Fall 2011 Alumni Achievement Recipients

By Darcie Shinberger ’89 MS ’98

Three Western Illinois University alumni received the WIU Alumni Achievement Award at the Dec. 17 Commencement Exercises.

This year’s Alumni Achievement recipients are Regina Young Hyatt ’94 MS ’97, dean of students and associate vice president for student affairs at the University of South Florida, Young Hyatt has also served as the chair of the Board for the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA); as director of student life at the University of South Florida, Petersburg; and as associate and assistant director of Student Activities at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Young Hyatt began her professional career working as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities at Western Illinois University.

In her role at UAHuntsville, Young Hyatt is responsible for creating and maintaining a healthy, safe, and supportive environment for students. During her time at

Young Hyatt, a political science graduate and a college student personnel graduate, has been the dean of students at the University of Alabama, Huntsville since January. Prior to that appointment she was the associate dean for students for four years at the University of South Florida (USF). Young Hyatt has also served as the chair of the Board for the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA); as director of student life at the University of South Florida, Petersburg; and as associate and assistant director of Student Activities at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Young Hyatt began her professional career working as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities at Western Illinois University.

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Western’s Alumni Achievement Award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in one or more of the following: exceptional accomplishment in one’s chosen field of endeavor; exceptional service in community affairs at the local, state or national levels; or exceptional service in support of the advancement and continued excellence of WIU.

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Dear Alumni & Friends:

Your Western Illinois University Alumni Association is pleased to announce the selection of three Alumni Achievement recipients who received their awards at the fall commencement ceremonies. As we always say, graduation is the best time of the year on campus because we recognize the accomplishments of our students as they begin a new phase of their lives and we welcome them as the newest members of the WIU Alumni Association. We are excited to have them join the more than 115,000 strong association and become, like you, permanent trustees of this great institution. We hope they will join us, and perhaps you, at an upcoming alumni and friends event in your area – see the calendars on pages 1, 2 and 28 or visit wiu.edu/alumni. Go Leathernecks!

Amy E. Spelman

Amanda Shoemaker MS ’11

Dana Moon ’98 MBA ’01

Schuyler Isley ’98 MBA ’04, director, communications and external relations, College of Business and Technology

Jessica Ruebush Lambert ’09 MS ’11, graphic designer

Dana Moon ’98 MBA ’01, assistant to the dean, College of Education and Human Services

Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95, director, Foundation communications/donor stewardship

Cathy Null ’72 MA ’91 MS ’02, assistant to the dean, College of Fine Arts and Communication

Tammy Sayles, marketing and outreach librarian

Amanda Shoemaker MS ’11, associate director of Alumni Programs

Have tips, questions or comments for Western News? A-Association@wiu.edu

see “Send Us Your News” (page 27)

Need to update your address? wiu.edu/alumni

Tel (309) 298-1914
Fax (309) 298-2194

Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.

December 2011

18 . . . . . . . Kansas City Alumni & Friends Event - Kansas City Chiefs vs. Green Bay Packers Pregame Social & Football Game

January 2012

5 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago at Goose Island
15 . . . . . . . Ft. Myers Alumni & Friends Event
16 . . . . . . . Jupiter (FL) Alumni & Friends Event at Cardinals Spring Training
30 . . . . . . . Chicago Complimentary Alumni & Friends Event at Adler Planetarium

February 2012

2 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in Homewood (IL)
11 . . . . . . . New Orleans Alumni & Friends Event
18 . . . . . . . St. Louis Alumni & Friends Event for Mari Gras
22 . . . . . . . Chicago Alumni & Friends Event at the Lyric Opera

March 2012

1 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago at Goose Island
15 . . . . . . . Ft. Myers Alumni & Friends Event
16 . . . . . . . Jupiter (FL) Alumni & Friends Event at Cardinals Spring Training
30 . . . . . . . Chicago Complimentary Alumni & Friends Event at Adler Planetarium

April 2012

5 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in Schaumburg (IL)

May 2012

3 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago
11-12 . . . . WIU Commencement & Distinguished Alumni Awards Weekend
19 . . . . . . . Alumni & Friends event to watch the Cubs vs. White Sox from The Cubby Bear

June 2012

7 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours at BlackFinn in Naperville
11 . . . . . . . “The Western Open” Chicago Alumni & Friends Golf Outing in Woodridge (IL)
18 . . . . . . . Quad Cities Alumni & Friends Golf Outing in Silvis (IL)
TBA . . . . . . . Paterson (NJ) Alumni & Friends Event at The Brownstone

July 2012

5 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago
28 . . . . . . . Wrigleyville Rooftop Alumni & Friends Event Cubs vs. Cardinals

August 2012

2 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours
2 . . . . . . . Denver Alumni & Friends Event - Cardinals vs. Rockies Pregame Social & Baseball Game

September 2012

6 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago
21-22 . . . . Homecoming & Reunion

October 2012

4 . . . . . . . Western After-Hours

From the President

It has been an exciting semester at Western Illinois University. As we near the end of the Fall 2011 semester, it is important that we reflect on our noteworthy accomplishments.

In September, the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of College and Schools announced that Western Illinois University has been reaccredited for 10 years. Western continues to be ranked in the top tier of Midwest Universities Master’s granting institutions by the U.S. News and World Report, and for the seventh consecutive year, WIU was named a Best Midwestern College by the Princeton Review. Western was also once again designated as a “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs Magazine and is featured in the “Guide to Military Friendly Schools.”

This fall, we brought in the largest freshman class that we have had in the past four years. We are making a concerted effort to enhance our Honors College, School of Graduate Studies, and the First Year Experience program. In November, Phase I of the WIU-Quad Cities Riverfront campus was nearly completed. WIU-QC faculty and staff will move into the new Riverfront campus building later this month, and classes will begin on Jan. 17, 2012.

WIU student Jenna Verity, a senior political science major and an Honors pre-law minor from Schaumburg (IL), was selected as a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Last month, Western hosted a Mock Election, the largest student-run mock election event in the country.

I have had the opportunity to attend some wonderful alumni events during the fall semester, and I want to thank those who took part in events throughout the year.

I wish each of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Western Illinois University.

Sincerely,

Jack Thomas
Agriculture Education alumnus honored with statewide excellence in teaching award

By Teresa Kolitsenburg ‘92 MS ‘11

Jay Solomonson ‘92 decided to become an agricultural educator because he wanted to make a difference in students’ lives. As an agricultural education instructor and FFA adviser at Orion (IL) High School, the Western Illinois University alumnus is doing just that.

In August, during Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair, Solomonson—who earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture education from WIU in 2002—was recognized with the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT) State “Excellence in Teaching” Award. According to a post on the Orion Community Unit School District’s website by Orion High School Principal Nathan DeBaillie MSED ‘07, in order to be considered for the award, an agricultural educator must be nominated by a current or former student, administrator, fellow teacher, FFA alumnus or other member of the educator’s community.

“arward provides an opportunity for agricultural teachers to be recognized for conducting innovative programs of instruction that motivate students through the use of classroom and non-classroom activities,” said DeBaillie in the post. “After nomination, a district administrator completes a support form to be used in the judging of a section winner. Once 25 section winners are named, five district winners are selected using the same support forms. Mr. Solomonson’s final steps in the process were to submit his teaching résumé and five letters of support from a current or former student, administrator, teacher, FFA Alumnus, or other member of the Orion community. The final decision was made Aug. 16, when… the IAVAT Board selected Jay as the ‘Excellence in Teaching’ award winner.”

Solomonson, who “came from an agricultural background,” noted that his own high school agricultural education program and FFA experiences made him realize that pursuing a career in agricultural education would be a “great fit.” His time at WIU—where he was involved with the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity, Collegiate FFA, Ag Vocations, Ag Council, Alpha Zeta and the Ag Mech Club—provided him with a variety of opportunities and experiences through which he grew not only as a student, but also as a future agricultural educator.

“I don’t think I would be where I am today without the experiences I received while at WIU,” Solomonson said. “I would especially like to thank Dr. Andy Baker at WIU for his continued guidance and support through this process.”

In late 2009, Solomonson was also recognized for his contributions to the field of agricultural education. He and his wife, Sheryl, were honored with a Young Leaders Excellence in Agriculture Award from the Illinois Farm Bureau. (Sheryl is the agriculture literacy coordinator for Rock Island County in Illinois.)

Andy Baker, agriculture education professor at WIU’s School of Agriculture, noted that Solomonson’s recognition through the IAVAT Excellence in Teaching Award exemplifies the respect Solomonson has earned from his peers across the State of Illinois.

“Jay has a deep passion for teaching and the profession itself. You can see it in his students and peers. He has a true knack for creating innovative techniques in providing instruction to students. He is constantly tweaking or revising his curriculum to make it relevant for his students,” Baker explained. “Jay’s leadership is also unprecedented. From day one, he has guided, mentored and assisted beginning agricultural teachers across the state to assure them they are not alone in their careers. I am very proud of his accomplishments, and I can’t wait to see what he tackles next.”

For more information about WIU’s agricultural education program in the School of Agriculture, contact Baker at (309) 298-1246 or AJ-Baker@wiu.edu. Learn more about the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture at wiu.edu/ag/.

Ford recognized as top performer on CMA

By Schuyler Isley ’98 MBA ’04

When WIU Accounting and Finance Instructor Amy Ford ’01 M.Acct ’02 decided she’d take the CMA (Certified Management Accountant) exam to better advise her students, she had no idea that she’d set a record in the process.

“As SCIMA’s faculty adviser, I have attended many CMA meetings over the past five years and I have presented several information sessions to SCIMA students about the CMA exam. I decided last spring that I should take the exam so I could share my experience with our students,” Ford explained.

The two-part CMA exam assures employers that an individual has mastered the knowledge and skills needed for the job. Consisting of 100 multiple choice questions and two essays, it’s a well-respected assessment of advanced accounting and financial management knowledge in four critical areas: financial planning, analysis, control and decision support.

“I started studying for the exam after finals in May. I sat for the first part at the beginning of June and the second part at the end of June,” said Ford. “While I don’t recommend taking both parts of the exam in the same month, I found that since I teach a lot of the material in my classes that helped shorten my preparation time tremendously.”

Ford took the exam and waited...and waited...and waited. Finally, in late September, the Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA®) announced the leading performers on the CMA exam for the May-June 2011 testing period. Ford was elated to learn that her score was among the top nine of the approximately 3,500 individuals who took the CMA exam during the May-June 2011 testing period.

“We’re so proud of Amy and her outstanding accomplishment,” said College of Business and Technology Dean Tom Erekson. “She is among an elite group of professionals who are at the top of their field. This is a wonderful illustration of the ways in which our faculty consistently go above and beyond for the benefit of their students.”

When summing up the experience, Ford noted that she was “very lucky that my family was supportive of my efforts to prepare and sit for the exam.

“It was a time-consuming process but was well-worth the end result,” she added. “I hope to mentor many future students considering the CMA certification.”

Ladies and gentleman... start your engines. Or rather... plug in your engines!

Western Illinois University engineering technology students, under the direction of engineering technology professor David Hunter ’88 MS ’90, have built an electric car and formed the Electric Leatherneck Race Team, an official WIU student organization.

The team will compete in the Spring 2012 Electric Vehicle Grand Prix at Purdue University. The team was set to take part in the ’11 race, but a breakdown before the race kept the Leatherneck-mobile out of the competition. Fusion Tech Roseville, which donated materials, assisted the students, helping with the more specialized welding.

Students from all disciplines at Western are invited to join the race team.

Check out the Spring 2012 issue of Western News for the full story on the team and the official Leatherneck Electric Car.
WIU Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter recognized as “Premier”

The Western Illinois University collegiate chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), the honor society for the AACSB International (The Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business), has been recognized as a Premier Chapter for its superior level of membership acceptance during the 2010-2011 academic year.

According to College of Business and Technology (CBT) Dean Tom Erekon, the Premier Chapter award recognizes Western for its high level of success in recruiting top business students into the society. Each year, collegiate BGS chapters extend invitations to the top 10 percent of business juniors, the upper 10 percent of business graduate students. Chapters reporting an 85 percent acceptance rate of prospective members are considered to be Premier.

“Of 507 Beta Gamma Sigma international chapters currently established on college and university campuses, only 96 were recognized as a Premier Chapter in 2011,” Erekon added.

With Premier Chapter status, Western was able to award a Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship during the Fall 2011 semester. Matthew Christopher Medhat, a senior economics major from Downers Grove (IL) received the $1,000 scholarship. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Medhat noted that his time at WIU has made him passionate about education.

“During my freshman year, I became fascinated by economics. It was an interesting time to start learning about the economy due to the recent recession,” he added. “Economics coursework allowed me to expand my knowledge of the way our country works, and it challenged me to improve my critical and analytical thinking.”

Medhat said his experiences in the Marines and at WIU have helped him grow exponentially.

“I am fully prepared and excited for my future challenges,” Medhat said. Every day I look for ways to improve myself as an individual and to have a positive effect on anything in my path.”

Medhat is one of only 153 Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship recipients nationwide.

WIU partners with local business to build better engines

By Schuyler Isley '98 MBA '04

For more than two years, Engineering Technology Professor Rafael Obregon MS '91 has been working with Dan Meyer MS '98 of Innovative Design and Research Corporation (IDRC) in Rushville (IL) on a sophisticated Department of Defense (DoD) grant focused on engine design.

“Back in 2009, Dan received information about this grant opportunity and invited me to work on it with him. We had worked together many times in the past, so it seemed like a good fit,” Obregon said.

Meyer is no stranger to the process involved in government grants. He formed IDRC in 1989 to conceive and produce advanced thermal engines as alternatives to conventional engines. From its earliest beginnings, IDRC sought grant funding to develop and implement the new engine concepts. The company’s first DoD grant was awarded in 1996.

On their current project, Meyer and Obregon are collaborating under the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, sponsored by the DoD. It is a cooperative project that is intended to join a local business with the University through a two-phase project.

“STTR programs require cooperative research and development (R&D) projects involving a small business and a research institution like a university, a federally-funded R&D center or a nonprofit research institution,” noted Meyer. “The purpose of an STTR is to create, for the first time, an effective method for transferring ideas from the nation’s research institutions to the market, where they can benefit both private sector and military customers.”

A written agreement between the small business and the research institution, allocating “Intellectual Property” rights, is required for participating in this kind of program. Meyer and Obregon developed the Phase I proposal and were approved for $20,000 in funding. This phase consisted of the development and analysis of three-dimensional computer models of IDRC’s new engine designs for military Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

During Phase I, Meyer and Obregon worked intensively during Fall 2010 on modeling, validation and documentation of the conceptual UAV engine design. The results were used to determine unrivaled power-to-weight ratios and to produce interactive virtual prototypes for the final engine configuration. By incorporating lightweight, efficient and durable materials into the engine designs, the UAVs are better equipped for success.

“Traditionally, these engines and components have been constructed of conventional materials like cast iron and aluminum,” said Obregon. “These limit the power-to-weight ratio and/or durability of the product. Through this grant, we’re successfully finding more innovative approaches to engine materials and design.”

During Phase I, Meyer and Obregon were notified that nearly 40 proposals were submitted for the project. In addition to the IDRC-WIU proposal, three other company-research institution teams in Indiana, Arizona, and Oregon were also working on prototypes. They later found out that only one team would be chosen to continue to Phase II.

After eight months of hard work and planning, the IDRC-WIU Phase I effort was selected as a finalist. Meyer and Obregon were granted a “Phase I-option” extension and were invited to submit a Phase II proposal. As a result, $30,000 of additional STTR funds were allocated to the project.

In March, IDRC began development of the Phase II proposal for $500,000 to create a working prototype of the Phase I design. Several drafts of the Phase II proposal were submitted, and since then Meyer and Obregon have continued working—refining engine components, designing a test-cell for the prototype, locating and evaluating contractors and suppliers and adjusting the proposal according to the revisions and specifications in the grant.

“As we begin the full scale Phase II research, we’ve started working with another WIU entity, the Quad Cities Manufacturing Lab (QCML), to manufacture key engine components for advanced materials,” explained Obregon.

The QCML is a DoD-funded research center in Moline (IL) which specializes in the use of titanium and other lightweight metals.

“Will be the next for the duo?”

“The final designs, engineering analysis and refinement related tasks will occur during Spring 2012 and we’ll continue with manufacturing of essential components through Summer 2012,” added Meyer. “By Fall 2012, we will have the prototype engine assembled and mounted on the test-cell to initiate 1,000 hours of tests at the testing facility in Rushville.”

According to Obregon, the successful development of this technology could create the standard engine of the future and show up in homes and businesses as lightweight power generators, fire pumps, outboard motors, lawn mowers, dirt bikes and portable air conditioning units.

Pending the test results, it is expected that by early 2013, a “platform” engine will be readied and delivered for government field tests with the Department of Defense.
Keithley named outstanding adviser

By Darcie Shinberger ‘89 MS ‘98

Ember Keithley ‘94 MBA ‘01, an academic adviser for the College of Business and Technology at Western Illinois University, has received the Outstanding Academic Adviser Award for 2011.

Keithley received a $250 award from the Office of the Provost, as well as $250 in line-item expenditures and a plaque from Western’s Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR). Selection for the annual award is made by the CITR director, the previous year’s recipient, and representatives from the Faculty Senate, the Council of Academic Advisers, and the Student Government Association. Her application packet will be submitted as Western’s entry to the National Academic Advisers Association (NACADA) competition. Keithley, who has been an academic adviser at WIU since July 2000, has served as the School of Agriculture adviser to more than 330 students since June 2009.

According to the award committee, “Ember’s dedication to those students is like that of a parent to their child. She continues to help her students achieve their goals every day. She is fully invested in her students’ success and overall growth.”

Nominator Chris Ramsey ‘97 MSED ‘04, director of the CBT Advising Center, noted that “Ember’s insight as an adviser, instructor and former business person in the banking industry is invaluable in her work with advising agriculture students. Student evaluations demonstrate that Ember listens, provides resources and options, encourages and assists students to gain the confidence they need.”

In one nomination letter, a student wrote, “She will do anything for her 300 kids.”

Beyond her adviser duties, Keithley has taught AGRI-320, “Success Strategies in Ag” and AGRI-420, “Ag Leadership and Personal Development.” She serves as the adviser for the Ag Vocators and is co-adviser for Sigma Alpha sorority.

Another student nominator wrote, “Ms. Keithley was called upon this spring to advise Sigma Alpha because they were in need of extra guidance. She took on this challenge with enthusiasm and passion. She has dedicated every Monday night and countless hours to this organization.”

“She is caring, proactive and shows excellent dedication in everything she does. Ember works diligently to build strong relationships with her students, the faculty and staff. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her, including serving on search committees, mentoring a graduate student, serving on a scholarship committee and as an ag panel representative for WIU and completing a book review,” Ramsey added.

Keithley received her bachelor’s degree in finance from WIU in 1994 and her MBA in 2001.

Eighth Annual Supply Chain Management Day

WIU students interested in the supply chain management field participated in the eighth annual Supply Chain Management (SCM) Day at WIU Oct. 3. The event included an afternoon of informal meet-and-greet opportunities with company representatives.

“During the last several years, many of the SCM industry’s leading employers have shown record interest in our SCM students,” Bart Jennings, event founder and supply chain management professor, said. “Many of these employers participate in SCM Day and are actively recruiting for multiple positions.”

The event was open to all supply chain management majors and minors, as well as students interested in the SCM field.

“Recent WIU SCM graduates have received job offers following their junior year, some have received multiple offers, and starting salaries continue to increase,” Jennings added. “If students are interested in the SCM field, this is a tremendous opportunity to visit one-on-one with industry insiders.”

SCM was established as a degree program at WIU’s Macomb campus in 2005, and is now one of WIU’s eight signature programs designated by President Jack Thomas. Western’s SCM offering is one of the 40 programs nationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSAB). Graduate students also have the option to pursue an SCM concentration within WIU’s Master of Business Administration degree.

Chicago business author recognizes alma mater

Juggling a business in two locations with clients on two continents, a book introduction, two online courses for a newly launched Consultant Certification and caring for an aging parent keeps local marketing and PR expert Kathleen McEntee ‘74 busy. But giving back also has a place on her plate. McEntee, who is chair of Western Illinois University’s College of Business and Technology (CBT) Advisory Board recently tied her book-signing to fundraising for her alma mater.

The book, “Being in Business is a Funny Thing—Getting Out is Not!,” is a business owner’s guide to growing and transitioning the business.

“Being in Business” is meant to help business owners provide insight into the many aspects of being in business, especially those skills that do not come naturally. When I meet with clients, my head just explodes with ideas on how to tackle the challenges that they are facing. What better way than to provide them with a reference to use as a foundation,” McEntee said.

Jennings pointed out that since its beginning, SCM Day has continued to grow.

“We’re hosting 12 of the industry’s top SCM companies at this year’s event. We’ve come a long way since our first SCM Day with just five companies,” he noted.

Companies participating at this year’s event included ADM, Blue Wave, CAT Logistics, Dayton Freight, DHL Global Forwarding, Hy-Vee, John Deere, Monsanto, Walmart, Ruan , Target, NTN Bower, Allstate, State Farm Insurance, Dohrn, DOT Foods, G&D Integrated and the Rock Island Arsenal.

Thanks to the WIU alumni who participated in the 8th annual SCM Day and made it such a terrific event!

• Chris Coffin ‘08 - Caterpillar Logistics
• Joe Coffman - Dohrn
• Shannon Durward ‘08 - John Deere
• Kim Ekena ‘80 - ADM
• Kristen Ferris Stanfield ‘08 - Monsanto
• Jeff Garbin ‘78 - John Deere
• Jessica Johnson ‘11 - ADM
• Pat Maloney ‘91 - John Deere
• Megan Opieku ‘08 - ADM
• Lori Reed Elvert ‘93 - DHL
• Jim Slattery ‘88 - Fairrington Transportation
• Andrea Weekley ‘07 - Dayton Freight

For more information about SCM Day or the SCM degree program, contact Jennings at (309) 298-1540 or BE-Jennings@wiu.edu.

The book is essentially marketing for her firm, in that it helps businesses tap her experience and knowledge-base. She decided to take it a step further to incorporate a little fundraising for Western’s College of Business and Technology at her recent book-signing in Chicago. Attendees had the option of giving to the University rather than directly to McEntee’s firm when buying.

“This is a first since I have been dean and we are just thrilled,” said CBT Dean Tom Erekson. “Kathleen has been an integral part of our board, especially during our recent re-accreditation process. We really appreciate her incorporating our cause into her business activities.”

The CBT at WIU is distinguished by its accreditation through the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), which recently re-accredited the college through 2015.

Proceeds earmarked for the University from the “Being in Business…” book-signing will be added towards the University’s $60 million Capital Campaign initiative.
Carol Koepke, senior marketing director of category management for McDonald’s USA, returned to Western Illinois University last month to serve as the WIU College of Business and Technology (CBT)’s Fall 2011 Executive in Residence.

During her time on campus, Koepke met with students in courses ranging from Professional Selling to Marketing Principles, to a WIU First Year Experience (FYE) class with a discussion on what makes a successful employee and how students should prepare for their careers.

A 30-year McDonald’s veteran, Koepke is a liaison between the various departments within the company, including Menu Management, Operations, Communications and Business Research. She also directs a team of nine advertising and promotional agencies. She is responsible for leading and developing strategic direction and marketing promotions for 14,700 McDonald’s restaurants in the U.S. Specifically, she oversees a team of marketing professionals that craft the strategies for the categories of burgers, fries, chicken, salads and breakfasts. Her team oversees the national promotions, brand-building initiatives and new product launches, such as the recent launch of Fruit and Maple Oatmeal and the Mac Snack Wrap.

Koepke served as a founding member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Wisconsin’s board of directors and for Rand First Stage Milwaukee. She is a member of the board of directors for the Hinsdale (IL) Humane Society and volunteers with Junior Achievement of Chicagoland.

“We were thrilled to have Carol back on campus as this year’s Executive in Residence. When she was here in 2009, more than 500 students came to hear her speak and she was greeted with such enthusiasm. This year was no different,” said Jeri Harper ’73 MSEd ’75, an instructor of management and marketing and coordinator of Koepke’s visits to the Macomb campus. “Our students greatly benefit from learning first-hand from industry executives such as Carol. We appreciate her willingness to come back to Western to share her knowledge and expertise.”

McDonald’s senior-level marketing director returns to WIU as CBT Executive in Residence

Student feedback echoed Harper’s sentiments about the importance of hearing from professionals in the field.

“If everyone from McDonald’s knows their stuff like Carol, no wonder it is doing as well as it is,” one student noted in a paper for Harper’s class. Another student took away the message that a small start can lead to bigger opportunities.

“I learned many different things from Carol Koepke, but I think the most important thing I learned was that just because you have a small job now doesn’t mean it is a dead end job,” Harper’s student said. “Any job could lead to bigger and better opportunities. You just have to make them what you want and work hard to achieve your goals.”
Broadcasting student is a lucky fellow

By Cathy Null ’72 MA ’91 MS ’02

Some people are just lucky. Not “lottery lucky,” but lucky because ever since they can remember they have known what they want to do. Some people know they want to be a teacher or a firefighter or a doctor. WIU student Michael Broskowski has always known he wants to be a play-by-play baseball radio announcer. Just like his hero Cory Provs, announcer for the Milwaukee Brewers, Broskowski wants to do play-by-play on the radio for baseball’s minor league teams. He’s already gotten a taste of “life on the road” as a radio play-by-play announcer, and it only furthered his desire to do what he loves as his career.

Broskowski, a broadcasting major from Jefferson (WI) transferred to WIU in Fall from Kirkwood Community College (KCC) in Cedar Rapids (IA). As a residential student at KCC, he spent his first summer in Iowa going to lots of home games for the local minor league team, the Kernels. His second summer in Cedar Rapids, Broskowski interned with the organization. It’s a great honor to be part of the Rochester Honkers organization,” Broskowski said in the official Honkers release. “The Northwoods League has always been a goal of mine.”

During his time at Western, Broskowski keeps busy doing play-by-play for volleyball, football, baseball and basketball games.

“It’s a great honor to be part of the Rochester Honkers organization.”

- Michael Broskowski

2011 Bard in the Barn

The annual department of theatre and dance’s Bard in the Barn returned this year with a bit of a twist. This year’s cast was comprised of WIU alumni, guest artists and faculty. A studio show and a University Theatre performance rehearsal taking place that day and evening, kept theatre students busy back on campus. According to Theatre Professor and Director Bill Kincaid, alumni, returned to campus to ensure the “show went on.”

“We put out a call for help, and 22 alums and guest artists paid their own way to get to Macomb to perform in Bard,” he added.

Wii expands educational opportunities for WIU music professor, students

Western Illinois University Music Professor James Caldwell has used computers since the 1980s to make music. A few years ago after reading an article in “Electronic Musician” about using the Wii to make music, he decided to try it out.

“I borrowed a Wii remote from my son-in-law, and spent a weekend playing around with possibilities,” Caldwell said. “I was intrigued at the ways physical motion could be captured and used to control music generated within a computer and played through speakers.”

Caldwell, an active composer, has played two of his solo Wii pieces on national festivals of electronic and digital music.

“Alternative instruments and controllers are an important part of the scene of experimental computer music these days, and I’ve seen a lot of interest in my work with the Wii controllers,” Caldwell said. His most recent piece, “Three days later, the bell choir played the new piece again on ElectroAcoustic Music Macomb, one of a series of concerts of electronic and computer music that Caldwell has been producing at WIU since 2002.

“I’ve used ‘Texturologie’ for a whole series of computer-generated electronic pieces that are about layers of musical activity rather than traditional melody, harmony, counterpoint or phrase structure. The other part of the title, ‘Wii Gather,’ is a bit silly, but ties in with the Wii,” he said. “I based some of the rhythm patterns for the bells on the rhythms of lines from familiar hymns like ‘Wii gather together,’ ‘Wii are one in the spirit’ and ‘What a friend Wii have in Jesus.’

“This process has been a lot of fun. The players were enthusiastic and willing to try something new,” he added.

“The music we made is not typical of what is heard in a church, and to my knowledge, ‘Texturologie 8a: Wii Gather’ is the first piece ever to combine handbells with computer-generated music controlled by Wii remote controllers.”

To learn more about the process and to hear the compositions, visit the YouTube videos produced by Caldwell and Ryan Severs of University TV: Introduction to Texturologie Wii Compositions—tinyurl.com/6iagls52; Texturologie 8a: Wii Gather—tinyurl.com/84az8d3; Texturologie 8b: Hyperbell—tinyurl.com/76cafb3; and Texturologie 9: Phacelia—tinyurl.com/85tvmhv

"It’s a great honor to be part of the Rochester Honkers organization.”

- Michael Broskowski

James Caldwell reads for a demonstration using the Wii in his series of YouTube Videos.

Wii expands educational opportunities for WIU music professor, students

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The minor leagues play 140 games between April and September, so Broskowski traveled with the team, literally living out of a different motel almost every night.

“It was exhausting, but it was a great experience,” Broskowski said.

During this past summer, Broskowski was selected as an intern with the Alaska Baseball League, a college league based in Palmer (AK), which features some of the best college players from the lower 48 states. Broskowski spent his summer vacation traveling with the Alaska Baseball League to their 44 games in a whirlwind 60 days. And he’s already got a job lined up for Summer 2012 with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Broskowski wants to be a play-by-play baseball radio announcer.

“Michael has been active in the department’s sports broadcasts since arriving on campus. He is a wonderful addition to our program,” Broadcasting Interim Chair Buzz Hoon ’86 MA ’91 said.

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John and Sarah Garvey Accountancy Fund established at Western

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

When John ’78 and Sarah Garvey visited campus together in October 2008 as part of the College of Business and Technology’s (CBT) “Executive in Residence” (EIR) program, an idea took shape that would later result in a most creative gift to the University.

EIR hosts accomplished alumni and friends of CBT to share their stories and successes with students. When the Garveys spent two days guest lecturing and presenting to faculty and students, they expressed a desire to create a scholarship to benefit undergraduate students in the School of Accountancy.

In 2010, the Garveys established The John and Sarah Garvey Accountancy Fund and are supporting it annually until it reaches $100,000. The purpose of the fund is to support hiring and retention of faculty members for Western’s Department of Accountancy. Filling vacant positions is the issue of greatest importance for the department. Hiring and retention are problematic nationwide; only 25 percent of open positions in accounting are filled each year. “I have fond memories of Western and felt like I wanted to do something to support the Department of Accountancy,” said John. “I remember my days in Macomb, and even when I was a student, I sensed it was difficult to attract and retain faculty.

“Although support of students is more traditional, we think this approach is really innovative,” Sarah added. “If you don’t have a strong faculty, it doesn’t matter what you do for students.”

The teaching foundation must first be in place.

The first initiative funded from the Garvey Accountancy Fund came this fall. The fund is supporting Lisa Ludlum ’81 M. Acct ’95 in her doctoral studies to become an educator. Ludlum earned her B.A. in accountancy from WIU in 1981, and her Master’s in Accountancy in 1995. She has been an accountant with McGladrey for the past 15 years, and has recently taught at WIU as an adjunct instructor. “My passion is serving clients, technical expertise and teaching,” said Ludlum. “I am coming back for an encore career in teaching; it seems like something that fits and is a natural progression for me.”

Ludlum is studying at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw (GA).

“Kennesaw’s academic program is designed to train educators rather than practitioners,” said Ludlum. “It is structured for working professionals with 10-15 years of work experience.” Ludlum spends one weekend each month at Kennesaw, and should finish her Ph.D. in three years.

Upon completion of her Ph.D., WIU will have the option of hiring Ludlum (provided she meets all qualifications) if there is availability. Should that happen, the “loan” that is supporting Ludlum in her studies would be forgiven.

“When Lisa finishes her degree, she will have a wonderful balance of academic and professional experience,” said John. “She is exactly the type of person we should be recruiting and who should be educating the future workforce.”

“Western is grateful to John and Sarah Garvey for their generosity and their creativity,” said Vice President of Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 MS ’83. “The accountancy program, as well as the University, is strengthened by their vision and trust.

Janis Establish JAIHO Endowment

By Julie Murphy ’94 MS ’95

In appreciation of the campus and community, Western Illinois University Professor Emeritus Dr. Subhash Jani and his family have established an endowment with the WIU Foundation to support the Jani Annual International Home (JAIHO) Students Sports Event. Jani, his wife, Linda, daughters Jayshee and Shanti, son-in-law, Xev, and granddaughter, Aasha, together signed the endowment agreement Aug. 10 with Western President Jack Thomas.

The annual event is intended to provide a sports venue to promote international awareness and understanding between Western Illinois University and Macomb High School students, and to engage the community at large. Participants will come from the local and international communities of both WIU and MHS, including those with special needs or disabilities. Western’s Center for International Studies (CIS) will oversee the event, which will alternate between a U.S. and international sport or game, either indoors or outdoors, for the annual focus: kite flying, baseball, cricket, golf, carrom, hoover ball, basketball, etc.

JAIHO is Hindi for “May Victory Prevail,” and the title of the Academy Award winning theme song from the 2008 film “Slumdog Millionaire.” The Jani family felt it was an appropriate term for the sentiment of the event.

Subhash and Linda, together with their grown children, Shanti, Krishna, Jayshee and Raam, wanted to develop a program with enduring value that would incorporate their backgrounds, pay tribute to what made their family better citizens and promote town/gown cohesion, while “making our town a better place.” The entire family favored the idea of fostering “collaborative competitiveness,” something they all experienced and benefitted from.

“I was born in India, lived in Tanzania and was educated in England before coming to the United States,” said Subhash. “I came to the USA with a total of $600 in graduate assistantship funds for nine months, and the sacrifice and empowerment of my parents. I was a beneficiary of the caste system and experienced the negativity of segregation. Sports are a great unifier to the paths of justice.”

“A sporting event blends our areas of interest,” Linda continued. “Our children gained so much from participating in team sports growing up, where there was certainly competitiveness, but team spirit was such a big part of the experience. We like the focus on inclusion.”

Subhash and Linda met at an international dinner while both were at Purdue University. Linda had served in Vietnam with Catholic Relief Services, and both were interested in international and cross-cultural opportunities for others. They came to Macomb in 1971. Subhash was a member of the Department of Special Education faculty, served as secretary of the Faculty Senate and as UPI chapter president before retiring in 2000. He is also a freelance optometrist. Linda is a member of the McDonough County Board, and has been active in the schools and community. She is retired from teaching at Spoon River College.
Mysterious manuscript displayed

The Music Library recently displayed a rare and valuable late 17th century manuscript with an intriguing past. In 2010, the School of Music received an anonymous donation of a bound notebook containing English church music: a full service—settings of the canticles for Morning Prayer (Mattins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong), and two anthems (Psalm settings). The manuscript was placed in the care of the Music Library, where research confirmed that it is written in the hand of William Turner (1651-1740), a composer and singer regarded as one of the most important musicians of the Restoration Period.

Turner served in the choirs of the Chapel Royal, St. Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. His surviving compositions are primarily church music, a few hymn tunes and chants. Only one of the anthems in this manuscript is a known work, the rest of the music is believed to be unique to the source. An analysis of the manuscript paper indicates that it is of a Dutch manufacturer and can be dated from 1680-1710. During the analysis of the manuscript, it was determined that the title page, written in a different hand, had been inserted, and claims that the service music is the work of Henry Aldrich (1648-1710), an important and influential polymath and amateur composer of the day. However, expert opinion doubts the authenticity of this attribution on stylistic grounds and believes the authorship is more likely Turner.

The Music Library is pleased to announce the addition of its newest team members. Ashley Derry, who joined the libraries in June, works in the Access Services Unit as the reserve manager and the evening/weekend supervisor. Nicole Slater joined the Access Services Unit in September as the stacks manager. Rebecca Fross ’00, who joined the libraries in September, is caring for our thousands of plants in the Leslie F. Malpass Library, and Michael Jones joined the team Oct. 1 as the director of development for Honors, International Studies and University Libraries.

“We are thrilled with the addition of Rebecca, Ashley, Nicole and Michael and hope you will have the opportunity to get to know them as well,” said Dean Phyllis Self.

Library welcomes four new employees

L-r: Rebecca Fross ’00, Ashley Derry, Michael Jones, and Nicole Slater.

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University Libraries has a busy spring planned. Events listed are open free to the public.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m.—“Let’s Talk About It Book Discussion: Choosing Sides.” This is the second in a series of five discussions. The featured reading will be “Part Two of America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation.” Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Friday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m.—“Birds, Birds, Birds!” A reception to celebrate the installation of “Echo,” a sculpture by WIU graduate Mark Padlo ’11. Tom Dunstan’s work with eagles, and the addition of materials to the Petersen Ornithological Collection. Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Monday-Thursday, Feb. 6-9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—Atrium Society Book Sale. Leslie F. Malpass Library Staff Lounge

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.—“Let’s Talk About It Book Discussion: Making Sense of Shiloh.” This is the third in a series of five discussions. The featured reading will be “Part Three of America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation.” Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m.—“Let’s Talk About It Book Discussion: The Shape of War.” This is the fourth in a series of five discussions. The featured reading will be “James M. McPherson’s Crossroad of Freedom: Antietam.” Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.—Dr. Elizabeth A. Kaspar Women’s Lecture for University Libraries, featuring Dr. Linda Godwin, retired NASA astronaut, who will discuss women and science. Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Monday, March 19 through Friday, April 27—“Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine” Display. Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m.—“Let’s Talk About It Book Discussion: War and Freedom.” This is the final book discussion in the series. The featured reading will be “Part Five of America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation.” Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Wednesday, April 11, 3 p.m.—WIU Authors Reception. Reception to honor WIU faculty, staff and student authors of articles, books and writings. Leslie F. Malpass Library Garden Lounge

Monday, April 30 through Friday, June 29—Lincoln in Illinois Exhibit. Leslie F. Malpass Library First Floor

A current list of events can also be found at wiu.edu/libraries.
Leatherneck Club continues membership drive

The drive to 1,000 continues. The Leatherneck Club, Western Illinois Intercollegiate Athletics Department’s fundraising organization, is seeking to expand its membership to meet the needs of more than 400 student-athletes.

The Leatherneck Club (formerly Western Athletic Club) has been raising funds for student-athletes for more than 40 years. Monies raised support a variety of projects for WIU Athletics, including improving travel and nutrition experiences, training aids, equipment and program enhancements. Ultimately, the Leatherneck Club wants to provide best Division I experience for student-athletes.

The current membership drive began in July 2011 with the annual golf outing. More than $60,000 was raised in the recent Purple & Gold Auction, having had the highest attendance numbers in several years. “It’s a start,” said Sean McDonough, assistant athletics director and coordinator of The Leatherneck Club, but the demand is increasing.

“Our goal is to have more people involved, to join us in this journey of supporting our student-athletes. That’s what’s fun, having so many people joining together to help. Our student-athletes and our programs need support and we need support today. Addressing that need begins with having 1,000 members in the [Leatherneck] club,” McDonough said. “Joining The Leatherneck Club is easy and there are great benefits outside of helping student-athletes. You can join online in just three minutes, and those three minutes can change the life of a Fighting Leatherneck student-athlete. I’m a member because I know the impact my gift makes to all of our programs and I can see it, I work with our student-athletes every day. We want you to know, we want to show you, that your gift makes an immediate impact.”

When Tim Van Alstine began as athletics director in 2001, he instilled a philosophy of providing the best both on, and off, the field for every student-athlete. “The costs associated with providing the best NCAA Division I student-athlete experience are continuing to increase. The competition within our two conferences is extensive and to remain competitive we need resources. We recognize these are difficult economic times, yet the demand and expectations for athletic and academic success will always be on the front burner,” said Van Alstine. “Increasing membership in The Leatherneck Club is one way to provide our coaches and student-athletes with the resources they need to remain competitive in the Summit League and in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.”

Membership in The Leatherneck Club is open to WIU alumni and friends of the University, both individual and corporate. McDonough noted that beyond the satisfaction of giving back, each gift to the Leatherneck Club may bring tax advantages. Fans may be able to deduct from their income tax return the amount of contribution that brings tax advantages. Fans may be able to deduct from their income tax return the amount of contribution that brings tax advantages.

For more information, contact McDonough at (309) 298-2602 or visit www.GoLeathernecks.com/LeatherneckClub.
Shane Davis named Western Illinois assistant baseball coach

Shane Davis has been named assistant coach for the Fighting Leatherneck Baseball team. He comes to Western Illinois after two seasons as an assistant coach at Cleveland State.

"I’m pleased to be in Macomb,” said Davis. “I’ve followed the program closely, and I have seen the improvements made in the past two seasons. I look to add to a program that is progressing toward great things in the Summit League.”

Davis assisted with Cleveland State’s recruiting efforts, focusing primarily in the Midwest. He also helped with summer ball placement and worked to arrange the team’s travel plans and future scheduling. Following Cleveland State’s baseball program being dropped in May, Davis served as an associate scout for the Texas Rangers prior to this appointment.

A member of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), Davis organized and worked camps across the country, including hitting and pitching and catching clinics, at Cleveland State. He has helped coach camps organized by the Air Force Academy, University of Maryland, Kent State, Ohio University, Cangelosi Baseball and the Demarini Top 96 and 2SP sports.

Davis joined Cleveland State after working as an assistant coach at the United States Air Force Academy where he was responsible for coaching the bullpen and catchers, while also assisting with the hitters. While at Air Force, the Falcon catchers ranked first or second in the Mountain West Conference in every defensive category.

Davis served as the co-head coach of the Stark County Terriers, an elite 18-and-under summer league team that qualified for the ABCA Midland regional. He coached the Varsity Shop Training Center Bullets, an 18-and-under team based out of Detroit, during Summer 2008.

In addition, he was an assistant coach at Eastern Michigan University during the 2008 season, serving as outfield coach, while also assisting with hitters. He served as a student assistant coach at EMU working with the pitchers and catchers during the 2007 season.

During his time at EMU, he was part of a coaching staff that went 36-12 in Mid-American Conference games, including a regular season championship and tournament runner-up finish in 2007 and a West Division title and a MAC tournament championship in 2008 with a berth in the Ann Arbor Regional.

Davis was a four-year letterwinner as a catcher for Eastern Michigan and earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary education in 2007.

Leathernecks excel in graduation success rate

According to the latest federal Graduation Success Rate (GSR) released by the NCAA, Western Illinois Athletics had 10 programs graduate more than 77 percent of their student-athletes. The entire Athletics Department posted a 77 percent graduation rate (the latest rate is based on the 2001-04 cohort).

Leatherneck Volleyball has posted consecutive years with a 100 percent rate, leading not only the WIU Intercollegiate Athletics Department, but all Summit League volleyball programs.

Leatherneck Baseball (78), Men’s Soccer (87), Men’s Swimming (87), Men’s Track (85), Women’s Basketball (90), Softball (88), Women’s Soccer (83), Women’s Swimming (90) and Women’s Track and Field (90) joined Volleyball as surpassing the overall department GSR.

For the fifth consecutive semester, Leatherneck Athletics exceeded the 3.0 grade point average mark, recording a cumulative 3.046 among nearly 400 student-athletes. In Spring 2011, 55 percent of student-athletes recorded a 3.0 GPA, 87 athletes earned University Honors with a 3.60 GPA and 29 finished with a perfect 4.0.

“Our success in the classroom represents the type of student-athlete our coaches are recruiting and the academic support they receive from our staff once they arrive on campus. I challenged all our coaching staffs to go recruit the type of student-athlete that can be successful in the playing arena and in the classroom,” said Director of Athletics Tim Van Alstine. “These percentages and grade point averages are a combined effort from all involved. I am extremely proud of our student-athletes’ dedication in the classroom. As the NCAA increases its academic expectations, so will our efforts in recruiting student-athletes and supporting their work in the classroom to surpass the new NCAA benchmark numbers.”

About the GSR

The NCAA developed the Graduation Success Rate to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes. The rate holds institutions accountable for transfer students, unlike the federal graduation rate. The GSR also accounts for mid-year enrollees and is calculated for every sport.

Under the calculation, institutions are not penalized for outgoing transfer students who leave in good academic standing. The outgoing transfers are included in the receiving institution’s GSR cohort.

By counting incoming transfer students and midyear enrollees, the GSR increases the total number of student-athletes tracked for graduation by 37 percent.

The most recent Division I Graduation Success Rates are based on the four entering classes from 2001-2002 through 2004-05. Nearly 105,000 student-athletes are tracked for graduation by 37 percent.

NCAA President Mike Emmert’s letter stated his awareness of Van Vlymen’s role in her student-athletes’ academic success.

“As the head coach, you play a critical role in helping your student-athletes achieve their athletic and academic goals. The academic success of your team demonstrates your commitment to developing student-athletes and promoting the overall student-athlete experience,” Emmert noted. “Your team has demonstrated its commitment in the classroom and on the playing field, which sets a great example for all students.”

Her teams have earned national recognition for their academic successes in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. In 2008-09 they had the nation’s sixth best academic rate of 3.446 among all Division I softball squads; and in 2009-10 they ranked 15th nationally (3.414 GPA).

Van Vlymen also has guided the team to the school’s first NCAA Tournament win (2008), a Summit League tournament title (2008), and three regular-season conference titles along with the conference Coach of the Year three times (2007, 2009, 2010).

Leatherneck softball team receives NCAA Public Recognition Award

Head Softball Coach Holly Van Vlymen ’00 MS Ed ’08 knows how to get the best out of her student-athletes, which has resulted in the Western’s first-ever NCAA tournament win and many conference, regional and national academic recognitions.

Head Coach Holly Van Vlymen ’00 MS Ed ’08 and the Western Illinois Leatherneck Softball team recently received an NCAA Public Recognition Award which recognize teams that have an NCAA Division I academic progress rate (APR) in the top 10 percent of all teams in their respective sports.

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Infectious disease researcher Joel Bozue

Anthrax, plague among his interests

Joel Bozue ’90 has gone a long way since his early days in biology classrooms and laboratories at Western Illinois University where he received Foundation scholarships as an outstanding biology student all four years. He is now a microbiologist and principal investigator in the bacteriology division at The United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRID), Ft. Detrick, MD. Bozue was invited to return to his undergraduate alma mater in November as the College of Arts and Sciences 2011 Professor of the Day and to speak to science students about his research with the bacteria related to anthrax and those to the plague. He has worked at USAMRID since 2000.

After his tenure at Western, Bozue entered the University of Iowa where he was a teaching assistant for medical mycology (1991), medical microbiology (1991-1995) and a tutor for medical microbiology in the College of Medicine’s Office of Minority Student Affairs. He earned his Ph.D. from Iowa in 1995 studying how Legionella pneumophila, the bacteria that causes Legionnaire’s disease, can survive in the environment. From there, he did his post-doctoral work at The Ohio State University (OSU) in the Department of Pediatrics. Bozue received a National Research Award Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health at OSU in 1997 for his research studying Haemophilus ducreyi, which causes the disease chancroid.
**Neuroscience research gives alumna worldwide recognition**

Linda Lanier Spear ’72, distinguished professor of psychology at the Center for Development and Behavioral Neuroscience at Binghamton (NY) University, returned to her undergraduate alma mater Oct. 21 and presented information about her research with adolescents, alcohol and behavioral neuroscience.

Spear’s talk was titled, “Adolescence: Neurobehavioral Characteristics, Differential Alcohol Sensitivities and Intake.”

Her research interests include the behavioral neuroscience and psychopharmacology of development, with a particular emphasis on neurobehavioral function during adolescence.

Recognized as one of the top neuroscience researchers worldwide, Spear currently is a member of the National Advisory Council for the National Institute for Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) as well as a member of their External Advisory Board (EAB). She has served as president of a number of societies, including the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology and the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society. Spear also has served the National Institutes of Health (NIH), on grant review committees for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), NIAAA and the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). Additionally, she was a member of the NIDA External Advisory Board and the NIAAA Underage Drinking Steering Committee.

Spear received the 2005 Keller Award, an annual presentation by the NIAAA to “an outstanding alcohol researcher who has made significant and long-term contributions to the study of alcohol abuse and alcoholism.”

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is using Spear’s research to give middle-school children a science-based understanding on what can happen to them if they use alcohol, according to a feature about Spear on the Binghamton website (http://www2.binghamton.edu/psychology/features/spear.html). She has found that adolescents are less sensitive to the physical effects of intoxication and the hangover that follows, and her continuing research looks at the impact of drugs on brain development and role of brain development in influencing drug responsiveness.

Spear earned her Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Florida, where she also received postdoctoral training in neuroscience.

She has more than 200 publications in professional journals and has written or co-authored several books.

**Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago VP named WIU Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumna**

Nancy Paridy ’80, J.D., LL.M., senior vice president, general counsel and government affairs/corporate secretary of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), has been named the College of Arts and Sciences 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient at Western Illinois University.

She was honored at the College of Arts and Sciences fifth annual Scholarship Dinner Oct. 29.

Paridy was a history major and a member of Western’s Centennial Honors College, graduating in three years, with a Bachelor of Arts degree honors with high distinction in 1980. She completed legal training at Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1983 at the age of 22, and was admitted to practice law in Illinois that same year. Paridy began her legal career at Ungaretti and Harris LLP, where she worked on the controversial case of Green v. Cook County Hospital.

From 1985–1995, Paridy worked for Dykema, Gossett PLLC.

She earned her LL.M. (Master of Laws degree) in health law from Loyola University Law School. In 1995, Paridy joined RIC, which U.S. News & World Report has listed as the “No. 1 Rehabilitation Hospital in America” each year since 1991. An RIC executive team member, Paridy directs the institute’s litigation, employment law, joint venture relationships and management agreements, tax, fraud and abuse, regulatory interpretation and guidance, intellectual property, research, operations, governments, corporate compliance and corporate governance legal services.

Paridy is affiliated with the American Bar Association Litigation Section, the Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, the Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys and Illinois Hospital Association Advocacy Council. She also sits on the Alliance for the Advancement of Not-for-Profit Health Care and the Corporate Counsel Roundtable. She is a member of the Trial Bar for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the United States Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Paridy, who has lectured and written extensively on health care, received Western Illinois University’s Alumni Achievement Award (1995), the Outstanding History Alumnus Award (1991) and was the keynote speaker for Western’s 2010 Pre-Law Symposium.

**Irving and Constance “Connie” Berg**

The Western Illinois University and Macomb communities were invited to an open house and memorial service on Nov. 5 for Irving and Constance (Connie) Demuth Berg MSEd ’72, who both recently passed away: Connie on Aug. 15 and Irving on Sept. 18.

Berg taught political science at Western Illinois University from 1965-1992. He was a charter member of Western’s American Federation of Teachers (AFT) bargaining unit as well as the campus charter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. He served on Faculty Senate, taught in London with the Students’ Abroad program and received National Endowment for the Humanities awards, allowing him to travel extensively across Europe.

He served on boards and committees for many organizations, including Western’s Bureau of Cultural Affairs, as well as local groups such as AARP, Learning is ForEver (L.I.F.E.) and the McDonough Democratic Coalition.

Berg, a WWII Navy veteran (1944-1946), earned his bachelor’s degree in history at Massachusetts State College (1950), his master’s degree in history from Boston University (1951) and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida (1967).

Connie was an art educator for 31 years, teaching at all levels from K-graduate school. Locally, she taught and was a guidance counselor in the West Prairie schools. She also was a registered art therapist, and she presented workshops on the healing benefits of art expression locally and internationally. Connie was the author of many articles on art and therapy, which have been published in national journals such as The Smithsonian Journal of American Art.

She received a National Endowment for the Humanities Award for study at Tufts University, and in 2007, she was presented with the Distinguished Alumna Award from her alma mater, MacMurray College.

After she retired, she focused on her art, especially watercolor painting and sculpture, studying at schools in England, Scotland and France. She won numerous awards for her sculptures in state and national juried shows.

Connie was active in community ventures, including L.I.F.E., the Anna Parker Literature Club, the Macomb Peace and Justice Organization, the ForNightly club and the Macomb Feminist Network. She was a founding and active member of Macomb’s Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

In April (2011), Connie dedicated a sculpture/assemble, titled, “Pandora’s Dance” to the WIU Women’s Center (in the new Multicultural Center) in honor of Western’s School of Music Professor Marietta Dean, for her advocacy of music by historical and contemporary women composers at the local, state, national and international levels.

The Bergs are survived by three children and five grandchildren.

Donations in their memory may be made to Doctor’s Without Borders, the Moses King Brickyard or the West Central Illinois Arts Center.
WIU-QC Riverfront Phase One substantial completion

By Tami Seitz

One year ago, Phase One on the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront campus was merely a skeleton structure of the former John Deere Tech Center. Today (Nov. 7), the 60,000-square-foot building will reach substantial completion, which means WIU-QC will receive the keys to the new campus.

Since Spring 2010, the facility has been undergoing a significant renovation project that will expand WIU-QC learning locations. Phase One will support the College of Business and Technology, including the MBA program, as well as all other undergraduate classes and the School of Engineering, academic and student services and University administration. Undergraduate elementary education classes and all other graduate classes will be offered at WIU-QC’s 60th Street campus.

“It is exciting to watch the community’s dream of the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus become a reality,” said WIU President Jack Thomas. “We take great pride in serving as the public university choice for the Quad Cities and beyond.”

Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology Joseph Rives added, “Western will continue its diligence in working with community leaders and organizations to continue the pursuit of Phases Two and Three of the Riverfront Campus. We look forward to celebrating the start of classes at our new facility in January. Details surrounding a ribbon-cutting and grand opening will be announced as plans are finalized.”

The project’s construction, which has been completed under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications, began in March 2010. To achieve LEED certification, construction processes included the recycling of construction debris; the inclusion of a vegetated roof in some areas; the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system; and the utilization of cork flooring. The level of LEED certification will be announced upon total building completion.

“We appreciate the hard work put forth by the project contractors and the State of Illinois Capital Development Board in getting us to this point. Next on the list is the installation of furniture, equipment and technology and finalizing the remaining construction,” said Bill Brewer, University architect.

In addition to the construction of Phase One, the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) released $4 million for the next step of architectural and engineering design for Phase Two on the Riverfront Campus. WIU-QC will be ready for construction as soon as the previously appropriated $38 million as part of the 2009 Illinois Jobs Now! capital funding bill is released, Rives added.

“It’s an exciting time to be a college student in the Quad Cities,” said Chad Rosenow, WIU-QC Student Government Association president. “The opening of the Riverfront Campus will expand the opportunities to receive an excellent education. We will have the look and feel of a traditional college, while being able to develop close relationships with peers, faculty, and community members.”

For more information about Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront campus, contact (309) 762-9481, or visit wiu.edu/qc.

Entertainment in the Heartland

By Bonnie Barker ’75 MS ’77

William “Bill” Brattain HA ’07 of Colchester (IL) is known throughout western Illinois and beyond for his work in the arts. He was a principal in booking entertainment during his more than 35-year higher education tenure, which included his last 25 professional years at Western Illinois University, where he helped bring top entertainers and shows to Macomb to serve the University and the greater region.

Brattain presents some of the funny and bizarre happenings when booking entertainers in his new book, “Entertainment in the Heartland: Some Humorous Memories and Random Thoughts.” Known as “Dr. B” to many, he shares memories of entertainers from international stars including Bob Hope and Bill Cosby, to theatrical productions such as “Amadeus” and “CATS,” to music legends like B.B. King, Simon and Garfunkel, Duke Ellington and Willie Nelson and many named soloists and productions.

In his laid-back style, Brattain tells of incidents like Red Skelton’s interest in the inside of the area’s round barns and the Traveling Ozark Folk Festival performer’s “old fashion pickin’ party in the old yellow farmhouse.”

“I’m proud of what we were able to present across the entertainment spectrum,” Brattain said. “And it was a delight for me to reconnect with all of the staff who had served as directors, assisting students in bringing top class and great pop entertainment to the western Illinois region.

There are letters in the book from each of the directors, which add dimension and memories.

Brattain, who was the associate vice president for student services and a professor of recreation, park and tourism administration at WIU, received numerous honors for his work at the University and for his work with the arts statewide. He was named Western’s 2007 Honorary Alumni (HAA) Award recipient, which is presented to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the WIU community and is not a Western graduate.

Prior to his retirement in 1997, Brattain was honored with a lifetime voting membership and the title adviser emeritus from the Bureau of Cultural Affairs. He is also an honorary life member of the Association of College Unions International, the National Association for Campus Activities and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

Also in 1997, the top student leadership award was renamed The William E. Brattain Award. This is awarded annually to a WIU senior who has demonstrated excellence in academic growth and achievement as well as excellence in contributions to the campus community through leadership of and participation in campus activities or organizations.

Brattain has also served as the chair of the Carl Sandburg Community College Board of Trustees; Western’s campus chair for the McDonough County United Way Campaign; a member of Macomb Rotary Club; and served as president of Western’s Council of Administrative Personnel.
**WIU housing Master Plan update**

*By Darcie Shinberger ’89 MS ’98*

Author Ann Douglas is quoted as saying “Home is an invention on which no one has yet improved.” But for Western Illinois University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS), there’s always room for improvement when it comes to college students’ homes away from home.

Roughly one-third of Western’s nearly 12,500 student body lives on campus, and to make residence hall life as comfortable—and convenient—as possible, UHDS created a master plan in October 2008. The plan’s purpose is to address aging residence hall facilities and declining residence hall occupancy, as well as to ensure the future success of WIU’s housing and dining program.

The following projects and studies are currently underway as part of the master plan. The complete plan can be found at wiu.edu/student_services/housing/about/masterplan.php.

**Corbin/Olson Renovations**

The Corbin/Olson (COOL) renovations are continuing on schedule and the buildings are set to re-open Fall 2012. The renovations include suite-style rooms, as well as a limited number of new “super double” room (housing two people). The Fine Arts Floor will re-open in Corbin, while an International Floor is being planned for Olson. New student lounges and gaming areas will be available in both towers, while a new computer lab will be provided on the Olson side. Each floor will be outfitted with lounge space, and studio/practice space, and each floor will house its own laundry room. A floor in Olson Hall will also be reserved to house conference attendees.

**Lincoln/Washington Room and Bathroom Renovations**

To date, renovations have been completed on 18 residential floors in Lincoln-Washington halls, which includes new furniture in rooms and lounges and fresh coats of paint. Thirteen community bathrooms are complete in Washington Hall, with the Lincoln Hall restroom renovations scheduled for Summer 2012.

**Thompson and Higgins halls**

While the needs of Thompson Hall were addressed in the original Master Plan as a project slated for “2013 and Beyond,” UHDS has recently completed a review of the current condition of the building. As a result, UHDS will begin renovations as early as May 2012, which could take six months to one year to complete.

Possible renovations currently in discussion include new exterior siding (including new windows); interior wall finishes; new furniture and carpeting in all rooms; and a new heating and air conditioning system to provide greater efficiency and comfort.

As a result of the temporary closure of Thompson Hall, which houses 1,000 students, UHDS is reviewing alternative housing options. Corbin/Olson halls will be open, and Higgins Hall may be reconfigured to house first-year students for Fall 2012 or the entire 2012-2013 academic year while Thompson undergoes renovations. Higgins Hall was originally set to permanently close by Fall 2012; however, UHDS may keep the building open one additional year to accommodate students during the Thompson Hall closure.

**Residence Hall Lobby Renovations**

UHDS recently finished a review of all residence hall lobbies and front desk areas, which will undergo renovations within the new few years, according to A.J. Lutz MS ’06, assistant director of marketing and communication for UHDS.

**Behind-the-Scenes**

To ensure the comfort of North Quad residents, chillers will be replaced during Summer 2012 in Tanner, Bayliss and Henninger halls. Housing staff continues to work with University Technology (uTech) on VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and wireless connection projects, and is reviewing new access/security measures for entry into the halls.

**Wetzel Hall Demolition**

The demolition of Wetzel Hall, which was closed following the Spring 2009 semester, is tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2012. The demolition is currently in the design and planning phase, and according to UHDS staff, an implosion expert has visited campus to study the building and demolition area. Once the building is removed, the intended use for the site is green space, with limited parking spots available. Lutz said that 80 to 90 percent of the materials from the Wetzel (and Lamoine Village) demolitions will be recycled, which diverts the construction material from landfills.

**Lamoine Village Closure and Demolition**

Lamoine Village buildings two and three will close May 31, 2012. Building one was taken off-line at the end of the Spring 2010 semester. Following the closure of all Lamoine Village buildings, UHDS will begin the decommissioning process, and demolition will be scheduled at a later date. The demolition date is contingent upon funding.

**Projects 2013 and Beyond**

- Renovation of Bayliss and Henninger halls bathrooms
- Renovation of the Thompson Hall 18th floor
- Programming study for new on-campus housing construction options

For questions or to submit feedback about this update or the UHDS Master Plan, contact UHDS at facebook.com/WIUHousing or uhds@wiu.edu.

**Corbin/Olson before...October 11**

**after...Artist’s Rendering**

**DID YOU KNOW...**

Roughly one-third of Western’s nearly 12,500 student body lives on campus.

**Continued from Fall on p. 1**

NASPA. She has presented at professional conferences throughout the United States and has published in various professional journals. She is an active member within her community including in her church and assisting with various service projects within the Huntsville community. She has participated in Western’s annual CSP institute.

During her time as an undergraduate, Young Hyatt was an active member of the Student Government Association and University Union Board. She received her Ph.D. from the University of South Florida.

Konkol, a communication graduate, has been a writer with the Chicago Sun-Times since 2004. In April, Konkol and his reporting team received a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. Pulitzer judges recognized the trio for “their immersive documentation of violence in Chicago neighborhoods, probing the lives of victims, criminals and detectives as a widespread code of silence impedes solutions.” Born and raised in south suburban Chicago, Konkol’s assignments at the Sun-Times include Chicago neighborhoods and his blog, “Konkol’s Korner.”

He has also covered transportation, courts, Chicago City Hall and Cook County government in his 16-year reporting career. At Western, Konkol served as the Western Courier news editor from 1993-1995. While still a student, he also worked as a news reporter for the Macomb Journal (now McDonough County Voice), covering city and county government.

After leaving Macomb, Konkol started his career at Star Newspapers, a Chicago Sun-Times publication. He wrote for the Daily Southtown and the former Sun-Times Red Streak before joining the Chicago Sun-Times news staff seven years ago.

Krasula, a broadcasting graduate, has been a member of the CBS Radio Netwok since 1984. As part of the CBS Radio team, he shared in numerous Edward R. Murrow awards over the years for such stories as Hurricane Bonnie (1999), the Florida vote recount (2000), the Sept. 11 attacks (2001), Hurricane Katrina (2005) and especially for his coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings (2007). During his career, Krasula has covered 34-named tropical storms and hurricanes; dozens of natural disasters ranging from tornadoes to blizzards, to rockslides and wildfires; and military court-martials; noted trials, including the Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and serial bomber Eric Rudolph. He has traveled the campaign trails with presidential candidates Bob Dole, John McCain and John Edwards, and has reported from every state. Krasula also tells the stories of everyday people across the nation in a radio version of famed CBS-TV correspondent Charles Kuralt’s “On the Road.”

Prior to joining CBS Radio, Krasula was a news reporter at local radio stations in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and North Carolina. He has served as a Boy Scout leader since the mid-1990s and has coached youth baseball and hockey teams.

He is married to Susan Worthington Krasula, a 1979 WIU graduate; they have two sons, Andrew and Matthew, both of whom are Eagle Scouts.
education is consistently recognized. Using WIU’s strategic plan as a guide, we will continue to enhance and refine educational opportunities for our students.”

Western is listed 53rd of 110 public and private schools on the top tier list of “Best Regional Universities.” The institutions appearing on the “Best Regional Universities” list provide a full range of undergraduate majors and masters’ programs, but offer few, if any, doctoral programs. The rankings are based on several measures: peer assessment (25 percent), graduation and retention rates (25 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), student selectivity (15 percent), financial resources (10 percent) and alumni giving (5 percent).

As well as the current U.S. News and Princeton Review recognitions, Forbes recently listed Western among the best of 650 institutions in the country, while Washington Monthly ranked WIU among the best of 533 master’s universities in the U.S. Western was one of four Illinois public institutions included in the Forbes list. The other Illinois public universities included are national doctoral universities.

For the third consecutive year, Western has been recognized as a “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs Magazine. According to G.I. Jobs, the 2012 Military Friendly Schools list recognizes the top 20 percent of schools in the country as military-friendly institutions. Western is one of eight Illinois public universities included on the list.

Continued from Best on p. 1

Seeking Alumni Council members

The WIU Alumni Association is looking for dedicated leaders of all ages, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, career fields, etc. to serve on the WIU Alumni Council. Made up of 25 alumni appointed to three-year terms and one student, this board meets on a quarterly basis at WIU. Members represent the interests of alumni and serve as liaisons to 25 University areas. The council assists in the recruitment of students, selects Alumni Award recipients, and was instrumental in establishing the Student Alumni Association. The Alumni Council assists the WIU Alumni Association in fulfilling its mission:

“The Western Illinois University Alumni Association strives to develop and sustain lifelong relationships with students, alumni and friends to advance the mission of the University.”

Perspective council members are encouraged to attend Alumni & Friends Events in their area to learn more about the council and to meet current council members. During the selection process, perspective members will be asked about what they can bring to the council and how they have given back to their alma mater.

If you or someone you know is an active alumnus that would be a good candidate, please call (309) 298-2914 to request an application or visit wiu.edu/alumni/council. The deadline is March 1.

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Credit Card

The WIU Alumni Association and INTRUST Bank, one of the oldest banking institutions in the Midwest, have partnered to provide the WIU credit card. If you choose the Western Illinois University Platinum Visa®, you will support your alma mater by helping to fund student scholarships, the Western News, events around the country AND earn great rewards for yourself. wiu.edu/alumni/credit_card.php

(800) 922-1245

Liberty Mutual Partnership

An exclusive discount of up to 15 percent off home and auto insurance rates and much more. wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 981-2372

WIU License Plate

If you have a car or class-B truck registered in Illinois and would like to support Western, order your WIU license plates today. Vanity and personalized plates are available. Also, a mobile unit is periodically in the University by the office of the Secretary of State for certain driver and vehicle services. wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 252-8980

Recreation Center Memberships

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

AlumniMortgage

The WIU Alumni Association is pleased to announce the newest benefit for Western Illinois University alumni—AlumniMortgage offered through QuickenLoans®. We are excited to provide this new opportunity with our longtime partner Collegiate Insurance Resources. Get a mortgage or refinance an existing one and receive a $500 check back after closing. www.mortgagelindsay.com / Westernillinois (888) 506-9575

WIU Partners with Quad City Airport

Your WIU Alumni Association is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Quad City International Airport to offer the “WIU Easier Card” for alumni who use the airport for travel! The card offers access to a business center on Concourse B. Once inside, enjoy cozy seating, a TV, fireplace and a complimentary bottle of water or cappuccino. The card never expires, but we do request that you be a patron of the Quad City International Airport at least twice a year, and live within a reasonable geographic area to the airport in order to be a cardholder. The Quad City International Airport makes travel easier with business center access for Western Illinois University alumni. wiu.edu/alumni/airport.php (309) 298-1914
Big Pink for breast cancer: A WIU tradition

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92, MS ’11

There may be many Western Illinois University alumni who are not quite sure what it means when they hear the phrase, “It’s time for Big Pink.” But if you’ve been on the Macomb campus in late September or early October since 2002, you likely already know that “Big Pink” is a single-elimination volleyball tournament that attracts participants from across the WIU campus and is held each year to help raise funds for breast cancer research and cancer-screening costs.

Started in 2002 by University Housing and Dining Services staff who lived and worked in Thompson Hall, and Campus Recreation, Big Pink Volleyball (BPV) has, over the years, drawn hundreds of WIU students, faculty and staff to the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center. Since “BPV” began, Western students, faculty and staff have raised almost $84,000 for mammograms and breast cancer research; much of it donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization and to McDonough District Hospital.

BIG PINK: THE NATIONAL NETWORK

Thanks to Courtney James MS ’10, Big Pink Volleyball now has a national network. According to James, who earned her master’s degree from Western’s college student personnel program and now works as the assistant director of campus activities at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Big Pink has spread to 15 other college campuses across the U.S. She recently started the national network (see http://bigpinkvolleyball.weebly.com/) to help coordinate Big Pink activities nationwide, as well as to promote the tournament to other college campuses. As part of earning her advanced degree at Western, she worked with Big Pink sponsors, including Campus Recreation, Thompson Hall, McDonough District Hospital and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, to help put on the annual tourney.

“At WIU, Big Pink was one of the projects that I was continually the most passionate about,” James explained. “Big Pink is for a spectacular cause, and I truly believe that because of this idea that was created at WIU in April 2002, people’s lives are being made better. Through our donations nationwide, we are directly helping men and women and are helping people that really need our assistance. As I left WIU, I found that more and more universities were trying to start the tournament, and it only made sense to have a centralized location of information for all things Big Pink.”

BPV & THE “ALOHA SPIRIT”

Before Katelyn Stinson, a senior law enforcement and justice administration major from Peoria (IL), transferred to Western in 2010, she had never heard of “Big Pink.” Just a year later, her mother, Barb Stinson, has already successfully spearheaded a Big Pink Volleyball tournament at her place of work, Maui Jim Sunglasses in Peoria.

“Last year, when I saw the flyers around campus, I thought it was interesting because my mom had breast cancer,” Katelyn said. “I asked my friends about it, and they were like, ‘It’s so much fun!’ So my first year here, I got on a team with my fraternity, Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Honor Society for Law Enforcement. We only played one game, but, as my friends had said, it was a lot of fun. I told my mom about it because I figured she would be interested due to her own experience with breast cancer.”

Today, after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and successfully battling it, Barb continues her long career at Maui Jim Sunglasses in Peoria, where she has worked for 25 years. She said organizing a Big Pink Volleyball tournament there to support breast cancer research and treatment not only provided her with a way to help contribute back to the breast cancer cause, but also helped her institute a fun, team-building event at Maui Jim.

“Forget’s it’s a Hawaiian company, we’re very big on the ‘Aloha Spirit.’ I work in the distribution department as the international inventory coordinator, and we have an Aloha Committee to help improve the work environment, build morale, and educate people about the Aloha spirit—how it brings us together as a team,” Barb explained. “So when Katelyn told me about Big Pink Volleyball at Western, I thought it would be a good fit for a team-building activity and enable us to contribute to a charitable cause.”

Barb said the Aloha Committee organized a week’s worth of events, which included a bake sale, a “Penny for the Cure” collection, and she made a Big Pink “dedication” quilt, for which she sold squares for individuals to buy and dedicate to those they know who have been affected by breast cancer. Barb said the Maui Jim Aloha Committee capped off the week with a week with a BPV tournament.

“We have about 300 employees here, and we had 85 people sign up to play on 13 teams, so about one-third,” Barb said. “We ended up playing just on our grounds here at Maui Jim. From all of the different things we did, we raised about $2,200.”

As for Katelyn, she is proud that her mom was able to successfully organize a Big Pink Volleyball tournament at her place of employment. “I thought it was cool that she did that,” Katelyn said. “It’s because of events like Big Pink Volleyball that so many breast cancer survivors, like my mom, can continue to enjoy good times with their children, families, friends and co-workers.”

THE “FOUNDING MOTHERS”

Joni Burch ’04 was part of the very first group of Thompson Hall resident assistants, or the “founding mothers,” involved with Big Pink Volleyball at Western. According to Burch, that’s what WIU Campus Recreation Associate Director Judy Yeast MS ’81 calls her and the women—including Karen Huseman ’04, Jessica Butter MS ’96, Thompson Hall complex director (1998-2002) and Lisa Cesar ’04—involved with the start up of BPV. But, she noted, the credit for creating, and the longevity of BPV should go to Yeast.

“It started because of Judy. When it began at Western, back in 2002, Judy just had bought this big pink ball for the Student Recreation Center. During our winter training as resident assistants, we were having a social event, and she came up to me and said, ‘You should think of a program to use this ball,’” Burch explained. “We were having a lot of fun playing volleyball with the big pink ball, so, based on Judy’s suggestion, that’s what we decided we would do. Our first tourney was in April that year. We decided we liked it so much, we would hold it in October, too, and make it an annual thing in October for breast cancer awareness.”

Burch added the four-foot-wide ball’s pink color was a natural fit to be associated with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is commemorated across the U.S. in October. Burch, who earned her bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies, now works as the coordinator of residential life at Missouri University of Science & Technology (MS&T). She says fellow WIU alumns Nick White MS ’09, who is a graduate of the recreation, park and tourism and administration department and serves as the director of intramurals at MS&T, has initiated BPV there, as well. She noted she is a bit surprised at how much Big Pink Volleyball has caught on at different universities and colleges across the nation.

“Karen Huseman, another one of the ‘founding mothers,’ and I are still very close, and when we talk about it, we often say how strange it is—that something we initiated has grown so much,” Burch explained. “But neither of us take credit for that. Judy is really the drive behind this. She has been there since the beginning, and she oversees the committee and works with them. I also think she is a lot of the reason it has persisted.”
James M. Grigsby—A centennial tribute

Guest column by Gail (Grigsby) Flower

Imagine life in America a century ago—no talking movies, no television, no air conditioning. Pancho Villa was fighting in Mexico, automobiles were a novelty and Western Illinois State Normal School was 12 years old. James M. Grigsby ’34 was born in December 1911, at home in Blandinsville (IL), a village roughly seven miles northwest of Macomb. He joined a brother, Mason, three years his senior.

Flash forward 63 years to the evening of June 1, 1974, where 400-plus family and friends had gathered in the Western Illinois University Grand Ballroom to honor my dad, James, on his retirement as Vice President of Business Affairs. It was quite a night; there were speeches, laughter, tears, photos, a new golf cart and dad leading the marching band in a spirited “Sousa March.” I had my suspicions that he was popular, but this outpouring surprised me.

So what transpired in the decades leading up to this event? I’ll tell it as best I can. From photos, I observe that while at Western Academy, he had the lead in several plays and was a drummer. Mom liked to recount that during one performance when his drum fell on the floor, he didn’t miss a beat. I took this as a metaphor as how we should conduct our lives.

At Western Academy, Uncle Mason and dad were both enthusiastic athletes. Dad was the center on the basketball team and in later years stayed near the court refereeing.

Their basketball and football coach was Ray Hanson. I can still hear his loud, one-syllable laugh, “HA!” They remained close friends and dad called him “coach” for as long as he lived. Dad graduated in 1934 with a bachelor’s degree in education, with physical education as his major: no surprise. He spent the next several years teaching and coaching basketball in the Chicago suburbs and courting my mother (Dorothy Patton ’39). He was also a grade school principal and an assistant high-school principal.

Mom and dad were married June 28, 1943, in New Orleans (LA), where he was stationed with the U.S. Army. Within a few months he was posted to London as a member of SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces). Fortunately, the only “combat” he saw was one night during a blackout, a taxicab ran over his foot. Because of his administrative background in education, he worked two years in Germany as an adviser, setting up programs for GIs during their time of service and after discharge.

Mom and dad reunited in February 1946. They settled in Macomb and I was born in 1947. Dad took over as business manager from Oscar L. Champion at Western Illinois State College in 1949. Four years later, they built a home on the corner of Western Avenue and Riverview Drive. We looked out our picture window at the University farm in the distance and at the University golf course across the street. It would be many years before any University buildings appeared north of Murray Street. There was an abandoned outdoor handball court where I learned to drive, where the Union parking lot is now. Once mom was in the front yard when Ray Hanson appeared driving his late 1950s Chrysler Imperial north on Western Avenue. He was so busy waving at her that he didn’t make the turn onto Riverview and kept going straight onto the handball court. Luckily the gate was open. “HA!”

My sister, Jan, was born in 1956, completing our family. This was a busy time for the Grigsbys. We bowled at the college union above the swimming pool next to Morgan Gym. Bob Clow, the college gymnastics coach, was our next-door neighbor and kindly took us waterskimming on the Mississippi River. My friends and I ice skated on Lake Ruth and sledded at Hanson Field.

Mom and Dad accompanied Jan to see a young man who became a quadriplegic while playing football for Western. Dad often stopped to see him and Vince Grady Field was named in his honor.

Serving under three presidents at Western—Frank Beu (occasionally he left a doll for me at our back door after an especially spirited discussion with dad), A.L. Knoblauch and John Bernhard—dad led a full life. He implemented planning, land purchase and construction of almost every building on the current campus, beginning with Hanson Field in 1950, Seal Hall in 1952 and continuing with Bennett, Hursh, Corbin, Olson, Washington and Lincoln halls. Then came Bayliss, Henninger, Higgins, Thompson, Wetzel and Tanner halls, and University Village for married students. Memorial, Sallee, Tillman and Browne halls, Beu Health Center and the University Union were also being built during these years.

Next were the academic buildings, Knoblauch, Currens, Stipes, Morgan, Waggoner and Horrabin halls. Add to this list Western Hall, the Oscar L. Champion Golf Course, the University Residence, the greenhouse and the Physical Plant. Thirty-seven buildings, additions and numerous rehabilitation projects had more than a touch of dad’s hand in their completion. Having a solid team-approach background, he would be the first to acknowledge those who worked with him. He happily anticipated his retirement and made good use of the golf cart.

“Jim is a true legend in the history of WIU. I was fortunate to have worked for him from 1965 until he retired,” said Art Chown M.A.CCT ’72, former vice president for Business Affairs. “He was the ideal person to work with the architects and contractors on the building projects. He indeed spoke their language, which helped get the work completed in a timely manner. Jim was highly respected by his colleagues at WIU and his counterparts at the other institutions on the Illinois Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities and its predecessor, the Teachers College Board.”

Over the years, dad won awards—he was the first WIU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, and he was inducted into WIU Athletics Hall of Fame as an administrator in 1974. He also served as both treasurer and president of the WIU Foundation. President Knoblauch appointed him as vice president for Business Affairs in 1968, making him the University’s first vice president. Dad was an excellent public speaker and storyteller, and was in demand as master of ceremonies for Western retirement dinners.

“I returned to Western in 1963 as the director of housing, and worked with Jim during the residence hall building era of the 1960s. All purchases for the facilities came under his watchful eye,” said Dale Meador ’58 M.S.Ed ’59. “Every requisition needed his approval, so I carefully positioned my requests, knowing that all wouldn’t make it on the first try. As for his fondness for, interaction with, and support of the students, Jim would come across as a grizzly bear with the heart of a teddy bear. Sometimes when he called me he’d loudly state that it was Khrushchev on the line. Initially, this set my secretary into a tailspin, but she adjusted to his greeting.”

Burnie Horton, former director of the WIU Union, worked with dad from 1962-1971.

“Jim and I were the best of friends and I appreciated his support. Jim and I often had lunch together on the campus. I was in higher education for 46 years, 25 of those as a college president, and on balance, there was no one I met who was as outstanding,” Horton said. “He was bright, hard-working, honest, direct and dedicated. All the presidents whom he worked for respected him. Even the strongest-willed faculty member fell under Jim’s spell—he had a lot of charisma. Being a business manager is a tough position to be in, and he managed to be admired even though he often had to say ‘no.’ Jim was more fiscally conservative than I and that was the only issue where we differed. But he always listened and we always remained friends. I loved the guy and think of him often!”

Grandchildren came, as well as a nice honor when the WIU Physical Plant building was re-named the James M. Grigsby Physical Plant on Nov. 15, 1982, which was also my mother’s birthday. After dad passed away in 1983, mom endowed a WIU scholarship in his name and after her passing in 2000, her name was added. There’s a plaque with dad’s likeness on the wall of honor in the Union’s Prairie Lounge.

I’ll conclude with the same sentiment that the “old soldier/pensioner” used to end his letters ... “Keep your health!”
For M4K, It’s All About the Kids

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92, MS ’11

As an aspiring elementary school teacher, Rochele Owens (Chicago), a Western Illinois University junior, knows how important it is for students to be prepared with the required school supplies.

“Research shows that students who do not have the proper materials do not perform as well academically,” she noted when asked why, this past summer, she and more than 20 other individuals started their community-based organization Macomb4Kids—or “M4K,” as vice president Qiara Ferguson (Chicago Heights, IL) calls it.

On Aug. 13, M4K—which includes approximately 17 Western Illinois University students, alumni and group adviser Alphonso Simpson, interim chair of the African American studies department at WIU—with the help of local businesses, collected and distributed more than 200 school supply-filled backpacks to elementary students in need in Macomb. The school-supply drive was an idea that Owens, who now serves as the president of Macomb4Kids, felt was important enough to share her vision with members of her WIU community, including Ferguson, a sophomore business major; Jesse Andrews, the student member of the WIU Board of Trustees; and Tamara Parker ’11 (Macomb, IL), who studied recreation, park and tourism administration at WIU.

“During times of economic hardships, more emphasis is put on food, shelter, and clothing, and not on academics,” Owens explained. “I was inspired to raise donations and collect school supplies and distribute them during a picnic to help children in need, as well as to promote unity. I mentioned my idea to Qiara, Jesse and Tamara, and they immediately jumped at the opportunity to help. So, together, we composed a proposal statement and scouted the town looking for sponsors and places to station our donation boxes.”

Ferguson noted that within a month, M4K had several sponsors at WIU and in the Macomb community for the school-supply drive. The drive culminated in the Aug. 13 “Back to School” picnic at Macomb’s Chandler Park.

“We contacted local churches and collaborated with Macomb Assembly of God Church, Shepherd’s Gate Church and The Crossing. Many businesses in Macomb, including Walmart, Family Video, Dollar General, McDonald’s, Jimmy John’s, KFC, Hardee’s and Pepsi, also helped us collect supplies. Western Illinois University

Alphonso Simpson, Jr. (front row, left), interim chair of the WIU African American studies department, and members of the M4K group pose for a photo at the August 13 Macomb4Kids Back to School Picnic in Macomb.

Library allowed us to place donation boxes in the Leslie F. Malpass Library. We hosted a bake sale behind Stipes Hall, and we received donations from the University Bookstore and notebooks from the WIU Student

Government Association,” Ferguson explained.

While the Aug. event was a resounding success—the work and cooperation that led up to implementing the Back to School Picnic was no easy task.

“We only had one month to get everything in order. Some days, we would have good luck with sponsors, and some days, well, some were not so good. There were even people laughing at our idea, but we didn’t give up,” Ferguson said. “With copies of our proposal letter and an explanation of what M4K was about, our volunteers pulled a lot of strings. They put together car washes and bake sales to raise money for school supplies. Members of the Macomb Assembly of God Church and Shepherd’s Gate Church also came up with activities and ideas that helped with the cause.”

Simpson noted that he was impressed with the M4K group members’ efforts.

“I have never worked with such a compassionate group of students. The Macomb4Kids cohort really pulled together and made a ‘heart’ move to reach out to the community to assist in an area that would be extremely beneficial to the larger community. I am so proud of each of them for caring beyond limits to assist in giving these children a good start,” he said.

Owens said she hopes M4K will prosper, and both she, as president of Macomb4Kids, and Ferguson, as vice president, are on the look-out for other projects the group and its members can tackle to help kids in need.

“Next year, we would like to triple our efforts for the school supply drive. Instead of giving out 200 backpacks, we want to give out 600+ backpacks,” Owens said. “Ten years from now, I want people to remember Macomb4Kids for helping our youth with furthering their education. Just like the members of Macomb4Kids experienced when people told us we couldn’t do this, children are constantly being told they aren’t able to accomplish things in life. As elders, children look up to us for support, guidance and encouragement. This is about the children, and we hope to be able to continue to provide school supplies to as many of those in need in Macomb, and in the surrounding communities, as we can for years to come.”

Macomb4Kids members Qiara Ferguson, vice president; Lawrence Hardin, a senior communication major; and Rochele Owens, president (holding her daughter in her lap), at the Back to School Picnic on August 13 in Macomb’s Chandler Park.

Libraries allowed us to place donation boxes in the Leslie F. Malpass Library. We hosted a bake sale behind Stipes Hall, and we received donations from the University Bookstore and notebooks from the WIU Student

Bras for a Cause

Students in Dana Moon’s ’98 MBA ’01 Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) 272 course, “Basic Concepts of Fashion Merchandising” at WIU pose in front of a display case on the second floor of Knoblauch Hall. The students in the class created the bras for the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Corporation Paint The Town Pink Committee’s “Bras for a Cause!” project held in October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
Michael Bradley MS '08 with the Young Professional Network Outstanding Graduate Student Award he received at the National Recreation and Park Association conference in November.

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 MS '11

Michael Bradley MS '08 had a few programs on his list when he was considering a master's graduate program. After earning his bachelor's from Oklahoma State University (OSU)-Stillwater in 2005, his goal was to continue his studies in the recreation and leisure field. He loved the idea of a career in which he would be working in the outdoors. He also knew it was his great-grandfather’s wish for him to earn an advanced degree. Back in 2006, when he was considering graduate programs to help him reach his goal and make his great-grandfather’s wish come true, he admits that he was “unsure” about the prospect of enrolling in Western’s RPTA graduate program; he had been accepted into other reputable programs at the University of Tennessee and the University of Houston.

Today, however, Bradley has no regrets when he looks back at his choice of WIU’s RPTA program. His time at Western resulted in the fulfillment of his great-grandfather’s wish for him: the completion of his master’s degree. Additionally, his academic work in Western’s RPTA program and his graduate assistant duties in Campus Recreation helped set him on his current path, which is now back at OSU-Stillwater, where he is a Ph.D. candidate in the health, leisure and human performance department. Bradley is finishing his dissertation in the program this month.

It is in that OSU-Stillwater program that he was nominated for the prestigious annual National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Earlier this year, Bradley was notified he had indeed won the award for 2011, which he recently accepted at the NRPA Congress and Exposition in Atlanta (GA). According to the NRPA website, the Outstanding Graduate Student Award “is presented to an outstanding graduate student in recognition of continuous extraordinary community service or contributions to the field.” Based on these criteria, as well as Bradley’s performance at WIU, Dan Yoder, a professor and graduate coordinator in WIU’s RPTA department, noted that he was not at all surprised when he heard Bradley won.

“He is extremely bright, he is very analytical and he is an absolute bull dog when it comes to academic work. That’s a winning combination,” Yoder said. “He was a wonderful graduate student in the RPTA department because he was so engaged. He always had well thought out questions and comments. He was not simply talking to be talking. When Mike was sitting in class, you could tell just by looking at him that there was a lot going on in there.”

When asked about his recent recognition, Bradley responded humbly, noting his main nominator, Grace Chang, an OSU-Stillwater faculty member in leisure studies, “somehow or another made a diamond in the rough shine.”

“At first, I did not know who had nominated me for it. I later found out Dr. Grace Chang was the one who did. She’s not my supervisor here at OSU-Stillwater, but when I go out and collect data, she does a lot of the statistics and overlays for some of the data I gather. We have also worked together on articles and poster sessions for conferences and presentations,” Bradley explained.

“I know there were a couple of other students in the running for this award, and I have been involved with them via various national organizations. They are stellar, so for me to win… well, I just have to say, whatever she said in the nomination process, I owe her a huge thank you.”

Bradley said when he first told his grandparents (his great-grandfather has passed away) about the award, they were proud and excited about the NRPA recognition. He noted they asked him if any scholarship monies were attached to the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, but he said he told them that being nominated for, and then actually receiving, the award is “better than a scholarship,” particularly because he will soon be applying for highly competitive faculty positions in the recreation and leisure field.

“Although as graduate students, we don’t make a lot of money, the benefits I will receive from this award are better than anything I could have gotten as far as scholarship money. A lot of it, just to be honest, is the nomination and the recognition. Last academic year in my field, there were about 40 open positions, and there were something like 150 new Ph.D. students coming out of recreation and leisure programs. So you’re fighting with your elbows and your knees to scrap for one of these positions. This NRPA award will help me stand out quite a bit. As far as the job prospects, this award may help me to land my dream job. At least, that is what I am hoping,” Bradley said.

Illuminating Exchanges

Bradley noted that two helpful phone conversations—one with Campus Recreation Associate Director Judy Yeast MS ’81 and another with Yoder—put him on the path to seriously considering Western. But, he said, it was another alum who helped him “get over the hump.” He said that

"Everybody genuinely cares about your success. If you are willing to put forth effort, they are willing to do what it takes to help you. I think that speaks volumes about WIU."

-Michael Bradley

Bradley (right) and Dan Yoder, professor and graduate coordinator in the recreation, park and tourism administration department at WIU.

Deb Jordan MS ’84 told him he should forget the other programs he was considering and told him to move up to west central Illinois to study in WIU’s RPTA program.

“It was by chance that I talked to Deb about my options,” Bradley explained. “During the time I was trying to decide where to go, she was a faculty member here at OSU-Stillwater. (She is now at East Carolina University.) I remember her telling me, ‘This is an opportunity you do not want to miss. People from other programs may be telling you great things, but I am telling you, Western Illinois University is where you need to go.’ And so I thought, I have had two great phone discussions with two wonderful people there at WIU, and I have one stellar review from someone I respect who has gone through the program. So I said to myself, That’s it. WIU is where I’m going to go.”

Bradley noted that a recent trip back to Macomb reaffirmed his decision to attend Western back in 2006 and made him realize, once again, the value of the relationships he formed at WIU.

“Last April, I attended the RPTA department’s professional development conference, and a friend of mine, Jody Baker, attended with me. When we were talking about WIU and our experience at the conference, Jody hit the nail on the head. He said, ‘That’s the most caring university I have ever seen.’ When we walked in, everyone who I talked to remembered me—they knew exactly who I was, what my circumstances were and what I am doing now. I think that is what made the difference for me. Everybody genuinely cares about your success. If you are willing to put forth effort, they are willing to do what it takes to help you. I think that speaks volumes about WIU.”
Tyrone Stevenson, Hammond, IN, is an administrator for Angel Home Health Care. (tyrone@inlanta.com)

1981
Brent Ericsson, Morris, is the vice president, grain for GROWMARK.
Adrienne Moch, San Diego, CA, is a member of the 2011-2012 National Association Women Business Owners California Board of Directors, serving as Director of Communications. (amoch@san.rr.com)
Paul Smith, Scottsdale, AZ, is retired as a sr electrical design engineer from ComEd in Chicago. (psultratsmith@yahoo.com)

1982
Susan Savage MS'01, Muncie, IN, is the director of annual giving at Ball State University. (susansavage@live.com)
Grant Speece, Marengo, IA, is the Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ. (grant.speece@us.army.mil)

1984
Tammy Sanders Kjos, Mokena, is a bilingual teacher at Woodridge School District # 68.

1985
Randolph Butler, Macomb, is the estimator/project manager at Lavenderie Construction, Inc. (famousd40@yahoo.com)
Martin Sanchez, Gurnee, is a sales associate at Unique Realty Services. (martinsanchez@realtor.com)

1986
Chester Lien MFA, MS-ED ’03, ED SP ’05, EDD ’11, Macomb, is the superintendent of schools for Rockford High School in Taylor Ridge.
Mike Thomas MS, Cincinnati, OH, is the athletic director at the University of Illinois.

1987
Gyo Yano, Okinawa, Japan, is the general manager/business relations coordinator at OSF St. Mary Medical Center.
Kelly Staats, Brunswick, GA, is the use of force instructor at DHS/ICE/EBO FLETC in Glynco. (kelly.staats@dhs.gov)

1988
Scott McBurney MS ’92, Elwood, is a sr software developer at kCura in Chicago. (Scott.L.McBurney@gmail.com)
Matthew Verscheure, S. San Francisco, CA, is the associate director at Creativity Explored in San Francisco.

1989
Julie Roman Courtier, Tipton, IA, is the preschool-12th grade teacher librarian at Tipton Community Schools. (julie.courtier@tipton.k12.ia.us)

1991
Carrie Guenther Bernet, Galesburg, is the marketing/public relations coordinator at OSF St. Mary Medical Center.
Keith Gavigan, Pittsburg, NC, is the education director at Carolina Tiger Rescue.

1992
Kathryn Henningson Brune, Fairfax, IA, is a sr broker at Inlanta Mortgage in Cedar Rapids. (kathrynbrune@inlanta.com)
Laura Bergwall Brandenburg, Mishawaka, IN, is the director of advancement services at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame. (adharadesign@yahoo.com)

Ember Keithley MBA ’01, Macomb, received the Outstanding Academic Adviser Award for 2011 at Western Illinois University. Erik Venteris, Richland, WA, is a spatial modeling research engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Donald Huffman MS-ED, Okinawa, Japan, is the acting director at the child development center for the Marine Corp Community Service.

Dustin King, Mill Shoals, was promoted to master sergeant by the Illinois State Police.

Barry Porch MA, Oklahoma City, OK, is a GIS analyst for the City of Oklahoma Department of Airports.

Lillie Hayes Huffman MS-ED ’02, Okinawa, Japan, is an elementary teacher at William C. Bechtel Elementary School for the Department of Defense Educational Association.

Brian Plath, Burlington, IA, is the marketing consultant at Pritchard Broadcasting. (brian.plath@mchsi.com)

Venus Taylor, Aurora, is an assistant coach with the University of California-Davis Aggies.

James Whitaker, Carthage, is the vice president at First Bankers Trust in Quincy.

Katie Lutyens-Will, Port Charlotte, FL, is a physician assistant at Venice Regional Medical Center in emergency medicine.

Jennifer Haney-Crowe, N. Aurora, is the director of marketing and communications at Accertify, Inc. John Shafer, Springfield, is a commercial field underwriter for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. (shafer9@hotmail.com)

Lindsay Halpin Pualoa, Arlington, VA, is the assistant manager at Ann Taylor Loft. (halpin980@gmail.com)
Paul Schultz, Oak Forest, is the property manager at MAC Property Management in Chicago at the Windermere House.
Karen Verde Wilson, Columbia, MO, is a consumer advocate for the Missouri Attorney General’s Office. (kwilson0805@gmail.com)

2003
Jamie Bolwin, Chicago, is a sr account manager at T-Mobile, USA. (jamie.bolwin@t-mobile.com)
Nicholas Clesen, Richmond, is a detective for the City of McHenry Police Department.
Gregory Michalek, Bay City, MI, is the fire chief for the City of Watertown, WI.
Andrew Wales, Chicago, is an advocate at Aon Hewitt in Lincolnshire. (watchtower1981@yahoo.com)

2004
Sharon Adams, Metamora, is vice president of operations for Advocate Medical Group in the Bloomington/Normal area.
Kristin Flores, Benbrook, TX, is a SSS counselor at Weatherford College. (kristinf07@gmail.com)
David Neil, Jr., Decatur, is the cross-categorical teacher at Champaign Community Unit 4 School District.
Melissa Aguirre Witten, Macomb, is a teacher at Abingdon School District. (melissa_911_1@hotmail.com)

2005
Karen Abendroth, Pittsfield, is a teacher at Griggsville-Perry School District.
Aaron Surratt, Valparaiso, IN, is the residential learning coordinator at Valparaiso University.
Michael Swanson, Arlington Heights, is an associate chemist at Valspar in Wheeling.

2006
Takemasa Miyagi, 2007
Gabrielle Sallis, Rockford, is a permanency specialist at Our Children’s Homestead. (gabrielle.sallis@gmail.com)

2007
Matt Budreau, Elk Grove Village, is the public information coordinator at National Merit Scholarship Corporation in Evanston.
Takemasa Miyagi, San Jose, CA, is an applications engineer at KLA-Tencor Corporation in Milpitas.
Cara Neil Ryan, Joliet, is a physical education teacher for Joliet Public School District.
Garrett Ryan, Joliet, is a physical education teacher for Joliet Public School District. (garrettryan83@gmail.com)

2008
Desiree Bartigen Juarez, Carol Stream, is the business manager at Horizon Wealth Management in La Grange. (desiree.juarez@hotmail.com)
Bart Lemons, Pittsfield, is a certified grain grader for Consolidated Grain and Barge Company in Bluffs.
Jonathan Love, Laurel, MT, is a staff geologist at Cardno ERI in Billings and graduated from Illinois State University with a Masters of Science in Hydrogeology in May 2011.
Jessica Stratmann Stock MA ‘10, Jacksonville, is the organizational growth specialist at Higher Plain Executive Placement. (jessica.stock@higherplain.com)

2009
Jason Danner, Decatur, is a police officer for the Decatur Police Department.
Cody Dietze, Brighton, MA, is a compensation analyst at Liberty Mutual Group in Boston.
Brandon Dykema, Springfield, VA, is a diplomatic security officer for the Department of State.
Kethra Hubbard, Cuba, is a probation officer in Fulton County, MO.
Kayleigh Kluenser, Stanley, WI, is an English teacher at Stanley-Boyd High School.
Jessica Ball Mueller MS ‘11, Macomb, is the assistant director of student judicial programs at Western Illinois University. (j-ball@wiu.edu)

2010
Eric Stock, Jacksonville, is a correctional officer at the Illinois Department of Corrections.

2011
Leticia “Letty” Beserra, Davenport, IA, is an administrative coordinator for the assessment, equity and record services department at Davenport Community School District.
Allison Randolph Crust MS, St. Louis, MO, is the program coordinator at the Skanderlars Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Washington University.
Alicia English MS, Corvallis, OR, is the ticket/donor account manager at Oregon State University Athletics. (alicia.english@oregonstate.edu)
Tami Magner MS, Waukon, IA, is an assistant softball coach, marketing and promotions director at Beloit College in Beloit, WI.
Travis Schilla MS, Springfield, MO, is the residence hall director at Missouri State University.
Emily Zoha, Macomb, is the store owner of Hooked on You.

Marriages and Civil Unions
Jamie Bolwin ’03 and Andrew Wales ’03, Sept. 30, 2011.
Nichole Brady ’10 and Zachary Wells ’09, Nov. 11, 2011.
Alicia Dillin ’04 and Brandon Sims, Sept. 4, 2011.
Amber England ’05 and Chad Bowcott, Sept. 17, 2011.
Wade Jackson ’08 and Kellie Campbell, Oct. 8, 2011.
Christina Kartawich ’02 and Mark Blakey ’05, Oct. 1, 2011.
Brittany Ledbetter ’10 and Brent Pieper, Aug. 25, 2011.

WIU vs. Mizzou Social and Game Boone Tavern, Sept. 17

Seated, l-r: Joe Livasy, Jerry Holloway, President Jack Thomas, Cathy Henkle Cook ’78, Cathy Sorenson and Shannon Scott. Standing, l-r: Instructor Algerian Hart, Randy Livasy ’73, Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology Joe Rives, Todd Kenning ’81, John Linden ’78, Mike Lance and College of Education and Human Services Dean Sterling Saddler.

Macomb Alumni & Friends Social Al Sears Social at Shiloh’s, Sept. 23

Seated, l-r: University Relations Director Darcie Dyer Shinberger ’89 ’98, Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Baither ’79 ’83, Donor Relations Director Julie Chatterton Murphy ’94 ’95, Student Judicial Programs Assistant Director Jessica Ball Mueller ’09 ’11, Brandon Mueller ’07 and Alumni Director Amy Spelman ’98. Standing, l-r: Crystal Rebene, Carter Stitz, Steve Solomon, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services Dana Enger Biernaart ’99, Dwayne Blair ’86, College of Education and Human Services Marketing Director Dana Stites Moon ’98 ’01, Paula Knight, Academic Advisor Ember Keithley ’94 ’01 and Faculty Assistant Danielle Pataky ’01 ’02.

Letty Hlavac ’08 and Zachary Wells ’09, Sept. 30, 2011.
Special thanks to Brittany Lupinski, Brandi Grant and Kellie Campbell, Oct. 8, 2011.
Reunion Photos Western Illinois University, Oct. 1

L-r: Dorothy McCall Morrison ’51 and Doris Roudebusch Black ’51.


Class of 1971: l-r: Ron Glisan ’71 and Elaine Hanck Schaefer ’71 ’76.


Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround

Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround Winners

Male Winners
15 and under category: Joshua Cook, first place; Abe Pedigo, second place and Noah Pyles, third place. 16-22 yr. category: R.R. Rishi, first place, Jesse Shaw, second place and Davey Mueller, third place. 23-29 yr. category: Torinn Pope ’09 ’11, first place; Jacob Baylor ’08, second place and James Boge ’04, third place. 30-39 yr. category: Wesley Wooden ’04, first place; Barclay Key, second place and Roberto Mazzo, third place. 40-49 yr. category: Ken Dahlstrom, first place; William Peterman ’84, second place and Doug Harvey ’91, third place. 50-59 yr. category: Jeff DeJoye, first place; Bill McLaughlin ’82, second place and Lenis Tappe ’77, third place. 60 and over category: Lawson Barclay, first place; Ed Zaborac ’71, second place and Deckle McLean, third place.

Female Winners
15 and under category: Isabel Wohlstadter, first place; Tiffany Slater, second place and Brianna Drew, third place. 16-22 yr. category: Stacy VanLoan, first place; Brittany Edwards, second place and Natalie Dybsky, third place. 23-29 yr. category: Jill Kellem ’09, first place; Victoria Lantz ’10, second place and Stacie Petigout ’05, third place. 30-39 yr. category: Carol Heffin, first place; Jenel Starbuck, second place and Connie Crowl, third place. 40-49 yr. category: Pam Hoop ’86, first place; Laurie Slater, second place and Dena Furniss, third place. 50-59 yr. category: Cindy Cavetti ’78, first place; Mona D’Antonio ’76, second place and Karen Hostert, third place. 60 and over category: Claudia Scott ’78, first place; Brenda Martin ’73, second place and Betsy Hommel ’72, third place.

Walkers
Edward Orciger, first place; Carol Clemons ’85, second place and Cheryl Ravenschlag ’61 ’64, third place.

Mystery Awards
In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Old Stompin’ Ground Runaround, three additional “mystery” awards were presented to: James Gaul for finishing in 25th place; Roberto Mazzo with a time of 20:10 and closest to the “perfect” time of 20:11 (the current year); and Claudia McCain ’70 for her staying power and finishing the race in last place. THANK YOU to all the participants that made this such a successful event.

See you all next year!
**Homecoming Western Illinois University, Oct. 1**

- L-r: Jim Lodico ‘62 ’75, Jane Ray Dorieslager ’74, Chips Giovanine ’58 ’61 ’68, Mary Ellen Tonkinson Giovanine and Pat Heap.
- L-r: Board of Trustees member Steve Nelson ’70 and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Thom Cornelis ’71.
- L-r: Antonio Marshall, Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center Director and Alumni Achievement Award recipient Belinda Staple Carr ’81 and Nicole Staple ’96 ’10.

**Births and Adoptions**

- Sam Moore ’10 and Maddie Link, Sept. 10, 2011.
- Kelley Press ’01 and Jeff Lower, Sept. 10, 2011.
- Alison Reif ’07 and Derek Jones ’08, Oct. 1, 2011.
- Melissa Roelfs ’01 and Michael Brousil, Mar. 18, 2011.
- Chad Wilson ’03 and Kathryn Boyd ’07, Sept. 24, 2011.
- Shannon Zaiser ’05 and Justin Johnson, Nov. 6, 2011.

**Galena Alumni & Friends Event**

**Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery, Oct. 13**

- April Panella Courtney ’02 and Thomas Courtney ’02, a son, Landon Thomas, Aug. 24, 2011.
- Jennifer Haney-Crowe ’01 and A.J., a son, Aiden James, Apr. 7, 2011.
- Cynthia Bowman Haynes ’97, MA ’99 and Glenn Haynes IV ’95, MA ’97, a daughter, Caitlin Juliana, May 19, 2011.
- Sarah Bailey Heavner ’02 and Ryan, a son, Alexander Jacob, May 10, 2011.
- Shannon Gillett Hughes ’97 and Donald Hughes ’97, twins, a daughter, Abigail Marie, and a son, Jayce Donald, July 5, 2010.
- Desiree Bartgen Juarez ’08 and Raymond, a son, Samuel Lee, Apr. 10, 2011.
- Steven Krause, Jr.’06, and Angela, a son, Matthew Eugene, Apr. 10, 2011.
- Lisa Carpenter Maisto ’06 and Dax, a daughter, Allison Joy, Apr. 7, 2011.
- Whitney Cassens Mehaffy ’00 and Jason, a son, Dempsey Thomas, Jan. 16, 2011.
Refer a Student to Western Illinois University

Do you know a student who would be a great fit for Western Illinois University? Let us know by completing the form below. We also welcome recommendations for students who may wish to transfer to WIU.

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

Student’s Information

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
High School Name: __________________________
Expected High School Graduation Date: __________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Gender:  q Female  q Male

Referred By

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
WIU Graduation Year: __________________________
Relationship to Student: __________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

*Why would this student be a good candidate for WIU?

☐ Yes, I would like to pay the application fee (electronic/$25; paper/$30) for this student when he/she applies.

If this student chooses not to apply:

☐ Please use the application fee for another deserving student.

OR

☐ Please refund me.

☐ Yes, I would like this student to know I recommended him/her.

☐ No, I would prefer this student not know I recommended him/her.

Please mail form to: WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455-1390, or visit wiu.edu/alumni/recommend.php to complete the form online.

Send Us Your News

Full Name __________________________ Maiden Name __________________________ Grad. Year __________________________
Mailing Address
City __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Is this a new address?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Prefer ☐ Home  ☐ Business  ☐ E-mail  ☐ Cell
Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________
Prefer ☐ Home  ☐ Business  ☐ E-mail
Home E-mail __________________________ Business E-mail __________________________
Title/Position __________________________ Employer __________________________
Employer Mailing Address
City __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Business Phone __________________________
Marital Status:  ☐ Married  ☐ Single  ☐ Divorced  ☐ Widowed  ☐ Domestic Partner
Is spouse/domestic partner a WIU graduate?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes, Graduation Year __________________________
If yes:  Spouse/Domestic Partner Full Name __________________________ Maiden Name __________________________
Title/Position __________________________ Employer __________________________
Employer Mailing Address
City __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Business Phone __________________________
Prefer ☐ Home  ☐ Business  ☐ E-mail  ☐ Cell
Home E-mail __________________________ Business E-mail __________________________
Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone __________________________
Prefer ☐ Home  ☐ Business  ☐ Cell
Do you want to receive text messages from the University?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes
Include Information in Western News?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Additional Information for Western News:

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

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

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

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

Western After Hours Alumni & Friends Public House in Chicago, Nov. 3

L-r: Alumni Director Amy Spelman ’98, John Shartle ’70, Carol Frighetto Kuczkowski ’79, Board of Trustees member and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Bill Epperly ’68, Sal Abrams, Doug Balut and Associate Alumni Director Amanda Shoemaker ’11.
### Registration Form for WIU Alumni & Friends Events

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Address</td>
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<td>Home phone</td>
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<td>Cell phone</td>
<td>Do you want to receive text messages from the university? Yes/No</td>
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**Total:**

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### Payment options:
- Online: wiu.com/alumni
- Phone: (309) 298-1914
- Check: Payable to WIU Alumni Association
- Credit card: Please provide credit card information

### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:
- Card #: ____________________________
- Three digit security code: ________
- Exp. date: __________
- Name on card: _____________________
- Signature: ________________________

**Fax form to:** (309) 298-2914 or mail form to:
WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390

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### Florida Events

#### January 2012
- 22 Orlando Alumni & Friends Event
- 24 Tampa Alumni & Friends Event
- 25 Bradenton Alumni & Friends Luncheon

#### March 2012
- 15 Ft. Myers Alumni & Friends Event with the WIU Golf Team
- 16 Jupiter Alumni & Friends Event at St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training

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### Chicago HIRSTY THURSDAYS

#### February 2012
- 2 Western After-Hours in Homewood (IL)

#### March 2012
- 1 Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago

#### April 2012
- 5 Western After-Hours in Schaumburg (IL)

#### May 2012
- 3 Western After-Hours in downtown Chicago

#### June 2012
- 7 Western After-Hours at BlackFinn in Naperville

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### UPCOMING WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

#### February 22
- Alumni Social & Showboat Performance
  - Chicago Lyric Opera

#### March 30
- Complimentary Alumni & Friends Event
  - The Adler Planetarium

#### May 19
- Alumni & Friends Event
  - Watch the Cubs vs. White Sox Baseball Game from The Cubby Bear

#### June 11
- The Western Open
  - Alumni & Friends Golf Outing
  - Seven Bridges

#### July 28
- Alumni & Friends Social & Baseball Game
  - Cubs vs. Cardinals Baseball Game
  - Wrigleyville Rooftop on Sheffield

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### Your WIU Alumni Association kicked off a new tradition and we hope you will join us for... Western After Hours...

Join us on the first Thursday of every month for great food, great conversation and a few beverages! We'll continue our “Hirsty Thursday” tradition on the first Thursday of every month and rotate from downtown Chicago to the suburbs then back downtown. Complimentary light appetizers will be served while they last and a cash bar will be provided. Feel free to stop in anytime between 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. See you Thursday!

Walk-ins are welcome but if you wish to pre-register, email A-Association@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1914.