



Developments

This issue profiles individuals who have chosen to share their resources with Western Illinois University. The desire of these individuals to share their success with the University touches the lives of students on both of Western's campuses.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: *Beu Jeans for Scholarships; Daisy Hines Estate Gift Helps Alumni Programs*



“My Dear Aunt Martha” Collection



Illinois State Historical Society President Russell Lewis and Barbara Shave

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.

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

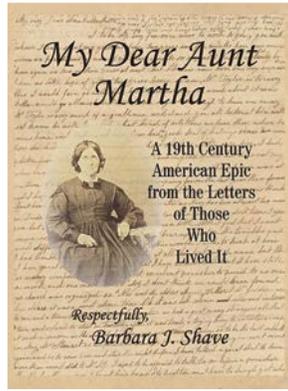
“My Dear Aunt Martha: A 19th Century American Epic from the Letters of Those Who Lived It” is the publication of 80 letters, exchanged between Pennsylvania and Illinois individuals, belonging to several families of long association, who immigrated to Illinois from the same community in Pennsylvania.

“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.

“Many 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.



from the Letters of Those Who Lived It," which the Illinois State Historical Society chose for its 2011 Outstanding Achievement Award.

"With the book to breathe life into the brittle documents, it was time to house the letters where they could be properly preserved for another

200 years," said Shave. "The Western Illinois University Library Archive was first choice."

Shave earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Western in 1963. 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.

"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." ♦



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. "As a staff, we were looking for a fundraiser or a service project to endorse. Helping students really resonates with all of us, 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.



Left to right: Rob Wallace, APN; Denise Stoltz, RN; Gina Billingsley, MA; Courtni Keithley; Lisa Hart; and Ann Lascelles, RN.

“Fifteen Beu employees are first-time donors. That’s nearly 33 percent of all employees at Beu. 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,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter.



“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 McGrath.

“Jeans are more than denim fabric,” continued Harris. “They are iconic in our society. Beu Jeans for Scholarships is a way to acknowledge that our staff likes to wear jeans, and it’s a way to build community by doing something positive for students.” ♦

Daisy Hines Estate Gift Helps Alumni Programs

Western Illinois University Alumni Programs received a nearly \$23,000 gift from the estate of Daisy Marie Hines.

Hines was a Macomb (IL) native, attended Western in the early 1950s and joined the Alumni Council in the 1960s. An industrious and diligent member of the Alumni Council, Hines helped coordinate alumni events in her later hometown of Springfield (IL), appealed to Illinois legislators for support of Western Illinois University and served as secretary of the Alumni Council. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982.

Hines was a freelance writer and regularly contributed to *The Prairie Farmer*, *Successful Farming* and *Automotive News* magazines, as well as the *Illioopolis Sentinel*, *Countyline* and the *Quincy Herald Whig* newspapers. She also served as publicity chair for the American Cancer Society and the Tuberculosis Association of Springfield.

Referred to as “a woman of great charm and energy” in her Distinguished Alumni Award nomination, Hines claimed “what she remembered most of all her years at Western in the 1950s was the comfortable atmosphere of the University. That feeling of being at home



Herb and Daisy Hines

and the excellent quality of teachers combined to make learning an enjoyable process.”

“Daisy was committed to Western, to the WIU Alumni Association and to the Alumni Council,” said Amy Spelman ‘98, director of Alumni Programs. “We are honored that she included us in her estate plans, and grateful for her generosity. We look forward to working with the WIU

Foundation in how best to honor Daisy’s wishes in the use of the gift. ♦



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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Jan. 1, we have reached 103% of our Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education \$60 million campaign goal. The public phase of the University's campaign kicked off in Oct. 2010 with goals to increase scholarship support; create endowed programs to support faculty; fund capital facilities improvements; and enhance information and technology.

103%

\$0

\$60m

A huge thanks to all our students, alumni and friends who voted!

Thousands of students, alumni and friends across the country and around the world tried to win \$100,000 in scholarship funds for Western Illinois University by participating in the NCAA's 6th Fan competition to see whose college or university had the best fans. At the onset of the competition, WIU competed against hundreds of colleges and universities and successfully moved into the Sweet 16 round. For that accomplishment, WIU was awarded \$10,000 for the University's general scholarship fund. Over the course of several weeks, WIU moved from the Sweet 16 to the Elite Eight and to the Final Four, where we beat Arkansas State to move into the Championship Round, where we faced Brigham Young University for the \$100,000 winner-take-all match. Against huge odds, our alumni and friends battled to the end, but unfortunately, we lost this last round.

It started with more than 340 schools, and in the end, it came down to two.

