Summit League regular season champions
By Darcie Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

The Western Illinois men’s basketball team defeated the South Dakota Coyotes, 61-59, in dramatic fashion March 2 to earn a share of The Summit League’s regular season title for the first time in 30 years. The Fighting Leathernecks picked up their 21st win this year, the most ever in the program’s NCAA Division I era.

“What a great night for Western Illinois University and our basketball program,” said Head Coach Jim Molinari.

“It’s always been hard—for five years, there have been ups and downs. The way it’ll culminate, with a regular season championship, it’s just terrific how it worked out.”

The Leathernecks (21-7, 13-3) won the conference’s first-ever regular season title in 1982-1983, making this year’s crown the first of its kind during the conference’s tournament era.

Continued on p. 11

Rocky on Parade
By Darcie Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98

A dog walk throughout Macomb will take on a whole new meaning beginning in October 2013.

Inspired by successful projects like Cows on Parade in Chicago, Western Illinois University Art Professor Bill Howard conceived the idea for Rocky On Parade, a public art project that will feature life-size fiberglass bulldogs decorated by area artists. Visitors can pick up a map at the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and other locations to follow the “dog walk” to view the Rocky sculptures. On Oct. 3, at the annual WIU Alumni Association’s Town and Gown Celebration, 12 Rocky sculptures will be debuted, along with their sponsors, and located throughout the City of Macomb and WIU campus, as part of the inaugural Rocky on Parade project sponsored by the WIU Department of Art.

Using a design similar to WIU’s iconic Rocky sculpture, located near Hanson Field, 12 bulldogs will be cast in fiberglass, decorated by regional artists, mounted on a concrete base and displayed at various locations throughout campus and in the City of Macomb. The sculptures will then be installed at the sponsors’ location of choice.

“This project celebrates the University’s traditions, strengthens the unity of campus and community, contributes to the economic vitality and quality of life in Macomb and supports student scholarships,” Howard explained.

Sponsors of the bulldogs include: the Western Illinois University Foundation, MidAmerica National Bank, Sports Corner @ 124, Citizens Bank, All Pets Veterinary Clinic, Josh ’04 and Mishelle Oaks ’97 and Ryan ’96 and Ann Ford, McDonough District Hospital, Cathy Early / State Farm Insurance, Nelson’s Clothing, Blades, John and Dana Biernbaum ’99 and Joe Roselieb ’07 M.S. ’09 and Col. Rock III, and Ken ’46 MS-Ed ’52 and Lorraine Epperson ‘48 MS-Ed ’52. Artists—and their designs—will be selected by the sponsors in April.

“We are excited about sponsoring a bulldog for this unique project. It’s a fantastic town-gown partnership that works to further promote our community, our University and our outstanding regional artists, while helping to support student scholarships,” said WIU Vice

Continued on p. 18

Join the crowd... Sometimes it’s OK to be a follower!

Think Purple

Think Social

Think Western

Tag yourself. Tweet your Western memory. Relive your WIU experience...All at your fingertips!

Continued on p. 2
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Spring has arrived at your alma mater—students have just returned from Spring Break and are now looking forward to Graduation 2013 to be held May 10-13 at the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. We look forward to welcoming the new class of graduates into the Alumni Association.

Your fighting Leathernecks men’s basketball team made history in March winning a conference title for the first time in our Division I era. We salute Coach Molinari and his players for making us proud to be part of the Leatherneck Nation!

-Amy Spelman M.S. ’98

SIOR DOROTHER 
WILLIAM ILLINIOIS 
UNIVERSITY 
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 

Western News
Spring 2013, Vol. 65, No. 3
USPS 879-980

Western News is published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Periodicals postage paid at Macomb, IL and at additional mailing offices. Distributed to WIU alumni. Postmaster: Please send address changes to WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Alumni Association Phone: (309) 298-1914 A-Association@wiu.edu

Editorial staff/contributors:
Darcie Dyer Shinberger ’89 M.S. ’98, assistant vice president, Advancement and Public Services
Amy Spelman M.S. ’98, director of Alumni Programs
Athletics Media Services staff
Alisha Barnett, editor, University Relations
Bryce Dexter, director of development, College of Arts and Sciences
Angeline Harpman M.S. ’12, assistant director of Alumni Programs
Schuyler Isley ’98 MBA ’04, director, communications and external relations, College of Business and Technology
Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11, assistant director, University Relations
Dana Moon ’98 MBA ’01, assistant to the dean, College of Education and Human Services
Julie Murphy ’94 M.S. ’95, director, Foundation communications/donor stewardship
Cathy Null ’72 M.A. ’91 M.S. ’02, assistant to the dean, College of Fine Arts and Communication
Jodi Pospeschil, public information specialist
Tammy Sayles, marketing and outreach librarian
Amanda Shoemaker M.S. ’11, associate director of Alumni Programs

Have tips, questions or comments for Western News? A-Association@wiu.edu
westernnews@wiu.edu
see “Send Us Your News” (page 23)

Need to update your address?
wiu.edu/alumni
Tel (309) 298-1914
Fax (309) 298-2914

PRINTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
12/2012 • 99,600 • 11001

WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS
2013 EVENTS

MARCH 2013
19 . . . .Memphis Alumni & Friends Social at Napa Cafe
20 . . . .Nashville Alumni & Friends Social at Cantina Laredo
21 . . . .Grad Prep Day at WIU-Quad Cities
22 . . . .Grad Prep Day at WIU-Macomb
30 . . . .Black Alumni Black Tie Scholarship Gala at Martinique Banquet Complex in Burbank (IL)

APRIL 2013
3 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours Downtown Chicago at The Gage
11 . . . . .Springfield (IL) Alumni & Friends Social at the Sangamo Club
23 . . . . .Quincy (IL) Alumni & Friends Social at O’Griff’s Grill & Brewhouse

MAY 2013
1 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours at Biaggi’s in Deer Park (IL)
10-12 . . . .Graduation/Distinguished Alumni Awards

JUNE 2013
5 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Downtown Chicago
10 . . . . .“The Western Open,” Chicago Area Golf Outing at Seven Bridges
17 . . . . .Quad Cities Golf Outing at TPC Deere Run

JULY 2013
3 . . . . .No Western Wednesdays After-Hours
13 . . . . .Cubs vs. Cardinals Alumni & Friends Event in Chicago
26 . . . . .Andrea Passmore Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing at the Macomb Country Club
(* Note the corrected date.)

AUGUST 2013
2-3 . . . .Black Alumni Reunion Weekend in Chicago
7 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours in South Chicago Suburb

SEPTEMBER 2013
4 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Downtown Chicago
14 . . . . .WIU at University of Minnesota Social & Football Game
21 . . . . .WIU at University of Nevada Las Vegas Social & Football Game

OCTOBER 2013
2 . . . . .Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Northeast Chicago Suburb
3 . . . . .Celebrating Town and Gown at the Forum in Macomb
4 . . . . .Paint the Paws in Macomb
10 . . . . .Figge Art Museum Alumni & Friends Event in Davenport (IA)
11-12 . . . .Homecoming/25-40-50 Year-Reunion

DECEMBER 2013
13-14 . . . .Graduation/Alumni Achievement Awards

From the President

I would like to welcome our Fall 2012 graduates to the Western Illinois University Alumni Association. You join a group of more than 115,000 WIU alumni from around the world. It is a pleasure meeting so many of our alumni at events across the country and at various events on campus. We appreciate your continued support and dedication to your alma mater.

Despite the budgetary challenges we face, we are proud of our numerous accomplishments and accolades. Western continues to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, G.I. Jobs magazine, Military Times Edge magazine, and the (U.S.) President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. We are pleased that the number of high-achieving new freshman students applying to Western has increased significantly. Most recently, Western was designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Construction will soon be starting on Phase II of the WIU-Quad Cities Riverfront campus, and renovations are underway on Thompson Hall and the University Union.

As you support Western by attending events and giving back so generously through your time and resources, you can also support WIU by contacting legislators to request continued funding for education, as well as the release of capital funding for deferred maintenance programs and the Performing Arts Center. We will continue to work with other college and university presidents and with our legislators to minimize devastating reforms to higher education, but the more voices heard in Springfield, the better.

I look forward to meeting our alumni and friends at events this spring and throughout the summer.

Sincerely,
Jack Thomas

Cutned from Join p. 1

The WIU Alumni Association has worked hard to provide more opportunities to stay connected to Western through our social media sites in the past year. We’re pleased to announce more exciting changes to our sites, and we hope you will join the crowd!

Whether you like to post videos, photos or news, or if you just enjoy viewing our posts and those of others, social media is a great way to stay involved with your alma mater and the alumni association.

If you have not yet made the leap to join the social media craze, we hope you will consider it. If you want to try, but need some assistance, we are happy to help.

Be on the look-out for upcoming contests and social media-exclusive content. It pays to stalk our page...
WIU Environmental Summit celebrates 10 years

By Teresa Koltenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

From a three-hour long program in 2004 to a 2013 event that spans two days and both of Western Illinois University’s campuses, the annual WIU Environmental Summit has clearly grown in scope over the last decade. The 10th annual Environmental Summit will include a Macomb campus event from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, which will feature an exposition; keynote speaker Jean Harman, the Peace Corps’ global food security lead; and a student project display and award program, as well as art and displays from multiple departments on the Macomb campus. The event on the WIU-Quad Cities campus, slated for Tuesday, April 2, will include a Sustainability Share Fair, panel discussions and will also feature Harman’s presentation.

According to Mindy Pheiffer ’91 M.S. ’92, program manager at WIU’s Horn Field Campus and the coordinator of the annual Environmental Summit, a priority for the last few years during the event is to involve the Macomb community in the Summit’s reach.

“To accomplish that, we host a community reception on the evening of the Macomb event, and this year, we’ll be hosting it at the Central Regional Arts Council, which is located on the Macomb Square. Also, every year, a ‘Legacy Project’ is attached to the Summit to provide a lasting contribution to the community as a whole. Our project for this year is still in the works, but we hope to make an announcement about it soon,” Pheiffer said.

“Making Peace with the Planet,” the theme of the 2013 Summit, ties in with the 2012-13 University theme, “War and Peace: From Personal Conflict to Global Resolution,” noted Gordon Rands, a member of the University’s sustainability committee and a professor in the WIU Department of Management and Marketing. Although the line up for the 10th annual WIU Environmental Summit includes a great deal more than the original Summit’s three-hour program, the purpose and existence of it remains similar to its founders’ and participants’ original mission.

“I would say the original goal of the Summit was to raise awareness about sustainability issues among WIU students, faculty and staff, first in terms of how sustainability related to WIU, and later about broader national and global aspects of sustainability,” said Rands, who was also a member of the original group that started and attended the inaugural Summit and still serves on WIU’s Environmental Summit committee.

“The first summit was held in April of 2004 on the fifth floor of Stipes Hall and was probably attended by about 20-30 people. It was focused on learning about what was being done at WIU and in Macomb around sustainability issues. I think it was all Karen’s idea, and with the help of Anne Hylla M.S. ’95, the Horn Field Campus graduate assistant at the time, the event took shape.”

When Rands mentions “Karen,” he is referring to Karen Peitzmeier ’88, the former Horn Field Campus program coordinator. She still works at WIU, but she is now the internal coordinator for the Peace Corps Fellows Program in Community and Economic Development. Peitzmeier remains involved with the Summit and its planning, the annual event has been spearheaded by Pheiffer for the last few years.

“The Summit has seen fabulous growth under Mindy’s supervision. It went from a small educational conference with mostly professors in attendance to a gathering of University and community constituents discussing different ways we can help the community and the planet,” Peitzmeier said.

“Under Mindy’s leadership, the members of the Environmental Summit committee have been able to bring in bigger-name speakers, such as in 2006, when Chad Pregracke—internationally known for his river cleanup efforts, founder of Living Lands and Waters and recognized as a Service Hero at the Points of Light Tribute (where he spoke to all four living ex-presidents in March 2011)—served as the keynote speaker. Also, in 2007, we were able to have Majora Carter (the Peabody Award winning radio broadcaster, MacArthur ‘genius’ Fellow and a leader in local economic revitalization strategy) present the keynote address,” Rands explained. “Although we have had to scale back on that somewhat due to budget constraints, we have had other innovations. For example, the exposition (for the exhibits) was originally quite small when we added that, but the number of exhibitors has grown a lot over the years. In addition, linking the annual Summit theme to the annual University theme enables us to continue to explore a wide range of issues and has linked the Environmental Summit to the broader University community, as well as to the community outside of Western. I think the exhibits have helped in this regard, as well.”

Through the annual event, Rands said he believes the Environmental Summit continues to re-iterate the original goals of increasing awareness about sustainability and environmental issues.

“Overall, I believe the Summit’s key accomplishment is the increased awareness. With the turnover in students, this is a never-ending goal,” he noted. “In addition, the Summit has contributed to action, especially via the formerly named Physical Plant (Facilities Management, since Jan. 1, 2013) to improve WIU’s sustainability. In the early years, the event also helped demonstrate to members of WIU’s administration the topic was one of significant importance.”

Former WIU President Al Goldfarb demonstrated the University’s (and the administration’s) commitment to sustainability by signing the Talloires Declaration—a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities—at the 2005 WIU Environmental Summit.

“This came about through Karen’s graduate assistant at Horn Field Campus, Angie (Sanders) Wierzbicki M.S. ’07,” Rands said. “Angie and I had a conversation about what could be done to further promote sustainability on campus, so I showed her the Talloires Declaration and filled her in on the sustainability elements in the WIU Strategic Plan. The next thing I knew, she had taken the Talloire Declaration to President Goldfarb, he had looked at it and decided that it was entirely consistent with the goals in the Master Plan, and he committed to sign it. We then decided to have him sign it at the Summit.”

As the annual event continues to experience growth and innovation through the work of Pheiffer and Environmental Summit committee members, it also continues to encompass at least three of Western’s four core values of academic excellence, educational opportunity, social responsibility and personal growth.

“Developing educational opportunities to raise awareness of environmental issues is a priority in the University’s strategic plan. The Summit’s planning team of colleagues—from across disciplines and administrative offices—is dedicated to continuing the Environmental Summit for years to come,” Pheiffer said. “The effort is truly one of promoting social responsibility and personal growth and is not limited to people and ideas to expand the message.”

For more information about WIU’s annual Environmental Summit, visit wiu.edu/summit.
In his position as the director of the Illinois Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC), Captain Brad Carnduff ’88 works with student interns who “are almost always the cream of the crop.” According to Carnduff, who earned his bachelor’s degree in law enforcement and justice administration (LEJA) in 1988, over the last three and a half years he has worked with several WIU students—many of whom are majoring in law enforcement and justice administration and minoring in the School of LEJA’s growing homeland security minor program.

Carnduff noted in his position as the head of the STIC, he sees numerous applications each semester from students from all types of universities and colleges.

“Students in Western’s law enforcement program who apply for internships with us generally rise to the top of the list. They are well prepared, eager to learn and not afraid to demonstrate their talents,” he said. “Ken Durkin ’81 M.A. ’84, who was the internship coordinator in LEJA when I was a student (way back in 1988) was of great help to me,” Carnduff explained. “Ken helped me obtain an internship with the Springfield Police Department. Based on the interns I have worked with, it is obvious WIU’s law enforcement and justice administration program possesses the same quality today as it did years ago.”

According to Durkin, who is also a professor in the School of LEJA, working in an internship position at STIC provides students with first-hand experience by having the opportunity to observe the responsibilities of the STIC and the Illinois State Police (ISP) in everyday practice.

“Students in LEJA who have done internships at STIC have been given the opportunity to observe the responsibilities of the STIC and the ISP in everyday practice. Interns observe and participate in a myriad of homeland security issues,” he said.

Joshua Sheppard ’12, who graduated from Western last May with an LEJA bachelor’s degree and a minor in homeland security, completed an internship at the STIC during the Spring 2012 semester.

“When it came to doing my internship as a Western student, I wanted to participate in internships I would remember and that would give me practical experience. I had already done one internship during the summer of 2010, where I spent a majority of my time riding with deputies of the Sangamon County Sheriff’s Department,” Sheppard explained. “When Professor Alexander told me about the opportunity of doing an additional internship with the Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center, I instantly was strongly interested. He told me that an internship with the STIC would be very beneficial to me, that it would give me important insight into the homeland security-oriented field of work.”

According to Sheppard, his homeland security classes at Western provided him with a solid background for his internship experience at the STIC.

“One of the first things I noticed when I started my internship at the STIC was the vast number of areas the analysts there cover—whether it be a counter intelligence analyst, a terrorism research specialist, someone who works on motorcycle gangs or Amber Alerts or whatever the task may be. Thanks to my classes with Professor Alexander and other School of LEJA faculty, I felt like I was more prepared going into my internship than I would have been if I had not minored in homeland security. I was able to relate to the most of the analysts when they were talking about topics such as the Somali Islamist insurgent group al-Shabab or Al Qaeda,” Sheppard explained.

Carnduff said Sheppard is one of many interns from Western who have done a “terrific” job during their time in Springfield and noted he has a bright future ahead of him in law enforcement.

Since graduating from Western, Carnduff has achieved a significant level of accomplishment during his 20-plus year law enforcement career with the Illinois State Police organization. In 1994, he was appointed to the ISP’s Intelligence Bureau and worked in a position there until 1996. He also spent almost 10 years serving as an instructor and trainer at the ISP Academy, where he worked with more than 1,500 ISP cadets and local law enforcement recruits and was one of the founders of the ISP’s Teaching Assessing and Correction (TAC) Program, which is still used today to instill “Integrity, Service and Pride” with the cadets/recruits. In 1998, he was promoted to sergeant as the cadet class coordinator, then master sergeant in 2000 as the section supervisor of training. In 2005, he was promoted to lieutenant as the division of administration chief of staff. In 2006, he graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBI/NA). He still is very active with the FBI/NA, currently serving as the president of the FBI/NA Illinois chapter.

Durkin noted that Carnduff has continued to be a strong supporter of his alma mater and the internship program.

“He has returned to campus numerous times to share his experience and expertise with our students through class presentations and student clubs presentations. He is also a strong advocate of the ISP internship program overall and through STIC. There is no substitution for real-life practical experience/exposure, and the ISP/STIC internship provides that opportunity for the student/intern that has the appropriate background and motivation. Captain Carnduff truly exemplifies the values of the Illinois State Police: Integrity, Service and Pride. He instills those values to all individuals he comes in contact with,” Durkin added.

“I’m very proud of the opportunity to attend and graduate from Western,” Carnduff said. “One thing is for certain for me: As long as WIU offers the excellent LEJA program it does and I’m working in a professional law enforcement capacity in Illinois, I will always try to give back to WIU students the same opportunities I have had in my career.

WIU’s School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration is one of the University’s signature programs, and as of the Fall 2012 semester, the number of students enrolled in the School of LEJA’s homeland security minor is just over 200, making it one of the largest minors in terms of enrollment at Western.

For more information about Western’s LEJA program, including the homeland security minor, contact the WIU School of Law Enforcement Administration at (309) 298-1038 or LEJA@wiu.edu, or visit wiu.edu/leja.
Professor studies impact of Harrisburg tornado

On Leap Day last year, Illinois’ largest natural disaster in 2012 devastated a small town in southern Illinois. Since the Feb. 29 EF-4 level tornado that tore through Harrisburg one year ago—hitting the ground with a force of 175-180 miles per hour and leaving eight people dead, injuring many others and destroying more than 250 homes—Western Illinois University Department of Health Sciences Emergency Management Assistant Professor Jack Rozdilsky has been on site close to 10 times to study the response and recovery efforts of the small town’s stretched emergency management resources.

Rozdilsky, who teaches in the WIU science in public health (previously health sciences) department’s emergency management program, was uniquely positioned to conduct the study. Not only does he reside in Illinois and is a member of the faculty of the state’s only emergency management bachelor’s degree program, but he also has an ongoing working relationship with the University of Colorado’s Natural Hazards Center and its quick response grant program.

“I often work cooperatively on research projects at the Natural Hazards Center, and I have completed a quick response study previously. Once I learned of the tornado in Harrisburg, I knew I was the closest researcher (who does this sort of research) to it,” he explained.

His visits and data gathering have culminated in the qualitative study, “Disaster Management with Limited Local Resources: The 2012 Illinois Leap Day EF-4 Tornado.” The research was funded by a grant from the University of Colorado Natural Hazards Center through its Quick Response Grant Program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As an invited emergency management expert and sole researcher on this NSF-funded study, Rozdilsky presented his findings at the National Tornado Summit in Oklahoma City (OK). The findings, he noted, will help provide small, rural, oftentimes economically challenged, communities—such as Harrisburg, with a population of around 9,000, and many communities in the state and across the Midwest—with helpful information about how to manage future tornado disasters.

“The Southern Illinois Saline County Emergency Management Agency did a commendable job in managing this very large incident with extremely limited resources,” Rozdilsky said. “But, based on my research, I found there were adaptations that needed to be made for this very small agency to manage this very large crisis. In general, in small towns in rural America, there is very little public funding for local emergency management agencies. In this case, there was a lack of a permanent emergency operations center, so they set up a temporary one in a courtroom in a local courthouse. This was part of the agency’s disaster response plan, but about two weeks into the response process, it was clear the center needed to be moved because, firstly, the courthouse needed the space back and, secondly, it was not large enough. This involuntary use of multiple temporary emergency operations center sites made disaster management more complicated than it needed to be,” he added.

Last fall, during one of Rozdilsky’s many visits to Harrisburg while conducting his research, he was able to take a few Western students who are studying emergency management to the disaster response location. He said it provided them with hands-on experience in the field, and it helped the emergency management personnel in Harrisburg and Saline County, as well.

“They were able to assist the local emergency management office in looking at issues related to the operations center and help them start with future planning. When we go out into the field and study these types of events in real-world situations, it creates opportunities for emergency management students to interact with practitioners and learn about the challenges of managing them,” he noted.

In addition to the limited resources available locally and from the state of Illinois, a particularly controversial challenge to the recovery in Harrisburg and Saline County was the denial of a federal disaster declaration, resulting in very little federal government financial assistance for individuals and communities hit by the tornado. According to a Sept. 2 (2012) Chicago Tribune article by Ryan Haggerty, in March last year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied two requests for aid from Harrisburg and other southern Illinois towns in five counties damaged by tornadoes that Leap Day. Haggerty’s article noted a FEMA spokesman said at the time that “officials determined assistance from state and local agencies, along with volunteer groups and insurance, would be enough for the towns to rebuild on their own.”

According to Alan Ninness, the emergency management director for the Saline County Emergency Agency, while there is no exact monetary sum calculated for the total damage and costs, which are still being accrued, it will likely top the $100 million mark.

“Early on, we had a preliminary estimate for just the business community alone of about $25.5 million. Ninness said. “That’s not counting the expenses the local government has put in, the state, as well as all the different entities. I think they said $13 million the state of Illinois pledged to the recovery effort, not to mention all the insurance costs. We’re probably into the hundreds of millions of dollars at this point.”

Today, Ninness said, much of the bricks-and-mortar damage caused by the tornado has been completed.

“Not everyone is back in a home, and there is still building and rebuilding going on, but the majority of that part of it is done. The clean up was done rather quickly—a lot of the recovery now is not of the brick-and-mortar type, but on a more personal level,” he noted. “We’re always cognizant of those folks—the eight people we lost, the ones who were injured and the ones, to this day, who are still dealing with the trauma of the storm.”

According to Rozdilsky, the one-year mark, in disasters of such magnitude, is an early milestone in the recovery effort. He said, generally, that process takes five to eight years.

“We have to commend these agencies, people and businesses in these small towns for doing what they do. The gaps in management capacity were filled from community generosity and voluntary service,” he said. “But the dependence on that is so heavy, it is dangerously so.”

For more information and/or to obtain a copy of “Disaster Management with Limited Local Resources: The 2012 Illinois Leap Day EF-4 Tornado,” contact Rozdilsky at (309) 298-1621 or email at JL-Rozdilsky@wiu.edu. Learn more about WIU’s emergency management bachelor’s degree program—one of only 15 of its type in the U.S.—at www.wiu.edu/coehs/health_sciences/undergraduate_programs/emergency_management.php.

WIU health sciences bachelor’s degree renamed to bachelor’s in public health

Western Illinois University Department of Health Sciences Chair Mark Kelley is pleased to announce the bachelor of science degree in health sciences at Western has been renamed to the bachelor of science in public health (BSPH). According to Kelley, the change in the name of the degree reflects incremental changes that have occurred in the curriculum over the past 20 years.

“The bachelor of science degree in public health will retain the existing emphases in community health education and environmental and occupational safety,” Kelley explained. “Current students pursuing the bachelor’s degree in health sciences interested in switching to the BSPA degree can talk to Stacy Dorsett ’89, the adviser for the degree, to determine the impact of the change on their individual degree paths. Incoming or transferring students interested in the degree should contact the department through our department email address at HealthSciences@wiu.edu,” he added.

Consistent with the Associated Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the BSPA provides students with foundational knowledge in the five core areas of public health, including:

• behavioral sciences/health education;
• biostatistics;
• environmental health;
• epidemiology; and
• health services administration/management.

In addition to emphases in community health education and environmental and occupational safety, the department also offers courses in several additional common public health discipline areas, including:

international/global health; maternal and child health; emergency medical services; public health preparedness and public health policy. Learn more about the WIU Department of Health Sciences at wiu.edu/health.
Ervin finishes in top 10 of Miss America contest

By Teresa Koltzenburg '92 M.S. '11

Megan Ervin ’12, who was crowned Miss Illinois last June, finished in the top 10 in the final competition of the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas, Saturday Jan. 12. The 23-year-old Rushville (IL) native, who completed her bachelor’s degree in kinesiology and her minor in dance at Western, also finished at the very top of a Miss America preliminary competition the previous Wednesday during the annual scholarship competition. That night (Jan. 9), she won the Lifestyle and Fitness (swimsuit) preliminary, which earned her a $1,000 Amway scholarship.

In September 2012, Ervin served as the Grand Marshall of Western’s annual Homecoming Parade. During a video interview before the parade, Ervin talked about her platform for her pageant competitions and how her education at WIU helped her reach her goals.

“My platform is my passion, and it’s wellness, fitness, childhood obesity and community outreach programs,” she said. “My exercise science major with a dance minor really paralleled my fitness programs and my dance programs for my community outreach programs. WIU just helped me continue to grow and flourish in those programs. The amount of growth I achieved in the WIU Dance program was outstanding. Had I not been involved in that program, my talent would not have been up to par as it was for the Miss Illinois competition,” she added.

These days, Ervin continues to travel to modeling and promotional calls in Chicago, and she said she is also teaching fitness classes at gyms and facilities in the Windy City and across the state. Her long-term goals include owning her own fitness and dance studio. After she finishes her Miss Illinois 2012 reign this June, she has more plans to pursue opportunities in Chicago.

“Next August, I plan to audition for the NBA Chicago Luvabulls Pro Dance Team,” she said. “I hope to start a pageant and image-consulting business this summer, as well.”

From her participation in both the Miss Illinois and Miss America competitions, Ervin said she has not only benefitted greatly through the experiences they have provided—which will help with her career goals—but also from the overall scholarship aspect of the competitions.

“For placing in the top 10 and my win in the preliminary round at the Miss America competition, I brought home $8,000,” she noted. “Over the two years of my journey with the Miss America Organization, I have received close to $32,000, which has provided me with a way to pay off my college tuition and has left me free from student loan debt.”

“The video is available on the alumni website at wiu.edu/alumni/homecoming.php; click on, WIU Homecoming 2012 Playlist.

Phil Benne Memorial Scholarship

By Julie Murphy ’94 M.S. ’95

Many may remember Phil Benne ’75 from his 30 years in the Peoria Police Department, starting as a patrol officer in 1978 after graduating from Western Illinois University with a degree in law enforcement. Benne was a field training officer, then was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau, a K-9 Officer, a Special Response Team member and a lieutenant of the Technical Services Division at the time of his retirement in 2008. He received numerous commendations, including the Life Saving Award (1981), the Distinguished Service Award (1986), the American Legion Meritorious Service Award (1987) and the Policemen of the Year Award (1990).

After retiring, Benne was hired by Securitas as a facility security manager for Caterpillar with responsibilities for the Downtown Caterpillar Campus. He was later promoted to membership in Caterpillar Global Security as senior security professional, and he was then elevated by Securitas to the position of director of U.S. Operations for the Caterpillar Account.

Benne died unexpectedly Feb. 7, 2012. To honor their friend and colleague, Caterpillar Global Security and Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. recently established the Philip Benne Memorial Scholarship at Western Illinois University. The scholarship will benefit students from Peoria County pursuing a degree in law enforcement and justice administration at Western.

“We feel the scholarship is a fitting tribute to Phil,” said Tim Williams, director of Caterpillar Global Security, and Jack Zahran, President of Securitas.

“He came from a law enforcement family and was well-known for the work ethic he inherited from his father. Those of us who worked with him felt an ongoing scholarship fund to assist local youths prepare for the profession was a proper honor to Phil, his life and his career.” Benne’s wife, Eileen, and children, Jennifer, Jessica, Jacqueline and Jason, agree.

“Phil was proud of his law enforcement degree and felt it prepared him well for his career,” said Eileen. “He would not have been able to earn a college degree without scholarship assistance. The kids and I know he would be really pleased to know he is helping others as he was helped.”

Contributions to the Phil Benne Memorial Scholarship can be sent to the WIU Foundation, 1 University Circle, 303 Sherman Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455-1390. To donate online, visit www.wiu.edu/giving.

2013 Jim Berousek Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Distinguished Alumnus Award

L-r: John Hecker ’78 M.S. ’88, 2013 recipient of the Jim Berousek Distinguished Alumnus Award and Dean Zoerink, interim chair, Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration.
Super Bowl stages get design boost from WIU graduate

By Jodi Pospeschil

Before the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens battled in Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans (LA) Feb. 3, one Western Illinois University alumnus was among the designers helping create the broadcast stages to bring the pre-game events to the world.

Michael Kramer MFA ’00 spent the weeks before the big game in the area around the Mercedes-Benz Superdome helping create stages for CBS programming. CBS broadcasted CBS This Morning; The Talk; CBS Evening News; Face the Nation; and The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson, along with the sports coverage from New Orleans in the week before the NFL’s biggest game.

The stages were spread throughout downtown New Orleans, including Jackson Square Park, the convention center and Champions Square at the Superdome.

Kramer is employed by Solomon Group, the company chosen to create the pre-game sets. This year’s theme, according to Kramer, was the French Quarter, New Orleans and Mardi Gras-style.

“We are trying to be a part of the city and make it feel like the stages have always been there,” he said.

The construction included historical components and refurbished objects, such as reclaimed wood.

“There is not detrimental to the environment in any way,” he said. “We are doing things like the city of New Orleans has done after Hurricane Katrina—we are taking what was broken and making it new again.”

After receiving his master’s degree from WIU, Kramer moved on to work in the theatre business in New York City. Kramer spent 10 years in New York City doing freelance theatre design and eventually working with the production company Hotopp Design of New York.

Kramer then moved into a niche of working in the sports broadcast industry, helping design sets for ESPN and the Golf Channel. He has done extensive set design for ESPN’s “SportsNation,” as well as work with Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, ABC and a number of New York theatre productions.

For more information about the Solomon Group and Kramer’s work, visit solomongroup.com/story.

Art alumnus making a name for herself in Milwaukee

A Western Illinois University Department of Art alumnus is making a name for herself in the Milwaukee (WI) artist community, recently becoming the first African American woman to win the Mary L. Nohl Fellowship.

Tyanna Buie ’06, a WIU graduate who earned a bachelor’s degree in art and a minor in marketing, has been part of numerous exhibitions across the country, including one at the WIU Art Gallery in September 2012. She has also been an artist in residence and lectured as an artist in residence in multiple states.

After receiving her degree from WIU, Buie went on to earn her master’s degree in print making from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2010. She currently works as a lecturer in printmaking at the Milwaukee School of Art and Design.

Buie’s artwork includes large-scale monotype silkscreen prints that incorporate a mixed-media concept she calls a “collage aspect.”

“They are one-of-a-kind works,” she said. “Most are figures that will have objects added to them.”

In addition to showcasing her work at four solo art shows, Buie has recently been honored with the Mary L. Nohl Fellowship, which the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel called the “most important prize for individual artists” in the city. Buie was also named an artist for the “Current Tendencies” exhibit, a showcase of regional artists at the Haggerty Museum of Art in Milwaukee.

Recently, Buie’s life was the subject of a Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel feature story showcasing her movement out of Chicago’s foster care system and her desire to work with children in foster care in the future. It was during those childhood times that Buie began to draw and make three-dimensional sculpture.

“I just have a very resilient personality,” Buie told the Journal-Sentinel. “I knew where to retreat to. That’s where the art came in… I found a place in myself.”

Buie credits WIU Art Professor Suzan Czechowski with being her mentor and helping her fall in love with printmaking, while developing a personal style. Czechowski also serves as a mentor, mother figure and friend.

WIU alumnus wins bronze Telly Award

Western Illinois University alumnus Travis Collins ’03 has been honored with a bronze award in the 33rd annual Telly Awards to honor outstanding television programming and production.

Collins won the award for his television piece, “A Joe for All Seasons.”

There were 11,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries—10 percent were chosen as winners of the silver Telly award, and 25 percent were chosen as winners of the bronze award. Collins said he received help on the winning piece from friend and graphic designer Paul Newton.

Collins has worked in Charlotte (NC), Paducah (KY) and throughout central Illinois. He is currently the senior promotions producer for WICS News Channel 20 in Springfield (IL) and WICD News Channel 15 in Champaign (IL). He conceptualizes promotions, writes scripts, light scenes, shoots talent, designs motion graphics and edits work.

In 2010, Collins joined with others to complete in Paducah’s 48-Hour Film Project. The group had two days to write, light, shoot and edit a short film. Their film, “My Father’s Keeper,” took home eight awards, including Best Film, and moved on to compete in Miami with other films from around the world.

Collins’ Telly Award winning piece can be seen at youtube.com/watch?v=j5Yrwebu7GI.
Alphons J. Richert Scholarship in Psychology Clinical/Community Mental Health

By Julie Murphy ’94 M.S. ’95

The Alphons J. Richert Scholarship in Clinical/Community Mental Health (C/CMH) has been established by Richert’s family and friends in the Department of Psychology at Western Illinois University. The scholarship will assist graduate students in the Clinical/Community Mental Health program where Richert taught and worked for more than 30 years.

“It seems a fitting and natural thing to do,” said Richert’s wife, Ruth ’73 MS-Ed ’81. “Al devoted many years to the Clinical/Community Mental Health program at Western and cared about it very deeply. I feel that he would want to continue helping the program and the students.”

Richert earned his B.A. in psychology, M.A. in clinical psychology and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Chicago. He came to Western in the fall of 1972 as an assistant professor of psychology, was promoted to associate professor in 1979 and to professor in 1986. In addition to his teaching and research duties, Richert provided clinical services for student and community clients. He became director of the psychology clinic and coordinator of the Psychology Master’s Program in Clinical/Community Mental Health Psychology in 1975. He became a licensed clinical psychologist in the state of Illinois in 1979. Richert authored numerous scholarly articles and presented many papers at professional psychology conferences. He performed all of these duties with distinction until his retirement in 2007.

Richert’s book “Integrating Existential and Narrative Therapy” was published in 2010. He was also very active in professional and community service. He consulted with the McDonough County Rehabilitation Center and with Macomb schools throughout his years at WIU. He also coordinated many non-credit conferences. He was an active member of the American Psychological Association, the Midwestern Psychological Association and the Illinois Psychological Association. Richert was instrumental in the formation of the National Council for Applied Masters Programs in Psychology.

The scholarship recipient will receive a minimum of $1,000 in an academic year and may receive the scholarship during his/her internship. Tracy Knight ’76 M.S. ’78, coordinator of the C/CMH program and director of the Psychology Clinic, said “The Alphons Richert Scholarship will be a tremendous boost for the students in the program. Psychology students at the graduate level have few resources to assist with their many expenses, particularly during their internship year. They are working, often without pay. This is a great tribute to Al, and the department is grateful.”

After retirement, Richert enjoyed being a volunteer tutor in English-as-a-second-language classes and singing in the choirs for St. Paul Church and the McDonough Choral Society. He was an avid traveler, fisherman and camper. Richert enjoyed woodworking, cooking and entertaining friends and family and was a passionate historian of trains. Richert died in late November of 2012. “I am pleased we are able to do this,” said Ruth. “The scholarship will celebrate Al’s life.”

Sarah Knight Scholarship

By Julie Murphy ’94 M.S. ’95

When Sarah Knight ’09, of Marion (IA), was trying to decide where to attend college, she decided on a whim to visit Western. Her father, Gregory ’78, earned a physical education degree from WIU, but she had not given Western much thought. That visit changed everything.

“It was an absolutely beautiful day when we decided to visit,” said Sarah’s mother, Susan. “It was love at first sight for Sarah. She didn’t know a soul when we dropped her off that August, but obviously she found her home.”

While working on her bilingual/bicultural education degree with a Spanish minor, Sarah studied abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico, and served on the Student Orientation Board. She graduated in 2009 and was hired as a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School in East Moline (IL).

Sarah died unexpectedly on Sept. 26, 2011 of myocarditis, a viral infection in her heart. Her family, parents Susan and Gregory, along with brothers, David and Tyler, recently established a scholarship to honor the love and dedication Sarah brought to her classroom. The Sarah Knight Memorial Scholarship will offer financial assistance to students studying to become bilingual/bicultural educators and may be applied to the recipient’s study abroad expenses.

“We have to do something to share Sarah with others. We have to continue her legacy,” said Susan. “Sarah’s time in the classroom was too short, and this is one way we can continue her mission.”

“This scholarship in Sarah’s memory will help our students so much. Many of our majors have great financial need and now have an added (and expensive) requirement to study abroad. Sarah’s scholarship will help students achieve their degrees and enter the field that she so loved,” said Gloria Delany-Barnarm, bilingual/bicultural program director.

“Sarah was a gifted educator and totally dedicated to helping her young students navigate the American educational system while preserving their own cultures,” added Carla Paciotto, bilingual/bicultural program adviser. “We are privileged to administer the scholarship in her name and to prepare teachers to follow in Sarah’s footsteps. That is the most fitting tribute we can give her.”

Those who knew Sarah refer to her as a bright, spirited and delightful young woman. She was passionate about teaching and loved her students. Now, the Sarah Knight Memorial Scholarship for Bilingual/Bicultural Education at Western will reward those with the same personal integrity and career goals.

For scholarship information and applications, contact Delany-Barnarm or Paciotto at Western’s Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies, 115 Horrabin Hall, (309) 298-1183 or wiu.edu/eis.

The inaugural Sarah Knight Memorial Golf Tournament will be held June 21 at Hunter’s Ridge Golf Course in Marion, IA. For more information, or to register, visit sarahelizabethknight.com.
University Libraries’ Dean Phyllis Self to retire April 30

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

Nearly 50 years ago Phyllis Self began her career in libraries. And although she worked on the east coast for several years and has traveled internationally in her service to libraries, Self will retire in western Illinois—the same region in which she began in libraries in 1965. She has served as the dean of Western Illinois University Libraries for the last seven years; she will retire April 30.

She began her career at Black Hawk College’s library as a student assistant. Later, she worked at the Moline Public Library and as a school librarian at the Rockridge district in Taylor Ridge (IL). In the early 1970s, she taught biology at the Sciota school district (10 miles northwest of Macomb) and also served as a school librarian while her husband, Dave Self ’73, earned his bachelor’s degree in business from WIU in the early 1970s.

She wound up as a student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she eventually earned her master’s and her doctorate degrees from UIUC’s library school.

“I had always wanted to be a science librarian, and eventually, I became a medical librarian at the University of Illinois. I was there until about 1987,” Self said.

Over the years, she served as the director at the medical library at the University of Cincinnati and as the director of the health sciences library at Virginia Commonwealth University. She said she wound up back in the western Illinois region as a “fluke,” after she saw the dean of University Libraries position advertised and decided to apply.

“I remember reading about it and called my husband, Dave (who was also working as a librarian on the east coast at the time) and asked him what he thought about the possibility of moving back to Macomb,” Self said.

After her husband searched and found a house they could buy—and added his stipulation that he could retire—the Selfs moved back to Macomb in 2006.

University Libraries’ Dean Phyllis Self to retire April 30

By Teresa Koltzenburg ’92 M.S. ’11

Nearly 50 years ago Phyllis Self began her career in libraries. And although she worked on the east coast for several years and has traveled internationally in her service to libraries, Self will retire in western Illinois—the same region in which she began in libraries in 1965. She has served as the dean of Western Illinois University Libraries for the last seven years; she will retire April 30.

She began her career at Black Hawk College’s library as a student assistant. Later, she worked at the Moline Public Library and as a school librarian at the Rockridge district in Taylor Ridge (IL). In the early 1970s, she taught biology at the Sciota school district (10 miles northwest of Macomb) and also served as a school librarian while her husband, Dave Self ’73, earned his bachelor’s degree in business from WIU in the early 1970s.

She wound up as a student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she eventually earned her master’s and her doctorate degrees from UIUC’s library school.

“I had always wanted to be a science librarian, and eventually, I became a medical librarian at the University of Illinois. I was there until about 1987,” Self said.

Over the years, she served as the director at the medical library at the University of Cincinnati and as the director of the health sciences library at Virginia Commonwealth University. She said she wound up back in the western Illinois region as a “fluke,” after she saw the dean of University Libraries position advertised and decided to apply.

“I remember reading about it and called my husband, Dave (who was also working as a librarian on the east coast at the time) and asked him what he thought about the possibility of moving back to Macomb,” Self said.

After her husband searched and found a house they could buy—and added his stipulation that he could retire—the Selfs moved back to Macomb in 2006.

During her time as dean, Self said she is proud of the ways she and University Libraries’ faculty and staff have helped innovate the services offered to students, faculty, staff and community library users.

“For example, when I came here, we were still limiting how many interlibrary loan items a patron could request and check out. Now, we do not limit requests. We have also tried to provide more streamlined services, so you go to one desk for check out, for interlibrary loan, etc. Of course, we still have a reference desk, but for the basic things that people want and need, individuals now can go to one place,” Self explained. “It was a matter of reviewing our user needs, policies and practices and asking, ‘How can we do better?’”

During her time at Western, University Libraries has also made advances in offering other user perks, such as Malpass Mocha (a counter that serves coffee and food items) and digital workspace for students via the Digital Commons, both located on the ground floor of the Leslie F. Malpass Library. The result of a collaboration between University Technology and University Libraries, in the Digital Commons, students have access to a number of services, including a computer lab area with scanners and printers; a Digital Studio in which two Macintosh computer stations provide digital multimedia production tools; viewing rooms (for viewing DVDs or videos); and an opaque drawing room that can be used for collaborative learning activities and staff training.

In 2010, the WIU Libraries and various partners (including the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western) were awarded a consumer health subcontract worth almost $39,000 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region. Through the initiative, “Building the Future with Community Health Information,” University Libraries faculty and staff helped the citizens of western Illinois learn about and utilize the Medline Plus online resource, a free, health-information website.

“The subcontract funding enabled us to provide information about the Medline Plus database to health providers, consumers in the general public and to librarians in the area,” she said. “In order to reach a wider audience, we partnered with what was then known as the Alliance Library System*, which had service area of 16 counties in our region,” she said.

(*Note: The Alliance Library System has now merged with the Reaching Across Illinois Library System, or RAILS.)

During her time at Western, Self said she is most proud of her work that has helped University Libraries provide more user-friendly services and has aided in Western Illinois University Libraries gaining visibility inside and outside of WIU.

“We participate in various activities and programs, such as in Welcome Week and Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR), which we never did before I was here. We actively reach out to the student population, and we try to make the library more inviting to the students and get their input. I have a student advisory committee because I want to hear what student needs are,” she noted.

“When I started my professional career, I could foresee a time when individuals would be able to perform their own searches in order to find information to do their jobs better. I look back at my career, and I can truly say it has been great. It’s taken a long time for the vision I had as a young librarian to come to fruition. My hope is that I helped University Libraries transition into the 21st century with a forward-looking approach.”

The William H. and Eva Little Graham Student Assistant Scholarship was established through a bequest from Louis and Maxine Haertle and is named after Haertle’s parents, William H. and Eva Little Graham. The Grahams have long been associated with Western Illinois University. Eva Little Graham was a student in 1903-1904 and many of her children and grandchildren attended WIU. Her daughter, Peggy Graham Zinga, was employed with University Libraries for 16 years.

Each year, the Scholarship provides a worthy student or students with a tuition grant and offers an annual opportunity for acknowledging the generosity of the Graham and Haertle families to WIU and University Libraries.

Those interested in making a monetary donation to the William H. and Eva Little Graham University Libraries’ Student Assistant Scholarship fund or any other library fund can contact Director of Library Development Michael Jones M.S. ’12 at (309) 298-2356 or via e-mail at m-jones2@wiu.edu.
Bob Nielson named WIU head football coach

During an introductory press conference Dec. 19, Bob Nielson was welcomed as the next head football coach for the Western Illinois Fighting Leatherneck program. Tim M. Van Alstine, assistant vice president for student services/director of athletics, made the official announcement and introduction of Nielson.

“It is truly an honor to be here accepting this position. I want to extend my thanks to President (Jack) Thomas, Dr. (Gary) Biller, Dr. (Tim) Van Alstine and the entire search committee for the confidence that you have demonstrated in me as the next leader of Western Illinois football. I also want to thank my wife of 31 years, Terri,” said Nielson. “This is a great opportunity and a great challenge, but great challenge brings with it great opportunity. I believe that the future of Western Illinois football is bright and that we can accomplish much.”

Nielson takes over a Leatherneck Football program that has made nine appearances all-time in the NCAA Division I playoffs (last qualified in 2010), captured 12 Missouri Valley Football Conference ‘Player of the Year’ awards, and earned 137 All-America honors during the program’s NCAA Division I era but has only one NCAA postseason appearance in the last nine seasons.

“I enjoy building, and if you look at my track record, you can see that there have been situations where I’ve taken over programs that needed a little push forward. That part of the situation here didn’t scare me. As a matter of fact, it excited me about the potential here. There is a very strong commitment here administratively, and I understand how important that is because of the roles that I have held in my career,” said Nielson. “The overwhelming passion of everybody that I spoke with during my visit here about how important this football program was to the university and this community... I wanted to be a part of that.”

Nielson joins the Leathernecks from the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD), having served as the head football coach and athletics director. He owned a 100-26 record during his 10-year tenure as head coach at UMD and won the 2008 and 2010 NCAA Division II National Championships following a 15-0 campaign in each season.

He joined the Bulldogs in 1999, and during his first five-year coaching stint went 38-19 with a Division II and III level, Nielson owns a 170-59-1 record and made two NCAA Division III postseason appearances, and he went 9-8-1 in two seasons at Ripon College.

In 20 seasons as a head football coach at the Division II and III level, Nielson owns a 170-59-1 record and made the NCAA postseason nine times (14-7 career NCAA postseason record).

Record amount raised at Food Fight Nights

Western Illinois Athletics set a record for amount of food donated during Food Fight Nights in January. All food was donated to the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) in Macomb.

The fifth annual event is a Summit League food drive initiative. The event is tied in with the Students Team Up to Fight Hunger (STUFH) and organized by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAAC) at each institution.

Leatherneck fans donated 7,172 pounds of canned food, which is more than doubled last year’s record amount of 3,050 pounds. Fans also donated $625 to the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC).

Food Fight Nights took place during the men’s basketball game Jan. 19 and the women’s basketball game Jan. 26. Leatherneck Athletics presented the WIRC with a check at the men’s basketball game against Omaha Feb. 7.

“The Macomb community has again come together to help fill the food pantry shelves at the WIRC and the cash that was collected will help go towards a purchase of a new freezer,” said Lisa Melz-Jennings M.S. ’94, assistant athletics director for academic services. “We would like to thank everyone who donated, the student-athletes who helped donate and collect food and also to the Lincoln school students for partnering with us for the cause.”

“Food Fight Nights have raised a record amount of food for the past five years. We look forward to another successful one this year.”

- LISA MELZ-JENNINGS
Bob Nielson announces new assistant coaches

Western Illinois Head Football coach Bob Nielson announced the addition of seven assistant football coaches to work with two assistant coaches who were with the Leathernecks last season.

Matt Entz has joined Western as associate head coach and defensive line coach. Steve Crutchley is the new assistant head coach and running backs coach, while also serving as the recruiting coordinator.

Also joining the football coaching staff: Ted Schlafke (quarterbacks / passing game coordinator), A.J. Blazek (defensive backs / special teams coordinator), Atiba Bradley (linebackers) and Mark Watson, Jr. (wide receivers coach). Brian Ward returns for his second year as the defensive coordinator, while Kevin Palermo '12 returns as an assistant coach working with the defense and in an administrative capacity.

“I’m proud to announce the coaching staff we have put together. They will do an outstanding job representing Western Illinois University and the football program, and they will be great teachers for our student-athletes,” said Nielson. “Many of the coaches have either played for me, worked with me, or I’ve gotten to know them from rival programs through the years. Our coaches have a proven track record of recruiting student-athletes who are successful in the classroom and on the playing field, then making them even better students and players once they arrive on campus. They will be tremendous role models for our student-athletes at Western Illinois University.”

Entz was hired for the Leathernecks after coaching at Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC) rival Northern Iowa the past three seasons. He reunites with Nielson, his collegiate coach at Wartburg College.

Crutchley, who played for Nielson at Wisconsin-Eau Claire, spent the last five years as the running backs coach at Southern Illinois.

Schlafke played for Nielson at Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) and spent two years as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Montana Tech.

Blazek joined Nielson’s staff following a four-year stint at Winona State, a conference rival of Nielson’s former team UMD.

Yelk, an All-American defensive back during his playing days for Nielson, joins Western following a standout playing and coaching career at UMD.

Prior to joining the Leathernecks, Bradley spent the 2012 season coaching at Quincy University.

Watson worked as a graduate assistant coach for the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans in the secondary. Watson also worked for two years at Drake University as the cornerbacks coach.

Ward enters his second year as the defensive coordinator for the Leathernecks. Despite a year in which Ward lost three fifth-year senior starters to an injury in the season-opener, he coached the Leathernecks to one of their better years in several categories.

Palermo rejoined Leatherneck Football in Fall 2012 as an assistant coach on the defense following his playing days as a four-year letterwinner at Western. He remains with the program on Nielson’s coaching staff as an assistant coach.

Coach Molinari

“Coach of the Year”

Leathernecks Men’s Basketball Head Coach Jim Molinari has been named The Summit League’s “Coach of the Year” and Terell Parks (Beloit, WI) has been tabbed “Defensive Player of the Year” by the league’s coaches, sports information directors and media.

To go along with his “Defensive Player of the Year” award, Parks has earned First Team All-Summit League honors, along with Ceola Clark III (Waukegan, IL), while Adam Link (Elbert, CO) was named to the league’s All-Newcomer Team.

The award marks the third “Coach of the Year” honor in Molinari’s coaching career. He earned the The Summit League’s honor in 1991 when the league was known as the Mid-Continent Conference, and the Missouri Valley Conference’s honor in 1996. Molinari becomes the third-ever Western Illinois head coach to earn the award, joining Jack Margenthaler (1982-83) and Jim Kerwin (1998-99).

Molinari is in his fifth season as the Leathernecks’ head coach and has led the Leathernecks to its most successful season while a NCAA Division I program. Western has earned a share of its first Summit League regular season championship in 30 years, and recorded 21 wins, the most ever earned by a Western team in its Division I era.

Parks is the second player in Western’s history to be named “Defensive Player of the Year.” Last year the senior forward earned All-Summit League Honorable Mention and was named to the All-Newcomer Team. In WIU program history, Parks ranks second all-time in blocked shots (111), and 15th all-time in rebounds (550). Parks also leads the league in multiple categories including rebounds and blocks per game.

Summit League fall academic honor roll

The Western Illinois Fighting Leathernecks had 59 student-athletes named to The Summit League Fall Academic Honor Roll.

A total of 533 student-athletes earned recognition from the Summit League. Oakland led the league with 73, Kansas City had 63, and Western was third with 59.

Qualifying student-athletes earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher during their fall competition season and used a year of eligibility. Those earning a 3.6 grade point average or higher were named Distinguished Scholars. Thirty-six of the 59 student athletes received this distinction.

“The number of Leatherneck student-athletes represented in The Summit League’s Academic Honor Roll reflects our ongoing commitment to academic success,” Director of Athletics Tim Van Alstine said. “The number of our Distinguished Scholars and Honor Roll members is a true representation of their hard work. I am extremely proud of their efforts and accomplishments, and I know our coaches and staff feel the same way,” said Van Alstine.

Western surpassed its totals from Fall 2011, as five more earned Honor Roll status and six additional student-athletes were named Distinguished Scholars.

Women’s soccer led the conference in Distinguished Scholars with 22, more than any other school or sport, and also had an impressive 27 of 29 student-athletes receive Honor Roll recognition.
WIU alumnus returns to familiar classrooms

After spending his undergraduate years learning in the classrooms of Western Illinois University, Assistant Professor Ryan Gordon ’05 has returned to the University as a faculty member. Gordon graduated from Western with a double major of physics and mathematics. He then moved on to Iowa State University, where he received his doctorate degree in physics in 2011.

Now, back in the classrooms of WIU, Gordon’s new job has both teaching and research components.

“My teaching duties have involved lecturing for introductory courses and labs, as well as upper level undergraduate courses for physics majors,” Gordon said. “Last semester, I was the lecturer for University Physics I at the WIU Quad Cities Riverfront Campus, which was the first time it was offered there, in addition to classical mechanics for physics majors,” Gordon said. “Last semester, I was the lecturer for University Physics I at the WIU Quad Cities Riverfront Campus, which was the first time it was offered there, in addition to classical mechanics at the Macomb campus. This semester, I’m lecturing electromagnetism in Macomb.”

Since returning to WIU, Gordon has been busy setting up his laboratory to study superconducting and magnetic materials. He said his work is experimental and focuses on using an extremely sensitive radio frequency circuit, known as a tunnel diode resonator, to measure physical properties of materials.

Gordon said he was pleased his career path aimed back toward Macomb and WIU because he believes the University offers an “excellent learning environment for its students, especially with its small class sizes and numerous opportunities for undergraduate research.

“Being part of the physics faculty at such a place brings me great joy,” he said. “The WIU campus and the city of Macomb are also beautiful places to work and live. I’m originally from western Illinois, so I have a natural fondness for the area, with many family members and friends living nearby.”

Gordon credits help from Mark Boley ’87 M.S. ’89, WIU Department of Physics chair, for helping him prepare for his graduate research.

Western graduate had front row seat for Watergate scandal

By Richard Moreno, Western Courier Adviser; Journalism Professor

Forty years ago, a Western Illinois University graduate, Gary H. Baise ’63, suddenly found himself with a front row seat as one of the most traumatic episodes in U.S. politics—the Watergate scandal—unfolded before the nation and world.

Baise, now 72, and a principal in the Washington, D.C.-based firm of OFW Law, majored in social science at Western, with minors in Russian and earth sciences. He obtained a law degree from Indiana University in 1969 and joined the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney and special assistant in the Civil Division.

Rising quickly through the Washington legal and political hierarchy, he served as the first Chief of Staff to the first U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, and he was named executive assistant to William Ruckelshaus, who had been appointed acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after the previous director, L. Patrick Gray, became embroiled in the growing Watergate conspiracy and resigned.

Baise said one of the strangest moments occurred shortly after he had been in the new job when “this guy named Mark Felt comes to brief us. He says to me, you’re going to get lots of phone calls from reporters because of what is going on, and one you might want to talk to is Bob Woodward. That was my first tip-off that Mark Felt might have a relationship (with Woodward).”

At the time, Felt was the deputy director of the FBI, the second highest position in the bureau. A few months after Ruckelshaus’ appointment, Felt retired from the FBI after 31 years. In 2005, shortly before his death, Felt revealed that he had been “Deep Throat,” the confidential informant who had provided Woodward, a reporter at the Washington Post, with information about the cover-up of the Watergate break-in that eventually led to President Richard M. Nixon’s resignation.

Baise said he had his suspicions about Felt and shared his feeling that the FBI veteran might be “Deep Throat” to a Washingtonian magazine writer for an article that appeared in June 1974 (Baise was quoted as an “inside source” in the story).

According to Baise, Ruckelshaus was miserable at the FBI and only stayed in the position for a few months before being asked by Attorney General Elliot Richardson to stay in the Department of Justice as deputy attorney general, with Baise becoming associate deputy attorney general. On Oct. 20, 1973, in what came to be known as the “Saturday Night Massacre,” Ruckelshaus and his boss, Attorney General Elliot Richardson, resigned their posts in protest when Nixon demanded they fire independent special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who had been investigating the events surrounding the June 1972 Watergate break-in.

Baise briefly served as acting deputy attorney general before joining Ruckelshaus in private law practice.

Today, Baise looks back on his life, which has included being a successful corporate trial lawyer specializing in environmental and agricultural issues for much of the past three decades, and gives credit to his experiences and teachers at Western for pointing him in the right direction.

“It set me on a course for an incredible life,” he said recently. Baise was born in 1941 in Concord (IL). When it came time to select a college, he decided on Western because Illinois College in Jacksonville was too close to home and a little too expensive, while the University of Illinois at Urbana “scared me.”

At the time, Western, with a few thousand students, seemed more comfortable. Baise enrolled and became active in student government and the Young Republicans, as well as the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

During his senior year, Baise and another student, Daniel MacLean ’63, co-chaired a successful effort to pass a student fee to pay for a new student union building—the same Union still in use today. He said the experience remains one of the highlights of his years at Western.

While at Western, he came under the tutelage of Donald L. Marshall, a longtime political science professor, whom he called “one of the giants then on campus.” He said that Marshall, along with several other political science professors such as John Raatjes, Victor Hicken and Marcy G. Bodine, took an interest in him.

Other memories of Western include helping to set up the campus’s first concert series, which included The Letterman and The Kingston Trio, as well as initiating an ongoing “Wednesday Night at the Movies” event.

As a result of working on the student union proposal,
Alumnus Powell helps with leukemia drug

Richard Powell '61 MS-Ed '63

From the humble beginnings at his family home in Avon (IL), Richard Powell '61 MS-Ed '63, would carry out chemistry experiments as early as age eight, overseen by his elder brother Jack Powell, who was a member of the Manhattan Project Team at Iowa State College, better known for being the group that produced the first two million pounds of highly pure uranium metal.

Richards experiments during his childhood were just the beginning of a chemistry research career that has spanned more than 50 years, leading up to a drug to treat adults with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), a blood and bone marrow disease, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in October 2012. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), more than 5,400 people were diagnosed with CML in 2012. The drug Synribo (omacetaxine mepesuccinate) is intended to be used in patients whose cancer progressed after treatment with at least two drugs from a class called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), also used to treat CML.

Powell's experiences at WIU as a lab assistant and teacher's assistant working on his master's degree in education, with a concentration in chemistry at WIU, shaped his lifelong interest in chemical research. After graduation, his degree would take him to Iowa State College, better known for guiding and encouraging the young chemist in some of his original research and experiments with organophosphines. Working with these extremely odiferous compounds, (which Powell describes as smelling like rotten fish), caused a lot of personal joking with classmates across campus as they were also known to ignite spontaneously in the air.

Retiring from the USDA in 1994, he is credited with directing the revision, approval, and implementation of four major research projects. He has authored and co-authored 108 publications, including 12 patents and six book chapters. He has presented his research to professional societies throughout his career. In 1981, Western recognized Powell with the prestigious Alumni Achievement Award for the impact he had made on the scientific community.

Powell now resides in Bradenton (FL) with his wife of 33 years, Rosemary. He remains active as an associate editor for the Journal of Natural Products, a joint publication of the American Society of Pharmacognosy and the American Chemical Society. He has been a member of the latter for 51 years.

“I would consider the work on Synribo (which I had named homoharringtonine) followed by the FDA approval (over 40 years later) to be my greatest contribution. On being informed of the approval, I was, as you can imagine, very pleased. I knew that clinical trials had been conducted and were being conducted in several countries over the years, but I had just about given up on it being approved by the FDA for use in the United States.”

National Advisory Council.

He also writes a weekly column, “Defending Agriculture,” for FarmFutures.com, which, he said, gives him a chance to speak out on issues important to him and American agriculture, including, ironically, what he described as the over-reach of the current EPA.

In 1999, Baise decided to pay back Western Illinois University for the start it gave him with his life and created the Willis Kinley Baise and Alan Baise Memorial Scholarship, awarded to students from central Illinois (preferably from Morgan County) with an interest in environmental studies. The scholarship honors his father, Willis, who died in 1993, and his son, Alan, who died in 1994.

Baise said that sometimes he still has a hard time believing the life he has led.

“I was right there (during the Watergate affair) and when I became the deputy attorney general it was a sobering affair. I remember that year looking out the window of my office at the national Christmas tree and thinking about coming from a farm and remembering when I was milking cows, and thinking this just doesn’t happen to someone like me.”

Lincoln portrait donated to WIU by alumnus

Alumnus Matthew Toland '05 M.A. '10 has donated a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, made from one of three sets of glass negatives from an 1860s portrait sitting, to Western Illinois University.

Toland, who received his bachelor’s degree in women’s studies and his master’s degree in museum studies, made the donation on campus in February. The portrait now hangs in President Jack Thomas’ conference room on the second floor of Sherman Hall.

The negatives used to make the print were one of three that came from a portrait sitting by Lincoln before he was president. Toland said one of the sets was later destroyed, one set was shattered but is still owned by the Smithsonian and the third set, the one his donated portrait is made from, is owned by the Illinois State Historical Society.

“This donated portrait was created using the glass plate negatives that were made when the original photo was taken,” said Toland. “Lincoln commented that he liked this particular photo because he thought it showed off his character well.”

Toland currently works for the Campbell Center for Historical Preservation Studies in Mt. Carroll (IL). He is also a member of the Illinois State Historical Society’s Advisory Board and the WIU Alumni Council.

The portrait was given to Toland as a gift from the Illinois State Historical Society.

“As a member of the University’s Alumni Council, I wanted to make a permanent donation to the University.”

“As a member of the University’s Alumni Council, I wanted to make a permanent donation to the University,” Toland said. “I think all WIU alumni should be giving back to the University in any way they can.”

“After being informed of the approval, I was, as you can imagine, very pleased. I knew that clinical trials had been conducted and were being conducted in several countries over the years, but I had just about given up on it being approved by the FDA for use in the United States.”

WIU Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter ’79 M.S. ’83, left, accepts the Lincoln portrait from WIU alumnus Matthew Toland ’05 M.A. ’10. Also pictured, from WIU’s Department of History is Professor Ginny Boynton.
ADM donates to WIU Supply Chain Management

Representatives from the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) in Decatur visited Macomb in January to deliver a $115,000 check to support the Western Illinois University Supply Chain Management (SCM) program.

Bringing the check to Macomb was WIU alumnus Kim Ekena ’80, vice president of marketing for the American River Transportation Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of ADM. Ekena said the contribution helps build long-term relationships with Western’s faculty and students.

Many SCM students have moved on to complete internships or to secure employment with ADM after graduation.

“ADM operates the world’s premier crop origination and transportation network, connecting crops and markets in more than 75 countries, so we understand the importance of a strong supply chain,” said Ekena. “WIU has a stellar supply chain management program and outstanding faculty. We are pleased to make this investment in the next generation of leaders in the supply chain industry.”

The gift comes to WIU through the ADM Cares program, which is the company’s social investment initiative to help initiatives and organizations with goals of social, economic and environmental progress.

WIU SCM Professor Bart Jennings said the ADM gift outlines three areas of support.

“Focusing on student recruitment, online interaction and faculty involvement, the ADM contribution will help us increase awareness of supply chain management as a career option and encourage high school students to take a serious look at this as a degree opportunity,” he said.

The gift will also help create an online video module to demonstrate aspects of transportation and logistics and help prospective students understand SCM as a career.

The video teaching tool will include information about rail yards, intermodal facilities, barge operations and distribution centers.

The funding will also allow for the creation of a named faculty position in the WIU College of Business and Technology (CBT) to help with the online module and other initiatives. The “ADM Scholar in Supply Chain Management” will oversee the program’s progress and will serve as a liaison between ADM and the WIU SCM program.

“This partnership with ADM is an outstanding opportunity to move our SCM program forward over the next three years,” said CBT Dean Tom Erekson. “This infusion of funds will create a lasting impact for long-term growth as we continue to develop the best SCM talent in the Midwest.”

The WIU SCM program began in 2005 and is now one of the University’s eight Signature Programs. The program is one of only three in the state of Illinois and one of approximately 40 programs which have received national accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

This year the number of WIU students majoring in SCM has grown to 120. In 2011, both the undergraduate and MBA/SCM degrees became available at the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses, and the program is also established internationally.

Economics Day features alumnus Linsey Ackerman

Issues concerning U.S. and global economics were addressed at Western Illinois University’s Feb. 1 “Economics Day.”

Sponsored by the WIU Department of Economics and Decision Sciences (EDS) and the WIU Visiting Lecture Series, the day’s activities and speakers were planned in conjunction with the Center for Economic Education (CEE) at WIU. As a part of a national and state network of economic education, the CEE’s primary goal is enhancement and improvement of the recruiting process for economics students by encouraging economic education.

This year’s “Economics Day” events included a discussion of “Freakonomics” from the student perspective and explored the controversial topic of student compensation for good grades.

“Economics in the News” provided an overview of the economy, the fiscal cliff and the trillion dollar coin.

Economics alumnus Linsey Ackerman ’01 M.A. ’02, of Caterpillar, was the day’s keynote speaker. She discussed economics, education and working in the global business environment.

“We really enjoy this opportunity to educate our attendees about current economic issues,” said Tom Sadler ’91, associate professor of economics and decision sciences and director for the CEE. “This is such a terrific opportunity to illustrate the impact of U.S. and global economics on some of the world’s most pressing business challenges.”

For more information, contact Sadler at TR-Sadler@wiu.edu or Tej Kaul, EDS department chair, at TJ-Kaul@wiu.edu.

Alumnus spotlight: Christina Frank ’98

Christina Frank ’98 is senior vice president and division manager of commercial and institutional banking at MB Financial Bank. After finishing her Bachelor of Business in Finance, she started her career in MB’s Leadership Development Program in 1998.

After joining MB, she immediately began a two-year program as a credit analyst, underwriting credit for many areas of the bank, before landing a position in commercial real estate lending. She went on to work in the real estate group for 10 years. During that time, she earned numerous promotions, including division manager and senior vice president. In 2008, she transitioned as division manager and senior vice president to commercial and institutional banking.

In her current role, she manages seven full-time employees (five of whom are high-performing sales people).

“It is very challenging to manage new business development, client retention and the personalities of seven highly-talented individuals,” she noted.

She encourages new graduates to follow their passion and “love the career” they choose. For Frank, the road to success has been paved with lots of perseverance.

“It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment to your career,” she said.

“I am most proud that I have committed to being at one organization for more than 14 years. I started at MB Financial Bank shortly after graduating from WIU in 1998 and have been here since,” Frank said.

“There are many opportunities for talented, hard-working professionals to excel at MB.”

New CBT scholarships

The College of Business and Technology is pleased to announce two new scholarships.

The “Marketing Student Scholarship” was created by marketing faculty and will be awarded annually in the amount of $700 to a marketing senior. As explained by Associate Professor of Marketing Samit Chakravorti, the idea came about last fall when he and his colleagues were discussing various ways to help students financially get through college.

Faculty in the college’s School of Computer Sciences have also contributed to a new scholarship. The “International Graduate Student Scholarship” is open to students who are enrolled in the Master of Computer Science program at WIU.

“Although the University made it a strategic priority to increase the number of international students who are enrolled at WIU, my colleagues and I saw that there is still a large financial hurdle for many of those students, especially for those who want to complete an advanced degree in computer science at WIU,” said Martin Maskarinen, professor of computer science.

The International Graduate Student Scholarship will be awarded in the amount of $500 in the first semester that the international student attends WIU.

For more information on these scholarships, or to contribute, please contact CBT Director of Development Becky Paulsen at (309) 298-2442 or b-paulsen@wiu.edu.
MBA alumnus enters career with ADM Ghana

After receiving her master’s degree from Western Illinois University, alumnus Stella Owusu-Ansah MBA ’02 has moved on to work for the Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) company in Ghana.

Owusu-Ansah received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics and economics from the University of Ghana before graduating in 2002 with her Master’s of Business Administration (MBA) degree from WIU, with a concentration in supply chain management.

Currently, Owusu-Ansah is a logistics management trainee with ADM and is scheduled to undergo training at ADM locations in Ghana, Cote d’coire and Cameroon, all in West Africa.

“ADM buys and processes cocoa beans and exports to customers located in various parts of the world,” she said. “As a member of the logistics team, the central part of my job is to get these products to our customers.”

Owusu-Ansah said she first learned about a career path with ADM when the company was on the WIU campus participating in a career fair.

“I had the chance to talk to their representatives and found out they also have a plant in Ghana,” she said. “I submitted my resume and followed up during another career fair on the Quad Cities campus. I was invited for an interview and secured an internship opportunity for Summer 2012, which then continued into fall as training, and I was offered an employment opportunity with ADM Ghana in December 2012.”

As for her time at WIU, Owusu-Ansah said she feels the school gave her a broader platform to continue her career.

“I have been exposed to practical instances through lectures, presentations and field trips,” she said. “Through this, I have learned to tackle situations by evaluating all possible options before making a decision. I also think WIU has some great personnel, including members of the faculty and the alumni who shared their knowledge and experiences with us, as students, which encouraged me to strive for the best in life. It also made me better informed in matters regarding my career.”

While studying at WIU, Owusu-Ansah said her career path was helped by several professors, including Stephen Gray ’84 MBA ’87, Mike Tracey and Bart Jennings, who helped her with ideas, program questions and preparing for interviews.

Owusu-Ansah said some of her fondest memories from WIU were of living in the Campus Students for Christ house, attending African Student Association meetings and cooking together with her roommates.

School of Engineering continues growth

After reaching accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in August 2012, the WIU School of Engineering is continuing to thrive. The school more than doubled last Spring’s enrollment of 38 students with 74 students currently enrolled for the Spring 2013 semester.

In December, the school graduated its second female graduate and first to be employed as a civil engineer. In addition, 10 out of 10 graduates have passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam on their first attempts.

“This is especially significant,” said School of Engineering Director Bill Pratt. “This exam isn’t specifically required in the industry, but it really sets our students apart. We’re very proud of this accomplishment.”

The school is also taking stock of its many supporters who have provided a strong foundation of financial support throughout the last three years. Various corporations, foundations and individuals have contributed $1.2 million for facilities and equipment and $79,000 for scholarships.

“This support has been essential and is very much appreciated,” said Pratt. “We look forward to continued partnerships with these corporations and benefactors who have enlisted their trust in the WIU School of Engineering.”

The support is ongoing, as is the heightened interest among prospective students. In February, the School hosted a “Discover Western Engineering” day for prospective high school seniors, and plans are underway for a similar event in April.

For more information about the WIU School of Engineering, contact Pratt at (309) 762-9481 or via their website at wiu.edu/engineering.

Beta Gamma Sigma celebrates 100 years

It is a milestone year for the international honor society Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS). During the 2012-13 academic year, the national organization is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and the college recently celebrated with a cake reception for all faculty and students.

The WIU business programs have been a part of the organization’s success for nearly 25 of those years. Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. BGS inductees are honored for the academic achievement and are acknowledged as leaders who embody superior levels of personal and professional excellence.

Each spring, invitations for membership are sent to the top business majors in the College of Business and Technology (CBT). Inductees have demonstrated academic excellence as the top 10 percent of their junior or senior class, or the upper 20 percent of MBA and Master of Accountancy programs.

College of Business and Technology Dean Tom Erekson

It is a very distinguished honor for our students to be affiliated with Beta Gamma Sigma,” said CBT Dean Tom Erekson. “We’re pleased to have achieved premier status with the organization and look forward to the induction of our new class of initiates this spring.”

WIU Livestock Judging Team takes third overall

Late last year, the Western Illinois University Livestock Judging Team brought home yet another national honor. The students on the team—which is coached by WIU School of Agriculture Associate Professor Mark Hoge, who serves as the team’s head coach, and Miles Toneyes (Highland, IL), a senior ag major who serves as assistant coach—placed third overall at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) 107th National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest in November.

In September of 2012, WIU School of Agriculture’s Livestock Judging Team won first place at the 66th annual National Barrow Show held in Austin, MN (see www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=10114).

The 2012 WIU Livestock Judging Team included: Brandon Davis, junior (Winamac, IN); Blaine Evans, senior (Thornton, IN); Michael Gall, senior (Odell, IL); Cody Lamle, senior (Columbia City, IN); Blake Nickle, senior (Hillsboro, IN); Rebecca Stokes, senior (Macomb, MO); Travis Terhaar, junior (Parker City, IN); Tyler Tonkin, junior (Mineral Point, WI); and Austin Waltz, senior (Morristown, IN).

In addition to winning third place overall as a team, a few members earned individual honors in various categories, including: Lamle, 10th place, sheep; Stokes, third place, swine; Stokes, first place, swine—reasons; Evans, sixth place, and Nickle, ninth place, cattle; Stokes, seventh place, reasons; overall—Stokes, eighth place, and Davis, ninth place. (The category “reasons” involves the team’s or the individual’s ability to judge livestock.)

Since 1988, WIU has recognized more than 550 of its best and brightest business students as inductees in the international honor society. The WIU chapter has been recognized as a premier chapter of distinction.

“An important part of the program is that it provides our students with the opportunity to compete on the national level,” said Pratt. “This is a great opportunity for them to see how well their skills stack up against the best of the best.”
Students study abroad with help from Caterpillar donation

Five Western Illinois University business students spent their Fall 2012 semester in China with the help of a generous grant from the Caterpillar Foundation. The Caterpillar Foundation Scholarship, totaling $91,500, was awarded in early 2012. The money was set aside to pay the expenses associated with studying abroad, including programs of study, travel expenses and meals for six students.

The students attending the trip were Jacob Woodworth, of Lyndon (IL), a senior information systems major; Jacob Vittori, of Orland Park (IL), a junior finance major; Mitchell Crabtree, of Dixon (IL), a senior economics major; Tara Brownlow, of Macomb, a graduate student in accounting and Joseph Ellison, of Hamilton (IL), a senior accountant major.

All of the students from the fall semester studied in Shanghai; Crabtree at Fudan University and the other four students at East China Normal University. Most of the students took a combination of Mandarin Chinese language courses and business-related courses, but Brownlow focused on Mandarin Chinese language courses.

Sophomore business student Caleb Nesbitt, of Coal Valley (IL), is studying in China during this Spring 2013 semester. He is attending Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics in Nanchang, where he will take a mix of language and business courses.

Vittori said he chose to apply for the study opportunity because he wanted to put himself in a situation where he had to adapt quickly and could spend time exploring.

“The daily challenge of living in a foreign country removes your preconceived notions and forces you to get out of your comfort zone,” he said. “In China, the simple task of going out shopping can be an adventure; it may involve playing Charades with locals in order to get directions, fighting off an onslaught of street vendors, learning Chinese on the fly or seeing a dance troupe in the middle of a busy street corner. I believe this is a good thing for personal development.”

Vittori said one of his trip goals was to learn Chinese to “mutually benefit from China’s rise in economic power.” He said he was able to interact with fellow WIU students studying in China and make new friends from around the world.

“I think that overall, my education was greatly enhanced in China,” he said. “In most of my classes the curriculum was flexible and set up according to our own interests.”

Ellison said he had previously sought information about study abroad opportunities, but the Caterpillar Foundation made the China trip a more economically feasible option for him.

“While spending a semester in China, I not only gained exposure to another culture’s way of life, but also gained friends from all around the world,” Ellison said. “My education was vastly enhanced by the semester in China by getting to learn about the rapidly developing economy and urbanization of China in the classroom and then getting to go out throughout the city of Shanghai and various excursions throughout the country and experience it firsthand.”

Both Vittori and Ellison said they enjoyed a variety of sightseeing trips and tours while in China. University officials said the Caterpillar Foundation has awarded a second round of scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year. The second round, also totaling $91,500, will fund three scholarships for the Fall 2013 semester and three for the Spring 2014 semester.

The scholarships from Caterpillar were a result of an initiative suggested by President Barack Obama and then Secretary of State Hilary Clinton to help 100,000 students study in China. Private businesses, such as Caterpillar, helped fund the idea.

Students had to meet academic guidelines to qualify, as well as write an essay and have recommendations from WIU faculty members.

Business alumnus retires from non-profit leadership position

After a 14-year career of helping victims of domestic violence, a Western Illinois University alumnus is looking back on a rewarding career.

Pat Smith ’80, who received his bachelor’s degree in business/marketing, is the president of Turning Point Domestic Violence Services in Columbus (IN). He will step down from his position May 31 to pursue other career opportunities.

Smith began at Turning Point in 1999 with the agency that helps domestic violence victims with emergency shelter, education, prevention services, victim and community outreach, legal advocacy programming, sexual assault services and children’s programs.

Smith said he feels this is a good time to step down because the agency’s board of directors and staff is strong and the agency is in good financial health.

As his career with the agency winds down, Smith has been looking back on his career and what has motivated him to be an advocate for 14 years. In an article in the Columbus, Inc. newspaper, “The Republic,” several community leaders had high praise for Smith and his efforts.

Jason Maddix, the police chief in Columbus, told the newspaper that Smith’s passion for his job includes making sure local police officers have a better understanding of domestic violence issues. Maddix also expressed gratitude to Smith for increasing awareness of domestic violence issues.

“In 2012, the number of our domestic violence cases were down,” Maddix told the newspaper. “It’s going the right direction, and it’s part of our partnership with Turning Point.”

Smith told the newspaper that he and his family plan to stay in Columbus after his term at Turning Point is over.

“I plan to work for the next 10 to 15 years and to begin networking and looking for local opportunities,” he said. “I have worked in for-profit, not-for-profit and professional ministry in my career, and I am open to any of those possibilities. I do not have a specific, narrowed focus at this time.”

Dave McKinney, chairman of Turning Point’s board of directors, said Smith has worked tirelessly to take on an agency that was in disarray.

“Pat is so passionate about what he does, you can’t help but follow behind him,” McKinney said. “He really cares about the victims of domestic violence. He has transformed Turning Point into a professional organization with caring, compassionate employees and volunteers.”

For more information about Turning Point Domestic Violence Services, visit turningpointdv.org.

Former WIU VP Art Chown passes away

Art Chown ’72, former vice president of Western Illinois University’s administrative services, died in Macomb Dec. 13.

Chown came to Western in 1965 and served as internal auditor, controller, associate business manager, business manager and acting vice president for business affairs before being appointed vice president for business affairs in 1975. He was the vice president for administrative services when he retired in 1991.

In 2003, he and his wife, Roselyn ’56, established their second scholarship, The Mozelle Davis Memorial Scholarship Endowment, to provide scholarships for the women’s golf team and to honor Roselyn’s cousin. In 1986, the Chowns established the Chown/Himmel Special Education Scholarship, which supports seniors in the special education teaching program.

A long time WIU Foundation Board member, Chown received Western’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991.
B.A. in graphic communication earns national ACCGC accreditation

After completing an extensive self-study and hosting a site visit by a three-member team of industry and education experts, the graphic communication program at Western Illinois University received national accreditation beginning Sept. 1, 2012. This program is among 10 associate and baccalaureate level graphic communication-related programs nationwide to have received this distinction.

The accrediting agency, Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications (ACCGC), awarded the academic accreditation. ACCGC is an independent body professionally supported by leaders in the collegiate educational area and by management personnel in the graphic communication industry. The ACCGC Council Board of Directors is comprised of 11 educators and eight industry personnel in the graphic communication field and is dedicated to the improvement and recognition of collegiate level curricula in graphic communication. ACCGC is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt body and is supported through industry contributions and educational accreditation fees.

A formal presentation was made, and a recognition plaque was given to faculty and administrative representatives from Western Illinois University.

A plaque recognizing the two-year accreditation was presented to Charles T. Weiss, associate professor and program coordinator, and C. Ray Diez, professor and chair of the WIU Department of Engineering Technology. The accreditation period will continue through Aug. 31, 2014.

“The ACCGC accreditation gives our graphic communication program a stamp of approval, while also helping us realize specific areas that need improvement and updating,” Weiss said.

In the visitation report, the ACCGC team stated that “Western Illinois University provides a valuable service to its market” and is seen by the students, alumni, faculty and staff as “a value-adding institution of higher education. The University and the graphic communication program are functioning well despite severe funding limitations.”

The mission of the ACCGC is to provide viable, credible and defensible accreditation standards that can be used to promote and encourage sound associate and baccalaureate level education programs in graphic communication. In the accreditation process, the ACCGC strives to stimulate the exchange of ideas between administrative and instructional personnel in academia and within the graphic communication industry.

The ACCGC reviews qualitative and quantitative evidence obtained through an institution’s self-study and facts substantiated by a three-member campus visitation team in determining the accreditation status of an institution’s graphic communication program. The academic program is evaluated in 14 areas: mission statements and curricular outcomes, competency identification and assessment, governance/administration, financial support, equipment and facilities, staff support services, curriculum, instruction and evaluation, internships/practicums/cooperative study, industry advisory committee(s), faculty, faculty evaluation, student records and advising, and graduate placement and follow-up.

For more information about the Western Illinois University graphic communication program, contact Weiss at CT-Weiss@wiu.edu or at (309) 298-1488.

Distinguished CBT alumnus Holly Deem

Holly D. Deem ’77 has been named the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus for the University’s College of Business and Technology (CBT). Deem, who received her bachelor’s degree in business/accounting and was a member of the WIU softball team, is currently the CEO of WealthTrust LLC.

The WIU CBT honored Deem with a community luncheon during her visit to campus on Feb. 5. While in Macomb, Deem also spoke in an open session with CBT students and faculty.

“My time at WIU was a time to develop confidence,” noted Deem. “WIU gave me a good environment to grow. It was a good environment to both succeed and fail. It seems like I failed a lot, but I never felt like a failure.”

In her discussions with students, Deem also pointed out that learning how to connect with people was a key part of what she learned at WIU.

“Many of the opportunities I’ve had have come about because I had learned how to relate to people. The ability to relate to people is really important.”

Although the earliest parts of her career began with the business technical skills in accounting, she reminded the students that the ability to relate with others is a key tenant of leadership and is essential in the business world today. “As you move through that path from technical skills to management to leadership and strategy, eventually you’re going to have to relate to people.”

After graduating from WIU, Deem completed her post-graduate studies at the Graduate School of Bank Investments in Norman (OK) and at the Executive Program for Business Strategy at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business.

Deem joined WealthTrust as the company’s chief operating officer in January 2008, before being promoted to CEO. She is the executive leader of the firm, including overall management of the WealthTrust platform and its relationships with affiliate organizations.

Before coming to WealthTrust, Deem held leadership roles as the chief risk officer for AMVESCAP, chief administrative officer for INVESCO Global, chief executive officer for INVESCO Capital Management. She also served as a senior leader at Bank of America and its subsidiaries, as managing director of Advisory Services and was previously president of Private Investments and of TradeStreet Investment Associates.

Deem has previously been recognized as one of the “Top 50 Smartest Women in the Money Business” by Money for Women magazine and received a “Top 25 Women in Business” achievement award from The Business Journal.

Professionally, Deem holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and is a member of the Atlanta Society of Financial Analysts and the Association for Investment Management and Research.

Deem received the WIU Alumni Achievement Award in 2000 and is now a member of the CBT’s National Advisory Board.
Bachelors in fire protection approved

By Darcie Shinberger ‘89 M.S. ‘98

For nearly 34 years, Western Illinois University has offered educational opportunities to firefighters from across the United States, first with its Open Learning Fire Service program in 1979 designed solely for fire professionals and later with distance learning degree and certification opportunities in fire administration.

Beginning in Fall 2013, the University will offer its first bachelors degree in fire protection.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recently approved the Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Services at Western. The degree program is expected to enroll approximately 75 students in the first year, according to Terry Mors ‘94 M.A. ‘96, director of the WIU School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (LEJA).

Working with the School of Distance Learning, Outreach and International Studies, LEJA has offered a fire administration minor since Fall 2002. LEJA has partnered with The Open Learning Fire Science Program and the National Fire Academy’s certification program in offering hundreds of firefighters from around the nation their undergraduate degrees in general studies, focusing on fire sciences.

“the educational opportunities we’ve offered in fire sciences throughout the years have allowed firefighters from coast to coast to keep current in their field, and has afforded career advancement for many as they obtain degree and additional certifications,” Mors said. “we’re so pleased to offer a bachelor’s degree in fire protection services beginning this fall. it complements not only our LEJA degree, but it also certainly fits within our school’s growing commitment to fire protection studies and other interdisciplinary programs at Western, such as emergency management.”

The WIU Fire Protection Studies Program features a comprehensive major comprised of 120 semester hours, including 18 hours from six required core courses. In order to best meet student needs, the new Bachelor of Science fire degree program offers two separate, unique study options, Mors explained. The fire administration program, which is delivered online, is designed for working firefighters seeking promotion to senior leadership positions, while the fire science option features face-to-face classes, which are delivered on the Macomb campus and is suited for students preparing for a career in the fire service.

“The fire science option is relatively unique in that it offers a four year, on-campus program for students preparing to enter the fire service. Of particular note is the inclusion of a robust internship program within this option,” he added. “in addition to the new fire major, the University remains committed to its existing fire minor programs.”

For more information on the new bachelors degree or one of the fire protection minors, contact the School of LEJA at (309) 298-1038 or visit wiu.edu/coehs/leja/fire/index.php. For information on the Open Learning Fire Service program, visit wiu.edu/Extended_Learning, and for more information on the general studies programs, visit wiu.edu/distance_learning/bachelor_of_arts_in_general_studies.

Dear Alumni,

In the Fall 2012 issue of the Western News, I issued a challenge to all alumni to complete two of five opportunities to be connected with their alma mater during my two-year tenure as president. In addition, I asked Alumni Council members to complete all five opportunities. I encouraged alumni to take the challenge when I spoke with them at Homecoming and at other alumni and University events. Here are the five opportunities I presented:

1) Return to WIU for Homecoming. This is our pinnacle annual event as alumni. 2) Attend an alumni and friends event. The Alumni Association hosts events throughout the country (and even internationally), so please come and actively participate. 3) Share the WIU story. Talk to family, friends and colleagues about your experiences at Western and how they have influenced who you are. 4) Reconnect. With the variety of social media available today, it has become easier to make contact with former roommates, classmates, professors and administrators. Utilize the social media links on the alumni web site. Tell an old friend “hi” or a former professor “thank you.” 5) Recruit. The strength of most organizations lies in its future members. For the Alumni Association, that starts with students. Identify friends and family exploring college, and individuals who may be seeking advancement through graduate studies, and encourage them to consider Western.

Now we have an opportunity to assess how we have done as the permanent trustees of Western Illinois University. As I have heard back from Alumni Council members, many have completed all five challenges and others are well on their way to meeting them. In an effort to gauge the progress being made toward challenge by you (our 115,000+ alumni), we have created a link on the Western Illinois University website for you to share your progress. Please visit wiu.edu/alumni/council and report your activity. I will provide a summary of our results in the Summer 2013 issue of The Western News.

I noted at the start of my term as president that Western Illinois University was in a time of change. We are now in a time of growth and strategically pursuing excellence as a university. Despite economic challenges, progress is made through the things that are done by faculty, staff, students and alumni to make Western a great place to learn and grow. Be a part of that growth and pursuit of excellence: complete the challenge and THINK PURPLE!

Thinking PURPLE,

Kristopher L. Kelly ‘90 M.S. ‘92

Saved the Date

100 Years of Housing Reunion
June 28 – June 29, 2013

Celebrate 100 years of residence halls on WIU’s campus and reconnect! Watch for the housing alumni e-newsletter and visit wiu.edu/housing for more information.

From Director of Admissions Andy Borst...

Since our last alumni news update, the admission staff has been busy helping many talented students. We have now offered more than 1,500 Western Commitment Scholarships for Fall 2013, including 90 full-tuition scholarships to students who scored in the 99th percentile (only 17 applied last year). We recently announced a seamless pipeline for students to enroll in Macomb, the Quad Cities and online. As always, thank you for sharing your Western story with any student or parent who is in the college search process. We frequently hear that students are looking at WIU because of all of the wonderful things they heard from a proud Leatherneck alumnus. Thanks again for all of your help!
Western Wednesdays
Primebar in Chicago, IL, November 7, 2012

Seated  l-r: Board of Trustees Chair Bill Epperly ’68, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Chair Cindy Huls Dooley ’77 ‘89, John Shartle ’70, Alumni Council member Carol Lewis Scott ’70 and College of Education and Human Services Dean Sterling Sudder. Standing  l-r: Tim Meloy ’12, Carol Frighetto Kaczkowski ’79, College of Education and Human Services Associate Dean Dale Adkins, Alumni Council member Matt Bills ’99, Kevin Keogh ’68 ’72 and Alumni Council member Harvey Ahtion ’68.

Galesburg Alumni &
Friends
Vintages Tasting Room in Galesburg, IL, November 7, 2012

Front table  l-r: Katrina Galet, Marta Janson ’11, Assistant Professor Larry Andrew and Carol McClintock. Middle table  l-r: Maggie Mundy Mabry ’87, Luanne Day Brackett ’81, LibbyBracket, Don Wilson and Clerk Janet Decook Wilson ’93 ’95. Back table seated  l-r: Aaron Furrow ’03, Valerie Haacke Furrow ’03, Mary Baxter Derham ’84 ’88 and Laurie Moody Sykes ’01. Back row standing  l-r: Terry Boydstun ’77, Pat McKillip ’07, President Jack Thomas, Financial Aid Director Bob Anderson, Patricia Anderson, Assistant Vice President Ron Williams, Advising and Academic Support Services Director Michelle Yager and Associate Professor Stuart Yager.

You’re a Member! Reap the Benefits!

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 WIU 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) 222-7458

Insurance... Our partnership with Collegiate Insurance Resources offers a variety of programs, including comprehensive short- and long-term medical, disability and dental insurance.

wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 922-1245

Liberty Mutual Partnership... An exclusive discount of up to 15 percent on home and auto insurance rates and much more.

wiu.edu/alumni/benefits (800) 981-2372

WIU Class Rings... The great traditions of Western Illinois University can be personally commemorated by every alumnus. Go online, anytime, to design a custom class ring to tell your college story. The Josents Ring Designer is available 24/7 online. Email A-Association@wiu.edu to learn how to get up to 40% off select college rings.

wiu.edu/alumni/rings.php (309) 523-2147

Recreation Center Memberships... WIU alumni and their spouses and domestic partners may purchase memberships.

wiu.edu/alumni/rec_center.php (309) 298-2773

AlumniMortgage... Our AlumniMortgage program is offered through Quicken Loans® with our longtime partner Collegiate Insurance Resources. Get a mortgage or refinance an existing one and receive a $300 check back after closing.

mortgageinsiders.com/WesternIllinois (888) 506-9575

WIU Partners with Quad City Airport...
We are pleased to partner with the Quad City International Airport to offer the “WIU Easier Card” for alumni who use the airport for travel. The card offers access to the airport’s Destination Points business center on Concourse B.

wiu.edu/alumni/airport.php (309) 298-1914

WIU Diploma Frames... Join the WIU tradition, and frame your diploma! Our officially licensed, Made-in-the-USA frames feature the Western Illinois University name and seal, and will preserve your hard-earned diploma for a lifetime. Frames are customizable so that you can match your own style and décor. Desk accessories are also available. Plus, a portion of all sales goes to support the WIU Alumni Association! Order your custom frame online at diplomaframe.com/wilua/store.aspx. (800) 477-9005

RockeNetwork... A free online social network provided exclusively for WIU alumni to reconnect with friends and classmates and to network.

rockenetwork.wiu.edu

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

wiu.edu/alumni/license.php (217) 785-5215

Career Services... WIU alumni can enjoy continued access to benefits provided by WIU’s Office of Career Services. The Career Services Office serves the primary function of preparing individuals to market themselves to prospective employers.

wiu.edu/student_services/careers/ (309) 298-1838

Western’s Leslie E. Malpass Library... Alumni can use the physical library and can search the online databases when they are on campus. Use of online catalogs for books and media and access to the library’s reference services, guides, etc. are included in your benefits.

wiu.edu/alumni/library_access.php (309) 298-2700

Alumni Directory... All alumni have access to the online directory exclusively for WIU alumni. Also available for purchase is the hard-copy.

wiu.edu/cpas/stars (309) 298-1914

WIU Alumni Association—You’re a Member! Reap the Benefits!
Monmouth Alumni & Friends
Market Alley Wine in Monmouth, IL, November 8, 2012

L-r: Senior Applications Analyst Connie Hunter Corbin ’97, Tim Hurley ’95, Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkson ’78 ’79, Jen Rouse Byers ’06, Assistant Bursar Holly Spence ’06 ’10, Business Manager Nancy Corzatt Sprout ’85, Student Judicial Affairs Assistant Director Jessica Ball Muller ’09 ’11, Jan Ekdahl Winbigler ’86 and Kim Ruebush Strickler ’04.

35 travel agents under 30 for 2012.

Milwaukee Alumni & Friends
Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, WI, November 29, 2012


Western Wednesdays
Ram in Wheeling, IL, December 5, 2012


WIU vs. Mizzou Alumni & Friends
Pre-game Social and Game
Mizzou Arena in Columbia, MO, November 15, 2012

L-r: Josh Hamm, Elaine Schwartz Longacre, Scott Conlin, Erica Vaars Kassel ’95, Andy Kassel ’95, Alumni Council member Fred Longacre ’64, Dave Dearth ’67, Mike Gray ’84, Amy Dell Gray ’83, Alumni Council member John Sanders ’74, Anna Valiavska ’08, Supervision Field Specialist Sara Watterson Lytle ’00 ’02, Olivia Lytle, Jackie Schneller, Emily Mahler ’07, Reed Lytle and Officer Jason Lytle ’97.

35 travel agents under 30 for 2012.

WIU-Quad Cities Alumni & Friends
WIU QC Campus Atrium, January 10, 2013


2006
Matt Ivers, Sweetwater, TN, is the assistant men’s basketball coach/recruiting coordinator at Florence College in Madisonville; (606)382-8180
Teresa Lasko, Aurora, is a physician assistant at Advanced Physicians, SC in Aurora, IL; (630)833-1800

2007
Ashley Emory Kohnayi, S. Beleit, is an account executive at Rich Wells Ltd.
CLASSNOTES

2008
Taryn Bradley. St. Charles, MO, is an admissions advisor at National American University.

Timothy Goveott, Lombard, is a firefighter/paramedic for the Lombard Fire Department.

Kevin Merrill MS, Ames, IA, is the leadership and service coordinator at Iowa State University.

Tyler Reede, Denver, CO, is the restaurant manager at True Food Kitchen-Cherry Creek in Phoenix, AZ.

Bethany Woreni, Jamaica Plain, MA, is an administrative assistant at Elkus Manfredi Architects in Boston. (bethanyworeni@gmail.com)

2009
Kyle Baars, Kenosha, WI, is a police officer for the City of Kenosha.

Alexandra Cameron Goisler MS ’11, Macomb, is the director of community outreach at Wesley Village. (alexesweslyvillegoislermacomb.com)

Leann Shyack Meckler, Macomb, is an assistant director of marketing and communications for university housing and dining services at Western Illinois University.

Samantha Brooks Morton, Lakemore, is a K-8 physical education teacher at Grayslake School District #46. (zm-johnson2@hotmail.com)

Jonathan Meckler, Macomb, is the assistant manager at Chick’s on the Square.

Scott Pedigo, Glasford, is an insurance specialist at 1st Farm Credit Services.

Aaron Schulke, Bloomington, is a plant health care technician/cluster at King Tree Specialists, Inc.

2010
Alicia English MS, Baton Rouge, LA, is the assistant ticket manager at Louisiana State University Athletic. (aeng@lsu.edu)

Kathryn Channer Gorveti, Lombard, is a whole body sales representative at Whole Foods Market.

Zacharia Johnson, Wabasha, HI, is a battlefield medical operations officer in the 2-11 Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in Schofield Barracks. (zjohnson2502@hotmail.com)

Jonathan Meckler, Macomb, is the assistant manager at Chick’s on the Square.

Scott Pedigo, Glasford, is an insurance specialist at 1st Farm Credit Services.

Aaron Schulke, Bloomington, is a plant health care technician/cluster at King Tree Specialists, Inc.

2011
Corvales Grant, Dos Plaines, is a contractor at One 2 One Communications in Wheeling. (lggrant123@1230658@yahoo.com)

Nicole Reed Grant, Des Plaines, is a caregiver at Sunset of Park Ridge.

Marriages and Civil Unions
Michelle Baehr ’97 and Joshua Oaks ’94, Nov. 9, 2012.
Bobette Biggs ’94 and John Massaglia, Nov. 17, 2012.
Kimberly Field MS ’91 and Andrew Jacobs, Sept. 8, 2012.
Corvales Grant ’01 and Nicole Reed ’11, Oct. 27, 2012.
Renea Kemper ’09 and Jamie Damm ’01, June 23, 2012.
Elise Leventon ’96 and Franklin Fulda, July 4, 2012.
Ellby Meyer ’04 MBA ’05 and Josh Rabe, Oct. 6, 2012.
Misty Smith ’04 and Adam Scott, Sept. 22, 2012.
Jenna Steiner ’03 and Adam Archeval, Nov. 18, 2012.

Births and Adoptions
Angela Maesitas Craig ’05 and Miles Craig ’04, a daughter, Piper Anmarie, Sept. 5, 2012.
Jennifer Golin Dixon ’97 and Peter, a son, Matthew Donald, Jan. 31, 2013.
Ashley Emory Kohanyi ’07 and Nathan Kohanyi ’06, a daughter, Emery June, Dec. 20, 2012.
Tamarah Lakins ’05 MS ’07 and Harald Ersen, a son, Michael Jason, June 29, 2012.
Sarah Rockwell Well ’02 and Kevin Merrill ’08, a son, Colin Thomas, Dec. 3, 2012.
Lynee Rendell Miller ’01 and Scott, a son, Samuel Scott, Apr. 22, 2012.
Scott Raymond SSP ’95 and Erika, a son, Ethan Thomas, Sept. 21, 2012.
Aaron Suratt ’03 and Kari Reagin Suratt ’05, a son, David Lee, Oct. 5, 2012.
Selvewa Lucy Thrush ’06 and Shawn Thrush ’06, a daughter, Sofia Colleen, Jan. 21, 2013.

Deaths
L. Martin Calvert, Macomb, Sept. 9, 2008.
P. David Finks, Sanford, NC, June 10, 2009.
Britten Gray, Jr., Tennessee, Nov. 30, 2012.
Charles Holminger, Moline, May 9, 2012.
Mary G. Miller, Bushnell, Aug. 15, 2011.
Rosann Smith Morley, Good Hope, Apr. 16, 2011.
Alumni Travel Programs 2013-2014

Civil War & Southern Culture~American Queen:
Memphis to New Orleans
April 26-May 5, 2013
Experience the culture and historical architecture of the South as you discover the legends, the glory and the magnitude of the American Civil War along the shores of the Mississippi River. The luxury steamboat American Queen takes you to ports in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Begin with a day in Memphis. This unique river cruise explores both the culture of the South and a pivotal time in America’s history.

Sorrento
May 1-9, 2013
Discover the natural wonders and wealth of antiquities throughout the stunning region of Campania, home to writers, artists and emperors for over 2,000 years. Stroll through Sorrento, delight in Positano and the charming Amalfi and explore Paestum, Herculaneum and Pompeii. Then spend a day on the Isle of Capri.

Transatlantic Voyage
May 14-26, 2013
Trade Routes of Coastal Iberia
May 22-30, 2013
This spectacular nine-day itinerary showcases the resplendent Iberian Peninsula aboard the Six-Star Ship M.V. SILVER CLOUD. Cruise from Barcelona, Spain to Lisbon, Portugal, and visit the ports of Valencia, Cartagena, Málaga, and Cádiz, Spain; the Balearic Island of Mallorca; and Portugal’s Algarve region. Barcelona Pre-Cruise and Lisbon Post-Cruise Options offered.

Jewels of Antiquity
Cruise~Cannes to Venice~MV Aegean Odyssey
May 28-June 12, 2013
Cruise the Ligurian, Tyrrenian, Mediterranean and Adriatic seas during this 14-night voyage from Cannes to Venice aboard the MV Aegean Odyssey. Set sail along the beautiful French Riviera to Cannes, the Côte d’Azur and Provence. Cruise Italy’s shores to Florence and Rome. Drive along the Bay of Naples to Pompeii or Herculaneum and Taormina. Sail to the Greek colony of Butrint, then visit Corfu, Dubrovnik, the Split and Zadar. End your journey in Venice.

European Mosaic~Oceania Cruises: Rome to Lisbon
June 5-13, 2013
Sample some of Europe’s rich past and exciting present as you cruise to distinctive ports in Italy, Monaco, France and Spain aboard Oceania Cruises Nautica. Cruise to Livorno, Pisa, Florence, Monte Carlo, Marseille, Barcelona and Cartagena, Spain.

Discover Switzerland
June 19-July 4, 2013
See the majesty of Switzerland’s landscape unfold before your eyes on this journey. From Meiringen in the Hasli Valley, your home for 14 nights, discover the heart of Europe by train, bus, boat and on guided walks with your Swiss Rail Pass. Enjoy views of the Alps and cruise Swiss villages such as Lucerne, Magisalp, Kandersteg, Grindelwald and Berne. Travel to Zermatt, Rosenlaui Gorge and the Reichenbach Falls. Board the Simplon Alpine railway to the Italian towns of Domodossola and lakeside Locarno, visit historic Montreux and the Castle of Chillon.

Alaskan Adventures~Oceania Cruises: Seattle to Vancouver
August 5-12, 2013
Discover Alaska from the decks of Oceania Cruises’ Regatta. Depart from Seattle and travel north to Wrangell. Continue cruising through Tracy Arm; follow the Alaskan coast to Sitska, and visit Ketchikan. Sail on through the scenic Inside Passage heading to Vancouver where your voyage concludes.

Ireland
September 2-10, 2013
Experience the rugged beauty of Western Ireland during your seven-night stay in Galway at the deluxe Ardcilaun Hotel. Enjoy daily excursions, visit the homestead of Dan O’Hara in Connemara, learn about bodhrán drum making in Roundstone and visit the workshop of a famous craftsmen. Enjoy Irish singing, Seanachai storytelling and “Sean-nós” dancing. Delight in the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren, attend a Hurling demonstration, and cruise to the Aran.

The Great Journey through Europe
September 5-15, 2013 Date Sold Out—Additional Date: June 24-July 3, 2013
This 11-day “Grand Tour” of Europe features five nights aboard the M.S. Amadeus Diamond. Travel through The Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland, on the Rhine River. Stay in Zermatt and Lucerne and ride three legendary railways—the Gonergrat Bahn, the Glacier Express from Zermatt to Lucerne and the Pilatus Railway—enjoy a scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne.

Island Life in Ancient Greece and Turkey
September 24-October 2, 2013
Join us for this exclusive nine-night odyssey to Greece’s ancient islands and Turkey’s fabled coast. Cruise from Athens to Istanbul aboard the M.S. L’Austral. Meet local residents during the specially arranged Village Forum™ for a personal perspective of the Aegean Sea’s maritime culture. Take excursions to the ruins of Delos, the Old Town of Rhodes, the Monastery of St. John on Patmos and Troy. Extend your voyage with the Athens Pre-Cruise Option and the Istanbul or Cappadocia Post-Cruise Option.

Mediterranean Inspiration~Oceania Cruises: Rome to Venice
October 18-29, 2013
Discover the Mediterranean aboard Oceania Cruises’ Marina, as you sail to ports in Italy, Greece, Montenegro and Croatia. Depart from Rome to Italy’s west coast, then visit Florence, Sorrento, or Capri, the harbors and hillside towns of Amalfi and Positano, Sicily’s Taormina, the Greek island of Corfu, Kotor, and Dubrovnik. Cap off your journey with a full day in Venice.

Tahitian Jewels
January 15-25, 2014
Imagine a cruise on one of the finest vessels afloat, Oceania Cruises Marina, where every port of call is a Polynesian paradise. Savor the tropical island splendor of Moorea, Bora Bora, Hiva Oa, and more as you sail the beautiful South Pacific.

Caribbean Discovery
February 12-22, 2014
Cruise the balmy Caribbean seas aboard the elegant Oceania Cruises Riviera to Tortola, Antigua, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Barts—beautiful islands rich with verdant rainforests, spectacular beaches, colorful towns and enchanting wildlife.

Save the Dates
Italian Inspiration
May 14-22, 2014
Cradle of History
May 4-15, 2014
Baltic Treasures
August 21-Sept. 1, 2014
Pearls of the Mediterranean
November 7-15, 2014
For additional trip information, visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php
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 or School of Graduate Studies will personally follow up with the student and give him/her the option of registering as a prospective student. The student will receive information from WIU, 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:
School Currently Attending:
Expected Graduation Date From Above:
E-mail:
Cell Phone:
Home Phone:
Gender: ❑ Female ❑ 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.

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

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

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

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

* NOTE: Information will be included in Western’s online directory and in the online Western News.
UPCOMING WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

March 19 Memphis Alumni & Friends Social
Napa Cafe
5101 Sanderlin Suite 122, Memphis, TN
Social: 6-8 p.m.
Social, delectable hors d'oeuvres & cash bar — $16

March 20 Nashville Alumni & Friends Social
Cantina Laredo
592 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN
Social: 6-8 p.m.
Social, Mexican appetizer buffet & cash bar — $20

March 30 Black Alumni Black Tie Scholarship Gala
Martimique Banquet Complex, Grand Ballroom
8200 S. Cuyero Avenue, Burbank, IL
Social: 7 p.m.; Dinner: 8 p.m.; Dance: 9 p.m.
Social, dinner and complimentary drinks — $60

April 9 Canton Alumni & Friends Social
Official Time Out Bar & Grill
68 E. Elm Street, Canton, IL
Social: 6-8 p.m.
Social, appetizers & cash bar — $10

April 11 Springfield Alumni & Friends Social
Sangamo Club
227 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL
Social: 6-8 p.m.
Social, appetizers & cash bar — $15

April 23 Quincy Alumni & Friends Social
O’Griff’s Grill & Brewhouse
415 Hampshire Street, Quincy, IL
Social: 6-8 p.m.
Social, appetizers & cash bar — $15

Social, tasty appetizers & cash bar — $20

Social: 6-8 p.m.
707 Gulf Park Dr., Naples, FL
The Club Pelican Bay

January 26 Naples Alumni & Friends Social

Social, lunch & cash bar — $20

Social: 11 a.m. & Lunch: 12 p.m.
Columbia Restaurant

January 26 Sarasota Alumni & Friends Luncheon

Social, dinner and complimentary drinks — $60

Social: 7 p.m.; Dinner: 8 p.m.; Dance: 9 p.m.

Social, Mexican appetizer buffet & cash bar — $20

592 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN
Cantina Laredo

March 20 Nashville Alumni & Friends Social

Social, delectable hors d'oeuvres & cash bar — $16

Social: 6-8 p.m.
5101 Sanderlin Suite 122, Memphis, TN
Napa Café

March 19 Memphis Alumni & Friends Social

UPCOMING WIU ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

WHAT: . . . . . Social (6-8 p.m.) and PRIVATE viewing of Picasso in Chicago Special Exhibition (6:30-7:10 p.m.)

DATE: . . . . May 1, 2013

LOCATION: . . . The Art Institute of Chicago, 230 S. Columbus Dr.
Enter the Art Institute through the Rubloff Building at 230 S. Columbus Drive.

COST: . . . . . $15 before April 1; $20 on or after April 1

REGISTER: . . . Call (309) 298-1914 or visit wiu.com/alumni.

2013 Alumni Event Incentive

Your WIU Alumni Association encourages all alumni and friends to join us at one of our nearly 60 events around the world each year. We’re kicking off the “Alumni Event Incentive Program”—register for one of our regular events and receive $5 off the registration for another alumnus!

SAVE the DATE

HOMECOMING & REUNION 2013
Oct. 11 - Oct. 12
Visit wiu.edu/alumni/homecoming.php for the tentative schedule

Registration Form for WIU Alumni & Friends Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home phone</th>
<th>Home e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell phone</th>
<th>Do you want to receive text messages from the university?</th>
<th>Name of business</th>
<th>Job title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work phone</th>
<th>Work e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of event: ___________________________ Number attending/Name(s): ___________________________ Price: ___________________________

Total: ___________________________

Credit Card Information:

Card #: ___________________________ Exp. date: ___________________________

Three digit security code: ___________________________

Name on card: ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________

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