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# Campus Connection

News for the Campus Community

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## WIU paleobiologist's team discovers new dinosaur *Find in South Africa sheds light on largest dinosaurs*

**Matthew Bonnan**, associate professor of biology at Western Illinois University, has been featured in the international media after having been part of the team that discovered a new dinosaur in South Africa.



Named Aardonyx, meaning "earth claw," the new find is shedding light on the origins of the biggest dinosaurs ever, the sauropods, Bonnan explained.

The discovery was accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, a significant journal of biological research and reviews, with the title, "A new transitional sauropodomorph dinosaur from the Early Jurassic of South Africa and the evolution of sauropod feeding and quadrupedalism."

"I can't express in words just how exciting and what a privilege this is to announce to the world a brand new dinosaur, one that's a transitional, that tells us in some ways how we moved from smaller biped animals to bigger, heavier quadruped animals," Bonnan said. "And it fits in so well with the research I'm doing personally, and with students."

"On a scientific level, it's really fulfilling to have a hypothesis on how you think dinosaurs got large, then to test that in the field and get back these kind of data—a new dinosaur—that really does start to fill in some of those anatomical gaps," he added.

With funding from National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration, and with support from Western's College of Arts and Sciences and Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR), Bonnan has been to Free State, South Africa three

times (2004, 2006, 2007) working with South African colleagues at two quarry sites determined to be Early Jurassic, approximately 195 million years ago. An analysis of the bone microstructure of the 7-meter (20-foot) long herbivore indicates that it was young and still growing. Its skeletal anatomy shares a number of key features with sauropods. Limb proportions show that Aardonyx was a biped, although its forearm bones interlock—like those of quadrupedal sauropods—suggesting that it could occasionally walk on all-fours, Bonnan explained.

Bonnan's specialties in the digs are as a functional morphologist, who understands anatomy and how bones and muscles work together in movement, and as a vertebrate paleobiologist, who studies how vertebrate animals have evolved.

See "Bonnan," p. 2

## H1N1 vaccine, prevention info

As the holiday break approaches, Beu Health Center recommends that individuals use that time off to rest and recuperate in order to remain healthy.

"While we recognize this is a busy time of the year, Beu encourages individuals to use the break time to slow down. Get some rest, eat right and allow yourself time to recuperate from any lingering colds or other illnesses," said Beu Health Center Director **Mary Margaret Harris**.

While flu season is just beginning, confirmed—and probable—cases of H1N1 continue to be reported locally, as well as throughout the state and the nation. Individuals should remain vigilant about their health and well-being, Harris added.

"If you're sick, don't make turkey and all the trimmings for your family. Don't travel or shop 'til you drop. Prevention is often the best medicine to avoid the virus:

See "prevention," p. 2

## Wright Residence dedication



President Al Goldfarb, and Dr. Ken Wright and his wife, Betty, cut the ribbon officially dedicating the Wright Residence as the new Veteran's Resource Center during a ceremony on Veteran's Day. The Wrights donated Ken's boyhood home at 333 N. Ward St. to Western.

## Student organization gathers support for member in Iraq

Members of Western Illinois University's Student Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (SCIMA) recently showed their support of a fellow member who is currently stationed in Iraq.

SCIMA students collected donations throughout October to send care packages to accountancy student Andrew Mulrooney, a junior from Pecatonica (IL), who is stationed in Iraq with his National Guard unit.

"The SCIMA students wanted to let Andy know we were thinking of him and are so proud that he is serving our country," said **Amy Ford**, faculty adviser for the group and an instructor in the accountancy department. "So many people pitched in on the project. Faculty and students throughout the College of Business and Technology donated food, candy and games to send to Andy and his National Guard troop."

Ford added that **Susan Behling**, a professor in the accountancy department,



SCIMA members Joanna Specht (left), Jessie Lai (center), and Nicole MacLeod (right), organize donations to send to their fellow WIU student who is in Iraq.

even offered extra credit to her students who donated items for the care packages. Other faculty members donated money to help with postage.

Mulrooney has been an active member of SCIMA for the past two years.



Accountancy student Andy Mulrooney (back row, middle) at an IMA leadership training session last spring.

SCIMA students organized the donations and are sending out the US Postal Service's "America Supports You" flat-rate donation boxes.

For more information, contact Ford at [AM-Ford@wiu.edu](mailto:AM-Ford@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-1152.

### Bonnan cont'd

"We were ecstatic that when we began to take bone bits on the surface away and dig a little deeper, we got nice, well-preserved solid bones. Incredibly, not only were we finding pieces of the limbs and the ribs and the backbone, but we also started to find pieces of the skull. That's when it started to get really exciting, because the skull can tell you if you have a new dinosaur or not," Bonnan said. "By the end of 2006 we had enough of the skull to get an idea of what this animal looked like."

The skull and jaws show signs that this dinosaur had a wide gape and could bulk-browse, taking in huge mouthfuls of vegetation in each bite, an adaptation amplified later in sauropod dinosaurs. Despite its "small" size, sauropod-like vertebral joints had developed to brace its backbone, and the thighbone (femur) was straightened for weight-support, Bonnan added. The feet were flattened, bore large claws, and were more robust medially, features of a weight-bearing axis shifted towards the midline as in their giant near-descendants.

He said the next step was to take the bones back to the lab in South Africa and clean them, assemble them and start to figure out whether what they had unearthed was something new to science or whether it was already known and

maybe just a bigger form.

"It got really exciting in 2007 when we started laying these bones out and looking closely at the features on them," Bonnan said. "We realized this animal, while it shared certain features with ones that we know, had features that we've never seen before. We finally were able to say this is indeed a new species of dinosaur. That was an incredible feeling."

The two bones in the forearm of the new dinosaur *Aardonyx* was the tipoff to Bonnan that this animal was related to the giant sauropods.

"The forearm bones of *Aardonyx* are beginning to show the interlocking position found in the giant sauropods. In other dinosaurs that are bipeds, that walk on their hind legs, you don't see that feature. You only see that in sauropods," Bonnan explained. "*Aardonyx* may not have walked on all fours all the time, but it was certainly was capable of dropping down and walking on those forearms because it had the ability to resist the stress."

"Both on a scientific level and a personal level this has just been absolutely fantastic," Bonnan added.

### Prevention, cont'd

wash your hands frequently, get enough rest, stay home if you're not feeling well, don't share cups or eating utensils with others and get a flu shot," she said.

Individuals who do become ill over Thanksgiving break should not return to campus until they are fever-free for 24 hours, without the aid of a fever-reducing medication.

WIU faculty, staff and students who meet the CDC priority group guidelines can receive the H1N1 injectable vaccine or nasal spray vaccine at Beu Health Center. The vaccines are available at no cost and appointments are not needed. See priority groups for the injectable vaccine in the Nov. 9 release and the nasal spray vaccine in the Nov. 4 release at [wiu.edu/news](http://wiu.edu/news).

For more information, contact Beu Health Center at (309) 298-1888.

## Health dept. clinics

The McDonough County Health Department will offer seasonal flu shots for state employees, by appointment, from 1-5 p.m. on the following dates:

**Tuesday, Dec. 1**

**Thursday, Dec. 10**

**Tuesday, Dec. 15, and**

**Tuesday, Dec. 29**

For an appointment, call (309) 837-9951.

## Grants & Contracts

Three COEHS faculty received University Research Council grants: **Ralph Graham**, Kinesiology—\$4,500 for “Effects of an Exercise and Diet Modification on C-reactive Protein and Blood Lipids in Obese but Otherwise Healthy Women;” **Carol Longley**, DFMH—\$5,000 for “Snacking Behavior of Preschool Children at Home;” and **Daniel Yoder**, RPTA—\$2,588 for the “Leisure is Recreation is Play: Well, Not Really.”

**Gisele Hamm**, IIRA—\$1,096 and \$600 in supplemental funding from various sources for “MAPPING Community Support.”

**William Jorgesen**, Quad Cities Executive Studies Center—\$37,427 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for “Employer Training Investment Program.”

**Lori Sutton**, IIRA—\$4,562 in supplemental funding from various sources for “Continuum of Care Support.”

## Civil Service News

### Employee of the Month

**Tim Schroll**, customer service representative for the GIS Laboratory in the geography department, was named the Civil Service Employee of the Month for November.

According to his nominators, “Tim is a positive role model for students and fellow GIS Center employees. The level of enthusiasm he brings to work, along with his positive attitude, is vital to the work environment and are two of the reasons why the workplace functions above and beyond.”

Schroll has worked a temporary employee in the GIS Center since 2006. He was hired to his current full-time position in 2009.

Western faculty, staff and administrators, as well as community members, wishing to nominate a civil service employee for this recognition,



should contact **Laura Caldwell**, Civil Service Employees Council (CSEC) public relations representative, at (309) 298-1000 or e-mail [LM-Caldwell@wiu.edu](mailto:LM-Caldwell@wiu.edu).

## Horticulture professor develops sustainable landscaping website

“It all started with the idea that I could reduce the amount of mowing I was doing every week or so. I have a large backyard, and I spent well over an hour on a rider mower, keeping that grass well-kempt,” wrote **Marietta Loehrlein** in her first blog post on her new website called “Sustainable Landscaping.”



Loehrlein, a horticulture professor in Western’s School of Agriculture, developed the site as an instructional tool for a new Sustainable Landscaping Practices course she is teaching. The site includes an abundance of information—from alternative energy and landscape equipment to creating wildlife habitat to pesticide use and recycled landscape materials—and addresses a rapidly evolving area responding to environmental issues, including global climate change.

The blog provides a way to share her personal experiences about practical landscaping application.

Loehrlein wanted to make the information for the course available not only to her students, but also to instructors at other universities and the general public. She decided to develop a website

that could be used for teaching, one that would also serve as a tool students could use to learn more about the technologies discussed in her class.

“I have not found a textbook on the topic appropriate for such a class,” she said. “The technologies are developing very quickly, and our students need to learn about them before they get into the job market. Getting a textbook published would take too long. Our students need this information now.”

“Many university classrooms already provide Internet access; this website will make it easier for both instructors and students to access the information in an organized manner,” she added.

Loehrlein noted that while there are books, articles and websites devoted to one or another of the technologies, her Sustainable Landscaping website addresses all of the pertinent issues, providing a comprehensive resource for individuals, organizations and even municipalities.

“It is arranged like chapters in a book, and eventually it will have hands-on activities and problem sets designed for classroom use. Other topics covered on the site include irrigating with gray water, constructed wetlands and using plants to mitigate environmental factors, especially sun and wind,” she added.

## Turkey, trimmings and GIS mapping

Once upon a time, in order to trace the path of a meal from your table to the source, you may only have had to take a short jaunt to a nearby field. But in these days of modern transit, when the foods that people consume hail from various regions of the United States and even the globe, that path, many times, is much more complex; the more complex the path, the more complex the data are about that path. GIS, or “geographic information systems,” technology provides a way to display such data visually.

**Linda Zellmer**, government information and data services librarian at Western Illinois University Libraries, utilized GIS to prepare a website (available at [faculty.wiu.edu/LR-Zellmer/thanksgiving.html](http://faculty.wiu.edu/LR-Zellmer/thanksgiving.html)) that links to PDF versions of the maps that show where the foods consumed at the traditional Thanksgiving meal—such as turkey, cranberries, squash and green beans—originate. In addition, the website has a link to a comprehensive poster (also a PDF) that shows where all of the Thanksgiving foods are grown in the United States.

Visit [faculty.wiu.edu/LR-Zellmer/thanksgiving.html](http://faculty.wiu.edu/LR-Zellmer/thanksgiving.html) to access the maps and the comprehensive poster online. For more information, contact Zellmer at [LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu](mailto:LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-2723.

## Professional activities

Four COEHS faculty members received awards at the CITR's Fourth Annual Faculty Research Symposium: **Donna Aguiniga** and **Kathy Perone**, Social Work, were recognized for Best in Track for Research Development Activities for their presentation "The Ethics of Competency: Practitioner Perceptions and Concerns About Competent Social Work Practice." Aguiniga was also recognized for Best New Faculty Proposal. **Jill Myers** and **Gayle Carper**, LEJA, received the award for Creative Activities for their presentation, "Electronic Aggression: Ethics and Free Speech."

**John Closen** and **Lloyd Kilmer**, Educational Leadership, presented a training session, "Instructional Practices Inventory," for superintendents and principals at the Regional Office of Education #35 on Oct. 28 in LaSalle (IL).

**Richard Filipink**, History, presented "It's a Long Way From Tipperary: Boston and the Kennedys," and **Virginia Jelatis**, history, presented "From Puritans to Patriots; Boston and the American Revolution" at the Teaching American History Grant Fall Workshop held Oct. 25 at WIU.

**Tracy Davis**, EIS, was a panelist for the WIU National Association for Black Journalists (NABJ) discussion on "Poor, Dumb, and Guilty: The Perception of African Americans in the Media" Nov. 12 at Cafe Aroma in Macomb.

**Terri Hare**, Financial Aid, presented the session "Cross Training and Office Transition" at the 2009 Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA) Fall Training Oct. 2 in East Peoria, (IL).

**Jennie Hemingway** and **Dana Moon**, COEHS Dean's Office, were panel members for the program "All Sorority Sisterhood" discussing relationships, women in leadership and sex-role stereotyping during Sorority Week hosted by the WIU Panhellenic Council.

**Julie O'Brien**, UAASC, and **Jessica Butcher**, Student Services, also presented, and **Janine Cavicchia**, Women's Center, served as moderator.

**Andrea Hyde**, EIS, gave a workshop, "YogaEd Tools for Teachers" to a group of Quad Cities Counselor Education students as part of the EIS405G: Classroom Management course. Hyde also chaired several sessions and presented "Academia and Constraints on Intimate Relationships:

Framing the Issues" at the American Educational Studies Association conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Other WIU presenters included **Deb Miretzky** "She Has Her Opinion and She Sticks With It!: Social Foundations and Undergraduates"; and **James Cohen**, "Raising a Toddler Bilingually in a Monolingual Society with Both Parents in Academia: Cake Walk it is Not."

**Mary Jensen**, Special Education, along with six students, presented "Create Unique Data Collection Forms" and "Practical Methods of Data Collection" at the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Conference on Nov. 6 in Lisle (IL).

**Roberto Mazza**, History, presented "Christian Institutions of Jerusalem and Palestine in the Late 19th Century, Until the Early 1920s" at the Second Annual CSU Middle East and Islamic (MEIS) Conference held Oct. 16-17 at San Francisco State University, and "Dining out in the Holy City: the Spanish Consul in Jerusalem 1914-1919" Oct. 14 at Illinois State University.

**Alison McGaughey**, University Relations, presented "What Did it Mean to be 'Normal,' and Why Does it Matter?: An Analysis of a Midwestern Tradition and its Relation to Composition Teaching Today" at the Sixth Annual English Graduate Organization Conference held Nov. 13-14 at WIU in Macomb.

**Darlos Mummert**, Special Education, has been named to the Human Rights Advisory Committee for Mosaic of Macomb.

**Katharine Pawelko**, RPTA, presented the sessions "Developing an Equine Assisted Activity Program," "Therapeutic Riding Benefits to Riders with Visual Impairments," "Exploring the Social World of Whitewater Kayakers;" and "Motivation and Job Satisfaction Factors For Summer Camp Staff" at the State University of New York-Cortland 59th Recreation Conference.

**Barbara Sandall**, **Abha Singh**, **LaVerne Logan** and **Don Powers**, Curriculum and Instruction's Science Education Center faculty members, delivered the sessions "Ecological Footprints;" "Inquiry-based Assessment in the Elementary Science Classroom;" "Integrating Science and Math in the Middle/Junior High Classroom;" and "Walking Through Millions of Years to Teach Integrated Science" at the 2009 National Science

Teachers Association Area Conference on Science Education on Oct. 29-31 in Minneapolis, MN.

**Sandra Watkins** and **Bridget Sheng**, Educational Leadership, presented "Cultivating Highly-Effective Teachers: Lessons Learned from a Teacher Leader Graduate Program" at the 2009 PDK International Summit on Quality Education Recruitment and Retention in Indianapolis, IN.

**Jim West**, IDT and **Peggy West**, CITR, co-presented the keynote speech, "Using Wikis for Online Collaboration," for the fall/winter trimester faculty in-service session at Palmer College of Chiropractic Nov. 2 in Davenport, IA.

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## Angel Tree program

For the 16th consecutive year, Western's accountancy honorary Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) and the accountancy department are sponsoring the Angel Tree Program.

The program provides holiday gifts and necessities to foster care children and teenagers in McDonough, Fulton, Warren, Henderson and Hancock counties. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) from each of the counties has provided the name, age, gender, size and "wish list" of each child. The goal of Beta Alpha Psi is to provide each child with three gifts.

Anyone interested in participating should contact **Becky Hall**, accountancy department, at (309) 298-1152 or [RK-Hall2@wiu.edu](mailto:RK-Hall2@wiu.edu). Please include: your name, campus phone and location. Cash donations are also welcome (checks payable to Beta Alpha Psi Angel Tree Program). If donations exceed the amount needed for the foster children, food baskets will be provided to families in need.

Donors are asked to securely attach the angel tag with the child's name to the outside of the wrapped package and to indicate the type of gift(s), such as toy/clothing, that have been purchased. Gifts must be ready to be picked up or delivered to the accountancy department, Stipes Hall 418, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

"We truly appreciate the kindness and generosity of our 'angels' over the years," said **Cheryl Westen**, BAP adviser and accountancy instructor. "While there is always a great need for donors, this particular holiday season will certainly see an even greater need given the current economic situation facing our country. We hope to help least 60-70 children this year."

# Historical newsletters now online thanks to University Libraries

Earlier this year, two WIU librarians took it upon themselves to make the historical past and collective memories of the western Illinois region more accessible to those near and afar.

**Bill Thompson**, librarian and associate professor at University Libraries, and **Jeff Hancks**, Baxter-Snyder Professor of Regional and Icarian Studies and University Archives and Special Collections unit coordinator, applied for and were awarded a grant through the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). The grant enabled Hancks and Thompson to spearhead a project that makes the content of several western Illinois historical societies' newsletters available online. Included in the online collection—which is available at [collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/index\\_wiu\\_hsn.php?CISOROOT=/wiu\\_hsn](http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/index_wiu_hsn.php?CISOROOT=/wiu_hsn)—are newsletters from the western Illinois counties of Hancock (1987-present); McDonough (1982-present), including the Colchester Area Historical Society (1995-present); Rock Island (1966-present); and Schuyler (1969-present).

"Western's Special Collections already had hard copies of the materials," explained Thompson. "It was a matter of getting permission to scan them and make them publicly accessible, so Jeff worked with the various historical societies involved to get their permission to put the material online."

Thompson noted the collection has been available online since late last summer, and the newsletters online are browsable by individual issue. Perusing the many stories about people and places

in the western Illinois counties, Thompson pointed out, highlights how the seemingly simple recounting of the lives of the people in the region provides contemporary insight into the "simpler" days of yore.

"One of the items that I remember clearly is the Articles of Indenture signed by an Illinois couple. Although Illinois was not a slave-owning state, some of those who lived in the state practiced indentured servitude, a near cousin to slavery," he explained. "Reading the articles, which amounted to a temporary surrender of many of the freedoms we take for granted in return for room and board, was an eloquent statement of the hardships that people were willing to undergo to escape the even worse conditions only available to them elsewhere," he added.

Thompson also cited another item that stuck with him—the tale of the first-known murder in Schuyler County, which was published in the Schuyler County Historical Society's newsletter.

"The story of the murder was about two men who were chopping wood. An argument soon ensued, and one killed the other. Not only did the newsletter publish the account of the murderer's trial and execution, but it also provided a list of the effects of the deceased, which were derived from the probate records. Through that list, a reader gets a sense of the material culture of ordinary people—the clothes they owned, the tools they possessed and so on. Items like these open up a lost world and provide first-hand information about what a person carried with him and owned in frontier Illinois," Thompson said.

Thompson noted that scanning the newsletters took a better part of a year. A WIU student worker, Kylene Davenport, completed the bulk of the time-intensive scanning work.

While the historical societies' newsletters available online are not searchable by full text, Thompson noted that he hopes that will happen in the future.

"The fact that this historical content is now available online makes the collection an even more marvelous resource than the print iteration of the newsletters held at WIU," Thompson said. "Those interested in the region's history or who are doing genealogical work from afar don't have to travel to Macomb to read about the fascinating history of those who lived and worked in western Illinois. They can just go online, and the information from these historical societies' newsletters is available to them at their fingertips."

And, according to Hancks, the newsletters are just the beginning of the historical content University Libraries is collecting and making available online to researchers.

"We currently offer photographs and some books published by Western, and future plans call for important historical resources, including WIU yearbooks and the Western Courier," Hancks said.

For more information, contact Thompson at (309) 298-2784 or at [WA-Thompson@wiu.edu](mailto:WA-Thompson@wiu.edu) or Hancks at (309) 298-2717 or [JL-Hancks@wiu.edu](mailto:JL-Hancks@wiu.edu)

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## Rec Center hours during Thanksgiving break

Student Recreation Center hours for Thanksgiving Break are as follows:

**Friday, Nov. 20:** 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
No group fitness classes  
Aquatics Center: 6-7:45 a.m.;  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. ; 3-6 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 21:** 8 a.m.-noon  
No group fitness classes  
Aquatics Center: 9-11 a.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 22:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Aquatics Center: 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

**Monday, Nov. 23:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Group fitness class:  
"20-20-20" 4:45-5:45 p.m.  
Aquatics Center: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 4-6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 24:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Group fitness class:  
"YogaFit" 4:45-5:45 p.m.  
Aquatics Center: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.;  
4-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 25:** 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

No group fitness classes  
Aquatics Center: 11a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 26-Sunday, Nov. 29**  
Closed.

For more information, call the Campus Recreation Office Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at (309) 298-1228.

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## GBCC hosts

### Pre-Kwanzaa Dec. 2

The Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center (GBCC) will present its 10th Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration at **6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2** in the Multicultural Center.

All are encouraged to learn and celebrate the history of Kwanzaa.

The event will include a short program of singing and expressions of culture followed by "Karamu Feast" (food sampling).

For more information, contact the GBCC at (309) 298-2220.