

Alumni Programs:

Enclosed is a small contribution for the WIU Music Department. Perhaps there is a needy music student who needs a little help buying books.

When I was a student at Western, 1965-1969, my major was Business, and I did not take any music courses (not even music appreciation!). I wish I had, because while I did well in the business world, playing music (on the keyboard) is my passion.

In between classes, in addition to hanging around the Student Union, I spent a lot of time in the music building, in those tiny piano rehearsal rooms. The selection of pianos was pretty good, and in those little rooms I taught myself how to play piano by ear. Over the four years at WIU, I got pretty good at it, and now some 40 years later I still play pretty much any song I want. I even have a part-time volunteer position at a chapel in the beautiful North Carolina mountains playing jazz gospel. Not bad for a kid from Chicago!

Anyway, my reason for the contribution is because nobody ever threw me out of the practice rooms. I didn't know if there was a reservation system or not, but I was never questioned about why I was there and they let me play until it was obvious that someone needed the room. It helped me to create a life-long passion for playing music, to this very day.

So it meant a lot to me that Western gave me the opportunity to advance my career in more ways than business. The music ability has opened many doors for me and I am very grateful.

Richard Hunter '70