

WESTERN

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | SUMMER 2018



Ray, Western's newest mascot, and Rocky, who retired in Summer 2018 after eight years as WIU's mascot

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Letter from the President



Dear WIU Alumni and Friends,

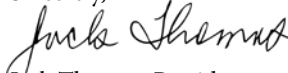
Our faculty, staff, students and alumni make this University a world-class institution, and we continue to achieve outstanding accolades. This issue is dedicated to just a few of the stories featuring the incredible successes and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Wonderful things continue to take place at Western Illinois University. As you will read within these pages, Western's graduates boasted the state's highest CPA exam pass rate of any Illinois public university in 2017, and our School of Nursing students have a 100 percent National Nursing Licensure Exam Pass Rate. Our broadcasting students continue to win regional, state and national awards, and our theatre students capture prestigious acting competition honors.

For 13 consecutive years, Western has been recognized as a "Best Midwestern University" by U.S. News and World Report, and for 14 consecutive years, WIU was named a "Best Midwestern College" by The Princeton Review. We have also been named as a "Best Bang for the Buck" Midwestern school and as one of the top master's degree granting institutions in the nation by Washington Monthly. Western has earned the distinction as a "Best for Vets College" by Military Times EDGE magazine and ranks in the top 20 percent of all colleges and universities in the nation serving veterans and service members.

The list of the many accomplishments and achievements coming from Western is lengthy, and I could not be more proud. To our faculty, staff, students and alumni, I commend you for working hard to achieve your dreams and bringing great recognition to Western Illinois University. Your accomplishments are many and are noteworthy, and we are honored to share your successes.

Sincerely,


Jack Thomas, President


Greetings from Western Illinois University!

During my 35 years at Western, I have had the privilege of being a part of an institution that provides opportunities and experiences for students, faculty and staff to achieve greatness. However, in my many years at Western, I have not encountered so much good news generated by our students and faculty in such a short amount of time. During the final weeks of the Spring 2018 semester, our students presented some incredible achievements. It is with great pride and honor that we share a few of these noteworthy events in our Western alumni magazine. I think you will also be excited and proud of these recent accomplishments.

As proud alumni of Western Illinois University, I ask that you share this news with your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. If you are an educator or school administrator, please share with your students and colleagues. If you own a business, please display this with pride in a prominent place so your customers can see all the great things happening at Western.

Let it be known far and wide that in spite of an incredibly challenging environment for higher education, your alma mater—Western Illinois University—continues to provide outstanding opportunities for students to achieve their goals and dreams.

Thank you and best wishes. Go Leathernecks!


Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

Vice President, Advancement and Public Services



WESTERN

SUMMER 2018

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Have tips, questions or comments for the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine? Email AA-Looney@wiu.edu. To send us your news, see pg. 45.



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Ag Students Place High in Commodity Trading Competition

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

A group of Western Illinois University agriculture students have turned classroom lessons into an 18th place finish in a national commodity trading competition.

The team of four WIU students is made up of Caleb Dowell, a senior agriculture major from Stronghurst, IL; Keely Egelhoff '18, a senior agriculture major from Medora, IL; Nathaniel Kerr '18, a senior agriculture major from Warsaw, IL; and Corey Norton '18, a senior agriculture major from Mason City, IL. The students survived the first round of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Group Trading Challenge to qualify for the final round.

Only 53 of the 600 participating teams advanced to the final round, with WIU placing 38th in the preliminary round. Each round lasted roughly two weeks.

WIU Associate Professor of Agriculture Jason Franken, who served as club advisor, said the students were given a fictitious \$100,000 to invest in commodities during the first round, which they finished with a balance of \$132,625. During the second round, the students turned an initial balance of \$250,000 into a balance of \$259,000. Commodities traded included oils, metals and agricultural products.

In the initial round, Franken said, students took a risk on an oil investment just before the release of an industry report. The results of the report made the investment increase to help the students advance to the next round.

"It really made a difference in terms of money," said Franken. "They guessed right in terms of what was

going to happen. This is wonderful practice for the real world trading. This way students are also learning there is a wider array of commodities trading than just agriculture."

Franken teaches an advanced agriculture economics class, which includes discussions of product marketing and commodity trading lessons. While he did not require students to become a part of the CME team as part of the class, he said three of his students volunteered. Egelhoff joined the team after completing one of Franken's classes and competing in the CME Challenge during a previous semester.

"The class teaches the same CQG trading software used in the CME challenge," Franken said. "This competition really gives students a healthy respect for how quickly markets can change."

The entire competition is online with students accessing the CQG software on their computers and on apps on their cell phones. Franken said sometimes the students traded as a team, and sometimes team members placed trades on their own.

Franken said he has helped teams of WIU students enroll in the CME Challenge since 2014, but this is the highest a team has placed in the final round. He added that he believes the competition is an added educational benefit for WIU students.

"They have shown they can be successful in the futures market," he said. "It's not just getting a good grade on a test—I was pleased with how they reacted after they made it to the final round and they got more into it."

Norton said students weren't sure what to expect in terms of the challenge as they initially began.



"There were some mistakes made when we first started, but we prevailed as a team to advance to the final round," he said. "This has been a learning experience for all of us. I did this challenge so I could see how volatile the markets could be on a daily basis and learn more about how the markets worked."

Kerr said he set up a "short position in soybeans so every cent the price went down, our team would earn \$1,000." He said he wanted to participate to gain the experience.

"I was more interested in trading with risk-free, synthetic money and saw the competition as a great way to practice making trades from a speculative stance instead of hedging," he said. "It was good practice, and coming out near the top of the pack was a satisfying feeling, as well."

The challenge included 240 higher education institutions in 35 countries. Trading was completed between Feb. 20-March 1 in the initial round and March 5-16 in the final round.

After the competition, the team was invited to the CME Group in Chicago in April for an educational opportunity and chance to interact with industry leaders. Kerr took part in that event.

For more information about the challenge, visit bit.ly/2FWDLcd. ●

Calculating Success

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

The Master of Accountancy program in Western Illinois University's College of Business and Technology (CBT) is preparing students to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. Western graduates boasted the state's highest exam pass rate of any Illinois public university in 2017.

The statistics, compiled by the Illinois Board of Examiners, show WIU students passed the CPA exam at a rate of 70.67 percent. The pass rate is the highest among WIU students since 2012. The average 2017 pass rate among students from Illinois colleges and universities was 49.73 percent.

CBT Interim Dean John Elfrink said the CPA exam is one of the most rigorous professional tests, requiring a "solid educational background for success."

"In addition, it also tests skills needed in the accounting profession, such as communications, problem solving and computer and research abilities," said Elfrink. "On an individual level, hard work and perseverance is key to scoring well. With those factors in mind, we are very proud of our graduates. They deserve the credit for the superior pass rates our accounting program has experienced over a long period of time."

Elfrink said the department's curriculum adheres to guidelines recommended to the University by the CPA profession and members of the department's advisory board.

In an effort to further increase the number of students who take and pass the CPA exam at the end of the WIU Master of Accountancy program, the Department of Accounting and Finance has implemented the CPA Project. The application process for the first cohort of program scholars is now open and classes will begin for the Fall 2018 semester. The cohort will prepare for the CPA exam over their entire program and sit for all parts of the

CPA exam during the final semester of their master's degree coursework.

Western's Department of Accounting and Finance initiated and secured the Illinois Board of Examiners' support to expand the provisional testing window in Illinois to 150 days. Subsequently, the Board of Examiners secured the state's approval in November 2017.

The CPA Project will be boosted by a grant from the Diversity Pipeline Project of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, which pays for up to three CPA Project Scholars, selected based on merit. Students from historically black colleges and universities, universities historically serving Hispanic students and universities historically serving Native American students are encouraged to apply for the WIU program.

"Our role is simply to act as facilitators and provide guidance to our students," said Elfrink. "The Master of Accountancy program—with an emphasis in public accounting—and preparation for the Certified Public Accountants exam support our mission. While we do not utilize the pass rate as the sole criteria of success in our program, we do celebrate our students' success with the CPA exam. We are most grateful that our alumni compliment the accounting program through their contributions to the accounting profession."

WIU alumnus Joe Ellison '13 had been a senior associate with RSM (formerly known as McGladrey) in Chicago for just over one year when he decided to "get serious" about pursuing certification in January 2017. Shortly after passing the CPA exams, Ellison left RSM for a manager position with LICCAR Certified Public Accountants in Chicago, where he focuses on

Alternative Investment Partnership Tax Compliance.

Ellison credits his career successes and ability to sit for the CPA exam to WIU's curriculum and hands-on focus provided by faculty.

"Retired CPA exam questions were implemented into coursework as early as the first Intermediate Financial Accounting course, which was my sophomore year at WIU," said Ellison. "I distinctly remember being intimidated by those questions at first solely because of the letters 'C-P-A' appearing in the book next to the retired exam questions and thinking I wasn't prepared for that level yet. Learning how to break down and comprehend what complex exam questions are asking and what steps to take to apply the appropriate concepts and theories learned were things taught very early."

While Ellison was a WIU sophomore, he said the CPA exams feel like a lifetime away.

"Looking back now, it feels like just yesterday that the professors were going above and beyond to show us how obtainable anything is when you put the appropriate time and effort in," he said. "I can remember Gregg Woodruff emphasizing in his tax course how it's not just about flying through each testlet before your allotted time runs out; it's about using every second of your allotted time to understand every question and answer to the best of your abilities. That's something that stuck with me through every practice exam I took during my Becker CPA review coursework."

For more information about WIU's Master of Accountancy program, or to apply, visit bit.ly/2FLTplM. To see the CPA exam pass rates of all Illinois colleges and universities, visit bit.ly/2HVzkv8. ●

WIU Professor Returns Home

At the same time Professor Fetene Gebrewold is teaching his Western Illinois University students about the impact of poverty on health conditions around the world, he is putting his lessons into practice to improve the health and learning conditions for a crumbling elementary school nearly 8,000 miles from Macomb.

Gebrewold has undertaken an extensive fundraising project, with the help of the Bushnell (IL) Rotary Club, to benefit an impoverished grade school in Ethiopia, his native country. The Harewa/Lele Elementary School has nearly 1,500 students, but it lacks basic necessities such as electricity, running water, desks and educational supplies.

“I am originally from that region, so I consider myself a product of two worlds—developing and developed,” he said. “These students have no transportation and some walk two miles to school each way. There are also sanitation issues and problems with water contamination. There are waterborne diseases, so mortality and morbidity before age 5 is common.”

The realization of the school’s many issues first came when Gebrewold traveled to his home country on sabbatical several years ago to spend a semester teaching at Haramaya University in Harar. More recently, his work with the Ethiopian university has resulted in an agreement with WIU to allow the study exchange of students and faculty and encourage research collaborations in academic areas, such as health sciences and nursing.

His work in Ethiopia has also been aided by a Rotary International grant to help conduct public health seminars and presentations on key health issues affecting emerging nations at Haramaya University and in community health clinics. The grant program seeks ambassadors to teach health education in developing countries, and Gebrewold applied after a flyer hanging up on the WIU campus caught his eye.

“I submitted my application and was asked for an interview in Quincy,” he said “A week later, I learned I had received the grant and I was being sponsored by the Bushnell Rotary Club.”

As Gebrewold traveled throughout Ethiopia to teach the seminars and check on interns working throughout the country, he came upon the school and was offered a tour. The conditions he encountered, which included classrooms that flood during heavy rains, startled him. Many of the people living in the region serviced by the school are subsistent farmers. The area is remote, and the school serves many villages.

“There is no electricity, or services such as clinics or hospitals,” said Gebrewold. “People do a lot of walking to find water, or they use cattle or donkeys for transportation. Most of the students attending the school come from peasant backgrounds, lacking adequate nutrition, personal hygiene and immunizations.”

The water source closest to the school is about two miles away and is contaminated.

After seeing the regional conditions firsthand, Gebrewold said he was driven to do something. When he returned to Illinois, he made a presentation to the Bushnell Rotary Club about his time in Ethiopia and the conditions he encountered. Bushnell Rotary Club President Judge Patricia Walton said the photographs Gebrewold shared impacted the club’s membership.

“Our club members cannot even fathom sending one’s children to school in a place without a safe structure, no desks and no educational supplies,” she said. “If we can raise enough money to provide desks and educational materials, then the children can concentrate on learning and bettering themselves—and as a result, bettering their families.”

The service mission of Rotary International includes supporting education and alleviating poverty around the world. With that in mind, the fundraising campaign was started about six months ago with a \$300,000 goal. The campaign was kicked off with a \$5,000 donation by WIU alumni Brian ’86 and Kathleen ’86 (De Caire) Aden of Mudelein (IL).

Gebrewold said the initial campaign is to raise funds for basic classroom necessities, such as desks and chalkboards. The plan to drill a well and bring running water to the site has hit several snags, including the region’s terrain and the distance the water would have to run to reach the school, but it is still part of the long-range plan.

A network has also been created between the elementary school and Haramaya University in an effort to handle the logistics of translating the donated funds into action at the school, including seeking bids for the classroom additions.

The objectives of the plan also include:

- increase the working condition of the school community by reducing the average time spent to haul water;
- build three classrooms;
- improve health conditions by providing clean water and
- decrease the burden on women and children (who are called upon to haul the water) and decrease mortality and morbidity from waterborne-related diseases.

Gebrewold last visited the region in July 2017 and said school officials are grateful for his fundraising efforts. He hopes the project can have a positive impact on the school and its students.

For more information about the project, or to make a donation, visit gofundme.com/harewa-school-waterclassroom-build. ●

Beautiful Music

As the Western Illinois University School of Music strives to graduate the world's finest musicians, an ongoing fundraiser is seeking to provide them with the world's finest Steinway & Sons pianos as they study.

In 2017, the School of Music began a fundraising campaign to make WIU an All-Steinway School. The designation is a symbol of excellence that shows exclusive use of the Steinway brand at the University.

School of Music Director Tammie Walker said the hope is to eventually have a total of 40 Steinway pianos at Western. About 200 institutions have achieved the All-Steinway School distinction, but Western would be the first public university in Illinois to reach the benchmark. Achieving the distinction would also identify WIU as a regional, cultural hub and help with school accreditation requirements.

"This designation is not only a statement about the level of excellence in the School of Music, but a statement about the importance of the arts in west central Illinois," said Walker.

The first Steinway was donated in 2014 by Herb and Nancy Strong, of Macomb, to be placed in the planned Center for Performing Arts at WIU. Because of the company's reputation for excellence, the couple purchased its stock many years ago. Herb '72 received the Alumni Achievement Award in 2009, and he and Nancy have been involved with the Performing Arts Society (PAS) for many years. Herb served as PAS president in 2007 and 2008.

"In 1997, Nancy and I started buying stock in this small American company, which had this long history of making the world's finest piano," said Herb. "The company had just been made available to the public after a much larger company made the decision to no longer keep it in its portfolio of assets. Its family tradition of making superior musical instruments, and the fact that it had a limited number of shareholders, made an intriguing investment."


Herb said it was the prestigious instruments the company produced that made the investment more interesting than the return on the investment.

"Approximately five years ago, a majority of the shareholders decided to sell the company," he said. "Rather than take the proceeds from the sale, we transferred our shares to the WIU Foundation, with the proceeds to be held in trust for the future benefit of Western students. What we didn't realize at the time was how much pleasure we had received from owning a small piece of this great company."

Herb added that the decision to use the money to buy a Steinway Concert Grand for the WIU School of Music was easy and was made more special by sharing the process with the couple's three daughters. A plaque will be placed on the piano that reads: "May the sound of its music penetrate the hearts of the audience" – Herbert and Nancy Strong and daughters Maghan, Brekin and Brittany.

The Strong family traveled to the Steinway & Sons factory in Queens, NY, in November 2017 with Walker; Associate Professor of Piano Jeff Brown; College of Fine Arts and Communication Director of Development Julie Baker '05 and Certified Piano Consultant at West Music Quad Cities (Moline, IL) Patrick Downing '09 to choose the piano. The group toured the facility, where Model D Steinways are produced by hand. There were five of the pianos in a selection room, and the team spent about four hours selecting the piano that was the best fit for Western.

The team's choice was unveiled during a Celebration Concert April 8 in the COFAC Recital Hall. The chosen Steinway & Sons piano will eventually be placed on the stage of the Center for Performing Arts. The Center for Performing Arts will include a 1,400-seat proscenium theatre auditorium with two balconies, a 250-seat thrust stage and a 150-seat studio theatre. Until the center is constructed, the new piano will be placed on the



Herb and Nancy Strong

stage of the COFAC Recital Hall so students and faculty can begin using it.

During the Celebration Concert, School of Music faculty performed piano pieces that showcased the capabilities of the piano.

Since the fundraising campaign for the All-Steinway School distinction began last year, enough donations have come in to allow the School of Music to purchase six new pianos. Walker said this is an "incredible achievement," especially in light of the state's historic budget crisis.

"Our students (current and former) need something to believe in," she said. "Our faculty need reassurance of our excellence. Our community needs a reminder that anything is possible when we work together. Becoming an All-Steinway School will be a statement of excellence for Western Illinois University for generations."

The project is donor funded, with a goal of about \$770,000.

COFAC Dean Billy Clow said becoming an All Steinway School will allow WIU to provide the best instruments in the world for students.

"It is a reflection of the commitment to excellence and the quality of the program, students and faculty at WIU, and its another reason the School of Music is such a special part of Western Illinois University being 'The Arts Destination' in the state."

For more information about the Steinway Schools distinction, visit steinway.com/community/institutions/all-steinway-schools. For more information about WIU's School of Music, visit wiu.edu/music. ●

What I Know Now

Carin Stutz '78: Restaurant Executive, Mentor for Women Leaders, Red Robin COO

Time flies ...

I never thought about that when I was at WIU or when I thought a tough class would never end. Now, I'm astonished when I look at the calendar and often say, 'How can it be June already? The year just started.' Guess that means I truly am having fun! Make every day count!

Take the high road ...

In my 20s, I learned an early lesson with a group of colleagues gossiping about our boss. It was a game of one-upmanship; who could top the last story. A new colleague joined the group, listened for a few minutes and simply said, 'I wonder how we would handle it if we were in their shoes? It must be challenging to have that responsibility and please everyone.' I felt ashamed and small. Now, with every conversation, I think about how can I add value, take the high road and bring the conversation to a better place.

Math matters ...

After spending an entire career in the hospitality business (or any business), I have learned operating skills and being able to execute the plan are critical to being successful. However, if you want a seat in the C-suite, you must learn financial skills. You need to know how your company makes money, invests capital and delivers a return on those investments, to name a few. I often see women shy away from this, but once they commit, they learn easily. Jump in! This opened doors for me.

Speaking of math and money, debt is your enemy ...

As I am writing this, I am sporting a pair of \$9 Costco jeans. Perhaps because I grew up with loving parents but not much money, I continue to be unapologetically frugal today. I spend money on experiences, concerts and grandbabies (okay...and wine), have saved every bonus check I have received and never paid interest on a credit card. I have no regrets not buying things that wouldn't matter in six months that I'd still be paying off. Invest in you and your bank account first. You don't have to impress anyone with material things.

Be an advocate for yourself ...

I was passed over for a job seven times. The seventh time, as I arrived at the office, my boss met me at the door and said, 'I have some good news.' Of course, I was thinking, this is it! I'm going to get that promotion. I was leading the company in every possible metric. Instead he said, 'there is someone here I want you to meet. I'm asking you to train him and when he's done, he will be your new boss.' Of course, I should have said something kind and welcoming, but the frustration got to me and I said, 'Are you kidding me; when is it going to be my turn?' He said to me: 'Are you kidding me? There is not

a person here who thinks you want to be promoted.' Wow, that was a turning point for me. Keeping your head down, getting great results and thinking surely someone will notice is not how the game is played. You MUST be an advocate for yourself and speak up about your career goals.

You get more from a mentoring relationship than you give ...

Yes, we get to share wisdom and life experiences, but I leave each



session more confident in the next generation with good insights on keeping our business relevant for years to come. And I feel about 10 years younger and much more hip than I really am.

Don't take life and those you love for granted ...

My mother reminds me daily of the regret she has for taking my dad for granted before we lost him to cancer. I am not good at this either. Work can consume me. My husband, Rodger '78, is a role model at this. He gives you his complete attention in every conversation. He doesn't pick up his phone and is 100 percent present. Be like Rodger.

You've got to have friends ...

My first year at WIU was on Bennett 4, followed by Thompson 6 and then the Tri-Sigma sorority. Little did I know then that those nine women, nicknamed the Bennett

Buddies, would still be dear friends today. We live across the USA, but find time to meet every summer. This group of friends is my lifeline. We celebrate successes, children and grandchildren, and we can talk politics, religion or current events with many points of view, but we value and respect our different opinions. We can be vulnerable, and we lift each other up. The crazy number of text messages make me laugh every day. I mention this because I have watched my mother-in-law thrive after losing my father-in-law way too young. This is due to her amazing network of friends. Don't be too busy to cement important friendships. Cheers to lifetime friends.

Be kind ... especially to those who serve ...

After 40 years in the restaurant business, I've seen it all. Working in hospitality, I am grateful for our service providers, teachers, first

responders, military and health care workers who often see us when we are not at our best. It's too easy today to be negative and find fault, when the reality is the people who serve you are hardworking and incredibly generous people, who truly care. Start and end with kindness. We have total control.

Practice optimism

I am an optimist. From an early age, if we said anything negative about someone or something, my mother insisted we immediately follow that with two positive things. That is rather hard for a child, but it stuck with me. A side benefit was I learned to see the world from various points of view. I learned that I may not agree with you, but I can still value and respect you. Optimism allows me to wake up every day with hope, confidence and joy. Unfortunately, it hasn't made me want to exercise. ●



Top L to R: Debbie Torrence Stevens '77, Suzette Thompson Harper '77, Bette Beemsterboer Rogers '77, Cathy Stokes Buckley '77, Kim Schoemer Hinrichs, Linda Saxton Geskie '78, Diane Smith Sommers '77.
Front L to R: Carin Horne Stutz '78, Polly Miller Davis '78, Sharon Horne Dolan '78.

Giving Back to Western

Western Challenge Purple & Gold Day

By Alisha Looney MA '13

The results are in! Leatherneck pride was in full force April 24, as Western Illinois University hosted the annual Western Challenge on Purple & Gold Day. The 24-hour online giving event set a record, raising \$153,679 with 851 donors. The gifts surpassed last year's total by \$19,697.

Gifts rolled in for a variety of departments, programs, resources, scholarships and a special projects, from the wee hours of the morning to the evening's end.

"The Western Challenge is indicative of the type of support the University receives far and wide from alumni, students, friends,

faculty and staff. We cannot thank the 851 individuals enough for their incredible generosity and support," said Annual Fund Director Tim Hallinan '95.

This year's challenge also included the kick off to the fundraiser for the Alumni Plaza project, which will pay tribute to WIU's live mascot, Colonel Rock.

"I would like to thank everyone who donated or participated in Purple & Gold Day, as well as The Western Challenge. We raised over \$150,000 and had a terrific turnout for the Alumni Plaza project," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 '83.

"I want to also give a heartfelt thank you to Jim Miner for supporting our efforts with his gift of \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in honor and memory of his wife, Suzi ('72 MS '73)."

"This year's Western Challenge demonstrates to our current and future students that Western is a place with people who truly care about their success," Hallinan said. ●



Introducing Col. Rock IV (“Ray”)

There’s a new dog in town and he’s bone-a-fide.

Darcie Dyer-Shinberger ’89 MS ’98

Col. Rock IV—aka Ray, after Western Illinois University’s legendary longtime coach and athletic director Ray “Rock” Hanson—arrived in Macomb from the Siess Ranch in Kansas, where his “cousin,” Col. Rock III, was born eight years ago.

Rocky’s and Ray’s caretaker and owner, Joe Roselieb ’07 MS ’09, director of residential and auxiliary facilities and a WIU alumnus, road-tripped to Kansas to pick up Western’s newest live mascot.

Col. Rock III (Rocky), who turned 8 on March 3, recently “announced” his retirement. Roselieb, along with Ketra Russell ’09 MBA ’11 director of auxiliary finances/contracts and WIU alumna, will house and train (and chauffeur) Ray, while Rocky “supervises” the training and makes occasional guest appearances.

An official retirement celebration will be held for Rocky in Fall 2018, while a meet-and-greet “paw-ty” with Col. Rock IV will also be scheduled after the start of the new academic

year (though he will probably make some appearances before his official debut).

Much like how his older cousin came to Western, the generosity of the Siess family, the WIU Foundation and a few private donors brought the 16-week-old Ray to the University.

Col. Rock III became a member of the Leatherneck family in May 2010 as a 10-week-old pup. Roselieb was selected as Rocky’s person (and trainer and chauffeur), and for eight years, Roselieb has overseen every aspect of Rocky’s care, from providing him with a loving home to teaching the “old” dog new tricks to making sure he’s healthy to taking him to numerous WIU and community events each year.

“It is an honor to serve as the caretaker and trainer for Western’s live mascots. Rocky was our test run to reinstate the program, and I have loved every minute of it. It is humbling that we are entrusted with the care of these very special

dogs, who really are members of our family,” Roselieb said. “Ketra and I couldn’t be more proud to have this responsibility, and to ensure that the WIU live mascot program continues to be a success.”

Col. Rock III and Col. Rock IV are AKC-certified English bulldogs who were donated to Western by Richard and Beth Siess of the Siess Ranch in Seneca, KS. Dr. Karen Blakeley of Macomb’s All Pets Veterinary Clinic and the WIU School of Agriculture, along with other University and community organizations and individuals, make sure that Rocky’s and Ray’s needs are tended to.

“It takes a village to ensure this program’s success, and we have a terrific village at WIU and in our community, along with a fantastic, ethical breeder in the Siess Ranch,” Roselieb said. “We’re looking forward to introducing the newest member of the Leatherneck family to everyone in the very near future.” ●



BLAST FROM THE PAST

A History of the Early Years at Western

By Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94, WIU Archives

With 2018 being the Bicentennial of Illinois, it's an ideal time for us to look into our past. Our first local institution of higher learning was McDonough College, which opened its doors in 1837, just six years after Macomb was laid out. WIU doesn't have a history that reaches back to pioneer times, although it is 119 years old. Even so, it has a fascinating history, which deserves to be remembered and appreciated.

At the time Western was chartered, Illinois did not need another state-supported teacher-training institution. It already had several in Bloomington, Carbondale, Charleston and DeKalb. However, it didn't have one focused on the needs of the people of western Illinois. In

those days students attended schools in their hometowns or nearby. In "First Century," John Hallwas '67 MA '68 said, "The effort to establish one in that part of the state originated in Macomb, chiefly because local leaders felt their community would be chosen as the location."

On April 24, 1899, the state legislature passed the bill that provided for the establishment of a Western Illinois State Normal School. That bill, most likely written by Macomb lawyer J. C. Thompson, stated in part, "The object of the said Western Illinois State Normal School shall be to qualify teachers for the common schools of this state by imparting instruction in the art of teaching in all branches of study

which pertain to a common school education, and such other studies as the board of trustees may from time to time prescribe."

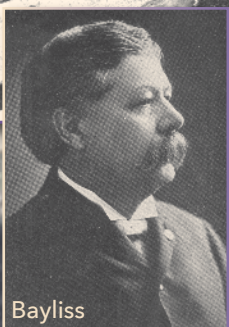
It was this statement that attracted the attention of the legislators and ensured they would react positively. In those days, teachers in the common schools, who taught grades one through eight, dealt with tremendous disadvantages. They performed their work in settings that were frequently overcrowded, in poor repair and ill equipped. They oftentimes found themselves staying up well into the night to prepare lessons and grade papers for students in all eight grades. And, in some cases, they were called



Board of Trustees



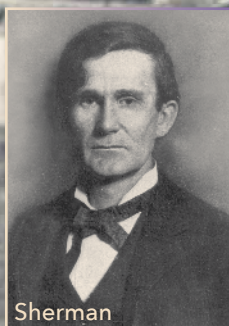
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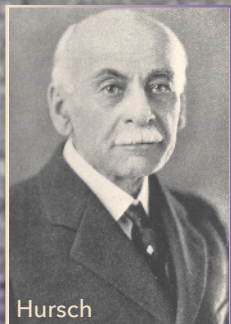
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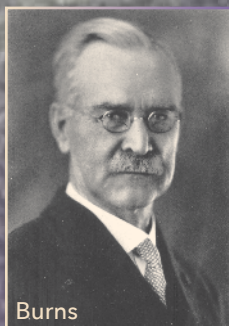
Henninger



Sherman



Hursch



Burns



Hamilton



Morgan

upon to cope with unruly students near their own age and larger in stature than they were.

The quality of public school teaching in Illinois at the turn of the century was deplorable. Commonly, students graduated from the eighth grade in the spring and took up teaching the following fall. At the turn of the past century, Alfred E. Bayliss was the state superintendent of public instruction. Well educated, highly experienced and in touch with top educators throughout the nation, he approved of the unique mission of the institution and made his opinion known.

The bill creating Western avoided naming a particular site for the school but instead stated that the board of trustees should arrange to receive proposals for the donation of a suitable location and other valuable considerations and should select a place that was as near the center of the Military Tract as possible, which was an area in western Illinois roughly from Rock Island County to Calhoun County and between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

Towns competing for the new normal school were Aledo, LaHarpe, Macomb, Monmouth, Oquawka, Quincy and Rushville. After examining the potential locations and the financial inducements offered by each town, the board voted—597 times. Each trustee was a regional resident and naturally was committed to the site nearest his home. Finally, Governor John Tanner countered the deadlock by appointing a board composed of members from outside the region. On August 14, 1900, after hearing a convincing argument by Illinois General Assembly leader and Speaker of the House L. Y. Sherman, the new board chose Macomb.

Macomb was nearly dead center in the Military Tract. Also, it had offered a site with 30 acres (soon to be enlarged to 60 acres), located a mile northeast of the square on a hilltop in the gently rolling countryside, previously the site of the Henry Chase brickyard. In addition to providing the site, valued at \$8,958, the city offered the state \$70,000 and agreed to clear the old brickyard grounds; lay pavement from Lafayette Street; create sidewalks to campus and provide sewer, water, gas and electricity to the site.

Town leaders realized the positive impact the school could have on Macomb and the surrounding area. According to “Macomb Journal” editor W. H. Hainline, when the telegraph message arrived from Springfield, saying, “Macomb won on the first ballot,” pandemonium broke loose, despite the late hour (10 p.m.): “The cannon was fired, bells were rung, whistles were blown, and everyone within miles knew that the normal school had been located in Macomb.”

The board of trustees immediately set about choosing a president for the new school. The state superintendent of public instruction, Alfred E. Bayliss, wanted the position and he had Sherman’s support, but on Oct. 18, at a meeting in Chicago, the trustees selected John W. Henninger, who was Bayliss’s assistant. Political leader Richard Yates, who would soon be governor, had favored Henninger, who was from his home town of Jacksonville, and he had swayed the board.

Construction on the normal school building, later called Sherman Hall, began during the first week of November 1900, and on Dec. 21, the cornerstone was laid. The day before, the “Macomb Journal” published a detailed description of the event, including the parade that would be held.

In late morning on Dec. 21, Governor Tanner arrived by train and met with local officials at the Chandler Hotel.

At 2 p.m., his carriage and those of other dignitaries followed marching militia groups from Galesburg, Quincy and Peoria, as well as a military band from Canton, in the long parade to the school site. Several thousand people turned out on the cloudy, chilly day to watch the cornerstone be put into place and to listen to speeches by Board of Trustees President Charles J. Searle and the governor. The following day, Hainline devoted the entire front page of the newspaper to the cornerstone ceremony and the school.

While the Western Illinois State Normal School building was being constructed, President Henninger supervised the purchase of materials and assembled a faculty. Henninger hired nine teachers for the normal school, a librarian and three critic teachers for the teacher training school.

Creating the campus was a gradual process. The day Western finally opened, Monday, Sept. 23, 1902, the exterior of the main building was completed and the layout of the interior was apparent, even though construction was still underway on all of the floors. As one early student recalled years later, "Through one long, weary session we sat beneath interminable pounding; our teachers were under necessity of shouting if they wished to be heard; our heads buzzed from continual confusion ..."

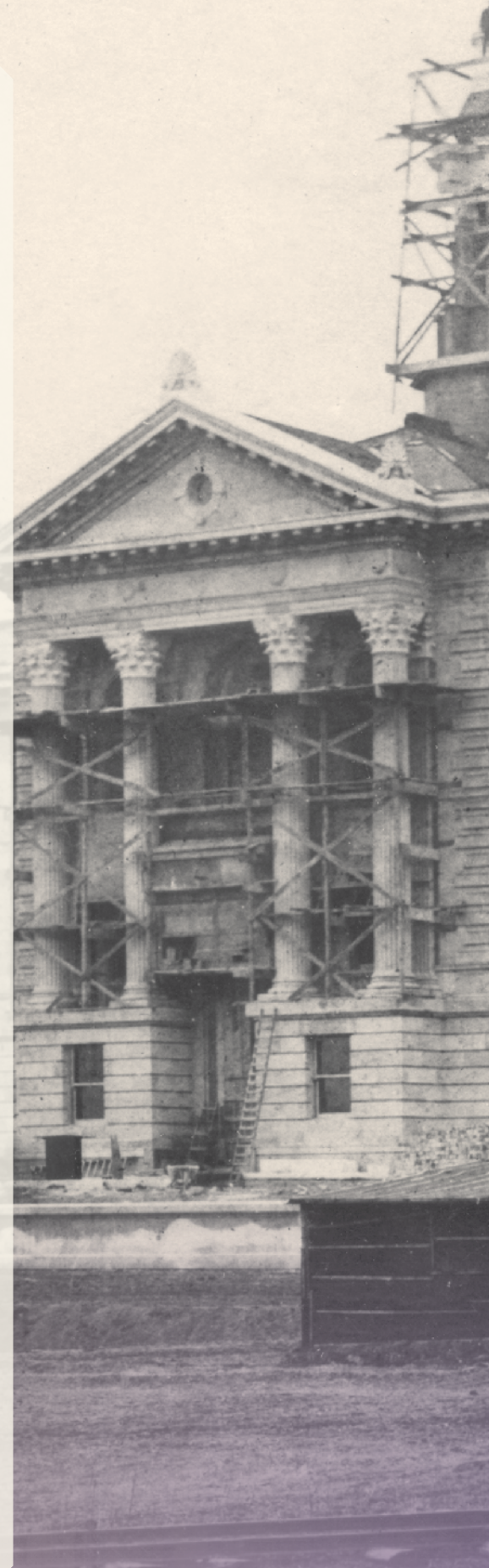
The terraced lawn in front of the building was made with earth from the excavation, but it had no shrubs or flowers, nor did any other part of the grounds. Rather, it was composed of rutted bare earth. There were no driveways, and the only sidewalk was made of planks. As "First Century" tells us, "The landscape was designed by Thomas Hawkes of Chicago, and while the building was under construction, shrubbery plans were developed by Chase Brothers and Company of Rochester, NY. Professor John Van Ness Standish of Galesburg, a multi-talented educator who was the former president of Lombard College and a noted horticulturist, selected

most of the trees. From 1903-05, he supervised the planting of 500 trees of various kinds, as well as many shrubs. In the spring of 1903, biology teacher Homer Roberts developed vegetable and flower gardens to provide his students with experience cultivating and making observations related to plants.

During Western's early years, there were many fine teachers and administrators associated with the school, who can be credited with setting the course. One of those was James C. Burns, who was assigned the job of recruiting and registering students, in addition to teaching his classes. He also brought the first minority students to Western in 1905—six Philippine students. At that time, a number of American colleges and universities were taking similar action in an effort to provide deserving young people from the war-torn Philippine Islands with much-needed higher education. All six of those who came to Western were good students. The most outstanding, however, was Camilo Osias, who distinguished the school as a result of his outstanding performance in oratorical competitions and who, back in his own country became a beloved and eventually famous leader in the fields of education and politics.

The first English teacher at Western was Samuel Hursh. Like several other early teachers, Hursh pursued his education as circumstances permitted. He was born on a farm in 1848 in Welsh Run, Pennsylvania. His father had died in 1853, and because Hursh's older brothers were out West or in the war, he took charge of the family farm at the age of 14. He came to Illinois with his mother in 1866 and worked in the blacksmith shop of his brother-in-law at Lanark for four years. In 1870, at the age of 21, he attended a rural school in order to complete his eighth grade education. He then taught in Shannon and Spring Valley for some years, while attending Illinois State Normal School.

With his degree, Hursh was soon hired to teach and serve as principal at





Brickyard



Sherman Hall Board Walk



Early Faculty



Chandler Hotel



Sherman Hall Construction



Cornerstone

Mt. Carroll. After five years there, he led schools at Woodstock, Mt. Sterling, and Streator. Then, in 1902, he was hired to create the English program and teach at Western Illinois State Normal School. “Daddy” Hursh was loved by Western students. He was also much focused on their inner growth, as the underlying purpose of their studies. During the 1905-06 academic year, he served as acting president.

Another member of the original faculty at Western was Cora Hamilton. Born in Connecticut in 1861, Cora did not attend school until she was 8 years old, chiefly because her family moved around so much. However, her father, a mechanical engineer, was committed to education, so she was taught to read at home and, as she later recalled, “she was raised in a background of worship for learning.”

During the late 1860s, her family moved to Galesburg, where Cora attended both grade school and high school. In 1878, she acquired a teaching certificate and soon taught in a country school near Chatsworth.

Before coming to Western in 1902, she taught teaching methods at Pontiac High School and also became a primary school supervisor, first in Joliet and then in Bloomington. At Western, she was the first principal of the training school, and as such, she developed the school’s course of study. After Western opened, she supervised and coached many would-be teachers over the years, becoming the most beloved member of the early faculty.

In July, 1905, John Henninger resigned and Alfred Bayliss was offered the presidency of the Western Illinois State Normal School. Bayliss achieved much, including raising the caliber of the faculty, initiating a summer term of study, and establishing a Model Country School, on West Adams Street, which brought Western national attention. Unfortunately, the promising administration of Alfred Bayliss came to a premature end when the educator was killed in a horseback riding accident at his farm in Iowa during the summer of 1911.

In September of that year, the Board of Trustees promoted John McGilvrey from supervisor of the training school to acting president. In March, 1912, he hired Walter P. Morgan to fill the post he had vacated. A few months later, on June 17, 1912, Morgan was selected as Western’s third president.

Morgan proved to be a talented administrator, bringing national attention to Western. From 1926-1928 he served as secretary-treasurer of the American Association of Teacher’s Colleges, which ranked its 145 member institutions, so he knew exactly what a good teacher’s college should be and how to represent it to examiners from the outside. It’s not surprising, then, that in 1928 Western ranked among the top 20 of those schools. In that same year Morgan was elected president of the organization—an honor that reflected enormous credit on Western. The next year he was elected president of the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, an influential accrediting organization. In 1930, President Hoover appointed him to an educational board of consultants within the Department of the Interior, which conducted a nationwide study of teacher training at the onset of the Depression.

In addition, Morgan directed the growth of Western from a two-year teacher training school with a limited focus and curriculum to a four-year teacher training college, offering for the first time the opportunity to major in specific areas of academic interest. In 1927 Western had 666 students enrolled in its college-level program and 210 in its training school.

Western had dealt with the challenges presented by World War I and emerged with the broadened focus that would enable it to prepare young people for life in an increasingly complex modern world. Of course, this paved the way for even greater changes, in the 1950s and 1960s, as Western became a multi-faceted university with thousands of students. ●

Center Stage

'Avenue Q' Brings a Unique Collaboration Between Fine Arts Course and Theatre Production

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

A unique, musical puppet show, performed on the stage of Western Illinois University's Hainline Theatre in April, offered students not only the chance to act on stage, but to handle nearly every aspect of the production and to work with one of the participants from the show's Broadway run.

"Avenue Q" is a two-act play that tells the story of a recent college graduate named "Princeton," who moves into a shabby New York apartment on Avenue Q. Together, he and his new friends struggle to find jobs, dates and their purpose in life. The national run of the show, which has been called an "adult version of 'Sesame Street,'" won multiple Tony awards.

The show, directed by WIU Theatre and Dance Professor D.C. Wright, included three live actors and numerous character puppets, operated by WIU students dressed in black, some taking more than one person to make it functional. In its four-day run, the show opened to record audiences.

In addition to the WIU students chosen as actors and puppeteers for the musical, students and faculty created the show's intricate set, and a Fall 2017 fine arts class of 11 students created the more than 25 hand and rod puppets needed for the show. The puppet class was taught by WIU Costume Shop Manager Rebel Mickelson.

Mickelson began the class teaching how to create a simple puppet, then built on what students learned in class, which met for one hour, three times

each week. The class made dyed, fleece puppets for the performances.

"It was a large class, so we needed to make sure everyone was on the same page, with all of their questions answered the best I could," she said. "I wanted them to understand the basics first and have more time to grasp the concepts."

After the puppets were completed, WIU's College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) invited Broadway puppeteer Rick Lyon, of New York City, to campus in mid-February to work with the "Avenue Q" cast.

"Being able to learn how a puppet comes to life from the creator of the original puppets for 'Avenue Q,' not to mention a well-known and respected puppeteer, was an experience that none of them will soon forget," said Mickelson. "Rick Lyon taught them how to make puppets walk, talk, sing and breathe, which they learned wasn't as easy as it appeared. I feel, overall, it was a great experience for anyone who had a chance to meet and learn from him, even if they only listened to him talk about his career."

Lyon, who worked with Jim Henson and on the "Muppet Show," spent several days showing the cast how their puppets should move and enhancing their understanding of the production. He also led a number of networking discussions and question and answer sessions with students.

WIU Department of Theatre and Dance Chair Tammy Killian said one of the goals of WIU's educational theatre program is to "synthesize course work and production work."

"When 'Avenue Q' was chosen for the season, the faculty agreed that puppet design, puppet creation, as well as puppeteering should be topics we addressed in the classroom prior to ever stepping on stage," she said.

Killian added that bringing Lyon to campus helped inspire the students in their rehearsals.

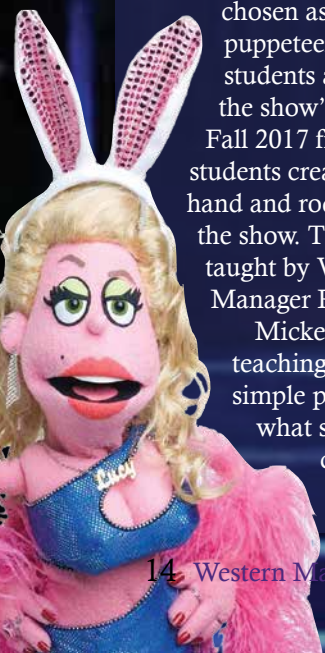
"With his work on 'Avenue Q' on Broadway, Rick Lyon has made a permanent contribution that has enriched so many people from audience members to artists who wish to learn from him," said Killian. "Having his distinguished presence visiting us on campus—in our rehearsals, classrooms and in open forums—energized students, challenged faculty and has immeasurably enhanced the creative endeavors of our team."

Killian said the show was not only a box office success, but an artistic one, as well.

"The process of starting from the basics of puppet design, working our way through the creation process, being instructed in puppeteering by a master teacher and then experiencing the process of rehearsal and performance is an academic success story," she said. "We are making our goals and giving the students in theatre and dance the best educational experience possible."

The Cast

For the student actors in "Avenue Q," the entire production was an experience that added value to their education at WIU. Annie Etchison, a senior musical theatre





major from Dixon, IL, who played “Kate Monster,” said the show enhanced her WIU experience in a variety of ways.

“From having Broadway performer Rick Lyon come to teach us puppetry, to working together as an ensemble, to pushing ourselves as hard as we could to be the best we could, this experience taught me so much and is truly unforgettable,” said Etchison. “I will always remember it as a major part of my growth and education at Western.”

The production’s boisterous puppet, “Trekkie Monster,” was played by WIU junior recreation, park and tourism administration (RPTA) major Chris Holling, of East Dundee, IL. He called being part of the production “truly an out of body experience.”

“I couldn’t believe I was given the opportunity to work with so many

dedicated and incredibly talented individuals,” he said. “The work ethic of everyone was astounding, and I never worked so hard, but also had so much fun, working on a production.”

Holling said the theatrical environment allowed the cast to create, play and learn from each other, which was beneficial to everyone involved in the production. “We all truly tuned into the characters we were portraying, and, over several weeks, became them in a way,” he said. “It was amazing to have Rick Lyon, who originated three of the roles in the show, worked on Sesame Street for over 15 years and was in the original Broadway cast, come teach us in a

workshop-style aspect how to maneuver the complexities of working with puppets. We became a family very early on and took care of one another. We knew the show would be demanding, and we had to put forth a strong performance, which we did thanks to the hard work of the actors involved, our design team and constant support of our department and families. I am extremely proud of this production and glad to know all the individuals involved. If asked to do it again, I would reply, ‘When do we get started?’”

For more information about the WIU Department of Theatre and Dance, visit wiu.edu/theatre. For a list of upcoming theatrical productions, visit wiu.edu/cofac. ●



WIU Musical Theatre Student Captures KENNEDY CENTER NATIONAL HONOR

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

For Western Illinois University junior Nissi Smith, the desire to become a professional stage performer began in her sophomore year of high school, when she played the role of a salt shaker in the musical “Beauty and the Beast.”

Fast forward a handful of years, and Smith was back on stage in April 2018, but this time to accept the top prize in the musical theatre intensive category at the national Kennedy Center collegiate competition. The road between salt shaker and national award winner has been full of theatrical experiences that have shaped her path as a singer and dancer and as a WIU musical theatre student.

The national award provides Smith with a unique opportunity this summer at the Open Jar Institute in New York City, where she will attend a week of theatrical workshops, meet theatre industry representatives and attend numerous Broadway productions. Open Jar Artistic Director Jeff Whiting served as judge for the Kennedy Center competition and chose the winner.

During the Kennedy Center competition, Smith performed “I’m Here” from “The Color Purple.” She said she’s not sure she even heard the announcer call her name as the winner.

“I remember everyone looking at me like ‘go’ as the announcement came,” she said. “I think I rolled my ankle sprinting out to the stage.”

Since the Kennedy Center win, Smith’s life has become a whirlwind of trying to finish her junior year of college, while fielding numerous requests from national casting companies to submit audition videos.

“Jeff [Whiting] recorded a clip of me singing at the Kennedy Center and posted it on his personal social media account and on the one for the Open Jar Institute,” said Smith. “After I returned to campus, I started getting emails from a casting company in New York inviting me to submit a video audition for a tour of ‘Dear Evan Hansen.’”



A second audition request came for a national tour of “Les Miserables.” Smith is still amazed at the national audition offers coming in.

“These are opportunities I would not have been presented with if the Kennedy Center had not happened,” she said. “I have one year of school left, so if these were to come through, I would have to make some decisions about my future.”

With all of the excitement the spring semester has brought Smith, she also played the character “Gary Coleman” in the WIU Theatre and Dance production of “Avenue Q” and choreographed a dance in 25th annual Spring Gala Dance Concert.

While singing at the Kennedy Center, Smith said she never felt like it was a competition for something

because the 10 competitors had so much fun together and she feels winning the award wasn’t the most valuable thing she took away from the weekend.

“Everyone who I was participating in this ‘competition’ with, and I use that word lightly, was just phenomenal,” said Smith. “It was such a humbling experience working with fellow artists. The real award was meeting the people I met, learning from them and knowing that I found a tribe of like-minded people.”

A highlight of the Kennedy Center event for Smith was having her parents, Darence and Cathedral Smith, and grandmother, Betty Cleveland, drive to Washington, D.C. from her hometown of Chicago.

“My parents have seen me perform many times, but they usually get to see me do fluffy things,” she said. “They hadn’t seen me in my element before.”

Before her summer experience at the Open Jar Institute, Smith is scheduled to perform as the characters Lil’ Inez/Shayna in the musical “Hairspray” through July 29 at the Crossroads Repertory Theatre in Terra Haute, IN. The performance is directed by WIU Theatre and Dance Professor Bill Kincaid. Also participating in the production is WIU Theatre and Dance Instructor Brett Olson ’17, who, along with WIU alumnus Jeff Young ’17, was a finalist last year for the Kennedy Center’s Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship.

Smith said the faculty at WIU and her fellow students have been so excited and supportive of her success, as have her family and friends and her church family in her hometown.



“I have such a great support system and that has helped me a lot in the last few weeks,” Smith said. “When you have people behind you it keeps you humble. I couldn’t do what I do without my faith. It molds everything together.”

When Smith was a young girl, she knew she wanted to be an entertainer and “be in front of people in some sort of way.” As she grew up, she had no formal vocal training, but instead was more involved in athletics, such as track, softball and cheerleading. In fifth grade, Smith thought she would be a fashion designer, an effort she said she has folded into her stage performances with her personal style.

As an African American woman, Smith said a goal of her stage performances is to advocate for people of color.

“Growing up, there weren’t a lot of people like me doing this,” she said of stage performances.

While in Washington, D.C. for the Kennedy Center competition, Smith was able to attend a performance of “The Wiz” at Ford’s Theatre. She

said the experience had a powerful emotional impact on her.

“I was crying, I was overwhelmed with joy and inspiration; it was so magical,” she said. “It was an entire African American cast being amazing and telling a story. I want to make someone feel the way I was feeling ... like I could fight a tornado and survive.”



Smith with the nine other competitors in the Kennedy competition.

Smith said she is thankful to the faculty at Western who have encouraged her to focus on doing what she loves.

“It’s becoming clear that I can have a career I love,” she said. “Doors seem to be opening, rather it be small or large. This is literally a miracle from the Lord.”

Musical theatre is one of Western’s Signature Academic Programs, known for its comprehensive, professional training. WIU Department of Theatre and Dance Chair Tammy Killian said one of the program’s main goals is to prepare students to work professionally, and 90 percent of graduates are currently employed.

“When you look at Nissi, and all our WIU Theatre and Dance students, you see what is at the heart of our program: discipline, accountability, perseverance, problem solving, communication, creativity, humility, respect and vision,” she said.

Killian added that Smith came into Western’s program as a “wide-eyed girl with passion and a drive to



Smith at the Kennedy competition.

work hard and make it in this difficult career path.”

“She is extremely talented and has benefited greatly from the training she has received—she soaks it up,” said Killian. “She considers the

subtleties within the work and the purpose behind playwright’s words. She works tirelessly in production and in classes to create, develop and discover her own artistic identity. She has synthesized work in her dance, acting, voice and musical theatre courses to hone audition packages and the pieces she performed at the Kennedy Center.”

When called upon to speak about the craft of acting, Killian said Smith speaks clearly and eloquently and responds to questions in a thoughtful way.

“She is an insightful, sensitive and self-aware individual driven to explore the arts, and through them a deeper understanding of the human condition,” said Killian. “She has grabbed hold of the individual, holistic approach to the art of theatre we offer in the classroom and production and has embodied it. The

Department of Theatre and Dance could not be prouder of her work in our program and her representation of us at KC/ACTF. We are proud of and grateful to Nissi for representing WIU and all we stand for in such a graceful and beautiful way.”

College of Fine Arts and Communication Dean Billy Clow calls Smith a “wonderful success story.”

“Her talent is undeniable,” he said. As part of the Signature Musical Theatre Program, she is another example of the excellence to which we hold all our programs in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. I cannot wait to see what Nissi can accomplish as a senior, but I guarantee it will be something special.”

For more information about WIU’s Department of Musical Theatre, visit wiu.edu/cofac/theatre/BFA.php. ●





STRAIGHT FROM A

STUDEN



Katie Storm, graduate student in Community and Economic Development

If I told you that I went to the French Pastry School program in Chicago and that I used to work for a Parisian pastry chef, would you believe me when I say that I have found a way to connect those experiences with what I've learned from work with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA)?



I first became interested in the Community and Economic Development (CED) program at WIU-QC after speaking with Chris Merrett, IIRA director. The program resonated with me—as a person who is interested in helping others. I

found the program to be filled with sociological implications that went beyond its economic focus. It felt like a good fit for me.

My interest in the way that local communities develop began during my undergraduate studies in English at Augustana College. There, I had a professor who was interested in a variety of environmental topics, which permeated his lectures.

After college, I taught English in France for a while. I love meeting people from different backgrounds, learning about other cultures and exploring our similarities and differences. After my time in France, I spent a year teaching English in a German kindergarten. Eventually I realized that teaching wasn't my passion—small children require a LOT of energy! So, I came home to live with my parents for a while and began working at a local French café as the bakery and restaurant manager. I got to know the people in the pastry department there. They made everything from scratch. The French focus of the restaurant appealed to me, having reveled in the artisanal bakery culture during the time I spent living in Europe. I realized that people everywhere commune over food, and I grew to deeply appreciate the way in which sharing good food can bridge gaps between us, culturally

and otherwise. That inspired me to attend the French Pastry School in Chicago, IL, and earn my certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts. During my time in the six-month program, I learned the art of French pastry, making croissants and other breakfast pastries and breads from scratch, and completing courses in ice cream making, sugar showpiece sculpting, wedding cakes and tarts, as well.

So, how did I connect French pastry to community development?

After training for nearly a year under a Parisian pastry chef in Evanston (IL), I returned to the Quad Cities, first to work as the pastry chef at the Hotel Blackhawk and then later at Oh So Sweet by Tiphane. Those positions gave me perspective on the successes and struggles that people in service jobs and small businesses encounter every day.

I was still interested in how communities develop, and I wanted to become more involved, especially in championing small businesses. Through my own experiences in the small business world, I got to know a lot of customers by name and made a point of building relationships with them. I saw how a sense of community often develops when sharing food. I realized that it's not just about food that tastes good, but also about creating a sense of

“ The program at WIU-QC has given me a sociological and philosophical foundation. ”

minority business owners start and promote their own businesses.

I've always wanted to give back to my local community, but I felt I could do more than merely serve them pastries and fresh baked goods. The program at WIU-QC has given me a sociological and philosophical foundation upon which to construct some concrete goals for further ways that I can contribute to my community. I hope to work to build stronger communities, focus on local businesses and find ways to help them grow. I'm excited to say that, as I wrap up my graduate studies in CED, I have accepted a position in Denver (CO) working for Comal Heritage Food Incubator, a non-profit restaurant that works with entrepreneurial immigrant women to assist them in building their skills in culinary arts and business. With a focus on small business creation and local economic development, this new job is an exciting way to combine all of my interests and studies. ●

belonging in a “third place,” where people feel at home.

I enrolled in the CED master's program at WIU-QC in the Fall of 2017 and was able to secure a graduate assistantship with the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC). I have had the opportunity to attend the Community Development Institute sponsored by the IIRA. As the graduate assistant in the SBDC, I've organized educational sessions that help Illinois residents, as well as



Storm working with WIU Business Advisor Ann Friederichs as part of her graduate assistantship



Storm with French chef Patrice Caillot



Storm with WIU-QC graduate student Jennifer Evans

A Family Affair:

From the Football Field of WIU to the Floor of the Chicago Board of Trade

By Amanda Shoemaker MS '11 and
Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

To say that working at—and ultimately leading—the Chicago Board of Trade is a family affair for the Carey family is an understatement. While it has merged with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and gone public, WIU alumnus Charles Carey '75 was the third generation of Careys to serve at its helm. Carey has spent the last 40 years in the trading business ... a job he was destined to have.

The Carey legacy began more than a century ago. Carey's great grandfather immigrated to the United States from Ireland and worked as a blacksmith. It was his son who started the Carey legacy at the Chicago Board of Trade. He started his

career as a clerk at a trading firm, which led to a job as a grain trader, that then allowed him to purchase his membership at the Chicago Board of Trade in 1910. He briefly left due to price controls but came back to the Board as trading was making a comeback after World War I. That was a tumultuous time for the markets as the Great Depression hit. And when the stock markets collapsed, that dramatically affected Board of Trade memberships. Carey said that a membership in 1929 was around \$64,000, "which was a lot of money back then." In 1933, seats could be purchased for as low as \$3,000.

The next generation saw two Careys at the Chicago Board of Trade—Carey's father was a grain trader who joined the Board in 1948, and his uncle also had a seat and would follow in Carey's grandfather's footsteps by serving as chair of the Board in the 1960s. Charles Carey started trading in January 1976 for MidAmerica Commodity, a mere few months after he left WIU. He joined the Chicago Board of Trade in April 1978, where he remains a member today. He has accomplished a lot over the past four decades, and attributes much of that success to his alma mater.

An Illinois native, Carey grew up on the south side of Chicago and graduated from Oak Park River Forest high school. He first heard of WIU from John Passananti '75, who

was planning to go to WIU to play football. He heard of the business school's good reputation, so Carey figured it would be a good place to attend college and pursue a business degree.

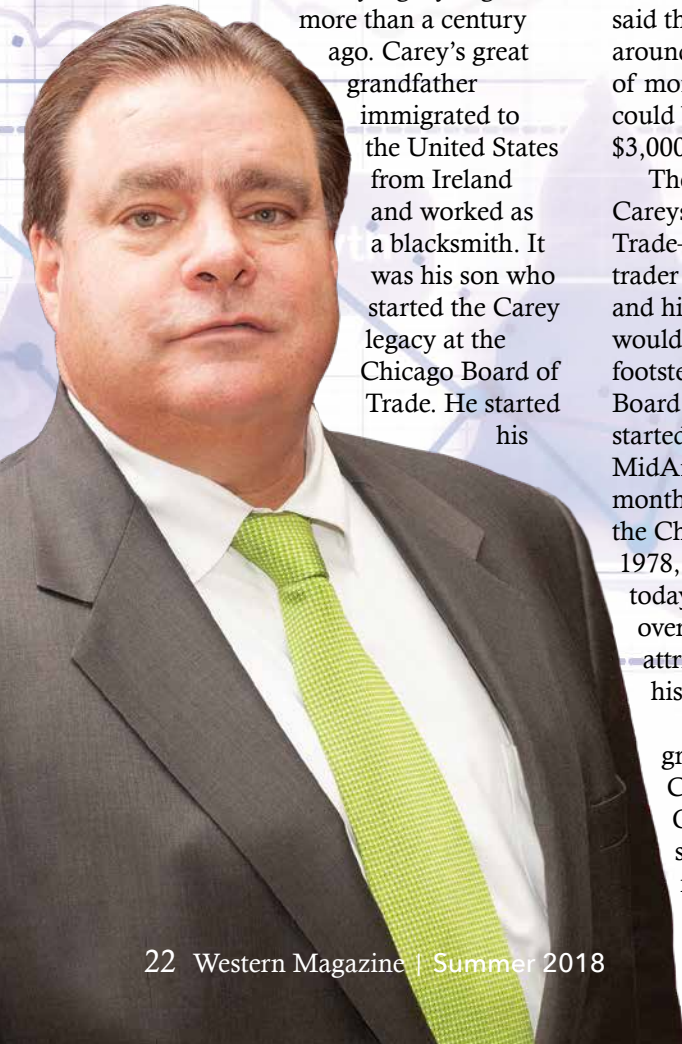
"The campus was growing; they were adding classes and growing the physical plant to meet the needs of the students," Carey said.

Carey's lessons weren't just in the classroom. As a member of the WIU football team, he soaked up as much as he could from his coaches, Pete Rodriguez and Darrell Mudra.

From learning about leadership to communication, Carey's time on the football team was just as valuable as the time he spent in his business classes, especially when it came to Coach Brodie Westen.

"Any time I go to Macomb, I try to see Brodie," said Carey. "It's nice because he is family, and it's like having my own family there. He's the guy we went to war with every Saturday. He saw the highs and the lows, and the relationship was so strong, particularly with his offensive linemen, but his players, they all loved Brodie. There's no doubt about it. And he made a difference in people's lives. He had that strong positive influence that you remember. He was a hard driver and a winner, and that's what young men need and respect."

Along with his football involvement, Carey also pledged the Phi Sig fraternity. With football practice, weight training and fraternity activities, he kept a busy schedule.



He paid his bills by working at the Tennessee Tap and for Denny Moon at Walt's Office, but Carey said his academics were always a priority and left a big mark on him.

"You remember some of the teachers, and some of the corny stuff they would say stuck with me and makes more sense now that I'm as old as I am," Carey said. "I had some great teachers. I remember Norm Walzer, an economics teacher, and Ed Sims ... Potter. I can't remember the name of the professor I took statistics with, but he made it understandable. He was a good teacher."

One particular assignment sticks out in Carey's mind. He remembers writing a paper on The Chicago Board of Options Exchange, which opened in 1973 when he was a student.

"I remember doing a paper on it for one of my classes on standardized options and how revolutionary it was at the time," Carey recalled. "When I

was coming out of school and going into this industry, it really was the beginning of the golden age of trading. The world just got smaller due to technology. The satellites, technology, communications—who would have thought you could trade from a cell phone halfway around the world. And now we are all virtually equal because we can sit here and trade electronically, and the speeds are so fast with fiber optics and microwaves. We're connected all over the world; there's no big disadvantage."

After graduating from WIU, Carey took a job at a construction company in Chicago and started saving money to purchase his own seat at the Board. In 1978, he started his first trading job at MidAmerica and made that purchase.

"I had no idea when I was leaving Macomb that August that I'd be in this industry 40 years later," shared Carey.

And while his education prepared him for the work world, it was a

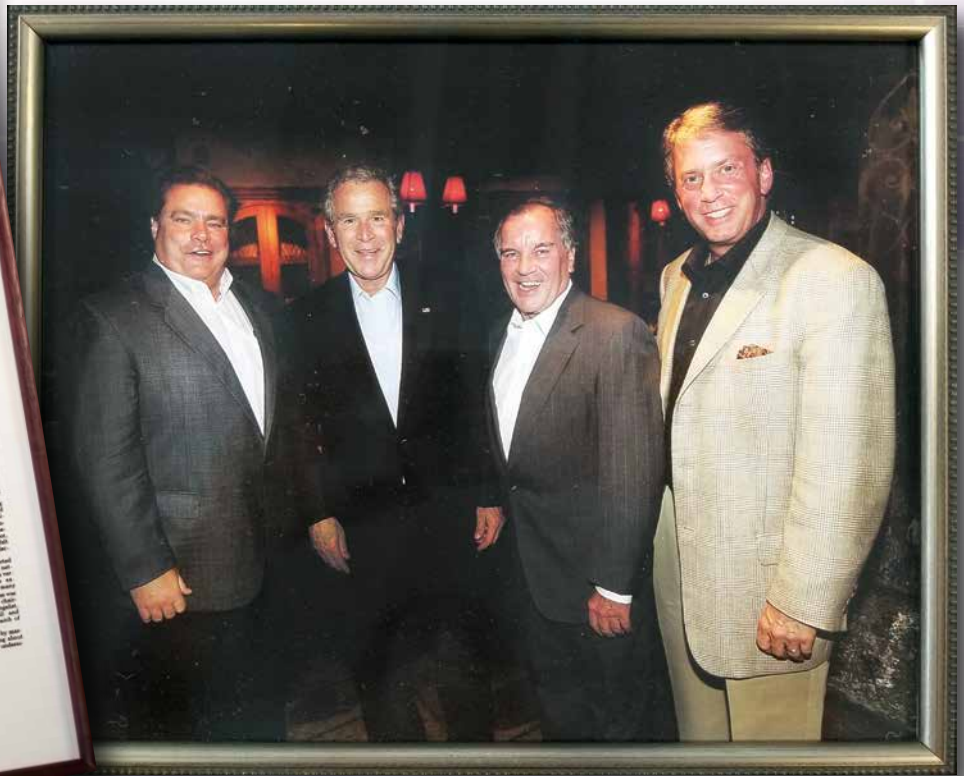
“ One of the biggest reasons I am proud of Western is how many alumni have been successful in business or whatever field they chose. ”

combination of that and the guidance from his family that set him on the path for success as a trader.

"I learned from my father who was a trader, and I learned from other traders and by being exposed to it," Carey added. "The formal education was helpful, but stepping into this world, it was completely different. You can't really prepare somebody."







A little over 20 years into his trading career, Carey was first elected to the Board of Directors at the Chicago Board of Trade in 1990. He ran for chair in 1994 and lost. After a short hiatus from the Board, he again ran for a seat on the Board and was elected. At that time, he was nominated to be the vice chair at a time he called “very contentious.” That did not scare him from serving in a leadership position, and in 2003, he was elected chair of the Chicago Board of Trade, a position he held through two terms until it became a public company in 2005.

During his tenure, he saw the industry change completely. What once was done by traders standing on the floor day in and day out can now be done with the click of a button on a computer or mobile device.

“Back in the old days, everybody who made a living that way did so in person ... standing there all day. It was a young man’s game. At my age, I could probably go down and do some trading—and I did, until we started side-by-side trading in 2006. By 2008 or 2009, the screen had kind of taken over most of the business.

You had to be down there with a laptop in your hand. It used to be, you stood in the crowd and you did your trade and I do miss that. You miss the camaraderie, the people,” he said.

The Chicago Board of Trade was a member-owned organization for 155 years, and Carey was at the helm when it went public. He said that it all came about due to a contentious battle with their own clearinghouse that had lost control and had a different agenda from the Board, which was their only customer.

“This should be a business class study for current Western students,” he laughed.

The Chicago Board of Trade left after the clearinghouse went rogue, which was the first step of the merger between the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Carey explained.

When he started as chair of the Chicago Board of Trade, membership was around \$300,000. At the end of his term, some seats were worth up to \$8 million.

In October 2005, they went public, which was a big change for Carey, whose family had been a part of the Chicago Board of Trade since 1903.

“I approached it strictly from a business standpoint. I was never emotional about it. This is business. And I took my business classes at Western, so I knew what business was,” said Carey. “It’s amazing how you see bad decisions come from what are supposed to be smart people. We sowed the seeds of this type of situation in the 90s because we didn’t control our own platform. We kind of fought off electronic trading; we didn’t embrace it, and we didn’t control our clearing corporation and they went hostile on us. Those were the biggest things that led me to believe that a merger would be the best thing.”

When the two entities merged, Carey became the vice chair of the combined group, serving for three years. He remains on the board today, and his job entails not only a lot more technology, but a lot more interaction with global partners. Carey frequently travels to Brazil for business and has ventured to Russia as they provided the CME with their electronic trading platform.

Aside from work, Carey and his wife, Linda, have three sons. Their



oldest decided to follow in his dad's footsteps and now works in Brazil for a smaller cash grain broker. When his son told him that he wanted to be in the business, Carey told him the business had undergone a lot of change with computers and computer science.

"Algorithmic trading has kind of taken over what we did," Carey explained. "We used to do that face-to-face, but that has all changed. I told him Brazil and China, over the next 50 years—that's where your growth opportunity is. They were growing 40-50 million tons of soybeans in 2004, when I first visited Brazil. Today, I think they'll grow 117 million tons. The U.S. will always be a force in agriculture, but with the amount of land and the opportunity for expansion, those are key areas."

Away from work and his family, Carey has been recognized for his civic and professional success. In 2007, he received the WIU Distinguished Alumni Award for his business and professional accomplishments. He has also been awarded the Rerum Novarum Award from St. Joseph College Seminary, Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation, Inc. and the Gold Medallion Award from the International Visitors Center of Chicago. He also serves as president of the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame.

Despite a busy calendar, Carey still finds time to return to his alma mater. He attributes much of his success to Western, adding a number of people from his era accomplished just as much as him, both personally and professionally.

"We've had some great success stories ... John Passananti, Dave Lumley '76 and Bob Nardelli '71 ... just to name a few," Carey said. "These guys found the right opportunity, and they came in and realized they were just as competent as anybody from the Ivy League—anybody from any big school. That's probably one of the biggest reasons I am proud of Western ... of how many alumni have been successful in business and whatever field they chose. Western has to take some of that credit because they spent some time there." ●

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

wiu.edu/homecoming

September 28-29, 2018

Friday, Sept. 28

2 p.m. Reunion registration starts; it continues throughout the weekend. Registration will take place at the Alumni House.

5-9 p.m. All-Alumni Social, Alumni House
(Complimentary food, beer, wine and soda; cash bar available)

Chown Golf Learning Center Dedication
(New Harry Mussatto Golf Course Club House); Time: TBA

Saturday, Sept. 29

7-7:45 a.m. Old Stompin' Ground Runaround Registration, Alumni House

8 a.m. Old Stompin' Ground Runaround: 5K Run/1.5 mile walk

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

9:30 a.m. All-Alumni Breakfast, Alumni House (Complimentary coffee and donuts)

10:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade

Noon-3 p.m. Alumni Cookout at "The Right Place" tent - in Q LOT
(Menu: Hot dogs, cheese burgers and hamburgers, veggie burgers, potato chips, bottled water, canned soda and coffee)

3 p.m. Leathernecks Football Game vs. Youngstown State - Hanson Field

Tickets will not be mailed. The Homecoming football ticket sales are final. Therefore, all tickets purchased through the WIU Alumni Association are non-refundable.



OLD STOMPIN' GROUND RUNAROUND

Saturday, Sept. 29

Registration: 7-7:45 a.m.

Race Start: 8 a.m.



New This Year: This year's race will include chip timing technology with live results streamed online and displayed near the finish line. Finisher photos will also be available. All participants will receive a commemorative Old Stompin' Ground Runaround moisture wicking/dry fit t-shirt.

Come home and run/walk with us down memory lane!

BROADCASTING

Preparing for Great Things

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

When Western Illinois University Department of Broadcasting and Journalism (BCJ) Chair William “Buzz” Hoon ’86 MA ’91 takes potential new students on a tour of the third floor of Sallee Hall, he asks them if they are “ready to do great things.”

On that same tour, they see current WIU students producing and anchoring their own newscasts in the campus production studios. The hallways are lined with photographs of program alumni who are working in industry jobs and progressing in their careers.

As broadcasting students advance through their academic careers at Western, the program is accumulating an increasing number of regional, state and national awards. Students are also graduating with impressive resumés that help them find careers in media markets, both large and small. The program offers students the opportunity to study sports and news broadcasting, and the WIU program continues to evolve by offering cutting-edge technology and unique opportunities to students beginning their freshman year.

“We are looking for new students to come into the program and have their own successes,” said Hoon. “Students are motivated by seeing other students succeed, and they want to be a part of that. This business is a competitive one, so we are teaching students to build resources and portfolios so they understand the competition part.”

This year, the program tallied a record number of nearly 40 award nominations, including:

- **National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Mid-America:** Crystal Pillar awards for Outstanding Newscast, Outstanding Serious News and Outstanding Light News (2017), and Justin Fitzpatrick, a junior broadcasting major, from O’Fallon, MO, won for the best Short Form—Non-Fiction entry, “More Than a Number: Sam Pryor’s Story,” and senior broadcasting major John Benedeck, of McHenry, IL, was awarded an honorable mention award in the Long Form—Non-Fiction category for “Hidden Pearl: The WIU Scuba Project.” (2018)
- **Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS):** 10 national nominations
- **National Broadcasting Society (NBS):** 14 national nominations
- **Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Arts:** Award of Excellence
- **Illinois College Press Association (ICPA):** Three awards
- **Students in Illinois News Broadcasters Association (SINBA):** Nine awards

“State, regional and national awards and accolades are just one representation of success,” said Hoon. “But this continued achievement gives our young people the confidence to compete against graduates from any other school, no

matter the size or reputation. The BCJ faculty are providing our students with an education that truly prepares them for their futures.”

Hoon said awards are just one aspect of skill measurement in broadcasting, and the fact that so many students move on to prestigious internships and jobs is the “key part.”

As part of promoting student success, Hoon recently tasked WIU Broadcasting and Journalism Instructor Jasmine Crighton with guiding students in sending their campus work to state and national competitions.

“They are gaining experience, but the awards show they’re getting the experience and they’re applying it,” she said. “We work in a very visual medium, so it translates well.”

Hoon said encouraging students to compete against their peers at other higher education institutions shows them that someone outside the program recognizes their achievement level and what skills they’ve gathered as part of their education.

College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Dean Billy Clow called WIU’s Broadcasting and Journalism program “nothing short of spectacular.”

“Year after year, they bring home regional, state and national honors and awards, topping all other programs around,” he said. “It is a credit to our exceptional faculty and students working together to create news, sports, digital and radio programming at the highest levels.”

Discover Western – The Next Generation

When high school students visit campus to see the broadcasting and journalism program firsthand, Hoon said current students do a newscast demonstration to show what it's like to be involved in the program.

"We have students talk about their experiences and let them know what they would have the opportunity to do here," he said. "Our students have a stake in this. They need to know there are good people coming into the program because they are going to be working with them."

In the department's main office, there is a board of potential students who department faculty and staff stay in touch with to encourage them to attend WIU.

"We have interest from across the nation," said Crighton. "But, it's important to get more local people and those from the state of Illinois."

The program is also doing outreach work with local high schools, including Illini West in nearby Carthage, IL. The classes are being taught by program alumnus and current broadcasting and journalism instructor Casey Woodman '14 MS '16.

"Starting a partnership with Illini West High School, teaching a dual enrollment course, is a huge benefit to the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism," said Woodman. "I am extremely excited to focus on video production with high school students who are still deciding on majors and colleges that they might want to attend. This course will allow them to receive a basic understanding of video editing by producing content for WIU and for their community."

Anniversary Year

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the University's broadcasting program, and 2017 was the 25th year for sports broadcasting. One of the founders of sports broadcasting, Sharon Evans, former associate dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC),



Pictured, from left, are Director of Sports Broadcasting Quintin Parker '08 MS '12 MS '16, Broadcasting and Journalism Chair William "Buzz" Hoon '86 MA '91, WIU student broadcasters Michael Harms, Michael Dion, Zachary Martin, William Turkington and Collin Miller, WIU President Jack Thomas and College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Dean Billy Clow.

said the program began with the broadcast of WIU women's basketball games.

"I am very proud of the students, faculty and staff of the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism," said Evans. "The broadcasting program has grown immensely in terms of quality students and quality programming."

In February, sports broadcasting students debuted a set of purple blazers to be worn on camera during sports broadcasts. The purple blazers, embroidered with the WIU sweep logo, were purchased with money raised by the department through donations, including a price reduction offered by John Nelson '82, owner of Nelson's Clothing in downtown Macomb.

Hoon brought the purple blazers to WIU after seeing a similar idea used for students at Brother Rice High School in Chicago.

Educational Opportunities

Students in the department have the opportunity to work on NEWS3,

a live newscast produced three times each week during the academic semester, as well as create sports productions, which air on ESPN3. The University also offers a campus-based FM radio station, WIUS-FM 88.3, aka "The Dog," and the student-run newspaper, the Western Courier, which is published three times each week.

It was that opportunity, to get involved immediately, that brought freshman Devin Brooks, of St. Louis, MO, to Western to study broadcasting. Since coming to Western, Brooks has won a scholarship and talks to visiting high school classes about available opportunities.

"I wanted to get hands-on experience that will prepare me for my future," he said of his decision to attend Western. "Every day, as I walk through the broadcasting and journalism floor, the endless number of pictures along the walls featuring all the alumni inspires me to be where they are and gives me confidence on my road to success."

Alumni Successes

As the history of the department begins to grow so do the successes of alumni who have seen progressive successes in their careers.

WIU alumnus Chris Lovingood '14 credits the WIU Department of Broadcasting and Journalism for helping him advance from a television reporter in Ft. Myers, FL, to a weekend anchor in Pittsburgh, PA, beginning this summer.

“Working with Jasmine Crighton, Roger Sadler and Sam Edsall granted me the ability to learn what I needed to know in order to work in a competitive field such as TV news,” he said. “Without the support of a staff, who encouraged student involvement on the twice-a-week newscast, I wouldn’t know the foundation of being a news reporter. I’m appreciative of everything WIU taught me, and I look forward to hearing what other success stories come from the broadcasting department.”

Brittany Baumann '07 is currently a news producer at KSTP-TV in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. She said the broadcasting faculty at Western taught her that “everyone,

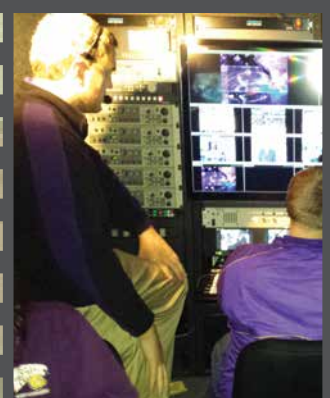
from the camera operator to the graphics department, editors and photographers, to the person cutting my paycheck are all important to the final news product.”

“Western allowed me to fail within the confines of the academic world with professors willing to pick me up and guide me along the way, so I wouldn’t fail in the real world,” said Baumann. “To me, that’s the Western advantage. Western taught me the work and life skills needed to launch my producing career.”

Denise Hnytka '06 is an anchor and reporter for WQAD-TV in the Quad Cities. She called WIU’s program “hands-on from the start.”

“I was writing scripts, shooting video and anchoring newscasts from my freshman year on,” she said. “Being allowed to explore all areas of broadcasting gave me a big advantage when it came time to look for internships. Professor Roger Sadler encouraged me to try everything, and be well-rounded. That advice still works in the professional world.”

For more information about the WIU Department of Broadcasting and Journalism, visit wiu.edu/bcj. ●



All in the Family

WIU Alumna Keeps Tradition Alive with the Burlington Bees



By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

When Western Illinois University alumna Kim Parker '08 MBA '11 stepped on Community Field in Burlington, IA this spring as general manager of the Burlington Bees' baseball team, she not only became the first female in team history to do so, she also continued a family baseball legacy started by her father 18 years ago.

Just as Burlington has a rich history with minor league baseball, dating back to the late 1880s, Parker's family history is bound to the team, with her father, Chuck Brockett, recently retiring as the Bees' general manager.

Parker began her association with the team at age 15, when her father needed someone to sell 50/50 tickets and programs on game days at Community Field. Through the years, and during her undergraduate and graduate student years at Western, Parker continued her employment with the team and has worked in virtually every position in the ballpark. A few years ago, she became the Bees' assistant general manager

"I graduated from WIU in 2008, and the state of the economy helped me make the decision to go to graduate school," she said. "Then in 2011, the position opened up with the team, and I thought I would work here for a few years to get some experience. I felt it was a good fit."

In 2015, Parker was named the Rawlings Female Executive of the Year in the Midwest League. She took over as the team's general manager in March her father's retirement. She is the first female general manager in Bee's history and the fifth in the history of the Midwest League.

"Baseball is a long, grueling season, and my dad mentioned a

few years back that he would like to retire from baseball—but, this was his life, so we didn't take him seriously," she said. "He told me, 'I would never leave if I didn't know you were extremely capable.'"



It has been difficult for Parker to come to work each morning knowing her father would not be in the office, as well. She drives to Burlington from Macomb each day, where she lives with her husband, Quintin Parker '08 MS '12, '16, an instructor in the WIU Department of Broadcasting and Journalism, and her daughter, Taryn.

Parker received her bachelor's degree in Spanish in 2008, with a minor in international business. She said her foreign language education at WIU has been important to her position with the Bees as more Latin American players join the league.

"Players come here from high school or college and from places like the Dominican Republic and Venezuela," she said. "It's extremely helpful to be able to communicate."

The Burlington Bees are a Class A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels. The team is nearing the end of a six-year development contract with the Angels, and Parker is currently

working on negotiating a new one. She said her MBA degree helps her every day with the business side of leading the Bees.

"WIU has a well-rounded curriculum, and the required classes in business basics really helped me," she said.

Because the Bees' organization is quite small, Parker's responsibilities are vast, including managing office and grounds keeping employees, setting the team's budget, ordering merchandise, advertising sales, maintaining the team's website and organizing game-day staff and volunteers.

The Bees play a 140-game season each year, with 70 games at home and 70 on the road.

Parker is responsible creating several initiatives related to the team, including a program that brings players to live in the homes of area families during the season to reduce players' expenses.

"The program has 19 families, and the players live rent-free and become part of these families," she said. "There are pictures of these families at players' weddings, and most families participate in the program every year. Some of our host families never miss a game."

WIU has a special place in Parker's heart because it's where she met her husband. She chose to come to WIU initially because it was close to home and she wanted to stay close to her family.

"I liked WIU because it was a little smaller," she said. "I was planning to study Spanish, and I liked that the class sizes were smaller; I paid attention to that. I also enjoyed getting to know my professors on a personal basis."

For more information about the Burlington Bees, visit GoBees.com. ●

COMPASSIONATE PERFECTION

WIU Nursing Students Achieve 100 Percent Pass Rate on Licensure Exam

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

When Western Illinois University established its School of Nursing nearly 10 years ago, it did so to address a nationwide shortage of nurses and to provide advanced educational opportunities in the region. As the program has developed, it has evolved into a respected program that, last year, posted a 100 percent pass rate on the industry licensure exam, and continues to grow in enrollment and in academic opportunities.

In the department's history, a decade of nurses have graduated from the program, with some going on to become physicians, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, or continuing their education to obtain advanced degrees.

Lea Monahan, PhD, RN, was named the first director of the program in 2007. Monahan designed the program and wrote all of the documents for the Illinois Board of Higher Education approval, as well as for approval from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing. She said the standards set for the program in its early stages have helped WIU School of Nursing faculty prepare students with the well-rounded skills and knowledge they need to enter the medical field. The result has been medical facilities reaching out to Western for employees because of its reputation of providing well-trained nurses.

"Our faculty is really good, and they go above and beyond," she said. "We work well together, and everyone is concerned with the students and their successes. We

hear back from employers that our students are well-prepared and our nurses come out of orientation for new jobs quicker than those they are hired with. Agencies that work with our students compliment their level of professionalism and preparation."

The School of Nursing also has multiple mentoring programs that match juniors with seniors and faculty members with students.

As the program has grown, so have its class offerings and lab facilities, including a set of simulation areas that provide real-life scenarios for students to react to. The labs are set up like actual hospital rooms, with faculty watching the student responses through a two-way mirror, and can simulate everything from a woman in labor to wound care through the use of simulators and computer programs.

"This helps with critical thinking and, in stressful situations, they can call on that experience," said Monahan.

High Standards Translate to High Test Scores

WIU has one of the highest requirements for clinical hours in the state, which Monahan said translates to hands-on training in clinical facilities, senior living facilities and correctional facilities in the region.

"We place students in schools, settings with older adults, mental health facilities and obstetrics; they get experience in every single area," said Monahan. "Because we are a rural program, we do a lot with the community and community nursing."

Each cohort of juniors and seniors has 48 open seats, and freshmen and sophomores in the pre-nursing

program must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to be eligible for one of those seats.

One hundred percent of the students who graduated in 2017 passed the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX), which exceeded the national average of 83.29 percent. Monahan said the program's accreditation agency demands an 80 percent pass rate, and the state of Illinois requires 75 percent. The test is taken by the students after they complete their degree program.

Alumni and Student Successes

WIU alumna Ashley Lynn, of Princeville, IL, graduated from the RN-BSN Completion Program in 2010, became a family nurse practitioner and is currently an instructor at Western. For Lynn, Western was a way to exceed expectations.

"I suspect many people are surprised when they realize I am now a family nurse practitioner and professor," she said. "I am a person who was not born with the best of odds at being as successful as I am, yet I am in an exceedingly awesome field and helping shape the future of healthcare every day."

She said WIU was the key that unlocked doors for her and she praised the School of Nursing's mentoring program, saying it was the key to fulfilling her dreams.

"To call the faculty at WIU mentors is an understatement," said Lynn. "They saw potential in me, and while they did not have to help me see that potential for myself, they did. They did it because that is what

WIU School of Nursing professors do. They see the greatness in you and want you to become all that you can.”

Current nursing senior Monica Brooks '18, of Carman, IL, said the program has exceeded the expectations she had when she first enrolled.

“The many hours spent in lecture, clinicals, simulations and skills lab prepared me with the necessities to be a successful member of the nursing profession,” she said.

It was the variety of clinical experiences that helped senior Kailyn Morrell '18, of Geneseo, IL, decide which areas of nursing to pursue more in-depth, and senior Brandi Crockford '18, of London Mills, IL, said the program challenged her to become a better communicator, advocate and caregiver.

“I am a firm believer that it is not where you come from, it is where you are going,” she said. “With the support from the WIU nursing staff, I have confidence that I will be successful in my career as a registered nurse.”

What Makes WIU's Nursing Program Unique?

WIU's School of Nursing is one of only a few in the nation that accepts students on athletic scholarships. Next year, nine WIU nursing students will also have spots on Leatherneck athletic teams.

The school also allows military veterans or those in the University's ROTC program to enroll, provided they meet the grade requirements. Monahan is retired from the Army Nurse Corps, where she served for six years.

“She has intimate knowledge of the military and nursing,” said School of Nursing Office Manager Carmen Pittman '87.

WIU also now offers an RN to BSN program completely online, which makes it more accessible for working nurses. The program has enrollment from across the country and some international students.

The nursing school is also developing a study abroad component,

with the first full-semester coursework coming in Fall 2018 at the University College of Dublin in Ireland.

“We have three students going,” said Monahan. “We are the only public university in Illinois with a semester-long program. We also have a robust summer program that prepares these students to go overseas so they can still graduate with their peers or lighten their load during the year. Our summer classes are always full and typically fill up within five minutes after registration opens.”

The school already offers short-term healthcare-related trips to areas such as England, Ireland, Haiti and Ecuador.

Where to Now?

Monahan said it is important for those interested in nursing to set a goal of having a baccalaureate degree from a four-year college or University.

“That's where the majority of the research and the new aspects of nursing are being taught,” she said.

In the next five years, Monahan said, one-third to one-half of the faculty trained to teach in nursing schools will be retiring and there are not enough replacements in place.

“It is going to start getting tight for faculty and educators,” she said. “Not many programs are making the effort to offer the educational foundation and methodology for teaching students,” she said.

In terms of future goals, Monahan said she would like to see the WIU School of Nursing grow further to offer a graduate program, so students could continue their education at Western.

Since the program began, it has been honored for quality and affordability. In 2017, College Choice recognized the WIU School of Nursing as a Best Online RN to BSN Degree Program and was among two public universities in Illinois with nursing programs ranked in the top 50 in the nation.

For more information about WIU's School of Nursing, visit wiu.edu/cas/nursing. ●



Heirloom Research

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Seven varieties of tomatoes are at the center of a research collaboration crossing two Western Illinois University departments and providing academic opportunities for students to study cancer prevention in campus laboratories.

The project, which is in its beginning stages, was sparked by a Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) initiative to match University faculty in a mentoring relationship. The program paired WIU Assistant Professor of Chemistry Mette Soendergaard with Assistant Professor of Agriculture Shelby Henning, who came to the University in Fall 2017.

"After we began talking about our research, we found we had common research interests—we had both done research involving vegetables before," said Soendergaard.

The common interest sparked the idea to study tomatoes and the antioxidants they contain in terms of cancer prevention, and to look further into whether heirloom tomatoes have different disease prevention qualities than more commonly encountered, commercially grown varieties. Henning planted and grew the seven types of tomatoes in Western's new greenhouse facilities on the north end of campus, and Soendergaard and her students took the harvested products to the laboratory for testing.

Tomato Production

Henning grew the tomatoes hydroponically, in volcanic rock, instead of soil. He added a trellis system to a portion of one of the new School of Agriculture greenhouses in December 2017 and began the plantings.

"The heirloom tomatoes have health benefits, and we are looking at plant pigments; the more highly pigmented they are, the more antioxidants they tend to have," said Henning. "We are looking at the antioxidant connection to cancer prevention."



Part of the research involves grafting heirloom varieties to several different rootstocks in an effort to improve plant health and yield. The plantings start at about eight inches tall and can grow into vines of up to 30 feet. The varieties are characterized as "indeterminate," which Henning said means they grow

and continue to produce tomatoes as long as "the weather is conducive."

"I used to have a two-year-old indeterminate tomato I grew for demonstration purposes," he said. "They never stop growing and can produce four to five pounds of tomatoes per plant per month. Many commercial growers plant hydroponic crops during the winter months, so they can market locally-grown and fresh product at a time when traditional field producers cannot. Those who get to the market earliest can set the prices."

In the new WIU greenhouse facility, the tomato plants are automatically fed fertilizer solution for one minute each half-hour. The plantings include a "green zebra" variety that doesn't turn red when ripe, which Henning said was thrown in to test pigment theories.

Henning checks on the plants at least once each day.

In the Laboratory

Beginning in March, the tomatoes were harvested from the greenhouse and were turned over to Soendergaard and her students. The laboratory testing portion of the study is headed by WIU chemistry graduate student Jamie Greathouse, of Macomb, and involves students Rebecca Kielminski, a senior pre-pharmacy major from Villa Park, IL; Sean Pollock, a senior pre-pharmacy major from Peoria, IL;



and Mallory Burg, a junior pre-med major from Macomb.

The students cut the tomatoes into slices, freeze dry them and grind the result into a powder. The powder extractions are then tested with various solvents, a process which is just beginning.

“We are interested in the antioxidants in terms of cancer prevention and whether heirloom tomatoes are different than those that are commercially grown,” said Soendergaard. “We are trying to see whether we can grow the heirloom tomatoes efficiently and how it impacts the health benefits.”

Soendergaard said the heirloom varieties were chosen because they have not been bred or crossbred to be commercialized for taste and color.

“These aren’t pretty tomatoes,” she said. “But we hope to see if grafting to rootstocks produces maintainable health benefits.”

Greathouse signed on to lead the student research as part of her master’s thesis.

“I was talking to Mette about upcoming research and I was interested in this project because I have a background in nutrition,” she said. “This whole process also helps me start to trust myself more in the lab.”

Pollock is working in the laboratory as part of his

undergraduate research requirement. He has been freeze-drying the tomato slices and said the practical experience he has gained has helped him with laboratory procedures, which will be valuable with his future career goals in nutrition.

“I have been doing things like changing the oil in the vacuum and prepping the tomatoes,” he said. “I have learned it’s the little jobs that add up. I know what it’s like to be one small cog in a big research project.”

For Kielminski, the experience has given her the research skills she needs for classroom requirements, and for her pharmacy career goals.

“We have more freedom to figure out the best way of doing things,” she said of her laboratory time. “It’s a good stepping stone.”

Burg said the laboratory experience she has gained this semester has made her a more well-rounded student.

“I can apply what I’ve learned in the classroom and in the lab to real-world problems, such as preventing cancer and heart disease,” she said.

What’s Next

While the project is in its exploratory phase, Henning and Soendergaard have applied for an Illinois Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop grant to expand the

scale of the project. The grant will hopefully be awarded this fall.

“We would like to look at more combinations of grafting rootstocks,” said Henning. “There are hundreds more highly pigmented tomatoes. We hope to identify novel pigments and look at them for anti-cancer compounds.”

It is expected that the research project could last several years and include additional students in the processes.

In terms of the CITR program, which provides professional development opportunities for the WIU community, the mentoring program is just one aspect of faculty support.

“We have done the mentoring program for several years,” said CITR Director Roger Runquist ’92 MS ’94. “This is the first time we have split the faculty up like this, giving as many as three experienced faculty to each new faculty member. While some mentors serve in multiple capacities, these mentors were assigned in each of the primary areas of teaching, research and service.”

For more information on WIU’s College of Arts and Sciences programming, visit wiu.edu/cas, and for more information on WIU’s School of Agriculture, visit wiu.edu/ag. ●



LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Leathernecks Boast Second-Highest Departmental GPA in Spring

Courtesy of WIU Athletics

In a pool of 338 student-athletes, 218 earned a 3.0 or higher, 116 achieved a 3.6 or above and 43 boasted a perfect 4.0.

Committed to a student-first lifestyle, Western Illinois Athletics announced its spring grade report, and Leatherneck student-athletes finished their spring semester with a 3.17 grade point average, the second highest in department history.

“Our coaches and student-athletes have once again met the challenge of the University’s core value of academic excellence. This was one of the best academic semesters we have had, which shows the dedication and commitment to that core value by our student-athletes, coaches and academic support staff,” said Holly Van Vlymen ‘00 MS-Ed ‘08, assistant

athletic director for Academics and Student-Athlete Development. “We were excited to see each team continue to achieve and exceed the academic goals they had set for this semester.”

For the 22nd consecutive semester, Leatherneck student-athletes recorded a GPA higher than the general student body’s (3.068).

Women’s tennis recorded the highest term GPA with a 3.816, improving upon a 3.774 in the fall, while soccer tallied

the highest GPA on the men’s side with a 3.331.

The top three GPAs on the women’s side included basketball (3.794) and golf (3.716), and the men’s field was rounded out by basketball (3.21) and cross country (3.141). ●



Surprenant Hitting the Ground Running as Interim Athletic Director

Courtesy of WIU Athletics

It has only been a few weeks, but Western Illinois interim Athletic Director Danielle Surprenant is growing into her new role.

Since taking the job, Surprenant has quickly realized that while the summer is the offseason for athletes and teams, the season does not let up for her.

“It has been really busy over the last month; a lot of people think it slows down in the summer, but it’s a different kind of busy,” Surprenant said. “I really feel like the last month I’ve hit the ground running. We have students who have reported back for summer school; teams are on campus getting ready for the upcoming year; we had our golf fundraiser; we’re getting ready for our Purple and Gold Auction; and then we’ve got some personnel hires that we’re moving forward with, so we have a lot going on, but it’s really exciting.”

As for short-term goals, Surprenant wants to continue the path Western is on, whether it is in the classroom or behind the scenes cosmetic upgrades.

“I think the foundation was really laid; we’re coming off a really great year both academically and athletically last year,” Surprenant

said. “Our student-athletes had the second-highest GPA that we’ve had, and so academically we’ve had a lot of stories and success.”

“My goal has been to build on that, to continue to excel in the classroom, to continue to be successful on the court in the competition area and really providing the best experience for our student-athletes,” she said.

When it comes to longer-ranging goals, Surprenant is hoping to see WIU grab more gains in the classroom and on the field.

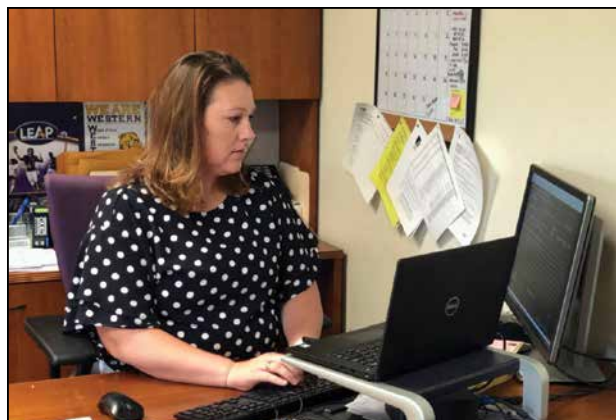
“Academically, for student-athletes, the student role comes first, so we need to make sure we’re meeting our academic goals in terms of exceeding a 3.0 grade point average as a department, which is what we strive for each semester,” she said.

“We also need to graduate our student athletes; that’s a priority.

“For athletics, we talk about football playoffs, the women’s basketball team going to the postseason again, women’s tennis making the conference tournament.

We need to build on the successes we’ve had to get to the next level. Also, we’re in constant conversation on how we can improve the

experience and well-being for our student-athletes, whether that’s facilities, experience or resources. Last year, we set the bar high; we had a tremendous year, but we have to build from there,” Surprenant added. ●

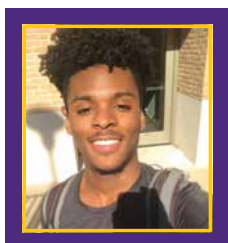


A vertical poster for the 2018 Leatherneck Football Schedule. The title is at the top in yellow and white. Below it, a list of games is shown in purple brushstroke-style boxes with white and yellow text. The games are: Aug. 30 @ Montana State, Sept. 8 @ Illinois, Sept. 15 vs. Montana, Sept. 29 vs. Youngstown State, Oct. 6 @ Illinois State, Oct. 13 vs. North Dakota State, Oct. 20 @ Missouri State, Oct. 27 vs. Northern Iowa, Nov. 3 @ Southern Illinois, Nov. 10 @ South Dakota, and Nov. 17 vs. Indiana State. The hashtag #TRADITIONOFTOUGH is at the bottom.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ENOCH PINK

Senior Business Management Major



My name is Enoch Pink. I am a senior at Western Illinois University, majoring in business management,

and I am a proud Leatherneck.

Journeying the path of a Leatherneck has been monumental—learning, facing challenges and overcoming hurdles have been my road through this collegiate story. Along that path, I have always tried to examine what trail am I leaving behind.

My first year as a Leatherneck gave me an influx of enthusiasm. I ran for president of Tanner Hall, joined Inter-Hall Council (IHC) and met mentors who served as helping hands whenever I needed a boost of energy to carry on through the race. The first year came with challenges, as well. Being in complete control

of your time can be hard to handle initially, and it doesn't get easier with time; you just get stronger shoulders. However, I put my best foot forward academically, socially and through extracurricular activities and it paid off. I persisted through to the first lap, and my year culminated with receiving the IHC Recognition Award, as well as one of two pendants given by the president of IHC to two outstanding newcomers.

Recently, my focus has been illuminating the path of others in the hopes of making their journey easier to navigate. My presence in the classroom is felt by every professor in each class I sit in. Participating as an attentive and active student is the runner's high that propels me forward. My outside involvement extends wide as co-president of Western's First-Generation Students (WIGS), a member of the leadership cabinet of the Black Male Achievement Network (BMAN) initiative and a resident

assistant (RA) in Corbin/Olson. My path is one that I do not travel alone, but instead with many others who are like-minded and trying to reach the same goal.

My experience as an RA continues to give me valuable leadership skills that I can use long after I graduate. My role in BMAN allows me to remember that it is not enough to do well, you must help others throughout the process. And my experience in WIGS encourages me to always give voice to those who are overlooked.

The path of a Leatherneck is not easy, comfortable or quick, but it is a path that I have found solace in traveling and serves as guidance for others to come. ●

“ I am a proud Leatherneck. ”



Embark on an adventure with The WIU Alumni Association

Sparkling South Pacific

Jan. 21-31, 2019

Explore French Polynesia, renowned for its vivid colors, serene beaches, and laid-back lifestyle as Oceania Cruises' elegant Marina takes you on an impressive ten-night voyage.

Southern Grandeur

April 7-15, 2019

Relax into the history and hospitality of the Southern Mississippi on this week-long riverboat experience aboard the stately American Queen. From Civil War battlefields to hoppin' blues bars, Southern culture is on display as you cruise from Memphis to New Orleans.

Sketches of Sicily

April 1-10, 2019

Delve into Sicily's epic past while staying in the island's western, central and eastern regions. Admire the architectural legacy of Gothic, Moorish and Norman conquerors. Discover the baroque flair of Caltagirone. Marvel at the mosaics of an ancient Roman villa, and stand among the Greek monuments in Taormina and Syracuse.

Barcelona: Art, Culture, People

May 11-19, 2019

Barcelona's reputation was built on its avant-garde architecture, delectable cuisine & more! Discover its essence on an active 7-night journey.

Greece

Oct. 24-Nov. 1, 2019

Discover ancient treasures and island life on an exciting, weeklong journey to Greece. Gaze upon the great Parthenon, visit the ancient theater in Epidaurus, and explore Hydra, Nafplio and Mycenae. Enjoy first-class accommodations in Athens and on the island of Poros and an extensive meal plan featuring wine with dinner.

Journey Along the Elbe

May 19-30, 2019

Cruise through enchanting scenery and centuries of history on the Elbe and Vltava rivers. The MS Elbe Princesse transports you into the heart of cities in Germany and the Czech Republic. See the highlights of Berlin, Potsdam, Prague and more, plus marvel at the grand Elbe Sandstone Mountains.

Stunning Scenery of Alaska

June 12-19, 2019

Experience the natural wonder of awe-inspiring landscapes and spectacular wildlife on this seven-night voyage aboard Oceania Cruises' elegant Regatta.

75th Anniversary of D-Day

Aug. 30-Sept. 7, 2019

From its rolling hills to the sea, Normandy is a trove of unforgettable history and experiences. Explore Omaha and Utah beaches and other D-Day sites during this 75th anniversary year of the battle. Taste the local cuisine, visit extraordinary Mont-Saint-Michel and take in Normandy's unique heritage.

Timeless Cuba

Oct. 23-30, 2019

Uncover Santiago de Cuba's rich heritage, be enchanted by Cienfuego's French spirit, and experience Havana's old-fashioned aesthetic.

Holiday Markets Cruise

Nov. 27- Dec. 5, 2019

Visit holiday markets in France, Germany and Switzerland during a seven-night Rhine River cruise. Personalize your journey with a choice of included excursions in many ports. All meals are included. Wine, beer and soft drinks are complimentary with lunches and all dinners aboard the ship. No single supplement! **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.



JULY

- 11-19 Alumni Travel Abroad—Cruise the Rhine River
- 21 Cubby Bear Alumni & Friends Social and Baseball Game Watch Party in Chicago for Cubs vs. Cardinals

AUGUST

- 1 Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Downtown Chicago
- 5 Niabi Zoo Alumni & Friends Social and Zoo Visit in Coal Valley (IL)
- 8 Cubs vs. Kansas City Royals Pregame Social & Baseball Game
- 16-27 Alumni Travel Abroad—Majestic Frontiers of Alaska

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays After-Hours
- 8 WIU vs. U of I Pregame Social and Football Game
- 20 Celebrating Town & Gown in Macomb
- 21 Paint the Paws
- 28-29 Homecoming
- 28-29 2018 Reunion

OCTOBER

- 3 Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Chicago Suburb
- 4 Warsaw (IL) Alumni & Friends Social
- 6 WIU vs. ISU Pregame Social & Football Game
- 11 Monmouth Alumni & Friends Social and Wine Tasting at Market Alley Wines
- 16-27 Alumni Travel Abroad—Coastal Vignettes
- 28-Nov. 5 Alumni Travel Abroad—Cuba: Art, Culture & People

NOVEMBER

- 7 Quad Cities Western Wednesdays After-Hours

DECEMBER

- 5 Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Downtown Chicago
- 14-15 Graduation/Alumni Achievement Awards



Alumni & Friends EVENTS

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](https://www.wiu.edu/alumni/events).

Class Notes

John Harris '63, Cookeville, TN, is retired after 49 years of service as a faculty member for Tennessee Tech University.

Hugh Anderson '67, Sun City West, AZ, is retired and works part-time as a Starter at Corte Bella Golf Club.

Don Handy '69, DuQuoin, is co-publisher of *Pioneers in Illinois History*.

John Waters '70, Kent, WA, retired from The Boeing Company as an engineer after 32 years.

Jacque Shulmistras Dywan '71, Marco Island, FL, is retired from Lake Central School.

Robert Breckenridge '72, Damariscotta, ME, is retired from public school teaching and is a lecturer for Global Ministries/UCC & Disciples. He is serving in Zambia teaching church history and research for the Theology and Religion Dept. of the United Church of Zambia University.

Bonnie Jansen Kuehl '72, Temple, TX, is retired from Killeen Independent School Dist.

Charlie Barber '73 MS-ED '76 ED SP '82, Rockford, is retired from Illinois public schools.

Richard Ertmann '73, New Vernon, NJ, is the President of Alpha Assembly Solutions in Somerset.

Les Hansen '74, Alvin, TX, is retired after 35+ years as the owner of Precision Management Group.

Jean McArthur '74, Frankfort, is retired from Joliet Junior College as the department chair of mathematics after 27 years of service.

Duncan Rarity '74, Estes Park, CO, is retired.

Sharon Peisner Rarity '74, Estes Park, CO, is retired.

Theodore Twardy '74, Green Valley, AZ, retired from the City of Aurora, IL.

James Jacobs MS-ED '75, Galesburg, is an author of *No Ordinary Season*.

Carla Meister '75, Green Valley, AZ, is retired from West Aurora School Dist. # 129 in Illinois.

Gregory Grant '76, Powell, OH, has retired after a 40 year marketing and communications career in the utility and financial services industries.

Russell Crull '77, Byron, is retired.

Lawrence Lord '77, Omaha, NE, is a customer service agent for Southwest Airlines and received his master's in history from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Tom Hamilton '78, Crested Butte, CO, is retired.

Lesley Tucker '78, Snellville, GA, is retired.

Arla Nelson Bywater '79, Arlington, TX, has retired from Grand Prairie Independent School Dist.

Carol Nothnagel Clausen '79, Deforest, WI, has retired after 31 years as a research microbiologist for the USDA Forest Service.

Jacqueline Skinner Jackson '80 MS '87 Ph.D '98, Silver Spring, MD, is the VP for Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness at Harford Community College in Bel Air.

Dale Sabo '80 MBA '83, E. Peoria, is the VP and claims manager, Illinois branch with Erie Insurance.

George Buenik '81, Sugarland, TX, is the Homeland Security Chief for the City of Houston.

Edward Sweeney '81, N. Aurora, is a real estate broker for Coldwell Banker The Real Estate Group in Aurora.

Susan Potter Bunting '82, Sarasota, FL, is the senior division manager at RAI Trade Mktg.

Michelle Friedlund '82, Lafayette, IN, is the case manager for Wabash Valley Alliance.

Jean Blew Sproles '82, Bloomington, is retired from State Farm Insurance, Corporate Headquarters.

W. Craig Fishburn '83, Indianapolis, IN, has retired from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Dept. after 34 years with the agency.

Patricia Hallbick '84, Webster, TX, is a senior software engineer at SGT, Inc., a NASA contractor at Johnson Space Center.

Patrick McManus '84, Columbia, has retired after a 33+ year career with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in St. Louis, MO.

Michelle Ault Barr '85, Leland, NC, is the office manager at Brent Brooks Agency in Wilmington.

Robert Baxter '85, Tennessee, was the 2017 Hancock County Officer of the year.

Gregory Cermak '85, Portland, OR, is retired as a software engineer and also taught for 20 years with the NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory Solar System Ambassador program.

John Graves '85, Bartonville, works in maintenance at Bradley University.

Don Schaeffer MBA '85, Taylorville, is a pharmacy manager at Taylorville Memorial Hospital.

Steven Tracy '87, Hainesville, has retired from the Park Ridge Police Dept. after 30 years of service and is currently writing for PoliceOne.com, Shooting Illustrated, and RevolverGuy.com.

Laura BonDurant '88, Washington, DC, is a senior associate dean for academic administration at American University.

Joseph Muchow '88, Willow Springs, has retired as President of the E.L. Foust Co. Inc. in Elmhurst.

Janice Mary Haungs Novello MS-ED '88 ED SP '95, Lakewood Ranch, FL, was the Florida Science Teacher of the Year for 2017.

William Jarchow '89, Whitestown, IN, is the digital sales manager at Tribune.

Soutchay Boualavong '90, Quincy, has retired from Swift Ecker.



Brian Jallas '91, Chandlerville, is the CFO of Prairieland FS, Inc. in Jacksonville.

Cecilia Diaz '92, Chicago, is an urban planner, a member of the Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was selected as Battalion Commander for the 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 95th Training Division at Milwaukee, WI.

Sarah Green '93, Costa Mesa, CA, is the owner of Dancing in Harmony, Inc.

Steven Hills '93, Suffolk, VA, is a certified peer recovery specialist at Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare.

Susan Wilson Turner '95, Seattle, WA, is the founder of Inherent Knowledge.

William "Lee" Baird '96, Queen Creek, AZ, is the western US region manager for CareDox, Inc.

Adam Bielawski '96, N. Riverside, is a technology specialist for the American Bar Association in Chicago and is also a professional concert and celebrity photographer.

Carolyn Feller '96, Chicago, is the director of admissions at UIC College of Dentistry.

Peggy Johnson '96, Quincy, has retired after 36+ years working as a registered medical assistant in the electronic health records as the lead scanner for Quincy Medical Group.

Kimberly Krubsack Stenerson MA '96, Pardeeville, WI, is a managing member for No Worries, LLC in Madison.

Charles Choate '97, Santa Barbara, CA, is a retired U.S. Navy Commander.

Larry Estep II '98 MBA '10, Sahuarita, AZ, is a commercial manager at Caterpillar, Inc.

Darcey Forbes '98, Long Beach, CA, is the VP of sales development and strategy for Modern Message in Dallas, TX.

Jamie Frank '98, Palm Harbor, FL, is the forestry operations manager for Pinellas County in Clearwater.

Michael Tuley '98, Wausau, WI, is a police officer at Lincoln County Sheriff's office in Merrill.

Steven Beck '00 MS '11, Lewisville, TX, is the general manager at RATP Dev.

Julie Pulse Warner '00, Galesburg, is the CFO of Digital Copy Systems in Peoria.

Wai Ling Ho MS '01 MS '08, Macomb, is a CTRS.

Lacey Allaman Roderick '03, Stafford, VA, is a MAGTF deputy division head for the Marine Corps Operational Test & Evaluation Activity in Quantico.

Todd Lindgren '04, Glen Ellyn, is the regional director of recruiting at LPL Financial.

Stephanie Redfield Bravieri '05, Janesville, WI, is an associate attorney at Brennan Steil S.C.

Tara Young '05, E. Peoria, is a lab technician for the American Red Cross in Peoria.

John Sax '06, New York, NY, is the executive director of development programs and services at Columbia University.

Kevin Schwartz '06, Belgrade, MT, is the owner of Windermere Real Estate in Bozeman and Butte.

Kirsten Vining Lee '07, Batavia, is a CV tech at Northwestern Medicine-Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

Antonietta Marella '07, Chicago, is the global head of learning operations for Kraft Heinz.

Cornelius Stanley '07, Galesburg, is the restaurant management instructor at Kewanee Life Skills Correctional Center.

David Berousek, Jr., '08, Chicago, is the tour coordinator at REDFIN.

David Lane '08 MS '10, Liberty, is an assistant scout executive/COO for the Boy Scouts of America.

Peter McCann '08, New Lenox, is a probation officer for Cook County.

Kim Brockett Parker '08 MBA '11, Macomb, is the general manager for the Burlington Bees in Burlington, IA.

Mark Bomya '09, Milwaukee, WI, is an IT desktop support specialist for EPSI in Franksville.

Christopher Meier '09, Macomb, is a teacher at Macomb Jr. High School.

Emily Jacob Rudesill '09, Tremont, is the president/owner of Foster-Jacob, Inc. in Peoria.

Holly Gier Thorpe '09, Silvis, is a nutritional health coach at Natural Grocers.

Erin Greenslaugh Walton '09, Aurora, is a customer project manager for Eagle Flexible Packaging.

Joe Fiori '10, Chicago, is an investment management consultant at AssetMark.

William Fowler '10, S. Padre Island, TX, is the fire chief for the City of S. Padre Island.

Margaritta Fultz '10, Macomb, is the assistant director of the Knox Fund: Student Philanthropy and Young at Knox College in Galesburg.

Sean Kennedy '10, Chicago, is an assistant principal at Sauganash School.

Denver Murphy '10, Ramstein, Germany, is a staff sergeant, regional band in the U.S. Air Force.

Jamin Thein '10, Hilton Head Island, SC, is a history teacher at Beaufort County School Dist. and received his master's in education, history cognate and teaching from Liberty University.

Victoria Van Meighem Ward '10 MA '12, Eldridge, IA, is a claims adjuster for Sentry Insurance.

Manpreet Kaur Sidhu MBA '11, San Diego, CA, is a senior BA for Illumina Inc.

Victoria Boateng '12, Chicago, is a musician at Ayodele Drum and Dance.

Vanessa Haberman '12, Bettendorf, IA, is a licensed engineer in the State of Iowa.

Morgan West Lovely '12, Corpus Christi, TX, is the lead teacher at Kinder Care.

Crystal Sewell '12, Dunlap, is a communications coordinator at Morton Chamber of Commerce.

Alycia Owens Helling '13 MS '15, Havana, is a speech and language pathologist at Mason Dist. Hospital.

Meredith Frost O'Brien PB-CER '13, Chesapeake, VA, is a configuration management specialist at J2E Technology LLC at SPAWAR Systems Pacific Center.



Allen Rudicil '13 MS '15, Warsaw, MO, is a civil engineer technician for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Jessica Cortes Jefferson '14, DeKalb, is an associate HR generalist at Smithfield Foods Inc.

Jacob Baumgardner '15, Galesburg, is a correctional officer for the State of Illinois Dept. of Corrections at Hill Correctional Center.

Stephanie Ackermann Hilten '15, Smithshire, is the director of advancement at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg.

Anthony Killion '15, Orion, is a park ranger at National Park Service.

Samantha Tucker '15, Hilton Head Island, SC, is a catering coordinator for Sonesta Resorts.

Jenny Boualavong '16, Quincy, works at SeneGence International in sales and marketing.

Manoj Jamarkattel MS '16, Toledo, OH, is a research assistant for University of Toledo.

Jessica Leimbach Janiak '16, Granville, is a QC lab technician at Flint Hills Resources.

Anthony Vitello '16, St. Louis, MO, works for Murphy Company as a union construction plumber, is the owner of Vitello's Auto Detail & Customization, and the President of STL Fusion Car Club.

Lea DeMartelaere Dodds '17, Colchester, is a tax preparer at Liberty Tax Service.

Aaron Edwards '17, Davenport, IA, is a cost analyst for Dohrn Transfer.

Alexis Phares '17, Kissimmee, FL, is a high school English teacher at Osceola County School Dist.

Justin Rinaldi '17, Richmond, VA, is the communications manager at the American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia.

Marriages & Civil Unions

Lea DeMartelaere '17 and Wesley Dodds, Mar. 10, 2018.

Page Holland MS '17 and Jacob Leonard, Aug. 5, 2017.

Anthony Killion '15 and Jillian Ross '17, Apr. 22, 2018.

Jessica Leimbach '16 and Kyle Janiak '16, Oct. 28, 2018.

William Stephens '70 and Sharon Conner Trone, Oct. 13, 2017.

Lesley Tucker '78 and Steven Crawford, Apr. 1, 2018.

Births & Adoptions

Jacob Baumgardner '15 and Brittany, a son, Jenson Ray, Aug. 15, 2017.

Caitlin Lohman Berkley '11 and Dave, a son, Hudson Wayne, Jan. 26, 2018.

Nathan Brunnelson MBA '17 and Emily, a daughter, Madelyn Hannah, Mar. 13, 2018.

Hayley John Dobson '03 and Michael, a daughter, Tatym Rae, Sept. 26, 2017.

Stephanie Ackermann Hilten '15 and Samuel Hilten '15, a son, Calvin Thomas, Jan. 30, 2018.

Miranda Edler Jones '06 MS '08 and Michael Jones MS '12, a son, Duke Maxwell, Feb. 11, 2018.

Amber Bedee Josephson MS '14 and John, a son, Westin Edward, Mar. 3, 2018.

Russell Krug '11 and Alyssa Hardy Krug '11, a daughter, Adelaide, May 4, 2017.

Beth Harmison Lane '08 PB-CER '12 and David Lane '08 MS '10, a daughter, Riley Elizabeth, Nov. 27, 2017.

Brad Mason '13 and Sandy, a son, Wade Steven, Mar. 19, 2018.

Sarah Murphy '09 PB-CER '11 and Rusty Melhouse, a daughter, Maueve, Mar. 2, 2018.

Jayne Wadsworth May '09 and Jeremy, a son, James, Sept. 17, 2017.

Jessica Ball Mueller '09 MS '11 and Brandon, a son, Michael Joseph Martin, Mar. 3, 2018.

Katie Postman Scott '01 and Jim, a daughter, Effie Mae, Nov. 21, 2017.

Joe Stevens '04 and Kim, a daughter, Kaiulani Grace, Apr. 19, 2018.

Shelli Brockhouse White '98 and Jamie, adopted a son on Dec. 22, 2017, Colton Drake, Dec. 6, 2017.

Shelli Brockhouse White '98 and Jamie, became legal guardians on Jan. 29, 2018, Josey Ester, Sept. 29, 2005.

Deaths

Florence E. Hannel Acree, Springfield, Feb. 4, 2018.

Roger L. Barclay, Quincy, Apr. 3, 2018.

David P. Bigelow, Liberty, Mar. 16, 2018.

Paul R. "Dick" Cowan, Euclid, OH, Mar. 29, 2017.

Michael G. DeWitt, Abingdon, Dec. 19, 2016.

Cerece I. Hasten, Phoenix, AZ, Apr. 10, 2018.

Oliver P. "Phil" Heaton, Rushville, Apr. 9, 2018.

John H. Herbster, Rushville, Apr. 16, 2018.

Mary E. Elander Hoisington, Silverton, OR, Oct. 23, 2017.

Jeffrey L. Hoyer, Santa Barbara, CA, Jan. 26, 2016.

Christopher A. Izzo, Baton Rouge, LA, Mar. 19, 2018.

Mary L. Larson Jelks, Panama City, FL, Mar. 27, 2018.

Geneva A. Keithley, Macomb, Mar. 10, 2018.

Norma L. Wade McDonald, Macomb, Feb. 2, 2018.

Michael McLaughlin, Evansville, IN, Feb. 7, 2018.

Harold Q. Morrow, Macomb, Mar. 16, 2018.

Marybeth R. Reedy Murphy, Quincy, Mar. 20, 2018.

Laura E. "Betsy" Kindred Nicholson, Macomb, Mar. 29, 2018.

James W. Prange, Sigourney, IA, Feb. 24, 2018.

Wilma J. Geltmacher Ren, Good Hope, Apr. 9, 2018.

Janet D. Ryan, Macomb, Apr. 22, 2018.

John H. "Hank" Sather, Boise, ID, Apr. 14, 2018.

Dorothy C. Shay, Iowa City, IA, June 26, 2017.

Herman D. Tow, Jr., Gainesville, FL, Jan. 12, 2018.

Russell A. Waggy, Blandinsville, Mar. 4, 2018.

Sarah J. "Jane" Westen, Macomb, Mar. 15, 2018.



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- William Y. Wieck**, Marshall, Feb. 6, 2015.
- 1935 Ruby L. Johnson**, Monmouth, Sept. 18, 2017.
- 1939 Jack A. Schulz**, Lakewood, CO, Sept. 12, 2017.
- 1941 Elizabeth A. Watson Reakes**, Rock Island, Aug. 25, 2017.
- 1942 Martha E. Ruebush Lanham**, Walla Walla, WA, Oct. 30, 2017.
- 1942 Velma E. Sharrow Rodgers '48**, Springfield, Jan. 29, 2014.
- 1945 Barbara R. Reed Osborn**, Sterling, Mar. 3, 2018.
- 1945 Betty B. Byers Viar**, Raleigh, NC, Jan. 29, 2018.
- 1947 Alfred L. "Buck" Knowles**, Macomb, Apr. 12, 2018.
- 1951 William K. Griffith**, Lima, OH, Mar. 27, 2018.
- 1951 Margery M. Kirkpatrick Laster**, Deerfield Beach, FL, Jan. 4, 2018.
- 1951 Bonnie L. Scott Lynch**, Watseka, Feb. 17, 2018.
- 1951 Norma J. Power Marshall**, Palm Desert, CA, Apr. 12, 2018.
- 1951 Betty J. Williamson Vrooman**, Waverly, Feb. 16, 2017.
- 1952 Pauline F. Fullerton Foran**, Monticello, Mar. 3, 2018.
- 1952 Kathryn J. Hendrickson Riley**, Stronghurst, Apr. 19, 2018.
- 1953 Leslie D. Renner**, Walnut, Dec. 8, 2016.
- 1953 Marcia J. Young Simonson**, Roseville, Feb. 24, 2018.
- 1954 Janice Sohrbeck Frowein MS-ED '67**, Macomb, Mar. 28, 2018.
- 1955 Verliet L. Burrell**, Lafayette, IN, Feb. 24, 2018.
- 1955 Bruce B. White**, Parrish, FL, Mar. 16, 2018.
- 1957 Kenneth A. Kleffman**, Middleburg, KY, June 23, 2016.
- 1957 Mildred L. McCallister Wendorff**, Pittsfield, Mar. 20, 2017.
- 1958 Paul S. Culp**, Scottsdale, AZ, Jan. 11, 2018.
- 1958 Donald E. Kramer**, Ft. Wayne, IN, Feb. 22, 2018.
- 1958 Roger L. Scriven MS-ED '62**, Knoxville, Mar. 23, 2018.
- 1958 Donald G. Smith**, Macomb, Apr. 16, 2018.
- 1959 Arthur K. Hall MS-ED '64**, Burlington, IA, Apr. 4, 2018.
- 1959 Richard A. Morris**, Erie, Mar. 22, 2018.
- 1960 Donna R. Walker Kuhlman**, Savoy, Dec. 19, 2017.
- 1960 Curtis R. LeGrand**, Bettendorf, IA, Feb. 18, 2018.
- 1960 Harold M. Powers**, San Antonio, TX, Mar. 25, 2018.
- 1961 David W. Welch**, Sugar Grove, Feb. 18, 2018.
- 1962 Richard C. Bumba**, Bloomington, Feb. 13, 2018.
- 1962 Michael S. "Mick" Madison, Sr.**, Springfield, Jan. 21, 2018.
- 1962 Philip P. Sailer**, Rock Island, Jan. 31, 2018.
- 1963 William R. "Dick" Brusnighan MS-Ed '65**, Weslaco, TX, Feb. 3, 2018.
- 1963 Wayne A. Hall**, Dallas, TX, Feb. 9, 2018.
- 1964 Bruce R. Smith**, Elmhurst, Feb. 2, 2018.
- 1965 David M. "Mark" Abernathy**, Bakersfield, CA, Jan. 27, 2018.
- 1966 Louise A. Hofsess Huseman**, Versailles, Oct. 3, 2017.
- 1966 John Mahoney MA '76**, Oak Park, Feb. 4, 2018.
- 1966 Charles W. Slentz MSE '74**, Moline, Jan. 27, 2017.
- 1966 Earl L. "Skip" Strupp III**, Rock Island, Apr. 23, 2018.
- 1967 Jim E. Gager MS-ED '78, ED SP '81**, Moline, Nov. 24, 2017.
- 1968 Michael A. "Mick" Aleno**, DeLand, FL, Oct. 2, 2017.
- 1968 Phillip M. Daniele**, Springfield, May 26, 2017.
- 1968 Robert A. Hendrickson MS '88**, Galesburg, Feb. 1, 2018.
- 1968 Roger A. Hoerr**, Peoria, Aug. 1, 2016.
- 1968 Ronald J. Walter MS**, Edgerton, WI, Jan. 29, 2018.
- 1969 Dean H. Hess**, Jacksonville, Feb. 5, 2018.
- 1969 William J. Traynor**, Pleasant Prairie, WI, Sept. 17, 2017.
- 1970 William H. Allenbaugh**, Chapel Hill, Oct. 31, 2016.
- 1970 Raymond R. "Rick" Alm**, Hutchinson, KS, Feb. 16, 2017.
- 1970 Terry E. Frye**, Petersburg, Mar. 5, 2017.
- 1970 Robert T. Matson MS-ED**, Mason City, IA, Feb. 8, 2018.
- 1970 Michael P. Reger MS '72**, Brookings, SD, Jan. 27, 2017.
- 1970 David A. Trainor**, Kewanee, Nov. 30, 2016.
- 1971 Stephen G. Brown**, Green Valley, AZ, Feb. 1, 2018.
- 1971 Kenneth R. Fullerton MS '73**, Ingelside, July 11, 2017.
- 1971 Eugene F. Gowdy**, Sanford, CA, Dec. 29, 2017.
- 1971 Duane M. Kovacek**, Gurnee, Apr. 22, 2018.
- 1971 Maurice G. Meyer**, Witt, Dec. 26, 2017.
- 1971 Karen S. Camps Nielsen**, Gonvick, MN, Feb. 2, 2018.
- 1971 Carol J. Bailey Simpson MS-ED '74**, Galesburg, Feb. 13, 2018.
- 1972 Patricia M. Hull Fulton MA**, E. Moline, Apr. 19, 2018.
- 1972 Susan E. Stambaugh Miner MA '73**, Macomb, Mar. 6, 2018.
- 1972 Robert E. Poska**, Round Lake, Nov. 12, 2016.
- 1972 Larry G. Shelts**, Camden, Apr. 7, 2018.
- 1973 Denise M. Chapman-Nelson**, Aurora, Mar. 12, 2018.
- 1973 Judith K. Morgan Flesher**, Littleton, CO, Nov. 7, 2017.
- 1973 Carol M. Logos Tooley**, Joliet, Feb. 18, 2018.
- 1973 Terry E. Weber**, Ft. Worth, TX, Mar. 29, 2017.
- 1974 Debra A. Bohlmann Bettermann**, Crescent City, Mar. 6, 2018.
- 1974 Thomas G. Brady**, Pekin, Feb. 9, 2018.
- 1974 Anita J. Koenig Murrens MS-ED ED SP '81**, Vernon Hills, Feb. 27, 2018.
- 1974 Jackie W. Thompson**, Pekin, Oct. 8, 2017.



1975 Gregory V. Baros, Mokena, Dec. 16, 2016.

1975 Brian R. Horton, Washington, Apr. 18, 2018.

1975 Rick G. Keim, Pittsfield, Apr. 3, 2018.

1975 Patrick M. McGinley ED SP, Quincy, Feb. 21, 2017.

1976 Donald C. Capps, Quincy, Mar. 30, 2017.

1976 Wilbert R. Ruck ED SP, Peoria, Sept. 30, 2017.

1976 James D. Van Doren, Jr. '76, Tampa, FL, Jan. 2, 2017.

1977 Patrick E. Brokaw, Stronghurst, Mar. 15, 2018.

1977 Dennis D. Douglass, Superior, CO, Oct. 17, 2016.

1977 Louise C. Conlon Hrabak MA, Terra Haute, IN, Feb. 21, 2018.

1977 Eloise N. Dickens Hughey, Robins, IA, Feb. 18, 2018.

1977 Joseph M. Maggio, Rockford, Dec. 25, 2017.

1977 Gerald E. Randecker, New Braunfels, TX, Nov. 13, 2017.

1978 James E. Cumberworth, Jr., Davenport, IA, Feb. 16, 2018.

1978 Frank C. Dodero II, Naperville, Apr. 4, 2018.

1978 Alan W. Hull, Tucson, AZ, Sept. 21, 2017.

1978 Mary B. Kinsella-Topping, Monmouth, Jan. 17, 2017.

1978 Peggy A. Schodtler Knight, McHenry, Feb. 14, 2018.

1978 Carol J. Kuebler Lineback MS-ED, Iowa City, IA, June 2, 2017.

1978 Donna S. White Osbourne ED SP '83, Geneseo, Mar. 5, 2018.

1979 Ruth E. Carwile MS-ED, Monmouth, Mar. 9, 2018.

1979 Elizabeth A. Rust Doolin MS-ED, Jacksonville, June 1, 2017.

1979 James L. Gordon, Macomb, Mar. 8, 2018.

1980 Billie C. Bullock Embree MS-ED, Quincy, Dec. 16, 2017.

1981 James A. Hackbarth, Macomb, Jan. 27, 2018.

1981 Joan M. Bartlett Hieatt, New Castle, KY, Mar. 22, 2018.

1981 Paul W. Lee, Plymouth, Mar. 8, 2018.

1982 James D. Cload, Longwood, FL, Oct. 19, 2016.

1982 Robert R. Renken, Alhambra, Oct. 7, 2016.

1983 William D. Breeden, Bourbonnais, Feb. 11, 2018.

1983 Teresa A. Marley Knobloch, Ohlman, Jan. 14, 2017.

1983 Ettajane Jones Pullen MS-ED, Monmouth, Oct. 26, 2016.

1985 Louis J. Bervid, Jr. MA, Crestwood, Nov. 14, 2016.

1985 Carol A. Meyers MS-ED, Dexter, MI, Apr. 3, 2018.

1987 Robert O. "Otis" Haines, Colchester, Mar. 15, 2018.

1987 Anne S. May Hall MS-ED, Roseville, Mar. 18, 2018.

1988 Gary W. Cobb, Peoria, Feb. 15, 2018.

1988 John V. Lupo, Omaha, NE, Aug. 17, 2017.

1988 Thomas C. "Colin" Quinn, Wichita, KS, Jan. 18, 2018.

1988 Patricia E. Sutterman Vietti MS-ED, Peoria, Nov. 27, 2017.

1989 Michael A. Connell MS-ED, Quincy, May 31, 2015.

1989 David L. Kronick, Urbandale, IA, Jan. 4, 2018.

1990 Delores J. Greim Duffy, Rockford, Mar. 31, 2017.

1990 David W. Lawver, Lewistown, Mar. 30, 2018.

1990 Theodore D. Lynn, Kissimmee, FL, Oct. 16, 2017.

1990 Louis L. Melton, Rockford, Sept. 30, 2016.

1991 David J. Hoefler, Dublin, OH, Feb. 15, 2017.

1992 Nancy S. Wilson, Kalamazoo, MI, Dec. 22, 2016.

1994 Novella M. Baderscher Luter, Machesney Park, Sept. 28, 2017.

1994 Gloria J. Smith-Durant, Kewanee, May 6, 2017.

1995 Cortez R. Madison, Montgomery, Mar. 1, 2015.

1995 Richard L. Stodd MA, Moline, Sept. 21, 2016.

1996 Mary C. Pickard "Carolyn" Handy MA '01, Bismark, ND, Dec. 2, 2017.

1996 Roman J. "Ray" Narconis, Jr., Edwardsville, Jan. 25, 2017.

1996 Vincent L. Roberts, Burlington, IA, Jan. 16, 2017.

1998 Marjorie A. Jackson Blythe, Vandalia, Mar. 6, 2015.

1998 Joseph D. Kane, Little York, Mar. 14, 2018.

1998 Janet K. Scharfenberg MS-ED, Carlinville, May 9, 2017.

2001 Ryan S. Wright '02 MS '02, Iowa City, IA, Mar. 31, 2018.

2003 Jason W. Pohren, Hamilton, Mar. 19, 2018.

2005 Beth E. Redenius, Carthage, Jan. 25, 2018.

2008 Jonathan R. Valadez, Cary, Jan. 29, 2018.

2009 Courtney J. Mullin Ryan, Davenport, IA, Feb. 19, 2018.

2010 Sarah E. Russell Mann, Carbondale, Apr. 1, 2018.

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