

WESTERN

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2023

FOR THE

W



Western Illinois University

Western Magazine

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Have tips, questions or comments about the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine?

Email jk-pospeschil@wiu.edu.

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LETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni & Friends,

It has been a great year! I have had the wonderful opportunity to travel to numerous alumni events around the United States and meet with so many of you in person. I have enjoyed getting to know you better and hearing your stories and feedback regarding WIU.

Many of you already know that we kicked off our \$100 million comprehensive campaign, For the W, this year. We are already at the \$45 million mark. This historic campaign will give Western the opportunity to enhance educational opportunities and experiences for our students. Every dollar makes a difference, and no gift is too small.

As we end our 2022-23 academic year, I will share with you some of my presidential priorities that I have been focusing on this year, and will continue to focus on in the upcoming year.

We continue to work toward fiscal sustainability. We have begun work on an improved budget model and work to achieve our goal through campus-wide transparent discussion, planning and implementation.

We also continue to focus on institutional distinctiveness and highlight what makes Western stand out above the rest, such as

our criminal justice, cybersecurity and emergency management programs; our First Year Experience Program; student support services; and community outreach, including centers such as the Seymour Center for Rural Education, Advocacy, Policy and Research and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

We just celebrated the grand opening of our JIDE (justice, inclusion, diversity and equity) office in the University Union on the Macomb campus. This office will help us further our goals to celebrate and nurture a culture of diversity, which leads to greater justice, inclusion and equity and ensure that our University is welcoming and diverse, as well as equitable and inclusive.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Western Illinois University!

Sincerely,

Guiyou Huang, Ph.D.

President



THE CAMPAIGN FOR

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

For the W is a \$100 million-plus fundraising and engagement initiative that will enhance educational opportunities for all Leathernecks. This historic, comprehensive undertaking encompasses countless initiatives to support our five colleges, athletics, scholarships, and more.

Western believes every student with the hope to succeed deserves to thrive at our institution. For more than 120 years, we have invested in honing each student's individual strengths to turn that hope into promise.

We are ready to pave our path into the future. With fortitude, we remain devoted to the grit that made us Leathernecks.

Are you ready to trail blaze ahead for the W?

SCHOLARSHIPS

Western is a place for anyone who dreams of an education, regardless of their financial circumstances. The University remains committed to breaking down the financial barriers students - particularly first generation and low-income students - face. With your support, scholarships can continue to provide opportunity to future

Leathernecks. You can make a difference in student dreams and help shape the trajectory of their lives.



STUDENT & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

With this campaign, we are building 21st-century support systems that will enable all students to achieve their dreams. These programs span recruitment and admissions, academics, student life, academic coaching, mentoring, and career

development. Your support will help provide students with the services they need in and out of the classroom to take advantage of all that Western has to offer them.

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

Our daily lives have become interwoven with and enhanced by technology, which transcends into our Leatherneck educational experience. With your support, we can advance our work in strategic areas of expertise that will inspire innovation and ensure that both technology and society can come together and continue to shape our world.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

At Western, everyone belongs. Our commitment to diversity enhances our educational programs, promotes the development of our students, creates vibrant workplace environments, and enables us to achieve our mission to provide a community of individuals dedicated to learning. Investing in DEI initiatives will have a profound, positive impact on our changing world through the unique interaction of instruction, research, and public service. Your support further enhances Western's justice, inclusion, diversity, and equity initiatives.

FACULTY SUPPORT

Our Leatherneck community of faculty, and students at the undergraduate and graduate level, pursue groundbreaking discoveries that identify and address complex problems that will help guide our future. We are creative and innovative with interests ranging from biosciences to fine arts, business to the social sciences, to education and technology. With strategic investments, we can continue to cultivate our faculty and our research environments and pave the way for ideas that will change our world. ●



**Scan the QR code to the left
to learn more about For the W and
scan the QR code to the right to GIVE NOW!**



visit wiu.edu/ForTheW/ or call (309) 298-1808.

WIU to Begin Offering MBA in Marketing in Fall 2023

Western Illinois University will now offer a Marketing concentration in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, beginning in Fall 2023.

“We are excited to announce the new marketing concentration in the MBA program at WIU,” said College of Business and Technology Associate Dean and MBA Director Tara Feld. “Marketing strategy is critically important to firms, particularly in highly competitive markets, ensuring brand identity and strong customer relationships.”

Marketing is a core function of an organization. In an increasingly globalized, competitive and technologically equipped business and

consumer world where there is a need for strategic, market-based decision-making, it has become ever more critical.

Students in the MBA program who concentrate on Marketing will gain a complementary set of industry-desired knowledge and skills for effective market-based decision making. Students can select courses from several specialized areas, including mobile, marketing measurement, pricing, customer relationship management (CRM) and direct and interactive marketing and get exposure to the international marketing arena. Additionally, students can choose to complete a marketing internship and an independent study project.

The Marketing program curriculum is market-driven and utilizes specific



learning-enhancing methodologies, including industry-offered micro-credentials, simulations and the development of mobile and Internet-based applications.

For more information on WIU’s Marketing MBA program, visit wiu.edu/cbt/mba, or call (309) 298-2442. ●

New Paramedic Program Led by Alumnus

At the core of Western Illinois University’s new academic programming for paramedics is a University alumnus whose educational and medical background has uniquely positioned him to lead the first program at a four-year, public higher educational institution in Illinois.

Ben Brewer is a 2010 Health Services Management program graduate and is currently finishing his doctoral degree in Education Leadership, both from WIU. He received his master’s degree in business administration (MBA) from the University of Phoenix.

Brewer is now the program director of WIU’s paramedic program, which began classes last fall. The program is the only one at a four-year, public University in Illinois and one of only about 20 in the nation.

“The classes are open for anyone interested in obtaining their Emergency Medical Technician’s (EMTs) degree certification or paramedic licensure,” said Brewer. “These courses are particularly beneficial for first responders, Fire Science or Law Enforcement majors who need

these skills for their employment upon graduation.”

In addition to teaching these classes, Brewer also works part-time as a deputy coroner for Peoria County and is a paramedic. He and his husband, Nick, are also new parents.

After graduating from WIU, Brewer became director of the EMS program for an ambulance program in Peoria, IL. He later became the director of the emergency room at Graham Hospital in Canton, IL. It was then he felt called to return to WIU to teach in the Health Services department.

“I had been teaching here and there but I decided I wanted to give back to the students,” said Brewer. “I wanted them to connect their education with real world situations. There has never been a day since when I didn’t feel like I have helped someone and they’ve helped me too.”

The new paramedic program is housed under the umbrella of WIU’s School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. It is located there to support the Emergency Management, Fire Science, Law Enforcement majors and private security professionals as they respond to disaster-related incidents. Brewer said he believes the new program at WIU is vital because

staffing shortfalls in healthcare have resulted in the need for more paramedics.

Students take five semesters of classes, which includes one summer session. After their classroom training, students complete training hours in a hospital emergency room, operating room, labor and delivery and a complete clinical field internship.

The first class began in August, and has included sessions including starting IVs, intubating airways on mannequins and therapeutic communications.

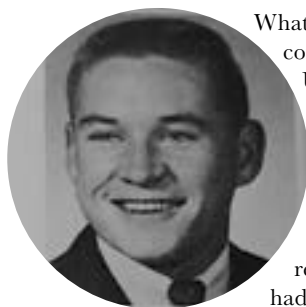
The program is working through the process of being accredited by the Commission of Accreditation for EMS Programs. Preliminary approval was granted last fall, but a site visit is forthcoming to make the distinction permanent.

Brewer and LEJA Director Jill Joline Myers felt it was important to start the program at WIU because regional employers regularly seek these skilled services and many fire departments require paramedic licensure for employment.

For more on WIU’s School of LEJA, visit wiu.edu/LEJA, or call (309) 298-1038. ●

A LIFETIME OF ALMA MATER SUPPORT

By Drew Donahoo, MS '11



What started with a single \$50 contribution to Western Illinois University in 1976, has led to a lifetime of supporting his alma mater for William (Bill) Epperly, a 1968 WIU graduate.

When reflecting on that first gift, Epperly shared, “I don’t recall what it was for, but if I had to guess I’d probably have to say Athletics.”

Forty-seven years after that first gift, Epperly now stands as WIU’s longest consecutive donor. His gifts have grown over the years, both in variety and in amount. In addition to Athletics, he provides financial support for the Performing Arts Society (PAS), the live mascot program, Horn Field Campus, and other areas, including his own scholarship in the College of Business and Technology.

“Personally, I just feel I owe a lot to Western and to my years here as a student and to my years of alumni involvement afterward,” said Epperly, who is now retired and lives in Prairie Village, KS.

Beyond his financial generosity, Epperly has given of his time significantly since graduating from WIU. Throughout the last few decades, he has served on the PAS Advisory Board, the WIU Alumni Council and the WIU Board of Trustees. Epperly was recognized with the Alumni Achievement Award in 1991, and the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002.

In Fall 2022, WIU Advancement and Alumni Relations launched the Leatherneck Loyalty League, a recognition program that honors donors who have financially supported

WIU for at least five consecutive years. The inaugural class of Loyalty League members included more than 1,600 donors. More than 350 members have been supporting WIU for more than 20 years and several dozen have been giving to WIU for more than 40 years. At 47 consecutive years of gifts, Epperly is WIU’s most sustaining donor and the highest-ranking Loyalty League member.

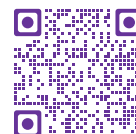
“We probably have a lot of alumni who have not given or are wavering, ‘should I give something? Should I not?’ I guess my comment is, very simply, ‘do it.’ To me, it’s had a huge impact from the standpoint of you’re helping a future generation of students. No matter how big or how small the gift, it’s going to help students become better individuals. And when you do that, it has a huge impact on yourself,” Epperly said.

“Chances are, Western gave you a lot and this is just a very small return. A big thing is, if you haven’t been giving to Western, no gift is too small. They all add up. Even small gifts will add up to having a major impact.”

Epperly’s gifts have indeed added up. Through his consistent generosity, he and his wife, Sondra, have earned membership in the Foundation Fellows Society, a giving circle reserved for donors who have contributed a minimum of \$10,000 to WIU. They also

are members of the Legacy Society for their planned gifts they have arranged to leave WIU in their estate.

Epperly’s story was featured at the WIU Donor Appreciation Banquet in April 2023. Scan the QR code with your phone, or find WIU’s YouTube channel, to watch Epperly’s video. ●



“To me, it’s had a huge impact from the standpoint of you’re helping a future generation of students.”



Epperly is WIU's most sustaining donor and the highest-ranking Loyalty League member.



What I Know Now

David R. Lumley '76

Dave Lumley has been named a bestselling author of “It’s Impossible to Commit to Maybe” by the Wall Street Journal and USA TODAY. A 1976 communication graduate, Lumley retired as CEO at Spectrum Brands, a \$5 billion consumer company. Previously, he was president at Rubbermaid, Brunswick, EAS and Outboard Marine, and also served on boards of directors at Husqvarna Corporation in Stockholm, Sweden and Valspar Corporation in Minnesota. In 2014, Lumley established an endowed scholarship in Broadcasting and continues to support several areas of the University. He serves on President Huang’s National Advisory Council, received the WIU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011, and the Alumni Achievement Award in 1990.

BUILD/UTILIZE A GOOD FOUNDATION

Decide on your field of study. Do internships. Take the tough jobs. Learn. It will be the base of your long-term business success.

TRUST YOURSELF

Embrace learning, listening, and experiences. In the end, however, follow your instincts.

GO WITH YOUR STRENGTHS

Relentless focus, effort, persistence, and using your talents, skills, and drive elevate your career. Be honest with yourself. Focus on your strengths in business.

IT’S A LONG RACE

You can win it, regardless of where you start, as long as you have a plan and follow it through.

90 PERCENT OF IT

Business success (and relationships) are about showing up ALL the time. Be persistent. Don’t give up. Find a way. Keep at it.

TELL THE TRUTH

It’s how trust works. You get one chance. No room to go back and reset. It will reward you throughout your life, regardless of how hard it is sometimes.

THE PENALTY OF TRUE LEADERSHIP

Want to be a good leader? Build trust, communicate well and know others will target you to get what they want. Stay true to your goals and address those people and issues directly who try to bring the team down.

DO WHAT YOU SAY WHEN YOU SAY

Great relationships and results in life and business are built, in many ways, by using this simple but direct approach. Do it all the time.

LEARN HOW TO SPEAK AND WRITE WELL

To succeed at just about anything today is knowing how to communicate well to all audiences. Invest your time to achieve these skills.

BE BOLD

Prepare. Plan. Build your confidence. Go forward, always.

IT’S IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMIT TO MAYBE

So many people, companies, schools, teams, and most organizations ask you to commit to them. That is fine. Are they committing to you? Insist on it, or move on. Everything works much better when both sides are committed!

THE WIU ADVANTAGE

Straight up, WIU provided me with these numerous opportunities: I wrote for the campus newspaper, helped publish the WIU yearbook, worked on the community TV station and I anchored a sports interview show, spent four years on the Leatherneck football team, Greek life, and and went on field trips. I learned about relationships, teachings and the confidence it took to move forward in my career successfully, including being admitted to graduate school at Northwestern University. Western is a special place, especially if you embrace it. ●



“Western is a special place, especially if you embrace it.”



STRAIGHT FROM A STUDENT

Elizabeth Lutz, '22 Communication and Sociology graduate, MS student in Quantitative Economics, from California, MO

I originally came to Western Illinois University because I was recruited out of high school to play basketball here: I sure came for the basketball, but I stayed for the people.

I'm now in my fifth year here at Western Illinois and have been able to obtain three bachelor's degrees while actively pursuing a master's degree in Quantitative Economics.

With one exception, I have experienced only the best in terms of staff and faculty throughout my time in Macomb. I've generally found my professors to be extremely supportive of my basketball career. Many have come to games, sent me "good luck" emails on away trips, and been understanding in my athletic-related absences.

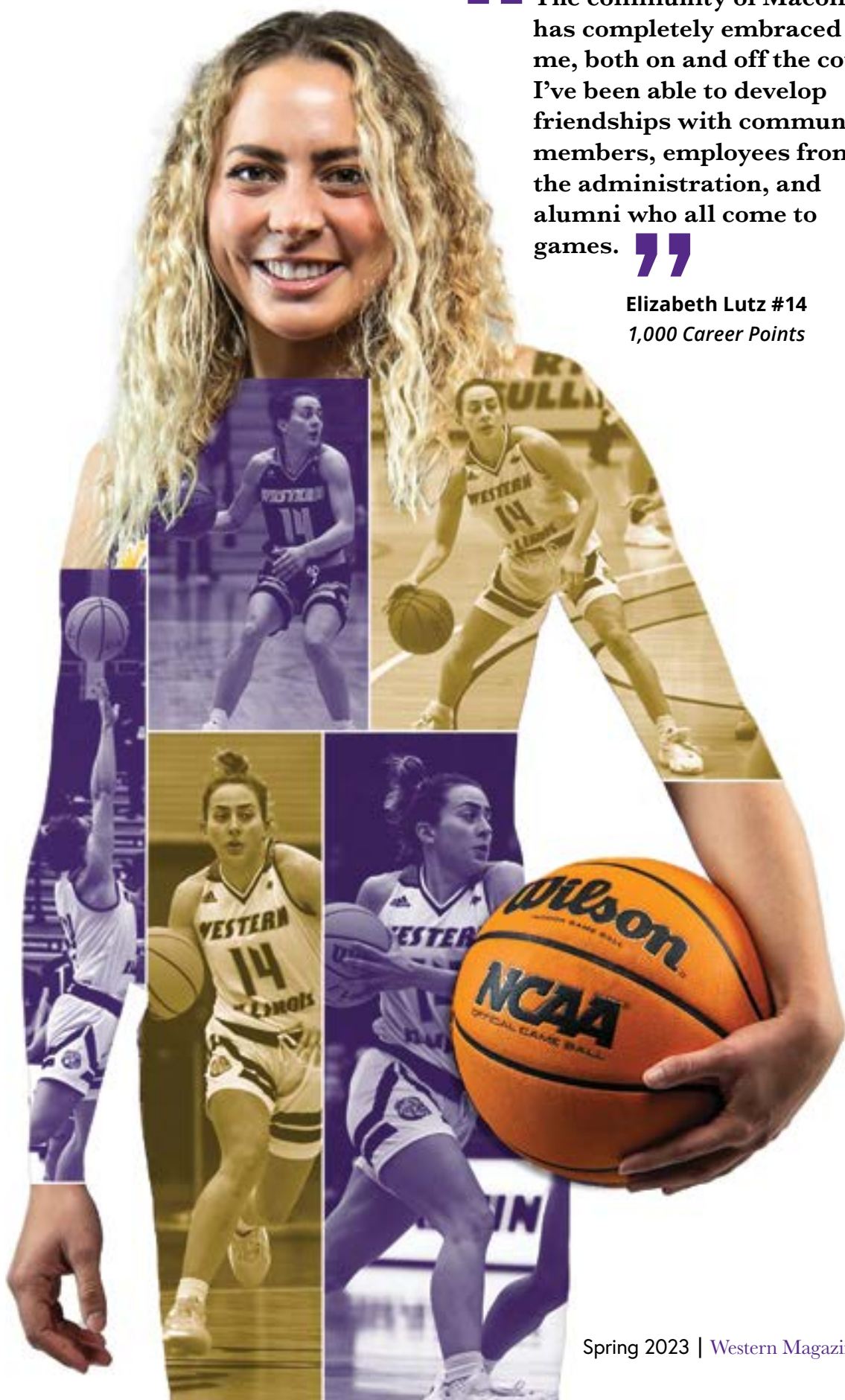
The community of Macomb has completely embraced me, both on and off the court. I've been able to develop friendships with community members, employees from the administration, and alumni who all come to games. As a female athlete, you don't always get the kind of attention and support as male counterparts in collegiate sports—but that is not the case at Western.

At WIU, athletes and nonathletes alike are elevated to maximize their potential. I always tell underclassmen that Western is their oyster. If you can dream it, you can do it at Western.

Moving forward to now pursue a law degree next fall, I am completely positive that Western has prepared me for this next step. I feel prepared academically, and know that my dreams of law school could not be a reality without the continued support of the village that raised me at Western. From coaches to professors and teammates to classmates, a Tradition of Toughness has been instilled in me.

The work ethic, grit, and ambition that Western has taught me will carry on with me throughout my entire professional career and personal life. I'll never forget the memories I've made in this town and am certain that I will look back on my time spent in Macomb as "the good ol' days." ●





“ The community of Macomb has completely embraced me, both on and off the court. I’ve been able to develop friendships with community members, employees from the administration, and alumni who all come to games. ”

Elizabeth Lutz #14
1,000 Career Points

Straight
from a
Student

Construction Underway Center for Performing Arts

On-Site Work Began Sept. 1

By Jodi K. Pospeschil, MA '15

Construction of Western Illinois University's 100,000-square-foot Center for Performing Arts (CPA) is underway after state funding for the project was released last fall.

The \$110 million College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) project is scheduled for completion in early 2025. The building will include spaces for classrooms, offices, practice rooms, studios and performances. Taking shape at the construction site currently is the Great Hall, a 900-seat Proscenium theatre and state-of-the-art space for arts productions and touring shows.

"At present, you can see the Great Hall Auditorium beginning to take shape well below ground level," said COFAC Dean Billy Clow. "There are upwards of 50-plus construction workers forming and setting the rebar, preparing for concrete.

There is noticeable progress on a daily basis."

A live-stream camera, located at bit.ly/WIUCPASTREAM, looks over the site and provides a 24-hour a day look at construction progress. The streaming site also includes a link that captures a still image of the site every 30 seconds.

WIU's administration first began lobbying for the new building, for arts programming and performances, in the early 1970s. The CPA is also the first state-funded building added to the Macomb campus since the 1970s.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker was on campus Oct. 7 for a groundbreaking ceremony and to announce the project's funding as part of his Rebuild Illinois capital plan. River City Construction, LLC, of Peoria, IL, is the general contractor for the project. Cannon Design is the architect-of-record overseeing the project, and Pelli Clarke Pelli is the architectural design firm.



Ground was broken in October for construction on WIU's Center for Performing Arts, on the west side of campus. The facility is slated for an early 2025 completion.

y on WIU's Arts



“After nearly 50 years, I am thrilled that Western Illinois University will receive state funding for the construction of the Center for Performing Arts,” said Pritzker at the groundbreaking. “This will not only provide WIU students with a state-of-the-art performance facility, but also give our western Illinois communities a place to gather and enjoy all that the arts have to offer.”

Guests at the groundbreaking, who were strong advocates for the CPA project over the years, included WIU President Emeritus Alvin Goldfarb and WIU alumnus and former Illinois State Sen. Kirk Dillard '77, who was recently appointed to the WIU Board of Trustees.

WIU President Guiyou Huang said the construction funding and the construction changes are exciting news for the campus and for its students.

“We look forward to watching the building construction progress and anxiously await the day we can celebrate the grand opening,” Huang said. “The Center for Performing Arts will enhance Western’s academic distinction and provide our region with contemporary music, dance and theatre facilities. This is a true investment for WIU and west central Illinois. Once again, we extend our gratitude to the Governor, our legislators, the CDB, businesses, alumni, friends and donors for their dedication to this project.”

Clow said the movement of dirt at the site is an exciting step toward completion of the building and the spaces it provides for University faculty, staff and students.

“So many people have put their hearts and souls into this dream over the years, and the sight of bulldozers finally makes this dream a reality,” Clow said. “From our current students to scores of future Leathernecks, this center will be the cornerstone of an outstanding educational experience at WIU.”

To learn more about the project, or to see videos and photographs from the groundbreaking ceremony, visit wiu.edu/CPA. ●



COFAC Dean Billy Clow is pictured with Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and WIU President Guiyou Huang during the October groundbreaking ceremony.



A 24-hour streaming site is available to watch construction on the Center for Performing Arts building at bit.ly/WIUCPASTREAM.



The Center's Great Hall Auditorium is beginning to take shape below ground level.



The completed CPA will include spaces for classrooms, offices, practice rooms, studios and performances.



“We are incredibly grateful to our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, parents and students who expressed their Leatherneck Pride with a gift during the Western Challenge this year and every year,” said Tim Hallinan ‘95, who serves as director of Annual Giving and coordinates the Western Challenge. “The impact they have on our students and our University cannot be overstated.”

The “Challenge” aspect of the Day of Giving comes from alumni who pledge to contribute a chosen dollar amount – usually \$1,000 or more – to an area of campus if donors collectively contribute an equal amount. These challenges and additional opportunities for donors to have their gifts matched dollar-for-dollar, generated even more excitement and enthusiasm for giving, while adding to the celebratory spirit of Purple and Gold Day.

Although the Western Challenge is a fundraising event that supports the WIU Foundation’s year-round Annual Fund effort, its significance is not limited to the money raised. Along with Purple and Gold Day, the Western Challenge strengthens the Leatherneck sense of community. It allows everyone to play a part in elevating Western’s profile among sources of additional support and among future students. It also raises awareness of alumni giving among current students.



On April 24, Western Illinois University held its seventh annual Western Challenge Day of Giving, calling upon Every Leatherneck, Everywhere to show their support for the institution that provided them with knowledge, skills and opportunities to succeed, while also celebrating Purple and Gold Day.

The idea of a day of giving is not exclusive to Western. Many organizations and institutions have been organizing similar events for years. However, the Western Challenge Day of Giving is unique in that it is specifically focused on showcasing Western’s philanthropic opportunities and connecting them with the individual passions of friends and alumni everywhere.

More than 1,200 alumni and friends contributed during the Western Challenge, raising \$228,919 for academic programs, scholarships, student services, facilities improvements and Athletics – a record number of donors and dollars raised during the Western Challenge.

A Day for





Every Leatherneck Everywhere

Peal Ahamed Shanto '23 is one of many students who helped to get the word out about the Western Challenge through phone calls and texts on April 24.

“The number of alumni who give back to support students like me is inspiring,” said Shanto. “It has been rewarding to help alumni connect to Western and build upon their relationship with us through giving. Their generosity has encouraged me and many others to do our best.”

“Thank you one more time to Leathernecks around the world for once again breaking Western Challenge records. It’s always

a lot of fun, and I’m glad we brought some of that fun on-campus by hand-delivering some of our appreciation this year,” said Mac Price '14, assistant director of Annual Giving. “I always enjoy peeking into the unique stories of each donor through their gift, whether it’s a scholarship, club, or program. The place they dedicate their gift tells a lot about a person and what’s near and dear to their purple-and-gold heart.”

Gifts made through the Western Challenge contribute to the campaign totals of the For The W: The Capital Campaign for Western Illinois University. To learn more, and to make your gift, visit wiu.edu/fortheW or wiu.edu/give or call (309) 298-1861. ●



IIRA at WIU celebrates 34 Years

For the past 34 years, the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, (IIRA) has offered a variety of applied research, educational programs, community outreach and other services that support community and economic development improvements across rural Illinois.

IIRA Emeritus Director Norman Walzer founded the IIRA in 1989. Current Director and Dean for Innovation and Economic Development Chris Merrett took over in 2005, when Walzer retired to become a senior research scholar at Northern Illinois University.

The IIRA office, located in Western Illinois University's Stipes Hall, fills a variety of critical needs across the state, including identifying economic development opportunities; attracting, retaining, and creating businesses; enhancing the quality of education; ensuring access to health care and improving quality of life.

IIRA started as part of a Rural Revitalization Initiative launched by Illinois Governor Jim Thompson in the midst of the Farm Crisis of the 1980s. Thompson, and Lieutenant Gov. George Ryan, faced pressure to more closely examine the needs of Illinois' rural areas that faced farm closures, losses in school enrollments, shuttered stores, and population declines in small communities.

Governor Thompson created a bipartisan task force, composed of state legislators and community leaders, which held 25 public meetings across the state. A team of scholars from WIU, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois conducted research in support of this task force. Because of these meetings and research, the state created the Governor's Rural Affairs Council (GRAC) in 1987. The GRAC, chaired by the Lt. Governor, served as a central

agency where rural communities could find assistance from multiple state agencies simultaneously, instead of having to meet with each agency separately.

The IIRA was founded in 1981, at WIU to serve as a companion agency to the GRAC. A 1991 Governor's Executive Order identifies the IIRA as, "the state's academic clearinghouse for rural development data and initiatives." Since 1989, the IIRA has served in partnership with the GRAC to identify rural development needs and help the GRAC identify innovative strategies to address these issues.

Because Walzer chaired WIU's Economics department, and had conducted rural research, he was asked to serve on the Task Force research team, and to start the IIRA.

"My on-going research on rural economic development issues made it a natural fit," said Walzer. "WIU committed local funds to the formation of the office including some of my time. Without the commitment by WIU, the IIRA would have been awarded to another university."

For 34 years, the IIRA has been committed to its mission: "To improve the quality of life in rural areas by partnering with public and private agencies on local development and enhancement projects."



Pictured, from left, in the Economics conference room in Stipes Hall, are Lou DiFonso, assistant director of GRAC; Scott Wiseman '87, WIU GA in Economics; Norm Walzer; and Don Norton '77 MA '91, director of GRAC. The picture, in the late 1980s, is during the planning stages of the IIRA.

Since its creation, the IIRA established the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Peace Corps Fellows (PCFs) program, MAPPING the Future of Your Community, the Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC), the Rural Economic Technical Assistance Center and the Value-Added Sustainable Development Center (VASDC). Its programs and faculty have garnered 80 awards from various local, state and national groups.

Merrett came to WIU in 1995 as



of Helping Illinois' Small Towns



a faculty member. In the years since Merrett became director, the IIRA has grown further, adding a master's degree in Community and Economic Development, starting a SBDC on WIU's Quad Cities campus and establishing a Procurement Technical Assistance Center on the Macomb campus. The PCFs program has also grown, as has the MAPPING program, which partners with communities in a strategic visioning process.

Merrett noted that WIU alumni provide leadership and manage the IIRA's constituent programs. Sandy Wittig '11, with an MBA '13 serves as the IIRA deputy director. Gisele Hamm '89 MA '91, with a master's degree in economics from WIU, manages the MAPPING program, which helps places create community economic development plans. Hamm's work helped Mattoon, IL, secure a \$250,000 Google Impact Challenge award to create a business incubator. Rushville, IL, constructed a new fitness center after going through the MAPPING program.

Karen Mauldin-Curtis MA '97, with a master's degree in Geography from WIU, manages the PCFs program. She recruits Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to enroll in one of 11 graduate programs at WIU. After spending two semesters on the WIU campus, these PCFs serve an 11-month, 40-hour per week internship in a rural Illinois community. PCFs have helped rural communities with business recruitment, land use planning, and other community initiatives. Several PCFs have earned the Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

Sean Park MA '00, with a master's degree in Economics from WIU, manages the VASDC. The center recently received federal funds to address "food deserts" in locations across Illinois. VASDC uses a co-op model to open grocery stores in places, including Winchester, IL, Mt. Pulaski, IL; Toulon, IL; and Lynch, NE. Two more stores are in progress for Sheffield, IL, and Cairo, IL. The *New York Times* interviewed Park for the work he has been doing to start up rural grocery stores across the state.

Dave Patton '90 MA '93, with a master's degree in Geography from WIU, directs the RTAC. This program helps to start and

then provide technical assistance to sustain rural transit systems across the state. Mobility is an essential part of any community and RTAC helps rural communities ensure everyone can get a ride regardless of age, income or ability status.

The WIU SBDCs and PTAC also provide award-winning business outreach with support from WIU graduates. The Hispanic Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce recognized the WIU SBDC and Monse Magallon-Perez MA '20 with a master's degree in Community and Economic Development from WIU as its 2020 Small Business Advocate of the Year. Theresa Ebeler '01, with a bachelor's degree in Communication from WIU manages the PTAC, which helps businesses sell goods and services to local, state and federal government agencies.

Since its founding in 1989, the IIRA has raised over \$48 million in external funds from agencies such as USDA-Rural Development, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Development Administration, AmeriCorps, Google, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to serve over 500 communities in Illinois, Iowa, South Dakota, and the Mexican state of Chiapas. The IIRA has used these funds to support research and offer technical assistance to communities, resulting in the creation of new convenience stores, new business startups, housing subdivisions, festivals, business incubators, recreational facilities, community foundations, broadband expansion, increased social capital and other community and economic development outcomes.

"We want to be seen as a non-partisan group, which makes the world a slightly better place by helping communities see themselves differently," said Merrett. "Sometimes people don't know what to do and we help communities to reimagine themselves, and we are, indirectly, ambassadors of WIU."

Merrett encourages alumni and friends of WIU to reach out if they have questions about how the IIRA could help their communities and businesses to thrive.

For more information about the IIRA, visit wiu.edu/IIRA or call (309) 298-2237. ●

A Sound Career Path

An aerial night photograph of a large outdoor concert venue. The stage is brightly lit with purple and white lights, and a massive crowd of people fills the arena. The surrounding area is dark, with some buildings and parking lots visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and energetic.

**Alumnus
becomes major
tour promoter**

By Jodi K. Pospeschil MA '15
Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

Before Western Illinois University alumnus Brian O'Connell was promoting the touring shows of some of country music's biggest names, he was booking artists like the Beach Boys to perform at Western in the 1980s, and joining his friends as DJs at The Ritz, as part of the nightlife in downtown Macomb.

Sitting in his Nashville, TN, office one afternoon recently, O'Connell recalled his time at Western, his memories of growing his career interests on campus, of people like the late Bill Brattain, who influenced his path, and of his favorite Macomb dining experience, a tenderloin horseshoe from the Jackson Street Pub.

The now president of Country Touring and Festivals, Live Nation in Nashville, TN, said he initially chose WIU in 1983, because his brother, Dennis '78, had come to campus nine years ahead of him. He also appreciated that Amtrak ran between Macomb and Chicago, making trips home more convenient.

"Before college, I was in Arlington Heights, doing kid things," said O'Connell. "I was a typical child; when the street lights came on, you went home for dinner. I played every sport—and, realistically, I went to college because I was out of high school eligibility and I couldn't go pro."

Brother Dennis also fueled O'Connell's love of music during the 1970s, a time when FM radio was just beginning its period of popularity, and only AM stations were available on most car radios. His love of music was also fostered by listening to Chicago's WLS radio station and visiting Pioneer Park to watch for the Magic Bus.

"Dennis was into music and, if he had four albums, he would have been more into music than I was as a 9-year-old," O'Connell said. "(In terms of a career,) the first thing that popped into my brain was that I wanted to be a DJ. If I had a career goal that would have to have been it, but there is no test you take for that."

Arriving at WIU

The self-proclaimed "Chicago Irish Catholic kid," said through his late-teen lens of the world, he connected his brother's WIU graduation and ability to get a job afterward as his influences to enroll at WIU.

"My brother had become successful, and that meant that he had a job ... a good job," O'Connell said. "And, he had nothing but good things to say about Macomb."

O'Connell vividly remembers his parents dropping him off at Henninger Hall in August 1983; a time he recalls as both "blurry" and a "whirlwind."

"I was a complete fish out of water. I had never been here, and I didn't know where anything was," he said. "I met a few people that weekend and they showed me around. I also met people living on the ninth floor of Henninger Hall who are still friends to this day."



Brian O'Connell

O'Connell admits the social aspects of college were an important part of his life, but learning WIU had a mass communication program and two radio stations, WIUS and WIUM, piqued his interests.

"Sometimes the square was more important than the quad," he joked. "It took me a few times to figure everything out."

At about the same time, WIU Athletics was promoting "Project 12,000," to increase student attendance at Leatherneck Football games. O'Connell got the idea to broadcast the football games from the stadium with equipment from Sallee Hall "completely unsupervised."

"I had no idea if anyone was even listening," he said.

He and a group of friends also worked as the DJs at The Ritz in downtown Macomb on the less well-attended evenings. He remembers that the last song of each night shift was "The Load Out/Stay," by Jackson Browne, and songs like "Roxanne," by The Police were used to alert tavern patrons that Macomb Police officers had entered the building.

Finding His Direction

O'Connell called his first 18 months as a Leatherneck a "fricking disaster," when he was "going nowhere in an absolute hurry." It was about that same time he discovered the Office of Student Activities (OSA) in the University Union one afternoon and his life, and the goals he had for his career, were transformed.

"The way the Union operated lit the fire and turned the electricity on, and it turned my entire life around," he said.

A love of serving in student government was also born at that time, when O'Connell began working under Brattain, the former associate vice president for Student Services, as well as Jim Miner, retired Campus Recreation director, who had an 18-year run as OSA director. O'Connell credits both men with having the "world's largest amount of grace," and for helping unlock his potential. Dear friend Howard Parr '84, MS '86,

also helped O'Connell navigate the OSA landscape.

"The idea that you can have an effect on other people is not in a textbook," O'Connell said. "The opportunity to spotlight OSA and student government was really fun. The day I walked into the Student Tenant Union changed my life in a hurry and I couldn't get enough of it."

Brattain also helped teach him the skills of showing respect and learning patience. O'Connell and other alumni influenced by Brattain later helped raise money to renovate and rename space in the University Union as the Brattain Lounge.

During his three years of serving as Speaker of the Student Senate, O'Connell also began working with Brattain and others to attract national acts to WIU, including the Beach Boys and Tony Bennett. A highlight for O'Connell is when WIU Emeritus President Ralph Waggoner invited his father to dinner on campus and told the elder O'Connell that his son had helped put WIU "back on the map" by recruiting the national entertainment to campus.

A Career Begins

After leaving WIU in 1988, O'Connell began working as a road sponsorship representative for booking acts like the Beach Boys, Kenny Rogers, Barry Manilow, the Judds, Frank Sinatra and the Moody Blues. A reputation for being the "guy who could talk to the bands," was developing during a period when country music began emerging and the clubs of Chicago were booking country bands more often.

He also began to develop a niche for promoting country acts specifically, and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in 1993, to work for Jack Boyle and Cellar Door Productions.

"I was making \$600 per week and I moved my wife and my 2-month-old to Florida," he said. "But it was like jet fuel. Jack gave me free reign and I was able to do things others didn't have the opportunity to. I was booking the Rolling Stones at Joe Robbie Stadium during the day, and at night, I was a hillbilly concert promoter."

After three years in Florida, Boyle moved O'Connell and his family to Washington, D.C. to run his office there. A few years later, Boyle sold his business and moved O'Connell's young family to Nashville, TN, where he went "kicking and screaming because I thought I'd done something wrong," said O'Connell. But Boyle reassured O'Connell that if he made the move he would always have a job.

In Nashville, O'Connell became president of Clear Channel Entertainment before moving to Live Nation. Through this process, he developed a passion, or a "side hustle" of creating music festivals across the country, including "Tortuga," in Florida; "Faster Horses," in Michigan; "Watershed," in Washington; "Beach It," in Virginia; "Tidal Wave," in New Jersey; and "Seven Peaks," in Colorado.

The touring artists he works with currently include Morgan Wallen, Miranda Lambert, Brooks and Dunn, Dierks Bentley, Tim McGraw, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Thomas Rhett.

O'Connell has been named promoter of the year six times in 12 years by the Country Music Association (CMA) and 10 times



O'Connell calls his time with performers Brooks and Dunn a "real full-circle moment," because he worked with the pair from the release of their first single to their induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2019.



Luke Bryan, right, is one of the artists O'Connell represents. In 2018, Bryan became the first country music artist to play at Dodger Stadium, as well as to sell out the facility.

in 20 years by the Academy of Country Music (ACM)—you can only win every other year. He earned the CMA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017, and sits on the boards of both the CMA and ACM. Over the years O’Connell has also held several positions on Billboard magazine’s Power 100 list.

But it’s the longevity of the relationships he has developed in the country music industry O’Connell is most proud of, which includes watching first hand as the performers he promotes for progress through their careers, and the employees who have been with him along the way.

“When Brooks and Dunn were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2019, it was a real full-circle moment because I was with them for the entire ride, from their first single to their induction,” he said. “I’m also proud of the team we have built here; the quality people who have stuck with the plan, as crazy as I am.”

Stressing the importance of giving back, O’Connell has also planned numerous charitable concerts for causes over the years including the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and COVID-19 benefits at drive-in movie theaters. He noted that COVID completely altered his profession during the years it has impacted the world; however, he is learning that the demand for live music in the present day is increasing and the time in history has helped create new opportunities.

A highlight for O’Connell is when WIU Emeritus President Ralph Waggoner invited his father to dinner on campus and told the elder O’Connell that his son had helped put WIU “back on the map” by recruiting the national entertainment to campus.

A Family Legacy

While O’Connell’s brother was the first to attend WIU, their attendance launched a progression of family members to choose WIU for higher education. Dennis met his wife, Pam at Western, and O’Connell met his wife, Amy, while he was on campus. The couple have two children.

Several other members of the family have also attended WIU since that time.

In 2007, O’Connell received the Alumni Achievement Award from WIU.

When considering his time at Western, and the path his career has directed his life, O’Connell’s early love of music seems the common thread to developing his highly-respected career. Though he spends more than 250 days per year on the road with the multiple musical tours he promotes, during this interview, holding a baseball in his hand and wearing a Wrigleyville sweatshirt, he was most excited about a trip to Spring Training to

see this year’s Chicago Cubs.

His Western memories bring a smile to his face as he carefully re-tells and enjoys each story. The majority contain a connection to people and places that remain important to him, both in Macomb and throughout his life. Those are the stories that are the building blocks of a unique career and life built on a passion for music and memories of his time as a Leatherneck. ●



O’Connell is pictured talking with country artist Morgan Wallen, right, who is currently on tour in the United States.



O’Connell has produced tours for some of the biggest names in country music, including Jason Aldean.

Blast from the Past

THE ONGOING HISTORY OF THE WIU FOUNDATION



By Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94, WIU Archives



**WIU's 12th Dr President
Guiyou Huang**

The public phase of For the W, Western's most historic fundraising campaign to date, with a goal of \$100 million, was officially announced by WIU President Guiyou Huang and Foundation Executive Officer Brad Bainter '79 MS '83 during the campaign kick-off and the 2022 Founder's Day celebration last fall.

"We are so excited to kick off Western Illinois University's comprehensive campaign. WIU's people—those who came before us—made Western Illinois University a reality. And today,

Western Illinois University's success is because of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends," said Huang.

"We've had great growth in our endowment over the past decade, and our goal is to further grow our scholarship endowment to assist the University in attracting more students to Western," said Bainter. "We have outstanding programs that need support to continue to grow and improve with the ever-changing needs and demands of today's workforce. We need Western to be strong for our community, our region, our state and for our 140,000 alumni. And we need our alumni and friends to stand up and support WIU."

Throughout the Western Illinois University Foundation's storied history, millions of dollars in gifts, grants and endowment-generated earnings have been provided to support the University. The Foundation support is woven into virtually every aspect of University life, ranging from millions of dollars in scholarships for students to funding provided for University events and educational programming.



**WIU's fourth President
Frank A. Beu (1942-58)**

Since the Western Illinois State Teachers College Foundation was established by WIU's fourth President Frank Beu in 1946, it has served as the mechanism for WIU to receive contributions for the benefit of the University and its students.

According to "First Century," written by Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Hallwas '67 MS '68, who also gave the 2022 Founder's Day address, Beu created the Foundation "to encourage financial and other gifts to the college." At about the same time, Beu made use of, for the

first time in Western's history, the concept of the self-liquidating capital development project to fund a campus improvement, the construction of a new grandstand. It was also during this time he authorized the organization of fraternities and sororities and Western began offering one- and two-year programs in basic education.

The Foundation was officially chartered on Dec. 17, 1946, by the state of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation for educational and charitable purposes, with the school's business manager, Oscar L. Champion, as its director. From 1946-70, the Foundation served as a receiving agency for private gifts and grants for Western. Longtime



**Oscar L. Champion,
first director of the
Foundation**



**WIU's sixth President
John T. Bernhard
(1968-74)**

History Professor Harvey C. Seal died March 10, 1952, and left most of his estate, totaling more than \$60,000, to be used as a loan fund for junior and senior students. His estate was the first sizable bequest to the Foundation, and provided the first real impetus for future contributions focused on grants and scholarships to assist students.

In 1957, under President Beu, the Teachers College Board authorized a four-year liberal arts and sciences program leading to a bachelor's degree, and the state legislature

changed the name of the school to Western Illinois University.

A turning point in the focus and function of the Foundation came in 1970, when the Foundation's constitution was updated to allow for a board expanded to represent alumni, professional and corporate leaders, faculty, staff and students, and its name was changed to the Western Illinois University Foundation.

In addition, the Foundation's mission was changed with the 1970 hiring of John Sayre, the first director of Development, and the two-year acting director of Alumni Affairs. Into the 1960s, the only fundraising activity the Foundation engaged in was an annual solicitation letter sent to area businesses, industries and individuals with direct ties to the University. Sayre implemented a variety of activities and initiatives, including annual giving programs targeted at alumni and parents, a Leatherneck Club to support men's athletics, a senior gift program, and the personal solicitation of businesses and individuals. He also began to solicit funds through trusts and individual estates, a practice that continues, and is now known as planned giving.

All of this was taking place under President John Bernhard (1968-74), as the Baby Boom generation was becoming college-aged, and as Western's enrollment was exploding.

In 1976, during the early part of President Leslie Malpass's administration, a new vice-president, James Norvell '60, assumed leadership of Public Affairs and Development. He passed away during his first year in office, and Ralph Wagoner succeeded him.

According to a history of the WIU Foundation, located in the University Archives, "The arrival of Dr. Wagoner, and activities generated by Foundation Board members in fiscal year 1977-78, marked a major turning point in Foundation history, and in private philanthropy generally for WIU." Prior to this time, there had been little or no systematic development programming, or planned giving promotion, and, in the 10 years preceding Wagoner's involvement with the Foundations, the average total in gifts, pledges and planned giving had been just \$201,561.



**WIU's seventh
President Leslie F.
Malpass (1974-87)**

The Campaign for Western

Early in 1978, Wagoner launched the Campaign for Western, which had a goal of raising \$3.95 million over four years. As the Foundation history states, "The Campaign was designed to increase the private financial resources available to the University and the WIU Foundation. Focal points were academic support, scholarships and Foundation operational monies through current funds and endowment expectancies [monies earmarked for Western in wills and trusts]."



**WIU's eighth President
Ralph H. Wagoner
(1987-93)**

The systematic design of the program, the updates made in computer technology, and the increased use of volunteer help, drove the total raised by June 1981 to \$8.25 million, an astounding 208.4% of the campaign's goal. Due to the success of the effort, the Foundation decided to extend the campaign to June 1985, with a goal of raising an additional \$6.7 million. By the end of 1983, an additional \$6.8 million had been raised. With contributions exceeding the goal, the time was extended once again, this time to June 30, 1988. By mid-1988, another \$11 million was raised, bringing the total for the now 10-year Campaign for Western to over \$26 million.

One contributing factor was the revitalization and expansion of the Foundation Board, with representation from all 16 counties in the region. Another was the University's renewed emphasis on activities and programs focused on western Illinois, "generating greater public awareness of, and support for, private philanthropy from individuals who were themselves alumni of Western, who sent their sons and daughters there, and who in direct ways benefited economically and culturally in accordance with the school's success."

Partnership: The Path to Excellence

Slated to run through 1994, the key to this campaign, as Foundation history notes, was "the focus it brings on the external needs of a public university, which desires to serve its region and the state. The campaign is unique, and the goal is ambitious. Yet in its three distinct components, the plan clearly addresses the missions of this institution: teaching, research and public service."

The campaign established three distinct monetary goals, corresponding to its three components. The first was for philanthropic support, through the Foundation, for the purpose of attracting and retaining academically-talented students, and promoting diversity within the University community. The second was to secure federal, state and private funds to support research projects. A few of those were to involve the use of computers to teach students with disabilities to use satellite television to support education, the study of successes and challenges experienced by foster parents, the enhancement of education in the sciences, and the biological analysis of the Mississippi River. The third component provided support for economic development through outreach initiatives such as the Corridor of Opportunity Program, Small Business Centers, the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Business Technology Centers and the Technology Commercialization Center.

The case for support for the Partnership: The Path to Excellence program is summarized in a promotional flyer in the following way: “Western Illinois University has a rich tradition of teaching, research and public service. As a public university with strong regional ties, we are dedicated to providing the best education available to our students, and serving the economic and research needs of our region and state. At Western, we honor this commitment with sensitivity for the betterment of society. The principle of partnership applies to everyone here—our students, faculty, staff, and all of the WIU family, regardless of sex, race, age, creed, color or physical ability.”

The deeper purpose of the campaign was to recall and reaffirm the University’s dedication to all of its stakeholders, within and beyond campus bounds.

After President Malpass retired in 1987, Wagoner became WIU’s eighth president.

The Centennial Campaign for Western

Launched in 1995 by Western’s ninth President Donald S. Spencer and Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and Foundation Executive Officer Larry Mortier ’70 MS ’71, the Centennial Campaign for Western celebrated WIU’s 100-year-old heritage and its future. Mortier served in this role from 1994, until his retirement in 2005.

A goal was set at \$20 million. Unlike previous campaigns, federal and state grants, among other funds, were no longer allowed to be counted in campaign totals by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education’s Global Reporting Standards (standards, guidelines, and definitions for reporting the results of educational philanthropy activities at schools, colleges, and universities across the globe), making it the first true five-year fundraising campaign.

The Campaign focused on four central themes: graduating the best prepared, most ambitious students in Illinois; developing a University that is globally aware and technologically advanced; preparing the campus for the 21st century; and maintaining the strength of existing programs and services.

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the thousands of our loyal alumni and friends who supported the campaign,” Mortier said. “These new resources have increased scholarship opportunities for our students, enhanced quality and innovation, and created an even more productive and technologically advanced teaching-learning environment on our campus.”

Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education

With a seven-year fundraising goal of \$60 million, the Set the Standard campaign was initiated under 10th President Al Goldfarb in 2007. Under the leadership of Bainter, who had been promoted to Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and Foundation Executive Officer, by 2014 it had surpassed its goal with \$62.1 million raised.



WIU’s ninth President Spencer (1994-01)



Larry Mortier Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and Executive Officer

“Student success is the goal of the entire Western community,” Goldfarb said during the campaign kick-off. “Our promise is to educate and prepare a diverse student population to thrive in and contribute to our global society. We accomplish this through the individual attention we give to our students, and through our commitment to our core values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.”

“Words really cannot express our appreciation for the generosity shown during this campaign. The real success of the campaign is the impact on our students and our campuses,” Bainter added.

For the W: The Campaign for Western Illinois University

With more than \$42 million raised during the quiet phase of For the W, the campaign’s priorities include raising funds for scholarships; student and academic support; technology advancements; diversity, equity and inclusion and faculty support. After the successful launch of the campaign, Bainter, who is Western’s longest serving chief fundraising officer, plans to retire in the coming year. Clare Thompson has been appointed Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, and will join the Leatherneck family at the end of June.



WIU’s tenth President Al Goldfarb (2002-11)



Brad Bainter Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and Executive Officer

“It has been my distinct honor to have served Western for over 40 years and to have been a part of three different campaigns” said Bainter. “WIU is a special place and our alumni have done amazing things in all different fields. Western has been put through so very much over these last six years that she did not deserve. We have survived, and with the resolve of and support from our alumni and friends for this campaign, I believe with all my heart that the future is bright for Western.”

Many student academic dreams have been fulfilled because of the Foundation’s rich history of service and of exceptionally-successful campaigns. The Foundation helps guide the decisions on the best investment of donors’ gifts.

The Foundation’s endowment has grown significantly in the last decade from \$19 million in 2009 to nearly \$90 million today, with an asset base of over \$90 million.

For more information on the WIU Foundation and contributing to For the W, visit wiu.edu/foundation or call (309) 298-1861. ●

Elliott, Weiss Named 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



John A. Elliott
Class of 1965

Western Illinois University alumni John A. Elliott, '65 and Warren M. Weiss, '78, were named the University's 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Both were recognized during the Saturday, May 13 Commencement ceremonies.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, given since 1973, recognizes alumni who have brought credit to the University and themselves through exceptional professional accomplishments, meritorious service to

ensure the continued excellence of WIU and through service to their communities at the national, state or local levels.

Elliott, a 1965 Social Studies graduate, currently serves as CEO Emeritus of National Express Group LLC, and was recognized during the 1 p.m. Commencement ceremony.

He began his career as an educator, first in the Kankakee School District as a teacher, later as a central office administrator and then onto Lockport High School District. In 1972, he joined KAL Leasing and was appointed President in 1974. KAL was acquired by RYDER System in 1986, and Elliott served as a general manager, then Senior Vice President of Ryder Student Transportation. That organization was acquired by First Group PLC. in 1999, and was renamed First Student, with Elliott as its President in January 2000. Later that year he was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Durham School Services (a division of National Express Group PLC), eventually being named Chief Executive Officer in 2004, as the organization had acquired Stock Transportation in Canada and other student transportation companies throughout the US.

Elliott has established the Joann Amos Elliott Memorial Scholarships at WIU in loving memory of his wife, whom he met at Western. He has been a strong supporter of his alma mater over the years including support for scholarships, Athletics, the Alumni Association and History department. He participated in track and field at Western and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega. Elliott received the WIU Alumni Achievement Award in 2017.

He served on the Board of the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) for more than 20 years. He received the NSTA Hall of Fame Award in 2006, was named School Bus Fleet Contractor of the Year in 2007, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from National Express Group PLC in 2014. Having served on many local boards, he has served on the National Board of Canine Companions for Independence since 2001.

Weiss, a 1978 law enforcement graduate, and Founder and Managing Partner at WestWave Capital and Partner Emeritus at Foundation Capital, was recognized at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony.

Affectionately known as "Bunny," Weiss has had decades of success uncovering tech giants in their emerging stages. His work on SilverSpring Networks earned him a spot on the Forbes Midas List of Technology's Top Investors. He is a four-time CEO of venture backed companies, and worked with Steve Jobs at NeXT.



Warren M. "Bunny" Weiss
Class of 1978

Weiss serves on the board of Binarly and Secuvy for WestWave Capital. He remains a General Partner on past funds at Foundation Capital (where he no longer makes new investments) and serves on the boards of ForgeRock (IPO) and Visier. He is also on the board of the Weiss Scholarship Foundation, a charity that provides education to children in Kenya.

Weiss's close ties with leading universities and research labs give him a window into innovations in their purest form, and he cherishes the chance to work with the smartest minds in business, whether first-timers or Nobel Prize winners.

He is a member of WIU President Guiyou Huang's National Advisory Council and has been a key influencer in assisting with moving the Cybersecurity Program forward. He is a member of WIU's Cybersecurity Advisory Board and has traveled to campus to offer advice and guidance for the program. He has also been a guest speaker for campus-wide events. He remains passionate about working with his alma mater to build the University's Cybersecurity program as he believes with 10 million jobs available in that field in the U.S., now is the time for him to help our Leatherneck students find jobs in the field. ●

WIU Agriculture Faculty Emeritus Changed Hail Damage Estimation

Professors conducted research on site of front nine holes of the Harry Mussatto Golf Course

By Jodi K. Pospeschil MA '15



When Western Illinois University School of Agriculture Professors Emeriti Ed Breece and Dean Wesley spend time walking the greens of the University's Harry Mussatto Golf Course, it brings back many memories, but not of putts missed, or the perfect drive.

Before the front nine holes of the golf course were added to the campus course, the property was part of the University's research farm, and where the two retired professors conducted work that changed the way corn plants, damaged by hail storms, are assessed by insurance adjusters nationwide.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Breece and Wesley spent countless hours growing plots of research corn plants on the site to test the impact of hail storms on the crop during the varied stages of growth. The research included using ice, and scissors and a hoe to intentionally damage the plants to create a way for insurance adjusters to more accurately assign a dollar amount to crops damaged by a hail storm.

"They were looking for better data for the adjusters, such as what to look for in the field 10-14 days after a storm," said Wesley. "There are different types of injury to the plants at different stages of growth: stand reduction and defoliation to the plants."

The research conducted by the pair, and their students, was completed through a grant from the Hail Insurance Adjusters Research Association (HIARA).

The testing conducted at WIU was done on non-irrigated

corn plants, while the research on irrigated corn plants was completed at the University of Nebraska.

Breece and Wesley's research was done on nine acres of University farmland, which translates to 900 study plots. The plants were in various stages of growth, and at different population levels.

"We participated in the training of insurance adjusters, most who worked during the summer as per-diem adjusters, and were teachers the rest of the year," said Breece.

"We damaged special plots with ice, which were set up to simulate hail damage on the corn crop. We created the hail damage by hauling 400-pound blocks of ice to WIU, and having student workers break them into basketball-size pieces. They were then put into a forage harvester's blower to chop them into hail size pieces to launch at the corn plants. We also had to orient the adjusters about agricultural practices so they could communicate better with the farmers."

Later in the research process, while Breece was studying for his doctoral degree at Iowa State University, he worked with a professor who had constructed an ice machine that would simulate hail damage to soybean plants as part of the same research pool.

"The machine had a blower on it, and a four-inch tube, so it was a lot more sophisticated than what we had been doing," said Breece.

The WIU researchers borrowed the plans for the machine and a replica for use on the campus was constructed.

In addition to the ice launching, Breece and Wesley, and their student workers defoliated the plants (removed the leaf area)





Ed Breece and Dean Wesley, WIU professors emeriti, conducted research on the current site of the Harry Mussatto Golf Course that changed the face of how the insurance industry assessed hail damage to corn crops.

with scissors and reduced the stand (population) with a hoe similar to the damage done by an actual hail storm.

Wesley said the research gathered from the differing ways of simulating hail damage took into consideration numerous factors, including the population of plants per acre, and how a loss of leaf area (sunlight) impacted the ability of hail-damaged plants to recover from the loss.

“We would harvest each plot and determine the yield. This data was used to modify the charts given to adjusters to determine yield loss for the field” said Wesley.

The men said their research caused some strange reactions when those not working on the study found out it involved intentionally damaging the plants.

“One of our students told his dad we were cutting the leaves off the corn plant and he just about didn’t let his son come back to campus,” Wesley said.

Both Breece and Wesley fondly recall their student workers, now WIU alumni, Taylor Steinberg ’67, Gerald Buckman ’68,

John Brummet, Richard Wilson, Larry Hanson ’70, Darwin Johnson, William Roffey ’70, Jerry Shughart ’71 and Larry Rutledge ’70.

In addition to the corn plant work, Breece and a group of his students organized the first ever Ag Mech show, now Farm Expo, at WIU in 1970. The initial show was held in one end of Western Hall, and was designed based on a similar event a student had seen at another school.

The show has grown into the largest student-run farm show in the nation, with the core goals of bringing the latest in agricultural technology to the region and state, providing an opportunity for manufacturers to introduce new product lines, providing students the opportunity to meet potential employers and to promote the University and the School of Agriculture.

This year’s show, the 51st, was held in March.

For more information about the WIU School of Agriculture, visit wiu.edu/ag. For more information about the annual Ag Mech show, visit facebook.com/WIUAgMechFarmExpo. ●



Breece and Wesley fondly remember all of the student agriculture workers who helped with their on-campus research and went on to careers in the ag-industry.

Student Spotlight

DALTON DEENER

Senior finance and economics double major from Macomb

I was born and raised in Macomb, and WIU has always felt like home to me. Initially, I was going to go to Quincy University to play football, but for health and financial reasons, I decided to stay in the area for my higher education.

I was unsure what I was going to major in until COVID hit. At this point, I started to invest in the stock market, and it led me to become interested in the economy and general finance. While I am not playing football, I have been fortunate enough to become the defensive coordinator for the junior high football team in town.

My experience at WIU has been great so far. I decided to get involved on campus and it was the best decision that I made for myself. So far, I have held leadership positions in the Student Government Association, InterFraternity Council, Centennial Honors College, RockyTHON, and two leadership positions for my fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. Balancing work, school, and involvement has been a challenge, but I love to stay busy.

I also enjoy challenging myself. This summer, I will be participating in Journey of Hope, a cross country cycling trip for my fraternity's philanthropy, The Ability Experience. We will be biking over 3,000 miles from Seattle, WA, to Washington, D.C.

Along the way we stop at ability camps to participate in activities such as bowling, karaoke and games with the disabled



Dalton Deener, right, is pictured with fellow members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at a leadership conference in Tampa Bay, FL.



community. One thing I am really looking forward to is the mental and physical challenge of biking over 100 miles a day. Each member needs to raise \$7,500 for the trip. To learn more about this trip, email DL-Deener2@wiu.

After I finish my undergraduate degrees at WIU, I plan on going either to the University of Colorado or Tennessee to further pursue higher education with an MBA. I have been able to grow so much as a person, and as a student due to the opportunities and phenomenal professors that WIU presents. While I will be leaving Macomb to pursue higher education, I will always be a Leatherneck. ●



Dalton Deener, right, is pictured representing his fraternity to deliver doughnuts to the Macomb Police Department for Police Appreciation Day.



By Matt Brooks, MS '23

Sometimes it is just your night. And whether it came in the 1970s as it did for Dan Braun '71, or this year for Trenton Massner '23, one thing remains the same, when you're hot, you're hot.

Braun and Massner may have suited up for the Leathernecks 50 years apart, but from now on, the duo will be side-by-side in Leatherneck lore, standing atop the program record book for most points in a game as Massner passed Braun in February with his 46-point effort vs. North Dakota.

"I'm glad if anybody would break it, it's him," Braun said. "I love the way he plays, I love to watch him play, he always gives it 100%, win or lose, the way I did. When I was a sophomore, we lost 20 in a row, you always have to stick with it, even after seasons like that."

Massner also knows the benefit of sticking with your game, even if it is a struggle. Even though the numbers have been there all season, Massner will tell anyone, he was not himself this year. That's when the senior from Wapello, IA, decided to let it go and get back to being the player he knows he can be.

"I don't know how to explain it. I was due for it since I haven't been making a shot all year. It's like if I was making my shot all year, I'd have four or five of those," Massner said. "My teammates got me the ball; that's what I appreciate about the guys, they know I had it going on, they gave me the ball and I would do the same for Alec (Rosner), Jesiah (West) and Q (Quinlan Bennett). That's what's so good about this team; we all care about each other's personal well-being, but also the team, because we know if we do well as an individual we'll do well as a team. And the coaches, they let me do my thing, whether I go 1-12 or 9-12."

And while the two are now at the top, how they got there are different stories and feature different styles of play. Massner tied the school record for made three-pointers with nine, going 9-12 from three and 16-21 from the field. Braun did the bulk of his damage in the paint, setting a program record that still stands, 17 field goals made.

"Those are the old days, there were no three-pointers, but I don't know, it was a strange night against Central Missouri

State," Braun said of his big game. "I was in such a zone, almost a different kind of experience, I've never had anything like that, I couldn't miss. It's hard to explain, but at the end of the game, I looked up, had 44, and thought, 'how did I do that?' It was a different experience; that's the only way I can frame it.

"It was something to the effect, almost like an out of body experience. It's like someone else is running the show and you're the messenger there to do the work."

Points were not the only story of Braun's big night. The Galesburg resident also had 24 rebounds, a record that still stands and a record that might better describe the type of player he was.

"Rebounding was my game, it always was, my shots were mostly short, free-throw line at best," Braun said. "Rebounds were where I would get my points. A lot of times, I knew where the ball was going and I'd go after it. My sophomore year I was 17th in the nation in rebounding, so that was always my game. I guess more just came that night. The rebounding wasn't the unusual thing, it was more the scoring."

Braun did not know how many points or rebounds he had, Massner, on the other hand, knew he was in the zone on his big night and getting plenty of reminders late in the game. He also had a similar feeling that something bigger was at play.

"Boudy (Coach Chad Boudreau) said I needed three for the record; it was like 'OK, I can get my shot whenever I want, I'll dribble to the left wing,'" Massner said. "I knew I could get to my step-back and get it off, and I was hot, so it went in. Then it was like 'OK, somebody's helping me out.'"

The night was one Massner's coach at the time, Rob Jeter, hoped to see more of from him, and not because Massner's scoring helps the team win. It's more of a reward and recognition for the work Massner has done to improve himself and the team this season.

"I had no idea how many points he had, I was too locked in on our defense and trying to keep those guys in front of us," the coach said. "It's good to see guys having fun, smiling and when that happens, it was hopefully he can make those two free throws, so he can get that record, get that ovation and get that curtain-call because he deserves it. He's taken on so much responsibility and he's really embracing it. Last year, he kind of deferred but this year he's embraced the responsibility." ●



Leatherneck basketball player Trenton Massner '23, left and alumnus Dan Braun '71, right.

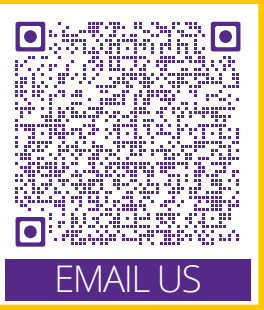
Where Are You Now? **1958-2023** A **SNAPSHOT** IN TIME



This picture hangs in my office as a reminder of great times long ago at Western. It is a snapshot in time of a sold-out Morgan Gymnasium and Western's most successful basketball team ever. Playing in a conference that included NIU, EIU, ISU, SIU, Eastern and Central Michigan, Western went 27-1. The only loss was in the championship game of the National NAIA Tournament in Kansas City, MO. Walt Moore '59, the reason I attended Western, and is in this picture, was injured at the end of the semi-final game, and could not play in the championship game. Western may have won the national championship and finished 28-0 if Walt had played. When I look at this picture, I see teammates

Walt and Bill McAfoos '61. I see assistant coach Guy Ricci on the bench sitting next to head coach Stix Morley '29. I see Rock Hanson and Harry Mussatto MS-ED '51. I see other players and the cheerleaders. So this leads me to the question—were you at this game? Do you see yourself or others that you know in the picture? Use the QR code to submit your memories, email WIUnews@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1808.

Brad Bainter '79 &'83
Executive Officer
Western Illinois University Foundation





LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Thirty-Seven Words Changed College Athletics Forever

By Matt Brooks, MS '23

Working in sports is hard—doing so as a female, even harder. In an industry historically dominated by males, it's more important than ever to continue pushing for more girls and women to participate in sport.

However, to understand where we are at right now, it is important to understand where we started.

The last 50 years have been crucial to the development of support for women in college athletics. Kathy Orban MS '77, former Western Illinois Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator (SWA), started her career in Athletics as a student athlete at Eastern Illinois University, where she was forced to share uniforms, and bus trips were a big deal.

Then came a law that changed everything. A 37-word piece of legislation stated, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

U.S. President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law in June 1972.

"Thank God for Title IX. There was a line drawn in the sand where the women said 'wait a minute, this isn't right,'" Orban said. "Athletic departments and administration saw the value in providing resources for a female student athlete to have good coaching, a safe environment to play and participate in, uniforms that they could feel proud of representing their school, the financial aid and the athletic training support that they need."

The immediate years after weren't always easy. When Orban was hired as an assistant field hockey coach at Western in 1980, things were slightly better, but still not where they needed to be.

"We were doing better as far as uniforms, but our travel was

still pretty limited, and our women's basketball team only had two-thirds of the scholarships that other schools in the Gateway Conference had," Orban said. "It was not easy, and I applaud our coaches who had to suffer through that, not having all the resources. That happened in many of our programs—we were never fully funded for a long period of time in many of the sports."

WHAT IS TITLE IX?

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Through the work of people like Director of Womens' Intercollegiate Athletics Marion Blackinton, Athletic Director Helen Smiley, and influential female leaders all across the Gateway Conference, the resources available for women within athletics have drastically improved in the past 50 years. As resources improve, one thing that cannot be forgotten about is the importance of mentorship.

For Piper Foote '22 MBA '23, a former captain on the WIU softball team, it was the mentorship she received as a freshman that played a pivotal role in her development both as a student and as an athlete.

"As a freshman I came on to campus not really knowing what's what and I was fortunate enough to have a mentor from day one in Ashley Minyard '21. She took me in, showed me the ropes and helped me see that, although softball is what I love to do, there are also ways I can grow as a person beyond athletics," Foote said. "I think that's a special piece that mentorship can bring to the table, especially for female athletes. She broadened my horizons and got me

thinking, 'I do belong wherever I'm at,' which helped me become the person and leader that I am today."

"I think it's really important to have females know that they do have support," Foote added. "It's always important to have somebody there for you to celebrate with you in the good times and the bad."

As important as mentorship is in the student athlete experience, having that mentorship come from other females is something Western Illinois women's head soccer Coach Josee Primeau '18

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Traveling to different parts of the world is an incredible experience and booking a travel package is an investment. Whether you decide to travel with WIU or even for trips you take on your own, the WIU Alumni Association offers protection for all types of trips.

Class Notes

Carol Toney Conner '68 MS '07, N. Port, FL, is retired.

Joseph Leo '68, Boynton Beach, FL, is a semi-retired sr. IT consultant for Independent Consultant and is a chairman of Panum Board of Advisors.

Gary Johnson '70 MS '77, St Paul, MN, is a retired professor from the Dept. of Forest Resources at the University of MN.

Marcia Stephens Breeden '71 MS-ED '95, Macomb, is a retired school administrator at Liberty School Dist.

Jeff Stein '71 MA '73, Wayland, MA, has retired as president of Cosanti Foundation in Scottsdale, AZ.

Barbara Kleist Anderson '72 MS '77, Plainfield, is retired after a 50-yr. teaching career in biology.

Gene Landers '72, Aurora, is semi-retired as president after a 50-yr. excavating business at THOM Gravel & Excavating, Inc.

Nicholas McGrain MS '73, Lenexa, KS, is retired from teaching after 48 yrs. and coaching for 52 yrs.

Pete Murphy '73, Lombard, is the president/owner of Murphy's Contractors Equipment Inc.

Debbi Kouzes Burdick '74, Scottsdale, AZ, retired after 47 yrs. in education as a teacher, consultant, principal & superintendent.

Nicole Hartsough '74, Talent, OR, is a retired MD of Dermatology from Mercy Health Systems in Rockford.

John "Sid" Knight '74, Springfield, is retired from the State of IL.

Gerald McNicholas '74, Crestwood, is retired.

Michael Skopes '74, Thousand Oaks, CA, is retired after 34 yrs. in the entertainment/theatre industry.

Randy Stevenson '74, Talent, OR, is retired from the IT dept. at Deere & Co. in Moline.

Jack Blake '76, Lake Geneva, WI, is retired from teaching science.

Niles Fleege '76, Placerville, CA, is retired from Fleege & Assoc. Consulting and is the owner of Bookshelf Wines.

David Lumley '76, Santa Barbara, CA, wrote a book, *It's Impossible to Commit to Maybe*.

Susan Slocum '76, Wheaton, is retired.

Martin Conboy '77, Uxbridge, MA, is retired from Lynch & Conboy Insurance Agency, Inc.

Tom Jardine '77, Union, ME, retired as the sr. VP at Trinity Industries, Inc. in Dallas, TX.

Michael Michelin '77, Ann Arbor, MI, retired as the global supply chain dir. from General Motors.

Nan Pangrazio Ochs '77, Plainfield, is an educator at Joliet Public School Dist. # 86.

Jim Reich '77, Aurora, is a retired sales mgr. from E.L. Fasel & Sons Nursery.

Joseph Koch '78 MBA '79, Ellington, CT, retired as the VP of marketing from Country Pure Foods and is a founding board member of Midwest Food Bank New England.

Mike Peterik '78, Loda, is a charter sales rep. for Peoria Charter Coach in Urbana.

Katherine Klink Rosenbaum '78, Champaign, is retired from teaching K-8 band chorus and general music for Arthur/Lovington/Atwood/Hammond CUSD # 305.

Julie Corwell Ford '79 MS-ED '86, Huntley, is retired.

Thomas Siko '79, Mt Prospect, is the business development mgr. at DAS Health.

Peter Bond '80, Tijeras, NM, is retired after 28 yrs. from Metropolitan Opera Orchestra third trumpet.

Dan Clark '80, Southlake, TX, is the head BMO vehicle & equipment for the Bank of Montreal.

Kathryn Heffron '80, Chicago, is retired.

John Muno '80 MA '81, Woodridge, is a consultant at JCMJR Inc.

Jeff Reynolds '80, Palm Springs, CA, is the marketing dir. for Okapi Educational Publishing in Temecula.

Linda Yucuis '80, S Elgin, is retired from Transformco.

Steve Ashenbrener '81, Peoria, AZ, is retired after 25 yrs. with EMC Insurance Co. as the team management dir. and 40 yrs. in the insurance industry.

Terry Barrett '81, Waukegan, is a retired probation officer from Lake County.

William Hazelgrove '81 MA '83, St. Charles, is a Nat'l Bestselling Author of 22 books.

James Hutton '81, Arlington Hts, is a retired Commander from Evanston Police Dept. after 30 yrs. and is currently a regional planning coord. for IL Alarm System (LEAS).

Jim Morovic '81, Stoughton, WI, retired from the City of Madison Police Dept. ending a 37-yr. street cop career.

Mollie Harrison Pennock '81 MBA '83, W. Lafayette, IN, retired as the sr. research analyst in prospect development after a 33-yr. career at Purdue University.

Linda Acheson Cockerill '82 MS '89, Jacksonville, is a nursing faculty at Capital Area School of Practical Nursing in Springfield.

Michelle Friedlund '82, Perrysville, IN, is retired.

Terry Godfrey '82, Brentwood, TN, is retired after 39 yrs. as a photojournalist, Sky 5/Drone/Satellite truck operations at WTVF-Nashville.

Erik Nielsen '82, Albuquerque, NM, is a site radiation safety officer at DTRA-Defense Nuclear Weapons School in Kirtland AFB.

Lynn Scholz Hurtado '83, San Jose, CA, is retired.

Tom Logsdon '83, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, is a strategic acct. exec. at Precisely Software.

Geri Winters '83, Chicago, is a retired forecast analyst from State Farm.

Phillip Giles '84, Vass, NC, is the managing dir. of MSL Captive Solutions, Inc.

Michael Jones '84, Florissant, MO, is the business services mgr. at Schowalter & Jabouri, P.C., Certified Public Accountants & Advisors.

Michael Lambrecht MS '84, Pullman, WA, is an HR business partner at University of Idaho.

Kelley McLaughlin Magill '84 MS '96, Taylors, SC, is retired.

Ginger Landmann Shryack '84 MS-ED '94 MS-ED '06, Macomb, is a high school IEP teacher/division chair at Macomb CUSD # 185.

Dawn Doubler Russo '85, Millsboro, DE, is a retired music educator from Randolph Twp. Schools in Randolph, NJ.

Lisa Hoffmeister Segalla '85, Bonita Springs, FL, is retired from teaching middle school after 30+ yrs. in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Rich Hodyl '86, Wheaton, is an elected member of the American Law Institute and was appointed to serve on the IL Supreme Court's Rules Committee.

Michael Kilbourne '86, Carpentersville, is the treasurer at Kane County in Geneva.

Gina Banfield Anderson '87, Good Hope, is retired after 31 yrs. as the marketing & communications coord. at Great River Heath in W. Burlington, IA.

Laura Tolley Brown '87, Guanajuato, Mexico, is retired.

Karen Doubleday Parssinen '87, Roscoe, is a reading interventionist at Rockford Public Schools.

Laurie Miller Stallings '87, Acworth, GA, is the president of The Driving Force.

Shepherd Weiss '87, Carefree, AZ, is a physician with a non-profit that works around the world including Ukraine and Iraq.

Anita Rheinschmidt Bailey '88, Knoxville, IA, is retired from teaching special ed at Mediapolis CUSD.



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Brian Budny '88, Wheaton, is the Deputy Chief at Deerfield Police Dept.

Karlo Flowers '88 MBA '89, Chicago, is the Chief of Staff for the IL Emergency Mgt Agency.

George Long '88, Bartow, FL, is retired from the City of Bartow as City Mgr. after 48+ yrs. of service.

Bill Horrell '89, Geneseo, is the Community Impact Coord. at Alternatives for the Older Adult.

Teresa Cornelius Ramsey '89 MBA '91, Houston, TX, is the VP of HR at Goodwill Industries of Houston.

John Fitzgerald '90, Le Claire, IA, is an archivist for the US Army of Corps of Engineers.

Cavit Cooley '91 MA '93, Browns Mills, NJ, received the 2022 NJACA President's Award.

David Stonich '91, Nashville, TN, is the Global Road Transport Dir. for Schneider Electric.

Randy Endean '92, S Elgin, retired from S Elgin Police Dept. after 29 yrs. of service with the rank of Deputy Chief.

Vern Jakoby '92, Chatham, is the Chief Compliance Officer for the Bureau of Personnel, IL Dept. of Central Management Services in Springfield.

Jacquelyn Miller '92, Macomb, is the assoc. dir. of Retention Initiatives at WIU.

Alaine Rovenhagen-Murphy '92, Plainfield, is a teacher at Apple Tree Preschool.

James Stolpa '92, Mt. Calvary, WI, is retired after 30 yrs. in the steel business and works with local non-profits.

Lora Deckert '93, Edelstein, is an assoc. veterinarian at United Veterinary Care in Chillicothe.

Colin Fleury '93, Hampshire, is the Chief of Police for the W. Chicago Police Dept.

Kimberly Webb-Harper '93, Bolingbrook, is a TLP/ILO supervisor at UCAN.

Adam Woodworth '93, Lockport, is the exec. dir. of the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn and owns a Santa portrayal business and became a playwright having 2 plays produced by the Limestone Stage.

Angela Gallagher Ard MS-ED '94, Carthage, is retired from Keokuk Community School Dist.

James Berger '94, New Port Richey, FL, is a transporter for HCA Florida Trinity Hospital.

Krissy Salverson Cassidy '94, Schaumburg, is a corporate trainer at Zing Health in Chicago.

Shatonya Harris Johnson '94, Hazel Crest, is the Police Chief for the Village of Oak Park.

Karen Podsiadly MS '95, Rochester, NY, is the dir. of Student Union Leadership & Activities at SUNY Brockport.

John Schumacher '95, Dugway, UT, is retired from the Dept. of Defense.

Paul Behrens '96, Hannibal, MO, has been promoted to Lieutenant and designated a member of the Troop B command staff for the MO State Hwy Patrol in Macon.

Andrew Harkin, Jr. '96, Poplar Grove, is a security officer at UW Health in Belvidere.

Michelle Brady Kohr '96, Oglesby, was selected as a Step Ahead Honoree.

Jason Albers '97, Bethalto, is a retired sergeant from St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept.

Margaret Mitchell Kerrins '97, Lisle, is the VP commercial leasing officer for Bank of America.

Jamie Nelson Dugan '98, Vincennes, IN, is the Pres./CEO of Write to Win, LLC.

Rebecca Hodges Morris '98, Rockledge, FL, is a substitute teacher at Brevard Public Schools in Viera.

Michelle Murphy MS '98, Cornelius, NC, is the VP of HR at Trane Commercial Americas.

Aaron Arnold '99, Quincy, is the dist. supervisor at Administrative Office of IL Courts.

Lisa Danen '99, Huntley, is a life coach at Back to You Life Coaching.

Michael Howe, Sr. '99 MA '02, Burlington, IA, is retired from the City of Ft. Madison as the site mgr. at the Old Ft. Madison.

Jay Regennitter '99 MA '01, Coal City, is the directing Pastor at the Coal City United Methodist Church and also graduated with a doctorate of ministry degree from Christian Theological Seminary.

John Smith '99 MA '01, Monmouth, is the interim VP for Student Success at WIU.

Shannon Tasson '99 MA '01, Chicago, is a sr. dir. of labor relations for the Compass Group.

Carla Ainslie '00, Macomb, is a library asst. for the Macomb Public Library Dist.

Diane Hayes DeLorenzo '00, Round Lake, is an aquatic facility mgr. at Gurnee Park Dist.

Kelly Metter Le Chien '00, Belleville, is the Quality Improvement Coord. for St. Louis County.

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Mary Petrus Huffman '01 MS-ED '08, Goose Creek, SC, is an asst. prof. of social studies education at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus.

George Weber '01 MS '03, Quincy, is a solution engineer at Oracle.

Lucas Huffman '02, Goose Creek, SC, is a detective/polygraph examiner for the Charleston Police Dept.

Justin Kreterfield '02, Dewey, AZ, is a juvenile probation officer for Yavapai County in Prescott.

Julianne James Wagner '02 MS '22, Green Bay, WI, is a Spanish teacher and graduated with a Master's degree from Concordia University Mequon.

Emmett Watson '02, Ft. Lee, VA, is a mortuary affairs specialist for the US Army and has been deployed to Arifjan, Kuwait.

Nicole Neushwander Hacker '03, Minooka, is a teacher at Minooka School Dist. # 201.

Clinton Law '03, Rock Island, is a deputy for the Scott County Sheriff's Dept.

Mike Eisnicher '04, Raritan, is a psychologist at the Iowa Dept. of Corrections in Ft Madison, IA.

Jennifer Johnson Filley '04, Peoria, is an operations dir. at TAPS No-Kill Animal Shelter in Pekin.

Tom Gerard '04, Mt Prospect, works at Stericycle as mgr. of corporate talent acquisition.

Edwin Jones '04, Palos Park, is CEO at J & J Management Services.

Tiffany McCuiston '04, Altoona, IA, is a compliance consultant at Nationwide Insurance.

Jaclyn Koch Hood '06, Elmhurst, is a social worker for Illinois Public School.

Kelly Hann Mandrell MS-ED '06, Polo, is the superintendent for Polo CUSD.

Teah Thayer McIlvoy '06, Cornville, AZ, is a concierge at Amara Resort.

Patrick Pacula '06, Park City, KS, is the production operator at Land O'Lakes/Purina Mills.

John Sax '06, Pasadena, CA, is an asst. VP of Advancement Information Services at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Brian Sinclair '06, Denver, CO, is a school membership liaison for Assoc. Bodywork & Massage Professionals in Golden.

Tracy DenBlaauwen VerMum '06, Davenport, IA, is the controller at Per Mar Security Services.

Jennifer Foster '07, Macomb, is an administrator at Grand Prairie.

Sara Bomkamp Hoitsma '07, Valparaiso, IN, is the HR & Recruitment dir. at XR Trading LLC in Chicago.

Mary Ellen Koehler Wittenmeier '07, Oak Lawn, is a financial rep. asst. for Country Financial.

Randall Busby '08, La Prairie, is retired.

Kelley Ipjian '08, Chicago, is a sr. pledge specialist at The Rotary Foundation.

Emma Martens '08, Chicago, is the general mgr. at Chicago Chop House.

Kym McKay MS '08, Aurora, is an adjunct prof. at Aurora University.

Marc Mobley MS '08, Chicago, is the new student & family programs dir. for the University of Illinois Chicago.

Robert Graff '09 MBA '12, Rock Island, is the Fire Chief for the Rock Island Fire Dept.

Katina Isaacks Johnson '09, Woodson, is a 6th grade teacher at Jacksonville School Dist. # 117.

Derek Nathan '09, Lombard, is the operations and supply chain analyst at Breakthru Beverage.

Jared Reed MA '09, Montrose, IA, is the dir. of WIU's Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Cheryl Chaney Staller '09, Brimfield, is an accountant for Pekin Insurance.

Gina Wadas '09, Baltimore, MD, is a communications assoc. at John Hopkins Institute for NanoBio Technology.

Jessica Hall Wernick '09, Machesney Park, is a probation officer for Winnebago County in Rockford.

Keri Dahm '10, Hanover Park, is an exec. acct. mgr. at Paylocity.

Nicholas Dowdal '10, Winthrop Harbor, is the school board VP for Winthrop Harbor School Dist. # 1.

Shana Severinsen Maher '10, Mapleton, is a sr. designer/modeler at Caterpillar Inc.

Caitlin Lohman Berkley '11, Cypress, TX, is the mgr. of learning & development at Alliance Animal Health.

Michael Jagodzinski '11, Pingree Grove, is a sergeant for the Glen Ellyn Police Dept.

Sandra Morris '11, Springfield, is an office assoc. for the State of IL.

Megan Poreda Glass '12, Avon Park, FL, is a 3rd grade teacher at Hardee County Schools in Wauchula.

Kyle Joerger '12, Chicago, is the information security risk mgr. at Global Clearing Firm.

Brittany Doty Meadows '12, House Springs, MO, is a therapist at Peaks and Valleys Counseling, LLC.

Casey Page '12, Palatine, is the master data analyst at Northwestern Medicine.

Laci McMahill Todd '12, Good Hope, is the owner of the Crafty Coop LLC.

Sara Dam MS '13, Morrison, CO, is a customer success mgr. at Postman.

Amanda Richards '13, Dallas, TX, is a customer success mgr. at Black Box Intelligence.

Kayelyn Gathman Ryan '13, Winchester, is a soybean production mgr. for Burrus Seed in Arenzville.

Beth Stika '13, Morris, is the owner of Mission Hill Creativity Labs.

Koryna Felt Bucholz MS '14, Chicago, is an asst. dean of students at University of Chicago.

Jessica Cortes Jefferson '14, Bolingbrook, is an assoc. HR Bus. Partner at Mondelez.

Hayley Delia Wozny '14, Chicago, works at Northwestern University as a Program Asst. – Alumni Reunion.

Jessica Baker Maxwell '15, Cedar Rapids, IA, is the owner of Ambition Baton and Dance.

Mathi Szemplinski Powles '15, Mt Prospect, is a paraeducator at Dist. # 62/Cumberland Elementary.

Shannon Sniegolski VonderHaar '15, St Louis, MO, is an advising specialist at Jefferson College.

Jenna Griffith Sporlein '16, Chatham, is an elementary & middle school social worker in the Ball-Chatham School Dist.

Matthew Sporlein '16, Chatham, is an external audit coord. for the Dept. of Transportation in Springfield.

Devin Biggs '17, Rhinelander, WI, is the morning meteorologist on WJFW Newswatch 12.

Larissa Coil Cregeen '17, Machesney Park, is a nurse at UW Health Swedish American Hospital.

Kacie Pribe Debnam '17, Madison, GA, is a soil conservationist for the USDA-NRCS in Eatonton.

Breck Debnam '17, Madison, GA, is the farm mgr. for Innisfail Farm.

Teresa Iatomasi '17, Hanover Park, is the HR coord. at Guaranteed Rate Affinity.

Jacob Schwartz '17, Beecher, is a patrol officer at Yorkville Police Dept.

Dovile Svirupskaite '17, Chicago, is the campaign mgr. for Bill Foster for Congress.

Nancy Dixon Benz MA '18, Quincy, is the asst. curator at The Quincy Museum.

Addison Bertrand '18, Houston, TX, is a clinical dietician II at HCA in Webster.

Ricardo Cardoso '18, Bettendorf, IA, is a supervisory security guard at the Rock Island Arsenal.

Amber Cousins '18, Canton, MO, is the dir. of dining services at Culver-Stockton College.

Adam Ehrman EDD '18, Bourbonnais, is the Superintendent at BESD # 53.

Anna Fee '18, Quincy, is a clinical dietician II at Blessing Hospital.

Tyler Lafferty '18 MS '19, E Alton, is the superintendent for the E. Alton Parks & Rec. Dept.

Katie Moore '18, Chatham, is a clinical dietician II at Davita in Springfield.

Kim Spirek '18, Moline, is a registered dietician at Promedica.

Tony White '18, Bettendorf, IA, is a diabetes educator registered dietician at Genesis Healthcare.

Jenna Kelso Dively '19, Macomb, is an RN for Contact Travel Nurse.

Karissa Graves Gorsich '19, Quincy, is a CSR at Compeer Financial.

Emma Kovachevich Harmon '19, Virden, is a board-certified music therapist at Music Therapy Connections, LLC.

Alyssa Lester '19, Peoria, is the secretary in the Peoria County Public Defender's Office.

Brianna Martinez '19, Sterling, is the program dir. at the YMCA.

Tyler Johnson MS '20, Fayetteville, NC, is the exec. dir. of Braves Club at UNC Pembroke.

Erica Parrigin '20, Moline, is a grant writer & communications mgr. for World Relief Quad Cities.

Sydney Erichsen '21, Sherrard, is a 5th grade English instructor at Rock Island Academy.

Miranda Lambert MA '21, PB-CERT '21 Macomb, is the transit dir. for the City of Macomb.

Garrett McSwain '21, Quincy, is a clinical dietician I at Blessing Hospital.

Kokouvi Agboka MS '22 PB-CERT '22, E. Moline, is a QSM Tech. 5 at Tyson Foods, Inc.

Logan Arnold '22, Spirit Lake, IA, is a test engineer technician for AGCO Corp. in Round Lake, MN.

Daniel Kallbrier '22, Macomb, is a supervisor for Sodexo.

Michael Moore '22, Monmouth, is a salesman at Diamond Ag in Aledo.

Marriages

Brittany Doty '12 and Jimmy Meadows '13, Oct. 23, 2021.

Karissa Graves '19 and Nick Gorsich '20, Oct. 15, 2022.

Jenna Griffith '16 and Matthew Sporlein '16, Oct. 23, 2021.

Thomas Guerra '73 and Annette Roberts, Dec. 10, 2022.

Teresa Iatomasi '18 and Tyler Johnson '17, Aug. 20, 2022.

Kacie Priebe '17 and Breck Debnam '17, Apr. 8, 2022.

Jay Regennitter '99 MA '01 and Rebecca Carmack, June 18, 2022.

Alaine Rovenhagen '92 and Daniel Murphy, Oct. 10, 2022.

Lauren Sanders '85 and William Pepmeyer '83, Oct. 23, 2021.

Dovile Svirupskaite '17, and Johnny Cather '16, Sept. 30, 2022.

Births & Adoptions

Brooke Sawyer Beckner '18 and Ethan, Briggam Wayne, Jan. 15, 2023.

Kristin Leighty Brackemyre '10 and Adam, Molly Elena, Sept. 12, 2022.

Larissa Coil Cregeen '17 and Chase, Briggs, July 14, 2022.

Liz LaRosa Draper '07 and Jason, twins, Harper & Skyler, June 6, 2021.

Jessica Dudek Dunne '15, and KC, Joanna Kay, June 18, 2022.

Jennifer Johnson Filley '04 and Shawn, Ronan, Apr. 2022.

Sarah Looman Gibson '05 MS-ED '09 and Jon, Bennett Edward, Apr. 27, 2022.

Tanner Gillispie '17 and Megan Sanchez Gillispie '17, Jovie, Apr. 22, 2022.

Katina Isaacks Johnson '09 and Jonathan, Reid Alexander, Apr. 23, 2022.

Rafael Juarez '16 Anthony Rey, Sept. 4, 2022.

Lanie Bledsoe Knudson '14 and Bradley, McKenna, Sept. 27, 2021.

Shana Severinsen Maher '10 and Jerrad Maher '11, Freya RJ, Oct. 15, 2022.

Jessica Baker Maxwell '15 and Chase Maxwell '18, Brexlyn Loraine, Oct. 1, 2022.

Kathryn Spreitzer McGavock '12 and Patrick McGavock '12, Lucy Irene, Apr. 23, 2022.

Erika Lowe Mullins '09 and Tyler, Jack Gordon, June 10, 2022.

Heather Zimmerle Nowak '11 and Andrew, James Walker, May 10, 2022.

Luke Simmons '09 and Jenny, Hudson David, Dec. 23, 2022.

Samantha Heaton Whitham '14 and Nathan Whitham '14, Brooks Michael, July 29, 2022.

Jacqueline Wijas '14, Andrew Joseph, July 18, 2022.

Deaths

1939 Hazel "Irene" Lewis Fee, Quincy, Apr. 4, 2021.

1942 Genevieve Babcock France, Macomb, Feb. 9, 2023.

1944 Mary W. Weinberg Hohe, Augusta, Jan. 1, 2023.

1947 Harold D. "Tuffy" Bowen MS-ED '55, Hanna City, Nov. 1, 2022.

1947 Mildred L. Koch Wilson, Powder Springs, GA, Feb. 26, 2021.

1949 Garland W. Reedy, Venice, FL, Oct. 3, 2022.

1950 Betty J. McCutchan Johnson, Rushville, Nov. 10, 2022.

1951 Robert C. Bricker, Libertyville, Nov. 8, 2022.

1951 Mary A. Walther Carroll, Ottawa, Oct. 22, 2022.

1951 Robert E. Galloway MS-ED '63, Keosauqua, IA, Dec. 11, 2022.

1952 Geraldine J. Reck Aten, Phoenix, AZ, Jan. 24, 2023.

1952 Patricia A. Laisure Emerick, Peoria, Nov. 16, 2022.

1952 Wayne C. "Coup" Ford MS-ED '56, Brenham, TX, Dec. 2, 2021.

1952 Donald K. Hamilton MS-ED '59, Macomb, Aug. 3, 2022.

1953 George D. Hussey, Houston, TX, Dec. 1, 2022.

1953 Margaret M. Purman Johnson MS-ED '61, LaHarpe, Oct. 24, 2022.

1953 Arlington N. Seymour MS-ED '59, Sun City West, AZ, Jan. 13, 2023.

1953 Richard S. Underwood, Somonauk, Sept. 16, 2022.

1954 Nancy M. Hunter Acone, Bellvue, WA, July 10, 2020.

1954 William G. Morgan, Galesburg, July 22, 2022.

1954 Alfred L. "Lee" Pence, Princeton, Jan. 1, 2023.

1954 Bettye B. Bettisworth Swanson MS-ED '60, Macomb, Feb. 21, 2023.

1954 Kathryn M. Pecaut Traver, Peoria, Aug. 24, 2022.

1954 Bette L. Beebe White, N. Las Vegas, NV, July 23, 2022.

1955 Willa M. Parker Fowler, Quincy, Oct. 10, 2021.

1955 Mary A. Kiesig Liljeberg, Arlington Hts, Dec. 19, 2022.

1955 Richard M. Negley, Dahlonga, GA, Dec. 8, 2022.

1956 Robert E. Parker, Salinas, CA, July 11, 2021.

1956 Lupe C. Rios MS-ED '62, Mesa, AZ, Aug. 1, 2022.

1956 Joy M. Widmer Roberts, E. Galesburg, Nov. 7, 2022.

1956 Nickolas W. Zoumbos MS-ED '57, San Bernardino, CA, July 21, 2022.

1957 LuAnn E. Elwood, Peoria, Aug. 20, 2022.

1957 Ronald E. Nikceovich, Western Springs, Feb. 5, 2023.

1957 Thomas E. Showalter, Portland, OR, July 18, 2022.

1957 Arthur R. Thuerk, Safety Harbor, FL, Apr. 19, 2022.

1958 Hayward L. Boulware, Roseville, Oct. 13, 2022.

1958 Sandra J. Stewart Cosgrove, Kenilworth, Apr. 30, 2021.



1958 Donald L. Ernst, Girard, Jan. 22, 2019.

1958 Donald E. Johnson MS-ED, Lombard, Feb. 19, 2022

1958 William M. Pence, Palmyra, May 23, 2022.

1958 James E. Repplinger, Hamilton, Nov. 5, 2022.

1959 Marlene Satzinger Fasick, Mt. Prospect, Aug. 25, 2022.

1959 R. Kline Laird, Canton, Dec. 26, 2022.

1959 Robert O. Moore, Quincy, July 10, 2022.

1960 Jack K. Cooper, Dodge City, KS, Mar. 20, 2020.

1960 James A. Dillman, Port St Lucie, FL, Oct. 12, 2021.

1960 Marchia K. Forber MS-ED '67, Aledo, Jan. 17, 2023.

1960 Harold R. Grauman, Anaheim, CA, Mar. 29, 2021.

1960 Charles E. Hart, Sealston, VA, Dec. 12, 2022.

1960 Larry C. Niemeyer, Cedar Rapids, IA, July 21, 2022.

1960 Judith H. Forner Thompson, Springfield, June 26, 2022.

1961 Robert W. Cameron MSE, Burlington, IA, Dec. 22, 2022.

1961 Carolyn K. Kinnett Petefish, Jacksonville, July 21, 2022.

1961 Jack B. Schulte, Dodgeville, Dec. 1, 2022.

1961 Roy D. Woodside MS-ED '71, Rushville, Sept. 30, 2022.

1962 Stephen A. Bennett MS-ED '69, Colchester, Jan. 6, 2023.

1962 Barbara L. Gardiner Brooks, Melbourne, FL, Feb. 22, 2021.

1962 Sharon K. Devinney Owen, Bettendorf, IA, Jan. 3, 2023.

1962 Judith A. Lieber Wilson, Galesburg, Aug. 28, 2022.

1962 Frank O. Youngquist MS-ED '76 ED-SP '82, Rock Island, Sept. 17, 2022.

1963 Donald R. Augspurger MS-ED, Springfield, Jan. 27, 2023.

1963 John S. Borota, Horseshoe Bay, TX, Jan. 29, 2022.

1963 James A. Carson, Moline, July 30, 2022.

1963 Maralee I. Beadles DeJaynes, Winchester, Jan. 6, 2022.

1963 Victoria A. Schleich Fitzgibbon, Springfield, Nov. 22, 2022.

1963 Kirby A. Knutson, Cherry Valley, Nov. 29, 2022.

1963 Daniel A. MacLean, Chicago, Jan. 29, 2023.

1963 Duane W. Metzler, Pekin, June 7, 2022.

1963 Stanley E. Sherrill, Mableton, GA, Oct. 26, 2022.

1963 F. Keith Tomlinson, W. Carrollton, OH, Dec. 1, 2019.

1964 Mary C. Crabb Kerr, Washington, Sept. 19, 2021.

1964 George F. "Fred" Longacre, Ewing, MO, Oct. 4, 2022.

1964 Thomas A. Luse MS-ED, Moline, Feb. 21, 2021.

1965 Gordon B. Cornelius MS-ED '76 ED SP '87, E. Moline, Jan. 11, 2023.

1965 Jay H. Rhodes, Dahinda, July 22, 2022.

1965 Patricia Maxey Simester, Rock Falls, Feb. 1, 2023.

1966 George E. Fowler MA '74, Tama, IA, Nov. 24, 2018.

1966 Delbert D. Haschemeyer, Athens, Jan. 23, 2023.

1966 Marshall L. Hopping, Peoria, Aug. 13, 2022.

1966 Blanche E. Baxter Mummert, Havana, Jan. 28, 2021.

1966 Donald K. Roach, Morris, May 8, 2022.

1966 Margaret L. McCaughey Tomkins, Sun City, AZ, Sept. 29, 2022.

1967 Lyle M. Ahrens, Springfield, Dec. 12, 2022.

1967 Larry A. Mosley, Quincy, Aug. 12, 2022.

1967 Danny R. Ruebush, Sparks, NV, June 13, 2018.

1968 Arlis K. Vanderveen Bell, Havana, Oct. 8, 2020.

1968 Karen A. Key Hammond, Fairfax, VA, July, 20, 2022.

1968 Sally R. Rynott ED-SP '86, Sante Fe, NM, Nov. 21, 2022.

1968 Dale R. Schaefer, Godfrey, Sept. 22, 2021.

1968 Philip E. Sinroll, Sterling, Nov. 5, 2022.

1969 Christine A. White Dahl Briegel MA '75, Lexington, TN, Aug. 13, 2022.

1969 Norman S. Bundt, Hoffman Est., Aug. 25, 2022.

1969 Roger L. Cimbalo, Green Bay, WI, Feb. 17, 2023.

1969 Charles A. "Lanny" Herdt, Conyers, GA, Jan. 21, 2023.

1969 Deane A. Simmen Huwaldt, Granger, IN, Dec. 15, 2022.

1969 Nancy L. Lovekamp, Jacksonville, Sept. 21, 2020.

1969 Leslie A. Matson, Cambridge, Dec. 23, 2022.

1969 Rose A. Sandstrom, Roseville, Oct. 24, 2022.

1970 Joseph L. Alford, Girard, Dec. 20, 2022.

1970 David L. Bazzell, Medora, Dec. 23, 2019.

1970 Rolland W. Eckman, Elburn, Oct. 11, 2022.

1970 Lynn M. Mockenhaupt Gronow, Crystal Lake, Jan. 11, 2023.

1970 Pamela S. Rigsby Hoffman, Yarmouth, ME, Oct. 27, 2022.

1970 Thomas J. Koesser, Beach Park, Sept. 23, 2022.

1970 Diana L. LaMaster, Alexis, Aug. 6, 2022.

1970 David J. Rogers MA '71, Hinsdale, May 6, 2022.

1970 Ronald E. Seegers MS-ED, Sun City West, AZ, Feb. 8, 2023.

1970 Shirley A. Stead MA '92, Viola, Dec. 17, 2022.

1970 Marsha L. Garr Thompson, Loda, Aug. 1, 2022.

1971 Carol A. Phelps Baxa, Aledo, Oct. 21, 2022.

1971 Reba J. Clark Cloyd, Springfield, Jan. 21, 2021.

1971 Donna M. Hagan Cole, Carmarillo, CA, Aug. 3, 2022.

1971 Stephen N. Croxton, AuSable Forks, NY, Aug. 9, 2020.

1971 Edwin J. Davis MBA, Dallas, TX, Aug. 8, 2022.

1971 Thomas W. Karjala MA, Green Bay, WI, Aug. 13, 2022.

1971 William C. Kennon, Del Ray Beach, FL, May 2, 2021.

1971 Elizabeth A. Frink LaRue, Lincoln, NE, Feb. 4, 2023.

1971 Nancy L. Bartram McCleary, Lake Ozark, MO, Nov. 18, 2022.

1971 Daniel J. O'Rourke, Greeley, CO, Feb. 10, 2023.

1971 Delmar R. Ranfeld, Macomb, Sept. 27, 2022.

1971 Larry L. Rose MA, Milan, Nov. 11, 2022.

1971 Francis G. Shaw, Bradenton, FL, Nov. 5, 2022.

1971 Jon E. Slater, Dallas, TX, Dec. 4, 2022.

1971 Nanette Talbot, Fulton, Dec. 4, 2022.

1971 Cynthia A. Tiffany, Winter Springs, FL, Aug. 8, 2022.

1972 Edward M. Baldinger, Des Plaines, IA, May 23, 2021.

1972 Gerold R. Boice MS '76, Sherman, Feb. 8, 2022.

1972 Kathryn L. Kammeyer Hintz, Green Valley, AZ, May 17, 2022.

1972 Margaret E. Terry Kord MS-ED '91, Ormond Beach, FL, June 25, 2021.

1972 Sondra K. Runnells Lewis, Palo, IA, May 2, 2022.

1972 Barbara M. Laman Lyons MS-ED '92, Ocala, FL, Sept. 13, 2022.

1972 Salvatore Plumery, Burnham, Aug. 25, 2022.

1972 John C. Seckman, Hamilton, Feb. 6, 2022.

1972 William E. Sommers, Tuscomb, AL, Feb. 12, 2021.

1973 Gregory S. Ambrose, Lansing, Mar. 29, 2020.

1973 Sheila R. Detablan Camlic, Alsip, Sept. 17, 2022.

- 1973 Michael D. "Mick" Dergo MS '91**, E. Moline, Dec. 28, 2022.
- 1973 Robert G. Sanches**, Peoria, AZ, Sept. 20, 2022.
- 1973 Glenn W. Terborg**, Kalamazoo, MI, May 5, 2021.
- 1973 James J. Whitlock**, Wheaton, July 31, 2022.
- 1974 Stanley C. Camlic**, Alsip, Feb. 6, 2022.
- 1974 Steven R. Freund**, Woodstock, Sept. 18, 2022.
- 1974 Robert A. Gabler**, Naperville, Jan. 8, 2023.
- 1974 John E. Karolczak**, Vernon Hills, Feb. 17, 2023.
- 1974 Rosemary E. O'Brien Mahoney**, Skokie, May 28, 2020.
- 1974 Sheila R. Pearson**, Chicago, July 4, 2022.
- 1975 Donald F. Baltunis MS-ED**, Tavares, FL, June 16, 2019.
- 1975 Richard J. Caravia**, Smithton, Jan. 8, 2023.
- 1975 John Eck MA**, Wheeling, Oct. 4, 2022.
- 1975 Stanley W. Feltz**, Cary, Dec. 10, 2022.
- 1975 James T. Haynes**, Bushnell, Dec. 12, 2022.
- 1975 Alton E. Obanion**, Evanston, Apr. 24, 2020.
- 1975 James L. Pearson**, Camanche, IA, Oct. 10, 2022.
- 1975 Pamela S. Peterson Pfundstien MS-ED '80**, Sterling, Sept. 28, 2022.
- 1975 Richard A. Prisching**, McHenry, July 29, 2022.
- 1975 James E. Terrill**, Porter, OK, Dec. 7, 2022.
- 1976 Constance K. Grypp Altman**, Cordova, TN, Aug. 1, 2022.
- 1976 Janet C. Schadt Anderson**, E. Moline, Jan. 7, 2023.
- 1976 James A. Barnes**, Ashland, OH, May 8, 2021.
- 1976 Carla Holmes Helmke MS '01**, Quincy, Nov. 28, 2020.
- 1976 Donna D. Prater Kibler**, Maroa, Apr. 24, 2020.
- 1976 Charles H. Nemezc**, Danville, Dec. 11, 2021.
- 1976 Patricia L. Test Warren MA**, Ottumwa, IA, Aug. 21, 2020.
- 1976 Susan L. Wiese Mathias**, Bradenton, FL, Mar. 15, 2022.
- 1977 Thelma L. Nicewarner Bromley MS-ED**, Moline, Sept. 7, 2022.
- 1977 Gerald R. Groom**, Marion, IA, Jan. 15, 2023.
- 1977 Bruce R. Knoblich**, Temecula, CA, Sept. 3, 2022.
- 1977 Jong-Kil Lee MA**, Merrick, NY, June 2, 2022.
- 1977 John A. Mortimeyer**, Morton, July 14, 2022.
- 1977 Mary T. Ford Reich**, Aurora, Aug. 17, 2022.
- 1977 Debbie K. Jager Schmidt**, Lafayette, IN, May 18, 2019.
- 1978 Cecil L. Adair**, Nauvoo, Nov. 5, 2022.
- 1978 Jean A. Harlow-Truesdell**, Jacksonville, Nov. 8, 2022.
- 1978 Ella L. Macomber Johns MS-ED**, League City, TX, Aug. 21, 2022.
- 1978 John J. Nichols MS**, Denver, CO, Aug. 3, 2022.
- 1978 Kevin J. O'Hara**, Pardeeville, WI, Oct. 6, 2022.
- 1978 Guy R. Pinta**, Port Angeles, WA, Oct. 6, 2022.
- 1978 Esequiel B. "Bernie" Rangel MS-ED**, Davenport, IA, Sept. 9, 2022.
- 1979 Eugene R. Burger, Jr.**, Brooksville, FL, Dec. 6, 2022.
- 1979 Jack A. Sizemore**, Mobile, AL, Jan. 4, 2020.
- 1979 Rick D. Twidwell**, Nauvoo, Oct. 27, 2022.
- 1979 Dwayne D. Voss**, Waterloo, IA, Apr. 23, 2021.
- 1979 Maxine S. Shelden Whittaker MS**, Perry, Oct. 9, 2022.
- 1980 Dennis L. Ferris**, Chadwick, Nov. 24, 2022.
- 1980 Gregg N. Johnson**, Galesburg, Nov. 28, 2022.
- 1980 Katherine P. Olendzki Patti**, Chicago, Oct. 29, 2022.
- 1981 Nancy J. McAdams Peters**, E. Moline, July 25, 2022.
- 1981 Terry A. Robertson**, Hannibal, MO, Jan. 11, 2022.
- 1981 Gregory L. Walker**, White Hall, Nov. 16, 2022.
- 1982 Laura J. Jenkins Gdula**, Blacklick, OH, Sept. 25, 2022.
- 1982 Gregory E. Purdy**, Gulf Breeze, FL, June 23, 2021.
- 1983 Jean M. Brown Chaney**, E. Greenwich, July 21, 2022.
- 1983 Daryl E. Cook**, Tremont, Oct. 26, 2022.
- 1983 James C. Forrester**, Champaign, Oct. 20, 2022.
- 1984 Glenda R. Smith Ferguson-Moeller MS '92**, Houghton, IA, Sept. 10, 2022.
- 1984 Susan K. Cromien Galler**, Lake Elmo, MN, Oct. 30, 2022.
- 1984 Violet A. Summerville Hebele MS-ED**, Solomons, MD, Sept. 12, 2022.
- 1984 John W. Netherton MA**, Apex, NC, Mar. 31, 2021.
- 1985 Jean K. Dilworth MA**, Waxhaw, NC, Aug. 30, 2022.
- 1985 Keith M. Ellingson MS**, Indianola, IA, May 14, 2021.
- 1985 Marilyn J. Shoemate Fox MS-ED '91**, LaHarpe, Feb. 14, 2023.
- 1985 Hubert C. Mask MA**, Pittsfield, NH, Aug. 8, 2022.
- 1985 Patrick S. Truitt MS '91**, Williston, SC, Aug. 4, 2021.
- 1986 Laurie A. Adolph MS**, Morrison, July 31, 2022.
- 1986 Paul E. Gorrell**, Marquette Hts., May 27, 2020.
- 1986 Amy E. Suffield Morgan**, Crystal Lake, Aug. 21, 2022.
- 1987 Bradley E. Birkner**, Washington, Apr. 28, 2020.
- 1987 Hyuk-Jong Kim HD '15**, Gwangju, Korea, June 10, 2022.
- 1987 Jean F. Moeller MS-ED**, Longmont, CO, Oct. 17, 2022.
- 1987 Kevin E. Peters**, San Pedro, CA, June 7, 2020.
- 1987 Peter W. Stickles**, Arlington, VA, Aug. 26, 2020.
- 1988 Michael B. Greene**, Lodi, WI, Dec. 7, 2022.
- 1988 Stephen J. McKenna**, Minneapolis, MN, Sept. 12, 2020.
- 1988 Kay C. McTee Messer**, Mt. Pleasant, IA, July 26, 2022.
- 1988 Meghan O. Clarke Yrigoyen**, Polk City, IA, July 16, 2022.
- 1989 Timothy R. Dace**, Roseville, Dec. 9, 2022.
- 1990 Vivian M. Swartz Becker MS-ED**, Davenport, IA, Dec. 2, 2020.
- 1990 Roger L. Greene MBA '92**, Hampton, June 10, 2022.
- 1990 Gerald E. Klinkefus**, Des Moines, IA, May 22, 2021.
- 1990 Terry D. Mahon MS '02**, E. Moline, Mar. 16, 2022.
- 1990 Robert J. McAnally, Jr.**, Burlington, IA, Dec. 29, 2022.
- 1990 Jay A. Payne**, Lisle, July 24, 2022.
- 1990 Merikay M. Roberts**, Canton, Feb. 2, 2023.
- 1990 Donald A. Rutledge**, Galesburg, Oct. 9, 2022.
- 1990 James B. VanLerberghe**, Jefferson, WI, July 22, 2022.
- 1990 Linda L. "Poni" Mann Wilson**, Ft. Gibson, June 29, 2020.
- 1991 Kenneth T. Ballom MS**, Frisco, TX, Jan. 11, 2023.
- 1991 Mary J. Bartman MS-ED**, Rock Island, Nov. 17, 2022.
- 1991 David M. Bremer**, Pompano Beach, FL, Oct. 3, 2022.
- 1991 Linda I. Benn Hourihan**, Queen City, MO, Nov. 9, 2019.
- 1991 Mark S. Laframboise MA**, Arlington, VA, Sept. 29, 2022.
- 1991 Sharon A. Braden Sergeant**, Sioux Falls, SD, Oct. 29, 2018.
- 1992 Larry D. Fahlund**, Galesburg, Oct. 26, 2022.
- 1992 Thurman A. "TA" Lee**, Winona, MN, Jan. 18, 2020.
- 1992 Kathryn J. McAtee Luxmore MS-ED**, Sherrard, Aug. 1, 2022.
- 1992 Sherry V. Craig Margenthaler**, Naples, FL, Nov. 27, 2022.
- 1992 Amy Plauck Walker**, Genoa, Nov. 11, 2022.
- 1992 Bruce A. Weidner**, Wyandot, July 29, 2022.
- 1993 Dennis R. Peterson**, Fairfield, IA, Feb. 25, 2020.
- 1993 Terry A. Roesner**, Cambridge, Nov. 1, 2022.
- 1994 Bruce R. Bockenstedt**, Manchester, IA, Jan. 19, 2023.
- 1994 Samantha Lee Smith**, Lewistown, Apr. 3, 2022.

1995 Barbara W. Williams Cooper MA '98, Rushville, Feb. 5, 2022.

1995 Ronald L. Hicks, Dixon, June 23, 2018.

1997 Eric D. Brumbaugh, N. Aurora, Sept. 6, 2022.

1997 James D. Conant, St. James, MO, Oct. 18, 2022.

1997 Timothy A. Lewis, Rockford, July 12, 2020.

1998 Monica Berlin MA, Galesburg, Nov. 4, 2022.

1998 Jason W. Boesdorfer, Chatham, May 8, 2020.

1998 Joseph S. Daniel, Godfrey, Oct. 30, 2022.

1998 Donald W. England, Orion, June 5, 2020.

1998 Valerie A. Miller, Buffalo Prairie, Apr. 17, 2022.

1998 Eric R. Moss, Wasilla, AK, Aug. 15, 2021.

1998 Carlyle J. Rhodes, Gulfport, MS, Aug. 25, 2021.

1999 Laura R. Hage Schemmer MS-ED, Chatham, Apr. 30, 2021.

2000 Joshua J. Marks, Bolingbrook, Apr. 19, 2020.

2000 Kimberly A. Maxeiner Rawe, Jacksonville, Nov. 1, 2022.

2000 Linda A. Hill Stewart, Monmouth, Nov. 27, 2022.

2001 Tammy L. Vincent Willett, Kingsport, TN, Aug. 14, 2017.

2002 Joshua W. Heitman MBA '04, Keokuk, IA, July 29, 2022.

2003 F. Steven Etheridge, Moline, Aug. 12, 2018.

2004 Glenna S. Garman Prather, Rushville, Aug. 22, 2022.

2006 Michael Sekiguchi, Palatine, July 28, 2022.

2007 Kendall R. Hammond, Weatherford, TX, Oct. 2, 2022.

2007 Keisuke Nozaki MA, Macomb, Jan. 20, 2023.

2007 Sandra L. Walker, Sedley, VA, Aug. 16, 2021.

2008 Bobbi J. Bradley Halemeyer MA '09, Keokuk, IA, Sept. 4, 2021.

2008 Martin A. Krawiec, Arvada, CO Aug. 20, 2022.

2008 Dana C. Watkins-Cannizzo, Arlington Hts., July 22, 2022.

2009 Jill Carlson Petrie MS-ED, Ophiem, Sept. 27, 2022.

2010 Keith A. Wilson, Yorkville, Dec. 12, 2022.

2012 Abdulmusa "Musa" Sonmus MA '13, Turkey, Feb. 2023.

2013 Jim P. "Opie" Shirk, Erie, Aug. 3, 2022.

2015 Michelle Larson Weckerly, Taylor Ridge, Dec. 8, 2022.

2017 Cole A. Johnson MS '19, Beardstown, Sept. 29, 2022.

2017 Michael D. Strachan, Medinah, Oct. 8, 2022.

2019 Dustin L. Brown, Lebanon, July 23, 2022.

2020 Joshua J. Brennan, Davenport, IA, Mar. 4, 2022.

Joan A. Baril, Davenport, IA, Aug. 17, 2022.

Bonnie J. Trachsel Becker, Macomb, Nov. 10, 2022.

Allen R. Black, Colchester, Aug. 29, 2022.

John W. Brown, Macomb, Oct. 22, 2022.

James R. Calhoun, Macomb, July 28, 2022.

Carolyn Colvin, Macomb, Aug. 21, 2022.

Dorothy H. Davis Doedtman, Springfield, Feb. 18, 2021.

Robert F. Druien, Crestwood, KY, Jan. 13, 2023.

Kenneth N. Easley, Bay Shore, NY, Dec. 2, 2018.

Richard A. Ellsworth, Macomb, Sept. 5, 2022.

Martha B. Eslinger, Bushnell, Oct. 30, 2022.

Rodney J. Fink, Macomb, Feb. 3, 2023.

Mary L. Strube Florschuetz, Georgetown, TX, Aug. 16, 2022.

Richard B. Fuller, Banner, Sept. 21, 2022.

Georgia J. Frazier, Little Falls, MN, Mar. 27, 2021.

Robert L. Frey, Monmouth, Oct. 1, 2022.

Frank J. Galati, Sarasota, FL, Jan. 2, 2023.

William H. Gelvin, Macomb, Nov. 19, 2022.

Larry R. Gillenwater, N. Ft. Myers, FL, Jan. 19, 2023.

Howard L. Hanson, Fishers, IN, July 9, 2022.

Paul R. Hayes, Green Valley, AZ, Aug. 16, 2022.

Virginia K. Hellenga, Galesburg, Aug. 3, 2022.

Lilburn H. Horton, Stanwood, WA, Nov. 8, 2022.

Charles H. John, Macomb, Jan. 26, 2023.

Vilma F. Valentine Kinney, Peoria, Oct. 19, 2022.

Penolia E. "Peggy" Lickey, Peoria, Sept. 9, 2022.

Antoinette M. Mongi Loomis, Ft. Myers, FL, Sept. 7, 2022.

Kenny L. Loquist, Bolingbrook, Oct. 10, 2022.

Charles E. Malone, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 16, 2023.

Richard J. McClintock, Macomb, Nov. 24, 2022.

Frederick G. Miller, Urbana, Dec. 4, 2022.

Gary W. Mott, Scottsdale, AZ, Sept. 14, 2022.

Charles E. Neblock, Macomb, Oct. 26, 2022.

Janet I. Tippet Norris, Plymouth, Oct. 14, 2022.

David E. Noteboom, Macomb, Oct. 26, 2022.

Loreen Kavulani Odemu, San Jose, CA, Sept. 3, 2022.

William H. Pence, Lomax, Dec. 6, 2022

Velma Marie Pfeiffer, Colchester, Nov. 11, 2022.

R. David Quinn, Macomb, Sept. 17, 2022.

Helen L. Anderson Rigg, Pontiac, July 31, 2022.

Orvetta M. Robinson, Springfield, Aug. 29, 2021.

Ann Sedman, Macomb, Nov. 14, 2022.

Stanley D. Sellers, Macomb, Feb. 1, 2023.

Norvel Taite, Macomb, Oct 11, 2022.

Corene S. "Susan" Tellefson, Macomb, Nov. 22, 2022.

Sharon L. Williams, Belton, MO, Nov. 12, 2019.

Mary L. Wolfmeyer, Macomb, July 28, 2022.

Kenneth T. Wright, Blandinsville, Sept. 29, 2022.

William J. Wright, Jr., Cincinnati, OH, Feb. 12, 2022.

CLASS NOTE CRITERIA

Information received will be published in the next edition if any of the following have occurred in the past 12 months: a job change, promotion, special honor, retirement, marriage (include date), births or adoptions (include date).

Information will be listed by year of first degree earned. Due to the high volume of address changes, information will not be published if there simply has been a change of address. All information submitted will be updated in the alumni database and may be viewed in the next issue of the magazine, in the online alumni directory, as well as in the online version of the Western Magazine at wiu.edu/alumni.

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