vehicles and machines, Lavin is a member of the company’s Board of Directors.

During his career at Caterpillar, Lavin served as the group president of construction industries and growth markets, with responsibility for Caterpillar’s earthmoving, excavation and building construction products divisions and the deployment of business strategies in China, India and elsewhere in the Asia Pacific region. He also had development and deployment responsibility for the company’s business in Japan and for construction projects in India and China.

Continued on p. 22

2014 UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

June
18 . . . . Quincy (IL)
25 . . . . Washington D.C.

July
13 . . . . New York
24 . . . . Princeton (IL)
30 . . . . Rockville (MD)

August
1-3 . . . . Chicago
6 . . . . . . Chicago
13 . . . . . . Burlington (IA)
14 . . . . . . Muncie (IN)
21 . . . . . . Galesburg (IL)

September
20 . . . . Evanston (IL)
25 . . . . Macomb

Continued on p. 22
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Congratulations to our newest members of the WIU Alumni Association! With the addition of nearly 1,500 graduates joining you after May’s Commencement Ceremonies, we’ve grown to more than 125,000 members! I hope you are as excited as I am to meet them over the coming years.

I also hope you’ll take a moment to look at the exciting things we have planned this year for you to connect with your alma mater. As I mentioned last issue, and as you’ll see in the details on p. 28, both our traditional Homecoming Oct. 3-4 on campus and our “WIU Chicago Homecoming” Sept. 15-20 are sure to bring thousands of WIU Alumni and Friends out to join us for some great fun, to reminisce about days gone by and to talk about the future of Western Illinois University. We’ll see you there!

-Amy Spelman

-Amy Spelman M.S. ’98

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See “Send Us Your News” (page 27).

Need to update your address? wiu.edu/alumni
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Western News

Spring 2014 Graduation

Nearly 1,800 students crossed the stage during the Spring 2014 ceremonies and transitioned from student to alumnus last month. They now join a network of more than 125,000 alumni around the world. Western Illinois University congratulates and welcomes new alumni, with 1,177 awarded bachelor’s degrees and 279 awarded master’s degrees.

JULY 2014

13 . . . New York City Alumni & Friends Social at Brooklyn Brewery
13 . . . John Deere Classic in Silvis (IL)
24 . . . Princeton Alumni & Friends Social at Wise Guys
30 . . . Washington Western Wednesdays in Rockville (MD)

AUGUST 2014

1-3 . . . Black Alumni Reunion weekend in Chicago
6 . . . Western Wednesdays After Hours in Chicago at Blue Frog’s L22
13 . . . WIU night at the Burlington (IA) Bees Alumni & Friends Social at Market Alley Wines
14 . . . Monmouth (IL) Alumni & Friends Social at Market Alley Wines
21 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Baltic Treasures (Through Sept. 1)

SEPTEMBER 2014

3 . . . Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in Rock Island (IL) at On the Rock Grille & Bar
6 . . . WIU at Wisconsin Social & Football Game
15 . . . WIU Chicago Alumni & Friends Social in Homewood (IL) at the Fifth Quarter
16 . . . WIU Chicago Alumni & Friends Social in Arlington Heights (IL) at Peggy Kinnane’s Social in Schaumburg (IL) at Ram Restaurant and Brewery
18 . . . WIU Chicago Alumni & Friends Social in LaGrange (IL) at The Wild Monk
19 . . . WIU Chicago Alumni & Friends Social in downtown Chicago at Ditra’s
21 . . . WIU Chicago Alumni & Friends Social in Schaumburg (IL) at Ram Restaurant and Brewery
22-30 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Cruise the Rhine
24 . . . Washington Western Wednesdays in downtown D.C.
25 . . . Celebrating Town & Gown at The Forum

OCTOBER 2014

1 . . . Western Wednesdays in Libertyville (IL) at Mickey Finn’s
3-4 . . . Homecoming/Reunion
13 . . . San Antonio Alumni & Friends Social
14 . . . Austin Alumni & Friends Social
15 . . . Dallas Alumni & Friends Social
16 . . . Houston Alumni & Friends Social
15-29 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Southern Africa
20 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - China and the Yangtze River (Through Nov. 3)

NOVEMBER 2014

5 . . . Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in Davenport (IA) at Blackwood’s
6 . . . Kansas City Alumni & Friends Social
7-15 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Pears of the Mediterranean
13 . . . Des Moines Alumni & Friends Social
19-30 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Cruise the Panama Canal
19 . . . Washington Western Wednesdays in D.C. suburb

DECEMBER 2014

3 . . . Chicago Western Wednesdays in downtown Chicago
19-20 . . . Graduation/Alumni Achievement Awards in Macomb

JANUARY 2015

6-16 . . . Alumni Travel Abroad - Mayan Mystique
TBD . . . Florida Alumni & Friends Socials

From the President

I would like to welcome the nearly 2,000 new Western Illinois University graduates to the WIU Alumni Association. You will always be a part of the Leatherneck family, and you can always return to your alma mater, your home away from home.

I had the privilege of speaking to students and their families and friends last month at five commencement ceremonies and two Honors convocations. The first day of the academic year, Homecoming and commencement weekend are the highlights of our year at Western Illinois University. It is a true honor to spend these days with our students and their families, our alumni, and our friends.

I would like to share some of what I told the Class of 2014 about the significance of our school colors, purple and gold. These are the colors that we, at Western Illinois University, wear with great pride.

Purple is the color of good judgment. Purple is the color of royalty, and purple brings peace of mind. For Western Illinois University, purple also represents passion. Our graduates are passionate. They do not sit passively on the sidelines of life. They are involved, responsible and responsive citizens. I want people to think of Western Illinois University and think of its passion. Our other school color, gold, is associated with higher ideas, wisdom, winners, and wealth. Just as I want purple to represent passion when it comes to Western, I want gold to represent “grit” in Western Illinois University’s lexicon. Grit means tenacity, resilience, persistence, perseverance, and courage. Western Illinois University graduates have that grit. They do not fold in the face of adversity, and they do not give in when others say they should give up.

Our alumni are great thinkers, game changers, and generous individuals. You were prepared as a great thinker during your time at Western. You are the game changers as you look for innovations, while creating opportunities for yourselves and for others. You are generous. This is demonstrated each year as our students call you during the annual Phonathon. This was recently demonstrated with our capital campaign and when alumni and friends came together to raise funds as part of a special Sixth Fan Scholarship campaign drive. However, your generosity extends beyond monetary donations to your beloved alma mater. You are generous with your time and your wisdom. Many of you return to this campus each year to share your expertise with our students. Several of you hire our newest graduates, serving as their mentors and helping them begin their careers, and so many of you volunteer and give back to your community. For that, we thank you.

All my best,

Jack Thomas
The College of Business and Technology (CBT), inclusive of the schools of Agriculture, Computer Sciences and Engineering and the departments of Accounting and Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences, Engineering Technology and Management and Marketing, award annual scholarships over $135,000, which benefit more than 125 undergraduate students. In addition to scholarship winners, many CBT students received recognition in their respective fields of study.

Construction management major Kelsey Bryant (Hurdland, MO) was chosen as one of 50 female college leaders to take part in the Women’s Construction Leadership Seminar in Omaha (NE).

Senior management major Megan Pazdernick ’14 (Grayslake, IL) is one of two national scholarship winners from the Sigma Iota Epsilon management honorary fraternity.

Master of Accountancy students Wil Lunt ’13 (Rochester, IL), Kelsey Korsmeyer ’13 M.Acc. ’14 (Littleton, IL) and Kacey Swainey ’12 M.Acc. ’14 (Keokuk, IA) took first place in the Best Practice competition held at the Beta Alpha Psi Midwest Regional Meeting.

A team of construction management students, Glenn Powell (Indianapolis, IN), Bill Minnich (Tinley Park, IL), Nathan Inman ’14 (Sherrard, IL), Tom Isringhausen ’13 (Carrollton, IL), Bruce Nieders ’14 (Liberty, IL) and Sean Meinert ’13 (Davis, IL), won second place in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) estimating competition.

Agriculture students competed in the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization conference. Joe Keller (Farmersville, IL), Ben Shriver (Ursa, IL) and Sarah Farmer ’14 (Monmouth, IL) were part of the team that won first place in the soil specialist competition; Farmer also won third place in the employment interview-fertilizer and ag chemicals contest. Jennifer Honnold (Oakland, IL) won first place in the agricultural education specialist contest and won second place in the employment interview-agriculture education competition. Grace Foster (Joliet, IL) will serve as the National PAS secretary for 2014-15.

Engineering Technology students Scottie Waldhaus (Quincy, IL) and Darren Walker (Fort Madison, IA) were awarded first prize on the 2014 Direct Digital Manufacturing Design Competition, sponsored by the Direct Digital Manufacturing Tech Group of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. The design challenge consisted of the creation of a nine-piece car body.

Boyerc awarded service honors

WIU’s Department of Human Resources recently honored employees at the annual Civil Service recognition and service award ceremony.

Office Manager Lori Boyer ’05, who works in the office of College of Business and Technology (CBT), was selected for the Civil Service Recognition and Service—Distinguished Service Award. She was presented with the award in April during the ceremony.

The Distinguished Service Award acknowledges initiative, innovation and/or dedication to service at Western and is a reflection of one or more of the University’s core values. The Civil Service employee must have at least three years of employment at Western.

Boyer has worked 25 of her 33 years of WIU employment in the CBT Dean’s Office. According to her nominators, Boyer’s commitment to WIU, its faculty, staff and students, is apparent in her daily handling of her job duties.

“She efficiently handles the college’s budget; all of the travel plans for the dean, associate dean and director of development; the inventory and the purchasing of the college’s equipment,” her nominators said.

Boyer has served on numerous committees within the CBT and the University, including event planning.
State Farm donates to WIU’s Computer Sciences

By Julie Murphy ‘94 M.S. ‘95

Students earning a degree in Western Illinois University’s School of Computer Sciences will benefit from new technology and equipment, thanks to the generosity of State Farm.

State Farm officials were on campus in March to present the Western Illinois University School of Computer Sciences with a $50,000 gift for the Advanced Applications and Development Laboratory.

“Technology plays a big role in our success; to continue that success, we need employees with advanced technical skills, and we believe supporting educational programs like WIU’s School of Computer Sciences is a win-win for all involved,” said State Farm Executive Vice President Duane Farrington. “We are excited about this partnership and look forward to helping students realize their dreams.”

“State Farm will enable us to provide newer resources to our upper division and graduate students,” said School of Computer Sciences Director Dennis DeVolder ‘83 M.S. ‘89. “The laboratory space and equipment will support courses in mobile application development, server-side web development, enterprise systems and computer forensics. Students in several majors will receive an enhanced experience in both applications and application development.”

“We are very appreciative of State Farm’s long-standing partnership with Western,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “Over the years, State Farm has provided many grants and matching gifts, all of which have enhanced the educational experience for our students. We are very grateful.”

State Farm and its affiliates are the largest provider of car insurance in the U.S. and are leading insurers in Canada. In addition to providing auto insurance quotes, their 18,000 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve 81 million policies and accounts—more than 79 million auto, home, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and nearly two million bank accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is also available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 44 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, visit statefarm.com or in Canada statefarm.ca.

WIU students visit John Deere

In February, approximately 45 students and faculty from the supply chain management program of the Department of Management and Marketing traveled to Davenport (IA) to witness the use of various supply chain management techniques in action. The first tour was of John Deere Davenport Works, a manufacturing location for Deere’s Construction and Forestry Division. Following the factory tour, students heard from a number of WIU alumni about their individual experiences at Deere and the importance of supply management to this Fortune 50 company. In the afternoon, the group toured the Von Maur e-fulfillment center, as well as the corporate distribution center, both in Davenport. The e-fulfillment center is the only distribution center in the state of Iowa that has implemented KIVA Systems, which, according to the Kiva Systems website, is a “game-changing automation technology” using “autonomous mobile robots and sophisticated software” to fulfill customer orders.

“It was interesting to see this technology in action compared to the traditional conveyor system more often used in distribution and warehousing,” said Honey Zimmerman ‘02 MBA ‘04, management and marketing instructor. “It was particularly good for the students to see the contrasts and comparisons of the supply chain practices of two types of industries: heavy equipment manufacturing and upscale retailing.”

WIU named Best for Vets Business School

Western Illinois University has been selected by Military Times as a Best for Vets Business School. WIU’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is ranked 36 out of the top 64, and Western is one of only two Illinois public institutions appearing in the top 50. The rankings were based in part on program flexibility (full-time, part-time and online) and staff support for veterans.

The Military Times Best for Vets distinction recognizes and rewards business schools for their commitment to providing opportunities to America’s veterans. Only institutions that offer graduate-level business degrees and that participated in the Best for Vets: Colleges survey were considered. Overall, schools were evaluated in five categories: university culture, student support, academic outcomes and quality, academic policies and cost and financial aid.

In Fall 2013, for the fourth consecutive year, Western was selected as a “Best for Vets College” by Military Times EDGE magazine. Western, ranked 37th, is one of two Illinois four-year universities in the top 50.

In addition to the Military Times recognition, for the fifth consecutive year, Western Illinois has been designated as a “Military Friendly School” by GI Jobs Magazine. Western has also been recognized as a top military friendly school by Military Advanced Education.

WIU approves new Finance 101 course

Western Illinois University will add a new course to its list of general education courses next semester. Financial Health (FIN 101) was recently approved by the WIU Faculty Senate to begin in Fall 2014.

The course, which was developed by Finance Instructor Stephen Gray ‘84 MBA ‘97, Finance Professor Peppi Kenny and Accounting Professor Jack Elfrink, will focus on teaching students about the role financial health plays in individual lives and the impact on well-being that financial decisions can have. Students will learn to prepare personal budgets for financial decision-making, analyze costs, develop appropriate investment and saving alternatives, compare alternative financial choices and select the financial option that has the most potential to enhance well-being. They will also learn about major consumer protection laws and how to use them to protect financial health, how to identify the impact different career choices can have on wellness and financial health and the benefits of using credit.

“Nationally, the majority of students cannot pass a standardized financial literacy exam, and three out of five students who withdrew from Western last year cited financial reasons as the number one cause for leaving.”

“Western’s finance faculty members are excited to bring this course forward to serve the needs of our students and help them develop the personal financial knowledge and skills that can improve their well-being for a lifetime,” Woodruff added.
Linkeman was appointed as an instructor as a sophomore very involved in the technology of the University. He also became customizable degree through Western's Kaskaskia the years,” Engineering Technology Chair said. “Kim has been a tremendous supporter over the years,” Engineering Technology Chair Ray Diez said. Linkeman came to Western in 1979 and was enrolled in the ROTC program. He chose to pursue a more customizable degree through Western’s Kaskaskia program, which is no longer available. He also became very involved in the technology of the University. Linkeman was appointed as an instructor at Western until 1987. Shortly after, he founded his computer and networking technology consultant firm, Computer Masters International, Inc. (CMI), in 1990, which is based in Macomb and serves west central Illinois. In 1999, he founded another local company, Logonix Corporation, to fill the role as Macomb’s only high-speed broadband provider at the time. For the past 34 years, Linkeman has donated his time to helping with the annual engineering technology exhibit. As a student, Linkeman helped with security for the event. Then, he utilized his technology knowledge and experience to write the original computer program to tally the judges’ scores in a more efficient manner. He has updated it with a new program and plans to again in the near future. The Ralph Dirksen Engineering Technology Exhibit started as a way to recognize and encourage high school students’ work in the field of engineering technology. “The annual exhibit is the longest-running display of student projects in Illinois,” said Dirksen, retired WIU professor and chair of the exhibit. Professionals in the field are invited to come to WIU to judge the students’ projects, which include such divisions as mechanical CAD (computer-aided design), mechanical drafting, graphic arts, machine metalworking, general metalworking, furniture-making, general woodworking, rendering and illustrating and an open division, which can include entries not classified in the previous divisions. “This exhibit is very valuable at the high school level for students,” added Linkeman. “It helps them develop skills that will continue to benefit them for the rest of their lives.”
Ag Students Selected for GROWMARK Summer Internship Programs

Two Western Illinois University School of Agriculture students were recently selected as summer interns for GROWMARK, Inc.’s paid internship program. Kirby Mixer (Concord, IL) and Chad Schone (Jacksonville, IL) were chosen this spring after qualifying and applying for the competitive summer internship program.

Mixer, a junior majoring in agricultural business, was selected for an energy internship at Prairieland FS. Schone, a junior majoring in agriculture and minoring in agronomy, was selected for an agronomy internship at Prairieland FS.

“The School of Agriculture has had a long sustaining relationship with GROWMARK, and through our relationship over the years, we know that their recruiters are very selective when it comes to awarding summer internships,” explained Andrew Baker, WIU School of Agriculture interim director. “Students begin the screening process as early as October and generally are notified in the early months of the spring semester.”

Baker said each GROWMARK intern is required to complete a special project during his/her internship program, and the projects generally consist of working on cost-saving methods or the development of new services or products.

According to Britany Piepenbrink, university relations recruiter for GROWMARK, the 12-week summer program offers a wide range of opportunities for students based on their areas of interest and fields of study in the agriculture industry, including agronomy, seed, marketing, energy, accounting and more.

Schone said he does not know exactly what agronomy-related summer project he will be tackling during his internship at Prairieland FS, but he knows he will be presenting his final project at the end of his internship program in Bloomington (IL).

“I will not receive my summer project assignment until the internship begins, but other jobs I will be involved in include delivering seed and chemicals to customers, scouting fields throughout the summer to check growth and potential threats to the crops and in general, helping with day-to-day operations at Prairieland FS,” he explained.

“I feel this internship will be an incredibly beneficial opportunity,” Mixer added. “It will make me a more valuable employee by further developing my skills in, and knowledge of, the ag industry. I also think it will challenge me and push me to grow as an agriculture student, as well as help shape my professional life.”

Baker noted in the internship programs students develop time-management, communication, collaboration and technical skills, all valuable for securing future employment.

“Companies are demanding students possess agricultural experiences related to their fields of study in order to secure higher paying positions when they graduate,” Baker added. “Most GROWMARK interns have job offers from the parent company at the completion of their internships, so it’s a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

WIU part of $70 million Department of Defense grant project

By Darci Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

Western Illinois University has been named a partner institution as part of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense for the University of Illinois (UI LABS) Digital Lab for Manufacturing, based in Chicago. The $70 million cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), which was formally awarded by President Barack Obama Feb. 25, is leveraged by commitments of $250 million from industry, academia, government and community partners, forming the $320 million Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute. The investment is part of President Obama’s National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) to re-invigorate U.S. manufacturing, creating new jobs and economic development and spurring future innovation.

The digital lab is an applied research institute that will both develop and demonstrate digital manufacturing technologies and deploy and commercialize these technologies across key manufacturing industries. According to Caralynn Nowinski, interim executive director of the digital lab, the Digital Lab for Manufacturing will be the nation’s flagship research institute for digital manufacturing and design innovation. Areas of focus include advanced analysis, intelligent machining and advanced manufacturing enterprise.

WIU, which is one of 23 university partners (and one of five Illinois public universities), will run demonstration projects and make items and parts at the Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory (QCML), based on designs developed through the institute. The number of students from Western’s School of Engineering working at the QCML will increase significantly with the projects from the institute, and the projects will provide additional internship opportunities for students, as well as senior design projects, according to School of Engineering Director Bill Pratt. These activities will immerse engineering students in technology development and technology transfer.

“We are extremely honored, and excited, to have Western Illinois University as a part of this project,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “At Western, we make great things happen. Our ability to contribute our resources and expertise allowed Western Illinois University to become a partner in this federal initiative. This program will provide our students with invaluable experiences, make a great contribution to this nation’s economic base and help make Western’s School of Engineering and the Quad Cities Manufacturing Lab more renowned.”

In June 2013, Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois joined forces, along with the QCML and the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, to further economic development and educational opportunities within the region, the state and beyond Illinois’ borders. The QCML works with numerous agencies, manufacturers and more to facilitate technology transfer, and also serves as a development hub for small businesses. The QCML, which was established in 2005, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization headquartered at the Rock Island Arsenal.

According to WIU College of Business and Technology Dean Tom Erekson, this partnership helped set the stage for the competitive DoD grant process. As part of the application process, a project proposal between the QCML, which is staffed by WIU’s School of Engineering faculty, and Sivyer Steel, of Bettendorf (IA), was included.

“Only three projects were described in the proposal as examples of what the institute could do, and one of the three is the WIU/QCML project with Sivyer Steel,” Erekson said.

According to Pratt, the focus of Western’s first project with Sivyer Steel, which was included in the DoD grant application, is to automate the company’s processes.

“Western’s first engineering graduate Derek Bloomfield ’11, who is an employee at Sivyer, is working on this project. Sivyer Steel, Western Illinois University’s School of Engineering and our Quad City Manufacturing Lab are literally the tip of the manufacturing spear in this enterprise,” Pratt added. “We are very excited about being a partner with UI-Labs and part of the DMDI Consortium. This brings together leading-edge research on digital vision, intelligent machining and the digitalization of the manufacturing supply chain. Our role will be to integrate the developments and disseminate the discoveries to our regional partners, including the Rock Island Arsenal’s Joint Manufacturing & Technology Center.”

For more information on the Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory, visit qcml.org. For more information on the Digital Lab for Manufacturing, visit digitallab.uilabs.org.

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For more information on the Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory, visit qcml.org. For more information on the Digital Lab for Manufacturing, visit digitallab.uilabs.org.
By Julie Murphy '94 M.S. ’95

A premier manuscript collection, “My Dear Aunt Martha,” is now housed within the Western Illinois University Archives, thanks to the generosity of alumna Barbara (Lynn) Shave ’63.

“We are very honored to house this tremendous collection,” WIU Libraries Associate Professor and Archives Unit Director Jeff Hancks M.S. ’10 said. “We will preserve it as a significant resource for future generations.”

“My Dear Aunt Martha: A 19th Century American Epic from the Letters of Those Who Lived It” is the publication of 80 letters, exchanged between Pennsylvania and Illinois individuals, belonging to several families of long association, who immigrated to Illinois from the same community in Pennsylvania.

“Just as their grandparents had built the tiny community of Fannettsburg in Franklin County (PA), these pioneers built the tiny community of Fountain Green in Hancock County (IL),” Shave explained.

Written from 1811 to 1893, the letters depict their pioneer trials and tribulations in Hancock County (IL). They also describe the evolution of their community and provide first person perspectives on the affairs of the nation: the War of 1812, the Mormon War, the Mexican War, the Mississippi River boat trade, the Colorado Gold Rush, the Civil War, the California Gold Rush and the emancipation of women.

“My of the Illinois letters were written to my great-grandfather, who saved them for descendants,” she added. “Several years ago, these letters were passed to me as next-in-line caretaker.”

Coincidentally, an entirely separate collection of letters then turned up in Pennsylvania. These were the letters that the Illinois transplants wrote back to their Pennsylvania relatives. Beginning with the title character, Aunt Martha McConnell Walker, of Fannettsburg, whose teenage nieces wrote despairingly from frontier Illinois about having to live at the end of the earth, successive generations preserved this second collection for 200 years in Pennsylvania.

Martha’s descendant gave the Pennsylvania letters to Shave in 2006, along with the directive: “Write the book.” The result was “My Dear Aunt Martha: A 19th Century American Epic from the Letters of Those Who Lived It,” which the Illinois State Historical Society chose for its 2011 Outstanding Achievement Award.

“The book is one of the best collections in the Archives and Special Collections unit of the WIU Malpass Library, and are accessible to researchers and other interested parties. "It immediately becomes one of the best collections in the archives," said Hancks. "Barb did the hard work of interpreting the documents and putting the letters into context. WIU has the pleasure of preserving the original documents and final product.”

The Western Illinois University Library Archive was first choice.

Shave earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Western. Both of her parents attended Western, as have many other relatives.

“I have a particular soft spot for this University,” she said. “Western’s location also makes it the appropriate home for these documents, which pertain to regional history.”

The documents of the “My Dear Aunt Martha” Collection are housed in the Archives and Special Collections unit of the WIU Malpass Library, and are accessible to researchers and other interested parties.

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The Western Illinois University Library Archive was first choice.

By Julie Murphy '94 M.S. ’95

Beu Jeans for Scholarships

If you have the opportunity for a Friday visit to Western Illinois University’s Beu Health Center, you may notice that many of the employees, including the doctors, are dressed in blue jeans. For many organizations, this would signify nothing more than “Casual Friday.” Not so at Beu, where Fridays are Beu Jeans for Scholarships days.

On Fridays at Beu, employees can make a tax-deductible contribution of $5 (or more) to the Beu Health Center Scholarship Fund in exchange for the privilege of wearing jeans to work.

“It’s about the scholarship, not just the jeans,” said Beu Health Center Director Mary Margaret Harris ’80 M.S. ’85. “As a staff, we were looking for a fundraiser or a service project to endorse. Helping students really resonates with us all, and blue jeans are the bonus.”

The concept of Beu Jeans for Scholarships first materialized during a staff retreat last August. In October 2013, an employee requested a jeans day during Homecoming Week, and suggested employees could contribute something for the privilege. Harris polled the staff to see if wearing jeans to benefit a scholarship fund was of interest; the participation rate has made it possible to establish the Beu Health Center Scholarship Fund.

“Fifteen Beu employees are first-time donors. That’s nearly 33 percent of all employees at Beu,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 M.S. ’83. “It’s quite impressive that so many people have stepped up to help students, and it’s proof that if a number of people put their $5 bills together, pretty soon you have a significant amount that can truly impact a student. I thank each and every Beu employee participating in Beu Jeans for Scholarships, for his or her generosity and for their creativity.”

“We enjoy wearing our jeans on Fridays, and we all really like the idea that it is for the benefit of students,” said Business Manager Walt McGath.

WIU Annual Fund update

Gifts made through Western’s Annual Fund effort allow the University to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery, to continue to strive to support our scholarship program for every student who needs it and to help meet future needs and challenges. The Annual Fund raises about $2 million for WIU scholarships and academic programs each year, with gifts ranging from $25 to $5,000.

“With the capital campaign coming to a close, we felt it was a good time to take a deep breath, thank all our generous donors who helped in its success and reexamine how we will continue our Annual Fund outreach for the future” said Director of Annual Giving Tim Hallinan ‘95. “The success of the capital campaign and the overwhelming support of the recent NCAA 6th Fan Competition, among other events, reminded us of just how widespread Western pride is among our stakeholders.”

Throughout the course of our Annual Fund outreach, the Office of Annual Giving receives feedback from our alumni and donors on our efforts,” added Hallinan. “This feedback is welcome, and we certainly listen. By and large, our alumni like to hear from the students directly impacted by their annual gift, and this will certainly continue. Regardless if it is from a letter or call from one of our Phonathon students, our alumni can expect to hear directly from a current Western student this Fall. Our students also enjoy participating in the effort as it allows them to directly thank those who help make their education possible.”

Hallinan said this is also the time for some ambitious goals as Western looks ahead to meet emerging challenges in support of students. One of those goals is to double the number of people who participate in Western’s Annual Fund effort this fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2014).

“Doubling our donor base is an ambitious goal—but it is an important one” he said. “Broad alumni participation is a key factor, which corporations and foundations consider in providing additional financial support to Western, and remains a key factor in college and university rankings, including rankings in U.S. News and World Report.

“The success of the annual giving program is a reflection of our Western pride as each generation of Leathernecks continues the legacy of support it received, strengthens it and passes it on,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 M.S. ’83.

Save the Date

Fallen Soldiers 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, Oct. 18

Money raised from the 5k run/walk is directed toward the WIU Fallen Soldiers Scholarship Fund, which supports veterans and service members currently enrolled at Western. For more information, visit wiu.edu/vpas/wellness/event.php?id=563.
CAS alumnus spent career as Top Gun pilot, instructor

By Bryce Dexter

WIU alumnus Top Gun Tighe Parmenter ’80 was not thinking of a career in aviation when he finished college. After all, he had come to Western from Bloomington (IN) on a swimming scholarship.

Parmenter was still feeling the euphoria of placing fifth in the 100-yard butterfly earlier in 1980 at the NCAA Division II Nationals Swim meet; he was a new school record holder; and he was graduating as an Academic All-American Athlete in political science.

“I was walking through the University Union after picking up my cap and gown from the Bookstore, and there was a Navy aviation recruiter handing out pamphlets about becoming a Naval aviator,” Parmenter said. “I had just completed a wonderful four years at WIU and was looking for my next step in life. I had found it.”

While in Macomb, Parmenter had served as a student firefighter, living and working nights with the Macomb Fire Department while attending WIU. This, combined with his swimming background, showed him the Navy would be the right fit for him. Parmenter went on to receive a master’s degree in national security studies from the Naval War College.

In November 1980, Parmenter entered Aviation Officer Candidate School, earning a Navy commission in 1981 and Navy “Wings of Gold” in 1982 as a Radar Intercept Officer assigned to an F-14 Tomcat fighter squadron in San Diego (CA). He was selected to attend Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) in 1985.

Parmenter’s outstanding performance led to an assignment as a Top Gun Instructor from 1986-89. He had additional assignments with F-14 squadrons in Japan, California, and Virginia, and he was commanding officer of Strike Weapons and Tactics School, Atlantic (SWATS/LANT), at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana (Virginia Beach). There, he was responsible for training F-14 crews on newly introduced precision guided munitions (PGM-laser bomb) capability.

Navy F-14 crews trained by his unit led the attack on Yugoslavia (Operation Allied Force) and disabled a highly capable military force through effective use of PGMs.

One of Parmenter’s most memorable experiences occurred on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. He was a navigator on the USS Enterprise (CVN-65), which left the Persian Gulf early that day and was the first U.S. military asset “on station” later that day.

Parmenter retired from the Navy in 2005 at the rank of captain.

With a strong background in fighter jets and the hands-on experience as a tactics instructor, Parmenter was quickly recruited to work with the American aerospace and defense company, Northrop Grumman. He is presently an aerospace executive based in southern California and is responsible for the company’s Navy Air Dominance and Strike Business Development portfolio. He seeks out new business opportunities with the U.S. Navy and acts as a liaison between the company and senior carrier aviators.

One of the programs Parmenter supports is the Navy X-47B Unmanned Combat Air System (UCAS), winner of two of the aerospace industry’s most prestigious awards in 2013: the Aviation Week Laureate Award and the National Aeronautical Association’s Collier Trophy.

The X-47B is the first ever unmanned system designed to operate from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, and the program paved the way for future operational unmanned systems. He is also working with a team that is developing concepts for the next generation of Navy and Air Force fighter aircraft.

Parmenter has been married for 30 years to his wife, Pamela, and they have two children. He recalls his fondest memories of WIU as fall and spring trips to “Lakers,” at Lake Argyle.

“Those gave me something to look forward to during the long January trek across the frozen tundra of ‘Q’ lot to the North Quad after swim practice,” he said.

Students benefit from Washington D.C. internship opportunity

By Jodi Pospeschil

A political internship, which has benefited numerous Western Illinois University alumni, is being enhanced to create additional opportunities for students.

WIU Political Science Professor Janna Deitz has been working on revitalizing the “WIU in D.C.” program as an administrative intern this year. The program is open to all academic majors through WIU’s School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach.

Through “WIU in D.C.,” students can seek internship placements in congressional offices, federal government agencies, political organizations or professional associations. An online course component provides the academic portion of the internship.

“This semester-long internship allows students to begin thinking about the transition from college to career while furthering their own professional development,” said Deitz. “Students maximize the potential to develop their professional networks and hone professional skills.”

Deitz served as a 2011-12 American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in the office of Sen. Dick Durbin and teaches Congress for the WIU Department of Political Science.

“A ‘WIU in D.C. internship’ will make a valuable contribution to the educational experience of WIU students,” Deitz said. “Several of my former students found career opportunities through their undergraduate internship experiences.”

Three WIU political science graduates, Mark Palmer ’95, Sam Lozier ’03 and Kristin Leighty ’10, served internships in Washington D.C. during their time at WIU. Palmer, who is now president and CEO of the Palmer Policy Group, LLC, a government relations firm, spent Summer 1995 in Washington as a legislative intern for U.S. Sen. Paul Simon.

“During that time I worked on banking, tax, energy and transportation issues, and also served time in the press office,” Palmer said. “The bottom line is that the internship helped me find my way back to Washington, where I have been since 1996. I am extremely appreciative of the Department of Political Science and my professors.”

Palmer believes his WIU education gave him the academic and technical tools to be successful in Washington D.C., including a “sound structure” in writing.

“Western enabled me to compete in a very diverse environment, where everyone you come in contact with is from a different part of the country, a different school, and comes from a different background,” he said. “The transferability of my training at Western has afforded me the opportunity to forge multiple relationships and partnerships during my tenure in Washington, and I expect that to continue.”

Lozier interned with U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida and former U.S. Congressman, now WIU Trustee Phil Hare, of Illinois, during his time at WIU. Lozier is currently working in D.C. as a senior digital strategist at Revolution Messaging, a company that works with unions, non-profits and Democratic candidates.

He credits WIU for helping him make career decisions and Deitz with teaching his favorite class.

“Not only did WIU guide my career and make political campaigns interesting, it also gave me the opportunity to start building a network to assist in my career path,” Lozier said. “I have stayed in touch with Deitz and often bounce career-related questions off her. She has been a great resource and friend throughout the years.”

Leighty spent Summer 2009 in Washington D.C. as an intern with TechAmerica, a trade association representing companies in the information and communications technology industry. She is currently the Political Action Committee (PAC) Manager for the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS).

“WIU offered me experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, to prepare me for my career,” Leighty said. “I had wonderful professors, especially in the history and political science departments, who expected high-quality work and taught me to be competitive in the classroom and in life. Western offers a wide variety of leadership opportunities for students who want to make the most of their education, including student organizations, studying abroad and internship programs.”

In addition to her full-time career, Leighty will complete her master’s of public policy degree at George Mason University in August.

Alumni in the D.C. area who know of internship opportunities for WIU students or want to learn more about “WIU in D.C.” can contact Deitz at JL-Deitz@wiu.edu, or call (309) 298-1055.
Alumni credit gerontology professor for their careers in aging

By Bryce Dexter

The passing of WIU Professor Emeritus Bettye Thompson on March 10 has resulted in some of her former students reflecting on the impact she made on their lives and careers.

Thompson taught at WIU for 17 years, retiring in 1995. She was an associate professor in home economics, and in 1985, she was asked to serve as director of the University’s gerontology program in the WIU Department of Psychology, a position she held until her retirement.

The Bettye D. Thompson Scholarship in Gerontology, through the WIU Department of Psychology, was established in 2013 by friends, colleagues and former students to honor one of their favorite and most influential professors.

Several of those students submitted their memories of Thompson:

Amy Funk ’90 M.A. ’91

“In 1990, I was finishing my undergraduate program in psychology at WIU; for my final field experience I focused on my passion: the older adult,” Funk said. “As part of this work, I developed and implemented a life review group on the Great Depression era at McDonough District Hospital’s Adult Day Care. This group is still one of my favorite projects. It taught me that people who are labeled as cognitively impaired can actually be very engaged and social in a group setting.

“This is how I met Dr. Thompson. She was present when I was doing one of my sessions with my fun group. She approached me and told me that I needed to work on my master’s in gerontology. It was a natural fit with my passion,” Funk added.

Since leaving WIU, Funk has worked in many environments with older adults (and also with at-risk children). She also worked on the Yakama Nation reservation doing home visits with the elderly and case management with older adults in housing developments. Funk has worked in nursing homes and assisted living units in the capacity of social service, admissions and as an ombudsman.

Funk recently received her bachelor’s degree in nursing and is a geriatric nurse for OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She is completing her Ph.D. in nursing at Illinois State University and is researching issues critical to older adults.

“Dr. Thompson was a major advocate for education in gerontology,” she said. “She was ahead of her time. As the baby boomers are entering old age, gerontology is being expanded in nursing and medical schools to care for the older adult. Many social issues that Dr. Thompson was passionate about when I secured my master’s in 1991 have come to the forefront of government and private sector attention.”

Nancy Jameson ’72 M.A. ’92

“I had worked with senior citizens as a volunteer for about 10 years and I thought it would be great to know more from a research base,” said Jameson. “I knew Professor Thompson from some previous projects, and I wanted to take advantage of her expertise. Dr. Thompson inspired me to get my master’s degree and was a wonderful guide as I made my way through the course work that would be most beneficial to me.”

Jameson said Thompson loved her field and her students and inspired them to “respect her and give our all.”

“I continued my work with senior citizen volunteers through the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) for another 26 years,” said Jameson. “I am now the administrator of an independent senior living facility in Macomb.”

Jameson said she enjoyed the classes and conferences students were able to attend.

“We enjoyed sitting around and listening to Dr. Thompson talk about how important the field of gerontology was,” she said. “She made us work hard. We were expected to live up to the high standards that she had for us. That kind of encouragement is beyond what we paid for in tuition.”

Kathy Wyatt ’77 M.A. ’87

“One winter evening back in 1984, while watching the evening news, my husband and I saw a video clip from WIU featuring Dr. Bettye Thompson talking about the new gerontology master’s program that would be starting in the spring of 1985,” Wyatt said. “My husband encouraged me to check into the program. As he put it, ‘You are always talking about your grandmother, perhaps you should check into it.’

After speaking with Thompson, Wyatt registered for a class that met in the evening. Wyatt rapidly progressed through the program, taking two to three classes per semester. Many classes were offered during the evening, which worked well for students already in the workforce. She did practicum visits at various facilities in McDonough County, which opened the door to apply for a position at the Day Health Services Program at McDonough District Hospital in Macomb, where she has been employed as the leader of Day Health since 1987.

Wyatt has served on many committees through the Illinois Department on Aging in Illinois and has been an advocate for seniors for almost three decades. She has also served as president of the Illinois Adult Day Services Association for two terms.

“I can say without a doubt that my choice to return to Western Illinois University for an advanced degree has provided an interesting and rewarding career path for me,” she said.

Wyatt remained in touch with Thompson after graduation.

“Western is the university that can help you fulfill your goals, thanks to wonderful caring advisers like Dr. Thompson who continued to be interested in my career progress,” she said.

Mary Whelen Carter M.A. ’93

Carter’s interest in gerontology grew from several key experiences. In high school, her grandmother became ill and her parents were talking about nursing home care for her. At the same time, the local news was running a week-long investigative report on poor nursing home quality of care.

Worried about her grandmother, Carter visited a local nursing home to find out what it was like. While there, she met an older gentleman named “Ziggy,” who was nearly 100 years old. They become good friends, and he shared many fascinating stories about his life in Poland, WWII and moving to the United States.

“I visited him often, even after beginning my undergraduate studies,” Carter said. “We exchanged letters, and I visited on my trips home over summers and holidays.”

While attending Flagler College, Carter chose a minor in gerontology. Upon graduation, her first position was working as a resident services coordinator for an assisted living facility in Florida.

“Although I enjoyed the work, I was not happy with all aspects of how older adults were treated,” she said. “After 18 months, I decided to pursue a master’s degree in gerontology with the aim of being better positioned to contribute to the burgeoning field of long-term care.”

At WIU, Carter worked as Thompson’s graduate assistant.

“Dr. Thompson was a professional,” she said. “She spoke to students and colleagues in the same, no-nonsense tone which suggested that she was immediately expecting something grand from you. She always had time for students. I remember sitting in her office and talking at length about long-term care and what was on the horizon for gerontology. She gave solid advice and encouraged students to think big, but to also have a carefully conceived plan to succeed.”

Carter said Thompson worked hard to secure funding for students, gain administrative support for the program and to maintain cross-departmental ties, making the multidisciplinary aspect of the program possible and seamless for students.

“As a gerontology program director, I have renewed respect for how well she managed the competing priorities, while maintaining an open-door policy for students,” Carter said.

Carter is currently an associate professor of gerontology and director of the gerontology program at Towson University in Maryland. She has held teaching and research positions in gerontology at the University of Minnesota and West Virginia University’s School of Medicine. In the last several years, she has focused on the long-term consequences of injury among older adults, including both unintentional injury (falls) and intentional injury (suicide), as well as adverse medical events (errors that are the result of medical care).

Western Illinois University offers a minor in gerontology and aging courses in a number of curricula. Last year, students started the WIU Gerontology Club, visiting area nursing homes and facilities to learn more about careers in aging and spend time with the residents.

For more information about the Gerontology Program at WIU, contact Robert Intrieri at RC-Intrieri@wiu.edu or the WIU Department of Psychology at psychology@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1593.
Holtschlag named a NCAA Postgraduate Scholar

Leatherneck football player Jimmy Holtschlag ’14 (Quincy/Notre Dame) has received numerous athletic and academic awards throughout his career. He adds to the list one of the most prestigious honors awarded by the NCAA.

Holtschlag was one of 58 nationally (29 men/29 women) selected to receive a NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Western’s only other previous Postgraduate Scholars were Justin Langan ’04 (Football/ Men’s Soccer) in 2005 and Ken Dugan ’88 (men’s soccer) in 1988. A total of 357 NCAA student-athletes were nominated.

“J” has been my home for so long and has given me so much that I hope to be able to repay it with my continued success in life.”

He posted a 3.924 cumulative GPA and graduated in May with a degree in agricultural sciences with minors in chemistry and zoology. Holtschlag plans to attend veterinary school.

“Jimmy is worthy recipient of this prestigious NCAA postgraduate award. He has always represented Western Illinois University in a positive way, and he will be a great ambassador for the University no matter where his future endeavors may take him.”

Holtschlag became just the second Leatherneck football player ever to be named All-Missouri Valley Football Conference and First Team Academic All-MVFC three times. His last three years he was voted to the Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association Academic All-Star team. Holtschlag joined an elite group of Leathernecks when he was voted to the CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America Second Team, only the 11th time in program history a football player earned the distinction.

“Every gift counts, every gift makes a difference, and every gift helps ‘Restore the Glory’ of the Fighting Leathernecks,” Bell said.

Intercollegiate Athletics

40th anniversary of 1974 baseball team

The 1974 Western Illinois University baseball team, one of the most successful baseball teams in WIU history, celebrated its 40th anniversary and was honored prior to the Leatherneck game against Illinois State May 3. The 40th anniversary celebration featured former Head Coach Dick Pawlow and 17 players from his 1974 team, including most of the players from the starting lineup.

The 1974 WIU baseball team had a record of 31-12, which stood as the program’s record for 32 years. That season the Leathernecks advanced to the NCAA Mid-East Regional Finals, one game from the Division II College World Series. In total, the squad set or shattered 22 team and individual records, with many of those records still atop the Western Illinois baseball record book. Also joining the 1974 contingent for the reunion weekend was former WIU Sports Information Director and Hall of Fame member Larry Heimburger, along with Dan Elits ’75, who was the sports reporter for the Western Courier in 1974.

It was a successful weekend for the Leathernecks, winning 2-of-3 versus in-state rival Illinois State.

Players
#1 Third Baseman — Connie Kowal
#3 Catcher, Co-Capt — Gerry Grybash
#6 Centerfielder — Jimmy Hill
#8 First Baseman — Rick Woldgram
#10 Second Baseman — Dennis Mantick
#11 Shortstop — Joe Genna
#12 Rightfielder — Dave Hunt
#13 Shortstop — Randy Jesperson
#17 Pitcher — Ed Gvazdinskas
#18 Pitcher — Ken Keithley
#22 Leftfielder, Co-Capt — Fred Dintelman
#23 Third Baseman/DH — Rich Caravia
#24 First Baseman — Greg Palka
#26 Pitcher — Bill Sykora
#27 Pitcher — Jim Duszak
#28 Catcher — Matt Polinski
#31 Outfielder/DH — Cliff Rusin

40th anniversary of 1974 baseball team

Head Coach: Dick Pawlow; Assistant Coach: Terry Moss ’72 M.S. ’75

Front l-r: Former Courier Sports reporter Dan Elits ’75, Fred Dintelman ’74 M.S. ’76 and Connie Kowal ’74. Back l-r: former Sports Information Director Larry Heimburger, Rich Caravia ’74, Matt Polinski ’77 M.S. ’83, Ed Gvazdinskas ’74, Jim Duszak ’75, Dave Hunt ’76, Randy Jesperson ’76, Joe Genna ’76, Dennis Mantick ’77, Gerry Grybash ’74, Rick Wolfram ’76, former Assistant Coach Terry Moss ’72 M.S. ’75 and former Head Coach Dick Pawlow.
Billy Wright named men’s basketball head coach

Billy Wright is returning to the Fighting Leathernecks men’s basketball program. Western Illinois Director of Athletics Tommy Bell announced the hiring of Wright as the Leathernecks’ head coach in April, following the departure of Jim Molinari. Wright was introduced at a press conference in the University Union.

“I am truly thankful and excited about the opportunity to be the head coach at Western Illinois University,” said Wright. “I spent five years here working to rebuild the culture and winning tradition with Coach [Jim] Mo [Molinari], and now to have the opportunity to return as head coach and build upon what we started is truly a blessing.”

Wright spent five years (2009-13) at WIU as an assistant then associate head coach under Molinari. After working at Ball State last season, he will take over as the 20th overall head coach in Western men’s basketball history, and fifth in the program’s Division I era.

“I spoke to many well-known basketball coaches in the country looking for the best fit for Western Illinois University,” said Bell. “Coaches that I talked with praised Billy Wright. He is a well-known and respected name in the college basketball community, and an outstanding recruiter. Billy is also a man of great character. He has been part of a successful program at Western, and he knows what it takes to be successful. Billy was on the coaching staff both years that we qualified for the [post-season] CBI [College Basketball Invitational] and won the 2013 Summit League regular season championship. Our fans and those associated with the program and University know Billy, and I’m certain, like everyone in Leatherneck Athletics, are excited to welcome him as our head men’s basketball coach.”

During his final three years with the Leathernecks, Wright served as the associate head coach. He played a key role on the bench as Western advanced to its first Division I postseason appearance, qualifying for the CBI in two consecutive years—2012 (at Oregon State) and 2013 (at Purdue)—and winning the Summit League regular season title in 2013.

Wright and the Fighting Leathernecks went 22-9 (13-3 in the Summit) during the 2012-13 championship season. The previous season, Western advanced to the Summit League Tournament championship game before falling in overtime. During the 2012-13 season, Western finished second nationally, allowing just 53.6 points per game and led the nation committing just 12.6 fouls per game. The 22 wins were a program Division I record.

He helped mentor Ceola Clark III ‘11, a two-time Summit League Defensive Player of the Year award winner in (2010, 2012), and Terrell Parks, Defensive Player of the Year award recipient in 2013.

Academically, Wright assisted a Leathernecks squad that earned a 3.231 team GPA for Fall 2008, the best GPA of the men’s basketball team for at least 11 years and a higher GPA than that of the Macomb campus (2.880). The Leathernecks had 10 players on the roster with a 3.0 GPA or better and two players with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

David DuBois ‘10 became one of only two league players to earn 2008-09 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) / ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team honor. David Nurse ‘09 MBA ’10 became the only Summit League player to earn the 2009-10 CoSIDA / ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team award as a first-year graduate student. The 2013 team earned a share of the Summit League Men’s Basketball Academic Achievement Award based on percentage of list-eligible student-athletes on the Commissioner’s List. Clark, Jack Houp ‘12 and Billy Molinari ’13 each earned an individual accolade on the Commissioner’s List. Billy Molinari was also named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) 2012-13 Honors Court based off his cumulative GPA.

Prior to joining the Leathernecks, Wright spent 12 years coaching at Pike and Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis (IN). During his time at Pike, he helped coach three players who went on to be first round NBA Draft picks—Courtney Lee (Orlando, 2008), Jeff Teague (Atlanta, 2009) and Marquis Teague (Chicago, 2012).

“I’m really happy for both Billy Wright and WIU,” said Brad Stevens, head coach of the NBA Boston Celtics. “Billy’s a great basketball coach, with high energy and integrity. Knowing Billy, he will hit the ground running in his efforts to make WIU basketball the best it can be.

A 2007 inductee into the Bradley University Hall of Fame, Wright played under Molinari at Bradley from 1992-96. In his senior year (1996), he was named to the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) First Team while helping lead the Braves to a MVC Title and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Additionally, Wright was selected to the MVC All-Defensive Team for three consecutive years (1994-96). In his freshman campaign, Wright was named to the MVC All-Freshman Team. In addition to scoring 909 points in his four-year career for the Braves, Wright’s 595 career assists and 219 career steals still rank him fourth all-time in the record books at Bradley.

WIU’s first WESPYs

Western Illinois student-athletes Chelsea Lynes (Woodstock, Ontario) and Jimmy Holtschlag ’14 (Quincy, IL) earned the WIU Athletics Department top honor of being named Senior Female and Male Student-Athlete of the Year, respectively.

They were honored as part of The WESPYs, an inaugural banquet honoring the athletic and academic achievements by Leatherneck student-athletes during the 2013-14 season. The banquet, sponsored by McDonough, Telephone Cooperative, was held at Western Hall. More than 500 people were in attendance.

From l to r: WIU Athletics Director Tommy Bell, Head Basketball Coach Billy Wright, WIU President Jack Thomas and Vice President for Student Services Gary Biller.

2014 Football Schedule

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Valparaiso</td>
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* WIU’s Family Day
** WIU’s Homecoming
WIU instructor designs course rich in Disney experience

By Kolette Hemdon
University Relations Student Writer

Five years ago, a communication instructor at Western Illinois University made his dream become a reality. Being a long-time fan of the Disney theme parks drove David Zanolla ‘01 M.A. ’05 to create a class where he could teach about what he loves.

Throughout his teaching career, Zanolla has used examples in his classroom of Disney’s communication practices. But he wanted to take that lesson one step further by creating a course where students could actually visit the parks and see the communication culture firsthand.

The class consists of seven to eight weeks of coursework, followed by a trip to the Disney parks. During the Spring 2014 semester, for the first time, the course not only visited Walt Disney World in Orlando (FL), but also Disneyland in Anaheim (CA). Over spring break, students traveled to the parks and took master classes with Zanolla and others who were knowledgeable about Disney.

Zanolla takes great pride in the opportunity he has created for students. He said this class has provided students with the “ultimate experiential learning opportunity.”

“Not only could I teach students about the organizational communication of Walt Disney World, but I can take them there and immerse them in that culture,” Zanolla said.

He added that nothing is more rewarding than seeing the classroom content come alive for students as they explore the parks with more informed eyes.

“The course provided me with insight very few people would be able to obtain,” said Kiara Hardin, a junior communication major from Chicago, who took the Spring 2014 class.

“Students will be able to see first-hand how the communication processes are put into action. They will be able to see how the messaging is done, not just in the theme parks but in the back office. It’s a whole different perspective of communication,” said Hardin.

Next semester, students will travel over winter break, which Zanolla said would show students a different crowd dynamic at the parks.

Megginsion retires after 35 years

By Catherine Null ’72 M.A. ’91 M.S. ’02

When Assistant Professor of Music Charolette Megginson arrived at Western Illinois University in 1979, fresh from three years of studying, singing and teaching in Vienna, Austria, she planned to stay for two years.

Like many of her colleagues in the arts, she learned that positions like hers at Western are prized. With some very good students, wonderful colleagues and an outstanding University Orchestra, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work. Five years turned into 10 years, and by then she was hooked.

Megginsion has taught through the tenure of five University presidents, five College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) deans and six School of Music chairs, as well as the addition of a thriving musical theatre degree program with new vocal colleagues.

“Oh the stories one could tell after 35 years with so many students,” she said.

Students arrived at WIU with various levels of experience and talent, and Megginson said she always sought to challenge each one. She found it just as exciting to work with an untrained talent and help bring them up to a performance degree as to bring the more experienced students up to being a Tri-States National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) winner.

Over the years, Megginson has seen many Concerto Competition winners, Illinois State and Tri-State winners in NATS, student audition winners, scholarship winners to institutions of higher learning and a national finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Competition.

“It is always interesting when students write and agree with points of technique, musical interpretation, dress and deportment on stage after another teacher in graduate school tells them the same thing,” Megginson said. “Of course, one wonders if they did enough, did they push too hard, or could they have done more. It is gratifying to see former students succeeding as high school and college teachers, opening their own private voice studios and singing with professional opera companies and other musical venues.”

Megginsion said among the things she will miss most is the youth, energy and enthusiasm of the students.

In the early years, Megginson maintained an active performance schedule. Her first performance at Western was a concert version of the opera “Cavalleria rusticana.” This was followed by solo recitals, duo recitals, the Song Recital Series with other voice faculty and performances at International Festivals of Art Songs.

Megginsion’s service includes dedication to NATS. She was a charter member of the Central Illinois NATS, serving two terms as vice president and two terms as president. She was then elected to two terms as governor of the Illinois State NATS, representing Illinois at national conventions and organizing and presenting the Illinois State Student Auditions.

Highlights of her service on campus include serving on the Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Performing Arts Society Board. She recalls very fondly being asked to serve on the three-year committee to plan Western’s Centennial in 1999.

She is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon and has served as the faculty adviser of Western’s chapter for 30 years. She also served on the WIU School of Music Talent Grant Committee for more than 30 years.

Megginsion said her future plans include traveling, volunteering and learning. She is interested in visiting Australia, Canada and the Grand Canyon.

During her retirement, Megginson said she would like to pay forward the kindness shown by volunteers when her parents needed assistance. She also wants to explore some of the new approaches to vocal techniques, including those that will be offered at the national NATS Conference this summer in Boston. As a lover of films, she would also like to learn more about cinema.

According to Mick Cumbie, COFAC director of development, Megginson’s students and colleagues are well aware of her unbelievable energy. Her students have been lucky to be in her circle and the School of Music is also fortunate as Megginson is marking her retirement with the gift of a scholarship.

A performance and reception for Megginson will be held Sunday, Aug. 24. Friends, colleagues and former students will perform in the COFAC Recital Hall, and the performance will be followed by a reception.

Anyone who would like to share a story about Megginson can email COFAC@wiu.edu.

COFAC mourns loss of Hutinger

The College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) deeply mourns the passing of retired Professor and Director of Macomb Projects (now the Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education) Patti Hutinger, who passed away March 26 in Macomb. Hutinger was the 2010 recipient of the COFAC Distinguished Friend Award. She was a generous friend of the WIU Department of Art and the University Art Gallery. Her energy and commitment to the arts will be missed by all who knew her. See more at wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=11550.

COFAC director of Development, Patti Hutinger pictured with former COFAC Dean Paul Kreider at the 2010 Distinguished Friend Award reception.
Homecoming Week
WIU: A Hero’s Homecoming
Who’s Your Hero?

Friday, Sept. 26
1-4:30 p.m.  Paint the Paws
(front lawn of Western Hall)

Saturday, Sept. 27
8 a.m.-noon  Paint the Town (Macomb Square)

Sunday, Sept. 28
Noon  Rocky’s Boat Regatta (Everly Park)
4 p.m.  Dec the Campus (Union Mall)

Monday, Sept. 29
11:30 a.m.-
2:30 p.m.  Homecoming Kick-off Party
(Union Mall)
All day  Dec the Office

Tuesday, Sept. 30
6 p.m.  Variety Show (Western Hall)

Thursday, Oct. 2
7 p.m.  Yell Like Hell (Western Hall)

Homecoming Weekend
Featuring the classes of 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1989

Friday, Oct. 3
5-9 p.m.  Alumni and Friends Social, Alumni House
(Complimentary food, beer, wine and soda; cash bar available)
2014 Reunion Check-In & Social

Saturday, Oct. 4
8 a.m.  Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround
5K run/1.5 mile walk, Alumni House
(see registration form p. 10)
8:30 a.m.  Reunion Recognition Brunch & Social
9:30 a.m.  Coffee and donuts, Alumni House
10:30 a.m.  Homecoming Parade—Watch from the Alumni House and Gwendolyn Brooks Park
Noon-3 p.m.  Alumni Cookout—Menu: brats, burgers, hot dogs, chips, pasta salad, cupcakes, beverages and cash bar at “The Right Place” (the big tent directly north of Hanson Field)
3 p.m.  Leatherneck Football vs. North Dakota State, Hanson Field

Lodging

On campus:
University Union ........................ (309) 298-1941
Olson Hall ................................. (309) 298-2413

Off campus:
Comfort Inn .............................. (309) 837-2220
America’s Best Value Inn ........... (309) 833-4521
Best Western-Macomb Inn ....... (309) 836-6700
Hampton Inn ............................ (309) 837-6000
Super 8 ................................. (309) 836-8888
Macomb Inn ............................. (309) 833-5511

Parking

Permits will not be required in lots as of 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3 through 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 6, with the exception of residence hall lots. Visitor parking is not allowed in reserved residence hall lots. Tickets will be issued to violators in handicapped spaces, reserved spaces and no parking zones (any area not designated as a parking space). If you have any questions or a special parking need such as handicapped parking, contact Parking Services at (309) 298-1921.

Call the Office of Student Activities at (309) 298-3232 for details about any of the events held Sept. 26-Oct. 2.

Homecoming Hotline (309) 298-1914
wiu.edu/alumni  •  A-Association@wiu.edu
facebook.com/WIUAlumni

Fill out your registration form on p. 10 and join us for Homecoming 2014!
Join us at “The Right Place,” the big tent near Hanson Field!

**College of Fine Arts & Communication**

The College of Fine Arts and Communication welcomes all WIU alumni to Homecoming 2014! We look forward to visiting with you and learning about your accomplishments.

Look for the Marching Leathernecks in the Homecoming Parade and for the Marching Leatherneck alumni joining the band for the half-time show at the game.

**College of Arts & Sciences**

Come visit with the dean, faculty, staff and other CAS alumni at our “Right Place” table exhibit. We welcome you and your family to attend this afternoon of celebration. Pick up your complimentary lunch ticket at our table.

Contact Bryce Dexter, director of development, at bm-dexter2@wiu.edu or call 309-298-1828 for more information.

**School of Graduate Studies**

Welcome back WIU alumni! Be sure to visit with Nancy Parsons, associate provost and director of the School of Graduate Studies, at “The Right Place.” We would like to welcome past graduate students, as well as anyone interested in pursuing an advanced degree at WIU. Learn about graduate programs and pick up a souvenir, too!

Visit us at wiu.edu/grad, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/WIUGradSchool, or like us on Facebook at facebook.com/wiu.edu.grad.

**Student Services**

Reconnect with friends and colleagues from the Division of Student Services!

Stop and see us at tailgating or visit with us in the big tent! Admissions will be on hand with applications and to answer questions. If you are planning to attend, please let us know in advance by calling the Vice President for Student Services Office at (309) 298-1814. Lunch tickets will be available.

We look forward to seeing you this year!!

**Centennial Honors College**

Stop by “The Right Place” and help us celebrate Homecoming! Visit with our staff and hear more about the Centennial Honors College during Homecoming 2014!

All University Honors graduates are welcome!
Receive a hero’s welcome at the WIU Hero’s Homecoming 2014. Who’s your Hero?

Share your mighty adventures with other BOG, BOT, BGS and ISP alumni and friends at “The Right Place” tent!

Reminisce about the good old days with University Libraries! Stop by our table at “The Right Place” tent this Homecoming 2014 to visit with our outstanding staff. We would love to hear your favorite memory about studying at WIU as a former WESL or international student or if you studied abroad while at WIU.

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If you’re a CBT graduate, you’re in good company—over 27,000 graduates can’t be wrong! Stop by and see us at this year’s Homecoming festivities! And, if you’re a business and technology alumnus/na—we’ll pick up the tab for your lunch at “The Right Place.” Email Lori Boyer ’05 (la-boyer@wiu.edu) to reserve your spot!

On hand for the day’s activities:

- William Polley, interim associate dean
- Becky Paulsen, director of development

**University Libraries**

Reminisce about the good old days with University Libraries! Stop by our table at “The Right Place” and thumb through old copies of Western’s yearbook, “The Sequel.” Dean Michael Lorenzen will be on hand to answer any questions. “The Sequel” is also available for viewing and can be found at collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/wiu_sequel.

**College of Business & Technology**

If you’re a CBT graduate, you’re in good company—over 27,000 graduates can’t be wrong! Stop by and see us at this year’s Homecoming festivities! And, if you’re a business and technology alumnus/na—we’ll pick up the tab for your lunch at “The Right Place.” Email Lori Boyer ’05 (la-boyer@wiu.edu) to reserve your spot!

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**Center for International Studies**

Exciting things are happening in the Center for International Studies! Stop by our table at “The Right Place” tent this Homecoming 2014 to visit with our outstanding staff. We would love to hear your favorite memory about studying at WIU as a former WESL or international student or if you studied abroad while at WIU.

**College of Education & Human Services**

Welcome back COEHS alumni!

Stop by and visit us at this year’s Homecoming celebration! While you are here, if you are a COEHS alumnus, lunch is on us! Connect with:

- Erskine Smith, interim dean
- Dale Adkins, associate dean
- Dana Moon ’98 MBA ’01, director of development
- Jason Eveland ’05 M.S. ’12, assistant director of development

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**Faculty:**

- Erskine Smith, interim dean
- Dale Adkins, associate dean
- Dana Moon ’98 MBA ’01, director of development
- Jason Eveland ’05 M.S. ’12, assistant director of development

**Exhibits:**

- Counselor Education
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Dietetics
- Fashion Merchandising & Hospitality
- Educational & Interdisciplinary Studies
- Educational Leadership
- Health Sciences
- Instructional Design & Technology
- Kinesiology
- Law Enforcement & Justice Administration
- Military Science
- Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration
- Social Work

**Curriculum & Instruction:**

- Counselor Education
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Dietetics
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- Becky Paulsen, director of development

**Faculty:**

- William Polley, interim associate dean
- Becky Paulsen, director of development

**Exhibits:**

- Accountancy
- Agriculture
- Computer Science
- Construction Management
- Economics
- Engineering
- Engineering Technology
- Finance
- Graphic Communication
- Human Resource Management
- Information Systems
- Management
- Marketing
- Network Technologies
- Supply Chain Management
**Make Your Homecoming 2014 & 25, 30, 40, 50 Year Reunion Reservations Today!**

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#  Saturday 25, 30, 40, & 50 year Reunion Recognition
- Brunch, Social and Half-Century Club Induction $5/person ......... $
- Homecoming T-shirt $10/each ............. $
- Football Tickets $15/person ............. $
- Memory Booklet $10/each ............. $

Credit Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date _______ 3-digit Security Code

Print Cardholder’s Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

**For a complete list of scheduled Homecoming events, see p. 7.**

Credit card reservations may also be made online at wiu.com/alumni. Return this form, along with your credit card information or check (payable to WIU Alumni Association) to:

WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Credit card reservations may also be faxed to (309) 298-2914, phoned to (309) 298-1914 or visit wiu.com/alumni. Game tickets will be held at the Alumni House until 11 a.m.; they will then be at “The Right Place” tent until game time and at will call after 3 p.m.

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**28th Annual Homecoming Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround**

**5K Fun Run/1.5 Mile Walk**

**Time:** 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014  
**Registration:** 7-7:45 a.m.  
**Place:** Alumni House

**Prizes:** Based upon the number, ages and gender of the entrants, prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories with grand prizes going to the first male and female to complete the course.

**Fee:** $15 entry fee entitles participants to a commemorative T-shirt (while they last). Sponsored by the WIU Alumni Association and Coca-Cola of Macomb.

**Race route:** wiu.edu/alumni/homecoming

**Questions?** Call (309) 298-1914 or e-mail A-Association@wiu.edu

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| Credit Card #               | Exp. Date  | 3-digit Code | Signature |

**Parent or guardian must sign for participants under age 18.**

Being of lawful age and sound mind and desiring to participate in the Homecoming 5K Fun Run/1.5 mile walk Oct. 4, 2014, I do hereby waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims which may hereafter accrue to me against the City of Macomb or Western Illinois University and their officers, agents, employees, volunteer workers, and assigns for any and all accidents, injuries, damages, or losses incurred by me at this event or through my use of any facilities provided. I further declare that this release binds not only me, but my heirs, executors, and administrators. I am aware of the risks and hazards which may arise through participation in this event and voluntarily assume the same. I certify that I have trained for a race of this distance and weather conditions and am in suitable condition to compete in this event. By signing this release, I hereby certify that I have read and fully understand and accept the conditions and terms contained herein.

**Signature** ____________________________  
**Witness** ____________________________

**Please send reservation form and credit card information or check for $15 (payable to WIU Alumni Association) to:** WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Credit card orders may also be faxed to (309) 298-2914 or by phone at (309) 298-1914. Entry will not be accepted without signature above. You may also register at wiu.com/alumni. Your signature will be required at the event.
University Libraries

READ campaign

University Libraries celebrated National Library Week April 13–19 with the unveiling of the new READ® posters. The American Library Association created the READ® poster software to assist libraries in creating READ® posters that feature local celebrities and library users.

“Our posters have received a lot of campus support,” said Dean of Libraries Michael Lorenzen. “I am excited to display so many posters in our library branches.”

Participants included library faculty, staff and students, University President Jack Thomas and Col. Rock III.

“The posters turned out so well thanks to the hard work and determination of Justin Georges ’05 ’08 M.S. ’13,” said Tammy Sayles ’14, marketing and outreach librarian. “Justin worked tirelessly to edit the photos and ensured they were top quality. They are just fabulous.”

The READ® posters can be seen throughout the University Libraries branches. They are also available on the libraries’ Flickr page at flickr.com/photos/wiulibraries.

Congressman Lane Evans Collection established

The archives and special collections unit has completed processing the collection of U.S. Congressman Lane Evans, and it is now available to the public.

Congressman Evans, a Democrat from Rock Island (IL), served 12 terms in the House of Representatives from 1983-2007, representing the 17th Congressional District. The 17th District mainly centered on the Quad Cities and Galesburg, but also included Macomb, Springfield and Decatur during his tenure. Evans, a Vietnam-era veteran, was an active sponsor of legislation throughout his career, but he was particularly interested in legislation concerning veterans’ affairs, particularly the effects of Agent Orange.

“We are excited to make the Evans Collection available to researchers,” said Jeff Hancks M.S. ’10, libraries archivist and associate professor. “Congressman Evans had a long and distinguished record of service to the people of western Illinois and the nation. Researchers interested in learning more about daily life in western Illinois, Agent Orange and other issues important to veterans will find this collection a true goldmine. We are pleased Congressman Evans entrusted his materials to us. Collections like this reaffirm our institution’s commitment to being the premier resource for information relating to the western Illinois region.”

Hancks noted that to date researchers from Columbia University and the University of Texas-Austin have traveled to WIU to use the materials.

Adam Heien M.A. ’14, finished processing the collection as his graduate assistantship.

“The Evans Collection, in addition to providing a national historical component, provides excellent historical insight into our regional communities,” said Heien. “For example, his work with securing funds to assist the Rock Island Arsenal and the construction of Highway 67 between Monmouth and Macomb are especially noteworthy contributions.

Additionally, the extensive constituent correspondence files provide a good look at what everyday citizens thought about their government and social conditions in the district and beyond.”

The archives and special collections unit also has the political collections of Evans’ predecessor Thomas Railsback (R-Moline) and successor and WIU Trustee, Phil Hare (D-Rock Island). The collections can be reviewed in the Archives and Special Collections Unit, located on the sixth floor of the Leslie F. Malpass Library. Questions about the collection can be answered at (309) 298-2717.

WIU Authors Recognition Reception a success

University Libraries celebrated the ninth annual WIU Authors Recognition Reception during National Library Week in April. Faculty, staff, students and retirees affiliated with Western who published books, chapters, articles, reviews, poems, exhibited works, video or audio recordings, compositions and/or software during the 2013 calendar year were honored.

In 2013, WIU authors, representing all colleges, published 338 items. The WIU Authors Database can be searched at wiulibraries.org/wiuauthors/biblio_search.php.

WOW honors Thompson

Each year, the Western Organization for Women (WOW) honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of women at Western. This year’s recipient was Professor William A. (Bill) Thompson from Western’s University Libraries.

Thompson was honored during the annual spring luncheon. He was nominated for the honor for outstanding contributions he has made to the advancement of women.

According to his nominator, WIU Women’s Center Director Janine Cavicchia M.S. ’83, Thompson has served an important role during his time as a WOW member, serving on numerous work groups and helping with family-friendly benefits at WIU through WOW and the faculty bargaining unit.

Thompson also served on the Women’s Center Advisory Board from 2003-08 and was chair from 2005-08. He helped with a collaborative project that enabled the Women’s Center Resource Library Collection to be catalogued.

“In discussions with the Women’s Center, WOW, Women’s Studies and others a few years ago, Bill suggested a collaboration in creating primary sources—good oral histories of women’s experience at WIU and of the women in the women’s movement at WIU, a project that has begun to get underway, and we hope, with his continued support, will come to fruition in the next couple of years as the Women’s Center’s 30th anniversary approaches,” said Cavicchia.

Cavicchia also praised Thompson for being “instrumental” in improving the LGBTQA atmosphere at Western.

WOW was established at Western in 1971 and has been presenting an achievement award since 1979. The organization’s mission is to act upon common interests and issues relating to women by promoting equal opportunity and collaborating with other campus, local, state and national women’s organizations to assist in improving the status of women in society.

The keynote address for this year’s luncheon, “WOW: Thorn (or Prickle) in the Side or Creative Contributor to the Campus Community?” was presented by Janice Welsch. WIU English and journalism professor emerita and co-coordinator of Western’s Expanding Cultural Diversity Project.

Welsch, who has been a member of WOW for 39 years, gave a personal perspective on WOW’s role at the University as she highlighted aspects of its history, including members’ writing of the White Paper that led to the founding of the Women’s Center, cooperative efforts to initiate a women’s studies minor, WIU faculty salary and status studies that documented the gender inequities in both and some of WOW’s other initiatives and activities.

For more information about WOW, visit wiu.edu/WOW.
WIU class project with tornado-torn Washington to produce plan for potential use in city’s long-term economic recovery

By Teresa Koltzenburg, ’92 M.S. ’11

In many cases, the recovery phase after a tornado starts in the spring and summer months, typically the time for the twister season in the Midwest. But in the case of Washington (IL)—which experienced an EF-4 level tornado Sunday, Nov. 17, last year—very little about that city’s recovery has been textbook typical.

Washington City Administrator Tim Gleason talked about that fact when he presented to a Western Illinois University class of emergency management (EM) students in late February in Macomb. He also addressed another atypical situation—how WIU students, led by Emergency Management Assistant Professor Jack Rozdilsky, are serving as a helpful ongoing resource he and his fellow city of Washington officials and employees are utilizing to bring Washington back “stronger and better than it was the day before the tornado.”

“Right after the disaster, it was one of those situations where I was getting business cards handed to me left and right, and I knew, with all the work ahead of us, I wasn’t coming up for air anytime soon,” Gleason said. “When Dr. Rozdilsky first talked to me, after one of our first public meetings following the tornado, it was only two to three minutes, yet he left enough of an impression on me that I thought, ‘I am going to reach out to this guy at some point.’”

In late December, around Christmas—the first time Gleason was able to take a day off following the mid-November disaster—he made contact with Rozdilsky. A few conversations later, a working relationship—between Rozdilsky and his EM 461 (Business and Industry in Emergency Management) students and the city of Washington—and an economic-recovery data-gathering project officially began.

Through the EM 461 course project, Rozdilsky and his students studied and explored factors that may influence the Tazewell County-based municipality’s long-term economic recovery. In March and April, Rozdilsky and the Western EM students were in the field gathering information. According to Rozdilsky, a final report was delivered to the city council in early May. He said it contained a snapshot of current recovery issues the city continues to face.

“When it comes to business recovery after a tornado or natural disaster, what emergency management professionals typically observe is a business’s physical infrastructure is destroyed—the roof is blown off, the walls are down or the structure is ruined. But in the case of Washington, that’s not what happened. Most of the damage and destruction was to residential structures homes and apartment buildings, but businesses were largely left untouched by the tornado,” Rozdilsky explained. “Yet there are struggles for the businesses, because many of them are dependent on a local customer base and that base has been impacted significantly. When you have a number of homes substantially damaged or destroyed, that generally means people are not living in them and are living elsewhere until they can come home.”

The timing of the Washington tornado affected the economics for the city’s businesses, too, Rozdilsky noted. “Shortly after the tornado, the winter season started, and as you know, this past winter was particularly harsh. Some re-construction has been started, but people have not yet moved back into the town en masse,” he added. “So a question that many in the Washington community are asking has to do with the long-term economic recovery—essentially what happens when businesses have their customer bases interrupted or they lose their customer bases entirely.”

“As of this month, Washington is in its seventh month of disaster recovery. For city officials and the citizens of Washington, there are still so many issues to deal with, and they don’t have the resources to get to them all. So, through the class, we pitched in to provide them with some help,” he said.

“My selfish hopes are this Spring 2014 class project turns into a Fall 2014 class project, possibly even into a Spring 2015 class project—that students in following classes can start where this past semester’s students working on the project left off,” Gleason added. “We’re in this for the long haul, and the information and recommendations provided to us through Dr. Rozdilsky and the EM students at Western can only help us get to that point where we’re as good as, if not better, than we were November 16, 2013.”

Enduring impact: CSP faculty recognized with Annuit Coeptis Award

“Dr. Schoper is a trendsetter in the field of student affairs education and serves as benchmark for all educators.” — Brent Plouge ’12

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

Sarah Schoper, an assistant professor in the Western Illinois University College Student Personnel (CSP) Program, is the kind of teacher that her students will think about years down the road in their lives and careers. Evidence of this is demonstrated in every nomination letter—12 in all—she received from her former and current students for the Annuit Coeptis Award for Emerging Professionals.

In early April, Schoper, along with five other individuals from across the U.S., was honored with the prestigious award, which is bestowed annually by the ACPA—College Student Educators International. According to the ACPA website, the Emerging Professionals Award honors individuals for “their contributions to the fields of administration, teaching, research and publications.”

Schoper, who started at Western in 2001, learned of the recognition this past winter. Although she served for many years as a student affairs administrator at such institutions as the University of Dayton and the University of Maryland, her job at Western is her first full-time faculty position in the student affairs discipline.

“I was a little anxious when I first began teaching full time, because for 10 years I had been a practitioner. I had grown up in the student activities area; I have worked in orientation, Greek Life and leadership programs. I was a little nervous about leaving what I kind of thought of as ‘my home,’” she explained. “But my research area is in the learning and development of graduate students who are in student affairs preparation programs, so to be able to help those who are going to be student affairs professionals, well, it was an opportunity I was compelled to pursue.”

These days, Schoper is feeling quite at home in her instructional work with Western’s CSP students.

“There is no question that the favorite part of my job is when I get to go to class with the students and we get to learn together,” Schoper noted. “It is challenging stuff we are trying to figure out, look at from different perspectives, critique and try to see if it works. Preparing professionals is really my passion, and it is a big honor to be able to do that.”

Teaching Tributes

Schoper’s former student, Craig Wagner ’13, a residence hall director at Buena Vista University (Storm Lake, IA), spearheaded the effort to nominate her for the Annuit Coeptis Award. He contacted several of his fellow CSP alumni and students and asked them to also submit letters of nomination.

“What Craig did is very humbling and meaningful to me,” Schoper said. “When I received the phone call from the person who chairs the Annuit Coeptis Award selection committee, it was, honestly, a bit overwhelming, particularly when he said, ‘You have quite the packet. Well done.’”

Wagner’s letter tells the story of Schoper’s impact on him and his fellow CSP students in the classroom, as well as outside of it.

“Her strong focus on student learning and her emphasis on building relationships with and between students made her the most effective and life-altering professor I have had in my time as a student … Sarah’s efforts outside of the classroom went far beyond meeting with students. Sarah came up with different ways of including students in her life. This included writing articles, hosting presentations and webinars, doing research and having miniature book clubs,” he wrote.

“When each day, I see more and more the extent to which she has affected my life. Because of Sarah’s efforts, I find myself to be more compassionate and united with those
A quest for talent: Alumna makes trek to Macomb for job fair

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 M.S. ‘11

Mina Hennings’03 small business provides services for companies and organizations that are anything but diminutive. Hennings’ Manic Media Group, or MMG, Interactive, a multimedia consulting group based in Alexandria (VA) has delivered training and learning solutions to such companies and organizations as the Armed Forces Services Corporation (for the U.S. Army) to the Department of Defense to the Smithsonian Institution—just to name a few. Although Hennings—an alumna of the College of Education and Human Services’ department formerly known as the ITT, or “instructional technology and telecommunications” and now called the “instructional design and technology (IDT),” department—has worked with many full- and part-time contractors since she started her business, a recent trip back to her alma mater to recruit at an ITD job fair was the first time in her career she came across what she described as professionals who “speak the same language.”

“I know ‘the same language’ I mean an understanding of, and background in, the principles used in instructional systems design,” Hennings noted.

Opportune Outcomes

Back in 2000, when Hennings first started at Western, she was unaware of Western’s ITT department.

“I was originally attending a private university near Chicago, studying management information systems. But the private institution was kind of difficult to pay for, so I had to take time off, work a little bit, pay off debt and then go back. Eventually, I knew I had to find some place more affordable. I looked at a few different schools in hopes of finding a similar program to transfer into, and Western was one of the only schools that had an information systems area of study,” she explained. “Although I was interested in the systems part of it, I was not that interested in the business part of that area of study.”

While registering for classes her first and second semesters at Western, she came across courses that sounded more in line with her personal interests in what she does today, instructional systems design.

“When I say ‘the same language’, I mean an understanding of, and background in, the principles used in instructional systems design,” Hennings noted.

“Initially, I found myself trying to get into classes that, at the time, were only open to ITT majors at Western. When I tried to register for them, a message would come up and say, ‘This class is only available to students in the ITT department.’ So, during my second registration period, I inquired with the faculty and staff in the department. Once I discovered what the major was all about, I changed mine to ITT immediately,” she explained.

“By fostering student learning and development, Dr. Schoper gives the field of student affairs an invaluable asset—its professionals. From the very first class taught by her in the College Student Personnel program at Western Illinois University she relays a message about the importance of knowing the history of the profession, and using that and personal experiences to shape a professional philosophy. She asks her students to read thoughtfully, think critically and reflect purposefully. She calls for them to work hard and get everything out of all they do both in and out of the classroom, tethering the experiences together through assignments that made students search for connections,” Santillie explained in her nomination letter.

“In a nomination letter submitted by Bentley University (South Waltham, MA) Residence Director Brent Ploughe ’12, he describes Schoper as a “trendsetter in the field of student affairs education and serves as benchmark for all educators.”

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around me. She has given me hope for a future in which I am better prepared to handle the complexity of our ever-changing world. What is more, she has helped me see how I can do this for others. Because of this, I recognize that I will never be able to thank Sarah completely for what she has provided me.”

Jodi Santillie ’13, who currently serves as a student organizations adviser at The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA), noted she picked up on the influence Schoper would have on her as a student in the CSP program in the very first class she had with her.

“By fostering student learning and development, Dr. Schoper gives the field of student affairs an invaluable asset—its professionals. From the very first class taught by her in the College Student Personnel program at Western Illinois University she relays a message about the importance of knowing the history of the profession, and using that and personal experiences to shape a professional philosophy. She asks her students to read thoughtfully, think critically and reflect purposefully. She calls for them to work hard and get everything out of all they do both in and out of the classroom, tethering the experiences together through assignments that made students search for connections,” Santillie explained in her nomination letter.

“In a nomination letter submitted by Bentley University (South Waltham, MA) Residence Director Brent Ploughe ’12, he describes Schoper as a “trendsetter in the field of student affairs education and serves as benchmark for all educators.”

“I was interested in cognitive learning theories and how people process information and learn, so it was perfect. It was the first time in my college career I found myself loving what I was working on. I knew that was how I wanted my career to be, too—when your job doesn’t feel like work. So it ended up being a beneficial turn of fate that I ended up at WIU.,”

Shortly after graduating in 2003, Hennings landed a job at a small information technology consulting company, which eventually led her to a job at the firm’s sister company.

“Management there wanted to start a training segment, and they offered me a job as training manager. I was about nine months out of college when I started there. Because it was a small company, I gained a lot of experience in different areas right away, and that helped me skip some steps, so it was a great opportunity,” she noted.

In time, Hennings took on another training management job with the Cosi restaurant chain.

“That was a huge step for me, because Cosi, at the time, was going through a major expansion in the Midwest,” she said. “So I came when they were working toward making their training uniform. During my time there, they opened something like 12 different stores, and to train the staff, they used all instructional materials I created.”

After Cosi, Hennings took a position with the National Restaurant Association, and there she expanded her instructional design repertoire even further by taking on project-management duties in addition to her instructional design work.

“For that position, I was not just working on my own—I had to get buy-in from different people in other departments. I had to check in with staff in the creative department, the IT department or the developers, even individuals who outranked me. There were certain things they needed to do, and I had to get them to do those things. It was not easy, but I know that position helped me grow my professional skills tremendously,” she said.

Eventually, after relocating to the St. Louis area, taking some graduate classes at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and then taking some time off, Hennings, her husband and her two children ended up in the Washington (D.C.) area where she worked for a company with various government contracts in place.

“It was exciting because they had clients like the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration,” she noted. “I had a role in which I had two or three projects going at a time, working on simulations or different versions of e-learning. I was learning so much.”

After about a year, Hennings had a third child and was able to once again stay at home … but that did not last very long.

“That’s when I built MMG Interactive. I had time to actually work out the concept and then I started looking for work. I started small, and it was really just something to do because I could do it from home and have my baby with me,” Hennings explained. “But as the demand increased, I considered doing more, so I took a global training contract position, which included quite a bit of international training work. I had worked on training for organizations on a national level, but this was my first experience in developing international training. The work just kept coming, and I had repeat clients. It was all great, but it did get to a point where, because I was contracting under my business name only, I had to let the clients know I was hiring individuals, and they usually a team of full- and part-time subcontractors. Even so, now I am at a point where I sometimes have to turn down work. So I am in the process of trying to get what I call a ‘continuous engine’ going, so when I do get new work, I can just throw that right into the engine.”

Beyond Expectations

It was her interaction and work with another Western IDT alumna that led Hennings back to Macomb this past April. By chance, Hennings hired Kari Busard ’11 M.S. ’13 as full-time contractor under MMG.

“I didn’t even know she was a graduate from Western at first, but after one conversation with her, I felt like I was talking to somebody that understood my language. I knew where she came from and I hired her, even though she didn’t have the exact the experience I wanted. I thought she could learn what she would need to—I had to learn a lot on my own when I first started working, too—and I thought if she knew instructional design principles, she

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“While my time with Dr. Schoper was limited, her instruction continues to have a significant role in my professional career,” Ploughe said. “I consistently consider the needs of my students, shape learning environments around those needs and assess those environments for learning. I challenge others to ask the question, ‘Who am I?’ I also develop meaningful relationships with students, as I recognize the importance of being good partners with them on their journey towards self-awareness. This is a direct reflection of Dr. Schoper’s commitment to student learning and her dedication to seeing future student affairs practitioners succeed.”

Learn more about the Annuit Coeptis Award for Emerging Professionals at www.myacpa.org/award/annuit-coeptis-award-emerging-professional.
On September 27, Western Illinois University alumni, current and former faculty and staff members, friends of Horn and members of the Western Illinois community will come together for “Lodge and Libations” at Horn Lodge. In addition to kicking off the yearlong celebration that commemorates the 50 years that Horn Field Campus (HFC) has been part of Western (1965-2015), the fundraising event will also have a future focus.

For the last several years, faculty, staff and students in WIU’s Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA) and in the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) 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 leadership team), RPTA and HFC faculty, staff and students have devoted years to creating a master plan and physical plans for a building. In addition, Professor Emeritus of RPTA Frank “Doc” Lupton has shared in this same vision for more than 40 years and is involved in the visioning and planning.

“The dream of the leadership team, the faculty and everyone involved at HFC is to have a state-of-the-art programming facility equipped with the basics of restrooms, showers, laundry and a food-prep area, along with a staging facility for experiential trips and classrooms. With this additional programming space, we will be able to serve more constituent groups and also create more revenue-producing events,” explained HFC Program Manager Mindy Pheiffer ’91 M.S. ’92.

“The new outdoor education building will provide the space for student learning that is much needed at this juncture in the life of Horn Field Campus. This facility will allow HFC to be even more essential and visible in the region,” added Dale Adkins, associate dean for the COEHS.

For more information about Lodge and Libations or to register, contact Pheiffer at (309) 833-5798, via email at M-J-Pheiffer@wiu.edu or the RPTA office at (309) 298-1967. Register online at wiu.edu/alumni.

### SCOPE OF THE PROJECT
The project involves expanding facilities to support leadership activities and outdoor education opportunities for college students, as well as regional primary and secondary students, alumni, faculty, staff and Macomb community members. Integration of the following components in a new outdoor education building would provide expanded indoor use for enhanced outdoor education and leadership experiences:

- A larger indoor programming area to accommodate large groups in all weather, year round.
- A food prep area that meets state health codes.
- Equipment storage accommodating outdoor gear and maintenance equipment to increase operational and financial efficiency.
- Classroom and meeting space with appropriate technology to accommodate instructional workshops for use in Western’s curricula, as well as for community use.
- Restroom/utility infrastructure to replace inadequate and antiquated facilities.
- A geothermal system to promote sustainable and efficient use of energy and increase participant education about sustainable technologies.
- Extension of program outreach and instruction to increase educational opportunities and number of users.

### ABOUT HORN FIELD CAMPUS (HFC)
- Horn Field Campus is an outdoor education center at WIU with a renowned challenge course, retreat center, environmental education center and the only facility of its kind in the surrounding tri-state area.
- The land and historic buildings were donated to the University in 1965 by Frank Horn; the buildings were constructed in 1932.
- The campus, administered by the RPTA department, covers 92 acres, including 60 acres of forest and eight acres of prairie.
- Horn Field Campus hosts a wide variety of user groups for many different purposes—encompassing instruction, recreation, research and service—each year.
- Horn Field Campus averages 7,000 participants and 100 groups annually. It is used approximately 300 days per year. In the Spring 2014 semester, HFC staff members have recorded 1,100 volunteer hours donated by 243 volunteers.
- Horn Field Campus does not receive operating funds from WIU; its programs are self-sustaining. Nearly all facility maintenance operations are performed by student staff members, and the buildings have not received any major capital improvements. Because of all the deferred maintenance and outdated facilities, the infrastructure is in need of various upgrades.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Since 1965, faculty, staff and students serving at Horn Field Campus have promoted environmental responsibility and human development based on the core values of compassion, community, growth and education, which derive from Western Illinois University’s core values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility. The Horn Field Campus experience focuses on self-actualization regarding human interaction and interdependence of people and the environment. Those who have taken part in activities and events at HFC have gained invaluable experiences and have helped to build their communities through leadership, group dynamics, service-based stewardship and concern for our natural surroundings. As many can attest, time spent learning at Horn Field Campus helps prepare people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to confront the diverse global challenges of the societies and environments they inhabit.
By Teresa Koltsenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

Once a month, from last December through this May, Western Illinois University dietetics senior Greg Achilles (Quincy, IL) had to be at Titan International before the crack of dawn. In mid-April, he made the hour-long drive to the wheel manufacturer’s plant in Quincy (IL) for a 3:30-5:30 a.m. shift. He then drove back to Macomb to take a morning test.

Typically, Achilles’ “shift” at Titan—which he did as part of his contribution to a WIU faculty-led student project called “Rollin’ with Nutrition”—consisted of meeting with the company’s employees, weighing them, recording their current weights and providing them with samples of nutritious foods.

“I really didn’t mind getting up early and doing my part,” Achilles said. “This project provided me with practical experience in the field and helped build my skills to interact with the factory workers and the office workers. It has given me experience in the real world, and I found I really enjoyed it.”

Achilles was one of 14 dietetics students at Western involved with the “Rollin’ with Nutrition” pilot project, which began last fall and was led by WIU dietetics faculty members Lorri Kanauss ’94 MS-Ed ’97 and Emily Shupe ’94. The nutrition-related workplace wellness program started at a Titan Wheel Health and Wellness Fair at Quincy’s Oakley-Lindsay Center in early November last year.

At the fair, the students provided Titan’s employees with the information about the project and gathered anthropometric data, which included body weight, height and information from a brief dietary intake survey, from participating employees and their spouses. The students also shared healthy recipes and provided samples for all attendees.

During a five-month period, the students’ contributions to the project continued through their once-a-month travel to Titan’s Quincy plant to gather monthly data about the employees’ weights and to administer food-consumption surveys.

“Titan International operates three shifts per day, so this was an obvious success.” Shupe added.

Achilles said it was extra work for all the students (who did not receive course credit for the project), Achilles said it was rewarding to see the results of their efforts—both the students’ efforts and the Titan employees’ efforts to be more mindful about nutrition and the food they are putting into their bodies.

“Within the first two weigh-ins, there was a noticeable difference in weight loss among the participants,” he noted. “The project overall has a great deal of value not only for us students, but also for the employees and probably for Titan, too, because prevention of illness through better nutrition is important to all kinds of companies and, of course, to their insurance companies.”

According to Kanauss, the project enabled students to volunteer for a service-learning experience in which research and a community nutrition program were involved.

“The dietetic majors improved their skills in effective written and oral communication in order to educate others about nutrition information. These are important skills for those working in dietetics,” she noted.

“When we were approached with the opportunity to create a nutrition-related workplace wellness program we were very excited,” Shupe added. “It was clear from the beginning this was an opportunity to not only help the community, but also an opportunity to enable the students to learn and grow in their knowledge bases, their communication skills and their application of knowledge. It was a learning experience for everyone, and the from the respect and gratitude the employees have demonstrated, it was an obvious success.”

Although Achilles was traveling to Quincy from Macomb once a month to help with the project, the other 13 students involved in the project were each assigned a particular month to work on it.

Cayla Budd ’14 (Naperville, IL) learned about the project when Kanauss and Shupe started to recruit students for “Rollin’ with Nutrition” in early Fall 2013. “They mentioned it at a meeting of the Student Association for Nutrition Education [SAN], and they said it was a great opportunity for a dietetics student to experience a community nutrition and wellness type of program,” Budd explained. “Overall, I think the program has gone very well. Dr. Kanauss and Dr. Shupe will hopefully be able to take all the data we’ve collected and use it for a research article they will write in the future.”

Budd added if the project is deemed to have gone well by staff at Titan International, Kanauss and Shupe, then “Rollin’ with Nutrition” could be expanded for implementation at the entire Titan International company.

The last weigh-in for Titan’s employees who participated in the “Rollin’ with Nutrition” 2013-14 project was in early May. Kanauss and Shupe said they hope to be able to continue the project in the fall.

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could do it,” Hennings explained. “Her work really just blew me out of the water. I had worked with years with all kinds of people—individuals who had master’s degrees, who had won awards for their work, people who headed up huge initiatives with big companies. At the time, she worked at Western as a graduate student and had only a bit of experience beyond that. When she turned in her first deliverable, it was beyond what I expected and better than I had seen with anyone else.”

Hennings’ experience with Busard caused her to contact Hoyet Hemphill, the chair of the IDT department.

“So I called Dr. Hemphill and said, ‘I know I have not talked to you in years, but I am just calling to thank you.’ And I explained to him what had happened, that working with Kari was refreshing, because, honestly, I was starting to feel exhausted and discouraged when it came to finding qualified contractors. I was starting to think maybe I needed to be more lenient with what I expected from them,” she said.

It was during her conversation with Hemphill that led her to the decision to travel back to Macomb to see if there were more students like Busard coming out of the IDT department.

“He told me about the job fair in April, and I thought to myself, ‘If I can find one or two individuals who get it, it will make it worth the travel from D.C.’ I was thrilled to find that I have the luxury to choose from several individual IDT students I interviewed, all of who are better than most people I have seen in years. And I am very picky,” she explained. “While talking with students at the job fair, there were at least two or three who said—

Western News 21

Education and Human Services

“Wheel” world experience—“Rollin’ with Nutrition” course

WIU students who participated in “Rollin’ with Nutrition:” Back row 1-r: Andrea Tenley ’14 (Galesburg, IL), Thomas Vertrees ’14 (Chatham, IL), Greg Achilles (Quincy, IL), Abbey Johnson (Chatham, IL) and Hilary Kove ’14 (East Moline, IL). Front row 1-r: Emily Haistings (Quincy, IL), Cayla Budd ’14 (Naperville, IL), Emily Grommon (Morris, IL), Stacie Miller ’14 (Hazel Crest, IL), Danielle Sausaman ’14 (Springfield, IL) and Madeline Archer (Romeoville, IL). Not Pictured: Erin Lathrop (Beardstown, IL), Kirsten Thomas (Saint Jacob, IL) and Deidra Carter (Macomb, IL).
Quinn said. “This is an investment in the school’s future, and the hundreds of construction jobs it will create is an investment in the region’s economy.”

The Center for Performing Arts was first approved in December 2002, when the Illinois Board of Higher Education recommended a $22.5 million FY’04 appropriation for partial CPA construction funding. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held in April 2011.

“This is a moment that will change the history of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Western Illinois University and arts across the region,” said Billy Clow, College of Fine Arts and Communication dean. “The CPA will provide an outstanding space for our students and faculty, and will serve as a cultural center for the region.”

The construction document phase has been completed. Upon release of funding, the Capital Development Board will send construction documents to prospective bidders. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2015.

The Center for Performing Arts, which will support the academic mission and programs in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will include a 1,400-seat proscenium theatre auditorium with two balconies, a 250-seat thrust stage and a 150-seat studio theatre.

“I am so excited and pleased that the construction funds for Western’s Center for Performing Arts are being released,” said President Emeritus Al Goldfarb. “The center has been a dream of the Western Illinois community for more than three decades and I want to thank Gov. Quinn and President Thomas for making it a reality.”

There will also be dance, jazz and theatre rehearsal studios, which complement numerous academic programs; dressing rooms; a scenery/design workshop and a costume shop; a box office; administration offices; and a loading dock.

The CPA, which will be located on the southwest side of campus along Western Avenue, will connect to Browne Hall and consolidate performance spaces close to classrooms in Brown, Memorial and Salleel halls.

The CPA will also include several naming opportunities. Individuals may also purchase naming rights for seats in the proscenium and thrust theatres.

In 2011, the WIU Foundation announced that Tante Lindahl, a retired WIU administrator and Macomb resident, had arranged for a seven-figure bequest in his estate plans to assist in the maintenance of the center. In 2013, alumnus Kenneth ’46 MS-Ed ’52 and Lorraine ’48 MS-Ed ’52 Epperson pledged a seven-figure gift for the center. The $5,000-square-foot iconic lobby will be named in their honor.

To view architect’s renderings of The Center for Performing Arts, visit wiu.edu/vpas/fm/cpa.php.

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machinery manufacturing operations in Asia, the Americas and Europe.

In addition, Lavin served as vice president of Caterpillar and served as its vice president of operations for the Asia Pacific Division. He led Caterpillar’s people initiatives with administrative responsibility for the human services division. Lavin served as product manager, track-type tractors division and served as its director of corporate human and labor relations in Caterpillar and as director of compensation and benefits. He also served as chair of Shin Caterpillar Mitsubishi Ltd. and had administrative responsibility for operations in the region, including manufacturing facilities in China, India, Indonesia and Japan. Lavin joined Caterpillar Inc. in 1984 as an attorney in the legal department.

Lavin also served as a director of the U.S.-China Business Council, the U.S.-India Business Council and the U.S.-Korea Business Council, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the International Advisory Council of Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. Over the years, he has been very supportive of WIU, attending and hosting events, including an event for Caterpillar employees who are WIU alumni. While in China working for Caterpillar, Lavin met with WIU students who were studying through the Caterpillar Foundation Scholarship. Lavin is a member of Bradley University’s Board of Trustees. Lavin completed a Brookings Institute program and, in addition to his degree from WIU, holds a Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University and a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, given since 1973, recognizes alumni who have reached the pinnacle of their careers and have brought credit to the University and have extended meritorious service for the advancement of Western Illinois University.

Keiser Edwards, a 1974 College Student Personnel master’s degree graduate, has been a key member of the Crystal Bridges leadership team since 2007, overseeing the founding of the museum, as well as its construction and successful opening in November 2011. Since that time, the museum has welcomed more than 1.2 million visitors, with Keiser Edwards serving in the pivotal role of deputy director. Keiser Edwards continues to be a guiding force in establishing the institution, creating and growing connections to bring increased tourism to the area, as well as offering museum visitors unparalleled arts, cultural and educational experiences.

Previously, Keiser Edwards served as the associate vice chancellor for development at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for nine years. She and her late husband, Clay Edwards, helped direct the university’s groundbreaking Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, a significant initiative that raised more than $1 billion for academic programs, including the founding of an honors college and endowing the graduate school. In 2007, Keiser Edwards was made an honorary alumna of the university by the Arkansas Alumni Association.

She has also served as director of development (outreach and cooperative extension) and director of station development (public broadcasting) at The Pennsylvania State University, from 1988-98. She created the first comprehensive advancement program in the field of continuing and distance education at a public university, and was part of the management team that created Penn State’s World Campus, a virtual university for students at a distance from the physical location. As a result of these achievements, the university awarded Keiser Edwards the Outreach Pioneer Award.

“Sandy’s contributions to the arts, philanthropy, and higher education, as well as her support of Western Illinois University, are much-admired and appreciated. It is with great pride that we bestow upon Ms. Keiser Edwards an honorary doctorate from her alma mater,” said WIU President Jack Thomas.

Keiser Edwards received Western’s Alumni Achievement Award in 2003. She currently serves as a member of the College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Advisory Board.

During her time at Western Illinois University, Keiser Edwards served as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities. She later served in that office as a full-time staff member, overseeing major concert and film programs.

Keiser Edwards holds a bachelor’s degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory (NC), where she served on the board of trustees from 1978-86.
1986
Rima Jecius Herd, Ena, OH, is an administrative vice president at Armstrong Mortgage Company in Columbus.

1987
Gayle Spencer MS, Champaign, is the director of Illinois Leadership Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana.
Mike Turcol, Lake Wales, FL, is a radio talk show member and disc jockey for Hall Communications in Lakeland. (maminblue772@yahoo.com)
Frank Willis, Canton, is an engineering specialist at Caterpillar in Peoria.

1988
Darren Hayunga, Watkinville, GA, is a real estate professor at the University of Georgia in Athens. (hayunga@uga.edu)
Gail Wellen Hollis, Columbus, is a lab manager and an instructor at McKendree University in Lebanon. (gphollis@mckendree.edu)
Rich Hollis, Columbus, is the senior vice president organizational development at Rabo AgriFinance in St. Louis, MO.
Elizabeth Mittman Roddy, Las Vegas, NV, is a self-employed author and published her first book, “Hidden: A Biosphere 7.” (bookwriter2182@cox.net)

1989
David Krull, Riverside, is a lieutenant for the Riverside Police Department.
Scott Pederson, Austin, TX, is the vice president to Tendenci in Houston.
Clayton Steenberg MA ‘91, Bullhead City, AZ, is a criminal justice professor at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, CA.
William Swisher, Jr. MS ‘93, Scottsdale, AZ, is a real estate agent at Keller Williams Sonoran Living. (bwswisher76@gmail.com)

1990
Monte Lowderman, Macomb, is the co-owner of Lowderman Auction Options. (monte@lowderman.com)
Suwkan Widajat MBA, Ontario, Canada, is the vice president of finance and CFO at Pak2000 in Mirror Lake, NH. (widajats@gmail.com)

1992
Bruce Becker, Troy, MO, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Missouri Army National Guard and is currently deployed to Kosovo as Civil Military Coordination Officer and Joint Law Enforcement Liaison Team Chief for NATO Kosovoforce (KFOR) Multinational Battle Group East. (bruce.a.becker4.mil@mail.mil)
Alaine Rovenhagen, Newark, is a teacher at LaSalle and Bureau County Easter Seals Kids Can Child Development Center in Ottawa. (alainelouise@sbcglobal.net)

1993
Harold Clark MS, Greta, LA, won a major playwriting competition at Playhouse on the Square with his play, “We Live Here.”
Haley Bair Wright, London, OH, is a virology technologist at Laboratory Corp America in Dublin.
Kevin Zook, Phoenix, AZ, is a self-employed distance educator. (kevinzook@gmail.com)

1994
David Ekmans MS, Marshalltown, IA, is a substance abuse counselor at Substance Abuse Treatment Unit of Central IA.

1995
Daren Hoefling, Morton, is a sergeant at the Morton Police Department. (daren_h69@yahoo.com)

1997
Andrea Robertson MFA ’00, Cave Creek, AZ, is the director of theatre at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix. (andrearel_robertson@yahoo.com)
Dale West MS, Chicago, was promoted to senior director at SmithBucklin

1999
William “Bill” Beckman ED SP, Peoria, is a teacher at Peoria Notre Dame High School and completed his 49th year of teaching. (bill.beckman@me.com)
Rebecca Bukowy, Scottsdale, AZ, is a veterinarian at Banfield Pet Hospital.
Courtney Sendzimer Denton, Bolingbrook, is an operations specialist at Draper and Kramer in Chicago. (denton@draperandkramer.com)
William “Billy” Denton, Bolingbrook, is a teacher and head drama coach at Oak Lawn Community High School.
Erin McCormick, Marietta, GA, is a claim specialist – express team at State Farm Insurance in Atlanta.

2001
Merrick Murray, Las Vegas, NV, is a teacher at Clark County School District.

Chicago Western Wednesdays
Tap House Grill, Glen Ellyn, IL
February 5, 2014


Gulf Shores Area Alumni & Friends
Cobalt Restaurant, Orange Beach, AL
February 13, 2014


2002
John Baracani III, Mansfield, OH, is a medical editor at inVentiv Health.
Ronne Le Roche Baracani MS ‘04, Mansfield, OH, is a study director at Will Research in Ashland.
Melissa Conklin Birmeker MA ‘04, Davenport, IA, works at Cardiovascular Medicine, PC.

2003
Jessica Anderson, Antioch, TN, is the client services director for Affahon Media Group in Nashville.

2004
Rob Bross, Monticello, is the chief of police at Atwood Police Department.
Deanna Gillett, Lexington, SC, is a financial analyst at Westinghouse Electric Company in Columbia.
Lindsay Zeller Thiel, Bettendorf, IA, is a licensed realtor in IA and IL and works for Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors in Davenport. (lindsaythiel@ruhlhomes.com)

2005
Peter Skoda, Naperville, is a senior human resources generalist for Freudenberg Household Products.

2007
Nicole Dworak, Chicago, is a real estate broker for Dream Town Realty. (fdworak@dreamtown.com)
Lindsay McQueen, Murphysboro, is a manager at Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau in Jacksonville.

2008
Matthew Archambault, Chicago, is the director of business development at Brown Industries LLC in Lawerence, KS. (m.archambault@bvi.com)
Derek Jones, Silvis, is the district safety representative for the Illinois Department of Transportation in Dixon.
Peter Roley MS ‘10, Holly Springs, NC, is the director of social media and recruit marketing at NC State University Football in Raleigh. (proley@gmail.com)
Anna Harkness Roley, Holly Springs, NC, is an English teacher at South Johnston High School. (anndroley@gmail.com)

2010
Lacey Skelton Austin, Mason City, works at Eaton Corporation in Lincoln.
Neal Cole, Chicago, is the operations director of The Plum Tree Group.
Sean Lynch, Chicago, is a human resource assistant and contract administrator at Global Capacity.
James Ruppert, Mt Vernon, has joined the law firm as an associate at Hassakis & Hassakis, PC.
Bonnie Wittrock, Milwaukee, WI, is a pre-press lead at Schwaab, Inc.

2011
Nichole Kuchar, Chatham, is a first grade teacher at Springfield District #186.

2012
Trey Dhabalt, Springfield, is a sales consultant at Wirtz Beverage in Cicero. (treydhabalt@gmail.com)
Heidi Rice MS, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, is a speech language pathologist at Rentrew Educational Services.

2013
Alan Savage MS, Cape Girardeau, MO, is the ticket office manager at Southeast Missouri State University. (asavage@semo.edu)

Marriages
Belynda Beswick ’04 and Gregory Bernzen, July 20, 2013.
Mellisa Herwig ’11 and Seth McMillan, Nov. 9, 2013.
Devron Obern ’98 and Holly Fanning, July 6, 2013.
Jason Peterson ’05 and Mary Billeaud, Mar. 8, 2014.
Amy Poffenberger ’08 MBA ’11 and Andrew Clayton ’96, June 8, 2013.
Sarah Thompson ’08 and Justin Mortiz, Mar. 15, 2014.

Births and Adoptions
Rob Bross ’04 and Lindsey, a daughter, Spencer Emma, Mar. 12, 2014.
Jean Royster Brown ’08 and Thomas Brown ’01, a son, Parker Thomas, Mar. 23, 2013.
Angela Lazzara Doherty ’05 and Jay Doherty ’05, a son, Connor Thomas, Feb. 26, 2014.
Amber Pence Duncan ’00 MBA ’02 and Jason Duncan ’00, a son,
Phoenix Area Alumni & Friends
Su Vino, Scottsdale, AZ
February 16, 2014

L-r: Alumni Achievement Award recipient and President’s National Advisory Council member Marcus Sipolt ’77, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Larry Derry ’61 ’71, Bill Koellner ’70 ’71, Marty Kuepper Koellner ’72, Bill Maynard ’72, Doc Miller Maynard ’72, Cindy Nelson, Steve Nelson ’78, Beth Bowden Biro ’80 and Jeffrey Biro ’79.

L-r: Mike Flinn, Mary Lee Flinn ’85, Allan Watson ’71 ’89, Joyce Ranken Watson ’68, Myrna Smith Kelly ’71, Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and President’s National Advisory Council member Mike Kelly ’70, Jamie Menzies Lane ’77 and Mike Lane.

Deaths
Bruce A. Anderson, DeWitt, IA, Nov. 7, 2011.
Mary J. Biehl, Bettendorf, IA, Dec. 27, 2013.
Helen J. “Joan” Bradshaw, Galesburg, Mar. 22, 2014.
Alexander J. “Alex” Busch, Jr., Bettendorf, IA, Feb. 15, 2013.
Barbara Buster, Muscatine, IA, Dec. 29, 2011.
Larry Buster, Muscatine, IA, Aug. 23, 2012.
Priscilla R. Cavanagh, Davenport, IA, Oct. 12, 2011.
Betty L. Chance, Bettendorf, IA, Nov. 21, 2013.
Terry M. Clarke, Macomb, Nov. 1, 2013.

WIU vs. Denver Pre-Game Social & Game
Magness Arena, Denver, CO
February 20, 2014

L-r: Rich Westen ’91, Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 ’83, Curt Westen ’82 ’83, Steve Smith and Rob Westen ’92 ’95.

Kiawah Island Alumni & Friends
Kiawah Island Resort, Kiawah Island, SC
March 13, 2014

Atlanta Alumni & Friends
The Oceanaire, Atlanta, GA
March 14, 2014

Chicago Bulls vs. Indiana Pacers Social & Basketball Game
Crossroads & United Center, Chicago
March 24, 2014

Champaign-Area Alumni & Friends
Silvercreek Restaurant, Urbana, IL
April 2, 2014

Chicago Western Wednesdays
Emerald Loop, Chicago, IL
April 2, 2014

Back l-r: Roger Stutz ’78, Michael Over ’07, Mary Lampard ’07, Steve Srage ’04, Paul Kronenberg ’95, Lisa Toland Smola ’89, Katie Butson ’10 and Mary Carlson Brennan ’81. Middle l-r: Kevin Blackberg ’75, Alumni Council member Kathy Sullivan ’78, Erika Lowe ’09, Bridget Early ’07, Oliver Whybrow and Kelsy Butson ’07. Front l-r: Alumni Council member Carol Lewis Scott ’70, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Carin Horne Stutz ’78, John Walcher ’08, Katie Grahl ’10 and Michael Schraft ’11.
Black Alumni Black Tie Scholarship Gala
Martineque, Burbank, IL
April 5, 2014

Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues Social & Hockey Game
United Center, Chicago
April 6, 2014

Springfield Legislative, Alumni & Friends
Sangamo Club, Springfield, IL
April 30, 2014

Mary L. Woodburn, Moline, Apr. 12, 2012.
1943 Orta Lee Cameron-Comstock MS-ED ’68, Edwardsville, Mar. 18, 2013.
1934 Helen L. Harris Helmreich, Crawford, CA, Dec. 6, 2013.
1952 Reginald L. Willis MA ’73, Quincy, Mar. 28, 2014.
1952 Doris M. McConnell Oliver MS-ED ’69, Kewanee, Mar. 20, 2014.

Mary Jo Francione, Bettendorf, IA, Sept. 13, 2013.
Betty J. Havercamp, Bettendorf, IA, Sept. 9, 2013.


Front l-r: Heidi Parkhurst, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Steve McCann ’78, Frank D’Alexander, Sue Stepek D’Alexander ’75, Sue Ahlrich Cook ’78 and Jeff Cook ’78. Middle l-r: Chris Gerakaris ’95, Kari Condit Gerakaris ’96, Cindy Ryan, Professor Steve Rock and Glenn Holmes ’76. Back l-r: Bruce Sicklesteel, Kathleen Docizi Sicklesteel ’72, Deb Ryan ’79 ’82, Julie Pulse Warner ’00, Brittany Shilling, Amy Peoplis and Gabe Sames.


Louise R. Waechter, Davenport, IA, July 30, 2012.
Gladys L. Whithock, Rock Falls, Nov. 21, 2011.
Bobby G. Williams, Moline, Dec. 10, 2011.

Front l-r: Hind Salath ’09, Alex Cameroon Geisler ’09 ’11, Deb Ryan ’79 ’82, Mary Hungerford Anderson ’78, Sherry Crane Wold ’70 ’95 and Budget Director Matt Bierman ’97, ’03. Middle l-r: President Jack Thomas, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Services Jessica Bunch Butcher ’96, Cherrie Ware Montgomery ’89 ’97, Dawn Hoing Sweet ’01 ’06, Kim Pierce ’82, College of Education and Human Services Dir. of Dev./Marketing/Comm Outreach Dana States Moon ’98, Jennifer Moon Daniels ’98, Vice President for Administrative Services Julie DeWees ’83 ’91, Blanche Shoup ’76, Scott Clarke ’81 and Maureen Fisk Maglilozi ’68. Back l-r: Nathan Stamp ’11, Alumni Council member and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Kirk Dillard ’77, Alumni Council member Tye Taylor ’79, Todd Lester ’90, Don Nelson ’69 ’72, Jeff Peddycoart ’90, Board of Trustees Chair and Honorary Alumni Award recipient Cathy Early, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Marty Green ’87 and Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkinskion ’78 ’79.

L-r: Assistant Academic Vice President Ron Williams, Admissions Counselor D’Angelo Taylor ’11, Joyce Ross ’87, President Jack Thomas, Board of Trustees member Lyneir Cole ’87 and Vice President for Student Services Gary Biller.
## Alumni Travel Programs 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Treasures</td>
<td>August 21-September 1, 2014</td>
<td>Discover distant monarchies, Baroque palaces and stunning harbors as you cruise the Baltic Sea to Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Sweden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruise the Mosel, Rhine &amp; Main Rivers</td>
<td>September 22-30, 2014</td>
<td>See picture-perfect villages and pristine German countryside during a journey down the Mosel, Rhine and Main rivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasures of Southern Africa</td>
<td>October 15-29, 2014</td>
<td>Embark on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to southern Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China and the Yangtze River</td>
<td>October 20-November 3, 2014</td>
<td>Discover one of the most fascinating and dynamic nations in the world as you travel to many amazing and famous landmarks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls of the Mediterranean</td>
<td>November 7-15, 2014</td>
<td>Discover some culturally-rich pearls of the Mediterranean, as you cruise from Monaco to Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruise the Panama Canal</td>
<td>November 19-30, 2014</td>
<td>Set sail on Crystal Serenity and escape the chill of November for the sandy beaches, sunny skies and easygoing spirit of the Caribbean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayan Mystique</td>
<td>January 6-16, 2015</td>
<td>Experience awe-inspiring, tropical lands infused with vibrant cultures and riveting ancient ruins as you cruise the Caribbean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polynesian Paradise</td>
<td>March 15-25, 2015</td>
<td>From luxurious white-sand beaches to velvety emerald mountains, indulge your senses with the wonders of French Polynesia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain ~ Valencia and Barcelona</td>
<td>May 18-27, 2015</td>
<td>Experience this Spanish adventure in Valencia and Barcelona.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris Immersion</td>
<td>June 5-16, 2015</td>
<td>For 10 nights, explore the City of Light and its environments at an unhurried pace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>August 5-13, 2015</td>
<td>Discover Scotland’s Celtic, Norse and Norman cultures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rediscovered Tuscany</td>
<td>October 14-22, 2015</td>
<td>Experience the charm of Tuscany on a program that combines guided sightseeing excursions with ample free time to immerse yourself in local culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern &amp; Oriental Express: Bangkok to Bali</td>
<td>November 6-18, 2015</td>
<td>Experience an exotic kaleidoscope of colors, sounds, cultures and ancient histories in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Isles Odyssey</td>
<td>October 20-November 5, 2015</td>
<td>Discover distant monarchies, Baroque palaces and stunning harbors as you cruise the Baltic Sea to Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Sweden.</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Save the Dates

- Mediterranean Coastal Hideaways: April 24-May 3, 2015
- Pearls of the Mediterranean: June 15–23, 2015 (Please note the new date.)
- Coastal Alaska: July 7-14, 2015
- Baltic Marvels: August 13-21, 2015 (Please note the new date.)
- Greek Isles Odyssey: September 26–October 5, 2015

For additional trip information, visit [wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php).

### WIU Alumni Association - You’re a Member! Reap the Benefits!

- **Credit Card** - The WIU Alumni Association and INTRUST Bank have partnered to provide the WIU credit card. If you choose the WIU Visa®, you will support student scholarships, the Western News, events around the country AND earn great rewards. [wiu.edu/alumni/credit_card.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/credit_card.php) (800) 222-7458
- **Insurance** - Our partnership with Collegiate Insurance Resources offers a variety of programs, including comprehensive short-and-long-term medical, disability and dental. [wiu.edu/alumni/benefits](http://wiu.edu/alumni/benefits) (800) 922-1245
- **USI Travel Insurance Services** - Whether you decide to travel with WIU or even for trips you take on your own, we offer insurance for all types of trips. For more than a decade, WIU has chosen USI Travel Insurance Services to provide travel insurance plans for alumni and friends. Be sure you are adequately insured for your next trip—whether participating in a WIU Travel Abroad Program or traveling on your own. [wiu.edu/alumni/insurance.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/insurance.php) (800) 937-1387
- **Liberty Mutual Partnership** - An exclusive discount on home and auto insurance rates and much more. [wiu.edu/alumni/benefits](http://wiu.edu/alumni/benefits) (844) 652-2353 (Toll Free)
- **Class Rings** - WIU’s great traditions of can be personally commemorated by every alumnus. Go online to design a ring to tell your college story. The Jostens Ring Designer is available 24/7 online. Email A-Association@wiu.edu to learn how to get up to 40% off today. [wiu.edu/alumni/rings.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/rings.php) (309) 824-1436
- **WIU Diploma Frames** - Join the WIU tradition and frame your diploma! Our officially licensed, Made-in-the-USA frames feature the WIU name and seal, and will preserve your hard-earned diploma for a lifetime. Frames are customizable so that you can match your own style and décor. Desk accessories are also available. Plus, order your custom frame online at diplomaframe.com/wiuas/store.aspx. (800) 477-9005
- **RockeNetwork** - A free online social network provided exclusively for WIU alumni to reconnect with friends and classmates and to network. [rockenetwork.wiu.edu](http://rockenetwork.wiu.edu)
- **License Plates** - If you have a car or class-B truck registered in Illinois and would like to support Western, order your WIU license plates today. Vanity and personalized plates are available. Also, a mobile unit is periodically in the University Union staffed by the office of the Secretary of State for certain driver and vehicle services. [wiu.edu/alumni/license.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/license.php) (217) 785-5215
- **Career Development Center** - WIU alumni can enjoy continued access to benefits provided by WIU’s Career Development Center (CDC). [wiu.edu/student_services/career_development_center](http://wiu.edu/student_services/career_development_center) (309) 298-1838
- **Western’s Leslie F. Malpass Library** - Alumni can use the physical library and search online databases when on campus. Use of online catalogs for books and media and access to the library’s reference services, guides, etc. are included in your benefits. [wiu.edu/library_access.php](http://wiu.edu/library_access.php) (309) 298-2700
- **Alumni Directory** - All alumni have access to the online directory exclusively for WIU alumni. Also available for purchase is the hard-copy. [wiu.edu/vpas/stars](http://wiu.edu/vpas/stars) (309) 298-1914
- **WIU Partners with Quad City Airport** - We are pleased to partner with the Quad City 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. [wiu.edu/alumni/airport.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/airport.php) (309) 298-1914
- **Recreation Center Memberships** - WIU alumni and their spouses and domestic partners may purchase memberships. [wiu.edu/alumni/rec_center.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/rec_center.php) (309) 298-2773
Refer a Student to Western Illinois University

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

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

**Student's Information**

- **First Name:** __________________________
- **Last Name:** __________________________
- **Address:** ____________________________
- **City:** ____________________________
- **State:** ____________________________
- **Zip:** ____________________________
- **School Currently Attending:** __________________________
- **Expected Graduation Date From Above:** __________________________
- **E-mail:** ____________________________
- **Cell Phone:** ____________________________
- **Home Phone:** ____________________________
- **Cell Phone:** ____________________________
- **Home E-mail:** ____________________________
- **Relationship to Student:** ____________________________
- **Gender:** ____________________________
- **Title/Position:** ____________________________
- **Marital Status:** ____________________________
- **Employer:** ____________________________
- **Cell Phone:** ____________________________

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**Employer Mailing Address**

- **City:** ____________________________
- **State:** ____________________________
- **Zip:** ____________________________
- **Business Phone:** ____________________________
- **Business E-mail:** ____________________________

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**Additional Information for Western News:**

- **Include Information in Western News?** Yes
- **Do you want email published in the Western News?** Yes
- **Additional Information for Western News:**

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**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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**Send Us Your News**

- **Full Name:** __________________________
- **Maiden Name:** __________________________
- **Grad. Year:** __________________________
- **Mailing Address:** __________________________
- **Is this a new address?** Yes No
- **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:** __________________________
- **City:** __________________________
- **State:** __________________________
- **Zip:** __________________________
- **Business Phone:** __________________________
- **Home Phone:** __________________________
- **Cell Phone:** __________________________
- **Do you want to receive text messages from the university?** No Yes
- **Include Information in Western News?** Yes No
- **Additional Information for Western News:**

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

- Yes, I would like to pay the application fee ($30) for this student when he/she applies.
- Yes, I would like to pay 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.

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

**Western Wednesdays**

- **Chicago**
  - Aug. 6 – Downtown Chicago at Local 22
  - Oct. 1 – Libertyville at Mickey Finn’s

- **Quad Cities**
  - July – No event due to holiday
  - Sept. 3 – Rock Island at On the Rock
  - Nov. 5 – Davenport
  - Jan. – No event due to holiday
  - March 4 – Bettendorf

- **Washington D.C.**
  - June 25 – Bonus Date! Downtown D.C. hosted by President Jack Thomas
  - July 30 – Rockville, MD
  - Sept. 24 – Downtown D.C.
  - Nov. 19 – D.C. suburb (one week earlier due to Thanksgiving holiday)

**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:** ________________________

**UPCOMING WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS**

- **July 13** New York Alumni & Friends Wine Tasting
  - Brooklyn Winery: 213 N. 8th St., Brooklyn, NY
  - Social: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
  - Wine tasting, private tour, antipasti spread and cash bar - $25/person

- **July 24** Princeton Alumni & Friends Social
  - Wine Guys Bar & Grill: 2205 N. Main St., Princeton, IL
  - Social: 6-8 p.m.
  - Social, buffet and cash bar - $16/person

- **Aug. 13** WIU Night at the Burlington Bees
  - Burlington Bees Community Field: 2714 Mt. Pleasant, Burlington, IA
  - Game: 6:30 p.m.
  - Adult food package & game ticket - $14
  - Youth food package & game ticket - $12

**SAVE the DATE**

**WIU CHICAGO HOMECOMING**

- **WIU vs. Northwestern**
  - Saturday, Sept. 20 • Evanston, IL
  - Pre-game Social & Football Game
  - In addition to our traditional on-campus Homecoming events on October 3-4, WIU will host a “Chicago Homecoming” this fall when the Leathernecks take on the Northwestern Wildcats at Ryan Field on Sept. 20. Leading up to the football game, we will be hosting alumni socials at various locations in the Chicagoland area.

- **Sept. 15** – Homewood at Fifth Quarter
- **Sept. 16** – Arlington Heights at Peggy Kinnane’s
- **Sept. 17** – Schaumburg at Ram Restaurant and Brewery
- **Sept. 18** – LaGrange at Wild Monk
- **Sept. 19** – Downtown Chicago at Ditka’s
- **Sept. 20** – WIU vs. Northwestern Pre-game Social & Football Game

- **Pregame Social:** 3 hours before game (catered by Goose Island)
  - Canal Shores Golf Course (walking distance of Ryan Field)
  - 1030 Central St., Evanston, IL
  - Unlimited buffet and beverages only (no football ticket): $40/person
  - Under age 10 unlimited buffet/soda/water and football ticket: $20/person
  - Under age 10 unlimited buffet/soda/water and football ticket: $30/person
  - Unlimited buffet and beverages only (no football ticket): $40/person

- **For details or to register, visit wiu.edu/alumni/chicagohomecoming.php.**

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**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- □ Online [wiu.com/alumni](http://wiu.com/alumni)
- □ Phone (309) 298-1914
- □ Check Payable to WIU Alumni Association
- □ Credit card [Please provide credit card information]

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:**

- Card #: ________________________
- Three digit security code: ______ Exp. date: ______
- Name on card: ________________________
- Signature: ________________________

**Fax form to: (309) 298-2914 or mail form to:**

WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390

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**Events**

- **Aug. 6** – Downtown Chicago at Local 22
- **Oct. 1** – Libertyville at Mickey Finn’s
- **Sept. 3** – Rock Island at On the Rock
- **Nov. 5** – Davenport
- **Jan.** – No event due to holiday
- **March 4** – Bettendorf
- **July 13** – New York Alumni & Friends Wine Tasting
  - Brooklyn Winery: 213 N. 8th St., Brooklyn, NY
  - Social: 4-6:00 p.m.
  - Wine tasting, private tour, antipasti spread and cash bar - $25/person
- **July 24** – Princeton Alumni & Friends Social
  - Wine Guys Bar & Grill: 2205 N. Main St., Princeton, IL
  - Social: 6-8 p.m.
  - Social, buffet and cash bar - $16/person
- **Aug. 13** – WIU Night at the Burlington Bees
  - Burlington Bees Community Field: 2714 Mt. Pleasant, Burlington, IA
  - Game: 6:30 p.m.
  - Adult food package & game ticket - $14
  - Youth food package & game ticket - $12
- **Aug. 14** – Monmouth Alumni & Friends Wine Tasting
  - Market Alley Wines: 59 Public Square, Monmouth, IL
  - Social: 6-8 p.m.
  - Social, wine tasting, appetizers and cash bar - $15/person
- **Aug. 21** – Galesburg Alumni & Friends Social
  - Iron Spike Brewing Company: 1440 Monroe St., Galesburg, IL
  - Social: 6-8 p.m.
  - Tour, social, beer, appetizers and cash bar - $15/person
- **Sept. 6** – WIU vs. Wisconsin Pre-game Social & Football Game
  - Pregame Social • Camp Randall Stadium
  - 801 Walnut St., Madison, WI • 3 hours prior to game
  - Football Game • Camp Randall Stadium
  - Social, buffet, cash bar and game ticket, which includes $10 food voucher for stadium - $60/person
  - Social, buffet and cash bar (no game ticket included) - $15/person