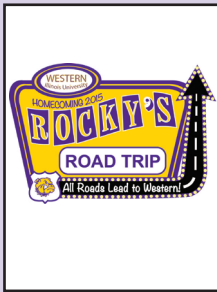


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Western News



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Alumni News and Notes from Western Illinois University

WIU football player heeds the call

By Darcie Shinberger '89 MS '98

Western Illinois University Leatherneck Defensive Lineman **Jordan (JJ) Veloz** is about to get perhaps the biggest play of his life—tackling a rare immune disorder.

Veloz, a sophomore exercise science major from Oak Creek (WI) is fine, but an infant in another state is not. And that is where Veloz steps up to the line. Later this summer, the 20-year-old will travel from Macomb to his home state to donate bone marrow to an ailing child. Veloz signed up to be a bone marrow donor in April 2014 as part of the WIU Be the Match on Campus chapter's and the WIU Football team's "Get in the Game. Save a Life." bone marrow registry drive held on Western's campus. The "Get in the Game" drive, which is a national initiative that began in 2008 by Villanova Coach Andrew Talley, is designed to build the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry. WIU's chapter and the football team joined forces to host a registry drive April 23. Approximately 311 individuals registered.

"When we partnered last year with the WIU chapter of Be the Match, I had never heard of Be the Match or the bone marrow registry," Veloz said. "But the thing that made me want to register was just the thought if I were in need of a donation or one of my family members were in need."

According to Veloz, registering is simple. It takes just about 15-20 minutes. After completing the required paperwork, a few swabs are taken from the inside of a donor's mouth and the DNA goes into the national bone marrow registry. Veloz was first contacted about being a possible match in March, and from there, he had additional blood tests completed to ensure he was indeed a match.

"On April 9, I got the call that told me I was a match," he said. "In the near future, I will complete the bone marrow donation for an infant who lives in another state."



JJ Veloz

Continued on p. 22

Alumnus wins fourth Emmy Award

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Western Illinois University alumnus and Macomb native **Jock Hedblade '83** has won his fourth Emmy Award as part of a distinguished professional career working in television.

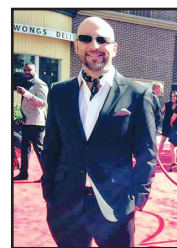
Hedblade, who received his bachelor's degree in mass communications in 1983, is a field producer with "Steve Harvey," the nationally syndicated talk show. On April 26 the show was awarded an Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Talk Show/Informative.

The win marked the fourth time Hedblade has been part of an Emmy-winning show and the second win while he was part of "Steve Harvey." The other two Emmys

came for Hedblade's documentary work, including a 2001 win for "Smashing Pumpkins: Full Circle" for the Fox network and a 2002 win for the PBS documentary "How Chicago Rocked the '60s."

Hedblade has worked with the "Steve Harvey" show since it began three years ago.

"As for the last two Emmys, I owe most all of that to the ridiculously talented team at 'Steve Harvey,' especially those who guide us, Alex Duda



Continued on p. 22

2015 Distinguished alumni, Honorary Doctorate recipients honored at commencement

The outstanding accomplishments of Western Illinois University graduates **Stephen P. Larson '78 MBA '79**, former vice president of Caterpillar, Inc., **Ed Ohlin '73**, president of H-BR Automotive Consulting, and **Hyuk-Jong Kim MS-Ed '87**, president of Gwangju University in Korea, were recognized May 16 at the Spring 2015 Commencement.

Larson and Ohlin received the Distinguished Alumni Award, while Kim received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters.

An accountancy and MBA graduate, Larson served as the vice president of Peoria (IL)-based Caterpillar Inc. with responsibility for the Parts Distribution and Logistics and Diversified Products Divisions until his retirement in 2014. He joined Caterpillar in 1979 and held a number of positions with growing responsibilities in the areas of accounting, finance, marketing, product management and logistics. In 1995, he was named San Francisco district manager in the North American Commercial Division (NACD), and he later held positions as a product manager for large track-type tractors and as NACD regional manager.

Larson completed the Duke University Advanced Management program in 2001, and in 2003, he moved to Singapore to become a vice president of



Stephen P. Larson '78 MBA '79



Ed Ohlin '73



Hyuk-Jong Kim MS-Ed '87

Continued on p. 23

2015 UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

See pg. 2 for entire calendar and pg. 28 for details.

July

- 7-14 . . . Alaska
- 11 Chicago
- 25 Lake of the Ozarks

August

- 1 Chicago
- 5 Chicago

5-13 . . . Scotland

- 13-21 . . Baltic Marvels
- 19 Nashville
- 20 Memphis

September

- 2 Rock Island
- 12 Champaign

16 Charlotte (NC)

- 17 Raleigh (NC)
- 19 Conway (SC)
- 24 Macomb
- 25 Macomb

October

- 26-Oct. . Greek Isles
- 2 Macomb

3 Macomb

- 7 Chicago Suburb
- 11 Kansas City
- 21 Columbus
- 14-22 . . Tuscany
- 22 Cincinnati
- 24 Normal (IL)



Greetings! On behalf of Western Illinois University, the WIU Alumni Association and the Alumni Programs staff, we thank you all for helping make our 2015 Purple and Gold Day, held on April 24, one of the greatest days ever to be a Leatherneck! We celebrated the

anniversary of the day Western became an institution of higher education in style with 15 simultaneous events around the country (S. Korea was celebrated May 30) and two bonus events. Our live streaming message from Denver went out to our Alumni and Friends at all of the locations and those watching live online. A special thank you to the alumni who were willing to host a couple of the events on our behalf—we could not have done it without you. Thank you Leatherneck Nation for supporting the day and supporting Western Illinois University!

P.S. See p. 23 for photos!

Amy E. Spelman
-Amy Spelman MS '98

WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

JULY 2015

7-14 Alumni Travel Abroad - Coastal Alaska
11 Cubs vs. White Sox Social & Baseball Game at Wrigley Field
25 Lake of the Ozarks (MO) Alumni & Friends Social
31-Aug. 1 Black Alumni Reunion Weekend in Chicago

AUGUST 2015

5 Chicago Western Wednesdays Downtown at Kroll's South Loop
5-13 Alumni Travel Abroad - Scotland
13-21 Alumni Travel Abroad - Baltic Marvels
19 Nashville (TN) Alumni & Friends Social
20 Memphis (TN) Alumni & Friends Event - Redbirds vs. El Paso Pregame Social & Baseball Game

SEPTEMBER 2015

2 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in Rock Island (IL) at City Limits
12 WIU at U of I Pregame Social & Football Game
16 Charlotte (NC) Alumni & Friends Social
17 Raleigh/Durham (NC) Alumni & Friends Social
19 WIU at Coastal Carolina Pregame Social & Football Game
24 Celebrating Town & Gown 2015 in Macomb at The Forum
25 Paint the Paws in Macomb
26-Oct. 5 Alumni Travel Abroad - Greek Isles Odyssey

OCTOBER 2015

2-3 Homecoming & Reunion
7 Chicago Western Wednesdays in Suburb
11 Kansas City (MO) Alumni & Friends Event - Chiefs vs. Bears Pregame Social & Football Game
14-22 Alumni Travel Abroad - Rediscovered Tuscany
21 Columbus (OH) Alumni & Friends Social
22 Cincinnati (OH) Alumni & Friends Social
24 WIU at ISU Pregame Social & Football Game

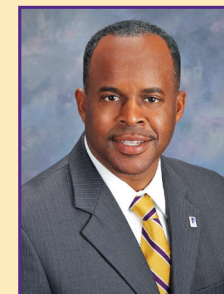
NOVEMBER 2015

4 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays in Davenport (IA)
5 New Orleans Alumni & Friends Social
6-18 Alumni Travel Abroad - Eastern & Oriental Express
12 Las Vegas Alumni & Friends Social
15 St. Louis Alumni & Friends Event - Rams vs. Bears Pregame Social & Football Game

DECEMBER 2015

2 Chicago Western Wednesdays Downtown
19 Graduation & Alumni Achievement Awards

From the President



As I do each year in my Western News Summer issue column, I would like to welcome our newest Western Illinois University graduates to the WIU Alumni Association. You will always remain a part of the Leatherneck family, and Western will always be your home away from home.

At this year's Commencement Exercises, I reminded our students that "now is the time" and encouraged them to not allow opportunities in life to pass them by. While my words were directed at the Class of 2015, these are words all of us can, and should, live by regardless of our ages or graduation years. Take advantage of each moment of each day. You should approach each day of life with optimism and as an opportunity. Awake and greet each day as a new chance to move toward your goals and dreams. Awake and meet each new morning as a new opportunity to show compassion to all of humanity. Awake and welcome each day as you make the world a better place.

I also told our students that, as alumni of this great institution, they can make a significant impact on WIU by continuing to support their alma mater in our efforts to make this the best institution in the nation. The same message holds true for all of Western's alumni, faculty, and staff. With your continued support and involvement, this university will be an unshakable and unmovable force.

As I enter my fifth year as president of Western Illinois University, I am in awe at how quickly time has passed. I look back at what we have accomplished, and for many of those achievements, I have you, our loyal alumni, to thank. You have donated generously to Western Illinois University, not just of your financial resources, but of your time. So many of you return to share your knowledge and expertise with our students. Several of you hire our students as interns and for their first jobs after college, and many of you provide funding for scholarships, facilities improvements, and academic programs. During these incredibly challenging economic times, your support and dedication make a world of difference. Thank you for all that you do for Western Illinois University.

Together, we are one great Leatherneck Nation! I look forward to seeing you at alumni events this summer.

All my best,

Jack Thomas

Jack Thomas

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See "Send Us Your News" (page 24).
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WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Business and Technology

CBT student scholarships

College of Business & Technology Undergraduate Scholarships 2015-2016

Marigale Murray Briggs Memorial Scholarship
Tamikka Elliott, Human Resource Management

CBT Distinguished Alumnus Scholarship
Jacob Smith, Construction Management

Albert Eads Scholarship
Austin Von Alst, Accountancy

Dr. Jack P. Daniels Scholarship
Parker Gibbs, Marketing
Lindsay Henschen, Management
Melanie Herrera-Ortiz, Management
Kyle Messer, Management

Excellence in Business & Technology Scholarships
Mackenzie Buyck, Agricultural Business
Matt Cook, Supply Chain Management
Lauren Heneby, Agricultural Business
Emelie Herrera-Ortiz, Marketing
Shyenne Horras, Marketing
Megan Opiekun, Accountancy
Charissa Sanders, Accountancy
Nolan Schuhler, Supply Chain Management
Kara Ziegler, Accountancy

Max E. Howe and Madge P. Howe-Cooper Scholarship
Jennifer Gibson, Supply Chain Management

G. Allan Laflin Business Scholarship
Sarah Sikula, Supply Chain Management

David and Gretchen Miller Scholarship
William Gradle, Economics

Larry and Brenda Miller Scholarship
Courtney Fauke, Accountancy

Robert Nardelli Student Athlete Scholarship
Andrew Blackburn, Economics
Luke Otto, Economics
Austin Von Alst, Accountancy

Jerry Purdum Scholarship for Business
Patricia Barrett, Accountancy

Sharon K.S. and Donald J. Tomnitz Scholarship
Evan Westart, Management

Dr. Lewis Wall Scholarship
Andriana Johnson, Management

Outstanding Seniors and Graduate Students for 2015

Department of Accounting and Finance
Joseph Goetz, Senior
Danielle Balbach, Graduate Student

School of Agriculture
Jennifer Jackson, Senior

School of Computer Sciences
Patrick Walsh, Senior
Andrew Ring, Graduate Student

Department of Economics and Decision Sciences
Taras Safonov, Graduate Student

School of Engineering
Bryce Brewer, Senior

Department of Engineering Technology
Jake Shain, Senior-Construction Management
Mohamed Fayed, Graduate Student

Department of Management and Marketing
Ann Miller, Senior-Supply Chain Management

Dave Bloomberg Outstanding MBA Student
Anna Gibbs

Michael P. Kelly Scholar / Outstanding College Senior
Michael Aitchison, Economics and Decision Sciences



The College of Business and Technology (CBT) congratulates the outstanding seniors and graduate students, college scholarship recipients, as well as the additional scholarship recipients from their respective departments. Videos of the college scholarship recipients are available for viewing at wiu.edu/CBT/youtube.

Faculty awards



CBT Faculty Awards for 2015

Excellence in Scholarly, Creative, Performative, and Professional Activities

- **Peppi Kenny**, professor of finance, Department of Accounting and Finance (left center)

Excellence in Teaching with Technology

- **Rafael Obregon MS '91**, associate professor of engineering technology, Department of Engineering Technology (right center)

Excellence in Teaching

- **Justin Ehrlich**, assistant professor of computer science, School of Computer Sciences (right)

Also pictured: College of Business and Technology Dean **Kathy Neumann '86 MS '88** (left)

New student lounge



Under the direction of College of Business and Technology Dean **Kathy Neumann '86 MS '88**, the old copy center in Stipes Hall 111 received fresh paint, new flooring, and comfortable furniture transforming it into a bright and comfortable student lounge.

Employee Spotlight

Amy Ford, accounting instructor

Western Illinois University alumna and WIU Accounting Instructor **Amy Ford '01 M.Acct. '02, CPA, CMA** is helping students and accounting professionals around the world with her new role as the main instructor in a series of lectures by Gleim, the most widely used provider of study materials for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Review.

The Gleim Instruct video series features lectures of core concepts, detailed coverage of examples and explanations of multiple-choice questions, all of which are designed to assist in preparation for the CMA exam. Three university-level educators, who have taken and passed the CMA exam, lead the lectures, with Ford being the main lecturer.

Ford took the CMA exam in 2011 and received one of the top overall scores. Her score, along with her

involvement in the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), has led to numerous conference presentations, as well as the opportunity to work with Gleim.

"I feel like I am in the classroom with students as we produce the videos—lecturing on topics and going over examples," Ford said. "CMA exam candidates are going to find the Gleim Instruct videos to be helpful in their preparation for the exam. Instead of just reading materials, candidates are getting lecture instruction and step-by-step guidance in working through some of the difficult material. It is so much more than reading an outline or text book, as the videos truly replicate the classroom environment."

Ford received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy from WIU. She sat for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam the same month she graduated

with her master's. In 2006, she began teaching at Western.

"I enjoyed my college experience at WIU and had so many great professors," Ford added. "I was thrilled to come back and teach and be that instructor who makes a difference in a student's experience here. I love working with students and helping them learn about accounting. Many students find accounting difficult, which is why I try to make it understandable in the classroom."

For more information about the Gleim CMA Review, visit gleim.com/accounting/cma. For more information about WIU's accountancy program, visit wiu.edu/accountancy or call (309) 298-1152.



**Amy Ford '01
M.Acct '02**

Business and Technology

Once-in-a-lifetime trip: Bogota, Colombia



L to r: Jose Upegui, KONE account executive; MBA students Tim Houzenga, Aric Wilhau and Rong Li; and Ann Walsh, professor of marketing.

WIU Marketing Professor **Ann Walsh** and three of her graduate students, **Timothy Houzenga** (Morrison, IL), **Rong Li** (Moline, IL) and **Aric Wilhau** (Clarence, IA) traveled to Bogota, Colombia March 13-19. The travel opportunity came through the outgrowth of a project Walsh started in her master's of business administration (MBA) class, Global Decision Making (MKTG 576). Students were assigned a "live case," in which a local business professional presents the students with an international challenge that he/she is currently facing. In turn, the students, working in teams, delve into the case and come back and present possible solutions to the business professional.

After reading an article about Juan Valdez Cafes entering the U.S. market last fall, Walsh contacted Jose Upegui, an account executive at KONE, who currently works in Bogota because she knew Upegui was familiar with Juan Valdez and the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia (FNC). Upegui not only agreed to help with the project, he took it to the highest level of the FNC—his cousin, Carlos Alberto Gonzalez, chief commercial officer over the whole organization. The project evolved into "How can Juan Valdez enter the U.S. K-Cup (single serve) market." At the end of November, Gonzalez extended an invitation to Walsh and three students to visit the FNC.

The class presentations were recorded, and both the videos and written reports were taken to Colombia. The FNC paid all of the expenses, except airline tickets. Additional travel support came from the WIU's Department of Management and Marketing and the College of Business and Technology Dean's Office. The students were selected on the basis of interest, availability and standing in the class.

While in Colombia, the FNC and Upegui took the

group to coffee farms, the research and development center (Cenicafe), the National Coffee Park, the factories, a milling plant and FNC's national headquarters.

According to Walsh, what made the experience so interesting was the FNC. The FNC was created in 1927 by the Colombian Coffee Growers. Today, it has over 500,000 members, of which 96 percent are small—less than 5 hectares (12 acres).

"Due to FNC coverage, its social impact and its management capacity, it can be considered as one of the world's biggest NGOs [non-governmental organizations]," Walsh said. "It was amazing how enthusiastic and committed everyone was in supporting the farmers and the environment. On several occasions we heard people say, 'I love what I do.' Their passion was contagious—everyone felt it."

"The trip to Colombia was truly once in a lifetime," Wilhau said. "To be able to spend an entire semester studying a real-life firm and a business opportunity facing them, and to then get to travel abroad and work in person with the firm was the best possible learning opportunity. The generosity of the FNC is unparalleled, and Western Illinois University couldn't be more fortunate to have been able to work with this organization. This opportunity is the most valuable learning experience I have had at Western, and I was so fortunate to have gotten the chance to go to Colombia."

Houzenga described the experience as, "Outstanding! It was a trip of a lifetime for me and one that I never would have expected to be able to participate in, a real eye opener.

"It is an amazing thing to know that WIU is willing to commit funds to students who have opportunities to participate in international projects like what we did," Houzenga added. "The world is connected more than

"This opportunity is the most valuable learning experience I have had at Western, and I was so fortunate to have gotten the chance to go to Colombia."

- ARIC WILHAU



Ann Walsh, WIU marketing professor, explained that when the expert coffee tasters use the terms "to cup" and "cupping," they mean "to taste" and "tasting." The process is similar to wine tasting, except the experts taste it very quickly and noisily. Then they spit it out.

it ever was before and the trip provided first-hand, real world proof of that. It is one thing to study hundreds of theories in a book, memorize them and answer questions on a test. It brings you to a whole new level when you can take what we have studied and apply it to a real world/life situation. It has boosted my confidence tremendously, and once again, I am glad WIU cares about what students are doing outside of the classroom, as well as in the classroom."

"Beautiful views and minds," are the words Li used to describe Colombia. "Colombia is absolutely one of the hidden gems in South America that many people pass by.

"It was also a great experience for business students who are interested in globalization, business practices and operation," she added. "I love my professors at Western. They are knowledgeable and always supportive, but to feel it in the real world is still quite different than learning it in the classroom."

For information regarding study abroad opportunities at WIU, visit wiu.edu/studyabroad or call (309) 298-2504.



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Business and Technology

John Distefano named WIU CBT Distinguished Alumnus

By Alisha Looney MA '13

John Distefano '80, managing partner for Ernst and Young's (EY) Advisory Services, was named the Western Illinois University College of Business and Technology's (CBT) Distinguished Alumnus for 2015. Distefano graduated from Western with a bachelor of business administration degree in quantitative and information science; he earned his master of information management degree from Washington University in 1990.

While on campus in March, Distefano spoke to students and faculty and presented a keynote speech.

Distefano joined EY in 1990 and was admitted to the partnership in 1996. He also held leadership positions for EY as a national practice leader for business consulting services and Americas sector leader for health care consulting, and he was previously a national partner with Accenture and Deloitte.

In his position, he assists senior (C-suite) executives and Boards of Directors of EY's major clients to help direct strategies on capital investments, talent and leadership transition, business model risk and innovation, corporate governance and industry regulatory issues.

Distefano, who was selected as one of the nation's Top 25 consultants for achievements in the health care industry in 2012, has more than 34 years of experience in multiple industries, working closely with senior executives to design and implement transformational programs to reduce cost, manage profitability and identify new market opportunities. His areas of expertise include business performance innovation, enterprise analytics and the application of enabling technologies for business operations involvement.

While his professional career began as a systems

analyst for a global manufacturing company, where he assisted with designing, building and launching the company's first green-field manufacturing and technology center in more than 30 years, he continued his professional advancement at the nation's largest health information systems company.

Distefano is a regular speaker at industry events, has served as a contributing editor for industry journals and co-authored the book "Wireless Enterprise Architecture."

Distefano and his wife of 34 years, **Kim '81**, live in Chesterfield (MO). Their children, Logan and Tom, both live and work in the Chicago area.

In 1987, retired CBT Dean **Robert Jefferson** introduced an award of excellence intended to recognize the commendable efforts of WIU business alumni. Since that time, the CBT has honored numerous business alumni who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and outstanding career success.

For more information about the CBT Distinguished Alumni program, contact CBT Director of Development **Becky Paulsen** at (309) 298-2442 or B-Paulsen@wiu.edu.



John Distefano '80 and WIU CBT Dean Kathleen Neumann '86 MS '88.

WIU CBT maintains AACSB International accreditation

By Alisha Looney MA '13

Western Illinois University's College of Business and Technology (CBT) has maintained accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The CBT received official word of the accreditation extension March 31.

The AACSB was founded in 1916 and is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees in business and accounting. Western is one of 727 member institutions with the AACSB accreditation, with 48 countries and territories being represented.

To achieve accreditation, a business program goes through a process of rigorous internal review; engagement with an AACSB assigned mentor and a peer review. According to the AACSB website, during the multi-year process, the school focuses on developing and implementing a plan to align with the AACSB's accreditation standards, which are divided into four areas: strategic management and innovation, participants (students, faculty and staff), learning and teaching, and academic and professional engagement.

"We are very proud that our business programs continue to meet the rigorous standards set forth by the AACSB," said CBT Dean **Kathleen Neumann '86 MS '88**. "The College of Business and Technology continues to be a committed supporter of the AACSB mission and understands the value of AACSB membership for our students, faculty and employers."

To learn more about WIU's CBT, visit wiu.edu/cbt or call (309) 298-2442.

Alumni Spotlight

By Alisha Looney MA '13

Senior shareholder of the Davis Brown Law Firm (Des Moines, IA) and Western Illinois University alumna **Lori T. Chesser '84** was recently appointed chair of the American Immigration Council Board of Trustees.

Chesser has been active in the American Immigration Council for nine years. The council, based in Washington D.C., is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides policy research and advocacy, legal education and public interest litigation, educational outreach and international exchanges.

The attorney, who graduated from Western with a finance degree, also serves as chair of the law firm's Immigration Department. As an immigration lawyer, Chesser represents individuals and companies in employment-based immigration applications for both temporary and permanent positions, assists in making visa applications, trains and advises companies on I-9 compliance and audit response and helps plan immigration strategy for business owners and entrepreneurs. She also assists in family-based immigration, including fiancé visa applications and marriage-based and other family-related immigration issues.

Chesser said her background in business and finance, as well as her options to take a variety of classes,

WIU alumna appointed chair of the American Immigration Council Board of Trustees

including literature and art, gave her a good background for her law practice.

"I had my first taste of law in my business law class, taught by **Doug March**, who is a lawyer and did a great job of bringing out legal issues and demonstrating how lawyers analyze problems," Chesser said.

"I use my business background every day as I work with many corporate clients, review financial statements and tax returns and explain the workings of business in the course of advocating for the immigration of a particular employee or company founder," she added. "I was also involved in the first WIU Student Alumni Association, organized by **Gordy Taylor '68** [retired alumni programs director], which gave me the chance to watch a board work, see how the alumni office worked and go to networking events—all things I think back to when I'm in board meetings now."

Chesser, who is a Macomb native, chose Western because she knew the well-respected reputation the College of Business and Technology had, as well as the reasonable cost WIU offered.

"I grew up in Macomb, and my dad taught at Western in the College of Business [and Technology]. It was enlightening to see that a whole world existed in Macomb that I didn't know about," she said. "It taught me to dig into a community and find out all the possibilities."

"I remember sitting outside a classroom, waiting for a

friend, and hearing this booming voice lecturing. After a while, I became curious about this class and this teacher. It turned out to be Gordy. I ended up taking two management classes from him and thoroughly enjoyed them. I learned from Gordy how to tell a story and how to make friends. He definitely helped me in many ways in my life, and I don't think I have thanked him enough," she added.

Chesser said she makes it back to Macomb four or five times a year. Her family loves to attend the Al Sears Jazz Festival, especially the headlining concert.

Along with the Student Alumni Association, Chesser was also a member of the choir, student orientation board and Beta Gamma Sigma. She said she still loves music and continues to cantor at mass regularly, as well as perform in other contexts. Chesser also enjoys gardening, collecting art and designing home improvements. She and her husband enjoy traveling and exploring new places from small towns to "more adventurous travel" and are both involved in the international Catholic organization Focolare Movement.

Chesser and her husband, John, live in Des Moines.



Lori T. Chesser '84

Business and Technology

Study abroad in Australia



Spring Break did not mean a “break” in education for 13 students in the WIU School of Agriculture. Instead, they headed to Australia to immerse themselves in the agricultural production and culture of Australia through a short-term Study Abroad program with **John Carlson**, agriculture instructor, as the group leader.

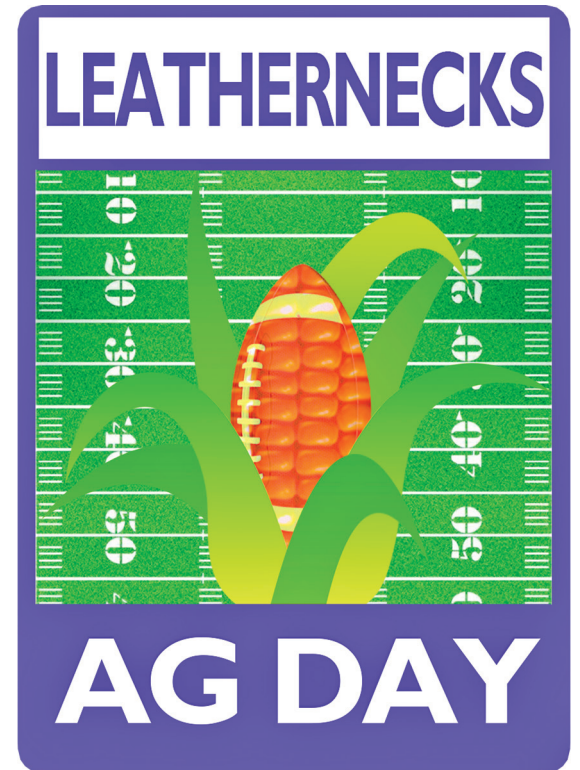
In addition to the sights in Sydney and Melbourne, the students visited rice farms, a commercial orchard, a cattle farm, winery and a sheep station with 40,000 ewes in the Australian outback. They also visited the farm and other educational facilities of Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga Wagga.

WIU has a long-standing relationship with CSU, as the two schools have exchanged students in the past for

semester-long stays, and CSU brought 18 students and two faculty to WIU last summer for a short-term visit. CSU Professor Ted Wolfe arranged for the agricultural visits by the WIU group, just as Carlson arranged for tours of agricultural facilities last summer for the CSU students.

The trip also included a first: it was the first time a student with a hearing disability participated in a Study Abroad program. **Tara Buchanan**, director of Disability Support Services at WIU, **Kim McDaniel '94 MA '06**, of WIU's Study Abroad program, and Carlson worked together to secure additional funding for an interpreter to be included in the program to sign for the student.

This was the third time Carlson has taken students to Australia. He has led seven groups to Russia, two to China and one to Costa Rica.



The Western Illinois University Leathernecks season-opening game against the Eastern Illinois University Panthers is at 6 p.m. Sept. 3. Tickets purchased from the WIU School of Agriculture support the agricultural student organization of choice. Event details and tickets are available at wiu.edu/ag/football or call (309) 298-1080.

WIU performance tested bull sale posts record high average

It was a record-breaking year for the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture's Performance Tested Bull Sale. According to **Samantha Cunningham**, assistant professor of animal science, not only did the March 13 sale post a record high average, but the record high individual price was also broken twice before the sale was over.

Buyers from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Missouri took home 56 high-quality, high-performing bulls for an average price of \$3,851 per bull. The highest-selling bull—a percentage Simmental consigned by Washburn Simmental and Angus (Olney, IL)—sold for \$8,000, Cunningham noted.

Monte Lowderman '90, of Lowderman Auction Company (Macomb) auctioneered the sale.

“The WIU School of Agriculture Bull Sale not only gives students valuable hands-on experience, but it also provides the bull sellers and buyers a value-added commodity. In this case, it is the value of genetics,” Lowderman noted. “For sellers, it provides them with valuable information to make their products better, and for the buyers, it provides the value of better products.”

Cunningham said the tradition of the Performance Tested Bull Sale in the School of Agriculture is among the reasons for the sale's ongoing success.

“This is a 43-year long tradition at WIU, and I believe the sale's history, as well as a strong cattle market, contributed to our record-breaking success this spring,” she explained. “This bull test and sale is a collaborative effort among animal science faculty, agriculture field lab staff, student workers and student volunteers—not to mention the supportive alumni of Western.”





Fine Arts and Communication



Rocky on Parade

A second creation of colorful "Rocky" statues will soon dot the Western Illinois University and Macomb landscape as the design work on the second "Rocky on Parade" collection began in April.

In addition to the 14 dogs already on display at Western and around Macomb, 23

fiberglass bulldogs will be part of the 2015 collection. The inaugural round was placed in 2013 after an idea by WIU Art Professor **Bill Howard**.

On April 21 the 23 sponsors who purchased a fiberglass "Rocky" met for Draft Day in the University Union. Each sponsor was able to look at prospective designs for the dog and then choose the artist they wanted to design their creation.

Artists will work on their respective dogs over the summer and the final statues will be unveiled at the annual Town & Gown event Thursday, Sept. 24 at The Forum in downtown Macomb.

The finished "Rocky" statues will also be part of the Saturday, Oct. 3 WIU Homecoming Parade. After Homecoming 2015, the dogs will be placed at their permanent homes on the WIU campus and at various Macomb locations.

The money raised through the sponsorship of the statues benefits scholarships for art students at Western.

The artists and sponsors matched during the April Draft Day include: WIU Art Professor **Julie Mahoney** (artist)—Macomb Auto Parts; junior graphic communication major **Mariah Bartz** from Macomb (artist)—WIU Foundation; Faculty Assistant **Robert Brownlow** (artist)—First Bankers Trust; WIU Geography Office Manager **Deb Lutz '84, '05** (artist)—John Blauvelt; **Tara Lee Morgan '15**, senior foreign languages major from Bettendorf (IA) (artist)—Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen Funeral Home; Assistant Professor **Ian Shelly** (artist)—**Roger Clawson '77**; Assistant Professor **Tammy Honesty** (artist)—Citizens Bank; senior general studies major **Ryan Waller** from Monmouth (IL) (artist)—Wesley United Methodist Church; senior art major **Erin Lundgren** from Galesburg (IL) (artist)—Wesley Village; **Sharon Barr '64** (artist)—**Bill Epperly '68**; Heather Starr (artist)—Dr. Scott and Ann Urch; sophomore political science major **Kevin Ruiz** from Chicago (artist)—**Tony Ashenhurst '77**; senior art major **Shelby White**, of Washington (IA) (artist)—**Garry and Marilyn Johnson**; senior biology major **Katie Mainor '15** from Macomb (artist)—Cory and Diann Clem; senior art major **Kyla Culbertson** from Canton (IL) (artist)—Woodrum Automotive; Gabe Stevens (artist)—Anonymous; senior art major **Abby Nelson** from St. Charles (IL) (artist)—WIU Parent and Family Association Class of 2008; junior art major **Hannah Allen** from Burlington (IA) (artist)—WIU Parent and Family Association Class of 2009; junior art major **Katy Verkuilen** from Macomb (artist)—Sports Corner@124; Natalie Shelly (artist)—Westen Investments; junior art major **Tanner Nygard** from Galesburg (IL) (artist)—WIU Parent and Family Association Class of 2010; sophomore art major **Queen Hibbler** from Romeoville (IL) (artist)—WIU Parent and Family Association Class of 2011; senior general studies major **Tedgie Hamilton '15** from Moline (IL) (artist)—Dr. **Shane '02** and **Carrie Van Vleet '03**.

For a map of the current 14 dogs, visit wiu.edu/vpaps/rocky_on_parade/docs/ROP-map2.pdf.



Miner returns to choreograph at WIU

Western Illinois University alumna **Mo Miner '00** returned to her native Macomb and alma mater to choreograph with students in the University's Department of Theatre and Dance.

Miner, who received her bachelor's degree in psychology and her minor in dance, is a modern dance teacher, performer and choreographer in San Francisco (CA). She also teaches dance at the University of San Francisco, UC Berkeley, and Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, where she directs the Shawl-Anderson Youth Ensemble.

Miner last returned to WIU in 2012 as a guest teacher. During her visit, she worked with four students on a piece they performed during the department's Spring Gala Dance Concert.

During nine hours of available rehearsal time over four days, Miner worked with four students on a piece called, "Where We Left Off." Students who performed the piece include **Karly Hillyer '15**, a senior psychology major from Rushville (IL); **Nikki Sangiacomo**, a senior education major from Villa Park (IL); **Lauren Marchetto**, a sophomore pre-elementary education major from Glenview (IL) and **Shannon Phillips**, a senior political science major from Macomb.

For more information about WIU's Department of Theatre and Dance, visit wiu.edu/theatre or call (309) 298-1543.



WIU Alumna Mo Miner '00, right, is pictured working with WIU students, from left, Karly Hillyer '15, Shannon Phillips, Nikki Sangiacomo and Lauren Marchetto.

Betts returns to alma mater

Western Illinois University alumna **Melody Betts MFA '09** returned to Macomb in April to share her experiences working in acting and theatre with WIU students.

Betts is best known for her appearances in theatrical performances in Chicago, Milwaukee (WI), Kansas City (MO) and New York, as well as appearances on television shows, such as "Chicago PD" and "Chicago Code."

In meeting with WIU students, Betts answered questions from those who were preparing to graduate.

"It's such a gift to our students when solid, working, viable artists come share their time and talent," said WIU Assistant Professor of Theatre **Lysa Fox**. "It's even more special when it's an alum of our program."

Betts encouraged students to keep things in perspective, even in the face of theatrical rejection. She told students to "forget the no's quicker, rejoice in the yes's longer."

Betts also encouraged students to continue honing and expanding their skills, many of which she said were acquired while she was a graduate student at WIU.

"Melody's many successes are a testament to her talent, her professionalism and her business savvy," said WIU Professor of Theatre **Bill Kincaid**. "Her desire to return and share her experiences with WIU students is a testament to the special place our department holds in her heart."

For more information about the WIU Department of Theatre and Dance, visit wiu.edu/theatre or call (309) 298-1543.



Melody Betts MFA '09

WIU graduate student nationally published

A thesis written for a master's degree requirement has transitioned into a scholarly journal article being published by a Western Illinois University alumna.

Kimberly Keim MM '13 had her article, "Heavens to Murgatroyd—Baby Boomers Have Returned: Effective Ways to Teach Baby Boomer 'Re-starters'" in the February/March edition of "American Music Teacher."

Keim, who is a piano and oboe teacher in Louisville (KY) said she wanted to study adult pianists for her master's thesis because most piano methods and books focus on teaching piano for children.

"While sitting at the Old Dairy [in Macomb] with my mom and aunts, they were reminiscing on their own past piano lessons, why they quit and how they had hopes to restart piano lessons someday," she said. "I thought to myself, 'How in the world would a piano teacher handle that.' They know what they're doing, yet they haven't played in decades."

Ironically, Keim said retired WIU Professor **Nancy Chu** signed up for piano lessons the same week with the exact same piano background as her family.

"It made me realize this hole in piano teaching needed to be addressed as more and more retirees are restarting lessons, thus prompting my thesis," she said.

Keim began taking piano lessons at age 5 and after coming to WIU for her master's degree work, she studied with WIU Music Professor **Tammie Walker**. While at WIU, she won the Concerto/Aria Competition with the WIU Symphony orchestra, playing J.S. Bach's "Concerto No. 1."

In addition to running her own music studio, Keim accompanies several high school and middle school choir programs and is an organist and pianist for a church. She also serves on the executive board of the Greater Louisville Music Teacher Association, which is made up of private music teachers and university professors from that area.

Keim said when she found out her article was going to be published, she was shocked and one of the first people she told about it was Walker.

"She pushed me to write the article and was my main editor in the process, even though I had already graduated from WIU," she said. "It's a complete relief to have my work nationally published, so other teachers can learn what I've learned, and the Baby Boomers now have a chance to be taught correctly. It jump-starts my career as a professional piano teacher and is a great way to get WIU's Piano Pedagogy program on the map."

For more information about WIU's music program, visit wiu.edu/music or call (309) 298-1544.

Arts and Sciences

First WIU in D.C. interns reflect on experiences

By Bryce Dexter

As the Spring 2015 semester came to a close, two WIU students reflected on the last year with fond memories of the time they spent in the nation's capital as the first two interns in the Western Illinois University in D.C. program.

Mathew Marshall '15, a U.S. Army veteran and senior political science major from Monticello (IL), spent the Fall 2014 semester as an intern in Congressman Rodney Davis' (IL-13) Washington, D.C. office.

"The experience I gained through the WIU in D.C. program was integral in tying together my education here at WIU," Marshall said. "I also gained a different perspective than what the academic side of political science has taught me. It was really a great experience that bolstered my education further."

Marshall said his internship in the nation's capital was essential for helping him prepare for his career path.

"Not only did it give me knowledge and valuable experience, it presented opportunities in the field of political science that I would not have known about if it weren't for the time I spent in D.C.," he said.

This fall, Marshall will be pursuing his master's degree in globalization studies at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He will focus on the Middle East and South and Central Asia. His goal is to become a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department.

Joseph Kallenbach '15, a senior political science major at WIU, approached the program's director, WIU Political Science Professor **Janna Deitz**, following an announcement in her Congressional class.

"The timing was perfect," he said. "When Dr. Deitz spoke about the internship, I was extremely excited. Earlier in 2014 I had changed my major to political science in order to have the chance to take on new challenges and opportunities like this."

Kallenbach interned during Spring 2015 in the office of Representative Peter Roskam (IL-6), who represents Kallenbach's hometown.

"It was extremely exciting to work for a stand-up guy like Congressman Roskam, who is widely respected and actively involved in the legislative process," Kallenbach said. "I also enjoyed meeting with WIU alumni who have established themselves in D.C."

WIU alumni with whom Kallenbach connected include **Kirk Hanlin '82**, **Sam Lozier '07** and **Craig Roberts '84**.

"I am grateful for their help and guidance throughout the way," Kallenbach noted. "I truly loved living and working on Capitol Hill, and Congress is definitely an institution I would like to be part of for a long time."

Following her 2011-12 experience as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in the office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Deitz revamped the WIU in D.C. program. As a result of her efforts, students in any academic area are eligible to work in congressional offices, federal government agencies, political organizations or professional associations.

"The opportunity to see Congress at work up close during my fellowship was invaluable to my teaching and research," Deitz said. "Because I learned so much, I wanted to make an internship opportunity available for WIU students, as well. Many students seek D.C. internships, especially Congressional internships during the summer. Offices also need interns during the academic year; a semester-length internship will help make the most out of that professional experience for students."

Students earn 12 credit hours, with the academic portion supervised by Deitz. They also learn a great deal about working in a professional office atmosphere, as well



Joseph Kallenbach '15 and Peter Roskam

as how to network.

Political Science Department Chair **Keith Boeckelman** emphasized the value of experiential learning opportunities for students and the important role WIU supporters play in making these opportunities possible.

"Thanks to the generosity of **Dan K. Webb** [who received the WIU honorary doctorate in 2007], we have been able to provide opportunities for internships in settings away from the Macomb campus, such as Congressional offices in Washington, D.C.," said Boeckelman.

Students are enthusiastic about learning the ins and outs of politics on Capitol Hill first hand. Due to the high cost of living in Washington, however, many would not have this opportunity without Mr. Webb's generous gift, which has helped interns defray these costs. When students experience being in the thick of politics, they are able to learn and make connections that can change their career trajectories and life ambitions. We greatly appreciate Mr. Webb's contribution to making off-campus internships accessible to all students, regardless of financial means."

Deitz has heard back from a number of Congressional office staffers and they all had the same reaction: "send more WIU students."

Participation in the WIU in D.C. program is open to all academic majors on campus. The program is housed in WIU's School of Distance Learning, Study Abroad and Outreach. Deitz hopes to help coordinate more federal internship opportunities for interested WIU students.

Any D.C. area WIU alumni interested in offering internships with their employers are encouraged to contact Deitz at JL-Deitz@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1741.



Mathew Marshall '15

Drake receives honorable mention in Barry Goldwater Scholarship

A Western Illinois University senior is one of 21 students from across Illinois to receive an honorable mention in the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program.

Hannah Drake '15, of Charleston (IL), is a forensic chemistry major and is part of WIU's Centennial Honors College.

"This is the nation's most important scholarship for science, mathematics and engineering," said Honors College Director **Rick Hardy '70**.

Drake said she first learned of the Goldwater program when Hardy mentioned it to her during her freshman year at Western.

"Dr. Hardy has been a great mentor and friend over the last three years I have been at Western," Drake said. "Without him, I would not have gone the extra mile to do research, as he is one of the most fantastic motivational speakers I have ever met."

Students are chosen by faculty or their academic college to represent the institution as a Goldwater applicant. Drake said the application process was extremely difficult and she was required to show her ambition to "do great things" in chemistry, as well as the research experience she has gained at Western.

"In the last three years, I have done research under four professors, three from WIU and one from Eastern Illinois

University," Drake said. "The three faculty members I worked with while at Western include Dr. **Tarab Ahmad** (analytical chemistry), Dr. **Jin Jin** (organic chemistry) and Dr. **Brian Bellott** (inorganic chemistry). I also conducted research at EIU, under Dr. Daniel Sheeran (inorganic chemistry)."

Drake said Bellott, her research mentor, deserves "a tremendous amount of recognition," because his hours in the lab and "patient instruction" have made a difference in her academic experience.

"I hope someday to be just like him, as an inorganic chemist myself," she explained.

Drake said she is happy with her choice to attend Western and study forensic chemistry. She currently also plays the harp and is a second year resident assistant with University Housing.

"I came to WIU because it is affordable, close to home but not too close, a welcoming atmosphere and, most importantly, it has the American Chemical Society [ACS] certification option, as well as a certified forensic chemistry degree; only six schools in the nation have this," she said. "Western also has a really great Honors College, which was one of my motivating factors. In addition to my major, I am minoring in math and philosophy, which are both excellent programs, as well."

Hardy said WIU English and Journalism Professor

William Knox, who is also Western's official Goldwater Scholarship Program faculty representative, played a vital role with this year's nominees from WIU.

"In addition, **Mark Boley '87 MS '89**, chair of Western's physics department, offered insightful suggestions," Hardy added. "Three other students from WIU were also nominated for the 2015 Goldwater Scholarship program, including **Nicholas Breslin** (Galesburg, IL), a junior physics major; **Joshua Diaz** (Tinley Park, IL), a senior chemistry major, and **Emily N. Thomas** (Hampton, IL), a junior chemistry major. Just being nominated for the Goldwater is a major accomplishment."

According to the program's website, the Goldwater Scholarship was established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater. The purpose of the foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

For more information about Western's Centennial Honors College, visit wiu.edu/honors or call (309) 298-2228.



Hannah Drake '15

Arts and Sciences

WIU graduate student presents at state conference

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

A Western Illinois University graduate student with a research interest in interpersonal violence was asked to present at the recent Illinois Attorney General's Office Summit on Strengthening Campus Responses to Sexual Violence.

Alicia Guzman-Riley '13, a graduate student in the WIU College Student Personnel (CSP) program, is currently a graduate assistant in the University's Student Development Office (SDO). She became interested in studying interpersonal violence during her undergraduate education at WIU and her involvement with WIU's Women's Center and the Feminist Action Alliance student organization.

"Once being involved in that group, I discovered that there was a whole academic department of women's studies, and I immediately added it as a second major, in addition to law enforcement and justice administration. Those two disciplines complimented each other quite nicely," Guzman-Riley said. "My women's studies faculty talked about gender-based violence and the societal structures that sustained it. They helped me to understand myself and my place in the world by raising consciousness about various social justice issues, particularly dealing

with gender. Eventually, I considered myself a student activist and was therefore very concerned with justice."

Guzman-Riley then became involved in planning the campus events, such as Take Back the Night and the Vagina Monologues.

After her undergraduate education was complete, Guzman-Riley moved into WIU's CSP program because she wanted to continue her activism into higher education.

"I wanted to be able to help provide some of the same learning opportunities to other students," she said.

An internship with the Western Illinois Regional Council's Victim Services office impacted Guzman-Riley in a profound way, leading to the realization that she wanted to pursue a career that is "purposeful." During her second year of graduate school, she worked with the SDO, where she co-chaired the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Committee (IVPC) and helped coordinate educational programs with other campus departments.

Guzman-Riley said she was asked to speak at the state summit about what the IVPC does to help reduce and eliminate sexual violence on the WIU campus.

"We are working on a bystander intervention initiative, a campus climate survey and just recently we planned a whole month of activities for Sexual Assault Awareness

Month. I also discussed how I go about programming, by involving the students in the process and meeting them where they are. I like to know what they already know and what they want to learn to prepare for a program or presentation."

Guzman-Riley credits the faculty in the WIU Department of Women's Studies for providing her with the motivation to research interpersonal violence more deeply.

"They helped open my eyes to all of those issues and more, and because of them, I found my niche in higher education," she said. "They were challenging and supportive, which benefited me greatly because I feel prepared to embark on this new journey. The CSP program and faculty added to my development. I now know how students make meaning and about transformative learning (meeting students where they are at and raising consciousness), which I try to incorporate into programming. I was an undergrad at WIU and stayed as a graduate student because of the quality of education that I received and the people I met."

For more information about WIU's Department of Women's Studies, visit wiu.edu/womensstudies or call (309) 298-2214.

RISE@WIU encourages mentoring opportunities for students

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Thanks to the generosity of several Western Illinois University College of Arts and Science (CAS) alumni, the WIU Foundation and a retired faculty member, a progressive new program is matching faculty and students for collaborative research opportunities.

The Research Inspiring Student Excellence (RISE) program is available to WIU students in the departments of biological sciences, chemistry and physics and helps prepare them for graduate and professional schools, as well as networking opportunities.

The idea for the program was born more than 18 months ago when faculty from WIU's natural sciences attended a conference to learn more about enhancing undergraduate education through research experiences.

"In this conference we realized that WIU already offers many of the activities and opportunities available at research universities, with the advantage of having an environment where faculty can provide individualized attention to undergraduate students," said WIU biological sciences Assistant Professor **Andrea Porras-Alfaro**.

"With RISE@WIU, we are facilitating student access to existing resources, and we are developing new initiatives to enhance student research and academic success."

The program includes one-on-one mentoring for students, as well as monthly meetings for the students and their mentors. The program also boosts the University's recruitment and retention efforts, while offering additional opportunities to present at research conferences and

develop leadership skills.

Last year, 40 students were part of the program and this year's total is expected to be near 70.

"The students develop unique skills by actively conducting research with faculty. They also become part of a learning community, which has been found to increase retention and professional success," Porras-Alfaro said.

The program also offers students a variety of scholarships and professional development activities. Students are recognized at the end of the academic year with the RISE Purple and Gold Awards. These awards are given for achieving RISE milestones, such as presenting at research conferences,

winning a grant or award and participating in student clubs or professional societies.

With the support of CAS and generous donations from the WIU Foundation, **P. James Nielsen** (biological

sciences faculty emeritus) and from alumni, sisters **Margaret Wong '73**, and **Cecilia Wong '73** and **Frank Rodeffer '61**, RISE@WIU is awarding more than \$23,000 in new scholarships this year.

The scholarship program includes research awards, scholarships for traditionally underrepresented students,

travel awards to attend conferences, support to cover graduate school applications and four \$3,000 scholarships for undergraduate students to conduct research over the summer.

Margaret and Cecilia, who both now live in Ohio, overcame language barriers to attend WIU. Margaret is now an immigration attorney after founding her own company. She has

helped thousands of people become permanent residents of the United States. Cecilia became an accountant and has worked alongside her sister for many years, managing the legal firm's finances.

Rodeffer, who lives in Colorado Springs (CO), had a lengthy career with the United States Air Force, working with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). After his military retirement, Rodeffer worked in the private sector with Northrup Grumman.

To participate in RISE, Western students must have at least a 2.8 grade point average and work with a faculty member on a research project.

"The goal of the program is to provide students with the best research, academic and professional opportunities in order to be more competitive in a very demanding market" said Porras-Alfaro.

The RISE@WIU program is also developing a new Summer Research Program to increase student participation in internships and hands-on experiences during the summer.

For more information, or to support the programming, contact Porras-Alfaro at A-Porras-alfaro@wiu.edu or visit wiu.edu/cas/academics/rise/rise_cas.php or call (309) 298-1267.



A new program in the College of Arts and Sciences is encouraging research and mentoring opportunities between students and WIU faculty.





Intercollegiate Athletics

Tanney named WIU interim athletic director

Western Illinois University Vice President for Student Services **Gary Biller** announced May 1 that Deputy Director of Athletics **Matt Tanney** will take over as interim athletic director for WIU. Tanney replaces Tommy Bell, who resigned to take the same position at Southern Illinois University.

Tanney began his duties in May. He was promoted to deputy athletic director last summer after serving as associate athletic director during his first two years at Western.

"I'd like to thank President **Jack Thomas** and Gary Biller for the opportunity to lead the department. Along with an exceptional group of coaches and staff, we'll continue to move forward on multiple initiatives, with the best interests of the student-athletes at the forefront of our decision-making," said Tanney. "I hope our loyal alumni and supporters share my enthusiasm for the future of Leatherneck Athletics."

Tanney oversees the department's budget operations, along with support services in academics, athletic training, business services, compliance, equipment, financial aid and strength and conditioning. He has also directed several major facility projects, including the installation of the LeRoy A. Ufkes court inside Western Hall, new tennis courts and the video boards at Hanson Field and Western Hall.

He serves as sport administrator for baseball, women's basketball, men's soccer, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's track & field. Tanney previously supervised Summit League Championship events held at WIU.

In May 2014, Tanney was named the University's Division of Student Services Administrative Employee of the Year. He has presented nationally at the NCAA Regional Rules conference, in addition to teaching undergraduate courses at Western and serving as a guest lecturer at several colleges.

The central Illinois native joined Western after working in the compliance office at the University of Oklahoma. Prior to Oklahoma, Tanney worked at the University of Dayton in a similar capacity. At Dayton, he managed the daily operations of the 17-sport Football Championship Subdivision compliance department. Tanney was hired at Dayton following a one-year appointment at The Ohio State University, where he served as a compliance coordinator.

Tanney is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wabash College with a bachelor's degree in English. He earned his law degree from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Tanney and his wife, Julia, have two daughters, Katelyn and Lillian.

"The University is looking forward to working with Matt Tanney as interim athletic director. He has demonstrated the skill set and knowledge to serve in this capacity," said Biller, who noted a search process would begin soon. "We wish Tommy Bell well in his new position at Southern Illinois. We really appreciate his time here."



Matt Tanney

Lubbers named to The Summit League's All-League tennis team

Western Illinois freshman **Courtney Lubbers**, of Wichita (KS), has been named to the 2015 Summit League All-League team. Lubbers became Western's first recipient of the accolade since **Stephanie Baumer** garnered All-League honors 2010.



Courtney Lubbers

Lubbers led Western Illinois on the courts this year, competing in all but one match at the No. 1 singles position. Playing in the top spot, Lubbers picked up 12 victories during the spring season, including a 4-3 mark in Summit League play. Lubbers' four conference victories at the number one spot rank as tied for the second-most victories by a number one singles player in The Summit League this spring, while the 12 total victories by Lubbers are the most victories by a Leatherneck since the 2009 season.

WIU's top singles player also paced team team's doubles attack, as Lubbers paired up with **Jenna Wallace** to compose Western's number one doubles team. The duo collected six victories on the season, with all six victories coming in the last 10 matches the two have played.

Earlier this year, Lubbers was recognized as The Summit League Player of the Week. The honor came following a weekend in which Lubbers posted a perfect 6-0 record as she picked up three victories in singles and three doubles victories, as well. She became the first Leatherneck to collect Player of the Week honors since **Amy Unzicker '13** did March 30, 2010.

Leatherneck student-athletes help raise money

Western Illinois student-athletes joined other students for the second Dance Marathon at WIU. Members from Fighting Leatherneck volleyball, softball, women's golf, football, track and field and baseball helped support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The event raised more than \$53,000.

Last year, the event raised more than \$21,000. In 2015, the executive board wanted to set a new standard, with a goal of \$40,000.

"The pressure was one because after you're so successful your first year, your expectations were a lot higher, said Dance

Relations Chair **Karissa Kouchis**. "We knew \$40,000 would be a challenge, but our entire executive board, leadership team, advisers and our representative from Children's Miracle Network Hospital were confident that we could reach our goal. We told ourselves we would stop at nothing."

Kouchis, a junior softball player at Western, was also involved in the event in 2014.

"Last year and this year, we experienced an 'oh my gosh' moment where we weren't sure if we'd reach our goal," Kouchis said. "All of our hard work with fundraising, and getting participants, comes down to one moment. We have our miracle families on stage about to flip our cards. It was every emotion all bundled in to one. They flipped the cards, and again, we had blown our

expectations out of the water."

When the cards were finally flipped, the numbers read \$51,883.02. Since that time, donations have continued, bringing the total to more than \$53,000.

In order to reach that final number, Kouchis and fellow teammate **Tierney Bottino** knew they would have to recruit more people than last year. The duo publicized more on social media and created videos leading up to the event. Ultimately, Western Illinois student-athletes were part of a group of nearly 500 participants.

This year's event was a bit different. Throughout the year, Western Illinois softball was scheduled to be in Cape Girardeau (MO) during the event. However, weather forced the tournament to be cancelled, and Kouchis, Bottino and other members of the Leatherneck softball team got off the bus following games against Green Bay in Indiana and went straight to Dance Marathon for the final reveal. For Kouchis and the nearly 500 dancers, it was all worth it.

"Putting on an event like this can get stressful and be a lot of work," Kouchis said. But after they flip the numbers, that moment brings so much excitement into your heart. The amount of money you raise, is no comparison to the smiles you bring to the people you don't even know. That's why I keep dancing."



Cornelis named Leatherneck Club QC coordinator

Longtime television personality and Western Illinois University graduate **Thom Cornelis '71** has joined Leatherneck Athletics as the Leatherneck Club Quad Cities coordinator to help expand membership and outreach in the Quad Cities area.

Cornelis will work on cultivating membership in the area, and assist with social events put on by the Leatherneck Club and Athletic Department.

"As a lifelong Quad-City resident and after 44 years of broadcasting in this market, I have met many WIU alumni/athletes from this area. I'm excited about tapping into this resource to generate support for the Leatherneck Club both here in the Quad Cities, as well as at the Macomb campus," Cornelis said.

Cornelis began his broadcasting career in 1972 with WQAD-TV in Moline. In 1984, he went to KWQC and worked there until his retirement last September. During his career, he was inducted in the Quad-City Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. Cornelis served as a long-time play-by-play announcer of the Quad City Times Bix 7 race and helped in the development of the John Deere Classic golf tournament.

A 1966 graduate of Alleman High School, Cornelis was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2008. Cornelis and his wife, Marcia, have four children and six grandchildren.



Intercollegiate Athletics

Marshall, Bales earn Senior Student-Athlete of the Year Award

Western Illinois seniors **Sammy Marshall '15**, of Naperville (IL), and **Charlie Bales '14**, of Cedar Rapids (IA), earned the Athletics Department top honor, being named Senior Female and Male Student-Athlete of the Year, respectively.

They were honored as part of the WESPYS (Western's Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award), the annual banquet honoring the athletic and academic achievements by Leatherneck student-athletes. The banquet, sponsored by McDonough Telephone Cooperative, was held inside Western Hall. More than 500 people were in attendance.

During her freshman year, Marshall set a new WIU single-season record with 45 stolen bases. Her sophomore season, she broke the career record, before setting a new Summit League record during her junior year. She led the nation in stolen bases per game in each of her first two seasons, and holds Western Illinois records in eight different categories.

A two-time Summit League Player of the Year, Marshall has been recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA), earning National Player of the Week honors in 2014 and All-Region honors following the 2013, 2014 and 2015 seasons. She was also named a Top 25 Finalist for the ASA/USA Softball National Player of the Year Award in 2014 and was placed on the Watch List prior to the start of her senior season.

In the classroom, she had a 3.424 GPA while majoring in exercise science. She is a two-time Summit League Academic All-League selection and a Capital One Academic Second Team All-District honoree. Her work in the classroom, on the field and in the community made her a semifinalist for the Senior CLASS Award (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) given by



L-r: Softball Head Coach Holly Van Vlymen '00 MS-Ed '08, Sammy Marshall, Charlie Bales '13, Men's Soccer Head Coach Eric Johnson.

the NCAA in 2015.

Marshall became just the third WIU softball player to be drafted. The Chicago Bandits drafted Marshall with the 18th overall pick April 1. She also became just the fourth draft pick in Summit League history and the first since 1997.

Bales' career started in impressive fashion earning him a spot on the The Summit League All-Newcomer Team. In his sophomore season, his success continued as he garnered Summit League Tournament Most Valuable Player honors on the way to a Summit League Tournament Title and an NCAA Tournament berth.

Bales continued on to add a second Summit League Tournament title during his junior season, as well as Second Team All-Region and Summit League All-Tournament honors. After redshirting in 2013, Bales returned last fall to lead the Leathernecks in scoring, helping the team to The Summit League Tournament title game while earning First Team All-Region, First-Team All-Summit League and Summit League All-Tournament honors.

Twice named The Summit League's Defensive Player of the Year and being named three times First Team All-Summit League, Bales also earned Offensive Player of the Week honors twice as a defender. He is now listed 26 times in Western Illinois' men's soccer record book.

He graduated in December with a 3.5 GPA and a degree in communication. He was a Senior CLASS Award Finalist and an NSCAA Scholar All-American.

Since graduating, Bales has appeared professionally with the Charlotte Independence of the United Soccer League (USL) and continues to train with plans of continuing his professional playing career.

Sammy Marshall drafted by Chicago Bandits

The Chicago Bandits of the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF), selected Western Illinois stand-out **Sammy Marshall '15** with the third pick of the fourth round in the 2015 Senior Draft. The announcement was made during the first-ever, live televised draft on April 1.

The Naperville (IL) native will be the third member of the Western Illinois softball family to be drafted and has the opportunity to become the sixth professional softball player, and the first since current WIU Head Coach **Holly Van Vlymen '00 MS-Ed '08**, after the 2015 season

"I'm excited to have been given the chance to play professionally this summer," Marshall said. "I'm honored that the Bandits have drafted me to further my career past the collegiate level. I wouldn't be half the player I am today if it weren't for my family, coaches, and teammates pushing me, so for that I thank them. As ecstatic as I am to start my journey in the NPF, the only thing I'm focused on is winning a conference championship with my teammates at Western."

Along with Van Vlymen, **Sandy Fischer '75**, **Cara Johnson-Hirsch '98**, **Wendy Krejca** and **Venus Taylor '98** also went on to play in the professional ranks following

successful careers at Western Illinois. Johnson-Hirsch and Taylor were the previous members of the softball family to be drafted.

Marshall, who already owns Western Illinois' career records in stolen bases and runs scored, was the 18th overall selection in the 2015 NPF Draft, becoming the fourth Summit League/Mid-Con selection in the history of the league and the first since 1997.

"It was an exciting day," said Van Vlymen. "The Leatherneck softball family is so happy and could not be more proud of Sammy for being selected in the 2015 NPF Draft. With her athleticism and skill-set, she can do a lot for that team. It's an honor for a player of her caliber to be drafted into the NPF."

Marshall entered the 2015 season as the NCAA's active leader in batting average and stolen bases. She was named a Top-25 finalist for the 2014 ASA/USA Softball 'Player of the Year Award' in 2014, and was named to the Watch List for the 2015 edition of the award. Earlier this year, Marshall was also named a semi-finalist for the Senior CLASS Award.

Holtschlag inducted into NFF Hampshire Honor Society

Western Illinois senior defensive lineman **Chip Holtschlag '15** was named to the 2015 National Football Foundation (NFF) Hampshire Honor Society.

The NFF Hampshire Honor Society, which is comprised of college football players from all divisions of competition, honors those in their final season of competition who have maintained a 3.2 cumulative GPA or better throughout their collegiate career.

Holtschlag was named to the Capital One Academic All-District V team and also received the MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award. He graduated in May with a major in biology and minor in chemistry and has been accepted to the Palmer School of Chiropractic.

2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 3	Eastern Illinois	Hanson Field	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	Illinois	Champaign (IL)	TBA
Sept. 19	Coastal Carolina	Conway (SC)	TBA
Oct. 3	Southern Illinois	Hanson Field	3 p.m.
Oct. 10	South Dakota	Hanson Field	3 p.m.
Oct. 17	Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls (IA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 24	Illinois State	Normal (IL)	2 p.m.
Oct. 31	Youngstown State	Hanson Field	1 p.m.
Nov. 7	North Dakota State	Fargo (ND)	2:30 p.m.
Nov. 14	Indiana State	Terre Haute (IN)	TBA
Nov. 21	South Dakota State	Hanson Field	1 p.m.



26TH ANNUAL

Purple & Gold
AUCTION

Save the Date
Saturday, August 15, 2015
5:00 pm
Western Hall

Support WIU student-athletes, enjoy a delicious dinner, and bid on these marquee items:

* Week-long stay at Canyons Resort log-cabin-feel condo in Park City, UT
* 2013 Yamaha gas golf cart

* Golf foursome at the ultra-private Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, IL

* WIU Football helmet signed by Leatherneck and Green Bay Packers great Frank Winters

* A pair of "Talon Packages" from Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena, IL

* VIP experience at Leathernecks Football game at Illinois September 12

GoLeathernecks.com/PGAuction



Foundation

Wong award for academic assistance in the CAS

By Julie Murphy '94 MS '95

Sisters **Margaret '73** and **Cecilia Wong '73** arrived at Western Illinois University from Hong Kong in 1969. Western was the only school they applied to for admission.

"There were no U.S. News and World Reports back then, no college rankings you could look up," said Margaret. "We had enough money to apply to one school, and we had heard a lot about WIU at our high school in Hong Kong. WIU made us feel very comfortable during the application process—we really appreciated that."

Overcoming language and cultural barriers, they attended Western to study biology and foreign languages.

"We had jobs as RAs, which really helped us integrate into the University. We saw how the mainstream students did things; how they ate and drank; how they used their knife and fork, and we picked up on it. It helped us make lots of good friends," Margaret added.

The sisters graduated in 1973. Margaret chose law school after graduation, and Cecilia earned a master's degree in comparative literature and a master's in business administration (MBA). Margaret founded Margaret W. Wong & Associates in Cleveland (OH) with one desk

and no secretary. As an immigration specialist, her legal practice now includes 10 attorneys and 35 other staff members, with offices in seven major cities in the United States. Cecilia has worked alongside her sister for many years, managing the firm's finances.

As an immigrant, Margaret said she has found herself "living the American dream," and she also is an entrepreneur. Together, Margaret and Cecilia have established the \$100,000 Margaret W. Wong and Cecilia Wong Award for Academic Assistance in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The fund will provide assistance for the needs of all departments within the CAS in order to advance its academic mission.

"We were recently reminded about our days at WIU, and WIU was so good to us back then," the sisters said. "We decided to make a gift to academics because that is the purpose of the University. There is, after all, nothing to offer without a strong academic program."

Margaret's legal career, managed and supported by Cecilia, has helped thousands of people coming to the United States to become permanent residents, advance their education, work and pursue opportunities.

"They both exemplify the qualities many Americans admire," said CAS Director of Development **Bryce Dexter**, after meeting the two. "Margaret and Cecilia display a strong work ethic, an entrepreneur's drive, resourcefulness and compassion for those in need."

"The College of Arts and Sciences is so grateful to Margaret and Cecilia," said CAS Dean **Sue Martinelli-Fernandez**. "Their generous gift will strengthen CAS programs and help us better prepare our students for careers and graduate study. They are outstanding role models to our current students and alumni."



Margaret '73 and Cecilia Wong '73

McDonough County Summer Music Institute Scholarship

By Julie Murphy '94 MS '95

Lin Stults is a familiar face around Macomb and Western Illinois University. The recipient of the 2010 Town & Gown Award for her contributions to the campus and community, Stults has long been involved with and provided service to many organizations and initiatives.

As the owner of Engraving by Lin in Macomb, for the past 35 years she has provided trophies, custom ribbons, plaques, name tags and more. In the community, Stults is a member of the board of trustees for the Macomb Public Library District and is a member of the Macomb Altrusa Club, the Salvation Army and Macomb Rotary. She has volunteered with the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Corporation and Dickens on the Square.

On campus, Stults is a supporter of Tri States Audio Information Services, Tri States Public Radio and Intercollegiate Athletics. Recently, she established the

McDonough County Summer Music Institute Scholarship to provide financial assistance for deserving students to attend WIU's Summer Music Institute.

"Music has always been a large part of my life and I simply want to assist area school students who want to enhance their talents through the Summer Music Institute," said Stults. "I grew up with band, orchestra and chorus at Western High School and just feel this is something important to do."

The scholarship was created in memory of Stults' nephew, **Austin Stults**, who was killed in an auto accident in 2013. Austin was a music lover and played in a band. Stults also credits her son, **Ted Renner '96 MS '98**, as an inspiration for the award. Renner is a popular local musician and co-founder of the rock group Hong Kong Sleepover.

"We are very blessed to have Western Illinois University in our community and the availability of the

Summer Music Institute," Stults added.

Her scholarship will help McDonough County students attend the Summer Music Institute as a commuter or resident to study instrument or voice.

The scholarship is structured to help as many students as possible, regardless of means or musical interest. It will be administered by the Summer Music Institute staff. For details or applications, contact SM-Camps@wiu.edu.



Lin Stults, left, and her sister, Diane Hammon '70.

Strong's' gift Steinway Piano to Center for Performing Arts

By Julie Murphy '94 MS '95

According to the official Steinway and Sons website, Steinway builds pianos one at a time, using skills that were handed down from master to apprentice over many generations. It takes almost a year to create a Steinway grand piano. Each piano contains more than 12,000 parts, and each piano is uniquely different. The process is never hurried. The company's goal is to build the world's finest piano; a product that produces superior sound and responsive touch, that attracts the most demanding pianists.

"I first became interested in Steinway the company a number of years ago based on an investment recommendation by Goldman Sachs. I remember when I first purchased the stock that I stayed up half the night reading their latest SEC filings on the Internet. The company was so small it was relatively easy to understand the financial statements. My interest in the company continued through the years and I continued to add to our holdings when I felt that they represented value," said **Herb Strong '72**, former president and CEO of

MidAmerica National Bank. "Nancy and I even visited a Steinway showroom in Naples, Florida. I guess we wanted to see first hand what is believed to be the finest piano in the world. The company has changed ownership over the years, but the pride and quality that has gone into the product has stayed with the name."

"When it became apparent that the company would once again be for sale and taken private, we decided to transfer the shares to the WIU Foundation," Herb continued. "We requested that the proceeds be used for the purchase of a Concert Grand Piano upon the completion of the new Center for the Performing Arts. It is our hope that an instrument that produces superior sound will inspire Western students."

"This is about artistry. The artistry of this gift feeds the artistry of craftsmanship poured into creating an instrument like a Steinway, which directly feeds the artistry of music and life," said **Billy Clow**, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "This gift from Herb and Nancy provides a legacy that will educate and entertain for years to come."

Herb is a 1972 finance graduate of WIU and in 2009 received the Alumni Achievement Award. Herb and Nancy have been involved with the Performing Arts Society for many years. Herb served as president in 2007 and 2008.

"Nancy and I wanted to do something special for the university and for the Center for Performing Arts," Herb explained. "This is a good fit with our interest in the arts, and the timing worked out perfectly. I hope it inspires WIU students to become better musicians."



Herb '72 and Nancy Strong



Homecoming Week

Rocky's Road Trip: All Roads Lead to Western

Friday, Sept. 25

1-5 p.m. Paint the Paws
(meet on front lawn of Western Hall)

Saturday, Sept. 26

noon-4 p.m. Paint the Town (Macomb Square)

Sunday, Sept. 27

Noon Rocky's Boat Regatta (Everly Park)

4 p.m. Dec the Campus (Union Mall)

Monday, Sept. 28

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Homecoming Kick-off Party
(Union Mall)

2-4:30 p.m. Dec the Office

Tuesday, Sept. 29

6 p.m. Variety Show (Western Hall)

Thursday, Oct. 1

7 p.m. Yell Like Hell (Western Hall)

Friday, Oct. 2

7 p.m. Spirit Game-WIU Volleyball (Western Hall)

Homecoming Weekend

Featuring the classes of 1965, 1975, and 1990

Friday, Oct. 2

5-9 p.m. Alumni and Friends Social, Alumni House
(Complimentary food, beer, wine and soda; cash bar available)
2015 Reunion Check-In & Social

Saturday, Oct. 3

8 a.m. Old Stompin' Ground Runaround
5K run/1.5 mile walk, Alumni House
(see registration form p. 14)

8:30 a.m. Reunion Recognition Brunch & Social,
Alumni House

9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts, Alumni House

10:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade—Watch from the
Alumni House and Gwendolyn Brooks
Park

Noon-3 p.m. Alumni Cookout—Menu: sandwich, sides,
drink and cash bar at "The Right Place"
(NEW LOCATION in 2015: The big tent
in Q-lot)

3 p.m. Leathernecks Football vs. Southern
Illinois, Hanson Field

Lodging

On campus:

University Union (309) 298-1941

Off campus:

Comfort Inn (309) 837-2220

America's Best Value Inn (309) 833-4521

Best Western-Macomb Inn (309) 836-6700

Hampton Inn (309) 837-6000

Super 8 (309) 836-8888

Macomb Inn (309) 833-5511

Parking

Permits will not be required in lots as of 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2 through 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 5, with the exception of residence hall lots. Visitor parking is not allowed in reserved residence hall lots. Tickets will be issued to violators in handicapped spaces, reserved spaces and no parking zones (any area not designated as a parking space). If you have any questions or a special parking need such as handicapped parking, contact Parking Services at (309) 298-1921.



Call the Office of Student Activities at (309) 298-3232 for details about any of the events held Sept. 25-Oct. 1.

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

Fill out your registration form on p. 15 and join us for Homecoming 2015!

New Location!

JOIN US AT "THE RIGHT PLACE"

College of Fine Arts & Communication



The College of Fine Arts and Communication welcomes all WIU alumni to Homecoming 2015! We look forward to visiting with you and learning about your accomplishments.

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

College of Arts & Sciences

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

Contact **Bryce Dexter**, director of development, at BM-Dexter2@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1828 for more information.



Centennial Honors College

Stop by "The Right Place" and help us celebrate Homecoming! Visit with our staff and learn more about how the Centennial Honors College continues to grow and produce high achieving students and alumni.

We look forward to seeing you!



College of Business

If you're a CBT alumnus, you're in good company—over 27,000 graduates can't be wrong! Stop by and see us at this year's Homecoming festivities!



College of Education

Welcome back COEHS alumni!

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

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

29th Annual Homecoming Old Stompin' Ground Runaround 5K Fun Run/1.5 Mile Walk

Time: 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015 **Registration:** 7-7:45 a.m. **Place:** Alumni House

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

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

Race route: wiu.edu/alumni/homecoming **Questions?** Call (309) 298-1914 or e-mail A-Association@wiu.edu.

Name _____ Class year _____ Age on 10/3/15 _____ Male/Female (Circle one)
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ E-mail _____ T-Shirt Size S M L XL (Circle one) Runner/Walker (Circle one)
 Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit Code _____ Signature _____

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

Being of lawful age and sound mind and desiring to participate in the Homecoming 5K Fun Run/1.5 mile walk Oct. 3, 2015, I do hereby waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims which may hereafter accrue to me against the City of Macomb or Western Illinois University and their officers, agents, employees, volunteer workers, and assigns for any and all accidents, injuries, damages, or losses incurred by me at this event or through my use of any facilities provided. I further declare that this release binds not only me, but my heirs, executors, and administrators. I am aware of the risks and hazards which may arise through participation in this event and voluntarily assume the same. I certify that I have trained for a race of this distance and weather conditions and am in suitable condition to compete in this event. By signing this release, I hereby certify that I have read and fully understand and accept the conditions and terms contained herein.

Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

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

"PLACE," THE BIG TENT IN Q-LOT!

Business & Technology



Business & Human Services

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



Student Services

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

Stop and see us at tailgating or visit with us in the big tent!

Admissions will be on hand with applications and to answer questions.

If you are planning to attend, please let us know in advance by calling the Vice President for Student Services Office at (309) 298-1814. Lunch tickets will be available.

We look forward to seeing you this year!



University Libraries



Peruse the Sequel class yearbooks in the Garden Lounge of Malpass Library, or explore the library as a whole (and try to win the prize!) with a family-friendly scavenger hunt. Stop by our table at "The Right Place" to meet Dean of Libraries **Michael Lorenzen**, or try to 'Bean the Dean' at our mini-golf hole, also for a prize. There are so many paths to choose from, and University Libraries can accompany you down any of them.

Bachelor of Arts in General Studies

The School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach, which includes General Studies, welcomes you back to enjoy Homecoming festivities this year by packing your purple and gold and traveling the distance to WIU's Macomb Campus. We hope to see you there!



Make Your Homecoming 2015 & 25, 40, 50 Year Reunion Reservations Today!

Name _____ Class Year _____

Home address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Home E-mail _____ Cell _____

Workplace _____ Job Title _____

Work address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse/guest(s) _____

_____ Saturday 25, 40, & 50 year Reunion Recognition
 Brunch, Social and Half-Century Club Induction.
 \$5/person.....\$ _____

_____ Saturday Cookout \$5/person \$ _____

_____ Mums \$7/each \$ _____

_____ Homecoming T-shirt \$10/each \$ _____

_____ Football Tickets \$15/person.....\$ _____

(Circle one) Small Medium Large Extra Large 2X 3X

_____ Memory Booklet \$10/each.....\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit Security Code _____

Print Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

*For a complete list of scheduled Homecoming events, see p. 13.

Credit card reservations may also be made online at wiu.com/alumni. Return this form, along with your credit card information or check (payable to WIU Alumni Association) to: WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Credit card reservations may also be faxed to (309) 298-2914, phoned to (309) 298-1914 or visit wiu.com/alumni. Game tickets will be held at the Alumni House until 11 a.m.; they will then be at "The Right Place" tent until game time and at will call after 3 p.m.

University Housing & Dining Services



John (JB) Biernbaum, 2014 WIU Honorary Alumni Award Recipient

A Note from Associate Vice President of Student Services

Student Services and University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) have had an extremely busy spring. In March, we were able to meet with hundreds of alumni and former staff members at Western Illinois University socials hosted at the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Institute held in Tampa (FL) and the National Association of Personnel Association (NASPA) Institute in New Orleans (LA).

From a facilities standpoint, we announced the closing of East Village

effective this upcoming July, added card access to Caroline Grote Hall and began a programming study to take down East Village, Lamoine Village and Higgins Hall, which should be completed by Summer 2016. Be looking in future issues to view the different events surrounding these buildings coming down.

We look forward to a productive summer and hope to see many of you out at the various alumni events, and back on campus for Homecoming. We will hold our annual Seal Hall Homecoming tailgate on Friday, Oct. 2 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Seal Hall North Parking Lot, and we would love to see you there!

Dining center manager recognized for 40 years of service

Joe Perone '77, the unit manager for the Thompson Hall Dining Center, recently celebrated his 40th work anniversary as a Sodexo employee for Western Illinois University. In addition to his manager position, Perone also serves as the regional safety coordinator.

During his time at Western, Perone has worked in several locations on campus, including Lincoln-Washington, North Quad, Corbin-Olson and Thompson dining centers.

Perone has served in various roles during his time at WIU, but one of his most unique and respectable titles is "lifesaver."

"Saving a person's life can be second nature. You get trained on how to do it, you feel confident about it, and you know that you can now make a difference," said Perone.

At a dinner during a Summer Orientation program, a student's father began choking, and Perone administered the Heimlich Maneuver on him.

"He thanked me, and I came back to the server entrance and continued to greet the new future students and their parents and relatives," Perone said. "You never know when your turn will come. And you had better be ready."

Perone recalled some of his favorite memories while working at Western, including the numerous years working the St. Louis Rams Training Camp, as well as the three day Tennessee Titans joint practice and scrimmage.

"I have enjoyed working the summer camps, including Summer Orientation, and meeting new incoming freshman and talking to their parents, many of whom are WIU alumni," Perone added. "Most of all, I have always and will continue to cherish all the memories of taking care of the dining center every day, helping students in their times of need, making the students smile in their dining room away from home and, most of all, hearing the success story of a graduate of WIU who thanked me for making a difference in their life or taught them great work habits, which allowed them to be successful in their new job."

Perone was a resident in Wetzel Hall, where he met his wife **Kathy (Tostberg) Perone '77**.

"It was a sad to see Wetzel come down, but I still have the fond memories of residence hall life at Wetzel Hall, as well as married life at Lamoine Village," Perone said.



Ada Neighbors '12, Sodexo's resident district manager, presents Joe Perone '77 with a plaque commemorating 40 years of service.

"Kisses for Rocky" raises money for local shelter

The Western Illinois University Resident Assistant Council (RAC) raised \$160.90 for the McDonough County Animal Shelter "Kisses for Rocky" event.

The philanthropic event, which was held in the University Union, gave students the chance to take a picture with Col. Rock III for \$1. For an additional \$1, students could purchase a dog bone; all dog bones went to the McDonough County Animal Shelter.

"Kisses for Rocky was a huge success this year," said **Amy Bevins**, RAC president. "I was so proud to see how successful it was and how it helped the local animal shelter. It is so rewarding to be a part of an organization

that gives back to the community."

With the money raised at the 2.5 hour event, the RAC was able to purchase over 260 pounds of cat and dog food for the shelter.



The RAC Executive Board (and Colonel Rock III) presented the shelter with over 260 pounds of cat and dog food.

Alumni Spotlight



Aundrea "Andi" Gulley '96

While at Western, **Aundrea "Andi" Gulley '96** was a resident assistant in Thompson Hall, an Honors scholar, a member and assistant coach of the Western Debate Team, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the Lincoln Laureate graduate and the 1996 Honors Convocation student speaker.

According to Gulley, one of the reasons she chose to apply for the resident assistant position after her freshman year was largely because of her father, **John Frieden '73**, who was a resident assistant in Olson Hall during his

time at Western.

Gulley, a partner with the law firm Gibbs and Bruns LLC in Houston (TX), credits learning the skills of leadership, compassion and personal responsibility with working in University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS).

"I think those are important qualities in any career, and in life generally," said Gulley.

Gulley's practice is devoted exclusively to high stakes commercial litigation on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. She has represented clients in state and federal courts, before state and federal governmental agencies, in governmental proceedings and in arbitration.

Gulley received the 2009 Young Alumni Excellence Award and has been named a Rising Star by Legal Media's guide "Benchmark: Litigation" (2009), a Texas Rising Star by "Texas Super Lawyers" (2008-2009) and one of Houston's Lawyers on the Fast Track and "Professionals on the Fast Track" by "H-Magazine" (2004; 2008).

When asked what her favorite memories were while working in University Housing and Dining Services, Gulley said, "We had fun training for the job together before the students came, meeting all of the residents and helping them through various underclassmen issues. The late night meetings in the assistant director's apartments were filled with lots of laughing. Perhaps the best was the people watching and chatting during the late night shifts at the front desk."

Gulley remains in touch with some of her former Thompson staff members, and enjoys using Facebook to keep up with others she met during her time at WIU.



LEAVE A LEGACY BUY A BRICK

Contact Joe Roselieb at JA-Roselieb@wiu.edu or (309) 298-3320.

Employee Spotlight

Staff profile: Sharon Brown

The library employees that most people are familiar with are of those who work at the circulation and reference desk, but those who work behind the scenes are just as valuable to the operation of the library. One such behind-the-scenes operative is **Sharon Brown**, senior library specialist in the cataloging unit.



Sharon Brown

Brown started work at WIU Libraries in 1976 in the interlibrary loan department. After a brief stint in acquisitions, she transferred to cataloging in 1979, and has been there ever since. Brown originally studied education and worked as an elementary school teacher, but said that, "when a position opened up in the WIU library, it seemed like a better fit for me."

Brown's favorite thing about her job is getting to see all the new materials—"not just books, but DVDs, CDs, periodicals, everything," she explained. According to Brown, the most important part of working in cataloging is to make sure things are done well so that library patrons can access those materials.

"If we get sloppy back here, the patrons won't have the access that they're supposed to," she said.

To ensure the quality of the work, Brown collaborates with her coworkers in cataloging to share knowledge and find the best way to classify and organize library materials.

Outside of the library, her hobbies include crochet, cross-stitch and gardening.

Research and professional accomplishments

Western Illinois University Libraries employees have been busy lately.

University Libraries Dean **Michael Lorenzen** participated in the Targeting Autism forum held at the Illinois State Library in March. This project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Forum Grant to help libraries better serve patrons and family members impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Lorenzen will also participate in a follow-up forum in September.

Librarian **Bill Thompson** ran unopposed for president of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI). Thompson had previously served as vice president of UPI for six years, and as secretary.

Linda Zellmer, government information and data services librarian, presented at the 2015 annual conference of the Association of American Geographers in April. Her presentation, "Searching the Geographical Literature: An Analysis of Research Resources," was aimed at helping geography scholars identify resources that might be useful for their research.

Librarian **Chuck Malone** attended the Patent and Trademark Resource Center annual training seminar March 16 and 19 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria (VA). This training will help Malone assist patrons using the Macomb Patent and Trademark Resource Center, located in the University Libraries. Visit wiu.edu/libraries/govpubs/patents.php or contact Malone at (309) 298-2719 to obtain information about patents and trademarks.

Librarians **Daneen Richardson**, **Mahrya Carncross**, **Brian Clark**, **Sean Cordes** and **John Stierman** have been awarded a grant from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) to aid them in an exploration of information literacy (IL) in local high schools.

Leibovitz memorial dedicated

A memorial plaque to **Jeff Leibovitz '94**, WIU education alumnus, was formally dedicated in a ceremony at the WIU-QC campus April 7, the anniversary of Leibovitz's death.

Leibovitz was a Quad Cities native whose commitment to teaching middle grade students about the Holocaust was often made challenging by a lack of age-appropriate materials on the subject. Following his unexpected death, the Leibovitz Holocaust Collection was assembled to collect educational resources about the Holocaust and support local educators in teaching it to their students. The collection, housed at the Quad Cities campus library, is now accompanied by the memorial plaque located outside the library on campus grounds.

At the dedication ceremony, arranged by librarians **Tom Finley '90** and **Noelle Ebert '07**, those close to Leibovitz shared their memories of him. **Marrietta Castle MS-Ed '81**, retired WIU professor and chair of the Holocaust collection steering committee, spoke about her time with Leibovitz; **Susan Archer '91 MS-Ed '95**, his cooperating teacher at Garfield Elementary school during his student teaching, discussed how much their students appreciated Leibovitz. Two producers of "Unforgettable Lessons of the Holocaust: The Legacy of Jeff Leibovitz," a 2014 WQPT documentary about Leibovitz and the Holocaust collection, were also present and shared their filming experiences.

To conclude the ceremony, members of the Leibovitz family shared recollections of Leibovitz's life.

According to Ebert, "One family member mentioned how much it meant to him to have this special collection in place. He said Jeff's legacy will live on long after we do."

Those interested in using the Holocaust collection or seeking more information about it may contact Finley at (309) 762-1598 or TE-Finley@wiu.edu.

Gaming collection added to library

A gaming collection, consisting of board games, video games and accessories, as well as table-top and roleplaying game rulebooks, is now available on the third floor of the Malpass Library. The inclusion of recreational materials, such as games and DVDs, in the University Library collection, is part of the commitment by both the Libraries and WIU to supporting students' personal and social health, as well as their academic development.

Video games included in the collection include party-friendly Wii classics such as Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. Brawl, as well as titles such as Halo 3 and DDR Universe 3 for Xbox. Board games currently available include Scrabble and Ninja Versus Ninja. For those inclined toward experiences that feature more dice, tabletop roleplaying rulebooks—from classic Dungeons and Dragons to the most recent edition of Shadowrun—are also part of the collection.

More games will be added in the future as they are purchased for the collection. For more information about checking out items from the gaming collection, contact Access Services at (309) 298-2705.



Two library employees honored with awards

Two library employees were recognized for their contributions to WIU during the 2014-15 school year. **Sean Cordes**, associate professor, was selected as the recipient of the University 100 Teaching Award for his efforts in the Western Illinois University First Year Experience program. **Xin Tan**, student employee in the Physical Sciences Library, was named second runner-up for WIU Student Employee of the Year, receiving an award of \$250.

The University 100 Teaching Award bestowed on Cordes recognizes demonstrated excellence in the classroom, inventive teaching methods, integration of WIU mission and goals into the curriculum and the ability to foster first year student transition into college life and academics throughout the course. Professor **John Stierman**, who nominated Cordes, said, "Sean bends over backward to 'keep it real.' Doing this brings out Sean's passion for learning, and that is contagious."

Tan is a senior broadcasting major and international student from the Tunxi district in the Anhui province of China. His supervisor and nominator, Library Operations Associate **Kathleen Clauson '82 MA '86**, stated that, "No

matter what needs to be done, I can count on Xin. When we unexpectedly faced moving every book and journal to create our collaborative learning space on the second floor of the Physical Sciences Library, Xin devised a plan to clear the books from the shelves upstairs and simultaneously re-shelve them downstairs in a few days, instead of weeks. He has a strong work ethic; he is respectful and polite; and his presence encourages American students to learn more about the global community."

Tan explained that his favorite part of his job is talking to people.

"The Physical Sciences Library serves physics and chemistry, which includes a lot of international students," he said. "I like sharing that experience and helping others adjust."

When asked about his studio art minor, Tan said he enjoyed taking photography classes to complement his interest in broadcasting. Both the broadcasting and photography classes will aid him after graduation, when he said he hopes to return to China to be near his family, and find work in the media industry.

Education and Human Services

Education faculty serve field at highest levels of NREA

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

Since last November, a Western Illinois University faculty member has helmed the national organization that serves as “the voice of all rural schools and communities across the United States.” WIU Educational Studies Professor **Sandra Watkins** began her term as president of the National Rural Education Association (NREA) last fall and will conclude her presidency this October at the organization’s annual convention in St. Louis.

Watkins, who teaches educational leadership courses at Western, first became involved with the NREA about 10 years ago through the encouragement of **Robert Hall**, former chair (2004-08) of, and professor in (1986-08), Western’s educational leadership department. During her years of NREA service, she has recruited fellow educational studies faculty members **Greg Montalvo**, professor, and **Jim La Prad**, associate professor, as well as **Jill Myers**, professor of law enforcement and justice administration at WIU, to serve the NREA, which was originally founded at the Department of Rural Education in 1907 and “is the oldest established national organization of its kind” in the U.S. Currently, the association has more than 3,000 members across the country, with 26 state association affiliates, and is based at Purdue University in Indiana.

“Basically, we are the leading national organization that

supports providing services to enhance the educational opportunities in rural schools. I think, overall, the NREA does a good job of listening to rural schools’ needs across the United States,” Watkins noted. “For example, last year, at a state affiliate meeting held at the national conference, we talked about what the research needs are—the practical research needs that educators can implement in the schools. That’s just one example of how we try to listen to our constituents, become involved and implement resources that support their needs.”

This spring, NREA Executive Director John Hill visited Western’s campus to meet with Watkins and other WIU NREA members. According to Hill, over the years, the NREA’s advocacy organization, the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition (NREA-C), has made significant strides for rural schools, which Hill noted face increasing pressure due to capacity—or the lack of it.

“In most rural counties, the number of people living in those counties is stagnant or it is decreasing, which means we either have stagnant or decreasing enrollment. Because most dollar formulas are driven by the number of students, the number of dollars allocated per student has been decreasing, so this often means that financial capacity is strained,” he explained. “One recent victory that our advocacy coalition has been able to achieve for students and educators in rural school districts has to do with the government’s E-Rate program,

which provides discounted rates for telecommunications services. The FCC [Federal Communications Commission] originally set up the E-Rate program so schools could apply to receive federal money for external connections and internal connections, but the demand was so great, they could only fund the external connections. In that process, there was an effort to change the definition of ‘rural,’ which would have eliminated the eligibility of about 90 percent of the rural schools. The NREA-C advocated that that particular definition of ‘rural’ be reversed, and it was,” he added.

In addition to providing a voice for rural schools at the national government level, Watkins said the NREA also serves its membership—which includes elementary, middle and high school teachers, as well as faculty from higher education institutions—yearly via the organization’s elected positions. She said, for her term, the NREA’s executive committees (all 16 of them) have SMART (or specific, measurable, attainable, results-focused and trackable) goals.

“Our expectation is that the committees will have achieved these goals and be able to report their results at the 2015 national convention in St. Louis later this year,” Watkins said.

Watkins said the annual NREA Convention and Research Symposium provides a venue for NREA membership to come together, face to face, annually to discuss issues, policies that affect rural education, as well as present and discuss the latest educational research.

“The fact that our convention and symposium is in St. Louis this year, so close to Macomb, is great for NREA members in the Midwest,” she added.

The annual NREA Convention and Research Symposium is set for Oct. 16-18 in St. Louis.



WIU Educational Studies Professor Sandra Watkins (left), the 2014-15 president of the National Rural Education Association (NREA), and John Hill, the executive director of the NREA, based at Purdue University.

WIU and area students provide “tender mercies” to the hungry

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

Thanks to the efforts of a group of Western Illinois University and Macomb High School students, 10,440 meals were delivered to the hungry.

According to **Emily Shupe '94**, assistant professor of dietetics in the WIU Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality (DFMH), in mid-April, student members of SANE (the Student Association for Nutrition Education) at Western and the MHS students in Shupe’s Western Area Career Services (WACS) food class, were able to present a donation of \$1,320 to the Midwest Food Bank (Morton) for Tender Mercies.

“Each Tender Mercies bag meal will feed four individuals,” Shupe explained. “One meal is composed of rice, textured vegetable protein, pinto beans and chicken flavoring. They are assembled and bagged at the Midwest Food Bank and are then distributed all over the world to help feed the hungry, to help with natural disasters and even locally to food pantries. For \$660 dollars, you can purchase one pallet of the Tender Mercies and that will provide 5,220 meals.”

Shupe, who serves as one of the advisors for SANE, said SANE members and students in her WACS classes (which are comprised of MHS students bussed to Western to take part in afternoon food and nutrition courses taught by Shupe) organized a variety of events to raise money for the donation.

“SANE members have held multiple fundraisers,

including a spaghetti supper and a bake sale, and my WACS students have also participated in a variety of fundraising events (such as making and selling homemade cinnamon and pumpkin rolls over the holidays and at catering events within the community) to raise money for this donation. **Eric Gurzell** [assistant professor of dietetics], who is my co-advisor for SANE, also helped participate in the fundraising efforts and with getting the students excited about the project,” Shupe noted. “One of my goals this year for both SANE and WACS was to help teach my students about empathy and to experience the reward of helping others.”

One of Shupe’s students, **Kelly Shoppa** (Macomb, IL), a senior dietetics major and the SANE treasurer, led most of the student organization’s fundraising efforts for the Midwest Food Bank Donation.

“Kelly has also worked with Soup and More, a once-a-month soup kitchen and food pantry operated out of the First Presbyterian Church in Macomb, to help educate the people about ways to incorporate Tender Mercies into other meals, such as chili,” Shupe explained. “We often get into a routine of teaching and learning facts in the dietetics field, but developing empathy is what is going to set our students apart and not only help them become accomplished professionals, but also positive role models and contributors to society.”

Shoppa said when she first learned about Tender Mercies from Shupe, she was excited to see the bag meals

available at Soup and More when she volunteered there through SANE.

“But when I was speaking with one of the regular volunteers, she informed me that not many people took the Tender Mercies. She said a lot of it came down to familiarity, and if given the choice between Hamburger Helper (also available at the food pantry) and a bag meal, people often chose the Hamburger Helper. This was disappointing to hear, as the Tender Mercies meals provide an excellent food choice,” Shoppa said. “So I decided to find other options for the goods available in the bag meals. I experimented and came up with several recipes, including a chili dish, casseroles and taco filling. I then prepared a soup recipe that I had come up with and served it at the soup kitchen.”

Shupe added Shoppa’s enthusiasm for the Tender Mercies bag meals are indicative of the energy and excitement about the Midwest Food Bank donation she has observed in her other WIU and WACS students.

“These students have worked really hard to help feed the hungry,” Shupe said. “We are very proud to be able to donate to the Midwest Food Bank, which we stop at annually during our class field trip. As faculty and students, we have always been highly impressed with their efforts to help others, and we wanted to be able to do our part to help them.”

Education and Human Services

WIU faculty help provide CPR kits to McDonough County kids

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

Elementary and middle schools students in McDonough County have received, or will be receiving, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) "Anytime" kits thanks to the efforts of two Western Illinois University faculty members and the American Heart Association (AHA).

WIU Department of Health Sciences and Social Work Instructor **Joanna Graham** said the kits are being distributed to children in West Prairie Schools (Colchester and Good Hope, IL) and in Macomb Schools. Graham and WIU Department of Kinesiology Assistant Professor **Cathy McMillan MS '85** have been working with the AHA to distribute the kits to kids. Graham said she and McMillan received 600 kits, valued at \$20,000, and will continue to deliver them over the next two years.

"We are targeting sixth graders for this year. Ultimately, students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades in both districts will receive the kits to take home. We are also providing some teachers and administrators with kits," Graham explained. "Our hope is that each student takes the kit home, reaches out to family and friends and then, the families sit down together to learn about CPR, choking and automated external defibrillator [AED] use as a family activity."

According to the American Heart Association, about 92 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. Statistics prove if more individuals knew CPR, more lives could be saved, and immediate CPR can double, or even triple, a victim's chance of survival.

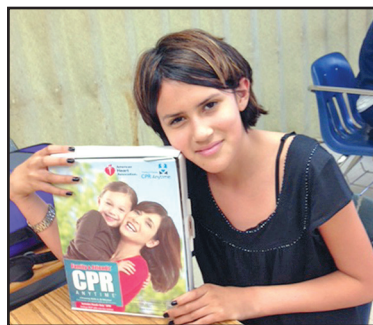
Graham noted the students are provided with instruction about how to use the kits and are encouraged to teach family members and friends how to use them, too.

"The kit includes everything a family will need to learn this life-saving technique. It is estimated to take about 30 minutes to learn and practice the information," Graham added.

Graham said the CPR kit distribution came about through an opportunity to work with the AHA to design a service and education project with area schools.

"Staff at the American Heart Association provided the Anytime kits and, based on our expertise with health education and wellness program planning, asked Cathy and me to provide coordination with this service/educational project," she explained. "Cathy and I both come from a teaching background, and we both have classroom experience and understand the importance of forming partnerships among organizations like the American Heart Association, WIU and our local school systems."

Graham said through coordination with health teachers in the Macomb and West Prairie School districts, they set up meeting and delivery times to discuss and deliver the kits. She added she and McMillan also provide instruction to the students or provide health teachers any other educational components they may need for the project.



A student in the Illinois West Prairie School District with a CPR "Anytime" Kit.

Camp Rocky: Leadership learning for RPTA students

Is there a better way to learn to be a leader for a camp than actually doing just that?

According to Elizabeth Flesher (Benton Harbor, MI), a senior recreation, park and tourism administration (RPTA) major, you would be hard pressed to find a better method.

In early May, Flesher served as the director of Camp Rocky, a camp experience for kids—day camp for kindergarteners through eighth-graders and overnight camp for students in fifth-eighth grades—developed and organized by students enrolled in RPTA Associate Professor **Paul Schlag's** "Camp Leadership" RPTA 240 course every spring semester since 2007. Flesher said the students in the course are not only responsible for developing programming for the camp, but the course also covers all of the set-up work, such as fundraising and marketing, to produce the full-blown camp experience.

"Being the director gave me an opportunity to learn how to lead others. Last year, I was the assistant director for the camp and got to see the process," Flesher said. "When it came to leading the students in my class, I found it difficult at times, because, in some instances, I knew as much as they did. However, this experience helped me learn to make quick decisions when required."

Schlag said students like Flesher, who serve in Camp Rocky leadership positions, gain the most from the experience.

"They learn to lead a group of their peers, as they navigate the processes of making camp happen in a cost-effective, safe and enjoyable manner. They learn about the vital importance of utilizing the talents of each camp counselor to help implement a camp designed to educate, uplift and strengthen campers," Schlag explained. "Further, they learn to be educators unrestrained by a forced curriculum, in order to provide educational activities in a fun, enjoyable and often life-changing manner. Finally, everyone in the class learns how to use direct leadership techniques to effectively engage a group



2015 Camp Rocky Director Elizabeth "Liz" Flesher, Camp Rocky Assistant Director Jillian Ross and RPTA Associate Professor Paul Schlag

National Social Work and Athletic Training Month celebrated by WIU, Macomb

In March, Western Illinois University faculty and staff celebrated both National Social Work month and National Athletic Training month.

According to WIU Department of Health Sciences and Social Work Chair **Lorette Oden**, the event was held to help recognize WIU social work students and alumni and their commitment to helping individuals and families in the Macomb community. And, The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) designated March as National Athletic Training Month (NATM). According to NATA, National Athletic Training Month is held every year to spread awareness about all that athletic trainers do.



L-r: WIU College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dale Adkins; Department of Health Sciences and Social Work Chair Lorette Oden; Assistant Professor Judy Berglund '80; WIU President Jack Thomas; Associate Professor Debra Allwardt; Lauren Settles (Bushnell, IL), social work major; Macomb Mayor Mike Inman; and COEHS Interim Dean for Administration Katrina Daytner.



Back l-r: Jennifer Plos MS '00, assistant professor, kinesiology and athletic training clinical education coordinator; Elliott Allen-Williams (Freeport, IL), sophomore; Jimmy Wood (Emporia, KS), sophomore; Blake Heinz (Princeville, IL), junior; Tyler Kraft (South Elgin, IL), junior; Michael Schwartz (Galesburg, IL), senior; Ryan Robertson (Armstrong, IL), senior; and Taylor Coltrin (Peoria, IL). Middle l-r: Jamal Robinson (Chicago, IL), sophomore; Jon Allen (Fairview, IL), senior; Ryan Cody (Macomb, IL), junior; Bria Thurman (Naperville, IL), junior; Lizzy Hollopeter (Naperville, IL), senior; Lauren Carta (Kankakee, IL), senior; Charles Morrow (Flossmoor, IL), junior; Adam Geiger (Lynn Center, IL), sophomore; Suzy Parks (Effingham, IL), junior; and Renee Polubinsky, professor, kinesiology, and athletic training program director. Front l-r: Katrina Daytner, interim associate dean, WIU College of Education and Human Services; Katie Neeley (Bolingbrook, IL), senior; Ashley Burrows (Round Lake, IL), junior; Kelsey Carleton (Philo, IL), senior; Brandon Lofthouse (Spring Grove, IL), junior; Macomb Mayor Mike Inman; and Erin Aschemann (Quincy, IL), senior.



Camp Rocky 2015

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Education and Human Services

Teaching English in Ethiopia: Alumna serves as Fellow in Department of State Program

By *Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11*

It isn't unusual for **Hannah Murphy MS '13** to arrive at work and find that her classroom has no power. While in some parts of the world this impediment might be an excuse to delay or cancel class, for Murphy—who is among the dedicated U.S. educators teaching abroad in the English Language (EL) Fellow Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State—the English-teaching experience, and her students are worth the uncertainties each day may bring.

"My Fellowship is in Mekelle, Ethiopia, one of the larger cities in the country, located about 500 miles north of the capital, Addis Ababa. I work in the English department at Mekelle University.

Right now I have an incredible group of Year 1 students, who are always fun and ready to participate in classroom activities," Murphy explained. "While there are always surprises and new experiences, a typical workday involves a somewhat steady routine. I take the mini-bus taxi to work, greet the campus guards on my way in and come into my office that I share with two other professors from the English department. I then head to the classroom buildings where my courses are held, which are open air, providing a nice breeze in the afternoon heat. Students are often waiting just outside or in the classroom when I arrive, and we begin moving desks around, getting ready to start class."

Murphy, who earned her master's degree in educational and interdisciplinary studies (EIS) at WIU and her undergraduate degree from Loyola University Chicago in anthropology, first learned of the EL Fellow Program through her teaching assistantship at Western's English Language Institute (WESL).

"I was originally encouraged to apply for the English Language Fellowship by **David Bell**, my then supervisor at WESL," she said. "I'm incredibly thankful each day he encouraged and supported me throughout the application, interview and acceptance process. After accepting the Fellowship offer, I received an incredible amount of support from David, as well as from **Dr. Richard Carter**, executive director the School of Distance Learning, International Studies and Outreach, even though it meant I would be leaving my teaching position at WESL."

The EL Fellow Program is administered by Georgetown University and matches U.S. educators in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) with host institutions throughout the world for 10-month fellowships. According to the U.S. Department of State's

website, it "fosters mutual understanding, promotes English language learning and enhances English teaching capacity abroad. Through projects sponsored by U.S. embassies, EL Fellows share their professional expertise, hone their skills, gain international experience and learn about other cultures."

Since she has been in Mekelle, Murphy has kept in contact with three of her Western mentors from the educational studies department, **Gloria Delany-Barmann**, chair and professor; **Joanne Sellen**, associate professor; and **Carla Paciotta**, professor.

"Gloria was my thesis advisor and instructor, Joanne was my supervisor during my first semester as a teaching

assistant at WESL and later my instructor, and Carla was my instructor during multiple semesters. All three were integral in the development of my skills as a teacher and a researcher. They continuously offered advice, shared their experiences, and encouraged me to think critically about education and English as a Second Language (ESL). I still

reach out to them with questions, and they are the ones I share my success in the classroom with," Murphy said.

Murphy also credited Anne Grauer, professor and chair of Loyola's anthropology department, as a mentor and someone who supported her adventurous spirit.

"Dr. Grauer was an inspiration for me, and her classes impacted my worldview," she said.

While her first 10-month Fellowship is coming to an end this summer, Murphy will continue to share her teaching talents in Ethiopia. She has officially accepted a renewal offer for a second 10-month Fellowship in Arba Minch, Ethiopia.

"As cheesy as it sounds,

I immediately fell in love with Ethiopia. Everyone I met upon arrival was incredibly generous and wanted to make sure I felt safe and was happy in my new setting. Of course there was an adjustment period to my new life here—culturally, linguistically and professionally. I have local friends who helped me navigate cultural differences, as well as have taught me useful phrases in Tigrinya, the local language," she said. "It is an honor to be part of the university and wider community, and to not only be a teacher of a global language who can provide people with new opportunities for economic mobility, but also to learn from my colleagues and students, growing both professionally and personally throughout the process."



Hannah Murphy '13 with a group of graduate students after a workshop on paraphrasing.



Some of Murphy's students reviewing for final exams.

Continued from Camp on p. 19



Eva Weiss (right) holds a small snake during her Camp Rocky experience in May.

of campers in fun, meaningful and educational activities."

Jillian Ross (Cedar Falls, IA), a junior RPTA major who served as Camp Rocky's assistant director and program director this year, said, for her, taking the course and serving in a leadership role deepened her knowledge of running a camp.

"I had experience working as a counselor and wilderness trip leader in northern Wisconsin, so I came in with a working knowledge of the course material. Even with my prior experience, this course gave me unique insight into the administrative side of camp. I got to see a bigger picture and gained a greater appreciation for what goes into making a camp function and run smoothly. During class, we also discussed a variety of educational theories and teaching techniques. This part of the course opened my eyes to what exactly I have done as a camp counselor, as well as the potential of what staff could do," she noted. "Through some trial and error, I learned the importance of clear deadlines, communication and empowering people. I didn't do a perfect job at this, but I know my leadership skills have improved through this experience."

Two campers, Eva and Madeline Weiss (Macomb, IL), both expressed enthusiasm when asked about the Camp Rocky experience that Flesher and her team developed for them this year.

"We learned how to make paracord bracelets, tie-die shirts and bird houses. I think taking part in Camp Rocky will help me with many things. I absolutely loved it, and I will definitely be attending again," Madeline said.

"I learned how to make survival bracelets. They help you make a fire and you can use them for bear bags," Eva added.

"The greatest thing about this course is knowing you made a difference in a child's life," Flesher noted. "Working as a director, I didn't have that much interaction with the kids, but at the end of the day, when I heard all of their stories, that made me realize what I did behind the scenes truly had an impact on them."

Lodge and Libations
a fundraiser for Horn Field Campus

5:00 - 7:00 PM
September 26, 2015

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Education and Human Services

Fashion Forward: Students in Apparel Accessories Course Print Prototype Designs in 3-D

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

For those who love fashion, it is hard to beat that feeling of having just the right accessory to complete an outfit. So, for students in **Dana Moon's '98 MBA '01** Spring 2015 apparel accessories course, a final-project assignment—to design and then three dimensionally print unique, custom fashion accessories—provided a step forward for fashion and a step forward for their individual future fashion careers.

An instructor in the Western Illinois University Department of Fashion Merchandising, Dietetics and Hospitality (DFMH), Moon came up with the assignment so her students in her FCS (Family and Consumer Sciences) 172 course could practice their skills at developing fashion accessory prototypes. Moon said she thought it would also be an effective use of the WIU Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research's 3-D printer, which was acquired in 2013.

"In addition, I thought students could benefit from the integration of this new technology into the classroom," explained Moon, who also serves as director of development, marketing and community relations in the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS).

To help out with the technology part of it, Moon enlisted the help of staff in COEHS's Instructional Development Services (IDS). She said **Dane Severinsen '14**, a graduate student in Western's Department of Instructional Media and Technology (who works as a

graduate assistant in IDS) helped her FCS 172 students learn how to use the 3-D modeling software, Google Sketch Up, so they could design their prototypes for the final-project assignment.

"It turned out to be a great collaboration among IDS staff, the students in my course and CITR," Moon noted. "Dane was able to further hone his Google Sketch Up skills, and CITR staff provided guidance and the printing services. Now, the students have a new skill they can list on their résumés and use in the field, as many fashion jobs are associated with 3-D modeling."

Moon also noted, as a requirement of the project, the students had to "sell" her their designs, so there was the additional lesson of sales and marketing skills incorporated into the assignment.

Camille Isley (Rushville, IL), a junior fashion merchandising major, noted she thought the project was beneficial not only because it required her and her fellow Spring 2015 FCS 172 students to learn how to use the Google Sketch Up software, but

it also provided lessons in decision making when it came to designing a prototype.

"Dana encouraged us all to design something simple, so my teammate (**Erin Sullivan**, Highland, IN) and I picked a ring—just a simple thin, band with a little ball on top. We thought we could paint it to be really cute, so it would be something people would want to wear. Other students designed prototypes like charms or bangles to

put on necklace strands or bracelets," Isley explained.

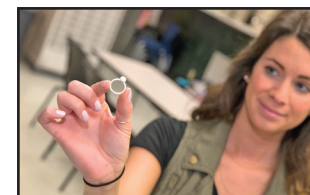
Ashly Frieson (Chicago, IL), a senior fashion merchandising major, and **Leah Tatro** (Bettendorf, IA), a junior fashion merchandising major, partnered for the assignment to design a pendant to represent their shared sorority, Chi Omega.

"We are familiar with Lilly Pulitzer, a designer who has designs for sororities, so our project was based on the same sort of idea," Frieson said. "We used our sorority's pattern on our pendant."

"Starting out, it was difficult—having to measure it out and figure out all the specifications for this project," Tatro added. "We definitely had a lot of hands-on help from Dane, trying to get it to the right specifications. I think designing the project, learning the software and then having to sell it helped develop our skills for the real world."



Leah Tatro and Ashley Frieson work on their pendant prototype in their Spring 2015 fashion accessories course.



Senior Camille Isley (Macomb, IL) and her design partner (not pictured) designed a ring prototype for their final project in Dana Moon's Spring 2015 fashion accessories course.

Fraternity Members Honor Fallen Brother with Memorial Scholarship

It has taken a few years, but **Angel Avalos '04 MS '13** and other members of his fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta, have achieved what they set out to do to honor their fallen fraternity brother, **Alejandro "Alex" Valadez '04**.

According to a March 2014 Chicago Tribune article, Valadez, a Chicago Police officer, was killed in 2009 "while investigating a report of shots fired in Englewood, a violent district he had transferred to in hopes of making a difference" (see <http://bit.ly/CTValadezWIU>).

Thanks to Valadez's fraternity brothers' dedication, beginning in the Fall 2016 semester, Latino, sophomore-level students who major in law enforcement and justice administration (LEJA) at Western can apply for the Alejandro Valadez Memorial Scholarship.

"We had the idea a month or two after he had passed. We wanted to do something in his memory that would live on throughout the years, so we came up with establishing a scholarship," Avalos explained. "We contacted Western and found out it takes \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship fund. At first, it seemed kind of lofty. We were doing backyard barbecues, White Sox tailgate fundraisers—things like that to raise the funds. Then, with the help of Mikey O, a Chicago-based comedian who often helps out non-profit causes, we started doing these huge comedy shows. We held three of them altogether."

Avalos said that funds raised from their various

activities, the comedy shows, as well as donations from members of the Chicago Police Department, from his fellow fraternity brothers and from his Avalos's wife's sorority (Sigma Lambda Gamma), helped them reach their \$25,000 goal this year.

The annual scholarship is a fitting tribute to an individual who wanted to make difference with service. According to the Tribune article, Valadez had wanted to become a police officer since a very young age.

"Growing up in a gang-infested section of Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, Alejandro 'Alex' Valadez felt the impact street violence left—the bullet hole in his living room window, blood on the sidewalk and, deepest of all, the murder of his oldest brother by a gang leader out for revenge," stated Tribune Reporter Steve Schmadeke in the March 19 article. "It was for those reasons that Valadez,

just three when his oldest brother Rogelio was slain, had decided he wanted to become a Chicago police officer by the time he was in kindergarten, his sister Brenda Valadez,

tearfully recounted Wednesday in court. But his own life was cut short in 2009—just three months before his first child was born—when Valadez, 27, was killed...."

According to Schmadeke, Valadez's killers were sentenced for the murder to the maximum prison terms possible.

Avalos said he thinks Valadez would be very proud to have a scholarship fund established in his name at his alma mater to help students who choose to study in the law enforcement field.

"Alex loved his job, and he loved Western. He was also really into academics. He had nearly a 4.0 grade point average," Avalos noted. "He also loved the fact

that people didn't think he would be the type who loved academics, but he did."



Pictured are Valadez's fraternity brothers and WIU COEHS Development Director Dana Moon '98 MBA '01 with the funds (in the form of a check) that established the Alejandro "Alex" Valadez Scholarship at Western. L-r: Anthony Larocchia '03, Michael Acevedo, Moon, Angel Avalos '04 MS '13 and Victor Razo '06. (Not pictured is Ed Murillo '04.)

Continued from **Alumnus** on p. 1

(executive producer), Jason Kurtz (co-executive producer), Rushion McDonald (executive producer), Kevin Burke (field and post supervising producer) and of course, Mr. Harvey himself (also an executive producer on the show)," said Hedblade.

The show staff celebrated the Emmy win with an after party at the legendary Smoke House Restaurant in Burbank (CA).

"That's the kind of old school Hollywood joint that's right up my alley," Hedblade said.

Coming to college at Western was not an unfamiliar venture for Hedblade, as his parents **Jack and Fran Hedblade** were both University employees. He credits them and his brother **Jay**, a 1990 WIU graduate with a degree in English, with helping guide his career path.

Jack, now deceased but who Jock called the "most charming and loving man I've ever known," was the head photograph and manager of photographic services at Western for more than 25 years and Fran worked in the WIU Office of the Registrar for many years.

While Jack was employed at Western, Jock spent many hours "running around and exploring places I probably shouldn't have" while his dad worked after hours in the dark room.

"I literally grew up in those hallways," he said. "I often found myself alone, searching the dark TV studio or occasionally being intercepted by the legendary Elmer "Tug" Haddock, who would satisfy my curiosities by taking me through the radio studios. Those were tremendous influences."

While Jock was a student at Western, he said WIU emeritus professors **Gene Kozlowski '67 MA '68** (deceased) and Jared Brown were important to his academic decisions.

"In my sophomore year, they took a chance on a kid who, though he spent a good part of his younger years performing in some manner or another, had virtually no acting training what so ever," he said. "They were instrumental in shaping me into a performer. They eventually saw enough promise, or pity, I've never really been sure, that they arranged a talent grant that paid for

the final two years of schooling. The ability to understand how an actor or performer's mind works has been invaluable to me from behind the camera."

Jock also credits WIU faculty member Marc Grigoroff, who taught advanced television production, and TriStates Radio Music Director Jeff Holtz.

"Marc was the first person I remember really recognizing my potential in the field and taking me under his wing," Jock said. "He pushed me to make my projects better, but always was encouraging. It was his enthusiasm for my ideas and my execution of those ideas that lead me to really believe that I might have what it takes to do this."

Holtz worked with Jock and Jay on a pilot for a weekly radio program at a suburban Chicago radio station.

"He not only allowed us the use of his studio, but begrudgingly agreed to be our announcer," he said. "We sold the pilot of "Super Thriller Radio" to WCBR and Jeff became our announcer. That little radio show led to Jay and I being tapped to be the co-program/music directors for the first ever 20-hour live streaming radio station at WEBX in Champaign (IL). Jeff became the voice of that station. I say, with the utmost sincerity that without Jeff Holtz's support, wisdom, friendship and unbelievable talent, that show would have never gotten off the ground and likely so, neither would have my radio career."

Jock said another large part of his success is the roots he developed in Macomb.

"A big part of it is my roots in Macomb," he said. "I grew up in a magical time in that town. It was like Mayberry meets Haight-Ashbury in those days. During the day I could be out in the country, swimming in a pond or in the loft of a barn and that evening seeing anyone from George Carlin or Andy Kaufman to Crosby, Stills & Nash to The Cramps at WIU. It was a small town sensibility with an artistic and intellectual influence."

With Macomb's "eclectic group of personalities from all walks of life," Jock said he still receives encouragement from many Macomb residents, including one of his high school teachers, Sally Egler.

"That kind of eclectic environment was a perfect training ground for my line of work," he said. "I can relate to people from all walks of life. Macomb and WIU are in my blood."

Continued from **WIU** on p. 1

He said the risk is minimal, but even if the risk was higher, he'd still be in the game.

"It hasn't really hit me yet, but I feel like I am just doing what I should do. But there are times I stop and think 'Wow, it is all in my hands,'" Veloz reflected. "But when I received that call, I didn't hesitate. I would not be able to live with myself knowing I had the chance to save a life and I didn't follow through. Even if there is some pain or risk involved, I will do it again if I get another call."

While Veloz doesn't know the infant or the family, he hopes that in a few years he'll be able to meet the child who benefits from the transplant. Even though he won't meet the child and the family right away, he hopes to be kept apprised of the child's condition.

Be The Match Registry / Be The Match on Campus is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating an opportunity for all patients to receive the marrow transplant they need, when they need it. It is the largest and most diverse donor registry in the world.

According to **Grant Severs '15**, the president and co-founder of WIU's Be the Match chapter, a patient's likelihood of finding a matching donor on the Be The Match Registry is estimated to range from 66-93 percent. Each year more than 12,000 patients are diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, such as leukemia, whose best hope for a cure is a marrow transplant. Patients who have no matching marrow donor within their families often turn to the Be the Match registry program.

For more information, visit bethematch.org.

SAVE the DATE

Sunday, Sept. 13

Susan Kennedy '86 and her husband Jay Smith will host music icon Tanya Tucker at Western Hall for the Texas Transplants' 2015 Fall Cruise-In and Concert. Proceeds will be donated to the Fulton, Hancock and McDonough County Veteran's Assistance programs.

"The purpose of putting on an event like this is to help us give back to our community and our local veterans," Kennedy said. "WIU was the perfect fit for this year's event because it holds the distinction as a Military Friendly School. One of our goals is to raise awareness about the Veterans Resource Center at WIU, which is available to assist veterans and their family members by coordinating the services and resources available to them."

Information will be available at the event to help veterans and their families learn more about the opportunities and services available through WIU and the Veterans Resource Center.

The cruise-in kicks off at 8 a.m. with the concert in the afternoon and will feature raffles and food vendors, including concessions by the WIU baseball team to raise money for the baseball program. For more information, visit texastranzplants.com or call 309-569-8417.

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAMS 2015-16

Coastal Alaska: July 7-14, 2015

Scotland: Aug. 5-13, 2015

Baltic Marvels: Aug. 13-21, 2015 (New date)

Greek Isles Odyssey: Sept. 26-Oct. 5, 2015

Rediscovered Tuscany: Oct. 14-22, 2015

Eastern & Oriental Express: Nov. 6-18, 2015

Ecuador ~ Quito & Cuenca: Feb. 17-27, 2016

Cuban Discovery: March 3-11, 2016

Atolls & Islands of French Polynesia:

March 25-April 4, 2016

Southern Grandeur: Apr. 24-May 2, 2016

Mediterranean Wonders & Waterways:

May 11-21, 2016

Pearls of the Mediterranean: June 18-26, 2016

Italy's Magnificent Lake District: June 21-29,

2016

Grand Danube Passage: July 25-Aug. 8, 2016

Great Pacific Northwest: Sept. 17-25, 2016

Spain ~ Ronda: Oct. 11-19, 2016

Adriatic Gems: Nov. 1-9, 2016

More details: visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php or call (309)298-1914.

Updates from the Career Development Center

WIU students get out of college grind with Groupon tour and networking opportunity

Recently, several Western Illinois University students—thanks to the efforts of Katharine "Katie" Barnard (Lyons, CO), a graduate assistant in the WIU Career Development Center (CDC), and CDC Assistant Director Michelle Howe '09 MS '11—got out of what can be the everyday grind of attending class, homework and studying in college. In mid-March, 18 undergraduate students were treated to a tour of Groupon at its Chicago-based headquarters.

According to Howe, the experience provided the students with an excellent opportunity to get an inside look at a large company, but one with a unique approach to work.

To read the full article about the students' trip, visit bitly.com/WIUatGroupon.



Western Illinois University students were treated to a tour of Groupon's Chicago-based headquarters.

Top 5 Reasons to Follow Us on Social Media

1. Stay connected to WIU
2. Interact with your WIU Alumni Association online
3. Keep up with Rocky
4. Be the first to learn about all that is Purple and Gold
5. View photos of campus past and present

http://wiu.edu/alumni/social_networking.php



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Caterpillar Financial Services Corp. He was named president of the Americas region of Caterpillar Logistics Services in 2005 and was promoted to vice president of Caterpillar and president and chair of Caterpillar Logistics Services in 2007. Larson also served for two years on the board of directors of Neovia Logistics, a company in which Caterpillar held an equity position.

Larson, the 2008 CBT Distinguished Alumnus, volunteered his time to his alma mater by serving as a member of WIU President Jack Thomas' National Advisory Council, by coordinating and hosting WIU student and faculty visits to Caterpillar and through on-campus visits to speak to students and to provide input on WIU's logistics curriculum. In addition, he has provided support for the WIU Alumni Association, the College of Business and Technology and through student scholarship programs. He also served for six years as a commissioner on the board of the Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria and has been a volunteer and strong supporter of the Peoria Easter Seals organization.

Following his retirement, Larson was elected to the board of directors of Ryerson Holding Corporation and has been participating in leadership programs at Deloitte University, The Leadership Center, in Westlake (TX).

A 1973 political science graduate, Ohlin has served as president at HB-R Consulting since 2008, responsible for marketing and product planning insight. He worked for Toyota Motor Sales USA from 1985 until his retirement in 2008, including stints as president of Toyota de Mexico, vice president of special projects and senior adviser in Beijing, China, corporate manager for Toyota Certified Used Vehicle Operations, corporate product planning manager for Toyota and Lexus Divisions, national sales operations manager, national sales operation assistant to divisional manager and assistant general manager, KC Region. He began his career with Ford Motor Company in 1979 and joined Toyota in 1985. As president at HB-R Consulting, his current clients have included Ford Motor Company on new model launches and Toyota on production simplicity issues.

While in China with Toyota, he taught English as a second language at Tuan Jie Hue Park in Beijing and continues to communicate with participants online. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Illinois School of Law and an MBA from UCLA's School of Business.

Ohlin is actively involved with his alma mater and currently serves as a member of WIU President Jack Thomas' National Advisory Council. He supports many areas of campus including athletics, Alumni Association, the CBT the Centennial Honors College and scholarships.

Kim received his master's in education from Western in 1987. He has served as president of Gwangju University since May 2003. Kim joined the Gwangju faculty in 1987, teaching education. He was named director of the Office of Planning at Gwangju in March 1994, a position he held in addition to teaching education classes until April 2003. He serves as a board member of the Korean University Education Association; as chair of the Gwangju-Jeonnam University Presidents Association; as a board member of the Daedong Cultural Foundation; and a member of the promotion committee for the Gwangju World Women's Forum for Peace. He has served as an adviser to the Presidential Committee on Balanced National Development and to the Council for the Promotion of the 2012 World Expo to the Provincial Area.

Kim has been instrumental in supporting Gwangju University students who attend Western's summer program, which allows students to further enhance their English skills and learn more about American culture. In addition, Kim has hosted a delegation of Western faculty and administrators at Gwangju University. Kim's father, Gwangju University's founder In-Kon Kim, received an honorary doctorate from WIU in 1983. Kim received Western's 2010 International Alumni Achievement Award.

Purple & Gold Day



1 Day + 15 Events = One Leatherneck Nation

04:24:15

Chicago, IL Dallas, TX Denver, CO Los Angeles, CA Macomb, IL
 Maline, IL Naperville, IL Northbrook, IL Orlando, FL Peoria, IL
 Phoenix, AZ Seattle, WA South Korea St. Louis, MO Washington, DC

Purple & Gold Day 2015

truly was a GREAT day to be a Leatherneck!



Thank you to all who participated near and far. Visit wiu.edu/alumni/purpleandgoldday.php for highlights & to view a recording of the live streamed message featuring Coach Red Miller!

CLASS NOTE CRITERIA

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

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

— WIU Alumni Programs

Rocky's Century Club - A salute to our alumni who have turned 100 or more!

1935

Elinor B. Scott B-Ed, Harvey, AZ, born Feb. 1913.

1962

Connie Miller Yeocum, Moline, is retired.

1966

David Prater, Lewistown, is a gunsmith for Prater Gunsmithing. **Lloyd Simonson**, Spring Grove, is a Trustee for the Village of Spring Grove.

1967

Jeanne Mack, Denver, CO, is retired.

1968

Bradette Hudson Michel, Sunrise, FL, is an author and has written a novel *For Their Own Good*.

1970

Gale Biers MBA '71, New Bern, NC, is retired.

1971

John Hollis, Battletown, KY, is retired from Monument Chemical in Brandenburg.

Arthur Przybyl MBA '72, Port Barrington, is retired.

Susan Blaauw Tutaj, Addison, is the director of faith formation at St. Petronille Church in Glen Ellyn.

1972

William Murray, Woodridge, is retired from United Guaranty as an underwriter.

1973

Peggy Boerman, Kenosha, WI, is retired from Madison Area Technical College as accounting/finance instructor.

Tom Miller MBA '74, Woodinville, WA, is the Chairman of the Board for Entrigal.

Nancy Edmiston Weitekamp MS '76, Raymond, is retired.

1975

Judy Kelly Bauman, Lander, WY, is the broker/owner of Cornerstone Group Realty, LLC in Riverton.

Jared Rogers, Mahomet, is the president and CEO of Central State Region.

1976

James Kusyk, Redondo Beach, CA, received a Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Award for the Cinematography for a second year for his work on the Deadliest Catch.

Gary Lorenz, Huntley, is retired.

1977

Jean Coonley Arndt, Canton, is retired from the YWCA after a 33 ½ year career as the agency's executive director. The YWCA was awarded the Central Illinois Agency on Aging's CEO Leadership Award for Outstanding Service to Fulton County.

William Gerhardt, Norfolk, VA, has retired as an associate professor from the Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University, receiving the Joint Civilian Commendation Medal. He previously served in the US Army for 27 years in both field artillery and army aviation.

Thomas Lippert, Ingleside, retired after 38 years in Illinois Parks & Recreation.

Linda McCarthy, Chicago, is a senior client solutions manager at Freeman.

1978

Barb Koehn, Tucson, AZ, is a physical education teacher at Catalina Foothills School District.

Jim Linden, Wildwood, MO, is the assistant vp senior claims consultant at Lockton's in St. Louis.

1979

Pamela Campbell Gast, Earlville, retired as the coordinator of the Autism Center of Easter Seals of LaSalle and Bureau Counties.

Dean Laird MS, New Braunfels, TX, is an executive assistant at NB Vas Reversal Clinic.

Mary Vacala MS '80, Savannah, GA, is a physician assistant at

Chatham Orthopedics, the head athletic trainer for the Men's USA Paralympic Basketball Team and a Delegate for the House of Delegates American Association of Physician Assistants.

1981

Tim Cordes, Wauconda, is a vp property underwriter for Zurich North America.

Dace Richardson, Charlotte, NC, is the vp of global operations & advanced manufacturing at SPX.

Jerry Strom MS, N. Liberty, IA, retired as the director of basketball from the University of Iowa after 32 years.

David Terrinoni, Biloxi, MS, is the senior installation chaplain at Keesler Air Force Base.

Vicki Malo Terrinoni, Biloxi, MS, is a freelance writer for the Sun Herald Newspaper in Gulfport.

Peter Wagner MS '95, Springfield, is the principal at Wagner Consulting LLC.

1982

Mary Beth Maher MS, Ft Myers, FL, is a database administrator at ASM Research, Inc. in Fairfax, VA.

Grant Speece, Dexter, MI is the Pastor at St. Andrew United Church of Christ.

1984

Lori Torgerson Chesser, Des Moines, IA, was awarded the Willie Stevenson Glanton Award by the Polk County Women Attorneys.

Dennis Eveland, Laredo, TX, is the band director at United Independent School District.

Phillip Giles, Vass, NC is the vp of sales and marketing at QBE North America in Pinehurst.

Susan Legatowicz, Raleigh, NC, is retired from the U.S. Air Force.

Walt Pasternak, Scottsdale, AZ, is the president of R-U Alive Inc.

1986

John McIntosh III, E. St. Louis, is the owner of Apple Cleaners.

Daniel Randich, Aurora, is a Samsung Expert at Best Buy in Geneva.

1987

Neil Mason, Farner, TN, is retired.

Mark Parsons, Frankfort, is an exercise physiologist at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

1989

Ron Grecksch, Washington, is retired from the Fort Madison Community Hospital as the controller.

Dan Moushon MS, Durham, NC, is the vp of the Burlington Royals.

Tara Behrends Sanguedolce MBA '91, Canton, works the switchboard at Graham Medical Group.

Lesly Windle Webber, Manifold Hts, Victoria, Australia, is a French and Spanish teacher at Kardinia International College.

1991

Lisa Nanni-Messegee, Fairfax Station, VA, is a screenwriter on a television movie called *Romantically Speaking* and works for Larry Levinson Productions.

Mike O'Reilly, Springfield, is a medical consultant for the State of Illinois. (oreillyon4th@hotmail.com)

Michael Sebille, Fargo, ND, is an account specialist – COBRA operations/billing solutions for Discovery Benefits.

1992

Wallace Bridges MFA, Ypsilanti, MD, received the Fulbright Scholar grant to teach theatre classes and to direct a play at the University of Ghana-Accra during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Lee Helbert MA '93, Park Forest, is the manager of first year experience at Prairie State College.

1993

Eric Werden, Morris, is a sergeant for the Morris Police Department.

1995

Dominic Faso, Aliso Viejo, CA, is an assistant vp of treasury & investment operations at Pacific Life in Newport Beach.

Beth Aper O'Mahoney, Brookfield, is the director of business development for Taft Stettinius & Hollister in Chicago.

Kenneth Walters, New Haven, CT, is an assistant professor conducting research at South CT State University. (kwalters2112@gmail.com)

1996

Keri Alexander MBA '00, Winnebago, is the vp of practice management at Medac, Inc. in Augusta, GA, and has received her PhD from Capella University in organization and management.

Marisa Robertson, Chicago, is a talent acquisition manager at Sinal Health System.

Kenneth Schiermeyer MA, El Cajon, CA, is the manager of electric demand forecasting at San Diego Gas and Electric.

Joseph Simpkins MS-ED, Frankfort, is the superintendent at

River Grove Schools.

1997

Mandy Blood Geiger MA '03, Raleigh, NC, is a resident director at North Carolina State University.

Douglas Wright MS, Sacramento, CA, is the director of development at UC Davis.

1998

Jonathan Miller, Plainfield, has joined Lavelle Law, Ltd. in Palatine.

1999

Erik Estill ED SP '13, Morton, is the superintendent for the Rome Grade School.

Lyle Goldensoph MS-ED, Davenport, IA, is the principal at Moline High School Coolidge Campus and was named 2014 Principal of the Year for the Black Hawk Region of the Illinois Principal's Association.

2000

Whitney Cassens Mehaffy, Chambersburg, is a health science technology consultant at SIUC Center for Workforce Development in Springfield.

Laura Friese Pittenger, Dwight, is a certified athletic trainer at OSF Medical Group, Orthopedics in Pontiac.

2001

Kristin Bivens MA '03, Chicago, is an assistant professor at Harold Washington College for the City Colleges of Chicago and earned a PhD in technical communication and rhetoric from Texas Tech University in May.

Beth Wiewel Genenbacher, Fowler, is the bookkeeper at Ursa Farmers Co-op.

2002

Mark Lyon, Shelbina, MO is the principal at Milan Middle School.

Michael Schiffman MS-ED, Ridott, is the superintendent for the Freeport School District.

2003

Matthew Hatting, Marysville, WA, is the lead chemical dependency counselor at Catholic Community Services.

Brian Sullivan MS '05, LaHarpe, is a mathematics teacher and athletic director for the LaHarpe Community School District.

Erin Walker, Chicago, is an account executive at Harland Technology Services in Omaha, NE.

2004

Ashley Bishop Cushman MS '06, Farmington, CT, is the BottomLine associate manager at ESPN.

Terri Lubben Vande Wiele ED SP, E. Moline, is the superintendent for the Silvis School District.

2005

Sean Kelly MS, Washington, DC, is the university ticket manager at The George Washington University.

Kelly Kocal Plath, Rockford, is the catering sales manager at Hilton Garden Inn Rockford.

2006

Kelly Day MS, Windermere, FL, is a sports operation manager at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World.

Loretta Joseph, Calumet City, is the member services coordinator for the Illinois CPA Society in Chicago.

Kelly Quigle MS, Hannibal, MO, is the head women's basketball coach/faculty at Hannibal-LaGrange University.

Nick Sutton MS-ED '09, Germantown Hills, is the principal for the Galesburg School District # 205 at Lombard Middle School.

2007

Mary Wenzel Hadley, W. Peoria, is a theatre technical director at Eureka College.

Jennifer Ball Jackson, Sperry, IA, is a commodity accountant at Big River Resources in W. Burlington.

Matthew Miranda MA, Kiowa, CO, is an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Government.

2008

Graham Robson MBA '09, Dallas, TX, is a chiropractor at ChiroMovement Health & Wellness Center.

Amanda Smith, Peoria, is an IT analyst I-user experience services at Caterpillar, Inc.

2009

Meghan Horras Bateman MS, Madison, WI, is a grocery operations manager at Spartan Nash.

Samantha Gehringer, Wheaton, is a client service specialist at Willis in Chicago.

Dana Melton McIntire MS '11, Stronghurst, is a speech and language pathologist for Knox-Warren Special Education Co-op.

Kristopher Morrow MS, Reno, NV, is a group sales manager at Reno Aces Baseball Club.

Brent Vignola, Lombard, is an accounting manager at

2014.
 1975 Edward L. Walenga III, Homewood, Jan. 13, 2015.
 1975 Lance Wojciechowski, Peru, Aug. 31, 2012.
 1976 Pamela T. Bailey Bush MS '95, Morrison, Apr. 28, 2013.
 1976 Victoria L. "Vicki" Park Diamond, Smithfield, VA, Sept. 30, 2012.
 1976 William B. Johnson, Springfield, OH, Nov. 4, 2014.
 1976 Marlen W. "Muggs" McGinnis ED SP, Bushnell, Apr. 16, 2015.
 1976 James J. "Jim" Moehlenhof, Peoria, Feb. 28, 2015.
 1976 Susan J. Downing Peterson, Lynn Center, Aug. 24, 2010.
 1976 Paul N. Schumacher, Wilmington, OH, Dec. 30, 2013.
 1976 Jerrald R. Yeoward, Jr., Springfield, Mar. 1, 2015.
 1976 Deborah K. "Deb" Nixon Zyzniwski MS '86, Springfield, June 27, 2012.
 1977 Ronald D. "Ron" Chandler, Hoffman Est., May 31, 2013.
 1977 Evelyn M. Kipp Davis MA, Burlington, IA, Jan. 25, 2015.
 1977 JoEllen C. Clark McBride, Cape Coral, FL, Jan. 17, 2015.
 1977 Dale M. Meggas MS, Lakewood, OH, Mar. 3, 2015.
 1977 Diane L. Sorensen Sergi, Glen Ellyn, Oct. 2, 2012.
 1978 James D. "Jay" Brenner, Jr., Winter Haven, FL, Feb. 15, 2013.
 1978 Timothy L. Hagen, Hamburg, Mar. 16, 2015.
 1978 Marion E. "Ed" Mitchell MS-ED, Hidalgo, Feb. 4, 2015.
 1978 Anthony N. "Tony" Stege, Countryside, July 28, 2011.
 1979 James E. Foley, Davenport, IA, Feb. 9, 2015.
 1980 Julia L. Anderson, Olney, Aug. 18, 2012.
 1980 Mark S. Kosur, El Paso, Mar. 7, 2015.
 1980 Daniel W. "Dan" Ness MS, Metairie, LA, Mar. 26, 2015.
 1980 Stephen P. Sample, Indianapolis, IN, June 1, 2013.
 1980 Michael A. Zorn, Springfield, Sept. 27, 2010.
 1981 Christopher J. "Chris" Filippo, Gurnee, Dec. 6, 2010.
 1982 Stephen M. Bozich, Holiday, FL, July 26, 2013.
 1982 Kenneth C. "Ken" Le Var, Plano, TX, Mar. 27, 2013.
 1982 Charles E. "Chuck" Richarz, Chicago, Sept. 2, 2013.
 1982 Delores M. Swanson MS-ED '90, Woodstock, July 10, 2013.
 1983 John K. Feikert MA '88, New London, IA, Mar. 21, 2015.
 1983 Dawn R. Johnson Keenan, Neponset, Apr. 5, 2015.
 1984 Robert J. "Bob" Allen, Roswell, NM, Feb. 17, 2015.
 1984 Brent W. Clausen, Osceola, WI, Jan. 2, 2015.
 1984 Steven T. Fox, Niles, Feb. 26, 2015.
 1984 Jeffrey M. "Jeff" Hartman, Ottawa, Mar. 27, 2015.
 1985 David L. "Max" Maxwell, Colorado Springs, CO, Feb. 16, 2013.
 1985 Ann F. Dolezal Pogge MS-ED, Quincy, Jan. 17, 2015.
 1985 Raymond L. Red, Danville, Oct. 12, 2013.
 1986 Daniel J. "Dan" Olszewski, Midlothian, VA, July 15, 2012.
 1986 Jayne A. Armour Schiek MS, Macomb, Apr. 9, 2015.
 1987 Leora E. Markunas Reising, Maconville, OH, May 17, 2013.
 1989 Rebecca J. Hansen Reilly, Rockford, Nov. 26, 2011.
 1990 Thomas A. "Tom" Garnjobst, Burlington, IA, Feb. 17, 2015.
 1990 Jay D. Kunz, Basco, Apr. 23, 2012.
 1990 Laura A. Meyer, Riverton, June 17, 2012.
 1990 Joyce A. Rohling Schmidt MS-ED, Jacksonville, Mar. 13, 2015.
 1991 Marc D. Buhmeyer, Burlington, IA, Nov. 7, 2013.
 1991 Lori A. Anderson Hughes '97, Davenport, IA, Nov. 22, 2013.
 1991 Vanessa M. Pence Ives, St. Louis, MO, Jan. 20, 2013.
 1992 James F. "Jim" Kelley, Watson, Oct. 29, 2010.
 1992 Michael W. "Mike" Madigan MBA '93, Elgin, Aug. 25, 2012.
 1993 Joseph F. "Joe" Belcher, Jr., Bettendorf, IA, Mar. 7, 2011.
 1993 Debra J. Bruno, Chicago, Feb. 3, 2015.
 1993 Jeffrey D. "Jeff" Graves, Odell, May 3, 2010.
 1993 Susan S. Stanfield Ramm MS-ED, Davenport, IA, Jan. 25, 2015.
 1993 William "Bill" Townsend, N. Aurora, Jan. 16, 2015.
 1993 Tracey A. Skees Williams MA '06, Monmouth, Apr. 3, 2013.
 1994 Christopher L. "Chris" Braun, Burbank, CA, Nov. 29, 2013.
 1994 Angelo Lozano II, Ft. Madison, IA, Sept. 23, 2011.
 1995 Peggy M. Stampley Durden, Evansville, IN, July 31, 2013.
 1995 Amy L. Montella Guca, Joliet, Jan. 1, 2015.
 1995 Joseph J. May, Dunfermline, Dec. 23, 2013.
 1995 Karla R. Webber, Burlington, IA, Jan. 9, 2013.
 1996 Peter W. Gerritsma, Springville, CA, Dec. 20, 2014.
 1996 Matthew W. Hallman, Burlington, IA, Mar. 7, 2015.
 1996 Vivian J. "June" Thompson Turnbaugh, Jacksonville, Jan. 15, 2015.
 1997 Bobby E. Stevens, Jr., New Orleans, LA, Apr. 5, 2011.
 1999 Anthony J. "Tony" Hinthorne, El Paso, Mar. 23, 2013.
 1999 Susan Rabbitt, Streator, Feb. 5, 2015.
 2000 Scott E. Doyle, McKinney, TX, Oct. 12, 2012.
 2000 Misty M. Melendez Peebles, Pleasant Hill, Sept. 1, 2011.
 2001 Eugene W. "Gene" Gaik, Albuquerque, NM, Jan. 18, 2015.
 2002 Shane S. Keefauver, Aurora, Aug. 14, 2011.
 2002 Jessie L. Westfall MS, Muscatine, IA, Mar. 27, 2012.
 2003 Ryan J. Weintz, Clive, IA, Aug. 7, 2010.
 2005 Gregory W. Thomas, Rock Island, Apr. 22, 2012.
 2008 David G. Harker, Rock Island, Sept. 29, 2013.
 2008 Mary C. "Cheyenne" Stufflebeam, Bettendorf, IA, Apr. 18, 2011.
 2009 Wendy M. Torrey, Bettendorf, IA, Apr. 20, 2011.
 2009 Joseph S.P. Williams, Franklin, IN, Feb. 6, 2010.

Recent Alumni Events



Chicago Western Wednesdays, February 4, 2015
Paulie's Pub & Grille, Aurora, IL

L-r: Alumni Council President Jeff McElroy '97, Ruth Trail Anerino '69, Greg Anerino '69 '72, Alumni Council member Brian Savage '73, Cyndee Kane Marciniak '74 '84, Bob Jetter '76, Joe Brenner '02, Dave Hookstadt '83, Alumni Council member Brett Goad '74 '76, Alumni Council member Carol Lewis Scott '70, Scott Smith '94 and Kevin Froehlich '05.



Chicago Blackhawks vs. Pittsburgh Penguins Social & Hockey Game, February 15, 2015
Hockey Center, Chicago

L-r: Katie Butson '10, Alumni Council member Erika Lowe '09, Kelsey Butson '07, Steve Sraga '04, Becky Patrick and Joe Patrick '74.



Chicago Blackhawks vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

L-r: Danny Thiess '13, Frank Livorsi '70, Linda Livorsi, Frank Tocha '72 '75, Betsy Lafollette Tocha '74, Angela Bell and Linda Ervins Bell '73. Back left: Adam Weis '14.



Chicago Blackhawks vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

L-r: Jerry Vellender, John Vellender '10, Lauren Biederwolf, Diane Vellender, Don Bytner '72 '87, Marcy Bytner '01 and Mike Vellender.



Quad Cities Western Wednesdays, March 4, 2015
Riverside Grille, Bettendorf, IA

Front l-r: Tom Ahlstrand '69, Ollie Wilson '61 '64, Alumni Council member Kellie Kohler Esters '93 and Drue Mielke '92. Middle l-r: Alumni Achievement Award recipient Marcia Lense Judickas '82, Keith Judickas '81, Charlie Hawthorn, Marilyn Wood Hawthorn '89, Sue Hamann '08, Jack Tumbleson '64 and Mikaela Simmons '14. Back l-r: Judy Tumbleson and Tony Vermeer.



Quad Cities Western Wednesdays

Front l-r: John Baumann '83, Chris Lovejoy Baumann '76 '92, Quad Cities Director of Development Paul Plagenz and Bill Horrell '89 '95. Back l-r: Rhonda Mrkvicka Koeller '73, Gary Koeller '72 '88 and Board of Trustees member and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Roger Clawson '77.



Springfield Legislative and Alumni & Friends, March 4, 2015
Sangamo Club, Springfield, IL

Seated l-r: Kevin Horath '80, Donald Post '57, Lisa Sims '81, President Jack Thomas, Lindsay Walkley '14, Rachel Tabor '11, Randy Frese '81 and Director of Illinois Law Enforcement Institute Susie Nichols '00 '09. Standing l-r: College of Education and Human Services Assistant Dir. of Dev/Marketing/Comm Outreach Jason Eveland '05 '12, Vice President for Administrative Services Julie DeWees '83 '91, College of Education and Human Services Dir. of Dev/Marketing/Comm Outreach Dana Stites Moon '98 '01, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Marty Green '87, Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joe Rives, Valerie Corey '12, Nathan Stamp '11, Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Zack Stamp '75, Eric Murphy '08, Jason Schutte '04, Pete Wagner '85 '95, Alumni Council member Tye Taylor '79, Linda Wagner, Dale E. Schonewis '61, Jennifer Moon Desulius '98, Don Davis '59 '72, John Hagstrom '91, Steve Harvey '88, Bradley Harrington '12, Facilities Management Director Scott Coker, Terri Pearson Nelson '86, Budget Director Matt Bierman '97 '03, Scott Clarke '81, Alumni Council member John Meixner '95 '05 and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Dave Thompson '72.



Springfield Legislative and Alumni & Friends

L-r: House of Representatives Members Dan Moffit, Terry Bryant, Norine Keating Hammond, Randy Frese '81 and Mark Batinick with WIU President Jack Thomas (center).



Mt. Sterling Alumni & Friends, March 26, 2015
Hagel 1891, Mt. Sterling, IL

Seated l-r: Marsha Akright Wagner '77, Naoma Cutforth Michelsen '69, Libraries Director of Development Suzanne Martin Woodward '98, Randy Frese '81 and Professor and Retired Chairperson Karen Greathouse. Standing l-r: General Studies Degree Program Assistant Director Jennifer Tobin Tibbitts '84 '97, April Magness Baldwin '89, Mike Spann '88 and Honorary Alumni Award recipient Lisa Ward.

Recent Alumni Events



Mt. Sterling Alumni & Friends

Front l-r: Norma Unger Heitz, Christy Bledsoe Ackman '99, Connie Taylor '86, Marjorie Martin '61, Jackie Rottman Kaelke '65, Esta Payne Newman '64, Retired Chairperson Bruce Kruse, Lori Kruse '84 and Mita Elam. Middle l-r: Gene Foster, Susan Isted Foster '65 and Elaine Schwartz Longacre '66. Back l-r: Jason Ackman '97, Ron Larner, Joan Davis Larner '82, Alumni Council member Fred Longacre '64, Dawn Bartlett Hughes '95 '99, Sandra Smith Prather '92 '00, Erin Kennedy Eveland '04 '12, College of Education and Human Services Assistant Dir. of Dev/Marketing/Comm Outreach Jason Eveland '05 '12 and Jim Duvendack '71.



Mt. Sterling Alumni & Friends

Seated l-r: Norma Unger Heitz, Betty McCutchan Johnson '50, David Spurrier '84, Rodney Henrichsmeyer '96, Sandra Hensley and Mary Forsythe Stipanowich '44. Standing l-r: John Williams '70, Phillip Richmond, Field and Clinical Experiences Coordinator Jacqlyn Reese Richmond '73 '87, Diana Dubsy Cremer '74 '83, Town and Gown Award recipient Jerry Cremer '89, Chairperson Gregg Woodruff, Vicki Shaw Phillips '99 '14, Tim Phillips '83 '04, Brock Flesner '12, Steph Travis Flesner '11 and Marvin Russwinkle '97.



Chicago Western Wednesdays, April 1, 2015 Jake Melnick's Corner Tap, Chicago, IL

Seated l-r: Katie Butson '10, Kimberly Miller '09, Kate McNamee '11 and Lisa DeLuca '94. Standing l-r: Alumni Council member Erika Lowe '09, Kelsey Butson-Sraga '07, Astrid Beltran '08, Marissa Davis '11, Carrie Staton '12, and Cathy Brovelli '95.



Chicago Western Wednesdays

L-r: Kris Kiefer Mackey, Ginny McGarrity '78, Rodger Stutz '78, Reggie Karas Devers '78, Alumni Achievement Award recipient Carin Horne Stutz '78, Mona D'Antonio '76, Alumni Council member Brian Savage '73, Katie Savage '09, Mike Mongoven '09 and Diane Meister '69.



Chicago Western Wednesdays

L-r: Rob Dulski '08 '11, Steve Sraga '04, Bill Watson '80, John Walcher '08, Alumni Council member Matt Saey '06, Alumni Council member John Sanders '74, Alumni Council member Tom O'Brien '07, Adam Fuller '05, Steve Cutaia '90, Kevin O'Brien '06, Max Grinnell, Mike Terranova '07, Mike Underwood '99 and Sean Murray '98.



Chicago Western Wednesdays

L-r: John Bokum '72, Scott Clark '71 '72, Kitty Abbott Clark '71, Joyce Ross '87, Cathy Brovelli '95 and Lisa DeLuca '94.



West Palm Beach Alumni & Friends, April 23, 2015

Copper Blues Rock Pub & Kitchen, West Palm Beach, FL

L-r: Marty O'Connor '78, Assistant Alumni Director Judy Arnsman Eckerly '96, Director of Legal Services David Eckerly '83, Patti Henebry Spohnholz '82 and Larry Marschke '80.

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

Insurance ... Our partnership with Collegiate Insurance Resources offers a variety of programs, including comprehensive short-and-long-term medical, disability and dental. wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 922-1245

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License Plates ... If you have a car or class-B truck registered in Illinois and would like to support Western, order your WIU license plates today. Vanity and personalized plates are available. Also, a mobile unit is periodically in the University Union staffed by the office of the Secretary of State for certain driver and vehicle services. wiu.edu/alumni/license.php (217) 785-5215

Career Development Center ... WIU alumni can enjoy continued access to benefits provided by WIU's Career Development Center (CDC). wiu.edu/student_services/career_development_center/ (309) 298-1838

Western's Leslie F. Malpass Library ... Alumni can use the physical library and search online databases when on campus. Use of online catalogs for books and media and access to the library's reference services, guides, etc. are included in your benefits. wiu.edu/alumni/library_access.php (309) 298-2700

Alumni Directory ... All alumni have access to the online directory exclusively for WIU alumni. Also available for purchase is the hard-copy. wiu.edu/vpas/stars (309) 298-1914

WIU Partners with Quad City Airport ... We are pleased to partner with the Quad City International Airport to offer the "WIU Easier Card" for alumni who use the airport for travel. The card offers access to the airport's Destination Points business center on Concourse B. wiu.edu/alumni/airport.php (309) 298-1914

Recreation Center Memberships ... WIU alumni and their spouses and domestic partners may purchase memberships. wiu.edu/alumni/rec_center.php (309) 298-2773

Dear Alumni & Friends of Western,

When I became president of the Alumni Council two years ago, I challenged our Alumni base to explore their Western connections that they encounter in their daily lives. I hope that you did that on at least one occasion. Although each of our experiences was different, we all have the common thread of earning a degree from Western Illinois University, and that is a distinction that I hope you are proud to share with others. I certainly am. It is been an honor and a privilege during the course of the last two years to serve as president of this alumni council. It has been particularly rewarding for me to meet and present our distinguished alumni and alumni achievement awards during graduation ceremonies. The potential of a WIU degree is endless and it is truly remarkable to hear about the many accomplishments and contributions these individuals have made to our society. Our alumni base, now 130,000 strong, is making a difference in our society every day. It's a proud time to be WIU Leatherneck.

As I pass the presidential gavel on, I leave you with one last challenge. Come back to Western for Homecoming, attend a local alumni association event and continue to explore your Western connections. And remember, once a Leatherneck, always a Leatherneck!

Sincerely,

Jeff McElroy
President, WIU Alumni Council



Kick off WIU Homecoming 2015 with Celebrating Town & Gown 2015

Sept. 24 | The Forum in Macomb | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Brief program, including unveiling of 2015 Rocky on Parade statues at 6:15 p.m. | Price: \$20/person

Shoemaker named director of donor relations

Amanda Shoemaker MS '11, associate director of Western Illinois University alumni programs, has been named the director of donor relations at WIU, effective June 1, according to Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83. Shoemaker takes over for Julie Murphy '94 MS '95, who has been serving in an interim capacity since her May 2014 retirement.



Amanda Shoemaker MS '11

Shoemaker has served as associate director of Alumni Programs since March 2009. She was hired as assistant director in January 2005. In her role as associate director, Shoemaker has been responsible for assisting with the management and administration of the Alumni Association, as well as planning alumni events; coordinating marketing and public relations efforts; working with colleges and departments on alumni-related topics; supporting the WIU Alumni Council; serving as the alumni programs' webmaster and assisting with the department's social media presence; and advising the Student Alumni Association. She also serves as the host of "The Purple Chair," a WIU monthly television show, which she will continue as director of donor relations.

Prior to joining alumni programs, she was employed for more than three years at KHQA TV 7 News in Quincy (IL) as an anchor, producer and reporter.

"I am thrilled with this new opportunity," Shoemaker said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with so many WIU alumni and friends for more than a decade and I am excited to continue those relationships in a new capacity."

Shoemaker received her bachelor's degree from Illinois College and her master's degree from WIU.

Refer a Student to Western Illinois University



Do you know a student who would be a great fit for Western Illinois University? Let us know by completing the form found at wiu.edu/alumni/recommend.php or call (877) 742-5948.

We also welcome recommendations for students who may wish to transfer to WIU.

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

Western Wednesdays

Join your WIU Alumni Association as the Western Wednesdays After Hours tradition continues! We'll continue to rotate every other month in the Chicago and Quad Cities areas. Hundreds of alumni have joined us every month for great food, great conversation and a few beverages!

Chicago

August 5, 2015

Downtown at Kroll's South Loop, 5-7 p.m.

October 7, 2015

Suburb, 5-7 p.m.

December 2, 2015

Downtown, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

February 3, 2016

Suburb, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Quad Cities

July 2015

No event due to holiday

September 2, 2015

Rock Island at City Limits Saloon, 5-7 p.m.

November 4, 2015

Davenport, 5-7 p.m.

January 2016

No event due to holiday

Save the Date!

Chicago Alumni & Friends at Wrigley Field

Cubs vs. White Sox Baseball Game ~ Saturday, July 11

Budweiser Bleacher Suite
1060 West Addison Street ~ Chicago, IL

Watch from the suite or from the bleachers!
Our guests are invited down to the on deck circle for photos after the game.
Pregame: 2:30 p.m.
Game: 3:05 p.m.
Social, game, all drinks and all food: \$225

WIU vs. U of I Social & Football Game

Saturday, September 12

Memorial Stadium
1402 S. 1st St. ~ Champaign, IL

Pregame social & Game: TBD
Social, food, unlimited drinks (includes alcoholic) & game ticket: \$45
Social, food, tea/lemonade/water ONLY & game ticket: \$35
Social, food, unlimited drinks (includes alcoholic): \$25 (no game ticket)
Social, food, tea/lemonade/water ONLY: \$15 (no game ticket)

Send Us Your News

Include Information in Western News? Yes No

Full Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Grad. Year _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Prefer Home Business E-mail

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

Home E-mail _____ Business E-mail _____

Title/Position _____ Employer _____

Employer Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Widowed Domestic Partner

Is spouse/domestic partner a WIU graduate? No Yes, Graduation Year _____

If yes: Spouse/Domestic Partner Full Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Title/Position _____ Employer _____

Employer Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Prefer Home Business E-mail

Home E-mail _____ Business E-mail _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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

Additional Information for Western News: _____

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

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

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

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