

WESTERN

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2018

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STORY ON PAGE 22



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Letter from the President



Dear WIU Alumni and Friends,

Arts and entertainment are integral components of a university. Not only do events provide outstanding educational opportunities for students in such programs as theatre, music, art and student activities, they provide cultural opportunities for the region.

The programs, theatrical events, and musical concerts at Western Illinois University assist us in carrying out our mission and holding true to our University's core values: academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Since its beginnings in 1902, Western has provided stellar student activities, theatrical and cultural performances, and other artistic endeavors. Early in our institution's history, during the 1903-1904 school year, Western's first musical group, the Choral Society, was formed, and the following year, the Western Illinois State Normal School (WISNS) Band was organized, as was the WISNS Orchestra. Students began performing short plays and scenes from Shakespeare during school assemblies and, on May 24, 1904, Western's first full-length theatre production, the English comedy "Esmeralda," was staged.

We are fortunate at Western to have vibrant student activities, theatre, dance, music, and art departments and a vast array of programming and resources that make the University the cultural epicenter of the region.

In the spring issue of "Western: The Magazine for Alumni of Western Illinois University," we pay tribute to alumni, students, and faculty who have contributed to the arts at WIU over the years, and to some of the incredible pieces—such as the New Deal art collection—that we are fortunate to have at our University.

As Pablo Picasso once said, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." Expand your horizons and wash off the dust of daily life by visiting our Art Gallery, taking in a performance by our talented theatre, dance and music students, or attending an event sponsored by student activities. Embrace and value the arts around you.

Sincerely,

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

Jack Thomas, President

WESTERN

SPRING 2018

Features

- 6 A New Deal for WIU**
Through the New Deal federal art project, WIU (then Western Illinois State Teachers College) received more than \$1 million from New Deal agencies to help with various projects.
- 16 Paying Homage to a Hero: New Public Art Project Unveiled**
Public art projects on the WIU campus have been a part of the University's landscape for decades, and in Fall 2017, a new public art project was unveiled.
- 20 Rocky on Parade: Public Art at Its Best**
A town-gown art collaboration has grown to more than 60 Col. Rock III statues throughout the Macomb and WIU campus communities.
- 22 A Lifetime of New Experiences**
For Sandra Keiser Edwards MS-Ed '74, the deputy director of the famed Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR, it wasn't a matter of going to college, it was only a matter of where.
- 28 Public Art on Hero Street**
Sonny Soliz's dream was the spark that created the Hero Street monument that reflects the pride in America and in the Mexican heritage of the servicemen who gave their lives to defend the U.S.
- 30 Bright Lights, Big City**
For 2009 WIU musical theatre graduate Micah Spayer, it was the moment he was cast as the wolf in the fourth grade production of "Little Red Riding Hood" when he knew what his life's destination would be.



Departments






- 2** University News
- 10** Blast From the Past
- 18** Straight From a Student
- 26** Student Spotlight
- 34** Athletics
- 38** Alumni Calendar
- 39** Alumni Class Notes

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

Email AA-Looney@wiu.edu.

To send us your news, see pg. 45.

* Editor's Note: "What I Know Now" will return in the Summer 2018 issue.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIU STUDENTS TO STUDY IN PUERTO RICO EVOLVE IN HURRICANE AFTERMATH

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

After Puerto Rico was devastated by hurricanes in Fall 2017, the higher education opportunities previously forged on the island by Western Illinois University faculty have evolved to include the chance to help with and learn from storm recovery efforts.

WIU Professors Heather McIlvaine-Newsad and Gloria Delany-Barmann traveled to Puerto Rico in late October as part of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) program. The nearly \$425,000 grant allows WIU to offer the project “Communities as Agents: Language and Area Studies for a Sustainable Future,” funding three years of international travel opportunities for WIU and Spoon River College (SRC) students and faculty.

The grant provides for the development of long- and short-term study abroad opportunities for students, as well as scholarships for taking part in the resulting courses. There is also funding for eight faculty members from WIU and SRC to “internationalize” their curriculum through opportunities ranging from travel to resource access.

One of the main objectives of the project is to expand and enhance study abroad opportunities in Latin America, where students can immerse themselves in the Spanish language and Latin culture. Relationships established through the grant program are already in place in Puerto Rico and Ecuador.

McIlvaine-Newsad, an anthropology professor, and Delany-Barmann, an educational studies professor, initially planned their Fall 2017 trip to Ponce and San Juan to check on internship and study sites in Puerto Rico’s higher education system and meet with existing contacts there. After the storm hit, the visit took on a new meaning.

“We also wanted to check on our colleagues to make sure they were okay after the storm,” said Delany-Barmann. “We wanted to see the damage and retool some of the facets of the grant.”

The pair arrived in Puerto Rico on the first day classes resumed at higher education institutions. Many schools were trying to regroup after thousands of people, including many college students, fled the island after the storms.

New Opportunities

The academic planning trip was initially scheduled to depart in the middle of the hurricanes, and as such, was pushed back. Because of the severity of the damage, the opportunities for study in the region have been expanded.

Prior to the storm, the study abroad opportunities available through the grant mainly encompassed nursing, public health, business, biology, anthropology and education. Because of the storm damage, the opportunities for study have grown to include other WIU academic programs, such as emergency management, community development and political science.

In addition to the expanded research areas, McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann said the storm damage has presented Puerto Rican residents, and those seeking to study ways to improve the region, an opportunity to expand their knowledge and lessen the dependence of residents on an aging infrastructure system as the country recovers.

“In many ways it’s a tragedy, but it’s also an opportunity—there are infinite possibilities for people to think creatively,” said McIlvaine-Newsad. “We have colleagues and their families who had solar homes, who are already no longer dependent on the aging, underdeveloped electrical grid in the country. Now they are being leaders by showing how to be prepared and to think differently.”



Delany-Barmann said the storm has also presented the chance for the country to look at more creative options as it recovers from the storm.

“The way they produce and market food; generate energy with solar or wind—their electrical grid was wiped out so people are looking for alternatives,” she said.

Alumni Help

One WIU alumna and one current student already living in Ponce, have helped develop the grant-funded programming available to WIU students in Puerto Rico, including finding research opportunities for students, and finding places to live while they study.

Megan Luczak, a 2011 biology graduate, is a chef in Ponce and Sara Vasquez, an anthropology major, is a farmer and community organizer.

“They are our point people on the ground,” said Delany-Barmann. “They find home stays, guide students in the culture and history classes and coordinate with other professors. They are great cultural brokers.”

First Hand Experience

While McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann were in Ponce and San Juan, they watched as the country struggled to bounce back from the devastation caused by the hurricanes. Night curfews, large, smelly generators, flood lights, food and water rationing and shuttered



businesses were common as business owners protested what, at that time, was 43 days without electricity.

“People were waiting six or seven hours for cash at the ATM, then waiting in line at stores that had lists posted of what items they had in stock,” said Delany-Barmann. “People weren’t allowed in the stores because there was no electricity and it was dark. Residents had to pay in cash for everything.”

Making a Difference

In preparation for their trip, McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann began collecting donations from friends, family and the community to take with them to help with the recovery efforts. One of

those donations came from Macomb Mayor Mike Inman, donating \$100 on behalf of the city of Macomb and writing a letter to Ponce’s mayor extending condolences and support.

“Heather and Gloria reached out to me and this is a gesture we thought was important, especially since they have a relationship there and were going on behalf of the University,” said Inman. “We were supporting some folks from Western, who let those in Puerto Rico know that folks in Macomb were concerned about them.”

Through the money raised by their donation efforts and a GoFundMe page, McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann were able to collect \$3,285 to purchase several water purification units, as well as a generator, which was donated to a school in Orocovis.

In the coming months, McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann will lead another study group to Puerto Rico for two weeks. The trip will include historic walking tours, visits to see how the rainforest is regenerating and individual study in students’ specific areas of interest.

For more information about the project, visit wiu.edu/sao/outreach/prof_dev/index.php or contact Delany-Barmann at GA-Delany-Barmann@wiu.edu or McIlvaine-Newsad at H-McIlvaine-Newsad@wiu.edu. ●



University News

WIU Students Studying Aspects of Ovarian Cancer in University Laboratories

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Research into the early detection, treatment and prevention of ovarian cancer is leading a group of Western Illinois University students to continue laboratory work started by their professor during her graduate education.

The research, with important medical implications, has also expanded to include other WIU faculty members and students, and has resulted in grant money awarded to help pay for needed equipment for University laboratories.

Assistant Chemistry Professor Mette Soendergaard completed her doctoral degree at the University

of Missouri, conducting research on ovarian cancer cells in an effort to improve the ability to detect the aggressive cancer earlier. Soendergaard now runs a laboratory at Western that provides opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to conduct a variety of research projects to better understand ovarian cancer factors.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women and 80 percent of cases are diagnosed in the late stages. Because of the late detection, the survival rate in the later stages drops to about 45 percent.

There are a variety of studies being conducted in Soendergaard's Currens Hall laboratory, including one attempting to improve the ability to detect the cancer cells more easily. Under current practices, a pelvic ultrasound misses some positive cancer cases, making the process of an accurate diagnosis more invasive.

"It's targeted cancer imaging," explained WIU senior chemistry major Mallika Asar, of Lisle, IL, who is a member of one of the laboratory's research teams. "The screening methods for ovarian cancer are under investigation, because typically surgery is necessary for a diagnosis."

The study, by Asar and other Western students, introduces a "phage," or virus, which binds to the cancer cells, in an effort to detect the ovarian cancer cells. The students' research injects a specific phage into mice and studies its binding ability to healthy cells. Fluorescent intensity is used to examine the binding in more detail.

The mouse-related testing portion of the study is conducted at the University of Missouri.

Asar said she began her research with other academic pursuits in mind, but believes her experience in WIU's laboratories will help prepare her for the MCAT exam.

"I didn't intend to like research this much, but it's always changing and it's always something new," she said.

According to Soendergaard, the phage introduction is important for the detection and imaging of malignant tumors.

"Cancer imaging and detection is tremendously important when it comes to giving a patient lifesaving treatment," said Soendergaard. "Early detection of tumors significantly increases survival rates, and it is, therefore, crucial to identify new biomarkers and ligands specific to cancer cells."



Pictured, l-r, in the laboratory are WIU senior biology major Rebecca Bocian, of Lake in the Hills, IL; chemistry graduate student Jamie Greathouse, of Macomb; senior chemistry major Kimberly Oldenburg, of Macomb; chemistry graduate student Taylor Gunby '17, of Park Forest, IL; senior chemistry major Mallika Asar, of Lisle, IL; Assistant Professor of Chemistry Mette Soendergaard; senior biology major Matthew Wieskamp, of Muscatine, IA; biology graduate student Michael Oni, of Nigeria; biology graduate student Bayan Aljamal, of Saudi Arabia; senior chemistry major Elizabeth Sharp, of Rockford, IL and senior biology major Lindsey Weintraub, of Macomb.



Senior chemistry major Kimberly Oldenburg loads a gel to analyze DNA samples that are to be inserted into human ovarian cancer cells.



Senior biology major Rebecca Bocian, senior biology major Gabriela Garcia and senior biology major Lindsey Weintraub prepare DNA samples for analysis by gel electrophoresis.

A second study group, assisted by WIU Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Sue Hum-Musser and Biological Sciences Interim Chair Richard Musser, looks at cancer targeting peptides and how they target and bind to ovarian cancer, or ways ovarian cancer cells could be eradicated.

“We are excited to collaborate on this project and figure out the genetic expression of the treated cancer cells,” said Hum-Musser. “Learning the pathways that are affected will help us understand the mechanisms involved in the cellular response. This information could be useful in developing diagnostic markers or treatment avenues.”

WIU senior biology major Lindsey Weintraub, of Macomb, is one of the students working on this research project, which investigates how ovarian cancer cells adapt to chemotherapy, as well possible pharmaceutical treatments.

“I never met my grandmother because she died of ovarian cancer, so I have a genetic predisposition and I’m prone to it,” said Weintraub. “I hope to go to veterinary school eventually and, with the increased competition for spots, this research work will help me stand out.”

The next step for this project is to repeat the existing research study but introducing different incubation times.

Other studies in the WIU laboratory include some that look at the use of soybean secondary compounds for ovarian cancer prevention.

“There are bioactive compounds in soybeans and we are trying to see if they will inhibit cancer and increase the response of the immune system to cancer,” Soendergaard added.

For many of the faculty and students involved in the various research projects, the studies have a personal component as many have lost loved ones to ovarian cancer. The research also crosses academic disciplines at WIU, including biology and chemistry.

The students involved in the various ovarian cancer research projects meet each Friday to discuss their work and results.

Soendergaard has authored and co-authored numerous articles about her research in academic journals. She said it’s fulfilling to have students continue the research she began while working on her doctoral degree.



Senior chemistry major Mallika Asar evaluates the growth of human ovarian cancer cells using a bright field microscope.

“As often happens when you get your Ph.D, you get to take a little bit of your research with you,” she said.

Another important aspect of the University-based research is its connection to each of WIU’s four core values: academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Outside the University’s laboratories, there are a variety of WIU-based programs to help with funding for the research and laboratory needs, including the Research Inspiring Student Excellence (RISE) program, the Women in Science program and the WIU College of Arts and Sciences. Grants from those programs are competitive and necessary for the enhancement of student research experiences.

For more information about the departments involved in research or the programming available to students in WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences, visit wiu.edu/cas. ●



Senior biology major Rebecca Bocian, senior chemistry major Mallika Asar, Associate Professor of Chemistry Mette Soendergaard, and senior chemistry major Kimberly Oldenburg mix reagents for analysis of various DNA samples.

A New Deal for WIU

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

During the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s and into the early years of World War II, the federal government supported the arts in unprecedented ways through the Federal Art Project (FAP), also known as the New Deal art project. For 11 years, between 1933 and 1943, federal tax dollars employed artists, musicians, actors, writers, photographers and dancers.

According to the National Archives, while the New Deal arts projects provided work for jobless artists, they also had a larger mission: to promote American art and culture and to give more Americans access to what President Franklin Roosevelt described as "an abundant life." The projects saved thousands of artists from poverty and despair and enabled Americans across the country to see an original painting for the first time, attend their first professional live theater event, or take their first music or drawing class. But the arts projects also sparked controversy. Some politicians believed them to be wasteful propaganda and wanted them ended; others wanted them expanded. Such controversy, along with the United States' entry into World War II, eventually ended the projects.

But much of what they fashioned has survived through the efforts of museums, libraries, and archives, including Western Illinois University's Art Gallery.



Archibald J. Motley Jr. (American, 1891-1981) "Jazz Singers," 1934 oil on canvas, Western Illinois University Art Gallery. Courtesy of the Fine Arts Program, Public Buildings Service, U.S. General Services Administration. Commissioned through the New Deal art projects.

Through this project, WIU, then Western Illinois State Teachers College, received nearly \$1 million from a variety of New Deal agencies to help with various projects. Former WIU President Walter P. Morgan and former WIU Art Department Chair Polly Pottle helped navigate the New Deal programs, including helping commission murals and artwork for public spaces on campus.

The WIU collection contains works by 27 artists, including Gertrude

Abercrombie, Macena Barton, Aaron Bohrod, Howard Brown, Archibald J. Motley, Jr., Gregory Orloff, Romolo Roberti, Charles Turzak and Ellsworth Young, among others. The WIU

collection also includes portraits by J. Theodore Johnson of President Morgan and Samuel B. Hursh, Western's first teacher of English literature and grammar.

According to WIU Art Gallery Director Tyler Hennings '99, Western's New Deal collection reflects a number of themes that were prevalent in the federal art projects, especially American Scene images of rural farms in the Midwest. However, the collection is also unique in that it showcases the thematic and stylistic diversity of federal art produced in the 1930s.

"Many of these art works also reflect the school's close relationship to the surrounding rural community of Macomb and McDonough County," Knox College Art Professor and Director of the Art History Program Gregory Gilbert said during a January 2014 exhibition of the WIU-owned works. "Themes of rural farms and industry in the Midwest were highly relevant to the surrounding region when many farmers and manufacturers were struggling financially during the

Depression, receiving much needed support from federal agencies like the WPA and the Farm Security Administration. The installation of art on campus was in keeping with the institution's progressive support of art within higher education."

Prior to the 2014 exhibition of works housed at WIU, conservation work needed to be completed on several pieces in the collection. That work was done in 2013 by The Conservation Center in Chicago, with help from the fundraising campaign where interested patrons could sponsor the cost of restoring an individual piece of work.

"We were so pleased to see many works in this important collection of the University Art Gallery conserved and shared," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Service Brad Bainter '79 MS '83.

Conservation treatment ranged between \$500 and \$4,000 per work. Since that time, some of the pieces, including Motley's piece, "Jazz Singers" (1934 oil on canvas), have been featured in exhibitions around the world, including Spain.



Gertrude Abercrombie (American, 1909-1977) "The Pump," 1938 oil on canvas. Western Illinois University Art Gallery. Allocated by the U.S. Government Commissioned through the WPA, Federal Art Project.

The WIU-owned Motley piece will soon be featured in an upcoming exhibition at the Governor's mansion in Springfield, IL.

"This collection is important because of its place in history. The collection features many prominent Illinois artists and a diverse range of styles and subject matter," Hennings added. "The collection provides students the opportunity to learn about this period through an original source of information."

The University's Art Gallery, located just north of Sherman Hall, is open from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. ●

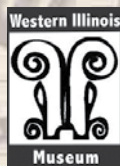
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RPTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Friday, April 13



Professional Development Conference (PDC)
University Union
Macomb, IL
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Celebration Social
Western Illinois Museum
201 S. Lafayette St., Macomb, IL
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information, visit wiu.edu/coehs/rpta

BE A PART OF THE CHALLENGE!

APRIL 24

2018



What are your fondest memories of your time at Western Illinois University? Whether you were a student, employee or friend of the University, we encourage you to share your photos and memories with the rest of the Leatherneck community during the Western Challenge.

Have a photo from move-in day? That one friend or group of friends you still reminisce with? Maybe you still have that WIU t-shirt or other memorabilia you just can't part with? We want to see!

Email your photos and a few words about your WIU experience to westernchallenge@wiu.edu by April 18.

Selected photos will be revealed and presented at the Purple & Gold Day celebrations, and at wiu.edu/westernchallenge.

Disclaimer: Photos cannot contain any reference to alcohol or drug use; profane/inappropriate gestures; inappropriate attire (e.g., clothing that bears inappropriate logos). These photos will be discarded. By entering a photo, participants give WIU, its assigns, licensees and legal representatives the irrevocable right to use the name and photographic image in all forms of media (including the Internet), and participants waive any right to inspect or approve the finished version(s).





While everyday is a great day to be a Leatherneck, Tuesday, April 24 is **THE** day to celebrate all things Western!

The **Western Challenge**, a dynamic 24-hour online fundraising event to support WIU students, faculty and campus programs, falls on our annual **Purple & Gold Day Celebration**. It's a day for Leathernecks everywhere to unite and show their Western pride.

You can support The Western Challenge by making a gift on April 24, spreading the word using the hashtag **#LeathernecksGive** and by becoming an online advocate to drive the effort!

You are also invited to join us for the annual Purple & Gold Day socials.

Macomb Purple & Gold Day

5-7 p.m.

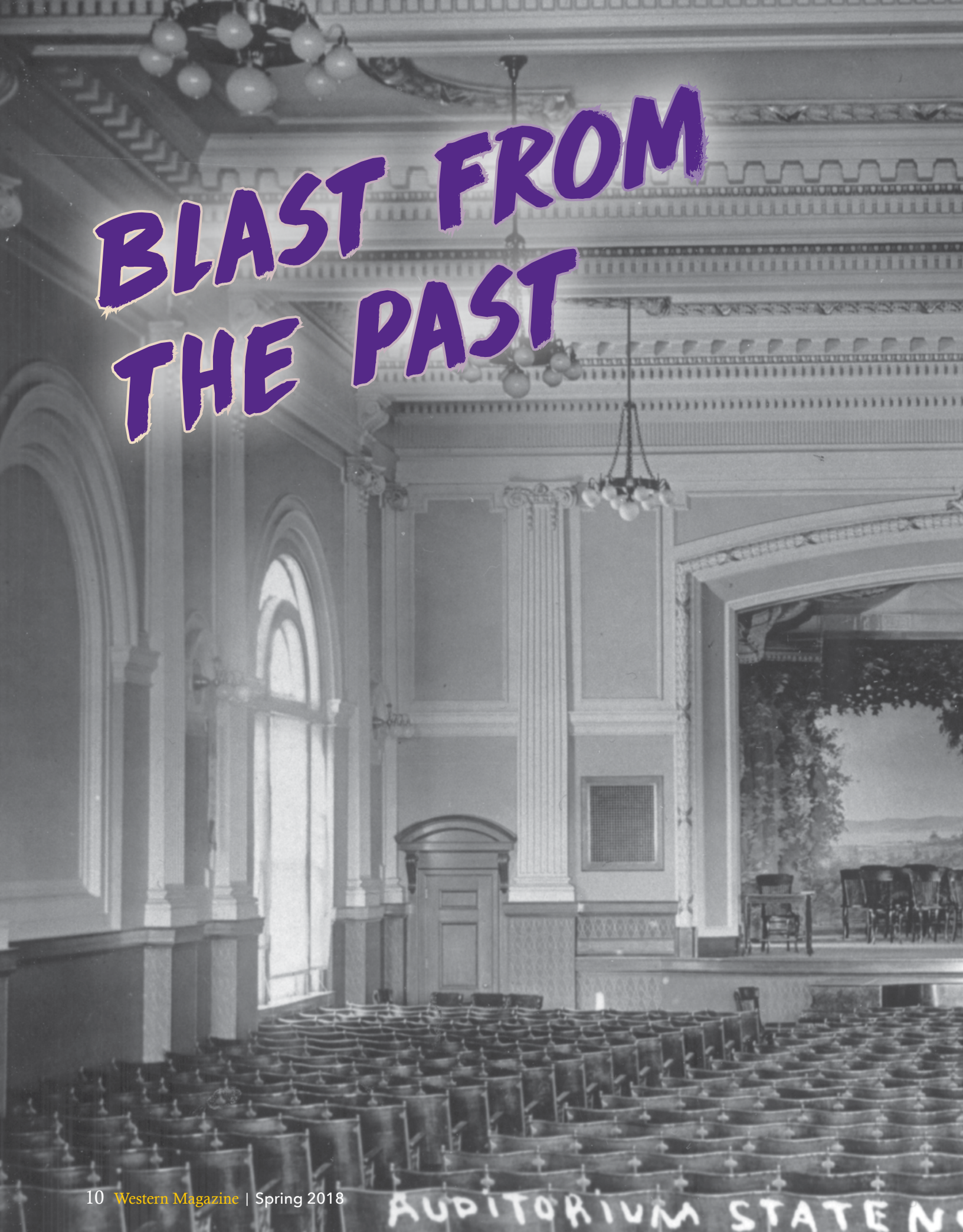
**Sports Corner @124
124 N. Randolph St.
Macomb, IL**

St. Louis Purple & Gold Day

5-7 p.m.

**Lombardo's Trattoria
201 S. 20th St.
St. Louis, MO**

BLAST FROM THE PAST





TWO GREAT WOMEN WHO SPOKE AT WESTERN: EARHART AND ROOSEVELT

By Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94, WIU Archives

Many noted lecturers have come to Western over the years, to entertain and inform. Most often in early decades, they spoke in the auditorium on the third floor of Sherman Hall. That auditorium was first ready for use in 1906. It was dedicated in June of that year, with a program including the Choral Society's performance of "Handel's Elijah"—a major early musical event.

Starting in 1906, daily assemblies were held in the auditorium. Attendance was mandatory, and students had assigned seats. However, other events took place there, including oratorical competitions among students. Later, Morgan Gym was also a noted site for talks, and in modern times, many noted speakers have appeared at Western Hall and in the University Union.

Without a doubt, two of the greatest speakers who came to campus during its more than 100-year history have been women—Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt. They appeared in two different eras, but both made a huge impact. Their words, for students and local residents, are still inspiring today.

Earhart came to Macomb on April 8-9, 1936. As John Hallwas notes in a Dec. 5, 2009, "On Community" article, for the McDonough Voice, "She was, by that time, perhaps the most famous woman in America, a cultural heroine who had dared to assert herself, commit her life to something very difficult, and realize her potential through determination and courage—just like a remarkable man might do."

The first female to fly the Atlantic (although as a passenger) in 1928, she later flew solo across that ocean, in

1932, when navigation was difficult, and she had no radio to rely on. In recognition of that flight, she was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross—a military decoration given for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. She was the first woman to receive that honor. Three years later, in 1935, she became the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland.

Earhart arrived in Macomb on the morning of April 8, driving her own car—which in itself was an assertion of female independence at that time. She stopped at the Macomb Airport to explain to Harry Clugston that she wasn't flying because not all of the towns she was visiting had airports, and because she enjoyed driving.

She registered at the Lamoine Hotel and granted an interview to Macomb Journal reporter Vail Morgan. That evening, she addressed a joint dinner meeting of the Business and Professional Women, the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club at the hotel. The newspaper reported that 260 people were gathered around tables in the Woman's Club room, in the hallway, and in the hotel lobby.

She told the assembled group she had intended to be a physician but became interested in aviation when she took a short pleasure flight in 1920 with Frank Hawks, who later became a famous speed flyer. When her father declined to give her the \$1,000 she needed to take a course in flight instruction, she got a job as a file clerk in a Los Angeles telephone company office and worked there until she had earned the money she needed.

Both in her press conference and at the dinner, Earhart promoted flying



as a safe means of travel that men and women alike could engage in, as well as telling of her trans-Atlantic and Hawaii to California flights. She ended her talk with a prophecy that someday flying the Atlantic would be commonplace and would be done on a scheduled basis.

At the close of her talk, when asked about her motivations for flying, she declared, “I do these things for no reason except for my own wish to do them. I feel that all women should strive for success in some field outside of what is known as ‘their own sphere.’” What she meant, of course, was that women must learn to follow their own inner drives. The removal of social barriers, which confined them within a limited “sphere,” as homemakers, would otherwise have no significant impact.

The following day, Earhart addressed a packed auditorium at Western, where she told of her long struggle to enter aviation, and then recounted her risky and almost catastrophic 1932 solo flight

across the Atlantic, when the plane’s altimeter soon stopped operating, the exhaust pipe burned off, and then she encountered a sleet storm. She had to keep the ice from disabling her plane by flying just above the whitecaps of the frigid and turbulent ocean. Flying without the kind of navigational equipment developed later, she ended up in Ireland, rather than France, but she made it.

Her talk was riveting for the crowd of college and academy students—and for the many young women and girls there, it was inspiring.

One who was forever impacted by that event was young Viletta Hillery ‘48 MS-Ed ‘53, then a college freshman. At Earhart’s request, the program host asked if any young woman in the audience was named Amelia. It happened that Viletta’s middle name was Amelia, so she alone in the packed room proudly raised her hand. As a result, she was invited to come forward, meet, and sit next to, the world famous woman.

That was Earhart’s way of emphasizing that other young women are all potential Amelias, if they would only commit themselves to their own career choices and pursue what she called “the inner desires of your own heart.” (As many of us who grew up in Macomb know, “Miss Hillery” later became the most noted and respected Macomb school principal of her era.)

Another speaker at Western, who drew a record-breaking audience, was former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She was the widow of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the president credited by some for leading the country out of the Great Depression by means of his New Deal policies and blamed by others for unnecessarily involving the nation in World War II. President Roosevelt died in 1945, so by the time Eleanor came to Macomb, in May 1960, she was 75 years old. She had been a widow for 15 years, and she would die from cardiac arrest, complicated by tuberculosis, two years later.

As the *Western Courier* pointed out in an article about her coming talk, Mrs. Roosevelt had been born to socialites in Manhattan during 1884. Her mother died from diphtheria in 1892, and her father, an alcoholic, died two years later. A thoughtful and serious child, she wrote, at the age of 14, that one's prospects in life were not totally dependent upon physical beauty, that "no matter how plain a woman may be, if truth and loyalty are stamped upon her face all will be attracted to her." Indeed that was a revolutionary idea for a time when society promulgated the notion that the goal of women was to attract a husband by means of her physical attributes and to settle down to the keeping of a household and raising children.

Mrs. Roosevelt received private tutoring and completed her education at a private finishing school in England from 1899-1902. As she mentioned in *Macomb*, she met FDR during the summer of 1902 and married him March 17, 1905.

Mrs. Roosevelt quickly became one of the best known women in America, studying the political scene at the time and taking an active part

in her husband's career. During World War I, while FDR was working in Washington D.C. as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, she worked in a Navy hospital. An April 27, 1960, *Western Courier* article states, "She was the first wife of a president of the United States to maintain a career of her own, the first to hold regular press conferences, and the first to travel by plane. During this time, she visited and lectured to groups all over the U.S. Her daily newspaper column, 'My Day,' which she began in 1935, had over five million readers." She was a groundbreaking figure in America.

After FDR's death in 1945, Mrs. Roosevelt moved to Hyde Park, NY, the couple's home. In December 1945, she was selected to attend the United Nations General Assembly sessions held in London, and the following April she was elected president of the U.N. Economic and Social Council's Commission on Human Rights. Through various involvements since that time, she championed racial tolerance, advocated civil rights and social progress for minorities, and toured the U.S., lecturing at numerous universities, including in the Spring 1960, at *Western*.

Mrs. Roosevelt's talk, "Is America Facing World Leadership?," was delivered on the evening of May 4 to a packed audience in Morgan Gym. It directly reflected the crucial Cold War conflict between the Soviet Union and the U.S., so it was engaging for the public. The event was sponsored by the Western Community Forum, the American Association of University Women, the local Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, and the Luncheon Lecture Club, so it was a great example of town-gown cooperation.

As Mrs. Roosevelt explained at the outset of her talk, "Two strong ideas—the democratic idea and the Communist idea—are struggling for the uncommitted peoples of the world." She went on to remind her audience that the Soviet Union had achieved success, in Russia and in other parts of the world, "through thought control, iron discipline, police state methods, and rule by fear." She was talking about the mindset of the two great world powers of the time, which divided the world, and in doing so, created unforgettable tension among people who might have otherwise found ways to work together.



During her talk, Mrs. Roosevelt criticized the methods employed by the Khrushchev administration to gain control over the Russian people—“thought control, iron discipline, police state methods, and rule by fear.” As an example, she cited a conversation she had with a patient at a medical facility during a visit to Russia. The young man had willingly answered every question she had regarding his recent operation. However, when she opened up the subject of politics, “He shut up like a clam, seeming to say to me, ‘You are unmannerly. Don’t you know you are putting your host in danger?’” To an extent she was, since people who dared to speak out in those days against Soviet leadership, and who therefore became an inconvenience, regularly disappeared from public view.

Mrs. Roosevelt went on to say, “The Soviet Union has put all its energy and all its concentration in gaining our nuclear knowledge. They have succeeded in getting it because the Soviet leaders believe in research and because they do not have to go to the people.” Put another way, Soviet

leaders had succeeded in their quest for power because they had made use of propagandistic tactics to assert control over people who were poorly educated and otherwise uninformed. That was a great message for college students.

Those of us who were pre-teens or teenagers in the 1950s and 1960s can recall the stone-faced members of the central committee of the Communist Party, who sometimes surrounded Khrushchev at public events and who, as Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, David Brinkley and others reported, operated behind the walls of the Kremlin in ways we didn’t wholly understand and that therefore frightened us. The result of the paranoia that came into being as a result of fear among Soviet and American citizens resulted in an arms race that endangered the entire world. Every person in America was aware of that tension.

As she said to the students, and faculty members, and other local residents who crowded into Morgan Gym in the Spring 1960 to hear the



former first lady, “The real struggle is for the uncommitted peoples of Africa, Asia and South America. Khrushchev doesn’t trust just military power, however. His campaign is carefully planned along economic and cultural lines. Russians learn the language of the people she hopes to persuade. Young people learn to speak Chinese, English and German like natives. Children are forced to take 10-year courses in one or the other and by rote and repetition, day after day, are compelled to learn.” As she knew, that kind of “learning” enabled youngsters to become functionaries, serving the purposes of their leaders, while depriving them of the kind of knowledge that would have prompted them to make independent judgments.

Mrs. Roosevelt asserted that by means of their carefully employed tactics, Communist leaders had managed, in an astonishingly short time, to gain a kind of control that enabled them to convert a largely backward nation into a major world power. She was able to look beneath the surface of matters to understand

Khrushchev and his advisors were as intent on employing manipulation of the mind as they were about using physical force to achieve their goals. For that reason, she warned her audience that lacking sufficient awareness of Communist tactics, they “may wake up to find that Russia has won over the majority of the peoples of the world.”

To combat pro-Communist coercion of people in Russia, as well as in China and Cuba and other places, including in the United States, Mrs. Roosevelt advocated increased cultural understanding, including awareness of habits and customs of the people and in particular study of their languages. Of course, her comments were particularly appropriate for an audience of young people engaged in the pursuit of broad knowledge, with the intent for the most part of becoming educators themselves. In the 1950s and 1960s, Western was still very much focused on teacher training.

In a follow-up article in the Courier, female feature writer and education

major, Andi Alessi (now Kaumeheiwa) ‘61 said “Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt sat in a chair shaking hand after hand as approximately 100 people filed past her in the patio lounge last night. She smiled at me very warmly when I asked her if she knew that she had spoken to a capacity crowd tonight and if she was used to breaking such records.” Her response was, “I don’t often speak to a poor audience.” She also went on to say that the audience in Morgan Gym had been “so very attentive and very good.”

Too often young women of the past have lacked good role models from their own gender. Clearly, Viletta and Andi profited from their contacts with Earhart and Roosevelt, as many others in their audiences must have. Opportunities for interaction with motivated and far-sighted individuals can be an important part of higher education. Western has seen many other noted figures speak on campus over the generations, but it can be especially proud of once serving as host for these two exceptional women. ●



Paying Homage To A Hero:

New Public Art Project Unveiled on Macomb Campus

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

Public art projects on the campus of Western Illinois University have been a part of the University's landscape for decades, from "Commemoration 75," created by Art Professor Emeritus George Potter to celebrate WIU's 75th anniversary, to Rocky on Parade statues—the brainchild of Art Professor Bill Howard—created by various artists (see Rocky on Parade story on page 20). In Fall 2017, a new public art project was unveiled overlooking Hanson Field.

Famed Western Illinois University coach, athletic director and WWI and WWII Marine Corps veteran Ray "Rock" Hanson is remembered on the WIU campus with a bronze statue of his likeness, created by WIU Associate Professor of Art Duke Oursler.

The project was made possible due to a substantial donation from WIU alumni, Vice President Emeritus of Administrative Services Jackie Thompson '85 MS-Ed '94, and her husband Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dave Thompson '72.

"In the 118 years since this University was founded, no one individual impacted Western more than Rock Hanson. His pride in his service with the Marine Corps led to his request to use the Leathernecks as our nickname. It's also the reason why the English Bulldog is our mascot. Our reputation as a military friendly school can no doubt be traced back to the nearly 40 years of service Rock Hanson gave to Western," said Brad Bainter '79 MS '83, vice president for advancement and public services.

Hanson, a legendary World War I and World War II hero and decorated Marine Corps colonel, began his long tenure at Western in 1926. 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. It was because of Hanson's determination and persistence, along with his Marine Corps legacy, that helped secure The Fighting Leathernecks as WIU's team name in 1927. Today, Western remains the only

public school in the U.S. to use the Leathernecks as its nickname. Hanson retired in 1964 after a 38-year career at Western. On Nov. 16, 1974, when the Western Sports Hall of Fame formally opened, Rock was named a charter member of the first induction class. Hanson passed away Jan. 4, 1982, at the age of 86.



From l-r, College of Education & Human Services Dean Emeritus, former WIU President and Marine Corps Veteran David Taylor, Vice President for Advancement & Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83, President Jack Thomas, Vice President Emeritus for Administrative Services Jackie Thompson '85 MS-Ed '94, Lt. Col. (Ret) Dave Thompson '72 and WIU Associate Professor of Art Duke Oursler.

HANSON

According to Oursler, from start to finish, the creation of the Hanson statue took a little over one year.

“A lot goes into a project like this—there’s a great deal of planning, including determining the scale of the sculpture, where it’s going to be located and how it will interact with the space, location and people,” he explained.

The creation and fabrication of the Hanson sculpture began with various drawings and models so Oursler could explore numerous possibilities and poses before beginning to cast the sculpture. He determined the final posture, or stance, to have Rock Hanson standing at “parade rest,” and then the real work began.

“I had to first create a full-size oil clay version of the sculpture. I worked from a large variety of photographs to create the sculpture and capture Rock’s likeness,” Oursler said.

The oil clay version took approximately eight months to create. Once it was completed to Oursler’s liking, the eight-foot sculpture was delivered to the Art Casting of Illinois foundry to be cast in bronze, using the traditional process of lost wax casting, which took another six months.

“It’s a very involved and meticulous process to make molds of the oil clay sculpture and casting the wax into molds. After a wax sculpture is made from the oil clay version, an investment mold is made around the wax, which will withstand the high temperature of the molten bronze,” he described. “The wax is melted out of the investment mold and molten bronze is poured into the mold to create the final piece.”

While Oursler was busy working on the sculpture, Facilities Management staff, led by project director Ted Renner ‘96 MS ‘98, were prepping the installation site, which is just west of the Hanson Field entrance.

“One of the great things about doing a project of this scope is the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people,” Oursler added. “This entire project took a great deal of collaboration with the Foundation and Vice President Brad Bainter, major donors Jackie and Dave Thompson and Ted Renner and Facilities Management staff. It was an honor to work with these dedicated people, and to be chosen to complete this project to pay tribute to a true WIU legacy.” ●



Full size oil clay version of the Hanson statue.



Duke Oursler installs the Hanson statue on its base outside of Hanson Field.

STRAIGHT FROM A

STUDEN

Emily Phillips, Sophomore Exercise Science & Nutrition Major, Campus Rec employee, Mission Volunteer

Choosing Western Illinois University as the place I would spend the next four years of my education was not a hard decision. I grew up on a farm only 20 minutes away from Macomb. My mom worked at Western for 30 years, so I grew up with purple and gold in my blood. Graduating from West Prairie High School, a lot of my friends wanted to take their independence to the next level. Attending WIU was too close to home, according to a lot of my classmates, but for me, it was the perfect choice. Some of my classmates said going to Western would be like an extension of high school, because it's too close to home, but it's not that way at all. Most of my classmates who went hours away for college did not stay away for long. Four of my former classmates left their far-away colleges to come back to Western by the second semester of their freshman year.

Living at home is something a lot of college-age kids may shy away from, but it keeps me grounded and helps me further appreciate the efforts of my family. It also reminds me how much my parents are doing to support my college education. Although there are times I wish I lived away from home, I know living at home and being born and raised in "Leatherneck Country" is a blessing.

Western is more than I imagined, growing up with the school right in my backyard. I have met so many friends from other parts of Illinois and the country. I have been able to connect with new friends I have made in my major, and I have also been involved with clubs and opportunities to better myself and my experience at Western. To those students who are from the Macomb area and feel like WIU is too close to home, it really does not feel like it when you are on campus, in class, or with your new friends.



I have such a great appreciation for Western and the many friends and connections I have made here. WIU has offered me the opportunity to take a course that allows me to visit Disney World for a communications culture class. Western has also offered me a great experience as a student employee at the Campus Recreation Center. This has allowed me to meet people who are interested in exercise just like me. Meeting new people and experiencing what Western has to offer has given me the chance to make connections with such clubs on campus as the Exercise Science Student Association.

Western has changed my life and helped me to grow into a young adult, even after just one year on campus. The atmosphere has also challenged me to do more critical thinking and take into consideration ways to better today's world. With that, Western has also helped me to stand firm in what I believe and to remember we are all facing this journey of life together.

I have found Western to be the right choice for my success in such a way that I have understood the great opportunities of life and the ability to embrace challenge and be optimistic in my endeavors. I believe Western Illinois University is a college working to improve citizens as well as educate the next generation of successful people. ●



“ I have found Western to be the right choice for my success in such a way that I have understood the great opportunities of life and the ability to embrace challenge and be optimistic in my endeavors.”



ROCKY ON PARADE: Public Art at Its Best

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

When the public art project Rocky on Parade, named after Western Illinois University's iconic bulldog mascot, Col. Rock III, aka Rocky, debuted in 2013, WIU Art Professor Bill Howard had no idea his concept for a town-gown art collaboration would grow to over 60 Col. Rock III statues throughout the Macomb and WIU campus communities (including one at the WIU-Quad Cities campus). In September 2017, at the annual Celebrating Town & Gown event, the final installation of the Rocky on Parade project was unveiled.

During the event, the newest 27 statues of WIU's beloved bulldog mascot, Col. Rock III, aka Rocky, were introduced.



The number of statues now total 64 and are featured on the Rocky Dog Walk throughout the campus and community. The Dog Walk map can be found at wiu.edu/vpaps/rocky_on_parade.

"The community support, the backing, for this project just blows my mind," Howard said following the 2015 "artists draft."

Local artists—WIU students, faculty, staff and community members showcasing their talents and creativity—were paired with University and community donors to paint the life-size (and a few larger-than-life) statues since the project's 2013 inception.

Donors selected their artist, and statue rendering from the artist, at the draft event. The dogs, which are installed on concrete pedestals, bear the name of the artist and the sponsor on a plaque,

and stand guard outside numerous Macomb-area businesses and campus buildings. And in the age of social media, the dogs are often the focal point of selfies, in Facebook posts and throughout Twitter. There have also been scavenger hunts and coloring contests organized around the statues, and the 2018 Col. Rock III Mascot calendar—available at the University Bookstore—features Rocky with the Rocky on Parade statues throughout campus and the community.

For a town of 20,000, half of which is comprised of students part of the year, Howard said it has been "incredible" that business owners and residents committed to making the public art project bigger and better each year. Sponsors—some two- and three-time sponsors—paid \$1,500 for life-size dogs or \$3,000 for larger-than-life ("Alpha Dog") statues, with money raised supporting student scholarships in the WIU Department of Art.



“Our businesses and organizations are constantly asked to support a project or a program, yet over the last four years, 64 sponsors have stepped forward to support Rocky on Parade. That alone demonstrates how this community feels about WIU,” said Billy Clow, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

WIU art major Jake Miller, a senior from Taylor Ridge, IL, was the first artist selected for the 2017 installment for his rendering of “Walky,” for sponsor Western Illinois Detailing.

“It was a great honor being selected. When I first came to Macomb and saw the Rocky dogs, I thought they were awesome. Later, when I found out there was the possibility to apply to be an artist for one, I was ecstatic,” he said. “To be chosen first out of 20-plus other artists during the 2017 draft was a pretty great feeling. Western Illinois Detailing was incredible. They gave me full creative freedom.”

WIU Art Professor Jan Clough, who completed her second Rocky statue this year for WIU Softball, said she designed the 2017 dog to appear as if he is made out of patch quilts. “When I found out that my dog would be located near the softball field, it seemed meant to be. I decided to employ softball stitching to ‘connect’ the patches

of fabric. My sponsors, Cathy Early and Holly Van Vlymen ‘00 MS-Ed ‘08, requested that I also add the former Westerwinds ‘swoosh’ design onto the dog as a nod to the rich history of women’s softball at WIU,” Clough explained. “Rocky on Parade is a wonderful partnership between the town of Macomb and Western Illinois University. I enjoy being reminded of that partnership as my travels about town reveal the various dogs.”

Abbigale Matlick, a junior art major from Reynolds, IL, is the artist of “Botanic Manic” for Jimmy John’s of Macomb. Her theme carries a special meaning.

“I came up with this theme because a little over a year ago my Aunt Marie Lou passed away from pancreatic cancer. She always loved Hawaiian flowers because it reminded her of when she went to Hawaii for vacation,” Matlick said. “It means a great deal to me to become one of the many artists who were chosen to spread creativity among the community.”

Queen Hibbler, a 2016 WIU alumna, whose dog “Jean-Michel Rocky” stands watch over Western’s Alfred Boyer Baseball Stadium, summed up her experience as a chosen artist for the 2015 project

“As artists, we are immortalized, so to speak, through this project,” Hibbler said. “Because of Macomb’s size, more people are going to notice

our work and enjoy these for many years to come.”

Mariah Bartz, a 2016 WIU alumna, who created “Molecule Rocky” echoed Hibbler, adding that the artists have left a legacy.

“We’ve left our mark,” Bartz said.

Hibbler created her dog after her favorite artist Jean Michel Basquiat, while Bartz created hers to feature the chemical symbols for love and happiness in the brain. Bartz’s mother, stepfather, aunt and uncle are all science educators as well, so the chemical symbols were a “natural choice.”

“We are so fortunate to have so much talent in our community,” Howard added. “This project has been at a national level in terms of talent and artistry, but also the support from campus and community members. It has been just awesome.” ●



A Lifetime of New Experiences

From Music to Art, Alumna's Career Comes Full Circle

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

Sandra Keiser Edwards

1993 Alumni
Achievement Award

2006 WIU Distinguished
Alumni Award

2014 Honorary
Doctorate

College of Fine Arts and
Communication (COFAC)
Advisory Board

For Sandra Keiser Edwards MS-Ed '74, the deputy director of the famed Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR, it wasn't a matter of going to college, it was only a matter of where.

Edwards grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, one of four children. Education was valued, and it was the Keisers' gift to their children that "no one could take away."

"Higher education was expected for each one of us. My family was a great believer in a liberal arts education and we were encouraged to pursue a degree that would allow us to not only survive, but thrive," she remembered.

Edwards selected Lenoir-Rhyne College (now Lenoir Rhyne University) in Hickory, NC, where she pursued a bachelor's degree in sociology and German. It was at Lenore where she first dipped her toes into the programming and collegiate entertainment waters.

"I was really active in student activities, and I joined the concert committee my freshman year. I stuck with that, and was an active part of the founding of NEC (now called NACA)," she said. "We were among the schools in the U.S. to work cooperatively with the music agencies to create block booking and more efficient and effective ways to produce shows on campuses. Opal Moretz, the director of our student union,

made certain I was an integral part of the dialogue and I became a student member of the board of directors. It was a remarkable look into the music industry and I was able to gain a lot of experience."

It was during that time that she realized there was a future for her in the student activities and collegiate entertainment realm, but she also knew there were not a lot of options in that particular field for a female in the 1970s. And then she met Western's Bill Brattain – aka "Dr. B" – who was one of NEC's founding members and served with her on the board.

"He encouraged me to stay in the field and offered me an assistantship at Western in the pop concerts program of Student Activities, so after Lenoir-Rhyne, I packed up and moved to Macomb, IL to begin my master's degree," Edwards said. "It was really a dynamic time in student activities. Students in the 1970s were demanding and expecting great concerts, and WIU was a hotbed in large part because of Dr. B."

Edwards said her first year at Western was an "amazing time" both socially and culturally.

"It was a whole learning shift. I was unfamiliar with Illinois. WIU was quite large, about 14,000 students, and I was coming from a very small liberal arts college," she added. "But it was so wonderful, and I thrived on the challenges it presented. The students





Sandy Edwards and the late Bill Brattain at the Spring 2014 Commencement Exercises, where Edwards was awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

here were political, they were savvy about music, and we had a hands-on student activities program. We were fearless and our experiences here really prepared those of us in Student Activities to take that next step as professionals.”

She worked at Western only one year while in graduate school, finishing her degree in college student personnel in 12 months, but that was enough to propel her into the field professionally as her experiences at WIU provided active leadership opportunities. As a woman in the 70s, Edwards said it was both fascinating and encouraging.

“I loved my studies, but it was the practical applications in the Office of Student Activities that shaped me professionally. And working for Dr. B? Well, everyone in the entertainment business knew WIU because of Bill Brattain. He was a leader in the field and it was an honor to learn from him and to work for him,” she said.

After graduating, the University of Tennessee recruited her, but then Dr. B came calling again.

“A position had opened at Western, so I came back to WIU as a full-time professional programmer,” she explained. “We had a terrific team—Elise Jordan, Dave Kratzer ‘70, Gil Baker, Jim Miner ‘72 MS ‘73 and so many others. Just a great group of colleagues working together in a student-run, robust organization. We all learned leadership and life skills here.”

Edwards recalled there were so many good acts that knew about WIU. They knew they’d get a great audience and they showed up ready to perform. She added the community also supported arts and entertainment at Western, knowing that performances would be top-notch. And this was a time when there was only a two-lane highway to Macomb.

“We had family-oriented shows, we had niche shows, we had major performers and we hosted a significant Blues Fest that was totally student run,” she pointed out.

“I remember rocking at Western Hall with Humble Pie. In fact, I still have my t-shirt,” Edwards laughed. “We promoted the mainstream to the obscure to the up-and-coming. Western Hall hosted real rock and roll.”

After another good run at Western, in 1976, Edwards was recruited by Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield, MO) to serve as associate director for a new venue, the John Q. Hammond Center, a student health club (including courts for basketball, weights and handball and a swimming pool) and an NCAA-competitive arena for basketball that doubled

as a performance hall. Edwards ran the center’s programming, booking acts and events from the Harlem Globetrotters to the spectrum of music. She stayed on for six years, and began looking at even larger arenas in larger cities.

“In the early 80s, municipalities and local governments began contracting major corporate food and hotel enterprises to manage their arenas,” she explained. “I’d been promoting shows for 10 years, during which time I had met my husband, Clay, who had also been in the music business. We both decided it was time to explore other options, so we became the management team for the Shreveport Symphony (LA). We switched gears from rock and roll to classical.”

Sandy managed the organization as its executive director, while Clay created the development program. Together, they expanded the organization’s program, and then, the duo was on the road again, this time to Penn State, for the next stage of their careers.



Clay wanted to expand his practice of private gift fundraising and the director of development for Penn State’s College of Arts



and Architecture. Sandy joined the development profession first as director of development for Penn State's public broadcasting services. The university brought all external services under one organization and she was given the responsibility to create the first comprehensive advancement program in the field of outreach at a university, which included continuing and distance education and cooperative extension. It was in this new role that Edwards became part of the management team that created Penn State's World Campus, a virtual university for students at a distance from the physical location.

The Penn State experience led to bigger and better things as the University of Arkansas lured the Edwards' south, where the pair designed, launched and directed the university's "Campaign for the 21st Century."

"It was unusual for a husband-and-wife team to be recruited as co-administrator, but it was the highlight of our lives to put our skills together into a precedent-setting effort for the university," she said. "It was a privilege to work alongside Clay."

After nine years at the University of Arkansas, and overseeing a successful campaign raising more than \$1 billion for academic programs, Clay suddenly passed

away in January 2007. The Edwards' had spent 24 years working together professionally, and Sandy was unsure what her next steps would be.

"Just when I was wondering what I was going to do, the Walton Family Foundation, with whom we had worked at the University of Arkansas, had recently announced the development of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and inquired about my interest," Edwards recalled. "I was in a new phase in my life, and it took a while to determine what might be the best next move. I continue to be grateful that this remarkable opportunity presented itself at just the right time."

She was hired as the associate director of the museum, which was building the facility, the collection and the organization simultaneously. The project had been announced, and the museum needed someone to raise awareness and provide on-going information for a project that was being constructed in a deep ravine surrounded by woods—unseen by the public.

"One of the best actions we took was creating an overlook where the community and visitors to the area could see the day-to-day progress of the museum evolving," Edwards said.

The mission of the museum is to "welcome all to celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature."



Edwards said she continues to learn and grow professionally.

"We had a broad interpretation of how to program the museum. I was really attracted to the building of a new museum and creating this. I was well-positioned at this time in my career to take this on," she added. "I really like taking a concept, and making it real."

Early on, one of the challenges, Edwards explained, was the museum's location in what's known as the "Arkansas Ozarks."

"Our priority was creating awareness and acceptance – from the general public, as well as the museum field and art world – that what we were doing was of value. A project of this scope cannot be done in a vacuum," she pointed out. "We



celebrated our sixth anniversary Nov. 11, 2017, and we have welcomed more than 3.5 million guests. We have an open and receptive community and region that are well-prepared to meet the needs of visitors. It's working."

Founded in 2005 by the Walton Family Foundation, Crystal Bridges was designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie.

Crystal Bridges' permanent collection spans five centuries of American masterworks ranging from the Colonial era to the current day. Included within the collection are iconic images such as Asher B. Durand's "Kindred Spirits," Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter," and Andy Warhol's "Coca-Cola [3]"—each reflecting a distinct moment in American artistic evolution—as well as major works by modern and contemporary American artists, including Georgia O'Keeffe, John Baldessari and James Turrell. The permanent collection, which continues to grow through a strategic acquisition plan, is on view year-round and is enhanced by an array of temporary exhibitions.

When asked to name her favorite work – or works of art – at Crystal Bridges, Edwards said, with a laugh, "that's a hard question."

"If I had to answer, I'd say Louise Bourgeois' bronze spider that greets all guests in our courtyard or, perhaps, Martin Johnson Heade's 'Haystack.'

Or, the evocative 'Oh, Mary, Don't You Weep' by Charles White. But everywhere my eye lands at Crystal Bridges, I see something different, something new, something that resonates," she said. "It's hard to pick just one. I can't pick just one. I appreciate each work and the special meaning it brings to our collection.



Louise Bourgeois' bronze spider greets guests in the museum's courtyard.

"As for the performers I've seen or listened to, I've always admired guitarists like Eric Clapton and Santana, and bands like the Doobie Brothers. I first heard the Doobie Brothers and Bonnie Raitt in a record company preview and booked them on the spot. And Southern rock, like the Allman Brothers. I would say they're one of my favorites," Edwards added. "And while I'm not in the music business anymore, I try to stay open to the acts of today, but I've enjoyed the maturing of my favorite artists over the years."

Much like the "maturing" of some of her favorite bands over the years, from Sting to the Eagles to Aerosmith, performers who have continued to hone their craft and develop to stay relevant, Edwards said she continues to learn and grow professionally.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is standing in front of a work of art with others and sharing our unique perspectives. Everyone's opinion is valid," she said. "I encourage young people to find a balance between what they're passionate about and understanding others' perspectives. When you can share your passion with others and be receptive to their thoughts, your appreciation and understanding are expanded.

"I've learned a lot about myself over the years. I thrive on stability born from chaos. And I think it all started at Western," Edwards reminisced. "I thrived working with Bill Brattain and my Western colleagues and my work fueled my passion. WIU gave me back more than I ever expected. Driving my VW bus across the prairie to Macomb, IL in 1973 sparked a transformation in my thinking that began a lifetime of seeking out new experiences." ●

STUDENT

GRANT REED

Junior Agriculture Science & Political Science Major, SGA President

Western Illinois University is a higher education institution like no other, because at Western you are part of a family. Leathernecks are tough; we fight for what is right, and help one another.

My name is Grant Reed, and I am a junior, double majoring in agriculture science and political science. I am very proud to have been born and raised right here in Macomb, IL, by two parents who are proud alumni and employees of Western. Choosing WIU was the best decision I have ever made. I was also so proud when my younger brother Collin, a senior in high school, recently committed to Western. Not only are both of my parents Leathernecks, but my aunts, uncles, older cousin and grandparents are too. Of all the things I am proud to be, a third-generation Leatherneck is one of my absolute favorite—purple and gold runs in our blood.

When I stepped onto campus my first day, freshman year, I had no clue what to expect. I knew a plethora of faculty and staff members, all of the building names, and where to park. What didn't I know? What a college class was like, if my major was right for me, how to get involved, or any of my fellow students. Being from Macomb made the transition easier, but I was feeling all of the same first-day jitters as my peers. I enjoyed being heavily involved in high school extracurriculars, and knew I wanted to continue to be active and involved.

Within the first three months of college, I had joined a few organizations, and began to meet people across campus. One day, a new friend sent me an email with a link to an application. He said it was to be the co-director of WIU Homecoming, and thought I would be a good fit. For a new freshman, it was a long-shot opportunity, considering that I

had not seen a WIU Homecoming past the parade and football game, let alone ever taken charge of a committee of 12-15 students in planning a week of detailed, spirit-filled competitive events. I remember sitting outside the interview room on a purple couch, so nervous to go in. What questions would they ask? Why am I qualified for this? George Theotokatos '17, the graduate student working with Homecoming, called me the next day and offered the position to me—the new freshman, who applied purely out of love for his school, community and the alumni of this great institution.

Now, here I am—in total disbelief that I'm a second semester junior. Time really does fly when you're having fun. I'm so happy that I'm beginning my third term with WIU Homecoming, serving as the co-director for two years, and now as the director for 2018. Through



SPOTLIGHT

Homecoming, I became a member of the University Union Board (UUB), Western's main student programming body. I have enjoyed every second of event planning, management and fun with our family of members. I have met some of my very best friends and made incredible memories through being a part of UUB.

In addition to Homecoming and UUB, last year I served as chief of staff for Student Government, which was a rewarding and educational experience. This year, I have the great honor of serving my school and fellow students as the 2017-18 Student Government Association president. It has proven to be quite the undertaking, managing something that can on its own be a full-time job, while being a full-time student, part of the Centennial Honors College, a member of other organizations, and holding down a part-time campus job in University Housing and Dining. While strenuous at times, there is nothing I enjoy more than working with, and fighting for, the students of Western Illinois University. We are all here because of the students, whether we are one, have been one, are a relative of one, or work with them daily. My fellow students keep me grounded and serve as a daily reminder about why I

decided to run for president—to show every student that each of them has a voice in what happens on this campus, that they are valued and that they have someone who will work for their best interests and stand beside them through thick and thin.



In addition to SGA, Homecoming, and UUB, I found a family within the WIU School of Agriculture. The School of Ag is truly like no other program at Western Illinois University,

not only because of its family feel, focus on hands-on education and a dedicated faculty and staff, but because we have our own student recruiters—the Ag Vocators. It is an honor to be a part of this team, which is comprised of the most hard-working, dedicated, and compassionate students, and led by the fearless Jana Knupp '02 MBA '04. Each year, we embark on dozens of visits to high school classrooms, junior college fairs, regional and national conventions and coordinate two School of Agriculture open houses. The purpose: to show students all across the Midwest that every day is a great day to be a Leatherneck.

Looking back on the past few years at WIU, I feel I have been able to live our core values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, social responsibility and personal growth. Choosing Western Illinois University was the best decision I have made. I know I would not have been afforded the opportunities Western has given to me at any other school. I am so excited to see what the future holds, not only for me, but for my peers and for Western Illinois University. We've been here nearly 118 years, and we will continue to be driving forces in higher education for 118 more, and beyond. ●



PUBLIC ART ON HERO STREET

By Amy Spelman MS '98

Guadalupe “Sonny” Soliz '74 grew up on Second Street in Silvis, IL. For most, the block-and-a-half-long street is better known as “Hero Street.” It was renamed in 1969, in honor of the more than 100 residents who served in the military during World War II and the Korean War. No other street in America of comparable size has been home to so many members of the military, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

A monument designed by Soliz sits in Hero Street Park, at the corner of First Avenue and Hero Street, in honor of eight men who lived there and were killed in service—six in World War II and two in the Korean War. Each received a Purple Heart, and six were awarded a Bronze or Silver Star.

Soliz grew up on Second Street with those eight soldiers, including his Uncle Claro, who was killed in action in Belgium in 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge. The artist recalls the design for the Hero Street Monument coming to him in a dream. Not simply as a concept, but the completed monument looks exactly as he dreamed it. It was dedicated Oct. 6, 2007, more than 50 years after the end of the Korean War and more than a decade after his dream.

Soliz served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-56. In 1960, he received his bachelor's degree in art from St. Ambrose University. In 1974, he earned his master's degree in art from Western Illinois University and he taught art at Silvis Junior High for 25 years.

The monument, weighing more than 35 tons and rising more than 17-feet high, is dedicated to all American veterans; yet, it also honors the heroes and their families

who immigrated to Silvis during the Mexican Revolution (1910-20). In the late 1920s, Mexican-American immigrants settled in Silvis and lived in railroad boxcars with no electricity or indoor plumbing before moving to the unpaved Second Street.

At the monument's base, a prominent inscription reads: “This monument represents the ideals of duty, honor and country as exemplified by military service ... A special inscription is mentioned here to honor the eight men from Hero Street USA who gave the supreme sacrifice during World War II and the Korean War.”

A step pyramid base, inspired by ancient pyramids near Mexico City, rises from its bottom. The pyramid's three tiers depict Aztec feathered serpents in full-body profiles and sculptural heads. Combining the feathers of a bird and a serpent, this symbol represents both spiritual flight and the grounded rhythms and cycles of nature, according to Soliz.

The visual focus of the monument, a bronze bald eagle sits at the monument's peak, with its wings spread, holding an American flag and a rifle in its talons. Similar to the feathered serpent symbol, the monument rises on the eagle's wings, and is grounded by its massive base.



Pictured is a rendering of the “Hero Street” monument by Sonny Soliz.

Soliz's dream was the spark that created a monument that reflects the pride in America and in the Mexican heritage of the servicemen who gave their lives to defend the U.S. The monument was created in memory of Frank Sandoval, Tony Pompa, Claro Soliz (Solis), Joseph Sandoval, Peter Masias, William Sandoval, Joseph Gomez and John Munos.

From The Hero Street website

In January 1993, a group of men and women gathered to propose the building of a lasting granite and bronze monument in the park on Hero Street USA. The Hero Street Monument Committee was formed, comprised of relatives and friends, to oversee the project.

Just as the sunken ship The USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Vietnam and the memorials in Washington, DC have their place of honor in American history, The Hero Street Monument serves as a tribute to all American veterans who have served proudly in the military forces of the United States of America. It reflects the patriotic pride of Silvis, its surrounding communities, the state of Illinois and the nation, symbolizing the past, present and future.

For more information on Hero Street, visit www.herostreetusa.org.

“Letters Home to Hero Street,” a 30-minute historical documentary produced by WQPT-PBS and Fourth Wall Films with a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, focuses on a young Mexican-American veteran's personal view of World War II, as told through the letters and V-Mail (Victory Mail) he sent home to his family on Second Street.

HERO STREET USA MONUMENT

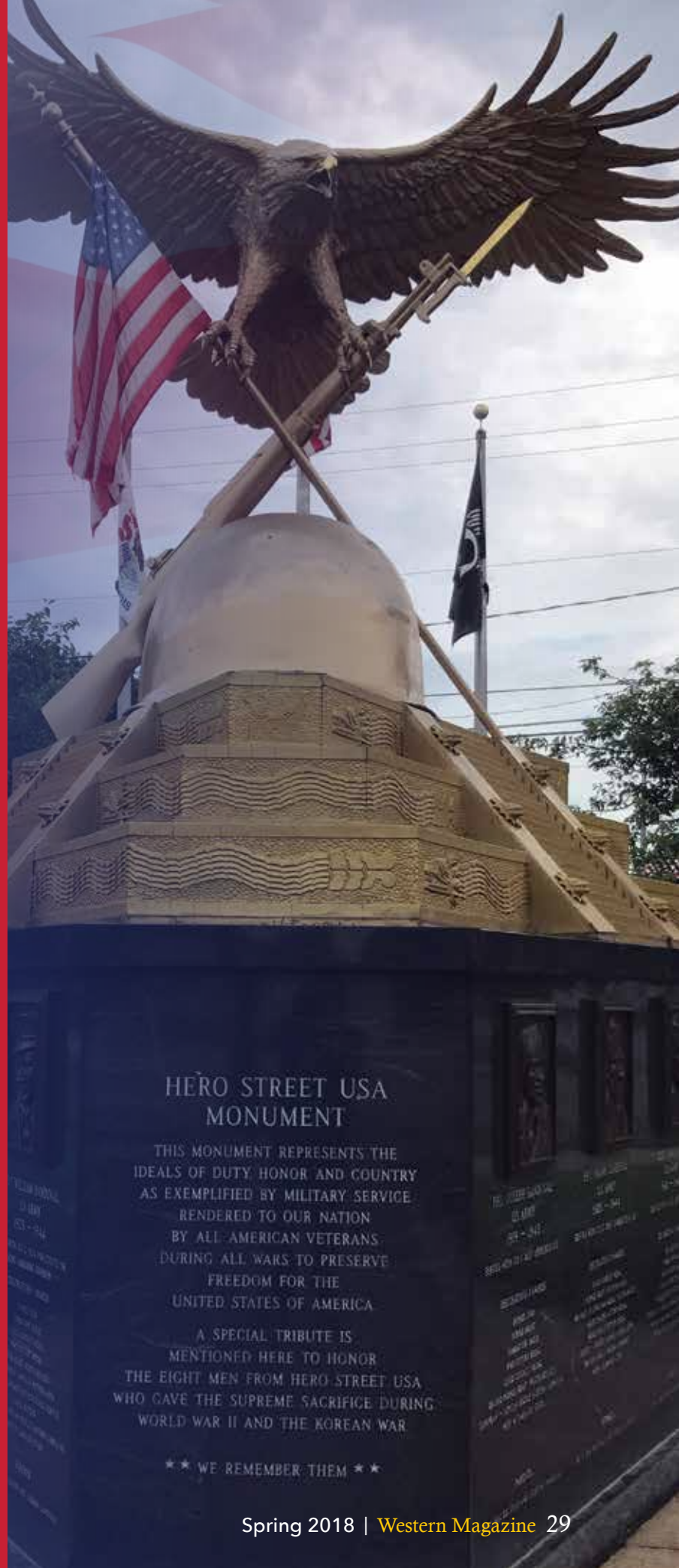
THIS MONUMENT REPRESENTS THE IDEALS OF DUTY, HONOR AND COUNTRY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY MILITARY SERVICE RENDERED TO OUR NATION BY ALL AMERICAN VETERANS DURING ALL WARS TO PRESERVE FREEDOM FOR THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE IS MENTIONED HERE TO HONOR THE EIGHT MEN FROM HERO STREET USA WHO GAVE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR

**** WE REMEMBER THEM ****



Sonny Soliz and the "Hero Street" monument



HERO STREET USA MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT REPRESENTS THE IDEALS OF DUTY, HONOR AND COUNTRY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY MILITARY SERVICE RENDERED TO OUR NATION BY ALL AMERICAN VETERANS DURING ALL WARS TO PRESERVE FREEDOM FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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**** WE REMEMBER THEM ****

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

It all started with the "Big Bad Wolf" in fourth grade.

But even before that, musical theatre was in Micah Spayer's '09 blood naturally as his mother, Carol, was the go-to musical director for all the musical shows in Peoria. She put her theatrical career on hold after having Micah, but returned later as the musical director to Micah's production of "The Who's Tommy," which he directed and starred in late last year.

"I really didn't know that performing was a thing when I was a kid. I thought everyone I was watching onstage or in films were from another planet—I saw them as untouchable and quietly idolized them from afar. I always had a strong skill for music and goofing around, but I didn't know the two could work together," Spayer said. "And then in fourth grade, my teacher, the late—and absolutely beautiful - Helen Ferguson, forced me to play the big bad wolf. She kind of threatened me into it, but from there, the lights turned on, so to speak. She remained a good friend to me and my family until her death a few years ago."

It was that little "nudge" from Mrs. Ferguson that moved Spayer into performing, beginning with community theatre the summer after his fourth grade play debut and continuing through high school. Spayer, a Richwoods High School (Peoria) graduate, was a member of the

choir, comedic speech team and all the school's musicals. The actor/singer/comedian also played football his freshman year and dated a cheerleader.

"I was a cocky idiot with braces and acne. It was hilariously bad," he laughed. "Sometimes I wore makeup from my theatre kit to hide the blemishes."

After his 2005 high school graduation, Spayer found his way to Western thanks to WIU School of Music Professor Matt Bean, who had seen Spayer as the "Cat in the Hat" in his high school production of "Seussical" (a role he later reprised in the Broadway national tour of "Seussical: The Musical").

"I liked Matt and thought he'd be a good teacher. It turned out, he was. All of my professors at Western were good. We learned what to take from each teacher because they each had their own beneficial skill," he said. "And my parents preferred WIU because it was close to home and affordable, so we all won in the end."

At Western, Spayer performed in such theatrical productions of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," "Me and My Girl," "1776," "Blood Brothers," "The Lion in Winter," "Little Women" and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." Spayer was also a nominee in 2007 for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship for his performance in the 2006 WIU production of "Blood Brothers."



After graduating from WIU, Spayer got his equity card and moved to New York City. He worked for about 18 months in a clothing store, "forgetting that I was an actor."

"It wasn't until I heard some co-workers dramatically discussing an audition that I realized why I was actually in New York. For the next eight years, I worked steadily as an actor," Spayer recalled.

In 2013, four years after graduating from WIU, his musical theatre education led him to be cast lead actor in a television commercial for Evian. The commercial, which debuted April 21, 2013, garnered millions of YouTube views in a few days. The ad features Spayer walking down the sidewalk and noticing that his reflection in the mirror is the face of a baby.

Spayer was initially called in to play the commercial's role as a mustachioed cyclist, but after the audition, which included dancing and pretending to look in a mirror and see a baby looking back, the producers from Iconoclast Productions rewrote the commercial and cast Spayer in the lead role. The commercial was filmed in Buenos Aires, and the actors rehearsed with well-known choreographer Michael Rooney. Landing this role helped Spayer fund his creative freedom for the next two years.

"I spent those two years fixing up old typewriters, drinking wine, writing, teaching myself photography and becoming obsessed with antiques. I stayed true to performing and did a few productions. It's as if my mind and body needed to just explore, so that's exactly what I did," he explained.

He took himself to lunch and a movie nearly every day, became friends with artists and began studying film.

"I couldn't afford anyone to teach me, so I just taught myself everything I could," Spayer remembered. "I began directing, writing and editing my own projects and learning. And then I began doing it for other people's projects. The classroom is wonderful, but nothing prepares you better than simply just doing it. I still do theatre, but I've become a little more earthly aware of the importance of exploration with the final product."

Most recently, Spayer has edited for such clients as Redbox, "big budget" web series', short films and campaign videos. He is also the musical director and acting the role of the wedding singer in "Tony and Tina's Wedding," which opened at Chicago Theater Works in September. "Tony and Tina's Wedding" runs through May, so Spayer is spending

his "free" time between Chicago and New York, completing editing work and other projects for his company, Uncle Mia Productions, and enjoying his hobbies: traveling, collecting antiques, vinyl, writing and photography.

Last summer, Spayer was back in his Peoria hometown to direct and perform in Eastlight Theatre's "The Who's Tommy." Spayer performed at the Eastlight Theatre in 2007—during his summer break from WIU—as a performer in "Miss Saigon," "Beauty and the Beast" and world premiere of "Les Miserables."

Some of Spayer's independent projects include the 2016 pilot "Playing with Balls," produced and directed by Spayer, a mockumentary style about the leadings up to the sex scandal between famous baseball player Hank Mundelson, and his former failed occupational hazard husband, Garrison Tinkley, played by Spayer (trivia from IMBD: the majority of the acting is pure improv, even though fluent and detailed scripts are written per episode). The 2016 comedy short, "The Black Tie," written and directed by Spayer, tells the story of a writer who visits her odd-ball, small hometown to fulfill her dying father's last wish: to track down his favorite black tie.

"When I'm asked to give advice to young people who want to study theatre or break into acting, I ask them the very scary question, "What else do you LIKE to do?". That question isn't asked to dissuade them from doing what they like, it's a question regarding the alternative, additional skills," he pointed out. "Everyone in New York is an actor. EVERYONE. So, you are an actor, great. Write something for yourself. Can you direct? Hire yourself."



Tristan Tapscott, Cari Downing '08, Micah Spayer '09 and Julia Thurlow '08 in the 2007 production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" as part of WIU's Summer Music Theatre showcase.



Micah Spayer as Bill and Liz Ali as Sally in the 2008 University Theatre production of "Me and My Girl."



"Tony & Tina's Wedding"

THEATER

Join Micah Spayer and other WIU theatre alumni for the inaugural WIU Theatre and Dance Alumni Reunion weekend April 5-8 in Macomb. Re-connect and network through the weekend, which will include workshops, an alumni cabaret, softball game, social/mixer and more.

The alumni weekend is open to the public.

For more information, contact micahspayer@yahoo.com.

Success lasts as long as the checks are coming in, but growth and inspiration continues if you pay attention.

"The most intelligent artists I've met in the last 10 years are adaptable and smart. They don't really care if they didn't get the part. It's just not their time and they know that," Spayer added. "Do not get too married to the ideas of only doing one thing for the rest of your life."

Spayer has also performed as "The Cat in the Hat" in the national Broadway tour of "Seussical: The Musical," appeared off-Broadway as "Mike" in "The Austerity of Hope" at The June Havoc Theatre, and had a part in the pilot presentation of "Supers" for Comedy Central's Comedy Pilot Competition, in association with The New York Television Festival.

Spayer has created his own success - much like the advice he'd give young performers - including getting to experience what he considers his "dream job:" directing commercials and film, and being his own employer. Even if he wasn't an actor, he said he'd still be in the business.

"I'd still be an editor and filmmaker, and be able to teach, so that would be alright," Spayer said. "But performing is my first love. And it always will be." ●



Spayer as the "Cat in the Hat" in his high schools production of "Seussical the Musical."



Anderson Lamp (L) as Rocky and Micah Spayer as Frankenfurter in the University Theatre 2008 production of the sexy, Gothic 1970s rock concert musical "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."



Spayer's lead in the 2013 Evian commercial



*“Once a Leatherneck,
Always a Leatherneck”*

**Coach Robert "Red" Miller '50 '55
1927-2017**

*“Once a Leatherneck,
Always a Leatherneck”*



John Mahoney 76'

1940 - 2018

LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Taylor Finishes as Runner-Up for Buchanan Award

Courtesy of WIU Athletics

Western Illinois University Linebacker Brett Taylor '16 MS '17 finished as runner up for the STATS FCS Buck Buchanan Award, which recognizes the FCS' top defensive player.

A native of Macomb, Taylor concluded the voting with 303 points, just one shy of Jacksonville State's Darius Jackson (304). James Madison's Andrew Ankrah came in third with 259 points.

"It was an honor just to be a finalist for such an award," Taylor said. "I can't thank my teammates, family and Leatherneck fans enough for all of their support through the years."

The FCS' leader in tackles (162), stops per game (13.5) and assisted tackles (96), Taylor was honored as the Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC) Defensive Player of the Year. He logged four MVFC Defensive Player of the Week honors and compiled 13.0 tackles for a loss, 1.5 sacks, four breakups, two forced fumbles and one quarterback hurry on the season.

A two-time STATS FCS All-American, CoSIDA All-American and three-time All-MVFC and Academic All-MVFC honoree, Taylor finished his Western Illinois career with 469 tackles and 266 solo stops, which are each the third-most in school history. His 203 career assisted tackles rank fourth in program history.

In a contest on Sept. 30 against South Dakota, Taylor matched a program-record previously set by NFL great Rodney Harrison (1993, at Western Kentucky) with 28 tackles in one contest. His 18 assisted tackles in that game are the second-most in a single game in WIU history. Taylor tied for the team lead in tackles in 16 of his last 17 contests, including all but one game this season. He recorded double-digit tackles in eight games during the 2017 campaign.

Taylor finished seventh in the Buchanan Award voting a year ago, and is only the third Leatherneck to be a two-time finalist for the honor. Other Western Illinois finalists



include Cyron Brown (third place, 1997), James Milton (first, 1998), Edgerton Hartwell (fifth, 1999; first, 2000), Lee Russell (sixth, 2002; fifth, 2003), Jason Williams (fourth, 2008) and Kyle Glazier (tied for second, 2010).

A national panel of more than 150 sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries voted on the Buchanan Award, named for the legendary defensive lineman from Grambling State. ●



2018 Fighting Leathernecks Football

Thursday, Aug. 30 - at Montana State

Saturday, Sept. 8 - at Illinois

Saturday, Sept. 15 - vs. Montana

Saturday, Sept. 22 - BYE

Saturday, Sept. 29 - vs. Youngstown State

Saturday, Oct. 6 - at Illinois State

Saturday, Oct. 13 - vs. North Dakota State

Saturday, Oct. 20 - at Missouri State

Saturday, Oct. 27 - vs. Northern Iowa

Saturday, Nov. 3 - at Southern Illinois

Saturday, Nov. 10 - at South Dakota

Saturday, Nov. 17 - vs. Indiana State



New Era, New Season

Courtesy of WIU Athletics

Western Illinois University will bring in a new era of football for the 2018 season. Former associate head coach Jared Elliott was selected to take over the program earlier this year, and his Leatherneck tenure begins Thursday, Aug. 30, when he will look to guide Western to its first-ever win over Montana State.

WIU's 2018 schedule features five home games, including a matchup with the reigning FCS champions.

"Our entire program is excited for another outstanding challenge ahead of us for this 2018 season," said Elliott. "Out of conference, we will have the opportunity to compete against two perennial FCS powers in Montana State and Montana, as well as in-state Big Ten opponent Illinois. The first three games will be a great test for us heading into Missouri Valley [Football] Conference play, which is second to none. Our team embraces playing against the very best

every week and this upcoming season is no different."

Western and Montana State haven't met since 1993. The Big Sky competitor manages a 2-0 edge in the all-time series, but the Leathernecks have been successful in their season openers, winning their last six.

Big Ten football is next on the docket, as Western takes on the Illinois Fighting Illini in Champaign Sept. 8.

Montana will be the first opponent to visit Hanson Field on Sept. 15.

As one of the fiercest leagues in the nation, the Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC) saw five teams named in the final STATS FCS media poll. WIU will play host to Youngstown State Sept. 29 in its league opener, before welcoming the top-ranked, reigning FCS champions North Dakota State Oct. 13.

In last year's meeting, the Leathernecks took a 12-10 lead at

halftime inside the FargoDome, but allowed a pair of third quarter touchdowns to drop the game, 24-12.

Action against NDSU will be followed by a road tilt at Missouri State Oct. 20.

No. 17 Northern Iowa and Indiana State round out Hanson Field play Oct. 27 and Nov. 17, respectively, and a pair of road contests will be sandwiched between those dates, as the Leathernecks travel to Southern Illinois (Nov. 3) and No. 15 South Dakota (Nov. 10).

The Leathernecks finished the 2017 season ranked 12th in the FCS Coaches Poll and 13th in the STATS FCS Poll. The team went 8-4 on the year, 5-3 in the MVFC, en route to its second FCS Playoff berth in three years.

Game times and promotions for the 2018 season will be announced at a later date. ●



History Made: Western Illinois Upsets No. 18 Stanford

Courtesy of WIU Athletics

The Leathernecks Women's Basketball team has recorded its first-ever win over a nationally-ranked opponent.

In the biggest win in program history, Western Illinois University Women's Basketball was able to knock off the No. 18 nationally-ranked Stanford Cardinal 71-64 Dec. 19 inside Maples Arena. After trailing by as many as 11 in the game, WIU rallied off a second-half surge, and outscored the Cardinal 47-31 over the final two quarters for the monumental victory.

"I am so proud of the team," said Head Coach JD Gravina, following the game. "The story of this game

could have been if we weren't cold in the second quarter, we might have won or might have been in the game. We talked about that as a team and we're working on that, but we really did a good job coming back. I said if you're open, you have to shoot it. To beat them and only make five threes, including a quarter where we scored only three points, is amazing. We also had 47 rebounds. I told the team if we could get 17 rebounds, we would have a chance."

Despite a cold start shooting, Western came out swinging in the first, and jumped out to a 21-14 lead

through the first 10 minutes. Stanford answered with a 7-0 run to tie it up at 21-all in the second, and eventually outscored the Leathernecks 19-3 in the second to lead 33-24 at the half.

After back-to-back blocks by Olivia Braun, and a fast-break layup by Emily Clemens, the Leathernecks pulled to within four with 5:10 remaining in the third. That preceded a 10-point quarter by Morgan Blumer, who capped it off with two three-pointers to cut the Cardinal lead to 47-45 after three. After Taylor Higginbotham drove in the lane for a bucket and a free throw by Olivia Kaufmann, Western then had a 50-49 lead with 8:02 to go.

With each team trading blows, the Leathernecks scraped and clawed to maintain their one-point lead with 4:43 remaining.

The trio of Higginbotham, Braun and Clemens helped Western turn the corner and make it a two-possession game. Higginbotham's bucket made it a four-point game, and then Braun drew a crucial charge to help Western regain possession. That was followed by a basket by Clemens to make it a 61-55 lead with 1:48 left.

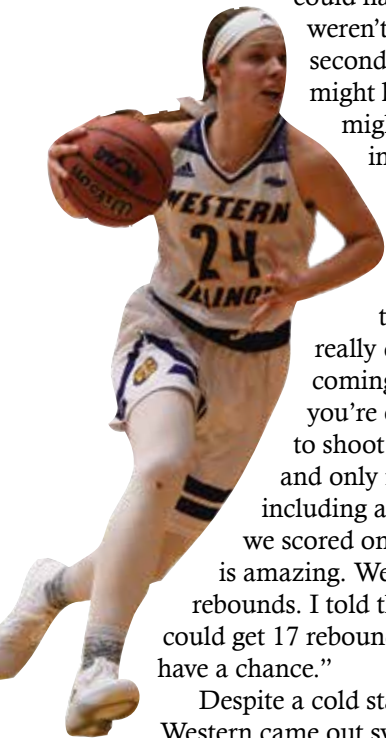
After the Cardinal hit a three with 1:31 to go and cut the Western lead to three, the Leathernecks went on to make eight of their final nine from the charity stripe to eventually seal the win.

Clemens led the way with 26 points, five steals and four assists, followed by Higginbotham's double-double of 17 points and 10 rebounds. Olivia Braun added 12 points and four blocks, while Morgan Blumer also chipped in 12. ●



Program Notes:

- The win is WIU's first-ever over an AP-Top 25 ranked opponent.
- WIU was 0-21 all-time going into the game against ranked opponents.
- Emily Clemens passed Jolene Hanig (1988-91) for the most career assists in program history.
- The win put Head Coach JD Gravina at 2-0 against Power-5 opponents this season.
- The win was also the first meeting between both programs. WIU now leads 1-0 in the series history.
- First-ever win over a Pac-12 opponent.
- This was the first time in program history the Leathernecks defeated two Power-5 teams in one season (won 77-67 at Illinois, Nov. 21, 2017).
- The 10-2 start is the second-best in program history, as the Leathernecks started 15-2 in 2005-06.
- Stanford was 152-10 at home in the last 11 years. Western Illinois' win now marks its 11th loss in the last 11 years inside Maples Pavilion.
- Western was also the first team to defeat the Cardinal at home this season.



Embark on an adventure with the wiu alumni association

Timeless Beauties

May 2-10, 2018
Embark on your luxury cruise in cosmopolitan Barcelona, Spain's gem of art and architecture.

Amalfi Coast

June 5-13, 2018
Journey to the Amalfi Coast, a serene paradise of majestic mountains, pastel houses and the cerulean Mediterranean Sea.

Romantic Rhine & Moselle

June 13-27, 2018
From Zürich to Amsterdam and everywhere in between, romance is alive and well on the Rhine River and its idyllic tributary, the Moselle.

Switzerland

June 20-28, 2018
Discover picture-perfect towns, alpine meadows and majestic mountains during fascinating excursions via cable cars, lifts and alpine railways.

Cruise the Rhine River

July 11-19, 2018
Discover the Rhine River's timeless beauty with the people you love most on a fun and fascinating cruise designed especially for families.

Majestic Frontiers of Alaska

Aug. 16-27, 2018
Stand in awe of massive glaciers and all-enveloping scenery as you cruise up the Alaskan coast.

Coastal Vignettes

Oct. 16-27, 2018
Explore ancient cities, alluring beaches, and culture straight from the Old World as you set sail across the Mediterranean Sea aboard the luxurious Nautica.

Cuba: Art, Culture & People

Oct. 28 - Nov. 5, 2018
Immerse yourself in this fascinating nation during presentations by local experts coupled with visits to historic sites, museums, schools and community projects.

Sparkling South Pacific

Jan. 21 - 31, 2019

Southern Grandeur

April 7 - 15, 2019

Sketches of Sicily

May 1 - 10, 2019

Greece

May 23 - 31, 2019

Journey Along the Elbe

May 19 - 30, 2019

Awe of Alaska

June 12 - 19, 2019

75th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy - Deauville

Aug. 30 - Sept. 7, 2019

Timeless Cuba

Oct. 23 - 30, 2019

Holiday Markets Cruise - The Festive Rhine River

Nov. 27 - Dec. 5, 2019

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

We offer 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.

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

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

APRIL

- 4 Western Wednesdays in Downtown Chicago
- 7 Cubs at Brewers Pre-game Social & Baseball Game
- 14 75th Anniversary of Greek Life at WIU Celebration in Macomb
- 17 Springfield Alumni & Friends Legislative Reception
- 18 Decatur Alumni & Friends Social at The Gin Mill
- 24 Macomb Purple & Gold Day
- 24 St. Louis Purple & Gold Day

MAY

- 2 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays
- 11-13 Graduation/Distinguished Alumni Awards Weekend

JUNE

- 6 Western Wednesdays in Chicago Suburb
- 11 "The Western Open" Chicago Golf Outing at Village Links of Glen Ellyn
- 18 Quad Cities Alumni & Friends Golf Outing at TPC Deere Run

JULY

- 21 Cardinals at Cubs Pre-game Social & Baseball Game Watch Party at Cubby Bear

AUGUST

- 1 Western Wednesdays in Downtown Chicago
- 8 Cubs at Royals Pre-game Social & Baseball Game

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays
- 8 WIU at U of I Pre-game Social & Football Game
- 20 Celebrating Town & Gown in Macomb
- 21 Paint the Paws in Macomb
- 28-29 Homecoming & 25-40-50-Year Reunion

To view all previous event photos, visit
[FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/WIUALUMNI.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wiualumni/)

For all upcoming events, visit: [WIU.EDU/ALUMNI/EVENTS.](http://WIU.EDU/ALUMNI/EVENTS)



Class Notes

Donna DeFoe Harris '61, Lockport, is retired.

David Ramacitti '64, Rock Island, teaches part-time at a community college and is semi-retired from a career as a journalist and in marketing consulting. He published his first novel called "*Ro's Handle*" under the pen name Dave Lager.

Jerome Narrow '68, Aliquippa, PA, is retired from Mon Safety Appliances.

Rodney Denisar '69, Sarasota, FL, is retired.

Mark Felix MBA '71, Williams Bay, WI, is retired after over 35 years in the software industry.

Michael Petrie '71, Crystal Lake, is retired from USAF/ILANG.

Michael Shoff '71, Gilbert, AZ, is retired.

John Biermann '72, Fishers, IN, is an HR Assistant at Newpoint Services in Indianapolis.

Norman Brooks '72, Myrtle Beach, SC, is retired.

Scott Lewis '72, Batavia, retired from Trinity Loyola University Medical Center after 43 years as a procurement specialist.

Jeffrey Chudnow '73, Oviedo, FL, is retired after a 43-year law enforcement career.

Suzanne Bairstow Hicks '73, Bonita Springs, FL, is retired.

Fred Hoffman '73, Chicago, is retired from Chicago Public Schools.

John Luther '73, Glen Ellyn, is retired from the Navy and Naval Reserves with 21+ years of service as a commander and from industrial food sales after 35 years.

Mary Cousineau Thonn '73, Keeneyville, is retired after 43 years as an elementary teacher in Queen Bee District 16 in Glendale Hts.

Peggy "Margaret" Ruby Kubczak '74, Mt. Vernon, IA, is a retired librarian from Cedar Rapids Public Library.

David Little '74, Oregon, is retired.

Stan McGahey '74, MS '82, Prizen, Kosovo, is a professor of international tourism for Saint Leo University and was awarded the title of Honorary Professor at Urgench State University during a 40-day Fulbright Specialist project.

James Paterik '74, S. Holland, is a closing agent for First American Title Insurance Co.

Stan Campbell MS '75, Lincoln, NE, is the director of recreation and vice chancellor of student affairs at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was recently named the NIRSA Foundation Leadership Award recipient.

Kathleen Roth Frasco '75, Wichita, KS, retired after 19 years with Oakwood Homes, LLC in Denver, CO.

Bernadette Augustine Godwin '75, MA '76, Mountain Home, AR, is a speech pathologist at Ascent Children's Health Services.

Elizabeth Beckmann Kelly '75, Madison, WI, is retired.

David Johns '76 MS-ED '79, Orange City, FL, is a psychotherapist in Debary.

Marilyn Nowak Swearingin '76, MA '77, Edwardsville, is retired.

John Fisk '77, Rockford, is an attorney for Fisk & Monteleone Ltd.

Lawrence Lord '77, Omaha, NE, received his master of arts degree in history from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Jeff Sweeten '77, Canon City, CO, is retired.

Paul Bussone '78, Chetek, WI, is retired from Peoria Public Schools.

Chris Cinnamon '78, Kewanee, is retired after a 37-year career as a band director.

Peter Piraino '78, Maume, OH, is retired from federal law enforcement (Secret Service) and is teaching at Tiffin University.

Jacquelin Crescio '79, Carol Stream, is retired.

Michael Johnson '79, Mukwonago, WI, is retired from the FBI with 23 years of service.

Luke Kelly '79, White House, TN, is retired after a 32-year career as a sales director in the insurance industry.

Brian Kloss '79, El Cajon, CA, is VP of Fili D'oro Inc. in San Diego.

Cynthia Goering Lefley '79, Bolingbrook, is the president of CML Enterprises Inc.

Jodie Paustian '79, Alexandria, VA, is retired from the U.S. Department of Treasury after 36 years of service as the director, office of procurement policy.

Thomas Albrecht '80, Candia, NH, is a principal field engineer for Raytheon.

Jon Hanover '80, Green Valley, AZ, is a sales representative for Mobile Mini.

Stephen Wagner, Jr., '80, Land O'Lakes, FL, is retired.

Leta Wilson Covington '81, S. Haven, MI, is a special education supervisor for Benton Harbor Area Schools.

John Dignan '81, Orland Park, is a national sales manager for DLT Corp. in Warrenville.

Ron Muersch '81, Worth, is the owner of Krapil's Steakhouse & Patio.

Yusuf Adamu '82, Abuja, Nigeria, is an engineer and project manager for KETSWA.

David Becker '82, Geneva, is the director of national accounts for Doug Andrus Distributing LLC.

Cecilia Murphy Egdorf '82, Bigfork, MT, is a self-employed horticulturist.

Michael Colsch MA '83, Plainfield, is the CFO for the IL State Toll Highway Authority.

Julie Colwell '83, Lincolnwood, retired from teaching at Evanston Township High School after 33 years and was inducted into the IL Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame as an official.

Greg Gaura '83, Millbrook, retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons after 31 ½ years.

Efren Heredia '83, Waukegan, is the material manager at Lake County Health Department.

Laurie Wells Adkisson '84, Maricopa, AZ, is the merchandise manager at Dollar Tree.

Dennis Eveland '84, Laredo, TX, is the associate director of bands at Los Obispos Middle School and had his 50th musical composition published.

Eileen Doerr Johnson '84, Monticello, is an administrative assistant at Presence Covenant Medical Center in Urbana.

Charles Lampin '84, St. Peters, MO, is a lawyer at The Lampin Law Firm.

Thomas Schaeffer '84, Waxahachie, TX, retired from the Dallas Police Department after 31 years as a police officer.

Gerald Newton MA '85, Fayetteville, NC, is the development services director for the city of Fayetteville.

Michael Neal '86, Sanford, NC, is the director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Fayetteville Tech Community College.

Bob Walters '86, Danville, CA, is the VP HR consulting for marketing, sales, service administration and information technology at Kaiser Permanente.

Tim Lawson '88, Colorado Springs, CO, is a brigadier general/deputy commanding general operations for the US Army Space & Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command at the Peterson Air Force Base.

Patrick Linton '88, Maize, KS, is the director of operation of Eagle Communication in Hutchinson and also is the morning on-air host of KHUT-FM.

William Umbenhowe '88, Spring Hill, FL, is retired from the McHenry County Sheriff's Department after 28 years of service.

Anthony Brown '89, Rantoul, is the chief of police for the village of Rantoul.

Bill Horrell '89 MA '95, Geneseo, is the director of development for The Salvation Army.

Steve Howard '89, Grayslake, is a financial advisor for First Capital Financial Concepts.

Drew Louis '89, Chula Vista, CA, is the CEO of Del Toro Loan Servicing.

Toya Spearmon Harvey '90, Homewood, was appointed by the IL Supreme Court to the bench.

Rosalind Jones Dale '91, Browns Summit, NC, is the associate dean and extension administrator at NC Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro.

Michael Oine '91, Marengo, is the captain of the Elgin Fire Department.

Gary Johnson '92, Key Largo, FL, is the director of Monroe County Department of Veterans Affairs.

Pam Skittino '92, Grayslake, is head of support services at the Deerfield Public Library.

Phil Black '93, Tremont, is a cloud and data center implementation team lead for Caterpillar, Inc. in Peoria.

Paul Brown '93, Ponte Vedra, FL, is an assistant special agent in charge for the FBI in Phoenix, AZ.

Margaret Bradley Lawler '93, Peoria, is the diversity faculty recruiter and compliance officer (Title VII and Title IX) for IL Central College.

Patrick Zimmerman '93, MA '06, Lake in the Hills, is the deputy chief at Vernon Hills Police Department and also serves as commander of the Lake County Major Crime Task Force.

Drew Dukett '94, Roodhouse, is retired from the US Army.

Cindy Leu Kanak '94, Waunakee, WI, is an international controller for Electronic Theatre Controls in Middleton.

Lisa Melz-Jennings '94, Macomb, is an academic success coach and academic advisor at WIU.

Angela Hageman '95, Dayton, OH, is a clinical nurse leader for Dayton VA medical center.

Dan O'Neal '95, Knoxville, IA, is the Third Party IS Risk for Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Aleeshea Stokes Sanders '95, Brooklyn, NY, is a solo practitioner entertainment attorney at Aleeshea Sanders, Esq. in New York.

Robert Shouse '95, Marshall, MN, is a personal lines account manager for HUB International.

Tina Smith '95, Mt. Washington, KY, is a middle school science teacher in Louisville.

Tracy Achenbach Altman '96, Chatham, teaches English at Glenwood High School and graduated with a master's in curriculum and instruction from Western Governor's University.

Lisa Seibert Jump '96, Moline, is a security guard for Allied Universal.

Steven Braun '97, Bellevue, NE, is the functional manager of the Nuclear Planning and Execution System (NPES) for the Department of Defense.

Michael Orwig MA '97, Sierra Madre, CA, is the principal acquisition analyst for Tecolote Research, Inc. in El Segundo.

Mark Seagle '97, St. Louis, MO, is a lieutenant for the Clayton Police Department

Nathan Smith '97, Tinley Park, is a clinical administrative coordinator for United Health Group.

Dale West MS '97, Chicago, is the chief executive for Neurocritical Care Society.

Frederick Jutton MS '98, Warrenville, is a scientist III at Cabot Microelectronics Corp. in Aurora.

Brian Keller '98, Chicago, is an attorney at Kennedy & Associate, P.C.

Lonny Lemon MS-ED '98 ED SP '04 EDD '12, Mundelein, is the Superintendent of Schools for Oak Grove # 68 in Green Oaks.

John Reyes '98, Bridgeton, MO, the boy's soccer coach at De Smet Jesuit High School.

Korbie Killebrew LeGalloudec '99, Livermore, CA, is a shot director of the national ignition facility for Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

Stephen Struck '99, Sun Prairie, WI, is a talent acquisition manager for American Family Insurance in Madison.

Amy Anderson '00, Rushville, is a customer service representative for DOT Foods, Inc. in Mt. Sterling.

Stacey Jolley Cushwa '00, Danville, is a financial advisor at Raymond James and Associate.

Jason Hall '00, Lombard, is a senior computer analyst at Arthur J. Gallagher in Rolling Meadows.

Joseph Leonas MA '00, S. Elgin, is the chief of police for the village of Lincolnshire.

Schnarda Robinson '00, Stone Mountain, GA, is a senior budget analyst for the federal government, earned a doctorate of business administration degree with a concentration in leadership from Walden University.

Kim Sessions Scarbrough MS '00, Xenia, is a speech language pathologist for the Flora CUSD # 35.

Wenny Amandy M.A.CCT '01, NSW, Australia, is the founder/director of Artezain.

Tammy Hayes MA '01, Springfield, is a TOEFL grader for ETS and also a writer, under the name of T.L. Hayes.

Colleen McFarlane McClinton '01 MS '06, Grove City, OH, is the plant manager at WinCup, Inc. in Stone Mountain, GA.

Adam Brumbaugh '02, MS-ED '07, ED SP '15, Mt. Carroll, is the superintendent for the Geneseo School District.

Patrick DeForest '02, Alexandria, VA, is an executive officer for the US Army, Rapid Equipping Force in Fort Belvoir.

Jamie Cambron Hernandez '02, La Grange Park, works in investigations at Macy's.

Lilly Szpak-Clark '02, Orland Park, is an HR consultant at Heart Care Center of IL.

Julianne James Wagner '02, Sunrise, FL, is a teacher at Broward County Public Schools.

Maigan Campbell '03, Baltimore, MD, is a health/sports science teacher at Montgomery Co. Public Schools.

Randi Robinson Cardoza '03, Swansea, is an office administrator at St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Christopher Celaya '03, El Paso, TX, is the fire chief for Bernalillo County Fire Department.

Thomas Dura, Jr. '03, Petersburg, is a financial advisor at Edward Jones Investments.

Amber Knott Hardy '03 MS '05, Winfield, is the lead speech language pathologist for Communication Clubhouse.

Colleen Kerouac '03, Springfield, is a corrections court liaison officer for the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office.

Lisa Lyons '03, is a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Young Women Professionals Award.

William McQuatters '03, Burleson, TX, has retired after over 35 years of service to the city of Arlington, as the assistant chief of operations.

Natasha Rochelle Purnell '03, Bentonville, AR, is an audit manager for WalMart Stores, Inc.

Crystal Porter Woods '03, Berwyn, is an HR supervising associate for Capgemini America Inc.

Justin Jimison '04, Redmond, WA, is an operations manager for Amazon.

Jennifer Gordon Nelson '04, Signal Hill, CA, is a product support operations rep. for Caterpillar, Inc.

Matt O'Kray '04 MS '06, Geneva, is the national account manager for Canadian Pacific Railway in Franklin Park.

Christine Boll Kolar '05, Itasca, is the area director of business development for Simon Woodfield at Simon Property Group.

Nick Stasi '05, Durango, CO, is a sergeant police officer for the Durango Police Department and was presented lifesaving awards from Heart Safe La Plata for using an AED on two occasions and also received an award for using Narcan.

Lisa Westendorf '05, Denver, CO, is the associate director of communications for financial aid at the University of Denver.

Michael Ferguson '06, Round Lake, is the VP of managed risk for Visa in San Francisco, CA.

Michelle Gross Kampa '06, Milwaukee, WI, is director of academic advising at Cardinal Stritch University.

Brynn Shea Lo Bosco '06, Hoffman Est., is a collections specialist for TravelClick.

Leanne Fajardo Rich '06, Naples, FL, is a claims specialist for the Social Security Administration.

Brian Sinclair '06, Lakewood, CO, is a spa director at MassageLuXe in Denver.

Cindi Celske MS '07, Cape Coral, FL, earned an Ed.D. in higher education and organizational change from Benedictine University in Lisle, IL, and is the director of faculty services at Ohio Christian University in Circleville, OH.

Nicholas Gilmore '07, Morton, is a commissioning technician for Johnson Control Fire.

Jacquelin Jennings Herron '07, Gilbert, AZ, is a regional sales manager for Marriott International.

Rebecca Franck Lake '07, W. Des Moines, IA, is the owner and doctor of chiropractic at Shine Chiropractic in Windsor Hts.

Ian Sehr '07, Round Lake, is the VP of engineering at Baxter's in Deerfield.

Aaron Collie '08, Fairview Hts., is the FRASER digital library manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

John Deasey '08 '12, Roscoe, is a purchasing manager for ERDMAN in Madison, WI.

Hafiz Elbeshir MA '08, Euleless, TX, is a finance manager for Al-Salam Education and Training Co. in AlKhobar, Saudi Arabia.

Christina Struck Harper '08, Springfield, is an executive assistant for the Association of IL Electric Cooperatives.

Brian Keller '08, Chicago, is an attorney for Kennedy & Associates, P.C.

Liz Bales Nolte '08, Moline, is the director of annual giving at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, IA.

Samantha Valentine '08 MS-ED '15, Jacksonville, is the head softball coach at Mac Murray College.

John Hinterlong '09, Montgomery, is an intermodal equipment operator for BNSF.

Katina Isaacks '09, Woodson, is a junior high English teacher for Franklin CUSD # 1 Junior High/High School in Franklin.

Kevin Moon '09, Topeka, KS, is a professional geologist for the state of Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Scott Robidoux '09, Tucson, AZ, is a senior airport planner for the Tucson Airport Authority.

Cole Stark '09, Danville, is a drug court probation officer for Vermilion County Probation.

Gina Wadas '09, Baltimore, MD, is a media relations specialist for John Hopkins Institute for NanoBio Technology.

Emily Woodall Ethridge '10, Peoria, is a project manager for Accenture.

Cara DeMarlie Taylor '10, Davenport, IA, is a digital fulfillment project manager for Amplified Local.

Ashley Hoch Terry '10, Marlborough, MA, is a special education teacher for Ayer-Shirley Regional School District

Robert Wilson '10, Sioux City, IA, is the assistant fire chief for the Sioux City Fire Rescue.

Alicia English MS '11, Abilene, TX, is the assistant athletic director – external operations at Abilene Christian University.

Alicia Sorrell Gillam '11, Canton, is an elementary art teacher for the Canton Union School District

Andrew Gillam '11, Canton, is a math teacher at Ingersoll Middle School.

Laney Morgan Maust '11, Le Claire, IA, is a service representative for Modern Woodmen of America.

Sarah Mylcraine '11, Harker Hts., TX, is the coordinator for community enrichment programs at Central Texas College in Killeen.

Christopher Rose MA '11, Robinson, TX, is an English lecturer at Baylor University.

Robert Shelby, Jr. MA '11, Owensville, IN, is an assistant professor of sociology at University of Evansville and completed his Ph.D. in applied sociology from the University of Louisville.

Dawn Baldwin PB-CER '12 PB-CER '13, Brookfield, is a mental health therapist at Metropolitan Family Services in Palos Hills.

Diesel Baldwin '12 MA '15, Brookfield, is a forensic clinical laboratory supervisor for the U.S. Drug Testing Laboratory in Des Plaines.

Erin Fuller '12, Springfield, is a teacher at Memorial Child Care.

Lauren Garner '12, Quincy, is a board certified psychometrist at Quincy Medical Group.

Elise Pinkowski '12, Phoenix, AZ, is a success coach at Arizona State University Online.

Kacey Swainey Seabold '12 M.A.CCT '14, Kahoka, MO, is a corporate accountant for Titan International, Inc. in Quincy.

Samantha Thiesse '12, Countryside, is a social caseworker for Cook County Social Service Department.

Angela Castello '13, Elgin, is an advisor of specialty account management for CVS Health, Specialty Pharmacy in Northbrook.

Emily Beaulieu '14, Lansing, earned a master's degree in school social work from Governors State University and is a school social worker at Southern Will County Cooperative for Special Education.

Aaron Fannon MA'14, PB-CER '14, Sumter, SC, is a major in the U.S. Army.

Tyler Fowler '14, Chicago, is a standup comedian and producer for Team Us Comedy.

Megan Pazdernick '14, Glenview, is an inventory management supervisor for Anixter, Inc.

Caili Dochterman Rodeffer '14, Burlington, IA, is an emergency 911 dispatcher at DesCom Communication for Des Moines County.

Jing Wang '14 MS '16, Orange Park, FL, is a rehabilitation therapist at Northeast Florida State Hospital.

Adam Zemburski '14, John's Island, SC, is a firefighter/EMT for the St. John's Fire District

Sam Boender MS '15, Golden, CO, is an assistant director for athletic communications for Colorado School of Mines.

Katy Valentin Gorsuch '15, PB-CER '16, MS-ED '17, Macomb, is an admissions counselor at WIU and graduated with her master's in educational studies.

Alex Johnson '15, Roscoe, is the director of student involvement and orientation at Rockford University.

Cody Schara MS '15, Madison, WI, is an admissions advisor/academic advisor at Lakeland University.

Megan Severson '15, Moline, is the manager of grants and corporate relations at Augustana College.

Chase Di Bella '16, Dixon, is a financial advisor for Mutual of Omaha Advisors in Oak Brook.

Sarah Hayes '16, Carol Stream, is a teacher for District 33.

Julie Katzenberger ED SP '16, Freeport, is the superintendent for West Carroll School District

Lexie Woodward '16, Page, AZ, is the economic development coordinator for the city of Page.

Meghan Mahoney Ziecina '16, Muncie, IN, is a music therapist at Hillcroft.

Eryka Berglund MS-ED '17, Moline, is an outpatient therapist at The Robert Young Center.

Emma Goldman '17, Ft. Dodge, IA, is a chemist at Cargill.

Michael Unthank MA '17, PB-CER '17, Streamwood, is the deputy chief of police for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Police in N. Chicago.

Keith Zupec '17, Waukegan, is deputy chief for the Waukegan Police Department.

Marriages & Civil Unions

Melissa Bishop '12 and TJ Willock, May 13, 2017.

Jacqueline Boehs '13 and **John Steinacher '14**, Oct. 7, 2017.

Thomas Boyles '06 and Amy Sipovic, June 24, 2017.

Jessica Cortes '14 and **Joshua Jefferson '10**, Sept. 30, 2017.

Greg DeCori '90 and Melissa Call, May 7, 2017.

Jamie Dixon '02 and Jason Shanahan, Oct. 7, 2017.

Kiersten Dorethy '14 and **Mark Zaehringer '15**, Sept. 16, 2017.

Katie Gansel '11 and **Rickie Multon '14**, Feb. 25, 2017.

Anastasia Gruenwald '12 and Jay Bouchonville, Sept. 30, 2017.

Paul Heiar '08 and Jennifer Miller, Oct. 7, 2017.

Patrick Keeven '08 and Katie Holland, Oct. 29, 2016.

Sarah Knapp '11 and **Jason Dean '11**, June 2, 2017.

Spencer Leffelman '11 and **Gina Mugavero '11**, Oct. 7, 2017.

Laney Morgan '11 and Casey Maust, Sept. 9, 2017.

Rebecca Rickman '15 and James Forgy, July 22, 2017.

Leah Rodriguez '14 and Ryan Scott, July 21, 2017.

Ian Sehr '07 and Maryanna Callas, Dec. 2, 2017.

Megan Thurston MS '08 and Nick Becker, Oct. 29, 2017.

Emily Woodall '10 and Kevin Ethridge, May 20, 2017.

Births

Chelsea Crabtree Blake '06 and **John Blake '06**, a son, Colt John, Sept. 6, 2017.

Matthew Bross '08 and Colleen, a son, Aiden James, Nov. 3, 2017.

Lacey Caldwell '13 and Alex Beck, a son, Jake, July 25, 2017.

Jamie Skjoldager Coan '04 and **Jacob Coan '03**, a son, Landon Jacob, Aug. 29, 2017.

Patrick Crosby '04 and Tara, a daughter, Reese Karen Marie, Aug. 16, 2017.

Amanda Rubio Dime '05 and **Timothy Dime '04**, a son, Max Orion, July 24, 2017.

Adam Fisk '08 and Elizabeth, a son, Cash Adam, Oct. 4, 2016.

Alicia Sorrill Gillam '11 and **Andrew Gillam '11**, a son, Augustus Andrew, Nov. 7, 2017.

Marc Kessler '11 and Mallory, a son, Vincent Ezekiel, Nov. 27, 2017.

Alisha Barnett Looney MA '13 and **Rob Looney '04**, a daughter, Mara Elizabeth, Dec. 23, 2017.

Lynnee Rendel-Miller '01 and Scott, a son, Nathan Carl, May 21, 2017.

Caili Dochterman Rodeffer '14 and **Jordan Rodeffer '15**, a son, Charlie, Dec. 2016.

Christopher Rose MA '11 and Tiffany, a son, Jude St. Francis, Mar. 24, 2017.

Deanna Schnauffer '04 and Kyle, a daughter, Shelby Rose, Nov. 7, 2017.



Dan Szajna '00 and Rebecca, a daughter, Mikaela Rose, Aug. 26, 2017.

Cara DeMarlie Taylor '10 and Tad Taylor '10, a son, Tucker Weston, Sept. 21, 2017.

Ashley Hoch Terry '10 and Jeff, a son, Finley, Sept. 1, 2017.

Letisha Paul Trepac '11 MBA '16 and Kristofer Trepac '02, twin sons, Miles Kristofer and Murphy Paul, Aug. 31, 2017.

Deaths

Richard B. Abel, Bloomingdale, Aug. 27, 2017.

Anne G. Allen, Macomb, Sept. 28, 2017.

Elsie H. Archer, Industry, Oct. 7, 2017.

Karen P. Ault, Roseville, Nov. 2, 2017.

Francis Raymond E. Barlis, Prairie City, Aug. 13, 2017.

Lavern Brewster, Blandinsville, Dec. 21, 2017.

Bertha L. Sternberg Briggs, Lake Mary, FL, June 23, 2017.

Dwight C. Burnham, Pittsford, NY, Nov. 15, 2016.

Robert G. Collier, Macomb, Dec. 18, 2017.

Mitchell J. Corey, Macomb, Sept. 10, 2017.

Clyde L. Cronkrite, Rochester, MN, Oct. 28, 2017.

Bryce M. Dexter, Macomb, Sept. 20, 2017.

William C. Downin, Table Grove, Dec. 24, 2017.

Thomas P. Drinka, Macomb, Oct. 4, 2017.

Duane W. Florschuetz, Georgetown, TX, Nov. 15, 2016.

Bruce T. Foster, Macomb, Nov. 10, 2017.

Timothea L. Gentry-Harris, Macomb, Sept. 24, 2017.

Doris D. "Dee" Hawthorne, Hot Springs, AR, Feb. 13, 2017.

Marvalene M. Hendrickson, Iowa City, IA, Sept. 1, 2017.

George W. Hermann, Macomb, Jan. 14, 2018.

Loren H. Houtman, Manistee, MI, Apr. 11, 2017.

Ronald L. Hubbard, Plano, Nov. 3, 2017.

Julia A. Young Hynek, N. Little Rock, AR, Dec. 26, 2016.

Lawrence R. Irish, Reno, NV, July 21, 2017.

Marilyn K. Johnson, Macomb, Oct. 7, 2017.

Eileen A. Krong, Jacksonville, Oct. 16, 2017.

Gerald A. Leisten, Hinsdale, Dec. 29, 2017.

James F. Lenz, Hannibal, MO, Dec. 16, 2016.

LaVon M. Lundquist Line, Seaton, Nov. 6, 2017.

F. Warren Litchfield, Macomb, Sept. 27, 2017.

Virginia F. Mock, Macomb, Jan. 11, 2018.

Carrie M. "Maxine" Leinberger Musch, Jacksonville, Aug. 2, 2017.

Ray A. Nissen, Foxfire Vlg, NC, Aug. 16, 2016.

Carl J. Peter, Lexington, KY, Sept. 14, 2017.

Lincoln W. Phillips, Knoxville, Nov. 14, 2017.

Michael T. Pledge, Macomb, Sept. 29, 2017.

Jeanine C. Pollmeier, Macomb, Aug. 8, 2017.

Robert W. "Walker" Robb, Bloomington, Oct. 20, 2017.

Joel Smith, Socorro, NM, Aug. 17, 2017.

David E. Soule, Freedom, CA, Nov. 9, 2017.

Jacquelyn G. Foxall Stephens, Leesburg, FL, Oct. 21, 2017.

Mary A. Stewart, Good Hope, Oct. 1, 2017.

Joan E. Suycott, Verona, WI, Dec. 19, 2017.

Forrest D. Suycott, Jr., Verona, WI, Sept. 13, 2017.

Carolyn G. Barkley Van Order, Macomb, Apr. 6, 2017.

Phyllis M. Walters, Macomb, Dec. 30, 2017.

John E. Warnock, Macomb, Oct. 9, 2017.

Jack L. Weaver, Plymouth, Oct. 21, 2017.

Peggy J. "Jeanne" Weaver, Morrison, Sept. 7, 2017.

Lotus Martin Hilton Webb, Macomb, Dec. 7, 2017.

1938 John R. "Bob" Blaisdell, Tulsa, OK, Oct. 13, 2017.

1941 Madelyn L. Pendarvis Kennicutt, Peoria, Sept. 20, 2016.

1941 Clara J. Wayland Lamb, Carolina Beach, CA, Oct. 21, 2016.

1942 Betty J. Wetzel Logan, Griggsville, Sept. 14, 2017.

1943 Betty F. Wheeler Sousa, Huntington Beach, CA, Jan. 18, 2014.

1944 Barbara H. Beer Gayler, Maryville, MO, Sept. 3, 2017.

1944 Florence L. Robinson Simmon, Rock Island, July 27, 2017.

1944 Glenn E. Turnbull, Lacon, Feb. 5, 2017.

1945 Margaret J. Banks, Monticello, WI, July 23, 2017.

1946 Ronald L. Cook MS '47, Industry, Sept. 14, 2017.

1946 Doris M. Maring Hunter, Venice, FL, June 17, 2017.

1946 Betty H. Huston Mansfield, Macomb, Aug. 26, 2017.

1946 Dorothy M. Sheets, Carthage, Nov. 22, 2017.

1948 Marjorie E. Hull Gibb, Littleton, CO, Sept. 9, 2017.

1949 Richard L. Garner, Germantown Hills, Aug. 11, 2017.

1949 Freda L. Baker McGee, Mt. Pulaski, Sept. 2, 2017.

1950 Robert N. "Red" Miller MS-ED '55, Denver, CO, Sept. 26, 2017.

1951 Anges M. Vollmer Hussey, Houston, TX, Aug. 13, 2017.

1951 Lois E. Liehr, Perry, Sept. 3, 2017.

1951 Harry E. "Bud" Manes, Columbus, OH, Dec. 31, 2016.

1953 David J. Dunn, Mesa, AZ, Oct. 5, 2017.

1953 Velma A. Haring Krueder, Savanna, Jan. 16, 2018.

1953 Carolyn P. "Pat" Fulton Long, Springfield, July 6, 2017.

1953 George P. Warren, Jr. MS-ED '57, Livingston, TX, Jan. 18, 2014.

1954 Spiro F. Lekas, Monterey, CA, Sept. 9, 2014.

1955 Harold R. "Roland" Deterding MSE '61, Bloomington, July 27, 2017.

1955 Ronald D. Dowell, Colfax, Nov. 6, 2017.

1955 Keota E. Lefler Jacobs, Mesa, AZ, Nov. 30, 2016.

1956 Naomi R. Armstrong Hardy MS-ED '60, Shoreline, WA, Oct. 17, 2017.

1956 Richard F. Ortiz, Ketchikan, AK, Dec. 26, 2017.

1957 Darrel E. Bogner, Cedar Rapids, IA, Nov. 4, 2016.

1957 Thomas E. Hillebrenner, Pittsfield, Nov. 3, 2017.

1958 Nancy J. Eales Neathery, Springfield, MO, Aug. 8, 2017.



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1958 Robert G. Seals, Las Vegas, NV, June 22, 2017.

1958 Sarah A. "Sally" Crawford Stickle, Lake Placid, FL, Oct. 26, 2017.

1959 Cline L. Brillhart, Springfield, Nov. 19, 2017.

1959 Marilyn L. Parchert Eglund, Bettendorf, IA, May 9, 2017.

1959 William H. Lizdas MSE '61, Longwood, FL, Mar. 17, 2017.

1959 Patricia E. Rigg Ward MS-ED '80, Macomb, Nov. 10, 2017.

1959 Benny L. Webster, Angola, IN, Sept. 22, 2017.

1960 Louis L. Anders, Bloomsburg, PA, Aug. 26, 2017.

1960 Lynne E. Bloomberg Anderson, Cedar Park, TX, May 1, 2016.

1960 Fred D. Ball, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 23, 2017.

1960 Norman E. Dixon, Taylorville, Aug. 9, 2017.

1960 Alice P. "Billie" Grant Hansberger, Cape Girardeau, MO, Oct. 18, 2017.

1960 Dale G. Lukens, Kissimmee, FL, Dec. 17, 2016.

1960 Stephen W. Majzel, Glen Carbon, Aug. 10, 2016.

1960 Thomas J. Romer, Sr., Mt. Pulaski, Oct. 28, 2017.

1961 Shirley I. Rigg Dew, Leawood, KS, Dec. 12, 2017.

1962 James E. Bryant, Brentwood, CA, Apr. 10, 2016.

1962 Sally B. Campbell Kern, Galesburg, Apr. 7, 2017.

1962 Mary Y. Lane Lander MS-ED '73, Washington, Mar. 8, 2017.

1962 Mary M. Cary McKamy MS-ED '80, Macomb, Oct. 11, 2017.

1962 Marilyn M. Hartwick Seabloom, Orion, Feb. 10, 2017.

1963 Mary E. Bartlow Busby MSE '68, Rushville, Apr. 21, 2014.

1963 Warren E. Messmore, Galesburg, Dec. 16, 2017.

1963 Nancy J. Runkle Moore, Champaign, Jan. 3, 2018.

1964 David L. Bishop MS '71, Canton, Oct. 11, 2017.

1964 Darrel E. Johnson MS-ED '72, Macomb, Nov. 10, 2017.

1964 Stanley W. White, Temple, TX, Aug. 2, 2017.

1965 John C. DaValt MS, Beaver Dam, WI, Nov. 15, 2017.

1965 Thomas D. Jones, Sugar Hill, GA, Nov. 10, 2017.

1965 Karen K. Wagner MS-ED '82, Auburn, July 5, 2017.

1966 David W. Conner, Burlington, IA, Sept. 20, 2017.

1966 George L. Flinner MS-ED '74, Abingdon, Jan. 12, 2018.

1966 Louis F. Klusmeyer, New Braunfels, TX, June 23, 2017.

1966 Sharon L. Seaver Lasswell MA '94, Carthage, Oct. 20, 2017.

1966 Nancy L. Martin Lietz, Lisle, Aug. 28, 2017.

1966 Ronald W. Mason, Bushnell, Dec. 28, 2017.

1967 Ilene L. Dyke Hardy, Westlake, OH, Oct. 11, 2017.

1967 Barbara S. Staley Meyer, Kirkwood, Dec. 2, 2016.

1968 Linden K. Baker, Tennessee, Nov. 1, 2017.

1968 Craig H. Brown, Belvidere, Dec. 10, 2016.

1968 George S. Miller, Freeport, Feb. 7, 2017.

1968 Max W. Runkle MS '69, Havana, Aug. 31, 2017.

1969 Glenn F. Boswell, San Antonio, TX, July 20, 2017.

1969 Barbara M. Crawford MA, Burlington, IA, Feb. 9, 2017.

1969 Anita D. Naus Duffy, Brookfield, Oct. 29, 2017.

1969 Joanne M. Springman, Woodstock, July 26, 2015.

1969 Erma L. Holdsworth Peterson Sterling, Galesburg, May 5, 2017.

1969 Paula K. Williams, Centralia, June 10, 2017.

1970 Stephanie A. Sirotnak Braucht MS-ED '80, Joy, Oct. 3, 2017.

1970 Ronald E. Dunn, St. Petersburg, FL, Dec. 1, 2016.

1970 Harry J. "Chip" Franck III, Hopkinton, IA, Feb. 22, 2015.

1970 John L. Heidenreich, Elgin, July 29, 2017.

1970 Nolan D. Koch, Buna, TX, July 18, 2017.

1970 Joel F. Murdy, Clearwater, FL, Feb. 26, 2017.

1970 Cheryl L. Smith Pyle MS-ED '98, Springfield, Oct. 29, 2017.

1970 Robert W. Wennerholm, Iowa City, IA, Mar. 11, 2017.

1971 Daniel E. Arendell, Bloomington, Aug. 26, 2017.

1971 Carol Kirschner Berkenkotter MA, New Brighton, MN, Oct. 3, 2016.

1971 Michael E. Gillespie, Greensboro, NC, Oct. 9, 2016.

1971 John M. McCance, Cuba, Oct. 20, 2017.

1971 Judith A. Moon Murphy MS-ED '76, Crossville, TN, Nov. 2, 2017.

1971 Vera J. Sorensen MA, Bartlett, Aug. 31, 2017.

1971 Glendon R. Trigg, Slinger, WI, Oct. 29, 2017.

1971 Franklin F. Walker, Freeport, July 27, 2017.

1972 Michael R. Blonder, Hammondsport, NY, Jan. 31, 2017.

1972 Cynthia J. Halpin Fairchild, Roselle, Mar. 15, 2016.

1972 Walter J. "Butch" Kaszubski, Makanda, June 6, 2017.

1972 Janice E. Gordon Pozzie MS-ED '77, Toluca, Aug. 29, 2017.

1973 Randall J. Hillmann, Dublin, OH, Dec. 6, 2016.

1973 Thomas M. Starcevich, Chicago, Nov. 6, 2016.

1973 Thomas E. Vosburgh, Naperville, Nov. 12, 2017.

1974 Jane A. Powell Berfield, Peoria, Oct. 16, 2017.

1974 Randall D. Gee, Irvine, CA, Aug. 4, 2016.

1974 Philip C. Schafer, Ft. Myers, FL, Dec. 23, 2017.

1974 James P. Stewart, Joliet, Nov. 9, 2017.

1974 James M. Strieby MBA, North Port, FL, June 23, 2017.

1975 Dehryl A. "Tony" Dennis ED SP, Boise, ID, Jan. 8, 2017.

1975 William A. Kaufmann, Jr., Aurora, Nov. 1, 2013.

1975 Therese S. Berg Schuh, Frankfort, Nov. 21, 2017.

1976 Gary W. Busse, Mt. Prospect, Aug. 17, 2017.

1976 Gary A. Christianson MA, Turlock, CA, Feb. 15, 2016.

1976 Beverly J. "Joy" Magnuson Grose, Sparland, Nov. 22, 2016.

1976 Thomas W. Scott, Wharton, NJ, May 28, 2016.

1976 Kathleen A. Stinehart MS-ED, Staunton, VA, Aug. 23, 2017.

1977 Camilla H. Kozan, Macomb, Nov. 22, 2017.

1977 Robert H. Lucas, Fitchburg, WI, July 10, 2014.

1977 Josephine V. Price MS-ED, Coralville, IA, Feb. 25, 2017.

1978 Tracy C. Hovey-Greer ED SP, Coal Valley, Nov. 23, 2015.

1978 Jeffrey D. Lambrecht, Silvis, Dec. 4, 2017.

1978 Nancy E. Gulley Smith M. ACCT, Macomb, Aug. 26, 2017.

1978 Richard W. Yeast, St. Peters, MO, Nov. 9, 2017.

1979 Raymond E. Burman MS-ED, Crossville, TN, Oct. 24, 2017.

1979 Mary S. Pierzynski MS-ED, Cleveland, OH, May 30, 2017.

1980 Howard H. Dye, Canton, Nov. 12, 2017.

1980 Carol A. Coulter Johnson, E. Moline, Nov. 26, 2017.

1980 Kenneth J. Kaupas, Shorewood, Sept. 30, 2017.

1981 Pamela D. Adams, Rock Island, Jan. 11, 2018.

1981 Richard D. Oltman, Plano, TX, Oct. 22, 2017.

1982 Billy B. Butler ED SP, W. Paducah, KY, May 29, 2017.

1982 Catherine J. Attebery Edmiston MS-ED, Abingdon, Aug. 6, 2017.

1982 Debra L. Bartlett Green MS-ED, Charleston, Mar. 24, 2017.

1983 Gwendolyn E. Lavin Greenbank MS-ED, Quincy, Dec. 29, 2016.

1983 Thomas R. Noga MS-ED, Erie, Apr. 11, 2017.

1984 Thomas P. DeMauro, Bensenville, July 1, 2017.

1984 Kenneth Frost, Martinsville, IN, May 4, 2016.

1984 David W. Jessen MS-ED '92, Rock Island, Nov. 15, 2017.

1984 Charles E. Osmon, Terre Haute, IN, Aug. 15, 2017.

1984 Laura E. Taylor, St. Robert, MO, Aug. 30, 2017.

1984 Keith E. Yard, Morris, Mar. 28, 2017.

1985 Karl S. Fairbanks, Sr., The Villages, FL, Feb. 16, 2017.

1985 James C. Gribben, Wood Dale, Oct. 16, 2017.

1987 Aaron M. Braaten, Bettendorf, IA, Nov. 9, 2017.

1987 Brian D. Heuer, Lombard, Mar. 28, 2017.

1987 Allyne B. Boey Prater MS-ED, Joplin, MO, Nov. 1, 2017.

1987 John P. Schmidt, Springfield, Dec. 19, 2017.

1988 Barbara M. Campbell Aldape MS-ED '95, Davenport, IA, Feb. 2, 2017.

1988 Estela M. Martinez Pledge MS-ED '90, Macomb, Nov. 29, 2017.

1988 Valeria A. Mobley Root, Ft. Madison, IA, Nov. 27, 2017.

1989 Catherine P. Anthony MA, Moline, Feb. 17, 2017.

1989 Joyce E. Kreps Gabbert, Camden, Apr. 28, 2017.

1989 Angela K. Garlick Green, Macomb, Nov. 19, 2017.

1990 Kenneth L. Ross, Rockwell City, IA, Sept. 30, 2017.

1990 Bernice J. Jackson Sistare, Pendleton, SC, June 23, 2017.

1990 John J. Weeks, Loves Park, Oct. 18, 2017.

1991 Julie M. Owings Burdette ED-BSE '05, Donnellson, IA, Dec. 21, 2016.

1991 Susan L. Dudolski MS '97, Denver, IA, Apr. 3, 2017.

1992 Archibald M. Cullen, Geneseo, Aug. 21, 2017.

1992 Mary R. Kelley, Freeport, Nov. 4, 2017.

1993 Dawn M. Bagger Corrinne, Geneseo, Feb. 10, 2017.

1993 David W. Howard, Grand Mound, IA, Dec. 14, 2016.

1993 Doris Little Setser, Macomb, Nov. 28, 2017.

1994 Ronelle D. Ferguson-Allen MS '96, Dixon, Dec. 5, 2017.

1994 Marie A. Kaeding, Park Ridge, Aug. 15, 2016.

1994 Roger K. Kallenbach, Mission, TX, Apr. 5, 2017.

1994 Dawn M. Huddleston Kanies, Jacksonville, July 6, 2015.

1995 Monica J. Langdon Blank, Edwardsville, Apr. 4, 2014.

1995 Patsy A. Noble Granger, Brandon, FL, Mar. 19, 2017.

1996 Jeffrey B. Naumann, Springfield, June 8, 2017.

1998 Terry L. Batley, Williamson, GA, July 17, 2017.

1998 Chad A. Stear, Mapleton, Oct. 7, 2017.

1999 James E. Fournier, Seattle, WA, Sept. 19, 2017.

2000 Teresa C. Howe Caldwell, Flossmoor, Feb. 20, 2015.

2003 Jennifer A. McAllister, Arlington Hts., Nov. 14, 2017.

2004 Nicolas A. Timmerman, Rockford, Jan. 21, 2018.

2005 Andrew P. Clements, Crystal Lake, Aug. 27, 2017.

2005 Carolyn L. Puccini, Wellton, AZ, Oct. 30, 2016.

2006 Benjamin M. Corben, Alexis, July 29, 2016.

2007 Edward J. Price PB-CER '09 MS '10, Kewanee, Oct. 15, 2016.

2007 Jeron E. Thomson, Macomb, Oct. 13, 2017.


2011 David E. Mahay, Chicago, Nov. 26, 2017.

2012 Mark S. Anderson, Cleveland, OH, July 16, 2017.

2016 Garrett Sprenger, Camp Point, Sept. 4, 2017.

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