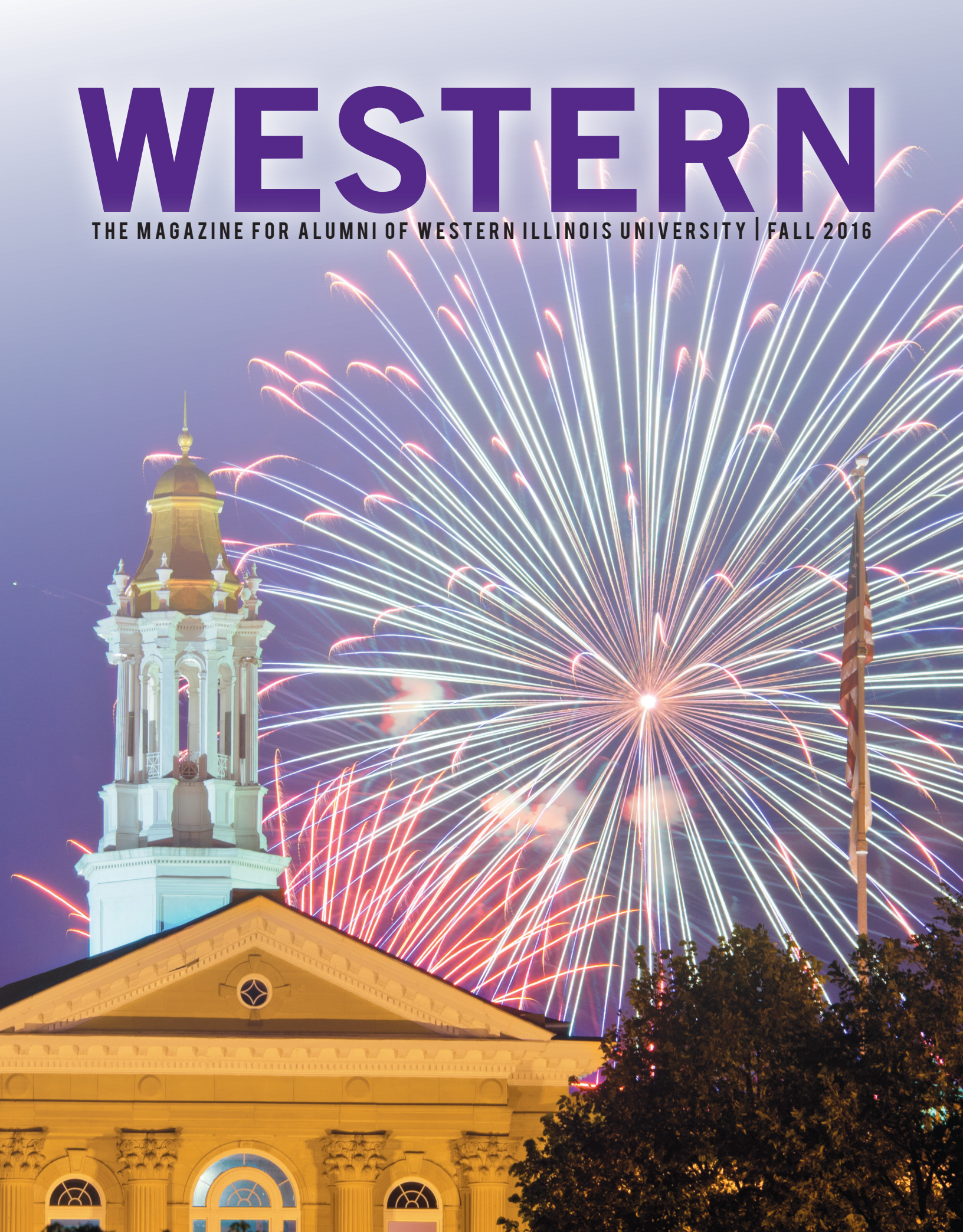


WESTERN

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Letter from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine! After many years of producing a newspaper for our alumni and friends, we are happy to debut this new, modern format.

The magazine, which is produced in-house by University Relations, is comprised of in-depth feature stories about our alumni and others, academic programs and research-related stories, a student spotlight, Alumni Association news and events, Blasts from the Past, a student-authored feature and much more. We hope you enjoy the new look, and we welcome your feedback.

Thank you to our alumni, Robert Nardelli, Michael Boatman and Erin Merryn for agreeing to be featured in the first issue. We are proud of your remarkable accomplishments, and it is our pleasure to feature the achievements of—and words of wisdom from—our outstanding alumni.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our more than 130,000 alumni and friends from around the world for your continued support and commitment to your alma mater. Western Illinois University is a special and truly remarkable place because of you. I am proud to serve as this outstanding institution's 11th president. I look forward to seeing you at alumni events across the globe, as well as back on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Thomas
President

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Dr. B's legacy for providing quality entertainment at Western will live on well past his time on this earth.
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This Leatherneck went from playing on the WIU football field to climbing the corporate ladder. His hard work didn't stop when he graduated. At age 68, he's still working to improve upon everything he does.






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Have tips, questions or comments for the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine?
Email AA-Looney@wiu.edu.
To send us your news, see pg. 41.

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University News

New Centennial Honors College Course gives students an insight into Western's legacies and traditions

By Alisha Looney MA '13

It's not very often that college students take a history class where they are part of the story. However, that's what students in Western Illinois University's new Centennial Honors College course get to do. Western's Legacy: The History of Western Illinois University (GH299) was introduced at the start of the Fall 2016 semester.

Academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility: These four core values that Western touts were not just something pulled out of thin air one day. These are the values that Western Illinois University was founded on in 1902. Students in the new Honors course will spend the semester learning how these values affected the creation of WIU, first called the Western Illinois State Normal School.

How the course was formed

The course evolved from an idea from senior economics major William Gradle (St. Charles, IL), political science alumnus and current WIU graduate student Jacob Tomlinson '15 (Rockford, IL) and senior recreation, park and tourism administration major Robby Barlowe (Nauvoo, IL). They were meeting with Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83 when the group discussion turned to Leatherneck traditions and the relevance and importance of those to current students.

"Initially, we thought it would be relevant to the First Year Experience program and could be taught during University 100," Gradle said. "However, after some research, we realized that University 100 covers a

lot of material already and wouldn't be able to fit it in.

"During a University Honors Council meeting, I realized that an Honors course would be the perfect platform for the history and legacy of WIU," he added

Gradle took his idea to Rick Hardy '70, director of WIU's Centennial Honors College, and Molly Homer, academic advisor in the Honors College.

"I initially brought the idea up to Dr. Hardy and Dr. Homer, given that I would need their approval to proceed. Not only did the idea receive approval, it also received overwhelming support from the Honors College," Gradle said.

Hardy knew he was going to need someone knowledgeable to teach this course. Who better than someone who has written several articles and books about

Western, including "Western Illinois Heritage" and "First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University," WIU Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Hallwas '67 MA '68.

"When Wil first broached the idea of creating an Honors course about Western's heritage, I immediately thought of Professor John Hallwas," said Hardy. "He is, after all, Western's laureate. His extensive research and prolific publications about Western Illinois University make him the ideal person to teach such a course."

Hallwas not only agreed to teach the new Honors course, he offered to do so at no cost to the University. WIU Professor Greg Hall is co-teaching alongside Hallwas.

Hallwas and Hardy developed a description of the course to be circulated for approval.

"WIU students who aren't from



Students in the new Western's Legacy Honors course visit President Jack Thomas in his office.

the west central Illinois region may have a hard time identifying with the greater McDonough County community,” explained Gradle. “This course provides, in a sincere and authentic way, the opportunity to identify with this place that hundreds of thousands of people have called home over the last 117 years. It has the potential to ignite and revitalize the WIU identity.”

Hardy explained that the Honors College is constantly looking for new and exciting courses to stimulate and challenge the best and brightest students. While all new courses must go through the approval process, this is the first Honors College course initiated by a student-member of the Honors Council.

“The Honors College is also grateful to Professor Greg Hall for his significant role in guiding students through their individual research projects. And we appreciate the invaluable assistance of University Archivist Kathy Nichols ’89 MA ’94; she is a treasure trove of knowledge, and loves helping students locate historical documents,” Hardy added.

What do you need this teacher training school for anyway?

The course is taking a chronological approach to studying the history of Western Illinois University, beginning with how and why the teacher training school—originally known as Western Illinois State Normal School—was formed. Hallwas and Hall will delve into what was happening in 1902 to create a need for the school in the western Illinois region, as well as the forces that came together to determine why Macomb was chosen as a location and the development of programs. They will move through the decades as the semester progresses and continue into how Western became a university and discuss how the lives of students have changed over the years.

“In the beginning, we didn’t even have majors,” said Hallwas. “The point of the school was to turn out grade school teachers. Then, after



WIU Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Hallwas teaches students about the Hall of Presidents in Sherman Hall.

awhile, we developed majors so teachers could have specialties.

“We also predominately had women students in the early years; as we discuss why that was, it will give us a chance to discuss a change for women in general during those times. We will get into a lot of significant issues,” Hallwas added.

“Some institutional histories can be as dry as dust,” said Nichols. “But Western’s is sure not dry when you see it in its context. Dr. Hallwas sees everything in its context ... literature ... human life ... he does an excellent job explaining how the context relates to Western’s history.”

Students won’t just be learning in the classroom. Hallwas and Hall have been taking the students to various places on campus for history lessons, as well. Recently, the students toured Sherman Hall, the first building of the Illinois Normal School, and a building on the National Register of Historic Places. Their tour included a visit with President Jack Thomas in his office.

The students will also visit the University Archives, housed in the Leslie F. Malpass Library. Nichols will be available throughout the semester to assist them with their research paper, which will be the culmination of the class.

“Usually when you’re at a university and you want to do a research paper, you can find some books in the library,” explained Hallwas. “We are going to be talking about the history of WIU; this is the greatest place in the world to go. You have everything from hand-written presidential papers, faculty papers and publications to student yearbooks and newspapers. This class will give students a chance to find out what it means to really research something when you have a multitude of kinds of archival materials to work with.”

Nichols further explained, “For instance, the students will work with hand-written old documents like President Henninger’s papers. They will get the chance to travel back in time and read about when the school hadn’t even opened yet, and he was interacting with people to figure out how it was going to go and what arrangements needed to be made. It’s a very different way of looking at the situation.”

Social responsibility and core values

Hallwas said the students will learn that out of all of the Illinois universities, WIU was the only one established because of a social cause.

“Our core values of academic

excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility developed based on how Western was created,” said Hallwas. “The normal school was formed as part of a crusade. Illinois had over 10,000 rural schools. McDonough County alone had almost 150. During that time period, every neighborhood had a school, but they had very little money and ill-educated teachers. This was a big issue. Western was formed because of this social need for the rural students who deserved a decent education.

“People were so proud to be here—to be a part of that movement,” Hallwas said.

Those four values continue to be Western’s guiding light today.

Gradle believes those values have impacted his education in the same way Western impacted the students in the early 1900s.

“Western empowers students to be the best they can be,” Gradle said. “Specifically, the most impactful and defining tracts of my collegiate journey have stemmed from the Centennial Honors College, and I credit that directly to those who work there. They challenge the way students see the world.” ●



President Jack Thomas joins Professor Hallwas and his Honors course for a lesson about the history of the President’s conference room.

WIU degrees put graduates on a solid path

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

A recent survey of Western Illinois University alumni revealed that over 90 percent of the WIU Class of 2015 respondents indicated they were employed or enrolled in graduate studies since earning their baccalaureate degrees. According to 2015 data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 89 percent of individuals holding a bachelor's (or higher) degree are employed (compared to 76 percent with some college, but no degree, and 67 percent of high school graduates).

The survey, which was administered by Western's Institutional Research and Planning office, queried 1,750 graduates from the Class of 2015. Twenty-three percent responded, noted IRP Director Angela Bonifas '03 MS '05. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents reported they were currently employed, and 24 percent are pursuing advanced degrees.*

Additional results reveal that 84 percent of the respondents who are employed, held or secured a job within nine months of receiving their degrees, and 90 percent of the alumni who responded reported satisfaction with their current jobs. Ninety percent also expressed a "positive" attitude toward Western Illinois University and 88 percent believe that Western represented a "good value for the investment that was made.

"Our niche is to provide a high impact, applied learning experience that leads to employment or graduate school following graduation," said WIU President Jack Thomas.

"A degree from Western Illinois University sets the stage for our students' success in the workforce. We are preparing students with a solid foundation."

In 2015, The Economist, a weekly international newspaper owned by the Economist Group, ranked WIU third out of 11 ranked public universities in Illinois and in the top 25 percent nationwide in terms of increasing the earning potential of graduates. In addition, in Summer 2016, Western was ranked by Niche.com fourth out of 10 Illinois public schools as a top Illinois public university, and in the top 25 of best value colleges in Illinois. The Best Value Colleges ranking assesses the long-term impact a college has on its students in terms of costs, debt, career advancement, earnings and student reviews on how prepared they feel for life after college. This ranking was developed as part of a Department of Education College Scorecard initiative.

Additional WIU survey results show that more than 87 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the amount of time it took to complete their degrees.

Through Western's GradTrac program, new freshmen are guaranteed that if they meet the program's requirements, they will graduate in four years or their remaining tuition will be free. Regularly admitted freshmen in most academic programs are eligible to apply for GradTrac. ●

** Editor's note: Some graduates reported being employed, while also pursuing an advanced degree.*

See more about the survey.





WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY *Alumni Survey*

2016

90%

of graduates from the class of 2015 are employed or have enrolled in a college or university



88%

of alumni believe that WIU represents a good value for the investment



84%

of alumni indicated they secured a job within 9 months of receiving their degrees from WIU



87%

of alumni are satisfied with the amount of time it took to complete their degrees

90%



of graduates reported they are satisfied with their current jobs



84%

of graduates would recommend WIU to a prospective student

90%



of alumni have a positive attitude toward the University



The COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY Celebrates 50 years



Timeline

SEPTEMBER 1966

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS ESTABLISHED.



1968

THE FIRST MBA IS OFFERED.

1970

STIPES HALL OPENS ITS DOORS, AND THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS BECOMES THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS.

1978

UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAMS ARE ACCREDITED BY THE AACSB.



1995

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS BECOMES THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY; THREE DEPARTMENTS ARE ADDED; AND KNOBLAUCH HALL IS COMPLETED.



2008

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS RENAMED THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

1983

GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAMS ARE ACCREDITED BY THE AACSB.

2009

THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OPENS ITS DOORS.



Calendar of Events

Nov. 2

Western Wednesdays Quad Cities
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Location TBA

APRIL 1

Trivia Game Scholarship Fundraiser
5-9 p.m.
WIU Brophy Hall Gymnasium
wiu.edu/CBT/trivia

APRIL 11

Anniversary Keynote Event
Featuring Jeffrey Hayzlett, host of
C-Suite with Jeffrey Hayzlett and
Executive Perspectives

wiu.edu/CBT/50th

2013

ACCOUNTING, AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT ARE NAMED TO WIU'S LIST OF SIGNATURE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.



2016

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS.

Presidential campaigns provide unique topics for WIU classrooms

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Editor's Note: These interviews were conducted in August, which should be considered as the context for the comments of WIU faculty members.

In the changing cultural landscape of presidential politics, this year's Republican and Democratic nominees, and their approaches to campaigning, have left many disheartened with the political process and with the candidates. On the plus side, however, is the stockpile of ways political science professors at Western Illinois University can approach this historic election cycle in their classrooms.

WIU Department of Political Science Chair Keith Boeckelman said professors at the University discuss the presidential policies in their classes without the addition of their own political opinions, allowing students to make their own decisions when it comes to voting. While the volatility of this election cycle is enhanced by the back and forth of political in-fighting, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton each bring their own baggage to the table.

"This election is unique because you have a candidate [Trump] who is challenging some widely-held political norms, such as how you treat protestors at rallies," said Boeckelman. "He is also challenging some of the constitutional ideas like freedom of the press. This is not a typical presidential election. Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton is having a difficult time reconciling her message of challenging elites with the fact that she has received large sums of money for speeches at Goldman-Sachs or her entanglement with the contributors to the Clinton Foundation."

The media coverage of the fighting, Boeckelman said, is blocking



out other historical aspects of this campaign cycle, including the first female presidential nominee for a major political party. He added that the battle may also drive some voters to either skip voting for a presidential candidate altogether, or look more closely at one of the third-party candidates.

"When President [Barack] Obama ran, young people were invested in his candidacy," he said. "I don't know if any of these candidates will pull students in the same way."

This semester, Boeckelman will lecture about presidential campaigning in the sections of American government he is teaching. Outside the classroom, he has also authored numerous academic journal articles about politics and co-authored two books about President Obama.

Classroom work this semester will include a paper on media coverage of politics, and Boeckelman said he expects many student papers to focus on this year's presidential election.

"We have the two most unpopular presidential candidates in history, so one of the first things I'm going to do in class is poll my students on their satisfaction with the choices of candidates," Boeckelman said. "I want to gauge their opinions. This election can tie to a lot of larger concepts in political science, including talking about Trump as a unique candidate."

This year's first-day-of-class poll showed, in one class, that 33 students

were dissatisfied with the candidate choices, five were satisfied and two voted "other." A second class showed 38 students being dissatisfied, four satisfied and seven choosing "other."

Boeckelman said he is also interested in the impact this presidential campaign season will have on the 2018 state and local elections.

"Trump seems to have found a political opening, and it will be interesting to see if others pick up on that, or if they try to do things in a less Trump-like way," he said.

In addition to learning about presidential campaigning in the classroom, the political science student organization, Associated Students of Political Science at Western, encourages voter registration. The McDonough County chapter of the League of Women Voters also visits WIU classrooms to help students learn how to vote absentee, to register to vote or transfer their registrations from their home counties. The student organization had also been using the Turbo Vote program, which allows online registration and the sending of reminders to vote.

Political Science Professor Janna Deitz, director of Public Leadership and Outreach at Western, will also emphasize the elections in her classes this fall.

Deitz researches in the areas of congressional elections, legislative politics and women and politics. Students in her Congress class will follow key congressional races around the country and examine the impact of this election season on the work of the legislative branch.

In her Campaigns and Elections course, the presidential election will be the lens through which students discuss key aspects of the American electoral system. Students in that course will analyze federal or state-level [\[continued on page 19\]](#)

Giving Back to Western

WIU Legacies

By Amanda Shoemaker MS '11

When one walks down the halls of Sherman Hall, sits in the seats at Western Hall or passes by what once stood as Morgan Gymnasium, it's easy to recall the names of those who helped build this great University. Hanson, Grote, Beu, Henninger ... they left their marks on WIU decades ago. Now in its third century of existence, Western has many others who have left a mark. The names Brattain, Wehrly and Engnell can be added to the list of distinguished contributors who positively impacted the WIU community.

Bill Brattain, commonly referred to as "Dr. B," advised thousands of students during his tenure as director of the Office of Student Activities and the University Union, a position he held for more than 24 years. One of those students was Brian O'Connell, president of Live Nation Country Touring. O'Connell said Dr. B was the only reason he stayed in college, as he was fairly disinterested in anything that involved the "going to school" part.

"Once he sat me down and

explained to me that without that part you didn't get to have the fun part, well, obviously, it worked. He was neither judgmental, nor dismissive," O'Connell remembered. "Our relationship was really that of an accomplished professional treating an idiot 18-year-old with respect, and through that he taught me how to know the difference between patronizing someone and respecting them ... teaching involves patience, seeing potential involves skill, what Dr. B possessed was 'the patience of Job' and the skill of a marksman, truly a rare combination."

Dr. B also loved being in the entertainment business. While he was never over the top about his connections, according to O'Connell, everyone knew that there was this guy in Macomb, IL, who ran a good shop. He attracted entertainers, and the WIU community benefited from his work.

When asked if WIU is better off thanks to the work of Dr. B, O'Connell replied, "I would put it this way, if WIU decided to create a Mt.

Rushmore of sorts, Dr. B would be on it."

Brattain passed away in December 2015, at the age of 77. Family and friends remembered Dr. B by contributing to the William "Dr. B" and Jacquie Brattain Transfer Scholarship, a fund that was established by the Brattains in 2011 to provide scholarships for transfer students from McDonough, Hancock or Schuyler counties.

On the academic side, Jim Wehrly is a name known by most Western agriculture graduates. Professionally, Wehrly was an agricultural finance professor who started teaching at WIU in 1969. He continued to do so until he retired in 1992.

"Jim was a good friend and stellar role model," said Julie Murphy '94 MS '95, retired director of donor relations. "He was a passionate and caring professor; he most certainly lived simply and was quite generous throughout his lifetime. His wicked sense of humor stayed with him as his body failed. His mind was razor sharp until the end, [continued on page 19]



Bill Brattain

Bruce Engnell



Bea and Jim Wehrly

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Bill Brattain and Entertainment at Western

By Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94, WIU Archives

During Western's early years, programs presented by outside figures were decidedly intellectual, rather than popular. In February 1912, a writer/editor from Harvard and one of the first generation of professionally-trained historians in the United States, Albert Bushnell Hart, lectured on President Washington as a literary figure. In October 1925, members of the Chicago Civic Opera Company performed a number of classical pieces. At the end of the Fall 1929 semester, a troupe of Shakespearian actors presented "Julius Caesar." During 1930 and 1931, prominent intellectuals lectured on subjects such as Mahatma Gandhi, the growth and development of flowers and the clothing and customs of China.

Programs in the later 1930s and the 1940s maintained something of their scholarly focus. In Fall 1948, renowned classical violinist David Rubinoff performed for an audience of community residents and Western students; however, during that same period, students and members of various civic organizations were also treated to inspirational and entertaining talks by Amelia Earhart,

WWI hero Alvin York and WGN radio sports announcer Robert Elson.

In response to the wishes of students, who were increasingly progressive in terms of their attitudes and values, those in charge of bringing speakers and performers to campus responded by engaging figures such as swing composer and trumpet player Billy May, Buddy Moreno and the Four Aces, the Crew Cuts, the Jimmy Dorsey Band, Louis Armstrong, Woody Herman, Johnny Mathis, the Lettermen and Harry Belafonte. In addition, political figures such as former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, presidential candidates Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy and Senator Charles Percy made appearances at Western. Without a doubt, however, the "Brattain years" were the high point at Western in terms of the availability on campus of big-name entertainers.

William E. Brattain was born in Noblesville, IN, graduated from high school in nearby Sharpsberg and earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Indiana University. Following college, he served as the director of the Union at Manchester College and associate

director of the Indiana Memorial Union at Indiana University. In 1971, he accepted the position of director of the recently constructed University Union at WIU.

While at Western, Brattain served on the boards of the National Association for Campus Activities, the Association of College Unions International and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. Also, during the following 27 years, he served in a variety of roles in the Division of Student Affairs and retired, in 1997, as associate vice president for student services emeritus and emeritus professor of recreation, park and tourism administration (RPTA). He is one of only two people to receive both the Founders Award from the National Association for Campus Activities and the Butts-Whiting Award from the Association of College Unions International. These are the highest honors these organizations bestow to a volunteer.

Upon his retirement, the Performing Arts Center of Macomb established the William E. Brattain Award to recognize individuals for their contributions to the arts in west-central Illinois. The Association



of Performing Arts Presenters, the National Association for Campus Activities and the Association of College Unions International honored him with life memberships. In addition, his alma mater, Indiana University, presented him with the John R. Enwright Distinguished Alumni Service Award. In 2004 and 2009, he was appointed by the governor to the Illinois Arts Council, and from 1991 until 2008, he served as a member of the Illinois Arts Alliance Board. He died Dec. 25, 2015.

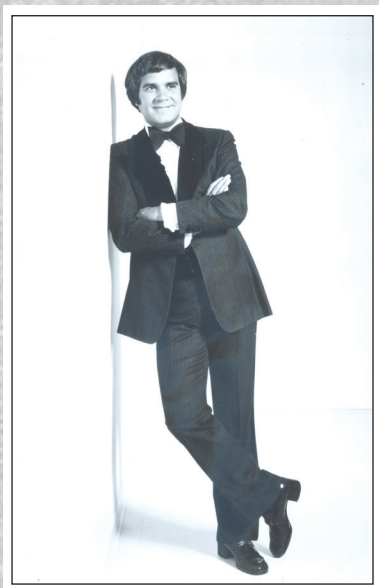
Brattain was also widely known for the quantity, quality and diversity of performing arts and concert programming he brought to the University and the general public, through which he affirmed Western's role as a regional cultural center. In his 2011 book, "Entertainment in the Heartland: Some Humorous Memories and Random Thoughts," he summarized in a remarkably personal, and sometimes humorous, way his experience in bringing celebrities to Western.

A hallmark of Brattain's approach to his work was his focus on students. As one of his obituaries stated, "He believed that the experiences students had outside of the classroom shaped their lives and careers in profound ways, and [he] shared this passion with his students." Attractions at Western were presented by two entities primarily or solely composed of students: the Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the University Union Board. For good reason, he was affectionately known by his students as "Dr. B."

He points out in his book that a university event planned without the input of students, which they do not attend, is a failure. As one of his former students says in a letter reprinted in his book:

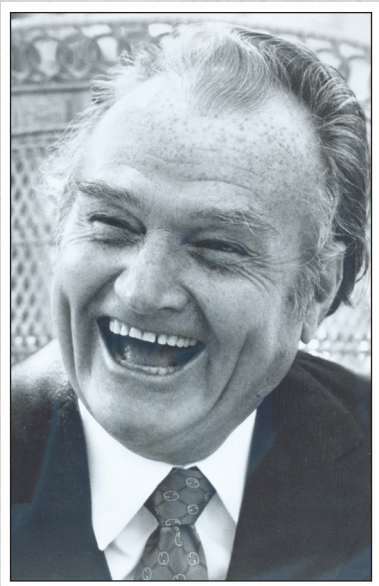
"Little did he know the profound impact he would have on the college entertainment market, the field of student activities, and my life. The counterculture's social and liberation movements thrived like flowers in a greenhouse on that '70s

From the archives



Rich Little performed at WIU for Family Weekend during the 1976-77 academic year.

The 5th Dimension performed with Paul Williams to a large audience at Western during the 1972-73 academic year.



Red Skelton performed at Western four times: 1978, 1980, 1984 and 1997. He is shown here in 1980.

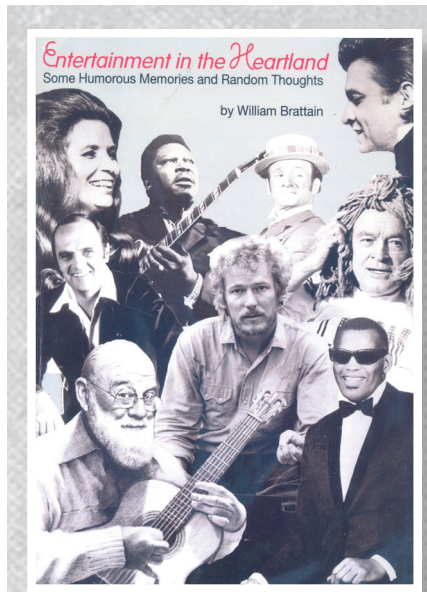
university campus. It was a heady but confusing time to be a student and an especially challenging time to be an administrator. Bill Brattain was a gift on the scene. Understanding the importance of play in the growth and development of these well-intentioned, but sometimes misguided, youth, Bill was adept at creating an open and rather free-wheeling environment that nurtured the imagination and the entrepreneurial spirit. He'd speak of serendipity and encouraged us to view open spaces and venues unconventionally and as fair game for complex events or an impromptu performance. He was thinking outside the box before there was jargon that defined the practice.

The brilliance of his approach, however, was the structure in which we worked. There was strong governance—a clearly defined system. And, we were entrusted with the keys to drive it. Bill provided what we were unconsciously craving—freedom with responsibility.

The result? A golden era of college entertainment.”

Brattain says early in his book, “To state that Western had poor performing arts facilities might be the biggest understatement since Noah said it might shower . . . Western Hall is not an ideal facility by any means. Nonetheless, when I look at what was presented there: world class symphonies, great dance companies, Tony Award winning musicals and plays, some of the leading comedians of our time, country and rock and roll greats, I'm glad our patrons had the opportunity to see those attractions. It was the only venue we had available.”

The first performer booked at Western by Brattain was the famed violinist Isaac Stern. At that time, Western Hall had no seating except for bleachers, no curtains to box off the stage, and no air conditioning. Of course, the performance was slated to



Brattain presented some of the funny and bizarre happenings when booking entertainers in his book, “Entertainment in the Heartland: Some Humorous Memories and Random Thoughts.”

take place on what turned out to be a warm day. Brattain recalled Stern saying to him after the performance, “Bill, you have an attractive campus and nice people with whom to work, but don't ask me back again until you have a decent performing arts facility.”

In a section called “Theatre in Gym-Godspell,” Brattain points out that Western Hall, erected in the 1960s, was planned to fulfill the school's need for a gym, not a theatre. “We learned that in doing theatre in a gym, we would put on stage what props would work and that oftentimes we had to leave some of the scenery on the trucks. However, this production was a roaring success and started us on the path of producing not only musicals, but an occasional theatrical production at Western Hall.”

Indeed other theatrical productions have been staged over the years in Western Hall, including “Shenandoah,” a musical focused

on the emotional and physical hardships of a family in a border state during the Civil War; “Amadeus,” a fictionalized biography of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and “Big River,” based on the 1884 Mark Twain classic “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

During the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, Brattain and the students, faculty, administrators and community members he worked with brought to campus an incredible slate of performers. Among them were impersonator Rich Little, folk singer Burl Ives (who received an honorary doctorate from WIU in 1972, comedian Bob Newhart, country music star Roy Clark, trumpet player and band leader Doc Severinson and pop groups from their time, such as the Lettermen, the Beach Boys, the Fifth Dimension and the Temptations.

The performers Brattain brought in often interacted with the community and the area. During his performance in Macomb, stand-up comedian and social critic George Carlin articulated his “Fifteen Rules to Live By.”

During his visits to Western, Bob Hope met with football players and cheerleaders, served as the grand marshal of the 1980 Homecoming parade and stopped at a diner in Burlington, Iowa, for an ice cream cone. America's lovable clown Red Skelton made a habit of stopping at stores around the square, including Stites Pharmacy and Nelson's. On one visit, on a Friday afternoon, he stopped in at The Change of Pace (when it was still at the corner of Lafayette and Carroll streets), so he could interact with the students there. He especially enjoyed having dinner at a table near the windows of the Macomb Dining Company so that he could wave to the people passing by.

As even this brief overview shows and his generous and appreciative nature, Brattain enriched the lives of countless people on campus and throughout our broader community. And for that he will be remembered for years to come. ●

WHAT I KNOW NOW

Michael Boatman: actor, author, philanthropist

THE ONLY THING TO FEAR...

For much of my life I was a fearful person. I lived in an almost constant state of anxiety, dreading the possibility that I'd be exposed as a fraud, or that I wasn't really the bright, likable person I'd hoped to be. Now I know that my fears were illusions, horror stories I told myself in order to avoid growing up. I believed it was easier to maintain my emotional status quo, even when it was awful, than to risk losing the world I thought I understood. Now I know that fear is pointless, limiting and almost always deceptive.

THE MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING...

I've struggled with depression, anxiety and low self-esteem for most of my life. When I was younger, I believed that a healthy self-image was the same thing as arrogance. I now understand that self-acceptance is the key to true peace of mind.

THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES ABOUT...

I once believed that I was incapable of giving or accepting love. Now I know that the path to enlightenment begins with mastering the ability to lower your defenses.

LEGGO MY EGO...

For most of my life I played the part of the humble outcast, constantly plagued by feelings of guilt and shame. Now I know that the role I assumed was really my ego run

amok, a kind of creeping, judgmental narcissism that allowed me to avoid challenge, confrontation and, ultimately, real growth.

COWARDS DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS, THE HERO DIES BUT ONE.

I always wanted to be liked, and so, many times, I tolerated people and things I shouldn't have. I ignored racism and other forms of negative thinking even when they were directed at me, fearing that I'd be judged a troublemaker or too "angry." Now I know that sometimes, anger

can be a good thing, if used as a motivation for positive change.

FIND YOUR PASSION AND LET IT GUIDE YOU...

While a student at Western Illinois University, I discovered a love for theatre, and the magic you can experience only when the stage lights dim and the curtain rises. I learned that there were other ways to explore the mysteries of life, through the arts for instance. Once I wanted to be a scientist. Now I'm an actor and an author, and I love my work. ●

Michael Boatman '04
Theatre



THE MAKING OF A MOVEMENT

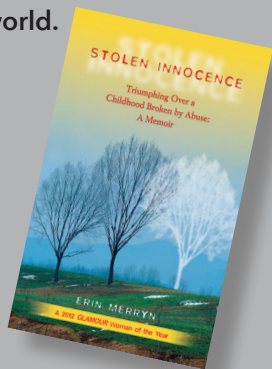
Western Illinois University alumna Erin Merryn, founder of Erin's Law, is a one-woman tour de force when it comes to protecting children.

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

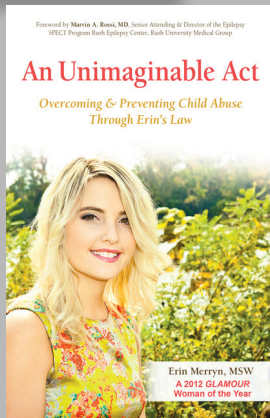
Erin Merryn '08 is a young woman who makes things happen. When you talk to her, it quickly becomes clear why she has appeared on Oprah, why Glamour Magazine recognized her as a 2012 "Woman of the Year" and why People Magazine included her on a list of "15 Women Changing the World Right Now" (the list included Angelina Jolie, Oprah Winfrey and German Chancellor Angela Merkel) in June 2014.

Articulate and undaunted by media opportunities, Merryn asserts her view of the end game and then tells you about the real and time-consuming and, at times, tedious, steps she has taken to achieve her goal—which is to protect kids from similar sexual abuse she endured as a child. Since 2010, she has been on a mission to pass Erin's Law, legislation that requires educators in public elementary and middle schools

Merryn turned her childhood diary into her first book, "Stolen Innocence," when she was a senior in high school. It was then that she began flying across the country putting a face and voice on a silent epidemic and speaking at events to audiences around the world.



Erin in Print



A rainy night in October 2004, at a "Take Back the Night" rally and march at Hanson Field, marks the first time Erin Merryn spoke to a crowd about her sexual abuse. Today, Merryn can also list "Good Morning America," the "Montel Williams Show" and "Oprah" as other significant public venues in which she has provided a "face and voice" of a sexual abuse survivor. In addition, Merryn, who received her bachelor's degree in social work from WIU in 2008, is working on her fourth book.

teach kids about sexual abuse and prevention. It has, as of press time, passed in 28 state legislatures in the U.S. Her goal is to get the law passed in all 50 states.

The fact that she is now a wife and mother of two young daughters only adds to her determination to have the law passed in every U.S. state and to continue to help push its passage in other nations around the world. To accomplish this, Merryn is often on the road, traveling to conferences and/or speaking events or to testify before legislators. She serves as a potent messenger for Erin's Law, displaying a fearlessness and candor when talking about her own sexual abuse, whether it's in her books or during one of her many speaking engagements. She pushes the momentum of the movement online and on television, too, all the while she is taking care of a newborn and toddler.

Over the last six years, she has appeared on CNN and NBC and other news media programs to share her message of protecting children and emphasize the importance of Erin's Law. In late August 2015, she appeared on the TLC documentary, "Breaking the Silence," and this past February, Merryn was the keynote speaker at the 24th annual Children's Justice Conference in Spokane (WA).

This year, too, she came back to her alma mater in Macomb—where she majored in social work and spoke about her own sexual abuse at a Take Back the Night event in 2004—to receive the Western Illinois University Young Alumni Excellence Award during Western's commencement ceremonies in May. Throw in the fact that she is already the author of three books and is working on a fourth, and it is no wonder that Katie Couric told her she "belonged on television" and that television producers have broached the "talk show" topic with her after witnessing her presence and poise during a live interview.

But while she recognizes her earned notoriety may give her a highly visible platform, Merryn said her

work for Erin's Law will continue to be with her children in tow, because, before Erin's Law came about, her life goal was to become a mother.

"During my first daughter's first year of life, she traveled with me to 17 states and Canada twice and to Australia. Before she was born, I could just go. I am often asked to do radio interviews and serve on child-abuse prevention boards. But now that I have kids, I do a lot of Skype interviews," she explained during an over-the-phone interview in late July. During the interview, Merryn was also taking care of her daughters, Abby (2) and Hannah (who was five weeks old at the time).

And like any goal Merryn sets her mind to attaining, she is aiming for nothing short of spectacular achievement in the family department, as well.

"I want 10 children," Merryn stated matter-of-factly during our lengthy conversation. "When people have asked me how I knew my husband was the one, I tell them about our fourth date. 'That day,' I say to them, 'he turned to me and asked, 'How many kids do you want?' When I said, 'I want 10,' he was the only guy who didn't run away," she added with a slight chuckle. "He did say that he could promise me five—unless I start earning a million dollar salary."

Based on Merryn's track record, it would not be a stretch to predict that, someday, she will have eight other little ones in tow while she travels the globe taking action to protect children.

An inkling in Illinois

Merryn's ascension to one of the top child advocacy spots in the U.S. started almost 10 years ago in her home state of Illinois.

"I began writing all the state legislators in 2008 about the need to protect kids and the importance of having this information shared with them while they're in school," she explained. "One state legislator told me, 'Erin, I agree with what you're



Erin with Katie Couric



A moment with Oprah

trying to get done, but you're talking about childhood sexual abuse, and this will never get passed. We don't talk about this subject.' At that point, I made up my mind. I told him if he wouldn't help me, I would find someone who would."

She found that person in Dixon (IL) in 2010, where she was speaking at an event about her mission and the idea of passing a law to mandate sexual abuse prevention education in elementary schools. After hearing her speak, Dixon Police Chief Danny Langloss '95 MA '10 approached her. He was interested in hearing about Merryn's vision for the law and how she planned to promote the law to legislators.

"I told him that my plan was to keep writing these legislators until they responded, until they did something," she said. "That was when he told me he knew Illinois Sen. Tim Bivins and asked if I would mind if he reached out to him to see if he would be willing to sponsor this law."

During a follow-up meeting in Dixon a short time later, Bivins agreed to back Merryn and her mission for Erin's Law.

"He made the point of telling me how tough it was going to be, and based on that, we would have to take baby steps. That's why we started

with the Erin's Law Task Force—in order to gather data and get the input of child sexual abuse experts and prevention experts. That group helped us develop recommendations for how to teach about prevention."

In November 2010, only three months after Chief Langloss first approached Merryn, she found herself testifying in front of Illinois legislators in Springfield. Also in 2010, Merryn appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," where she explained why she has pursued passing a sexual abuse prevention law for young children so vehemently.

"We teach kids about fire drills, tornado drills, bus drills—but we teach them nothing on sexual abuse. And that's why I went after a law in the state of Illinois, and it just recently got it passed in the Senate, called 'Erin's Law,'" Merryn explained, as a riveted Winfrey looked on.

In late January 2013, Merryn's efforts—with the help of Sen. Bivins and those who served and contributed to the information-gathering work of the task force—paid off in her home state. Erin's Law was officially signed by then Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn.

"On Thursday, Quinn signed 'Erin's Law' at the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County in Hoffman

Estates. That's where, 14 years ago, a then-13-year-old Erin Merryn first spoke up about sexual abuse she had endured," wrote Sally Ho in the Jan. 24, 2013, Chicago Tribune piece, "Quinn signs sex-abuse education mandate."

Merryn recalls that Bivins, who was also present at the press conference when Quinn signed the law, reiterated to the crowd about his initial doubts for the future of Erin's Law.

"I remember him telling me he was skeptical because there are already so many mandates for schools. And in Illinois, there was no money backing it up, so there was no money to fund the implementation of it. That day, too, though, he told the crowd what I had shared with him about me—that I was not going away until they got it done."

Laws and legends

What Merryn started in Illinois, with the signing of Erin's Law in 2013, has spread to almost every state in the U.S. in some shape or form. The law has passed in 28 states, has been introduced or is being introduced in 18 states and is still in process in four states. Her work also been touted by Speak Truth to Power, a project of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. In



Merryn with Abby and Hannah

August 2015, the project featured the actress Juliana Margulies and Merryn in a public service announcement (see youtu.be/q-9W2Bc9Z1w) that urges legislators, in states where the law has not passed, to vote for it.

With the halfway-mark milestone under her belt, Merryn said she has confidence the remainder of the states will pass the law in the future.

"I hope Ohio passes it this fall, and it is waiting to be voted on in the House in Massachusetts," she explained. "A few states did not get it passed this year because of the lack of federal funding. With the way a lot of these legislative bodies work, they are out of session by the end of spring or the end of June until the next term starts in January. For example, in Wisconsin and Washington, there is no push back on this law. They all support it, but their argument is that they want funding behind it. With the federal funding piece, under the 'Every Student Succeeds Act' that President Obama signed, there is a portion about Erin's Law, but the federal funding that it has been attached to was not available until July. As a result, legislators in Wisconsin and Washington voted to hold off until next year."

Merryn has also started working with child sexual abuse prevention advocates internationally, specifically in Sweden and Canada. She hopes



Merryn with Hannah after she was born

to help the law, or similar legislation, gain traction in foreign governments.

In her spare time—which she said is later in the evening, after she has put her children to bed—Merryn channels her seemingly unending drive into writing. The author of "Stolen Innocence," "Living For Today" and "An Unimaginable Act," said she has a good handle on what it takes to get published.

For her fourth book, though, she is approaching it a bit differently, at least in terms of deciding on a title.

"One of the most important things I have learned in the publishing world is that the title of a book you're writing is the last thing you come up with," she said. "But this time, I already have one in mind. The title I am thinking of is not only a symbol for my own past and personal journey, but it's a phrase that was part of one of the most important experiences my husband and I shared."

During our interview, Merryn assured me her children would, someday, also be Leathernecks. But you cannot blame her husband for creating an endearing way for her to connect to his alma mater, The Ohio State University, too. He also, unknowingly at the time, provided her with a perfect title for her fourth book. According to OSU's website, "... the Long Walk is a brick path that goes from College Road to Thompson

Library. As the legend goes, couples able to walk, hand in hand, across the entire length are destined to stay in love forever, or get married, whichever version of the legend you like best."

"He grew up in Columbus, so he is a diehard OSU fan," Merryn explained. "So, one day, while we were visiting his alma mater, he took me on that 'Long Walk' and started to tell me about the OSU tradition while we were strolling. I remember looking at him and saying, 'Oh stop it!'—because he had joked with me many times about proposing. But when I tried to let go of his hand, he calmly said, 'No, don't let go, or we won't be together for the rest of our lives.' I remember trying to figure out if he was being serious or not."

And, as the legend portends for young lovers, he was, indeed, serious.

"At the end of that 'Long Walk,' he got down on one knee and proposed," Merryn noted. "Finally finding someone who has the same family goals I do, someone I trusted enough to marry and to love after all the crazy things I have endured ... well, I can definitely say it has been a long walk. And it's just so fitting that the place where we officially decided to be together forever is called that." ●

Presidential

[continued from page 8] elections and assess the influence of the presidential election on their assigned contests.

“The presidential election can certainly set the tone for elections down-ballot, and students will be following these influences throughout the semester,” Deitz said. “Many students drawn to a course like Campaigns and Elections have an interest in working on campaigns or running for office themselves. Several political science students volunteered for campaigns this summer and will continue their campaign work this fall semester for state and local candidates in our area. Campaign staff often contact our department seeking students willing to volunteer on their campaigns or to participate in campaign internships; these work experiences are great opportunities for our students. In fact, several WIU political science alumni landed jobs with campaign firms, with political parties or with other political organizations after these volunteer experiences.”

Election years are busy times in the political science department at Western. Following the November election, the department will offer a panel discussion with faculty presentations on key aspects of this year’s election outcomes. WIU political science faculty will also join history faculty on a panel discussion of political parties.

Deitz said political science students are also committed to increasing the civic education of their peers during the election cycle. This year, the Associated Students of Political Science plan to host election-themed gatherings and activities for students across campus.

Deitz added that the Women and Politics course will be offered in the Spring 2017 semester.

“During the first week of class this fall semester, several students have inquired about taking the course, noting the possibility of a Madam President,” she said. ●

Giving Back

[continued from page 9] and he always wanted news of his beloved Western Illinois University.”

Having worked in higher education, Wehrly knew the importance of a college education.

“Both Wehrlys (including his wife, Beatrice Wehrly) started saving for scholarships early in their careers at \$25 a month, grew their savings and went on to donate these savings to establish (a total of five) scholarships and become two of the University’s largest donors,” recalled Murphy. “The scholarships, intended to assist students financially and allow them to concentrate on their academics, have already helped countless students and will continue to do so into perpetuity.”

Jim and Bea were both longtime WIU faculty members, and Bea was noted as a pioneer in cross-cultural counseling and women in counseling. They created the Bea and Jim Wehrly Scholarship, the Wehrly Book Scholarship, the Bea Wehrly Study Abroad Scholarship, the Educators for Tomorrow Scholarship and the Jim Wehrly Agriculture Finance Scholarship at WIU. Their legacy will live on through these many scholarships, helping WIU students obtain college degrees for generations to come.

Another familiar face in the School of Agriculture was Bruce A. Engnell, who served agriculture students for nearly 45 years. Engnell came to WIU in 1967 to manage the swine teaching herd, the boar station and coach the Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team. He also served as the manager of the entire University Farm operation. He retired in 2011. Former student Monte Lowderman ’90 knew Engnell in a number of ways.

Lowderman remembers Engnell as a “grandfather” to the students, and as a man who was both humble and soft spoken. He said Engnell had a special way about him that made his students not only want to do well for themselves, but also make him proud.

“Bruce left a lifelong stamp on the agriculture program at WIU, a legacy built by respect, honor and character and always doing the right thing. Bruce was WIU agriculture. He was well-respected and known throughout the country in the livestock and swine industries,” Lowderman added.

Engnell served as a judge for many county, regional, state, national and international shows, where people also knew him as the livestock judging team coach from Western Illinois University.

Engnell passed away in November 2015. His legacy will forever be remembered at WIU at the University’s Livestock Center, where a memorial tree and carved stone now stand. These items were dedicated in his memory in April. At that time, alumni of the WIU Livestock Judging Team and the School of Agriculture gathered together to remember this special mentor. His legacy lives on due to the creation of the Bruce A. Engnell Ag Scholarship, thanks to the generosity of many former students and staff.

“It’s impossible to think of Dr. B, Jim Wehrly or Bruce Engnell and not think of Western Illinois University in the same thought. Each left a different mark on this institution, but each will have a lasting impact. WIU is better off thanks to the work of these three pioneers in their respected fields,” stated Brad Bainter ’79 MS ’83, vice president for Advancement and Public Services. ●

Editor’s Note: Members of the 1998-99 Western Illinois University Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team also presented the commissioned artwork to the WIU School of Agriculture in February. To read more about the event, visit bit.ly/209PaUf.

Evidence of Excellence in Education

From bag boy to CEO: How alumnus Robert Nardelli worked his way up the ladder

By Brad Bainter '79 MS '83 &
Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

His Italian roots, and the love of a father and mother wanting a better life for their children, set the tone for one Western Illinois University alumnus, whose parents moved their family from a small coal-mining town in Pennsylvania to Rockford, IL, for a brighter future. That future included eventually serving as CEO and president for some of the biggest corporations in North America.

Robert Nardelli '71 was born in 1948, in Old Forge, PA, to Raymond and Clelia. His father, a World War II veteran, held a few jobs, including one at GE, which proved to be a bit of a prophecy for the youngest Nardelli son. Nardelli's parents—the children of Italian immigrants—work ethic and desire for a better life were impressed upon Bob at an early age.

“Thank goodness to my mom and dad for relocating our family, first to Louisville, KY, and then to Rockford. If it wasn't for their perseverance and us moving, I wouldn't have had the life I've had,” Nardelli said. “We were a close-knit Italian family and my dad worked so hard to advance his career and to care for us and my mother was the ultimate housekeeper. She was adamant about a spotless home, always having clean and pressed clothes and about me having the whitest and cleanest uniform on the field.”

When the family of four—Nardelli's parents, Bob and his older brother, Raymond Jr.—settled in Rockford, Bob was sent to St. Patrick's Grade School in his neighborhood. His staunch Catholic

faith, which continues today, kept him active in St. Patrick parish as an altar boy and supreme grand knight of the altar boys. Like many of his peers, he was part of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and had a paper route. He recalled his first job, along with the paper route, was as a bag boy at the local Piggly Wiggly. Following his eighth grade graduation from St. Patrick's, Nardelli went on to public high school at Rockford's Auburn High School.

“Ninth through 12th grades for me were wonderful experiences. I participated in so many activities—editor of the yearbook, ROTC, all sports,” he recalled.

If working an after school job, doing chores around the house, and participating in school sports and clubs weren't enough to keep Nardelli busy, he also was part of a rock and roll band in high school, which he declined, with a laugh, to divulge too many details about the band's name.

“The Beatles were big then, and we parlayed their popularity into playing weekend fests at Lake Louise in Rockford and other places in the area,” he laughed.

Rock and roll aside, the all-sport athlete was also considered an “all-ROTC cadet,” as he was a member of the corps' rifle team and drill team, and he was a company commander. As the GE prophecy before him with his father's earlier employment at the company, his father's WWII status, along with Nardelli's involvement with ROTC, set the stage for something near and dear to his heart

later in life. He was even considering West Point following high school, and was named a first alternate.

“The opportunity to attend Western turned out to be one of the most formative parts of my life. I learned about myself, I learned about my team, I learned my core curriculum,” he said. “I would not be where I am today if not for the good, solid Midwestern environment, the faculty, coaches and teammates I experienced at WIU.”

Nardelli fondly recalls his Leatherneck football teammates—Mike Wagner '71, Bob Majka '72, Larry Mortier '70 MS '71, Ron Wilson '82, Ronnie Comm '72, Tom Schmulbach '70 MS '84, Steve Mills '71, Steve Tresemer '75, Mike Kelly '70, among others—and his coaches—Darrell Mudra, Danny Waskevich and Bob McMahan—and what their support and friendship meant to him and helped him on his road to success.

“I was blessed with incredible coaches in high school, Bill Zavadil '61 MS-Ed '66, and in college, Coach Bob McMahan. Bob and Mrs. McMahan were so kind to me when I was a student at WIU. I was invited to their home for meals, and I just really felt like he and the other coaches looked out for me and the other players,” Nardelli said.

Nardelli's friends, teammates and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers have often stated while he (Nardelli) was a student-athlete, he was a student first and foremost and he was committed to his studies.



“

One of the greatest honors in my life happened at WIU when my teammates voted for me as co-captain my senior year along with Mike Wagner. Coach McMahan said I was the best lineman he ever coached. I came away truly enriched by WIU.

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Nardelli's Time at Western - #63



Photos are courtesy of WIU Archives.

“My studies and my time on the football field framed my life at WIU perfectly,” he said. “I was offered numerous opportunities to continually improve myself. One of the greatest honors in my life happened at WIU when my teammates voted for me as co-captain my senior year along with Mike Wagner. Coach McMahan said I was the best lineman he ever coached. I came away truly enriched by WIU.”

However, to Nardelli, one of his biggest accomplishments in life—and there are many successes from which he could choose—was meeting his wife of 45 years, Sue (Schmulbach), at WIU.

“We have four great children and three wonderful grandchildren. I give so much credit to Sue for her support and dedication to our family. We have a wonderful partnership, and we couldn’t have accomplished what we have without her love and

commitment to our marriage,” Nardelli said. “I’m so proud of my family.”

With Sue by his side following graduation in 1971, Nardelli said he was “pounding the pavement” at a time when the job market was terrible. He was set to take a management trainee position with Ponderosa Steak House or to sell insurance when he was given a life-changing opportunity with GE as a manufacturing engineer, making \$9,600 a year and working alongside co-workers who hailed from Harvard, Yale and other Ivy League schools.

“I was thrilled with getting hired by GE. For someone from very humble beginnings, without the Ivy League diploma that so many of my co-workers had, I knew I would have to commit myself to continuous improvement just like I had to do on the playing field,” he remembered.

Because of his drive and desire

to succeed, Nardelli completed a two-year manufacturing engineering program to get “steeped into the GE culture” and then enrolled at the University of Louisville, attending classes on nights and weekends for two years, where he earned his MBA, while continuing to grow his career with GE.

“When I first joined GE, I was asked to make a list of all the individuals between the Chair and CEO of GE Reg Jones and me. It took me over two sheets of paper at the time. I remember Sue and I talking about how great it would be if I could reach the position of a unit manager some day earning \$100,000. We’d be in heaven, and it would be a “‘Leatherneck makes good’ story,” Nardelli said.

While his co-workers and peers scoffed at Nardelli’s willingness to take what he calls “lateral promotions” within GE, Nardelli



had a reason behind accepting every lateral promotion: to build as broad a base as he could and learn about every unit and division within the corporation. His willingness to learn allowed him to move quickly up the ladder within GE. Nardelli did leave GE in 1988 for a short stint to work for Case Construction Equipment as senior vice president, a move he said gave him a great opportunity to test his skills elsewhere.

GE Chair and CEO Jack Welch lured Nardelli back to the company in 1992, and again, Nardelli moved quickly through the ranks, finally being named president and CEO of

GE Power Systems in 1993. In that role, he advanced Power Systems' earnings from \$5 billion to \$20 billion in just a few years. When Welch announced his retirement in 2000, Nardelli was one of three GE executives considered for the position. While Welch's decision regarding his successor wasn't the decision Nardelli had hoped for, he still considers Welch a friend and a mentor.

"He had to make a decision. And while I certainly didn't like the decision he made, I harbored no ill will. I built a broad base at GE and had the opportunities to hone my skills," Nardelli said.

Within a week, Nardelli was named president and CEO of The Home Depot, and a year later, chairman was added to his title. He stayed at the company's helm until 2007.

"It was a challenge. Seventy percent of my knowledge base was portable, but that other 30 percent I had to be like a sponge in a bucket of water. I

had to learn a lot of new information, going from a heavy industrial company like GE to a retail giant like The Home Depot," he explained.

While The Home Depot job was a challenge, Nardelli said there's a lot he was proud of accomplishing. Sales soared from \$45 billion to \$91 billion, while net earnings more than doubled, from \$2.5 billion to \$5.7 billion.

"We added more than 1,000 new stores and more than 135,000 jobs and we created Home Depot Supply, an \$8 billion business. We also made it our company's mission to hire veterans. During my time with The Home Depot, we hired about 35,000 veterans and 500 junior military officers," he said.

His 2007 move to Chrysler, taking over as chair and CEO, was in the midst of the great recession. The financial meltdown had a direct impact on the automotive industry. Nardelli soon found himself testifying in front of Congress at four congressional hearings.

"Little did I know when I was a student that someday this Leatherneck would be in front of Congress," Nardelli chuckled. "But despite Chrysler's bankruptcy, what we did, in terms of restructuring Chrysler, worked. We repositioned Jeep and Ram Truck. We repositioned the entire product line." President Obama credited Nardelli for saving Chrysler.



In September 2001, The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to name Robert Nardelli, then-CEO of The Home Depot, as a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, which was awarded at the May 2002 commencement exercises.

Nardelli said one of his biggest accomplishments in life was meeting his wife of 45 years, Sue (Schmulbach), at WIU.

Photos are courtesy of Robert Nardelli.



Following a nearly eight-year stint as senior advisor and CEO of Cerberus Operations Advisory Company at Cerberus Capital Management, L.P., Nardelli decided to branch out on his own and open his family office. In 2012, he founded XLR-8, LLC, an investment and advisory firm. XLR-8, which takes Nardelli on the road about 200 days a year, combines his 45-plus years of experience in business with a team of skilled professionals who fix and advance growing companies. He serves on the board of directors for BWXT Technologies and as senior advisor to SAP, EY and Emigrant Bank. Nardelli serves as vice chair for the Board of Trustees of the Savannah College of Art and Design and is a member of The Business Council. He has also served on the boards of Babcock & Wilcox and Pep Boys, among others.

Nardelli has also dedicated his career to serving veterans, a mission he said he started in his days with GE.

"It was hard to attract and retain good employees. It was at GE, during my early years with the company, that I started working with the Department of Defense and Department of Labor to bring veterans into the company, starting at our plant in Erie, PA," he explained. "This concept of hiring veterans and

serving those people who have served us, served their country, took off across GE."

Nardelli took this same concept to The Home Depot and later, Chrysler. Following 9/11, because of The Home Depot's commitment to employing service men and women, the company was a first responder to provide support tools at Ground Zero and the Pentagon.

"I've made supporting our veterans a part of the DNA of the companies I've worked for and led," he said.

Because of that support and commitment, Nardelli has twice been awarded the U.S. Secretary of Defense Freedom Award (2004 and 2008). He has continued to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.

"We cannot do enough to support the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day," Nardelli said. "They represent less than one percent of Americans protecting 99 percent of us. We need to support these men and women."

When asked when he'll slow down, or perhaps retire, he simply laughed.

"I was recently asked that same question. I am 68 years old and I have this goal out there called QTL, Quality Time Left. I have been blessed and I intend on working for as

long as the good Lord lets me. I love it, I think it's important to stay active, and it's important to stay relevant. I live by this motto of 'Infinite capacity to improve upon everything I do.'"

To learn more about Nardelli and his many achievements, awards, and legacies, visit bobnardelli.com. ●

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Little did I
know when
I was a
student that
someday this
Leatherneck
would be
in front of
Congress.”



STRAIGHT FROM A

STUDEN



Erika Ward, senior journalism major

While walking through the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at SSM Cardinal Glennon Health in St. Louis, it dawned on me that Western Illinois University gave me the opportunity to give back to an amazing organization that has changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of children: Children's Miracle Network.

In my first year at Western, the girls in my sorority pushed me to sign up for Dance Marathon. I've never been one for marathons, but I definitely love to dance (even if I'm not the best at it). I had no idea what to expect walking into the event, but after spending 12 hours on my feet—dancing and raising money—watching the cards flip with our total at the end was the most amazing and indescribable experience.

While families who had children treated at Children's Miracle Network hospitals were talking to us and telling us their stories, something inside me clicked. I knew I had to get more involved with this organization that had saved the lives of these children—some of them close to me. So I applied for a position on the Dance Marathon executive board, interviewed and eagerly awaited a call to tell me if I had gotten a position or not.

The journey that we, as a group,

“ I had no idea what to expect walking into the event, but after spending 12 hours on my feet— dancing and raising money— watching the cards flip with our total at the end was the most amazing and indescribable experience. ”

embarked upon over the next year will always stay dear to my heart. From visiting one of our hospitals and seeing what the money we raise goes toward, to walking in WIU's Homecoming parade; from meeting Miracle Families to spending hours outside of Walmart accepting donations; from that first five-hour-long meeting where we set our goal, to that culmination of it all, when our cards flipped and showed over \$70,000, WIU and Dance Marathon have shown me what hard work can accomplish.

One of the items that our money can go toward is a unique hospital bed experience for babies in the NICU. “Giraffe beds,” as they're called, are able to adapt to exactly what the infant inside needs, whether that be isolation, a certain level of sound and oxygen, or the bed can even convert into an emergency operating table, with all of the specialized and small instruments right there for the doctor. Our organization was able to tour the NICU while visiting SSM Health Cardinal Glennon and see all the different ways the beds can convert to each baby's needs. We got to see the relationships the families form with the doctors and nurses. But there is one image from this experience I will never forget: watching a mother pick up and hold her child, who was no

bigger than the size of her hand.

Visiting the hospital gave us the motivation needed to go above our goal of \$70,000 last year, and if we keep working and believing like we did before, I know we can hit our goal of \$100,000 this year, even if it means taking it \$1 at a time. Without WIU giving me my Dance Marathon experience, I never would have discovered my philanthropic passion for helping Children's Miracle Network make a difference in a child's life. ●



*Dance marathon photos are courtesy of Mary Friday.

Student

Spotlight

Karissa Kouchis '16 communication, communication graduate student

Hi there! My name is Karissa Kouchis. I am a 22-year-old social extrovert with an undeniable love and zest for life! I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, am the youngest of three with two older brothers, a Cubs, Bulls, Bears and Blackhawks fan and a whole lot of energy.

This past May, I traded in my cleats for a cap and gown after spending four amazing years as a WIU student-athlete. As a member of the WIU softball program and Centennial Honors College, I relentlessly devoted my efforts to being a great student, teammate,

ambassador for WIU, and role model for young women beginning their journeys.

When I stepped on campus as a freshman, I had every intention of making the most of my time at Western. I quickly got involved and poured my heart and soul into all my endeavors. I served as team captain my junior and senior years of softball, president of the WIU Student Athlete Advisory Committee, president of the Society of Professional Journalists, director of Dancer Relations and Morale for the WIU Dance Marathon, co-community Service Coordinator in athletics, anchor for

WIU-TV3's Good Morning Macomb, founder of Leatherneck Companion Program, the photographer for the Western Courier student newspaper and a member of President Jack Thomas's Student Roundtable Advisory Board.

(Deep Breath) As you can tell, I'm a quintessential busy-bee that gets excited about almost everything in life. Reading that long list probably gives off the impression that my life is a bit hectic, but I simply LOVE being involved. So I fill my schedule and pour everything I have into every endeavor.

One of my "core values" in life is commitment. To me, commitment represents acknowledging whatever it is you've invested in, then going above and beyond to fulfill that commitment by applying a positive attitude, a hard work mentality and a "what can I do for you" mindset.

At Western, my desire to get involved, give back and bring a positive change to campus never weakened. From the moment I arrived in Macomb, I knew WIU was special. There are so many places where it can be easy to get lost in the shuffle, but at Western the opportunities for involvement are never-ending. So I grabbed hold and never looked back!

I was very fortunate to make connections with key people that motivated me to continue raising



my personal standard of success. Because of some great mentors, that hard work brought me to several opportunities and eventually achievements. I graduated from Western Magna Cum Laude with a 3.90 GPA and two degrees in communication and journalism. I was named the College of Fine Arts and Communication College Scholar, Communication Department Scholar, Journalism Department Scholar, an NCAA Post Graduate Scholar, a Dr. Wayne Thompson Scholar, a Rhodes scholar nominee, a Lincoln Laureate finalist and an NCAA Woman of The Year finalist. I rarely feel comfortable directly stating those achievements, but it is because of the amazing faculty, staff and mentors at Western Illinois University that those achievements were even possible.

Not skipping a beat after graduation, I packed my bags and took off for China, where I did some marketing for the Chinese Affairs Office of Jinhua Municipal Government. The program was called the Jinhua Homestay Project, and I lived with a family for three weeks in a tiny remote village in China with hopes of building sustainable tourism in the area. Check out my blog for more information at KARISSAKOUCHIS.com.

I'm now back in Macomb gearing up for a great year of Leatherneck Athletics! I've recently started my graduate assistantship in marketing and promotions, and I will be working toward a master's degree in communication here at WIU.

I'm excited for these next two years! ●



“ One of my ‘core values’ in life is commitment. To me, commitment represents acknowledging whatever it is you’re interested in, then going above and beyond to fulfill that commitment by applying a positive attitude, a hard work mentality and a ‘what can I do for you?’ mindset. ”

LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Don Beebe returns to Macomb

Former NFL standout speaks to the Leatherneck Football team

By Patrick Osterman

When Charlie Fisher interviewed for the Western Illinois football job, he made it a point during the open forums—and later his press conference—to say he will connect with the alumni to make sure they feel like they are always a part of the program.

During his first days on the job, Fisher hit the ground running—trying to finalize his coaching staff and sign a recruiting class, as well as made time to call as many alumni as he could. One of those calls went to wide receiver Don Beebe. And his response to Fisher's call?

"Don told me 'Coach, you're the first WIU coach to contact me,'" said Fisher.

Fisher and Beebe kept in contact after that initial phone call, and during fall camp, the first-year head coach invited Beebe to speak to the 2016 Leatherneck team.

"What an honor to have Don Beebe back to speak to our football team. His message was inspiring and will have a lasting effect on our young men. Don's journey and story of faith, perseverance and a never-give-up attitude is one that all of us can learn from," said Fisher. "As they say at Western, 'Once a Leatherneck, always a Leatherneck.' Don is a special member of our football family and a true Leatherneck."

Beebe first joined Western in 1983 playing for Head Coach Bruce Craddock, but circumstances caused him to leave that fall camp. He stepped away from football for nearly

three years before getting a phone call from Craddock. He returned to Macomb, and officially played just one season for the purple and gold (Honorable Mention All-America in 1987), but he's one of the most well-known Leathernecks to play professionally. After spending the 1988 season at Chadron State, Beebe was a 1989 third round draft pick by Buffalo and would eventually spend six years with the Bills.

His work ethic, attitude and competitive nature made him a fan favorite in Buffalo. The very first pass he caught as a professional athlete was a 63-yard touchdown from Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly. During his six years in Buffalo, Beebe helped the organization achieve an unprecedented run of four consecutive Super Bowl appearances.

"I think the most excited I've ever been on the [NFL] football field, to be honest with you, was the first time I ever went on the field. Jim [Kelly] threw me a pass, and it ended up being a 63-yard bomb touchdown against the Houston Oilers in the Astrodome. What a way to break into the NFL as a rookie," said Beebe.

The Bills lost in those four appearances, still the only NFL team to lose four straight Super Bowls. But it was during SB XXVII—number three in that stretch—that Beebe provided one of the most memorable plays on football's biggest stage.

Late in the game, and victory out of reach, Beebe showed his never-give-up attitude. As Dallas Cowboys' defensive lineman Leon Lett scooped up a fumble and raced to the endzone, Beebe showed why he turned in one of the fastest 40-yard dash times in NFL history. At the one-yard





Beebe addresses members of the Leatherneck football team.



WIU Head Coach Charlie Fisher and Don Beebe.

line, Beebe knocked the ball out of Lett's hands and out of the endzone, which forced a touchback and kept Dallas from scoring. That play is why he received thousands of letters from football fans thanking him for his never-give-up attitude.

Beebe went from Buffalo to Carolina for a season, and then he signed with the Green Bay Packers. Joined by Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre and Packers Hall of Fame offensive lineman and fellow Leatherneck Frank Winters '87, Beebe returned to the Super Bowl, and this time he would not be denied.

"Winning the Super Bowl with the Packers in [Super Bowl] XXXI, standing on the field 10 yards behind [Brett] Favre, watching the clock tick down the last 10 seconds, knowing full well that after losing four in Buffalo, and I finally was going to win one, was a great moment," said Beebe. "Then being able to carry off my two children at that time, Chad and Amanda—as a father it doesn't get any better than that."

When it was all said and done for Beebe, his numbers included: nine years, 116 games played, 23 touchdowns, on the winning side of the biggest postseason comeback in NFL history (Buffalo at home versus Houston in 1991) and one of a couple of players all-time to play in six Super Bowls. He may be done playing football, with many great memories,

but the sport continues to be a big part of his life.

"I think anyone who played in the NFL a long time, the first thing they would probably tell you is the camaraderie of the guys. I miss the locker room, I miss the guys just hanging out playing backgammon or chess in our down time. I miss the meetings ... that would probably be number one. Number two would be, there's nothing that can fulfill running out of a stadium when 80,000 people are screaming their full heads off ... and just to feel the energy of the crowd. You can't replace that. That was very exciting," said Beebe. "I think one of the reasons why I coach today is because I want them to have that, even if it is just a little glimpse of those feelings in high school football. And we've been fortunate to win a couple of state championships, and God bless, I was able to do both back-to-back my son's junior and senior years, so it was really kind of cool to win it with him, too. Just to have them fulfill their dreams was neat to be a part of, and that's kind of my passion today."

So what is it like to be associated with one of the great eras of Super Bowl history, albeit one where they came up short in four straight trips?

"What we had in Buffalo was unique. To lose four Super Bowls together is going to bond you for life—it just will. We had 24 guys

who went to all four Super Bowls. Those 24 guys are as tight as brothers. When we get together in Buffalo, or whatever function it is, be it Jim Kelly's golf tournament or going back to the alumni game, it's like we never missed a beat. It's like they lived across the street our whole lives," said Beebe. "That's what it really means to be a brotherhood or family. I can say that from our Pro Bowl players from Jim Kelly to Thurman Thomas to Bruce [Smith], to Andre [Reed] to James Lofton, to all the guys who were just role players of the trainers, the doctors and all the coaches we had, it was a unique time period of professional sports. It was really cool to be part of it."

Beebe branched out from just coaching, taking on different projects and, more importantly, being able to spend time with family.

"I got into a business called House of Speed that trains athletes. I've been doing that for 18 years now. Then, about 13 years ago, I got into high school coaching. I was the head coach for 10 years; now I'm the offensive coordinator because my son plays football at Northern [Illinois] and my daughters play volleyball and I wanted to see them play. I felt bad stepping away if I was the head coach, but now my brother is the head coach and I'm the offensive coordinator, so I'm allowed to come and go as I please, which is great,"

said Beebe. “And I’m also in public speaking. I do a lot of public speaking around the country. Right now, I’ll probably do about 30 this year, but my goal is to do about 100 in the course of a year. I enjoy just helping people try to get it and motivate them to make right choices. That’s kind of my passion now.”

Thirty years since he last wore the purple and gold, what comes to his mind when Leatherneck Football is mentioned?

“Camaraderie, chemistry, brotherhood, ‘Once a Leatherneck, always a Leatherneck’... I’m still friends with Todd Auer ’89 MS ’94, Bill O’Boyle ’87 and Frank Winters ’87, and Chris Earl ’89 is my best friend. I can go on and on. I’m still in contact with the coaches I had—John Smith, Brad Smith ’73, guys like that,” said Beebe. “These are the days that the guys are living right now, these four to five years they’ll never forget. That’s why in my talk with them I encourage them to enjoy this, and as much as the world is screwing up in the area of not getting

along together, in this room we’re a fraternity. We’re a family. And that’s one thing the Leatherneck pride has really sharpened, and I thought I saw that with this team too.”

And what about the new head coach who took time out to make a phone call and reconnect the Leathernecks with Beebe?

“I absolutely love him. If you were to give me a scale of 1-10, I’d give him

a 10. The man gets it for all the right reasons. I really don’t even care about the Xs and Os, whether he can win football games or not—I do believe he will because he understands the important things, and that’s character building and teaching kids the right way. He truly is a guy that is going to be very successful, and Western Illinois would be extremely smart to hang onto this guy for a long time.” ●



WESTERN ILLINOIS LEATHERNECK CLUB



Supporting WIU Athletics Since 1971

What is the Leatherneck Club?

We are the fundraising unit for WIU Athletics, charged with raising support for scholarships, capital projects and programmatic needs of our 19 intercollegiate varsity sports.

Who does my support help?

Over 400 student-athletes from all over the world who are representing our University in a first-class manner.

Why is my support needed?

State funding has decreased, and scholarship costs have increased. Our scholarship bill is projected to be over \$3 million. Your gift will make a difference!

How can I join?

Visit GoLeathernecks.com/LeatherneckClub or call (309) 298-1190.



TRADITION OF TOUGH

WIU cheerleaders 'Paint the Town Purple'

Western Illinois fans have the opportunity to have the Western Illinois purple 'W' painted on their driveways again this year as WIU cheerleaders and Rocky are looking to 'Paint the Town Purple' for the third consecutive year.

"We are excited to offer Macomb community members an opportunity to show their WIU spirit and support Western Illinois University and Athletics by allowing WIU cheerleaders to paint a big purple 'W' on their driveways," said Cheerleading Coach Karen Trusley. "This project will be ongoing (weather permitting) as long as we continue to have interest."

For only \$25, the cheerleaders and Rocky will paint a purple Western Illinois "W" on a driveway. All proceeds go toward the cheerleaders.

"The Western Illinois University cheerleaders and Rocky are responsible for fundraising for gear, equipment and travel expenses to games, camps and cheerleading competitions. We are hopeful that this fundraiser will help defray some of the out-of-pocket expenses for our squad members. We appreciate the community's support in advance with these efforts to raise funds. We look forward to painting the town purple," Trusley added.

To make reservations, contact Trusley via email at KM-Trusley@wiu.edu and fill out a Paint the Town Purple request form. Donations may also be made by contacting Trusley. For additional information, call the WIU Athletics office at (309) 298-1190. ●

Leathernecks announce partnership with UniversityTickets

The Athletic Department announced a new partnership with UniversityTickets as the official box office software solution.

The website location will remain the same, clicking on the "Tickets" link on GoLeathernecks.com. That link will take fans to a new website when purchasing single-game or season tickets for football, men's basketball and women's basketball.

"After researching several ticketing software companies through the bid process, it was clear they were a perfect fit for us. They offer phenomenal customer service and allow our customers to order tickets online with ease. Michael [Jones] 'MS 12 and I are excited to dig deeper into the features UniversityTickets offers and to use the software to enhance both ticketing and development," said Shelby McAvoy, ticket operations manager.

Season tickets or single-game tickets for the Leathernecks Football home games are currently on sale at GoLeathernecks.com. ●

Leatherneck men's, women's basketball announces 2016-17 schedule

Western Illinois Head Men's Basketball Coach Billy Wright recently announced the program's 2016-17 schedule. The Leathernecks are slated to play 13 regular season games inside Western Hall.

"We have put together a non-conference schedule that I believe challenges our team and offers a good competitive balance," Wright said. We play two games against schools within the 'Power 5' conferences, one of which will be televised live on a major network. Any time we are able to play nationally televised games, it provides tremendous exposure for our players, our basketball program and our University."

WIU will play host to Lincoln Christian Nov. 3 for its lone exhibition contest of the season before opening the regular season at Kansas State Nov. 11.

After the season opener at Kansas State, WIU plays its next five of seven games inside Western Hall.

The Western Illinois University women's basketball team will kick off their season Oct. 25 in Macomb. They will have 15 more home games and 15 exhibition games throughout their 2016-17 season. ●



TANNEY
talks

Podcast featuring
WIU Athletic Director
Matt Tanney

Exclusively at
GoLeathernecks.com

Fans can click on the link
to listen on the latest
news and events with
Leatherneck Athletics.



Veterans' Corner

The Military Friendly Tradition

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

While Western Illinois University has been recognized nationally for being "Military Friendly" and a "Best for Vets College" for the last seven consecutive years, the 117-year-old institution has made serving veterans a priority for many decades.

The University provides numerous on-campus resources for veterans and military personnel, as well as the flexibility of academic program offerings, including online courses and the Bachelor of Arts in General Studies (BGS; formerly called the Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts) degree program.

The University's Veterans Resource Center (the Wright Residence at 333 N. Ward St.) provides streamlined services and resources in a centralized location to ensure all veterans, guard members, reservists and active duty personnel receive individual assistance with any question or concern they may encounter. The center also sponsors a series of group seminars/workshops.

The Wright Residence, once the childhood home of Dr. Ken Wright, a local veterinarian, was donated by Wright, and his wife, Betty, to the University.

Kathy Meyers, the center's assistant director, added the center strives to promote the value of peer mentoring among its groups of veterans and active military personnel, and various campus and community partnerships have been established. Students gain direct access to a comprehensive array of services, such as VA benefits, financial assistance, disability resources, health care, career development and personal wellness.

In addition, the Quad Cities Testing Center at the WIU-QC campus

offers testing services such as CLEP and DSST testing that is available to veterans and military personnel.

Western's military tradition can be traced back to 1926, with the arrival of Col. Ray "Rock" Hanson as Western's football coach. [Editor's Note: An in-depth feature on Hanson and his legacy will be included in a future issue of the Western Alumni Magazine. Hanson's tenure at Western spanned from 1926 through 1964.]

"The iconic symbol of Western's past is very much a part of the present," said Brad Bainter '79 MS '83, vice president for Advancement and Public Services and director of marketing.

In Fall 2015, Bainter spearheaded the effort to further recognize and honor the famed Marine Corps colonel and World War I and World War II hero by establishing the Ray "Rock" Hanson Vintage Collection at the University Bookstore.

Hanson, who coached football, baseball and basketball, served as director of the physical education department and is distinguished as the longest-serving athletic director at Western. His determination and persistence, along with his Marine Corps legacy, helped secure The Fighting Leathernecks as WIU's team name. Western remains the only public school in the U.S. with permission to use the Leathernecks as its nickname.

Five years ago, the University created the Fallen Soldier 5k, a scholarship fundraiser, to honor the memory of WIU alumni Capt. Derek Dobogai '03 and Lt. Col. Robert Baldwin '93, who were both killed in the line of duty. Since the event's inception in 2012, more than \$70,000

has been raised for the student-veteran scholarship, which honors Dobogai, who graduated from Western in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and justice administration, and was among the 14 U.S. soldiers aboard a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed Aug. 22, 2007, in northern Iraq.

Baldwin, who earned a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from WIU in 1993, was killed Sept. 21, 2010, when a Blackhawk UH-60 helicopter carrying Navy SEALs crashed during combat operations in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

The 2016 Fallen Soldier 5k will be held Oct. 22. The 2015 run/walk set a new record with close to 600 participants (595) registering, 100 more than the 2014 event, and making it the largest race in McDonough County.

Western's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Leatherneck Battalion, which is part of the Department of Military Science, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The award-winning program has been commissioning the future officer leadership of the United States Army since 1916.

"Western Illinois University has a long and rich tradition of honoring and serving veterans and active members of the armed forces," said WIU President Jack Thomas. "We have commitment to our student veterans and employees. We are proud of our students, faculty, staff and alumni who are veterans and current active members of the armed forces."

EMBARK on an adventure with the WIU Alumni Association

Baja & the Riviera

January 7-17, 2017

Journey along the Baja Peninsula and the Mexican Riviera.

Portrait of Chile & Argentina

February 4-16, 2017

Journey to a South American oasis where landscapes flaunt snowcapped Andean peaks and sprawling metropolises unveil rich cultural treasures.

Havana Impressions

March 10-14, 2017 *(Please note change of date.)*

Cuba's turbulent economic and political past and vibrant, culturally rich present unfold on this inspiring journey.

Timeless Treasures

April 28-May 6, 2017

Travel to the coastal towns of Italy and the idyllic clifftop villages of the Greek isles.

Sicily

May 9-18, 2017

Delve into Sicily's epic past while staying in western, central and eastern areas of the island.

Swiss Alps & The Italian Lakes

June 2-11, 2017

The best of Swiss and Italian culture and heritage await you.

Coastal Mediterranean

June 13-21, 2017

Take in the Mediterranean's enchanting coastal towns as you cruise from Rome to Monte Carlo.

Cruise the Rhine River

July 10-18, 2017

Cruise through Europe on a journey designed with families in mind.

Riches of the Emerald Isle

July 18-29, 2017

Embark on a journey infused with Celtic history.

Baltic & Scandinavia Treasures

Aug. 17-28, 2017

Baltic and Scandinavian treasures abound on this voyage to some of northern Europe's most iconic ports aboard Oceania Cruises' intimate Nautica.

****Please note that all trip dates are subject to change.**

We offer travel insurance for all types of travel. Whether you decide to travel with WIU or even for trips you take on your own, the WIU Alumni Association offers insurance for all types of trips. Feel free to check out our Travel Insurance Program!

Be sure you are adequately insured for your next trip - whether participating in a WIU Travel Abroad Program or traveling on your own.

Visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php for more information or call (800) 937-1387.



\$99 Unlimited drinks with full bar & buffet! \$120 after November 15

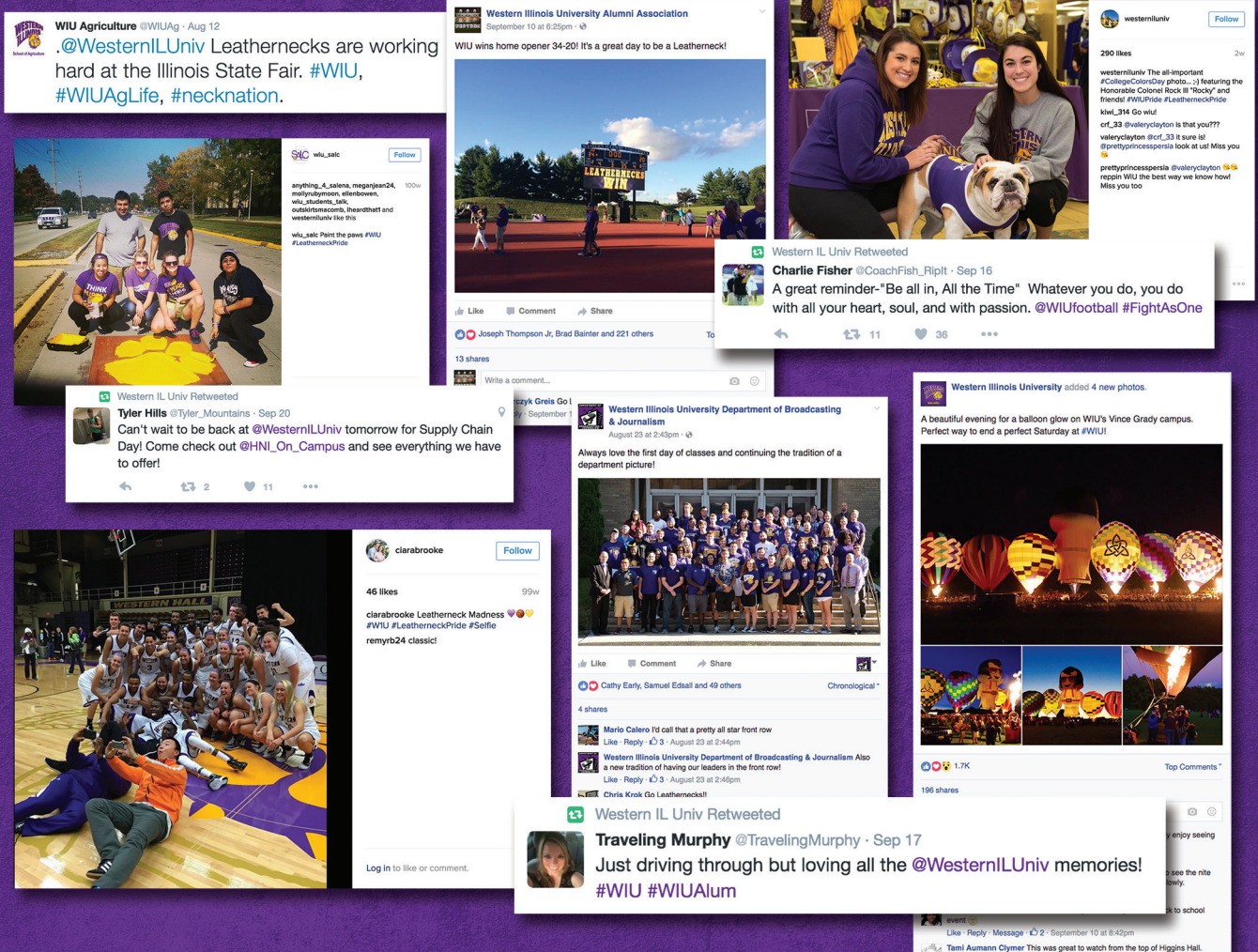
Cardinals Nation Restaurant & Bar

January 2, 2017
INSIDE Cardinals Nation at Ballpark Village
Across from Busch Stadium
St. Louis, MO
10 a.m. - End of game
Puck drop: 12 p.m.

All guests will be entered for a chance to win two tickets into Busch Stadium to watch the Winter Classic!

We've reserved the entire 2nd floor of Cardinals Nation Restaurant in Ballpark Village across the street from Busch Stadium to watch the NHL's Winter Classic: Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues! Be sure to join us for our private, all-inclusive event with views out the windows right into Busch Stadium, 50 flat screen tvs and two outdoor patios!

Let's Get Social



Upcoming Alumni & Friends Events

OCTOBER

- 24 Make a Difference Day
- 26 Monmouth (IL) Alumni and Friends Social
- 27 Ursa (IL) Alumni and Friends Social

NOVEMBER

- 2 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays After Hours
- 7-10 Texas Alumni and Friends Socials

DECEMBER

- 2 WIU Women's Basketball vs. Marquette Social and Game in Milwaukee (WI)
- 7 Western Wednesdays After Hours in Chicago
- 16-17 Commencement
- 19 WIU Men's Basketball vs. Purdue Social and Game in West Lafayette (IN)

Class Notes

Dale Trimpe '52, Mt. Pleasant, SC, along with his wife Mary Anne, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30, 2015.

Marshall Laitsch '70 MBA '73, Corona del Mar, CA, is chairman of the board for Community Bank in Pasadena.

Joseph Tenerelli '70 MA '72, Sun City, AZ, is a professor emeritus for the Department of Communication at Indiana State University.

Deborah McConnell '71, Naperville, is retired.

Chuck Rademacher '72, Fishers, IN, is retired.

Judith Price Luttrell '73, Springfield, has retired from teaching after a 34-year career at Springfield Christian School.

Judith Brown MA '74, Bloomington, is the general manager and artistic director of Illinois Voices Theatre, one of three theatre dba as the Illinois Theatre Consortium.

Ana Dale Gobledale '74, Salisbury, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, is a minister for the United Reformed Church of Great Britain, serving three churches in Salisbury, Andover and Broad Chalke.

Stephan Bortolotti '75, Peoria, is a professor of English at Midstate College.

Karan Powell '75, Charles Town, WV, has been appointed the American Public University System President.

Michael Hanes '76, Downers Grove, is owner of Make-It-Here, Inc.

Michael Krickmire MA '78, Fairport, NY, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching after 26 years of teaching in the Department of Theatre at The College at Brockport.

Charles Rakers '78 MS-ED '88, Woodstock, retired on June 30, 2016 after 37 years in education.

Carin Horne Stutz '78, Greenwood Village, CO, is an EVP/COO for Red Robin.

Gregory Cermak MS '84, Battle Ground, WA, is a retired software engineer, technical trainer and university astrobiology instructor.

Shellie Fuquay Frost '84 MS '85, Peoria, is a clinical coordinator at the Children's Home.

Richard Seelinger '84, Sammamish, WA, is chief operating officer for Enstar.

Ruthann Wilson '84, Evanston, published her first book "Be True to You: A Practical Guide to Pursuing an Authentic Path."

Daniel Potts '86, Chicago, is the VP/CFO for Thrall Enterprises, Inc.

Scott Benton '87, Spring Hill, TN, is the general manager at Culver's.

Robert Elliott '88 '13 MA '96, Macomb, is an assistant professor of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security at MacMurray College in Jacksonville.

Erik Hultman '88, Northbrook, is president of UberBlue Digital Media.

Jacquelynn Polak Wahler '88, Winter Garden, FL, is the vp of communications at Walt Disney World Resort.

David Webb '89, St. Charles, retired as Hanover Park Police Chief July 20 and began a new job as Hanover Park deputy village manager July 25.

Dwayne Strothers '90, Suffolk, VA, is a custodian for the U.S. Postal Service in Norfolk.

James Thiele '90 MA '92, Eugene, OR, is a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Michael Nowak '91, Chicago, is a medical social worker at Fresenius Kidney Care/Tenet Healthcare.

James Armstrong '92, Paducah, KY, is a forest ranger tech III for the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Joseph Ullrich '93, Rockford, is a controller and HR manager for Fibro, Inc.

William Chouinard '94, Sarasota, FL, is a retired air traffic controller.

Joel Sepavich '94, Bothell, WA, is vice president/learning and development manager for Wells Fargo Bank in Seattle.

Erica Kurtz Winger '95, Peoria, is a loan processor for Better Banks in Bartonville.

Shannon Gillett Hughes '97, Washington, is a 4th grade teacher at St. Patrick School.

Abha Singh '97, Alexandria, VA, is a sr. director for Telephonics.

Stacy Pilkington Bainter '98, Macomb, is a supervisor of probation for the 9th Judicial Circuit Court Services Department.

Kimberly Pressey Gerard '98, Pittsfield, is a science teacher for Pikeland Unit 10.

Courtney Sendzimer Denton '99, Chicago, is a business application analyst for The Habitat Company.

Lisa Kerr '99, Elmwood, is a buyer for Caterpillar.

Brian Piper '99, Pekin, is a sergeant/assistant tactical commander at IDOC.

Lisa Danen Zarus '99, Huntley, is a certified health coach for Holistic Health and Wellness.

Tricia Wallin Campbell '00, Bonner Spring, KS, is a medical social worker and inpatient team lead for Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Francie Randazzo Capp '00 MS '02, Bolingbrook, was named assistant principal for Brooks Middle School July 1.

Jenna Steiner Archuleta '01, Romeoville, is a major gift officer for the American Diabetes Association in Chicago.

Christopher Harris '01, Elburn, is a police sergeant for Pingree Grove Police Department.

Katie Postman '01, Macon, is a supervisor for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Amy Noeldner Wilson MS '01, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, is an assistant professor at SUNY Buffalo State.

David Coovert '02, Quincy, is a warehouse/driver for Kohl Wholesale.

John Jiron Amador MBA '02, New York, NY, is an impact investing professional for Impact Investing Consulting.

Nichole Westerlund '02, Peoria, is director of operations for OSF/POINTcore Services.

Cathy Hall '03, Normal, has published a children's book titled "Bastyberry Friends."

Kajsa Okmark Keane '03, Allen, TX, is the owner/manager of Diamond C Ranch.

Ken MacInnes '03, Livingston, MT, is the fire chief for Livingston Fire Rescue.

Jessica Camara '04, Shallotte, NC, is a police officer for Holden Beach Police Department.

Donald Harris '04, Quincy, is a clerk for the Quincy Herald-Whig.

Austin Baumann '05, Chicago, is a traffic editor for HERE Traffic.

Kevin Froehlich '05, Naperville, is a branch sales and service associate for PNC Bank in St. Charles.

Ceola Oware '05, Chicago, graduated May 2016 with her Masters of Public Administration from the Stuart School of Business of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Robert Pfrank '05, Cremorne, NSW, Australia, is a senior markets engineer for ABN AMRO Clearing Sydney Pty Ltd.

Sarah Perrone Brice MS '06, Tempe, AZ, is the associate director of new student & family programs at Arizona State University.

Jennifer Frakes Hasting '06 MS-ED '14, Paloma, is a learning behavior specialist at Central High School.

Gregory Mayyou '06, Oswego, has been promoted to patrol sergeant by the Montgomery Police Department.

Adam Neal '06, Scott Depot, WV, has been appointed as Ohio Dominican University's vice president for University Advancement.

Elizabeth Parsons Butler '07, Dubuque, IA, is a national sales support assistant for McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Wendy Hurst '07, Canton, is a reading aide and a teacher's assistant for the Canton Union School Dist. 66.

Rebecca Franck Lake '07, W. Des Moines, IA, graduated with a Doctorate of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic in February.

Mark Benning '08, Sanford, NC, is an executive officer for the FORSCOM Engineer with the U.S. Army.

Dana Kendall Corral '08, Round Lake, is a care coordinator for NorthShore University Health Systems.

Brian Curran '08, Quincy, is a sergeant for the Adams County Sheriff's Office.

Shawn Wilber Fite '09, Albuquerque, NM, is a recruiting manager for Cavalry Staffing.

Mary Lundgren Sasso '09, Yokosuka, Japan, is a professional photographer.

Lacey Skelton Auston '10, Mason City, is a head teacher at Christian Child Care in Lincoln.

Caleb Bean '10, Wataga, is a production senior associate for AgReliant Genetics, LLC.

Nicholas Dowdal '10, Winthrop Harbor, is an authorization specialist for Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Jacob Ginglen '12, Rochester, MI, has earned a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine and will be doing his residency at McLaren Oakland Hospital in emergency medicine.

Aaron Steffens '10, O'Fallon, MO, is a business analyst for Dot Foods.

Jessica Boyle '12, Rushville, is an associate supervisor for Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois in Mt. Sterling.

Shikita Edwards '12, Gurnee, is an enrollment counselor for Trinity International University in Deerfield.

Emily Janas '12, Franklin Park, is the adult services desk assistant at Forest Park Public Library.

Michelle Dumele '14, Schaumburg, is a corporate and community engagement specialist for American Brain Tumor Association in Chicago.

Porche Mickle '14, Chicago, is a victim witness specialist for Cook County State's Attorney Office.

Nolan Porter '14, Monona, IA, is an editor for The Outlook.

Angela King Fauser '15, Carbon Cliff, is a production manager for The Acri Company in Milan.

Ryan Klein '15, Lorton, VA, is a police officer for the city of Alexandria.

Angela Martin '15, Moline, is a senior tax associate for RSM US LLP in Davenport, IA.

Cody Schara '15, St. Louis, MO, is an academic advisor with the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Matthew Dickerson '16, Peoria Heights, is a project manager for Tobin Brothers Construction.

Alex Frost '16, Lisle, is a manager for JB Hunt.

Brandon Johnson '16, Ames, IA, is a graduate apartment community manager at Iowa State University



Marriages & Civil Unions

Rebecca Franck '07 and Nicholas Lake, Mar. 5, 2016.
Jacob Gingen '10 '12 and Lauren Foster '12, June 4, 2016.

Donald Harris '04 and Lois McConnell, Dec. 19, 2015.

Nicole Mathy '11 and Kristopher Long, June 25, 2016.

Robert Pfrank '05 and Rebecca Abel, Sept. 13, 2014.

Births & Adoptions

Caleb Bean '10 and Emily, a son, Everett David, Dec. 31, 2015.

Shannon Van Vleet Dexter '08 and Jarred, a son, Reeve Easa, July 9, 2016.

Cory Fosdyck '01 MBA '02 and Hillary, adopted a daughter, Monroe Jayne, May 2016.

George Holman '98 and Mandy, a daughter, Makenna, July 25, 2016.

Amber Bedee Josephson MS'14 and John, a daughter, Taylor Grace, July 27, 2016.

Kajsa Okmark Keane '03 and Brendan, daughter, Sinead Maeve, Sept. 22, 2015.

Jessica Ruebush Lambert '09 MS '11 and Seth Lambert '07, a son, Rhett Thomas, May 21, 2016.

Erin Merryn '08 and David, a daughter, Hannah Faith, June 24, 2016.

Linda Birnbaum Nowack '05 and David, a son, Emmett David, Apr. 16, 2016.

Zach Stuaan '10 and Kelly, a daughter, Hadley Jo, June 3, 2016.

Sadie Luper Van Dyke '04 and **Jake Van Dyke '05**, a son, Jackson Wayne, July 22, 2016.

Shannon Chambers Ward '05 and Tim, a daughter, Abigail Marie, Aug. 2015.

Deaths

Gary A. Aleff, Two Harbors, MN, Oct. 16, 2015.

Bruce L. Bastert, Loda, June 12, 2016.

William L. Burton, Macomb, May 12, 2016.

Rhoda C. Butler, Macomb, July 20, 2016.

Donna Clayton, Mahomet, July 2, 2016.

Brian J. Collazo, Belleville, November 28, 2012.

James P. Cowhey, Orland Park, Sept. 30, 2014.

Josephine H. Hodges Deems, Blandinsville, June 25, 2016.

Sybil S. Donaldson, Peoria, AZ, Feb. 2, 2016.

Betty F. Druien, Louisville, KY, June 24, 2016.

Harold G. Dunlap, Abingdon, Mar. 4, 2016.

Tammy P. Dvorak, Covington, GA, Aug. 2, 2012.

Joyce L. Rezny Faulkner, Acworth, GA, June 9, 2016.

Evelyn M. Fowler, Bushnell, May 13, 2016.

Michael J. Garde, Jacksonville, May 20, 2016.

Mary Jane "Pudd" Gregory, Murfreesboro, TN, May 24, 2016.

Jason W. Griffis, Rock Falls, Dec. 1, 2015.

Alice E. Gustafson, Geneseo, June 19, 2016.

Richard L. Hart, Lake Saint Louis, MO, Apr. 22, 2016.

William B. Harvey, N. Aurora, Apr. 17, 2016.

Richard L. "Dick" Helmers, Macomb, June 6, 2016.

Wilbert W. Hoff, Macomb, May 2, 2016.

Marjorie S. "Margie" Roark Hulick, Galesburg, Dec. 19, 2015.

Caroll G. Johnson, Quincy, Sept. 5, 2012.

Recent Alumni & Friends Events

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Charles L. Judd, Aurora, CO, Feb. 1, 2016.

Lois A. Kalwies, Macomb, May 8, 2016.

Mary G. "Pat" Keever, Macomb, May 15, 2016.

Kenneth W. Koppenhoefer, Hillsboro Beach, FL, Nov. 3, 2015.

Richard P. "Dick" Langenfeld, Naperville, Feb. 22, 2015.

Martha A. Fentem Lavelle, Bettendorf, IA, Apr. 5, 2016.

Anita H. Magafas, Colchester, May 12, 2016.

Phyllis J. Martin, Bushnell, May 22, 2016.

Charles W. Mayer, Macomb, May 20, 2016.

Ashley R. McCloud-Francis, Chicago, Jan. 24, 2016.

Robert C. McKinley, Sterling, June 9, 2016.

Wilbur D. Meadows, Canton, June 16, 2016.

Scott E. Miller, Macomb, July 2, 2016.

Paul M. Nollen, Macomb, June 26, 2016.

Robert D. O'Leary, Orion, Feb. 21, 2016.

Gilbert "Gil" Peterson, Zephyrhills, FL, June 17, 2016.

Donna F. Fullerton Prentiss, Galesburg, July 10, 2016.

Joni N. Heskett Quaas, Belleville, June 15, 2015.

Alissa M. Queen, Quincy, July 7, 2015.

George D. Richbark, Macomb, May 6, 2016.

Almeda Rittenhouse Runkle, Quincy, May 11, 2016.

Calvin C. Spencer, Palm Harbor, FL, June 23, 2016.

Margaret D. "Denise" Sprinkle, Industry, July 17, 2016.

Norris E. "Swede" Stauffer, Las Vegas, NV, Mar. 20, 2016.

Douglas B. Thornton, Fountain Hills, AZ, Jan. 15, 2016.

Susan J. Vaughn, Vermont, July 4, 2016.

Lisa M. Despain Ward, Geneseo, Aug. 3, 2013.

Glen W. Wuestenfeld, Macomb, July 5, 2016.

1935 Helen L. Corbitt Latherow, Carthage, May 12, 2016.

1935 Elinor R. Butcher Scott, Hardy, AR, Mar. 14, 2016.

1936 Lydia M. Johnson Camp MS-ED '72, Galva, May 5, 2016.

1937 Jessie M. Brown '57, Paradise, CA, Apr. 2, 2016.

1938 Annette Gioannini, Farmington, Feb. 20, 2016.

1938 Mary E. Adkisson Graham, Fremont, CA, Feb. 16, 2016.

1942 Dorothy J. Graham Watson, O'Fallon, Apr. 22, 2016.

1943 Bernita E. "Bee" Otto, Washington, Feb. 19, 2016.

1944 Mary M. Melton Lincoln '67, Cameron, May 1, 2016.

1944 Lowell E. Netherton, Oklahoma City, OK, May 15, 2016.

1946 Jerald E. "Jerry" Jackson, Decatur, May 17, 2016.

1946 Marcia A. Nolkemper Wright, Crystal Lake, May 5, 2016.

1949 Arlin D. Fentem, Macomb, Apr. 21, 2016.

1950 Edward W. Radtke, Palos Heights, Aug. 9, 2015.

1950 Anthony L. Siemer MSE '54, Brussels, Jan. 26, 2016.

1951 Eugene D. Redman, Strafford, MO, June 19, 2016.

1951 Fred F. Seeds, Salem, WI, Feb. 28, 2016.

1953 David McClintock MS-ED '60, Nashville, May 11, 2016.

1954 Leota H. Plunkett McBride, Gilson, May 14, 2016.

1954 Paul M. "Morris" Moore, Abingdon, Apr. 15, 2016.

1955 Maxine A. Brooks Duffield, Palm Coast, FL, May 25, 2016.

1957 Richard M. "Dick" McClelland, Peoria, July 17, 2016.

1958 Guy N. Carter MSE '61, Loveland, CO, Apr. 4, 2016.

1958 Sharon Evans Freestone, Tucson, AZ, July 12, 2016.

1958 Robert L. Romer, Decatur, Feb. 29, 2016.

1958 Phillip H. Schmidt, Springfield, June 30, 2016.

1959 Edna I. Behrens Adams, Middletown, OH, Apr. 8, 2016.

1959 Robert L. Lewis, Mendota, Jan. 23, 2016.

1960 Edward C. Fair MS '68, Lake Villa, June 17, 2016.

1960 Lois S "Scottie" Stewart Gibson, Pagosa Springs, CO, May 24, 2016.

1961 Irene T. Billeter, Macomb, May 2, 2016.

1962 Janet A. Curtis Sell, Lenexa, KS, May 26, 2016.

1965 Dorothy J. Trummel Griswold, Berwick, Sept. 22, 2015.

1965 Dennis E. Morris, Springfield, May 22, 2016.

1965 Mary K. Ketzle Simpson MS-ED, Pembroke Pines, FL, July 10, 2016.

1966 Tate A. Vroman, Illinois City, Apr. 22, 2016.

1966 Ronald D. Warner, Chesterton, IN, May 30, 2016.

1967 Vernon D. Gray, E. Alton, Apr. 22, 2016.

1968 Jean M. Douglas Danielson MS-ED '80, Colchester, May 20, 2016.

1968 Derril H. Kipp, Palatine, July 5, 2016.

1968 Larry A. Olson MS-ED, Cedar Rapids, IA, June 12, 2016.

1969 Terry S. Brecher, Pekin, July 13, 2016.

1969 Ellen R. Malcomson Gust MS-ED '73, Versailles, June 12, 2016.

1970 Joseph S. Cikan, Brookfield, June 2, 2016.

1970 Gerald S. "Jerry" Ozga, Miramar, FL, Feb. 3, 2016.

1970 Gary R. Senesac MBA '71, Wasilla, AK, Mar. 15, 2016.

1970 Lee R. Spielman, Gurnee, Apr. 3, 2016.

1970 Patricia White, Tempe, AZ, June 14, 2016.

1971 Jeff R. "J.R." Barnhill, Danvers, June 28, 2016.

1971 Grace L. DeWitt Childers, Clearwater, FL, Apr. 1, 2016.

1971 Michael E. Hay, Pekin, July 14, 2016.

1971 Michael J. McEnroe MS, Lake Villa, May 8, 2016.

1971 Jack E. Sanders, Centralia, Apr. 15, 2016.

1971 Frances L. Hultgren Wiedenhoef, Geneseo, Apr. 14, 2016.

1972 Mary L. Bechtel, Bloomington, Apr. 12, 2016.

1972 Ellen Frank, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, May 11, 2016.

1972 Jannine S. Smith Givray MS '74, Chicago, June 2, 2016.

1972 Joanne E. Carr Miller MS, Wauconda, Apr. 29, 2016.

1972 Daniel S. Shook MBA, Boerne, TX, Apr. 29, 2016.

1972 Charles L. "Chuck" Steffens MA, Kirkwood, MO, Dec. 6, 2015.

1972 Roger K. Woolsey, Galesburg, June 14, 2016.

1973 Frederick J. Halenar, Jr., Champaign, Apr. 15, 2016.

1973 Cheryl A. Fike Johnston, Cambridge, July 13, 2016.

- 1973 William R. Mitchell**, Mechanicsburg, PA, May 4, 2016.
- 1974 Marilyn A. Hoover**, Sterling, Apr. 15, 2016.
- 1974 Bernice L. Meyer Lovekamp**, Bluffs, June 17, 2016.
- 1974 Sandra L. Esp McGaughy MA '75**, Moline, Mar. 15, 2016.
- 1974 Nancy L. Yocum Richardson MS-ED '92**, Williamsville, Mar. 20, 2016.
- 1974 Larry D. Wherley**, Abingdon, June 15, 2016.
- 1975 Robert G. Johnson III**, Big Lake, MN, Mar. 24, 2016.
- 1975 Fred A. "Alan" Kohlmeyer**, Pekin, May 13, 2012.
- 1975 Debra L. Opitz Nemeth**, Gurnee, Apr. 1, 2016.
- 1976 Carolyn M. Diombala**, Evergreen Park, Mar. 13, 2016.
- 1976 Marshall P. Rapp**, Glenwood, Jan. 27, 2016.
- 1976 Betty A. Kirkpatrick Taylor**, Canton, Apr. 30, 2016.
- 1977 Dolores A. Wilde Bivens MS-ED**, Taylor Ridge, Apr. 15, 2016.
- 1977 Gary L. Fortney MS-ED**, Ft. Dodge, IA, May 14, 2016.
- 1977 Helen D. Gregory Franck MS-ED**, Sumter, SC, Feb. 25, 2016.
- 1977 Wendy C. Meyer Martin**, Schaumburg, Apr. 20, 2016.
- 1977 Robert J. McConnaughay**, Geneva, Apr. 13, 2016.
- 1977 Thomas C. McDonnell**, Eureka, MO, Feb. 7, 2016.
- 1977 Larry E. Wilcoxon ED SP**, Walnut, July 2, 2016.
- 1978 Robert A. Berry**, Galesburg, May 29, 2015.
- 1978 William C. Hezlep MA**, Marion, July 8, 2016.
- 1978 Margo M. Rimington**, Montgomery, AL, Apr. 29, 2016.
- 1978 Sarah M. Stupfell Smet MS-ED**, Sherrard, Mar. 23, 2016.
- 1978 Margarito L. "Maugy" Soliz MS-ED**, Anthony, TX, Apr. 11, 2016.
- 1979 Edward D. Bohne**, Alton, June 16, 2016.
- 1979 John M. Patterson**, Alexis, June 6, 2016.
- 1979 Sheldon I. Ross, E.**, Moline, May 29, 2016.
- 1980 Donald D. Hardwick**, Beardstown, July 15, 2016.
- 1980 Ronnie C. Moore MS '82**, Dallas City, Oct. 18, 2012.
- 1980 Kathleen A. Bluett Mowery**, Hawthorn Woods, June 27, 2016.
- 1980 Harlin E. "Gene" Terry**, Moline, Apr. 15, 2016.
- 1981 Jane M. Linman**, Peoria, Mar. 11, 2016.
- 1981 Christene L. Lutz**, Laguna Hills, CA, Oct. 30, 2015.
- 1983 Birger G. "Greg" Bacino**, San Diego, CA, Aug. 7, 2015.
- 1983 Patrick J. Sponsel**, Avondale, AZ, Feb. 28, 2016.
- 1983 Vern A. White MS-ED**, Moline, Mar. 4, 2016.
- 1983 Flora D. Whiteside MS-ED**, Reynolds, Apr. 14, 2016.
- 1984 Denise K. Ernat-George**, Morrison, June 6, 2016.
- 1984 Sophie H. Roman Fox**, Pioneertown, CA, Feb. 18, 2016.
- 1984 David S. Granell**, Streamwood, May 5, 2016.
- 1984 James F. Sckrabulis**, Scottsdale, AZ, Apr. 17, 2016.
- 1984 Cheryl E. Teeters MS**, LaRussell, MO, Apr. 9, 2016.
- 1986 Edward T. Stakenas**, Bothell, WA, Nov. 4, 2015.
- 1987 Wilma E. "Laine" Royse Dickey MS-ED**, Pawnee, Feb. 18, 2016.
- 1987 Todd R. Etzel**, Centennial, CO, Apr. 14, 2016.
- 1987 Thomas D. O'Connell**, Naperville, May 15, 2013.
- 1987 Michael D. Vandersnick**, Atkinson, June 17, 2016.
- 1988 Walter L. Henry, Sr.**, Geneseo, Mar. 8, 2016.
- 1988 Michelle L. Frank Northcutt**, Rock Falls, June 4, 2016.
- 1989 Deniece A. Terkleson**, Branson, MO, Dec. 6, 2015.
- 1990 Robert J. Dean**, Denver, PA, October 1, 2014.
- 1991 Carlos P. Gamez**, Pembroke Pines, FL, Mar. 25, 2016.
- 1991 Marion R. "Junior" Miller, Jr. MS-ED**, Bellevue, IA, Apr. 30, 2016.
- 1992 Donald N. "Nick" Henry**, Burlington, IA, May 7, 2016.
- 1992 Jodie L. Hanna Michels**, Naperville, Oct. 15, 2013.
- 1995 Brooks J. Chelesvig MFA**, Belmond, IA, July 1, 2016.
- 1996 Joseph D. McSwain**, Galesburg, Nov. 8, 2011.
- 1997 Y. Antoinetta "Toni" Schwanke MA '04**, Macomb, Apr. 23, 2016.
- 1998 Carol A. Williamson-Schultz**, Sterling, June 22, 2012.
- 1999 Denise M. Babcock**, Yukon, OK, May 2, 2016.
- 1999 Rebecca L. Hanna**, Rockford, May 6, 2016.
- 1999 Katrina S. Scharpman**, Ft. Madison, IA, Nov. 8, 2015.
- 2000 Donna J. Luallen Emrick ED SP**, Peoria Hts., May 26, 2014.
- 2000 Ryan P. McMorrow**, Grayslake, July 1, 2016.
- 2001 Susan G. Nobbe Higgins MS-ED**, Moline, Apr. 28, 2016.
- 2003 Sarah E. Patterson Arnett MS-ED**, Canton, May 21, 2016.
- 2003 Wayne A. Slabon MS**, De Kalb, June 27, 2016.
- 2003 John W. Zwiebel MA**, Norfolk, VA, Apr. 22, 2016.
- 2004 George J. Haworth MBA**, Galesburg, Apr. 26, 2016.
- 2006 Tammie L. Edie Jones**, Davenport, IA, Mar. 18, 2016.
- 2007 Elizabeth M. Brouwer Loosli**, Carol Stream, June 29, 2016.
- 2009 Mandi R. Simmons Miles MS-ED**, Sherman, May 12, 2016.
- 2010 Kathy L. Gregory Kline**, Macomb, MI, Mar. 21, 2016.
- 2011 Robert L. Myers**, Galesburg, Jan. 7, 2014.

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* Information will be included in Western's online directory and in the online Western Illinois University Magazine.



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