



***The Spirit of Western College Continues Today***

## From the WCAA Director

Where were you 35 years ago?

I challenge you to take yourself back to that fall, the fall of 1973.

Preparing to *teach happily at the Aegean Institute on the island of Poros in Greece*, said our loyal class rep from 1929, Frances Hall King.

Finishing the last year of high school and wondering about college was the priority of those who would eventually form the first class of the Western College Program.

I was running to keep up with a 3-year-old while gaining inspiration from the student group I was *directing* ... the student YWCA on the Miami campus ...

But, across the street and just down Western Drive, students and faculty were living with the knowledge that their beloved college would no longer exist as a separate institution at the end of the school year.

What would their last Western year be like? Where would they go next year? How would they stay in touch with each other and with those who had graduated before? How would they keep the Western spirit alive?

The Alumnae Association sought many ideas, presented them to the alumnae and, in June of 1974, became a separately incorporated association, dedicated to the mission of maintaining in close association the alumnae of the Western College and raising funds for scholarships and other educational programs that continue the heritage and tradition of The Western College.

Thirty-five years later your Association is still doing just that, thanks to the dedication and loyalty of alumnae, former faculty and friends of Western College. This we will celebrate, beginning at Reunion in June of 2009 and culminating at Reunion 2010.

I *challenge* EACH of you to actively participate in this yearlong celebration to show that the Western spirit still lives in you!



Judy K. Waldron,  
Director, WCAA

*Judy K. Waldron*

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**Mission of the Association:**

- to preserve and encourage communication among and with alumnae,
- to support education and human values that continue the heritage and tradition of The Western College.

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**On the cover:** Here are 10 of the self-proclaimed "Dubai 11" — Miami students who participated in Dubai's Women as Global Leaders 2008 conference. Front row (l to r): Jessica Plechaty, Tho Nguyen, Erica Wirtz, Kirby Broadnax, Rachel Rudwall; back row: Elise Seiwert, Ashley Adkins, Caitlin Leach, Carrie Almasi, Stephanie Sterling. Not pictured: Caitlin Fitzmaurice.

**Credits:** Cover photo, MU News & Information Office; Back cover design, Debbie Baker



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# What's on Your Mind?

*Please tell us! So many Westerners are doing interesting things and thinking interesting thoughts that we'd like to share them with our readership as a whole. Often we hear in the office of an alum or friend involved in a particularly exciting activity or significant project. Many times a bit of news in Class Notes cries out for expansion. Our hope is that this space in the Bulletin will give more readers a greater voice.*

**David Christof**, former First Year Adviser, Peabody Hall, shared this reflection with the WCP listserv. We



David Christof

*asked for (and received) his permission to share it with the rest of the Western family. David grew up in the Czech Republic and holds an M.S. from the State University in Prague. He's a long-distance runner and during the summer of 2007 was one of 20 who ran around the world — crossing 16 countries and three continents in 100 days — to*

*promote safe drinking water. Currently, he is an assistant director of residential life and area coordinator at Whittier College, a small liberal arts college in Whittier, California.*

**D**ear Western! I just finished a 5-miler here on Western, and as I ran through the quietness of the nightly student-less campus, I couldn't but reflect on the past year in Peabody. I am really glad I had the opportunity to experience a true community — Western. I have truly enjoyed the Western spirit both personally and professionally. It was heart-warming to be part of something real, meaningful, and authentic. And the Western graduation? Well, I can't deny that it brought tears to my eyes. I was humbled that I got to be part of it, although wishing that I had been in Peabody longer.

In a few weeks I will be moving to California for my new job at Whittier College in the LA area. Visitors are, of course, welcome, but I do ask for at least a 23-hour notice. Soon I will unsubscribe from this listserv, thus in the future please contact me on my personal e-mail: WaterIsLifeDavid@gmail.com.

The students and administrators in WCP showed me what true community is. Undoubtedly I will bring the spirit of Western to California, and to all my future endeavors for that matter. It has certainly been one hell of a year for me — first circumnavigating the globe

which strengthened my body, and then experiencing Western, which certainly strengthened my heart. Water and Western are life!

P.S. My 2nd place in “Shore to Slimy Shore” certainly ranks high in my athletic achievements. :)

**Lyn Miller Neely '73**, speaking for her class, gave this toast at the June 2008 Reunion:

**A**mong the women of the world, we who attended Western College are part of a privileged few who have had the opportunity for an education. As I was getting ready to leave this place 35 years ago, I remember hearing a charge to use the education I had received in the service of others. Judging by the stories I've been listening to here this weekend, we have responded well to that charge. We are and have been mothers, teachers, physicians, diplomats, managers, and much more.



Lyn Neely

We form a community of positive influence across this country and around the world. We each contribute strength to and draw strength from this community. My friend and classmate, Joan Campbell, and I represent the class of 1973 in toasting this inspiring community and affirming our membership in it.

*Bobby Cox '83 was one of three members of the 25-year class who attended the June 2008 Reunion, but he gave the banquet toast for all Western Program alums:*

On behalf of the WCP alumni, I want to express our gratitude for the gracious reception we have had from the Western College Alumnae. We feel part of a long legacy and our contact with the generations of Western alums has given a sense of history that far surpasses legends of Helen Peabody's ghost.

Indeed, as we face the prospect of our own beloved program undergoing an uncertain transformation, we hope to embrace the challenge with the same spirit as have those who faced the challenge of the closing of the original Western College. And, as for you, we look forward to seeing the phoenix rise from the ashes and to play our role as alumni to help shape a vibrant educational experience for future students who manage to see the trees and the forest. Long live the Western spirit!



*Bobby Cox*

*Barbara Williamson Wentz '68, WCAA trustee, called her remarks at the closing ceremony of the September WCP 35-year reunion "Some Dreams Come True." Here is part of what she said:*

What did the world expect each of us to dream as we left this Garden of Eden with its beautiful buildings and dramatic bridges?

This was the Western College Seminary, then Western College for Women, then Western College, and then the Western College Program of Miami University. For each generation of graduates the dreams, expectations, and opportunities were different as was the institution we left. ...



*Barbara Wentz*

Western was the place that gave us a foundation for the rest of our lives and for each of us we took what we needed from what was offered. We loved the Western we attended and we carry memories in both our heart and head of all we learned and experienced while we were here.

But the best part of all, from my perspective, is that I have found in returning that who we were and what we felt is still here. It is not the fact that the college was all women, or an independent small college or a small close-knit part of the larger university; it is the spirit that seems to engulf everyone who spends time on this campus. ...

*Tim Matune graduated from the Western College Program in '81, has served on the Dean's Alumni Advisory Committee (DAAC), and returned in September with words of praise for MU President Hodge "for perceiving and honoring the loyalty of the Western alumnae and alumni and thus preserving the connection with our school." He continued with a challenge:*

We are here ... because Western taught us to think, to be critical of ourselves and our ideologies, but most of all: to care. Western is our intellectual family. Such sense of family motivated us to come to her defense when she was attacked. The graduating classes and the new entering freshman class have and will receive an education in the very same place as we received our education, by some of the same teachers, with a curriculum similar to ours. We owe them and as many high school seniors as we can recruit for Western, the blessings of a self-directed interdisciplinary education in a vibrant, tolerant, living-learning community. They are part of the family. ...



*Tim Matune*

# Women as Global Leaders

*In March of this year, 11 Miami students traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to participate in the Women as Global Leaders Conference sponsored by Zayed University. There, each young woman presented an original research paper for panels on Functional Contexts of Women's Leadership and Women in the Media. Approximately 1,800 participants, representing some 100 countries were invited to meet with internationally renowned women leaders, share ideas and engage in debate on "Learning Leadership."*

*WCAA Director Judy Waldron tells how Western became involved:*

In the fall of 2007, a Miami student stopped in the office. She explained that 11 women had been invited to present papers at a women's leadership conference in Dubai but they needed financial assistance. Knowing that Western College was founded to provide an excellent education for women and that an international focus was part of that excellence, she hoped the WCAA might help. Fortunately, some of the Annual Fund's undesignated gifts are allocated by the board to support campus needs that continue the heritage of Western College ... so the WCAA was able to help. Read on, knowing that your WCAA has made a great difference in the lives of these young women.

*Jeanne A.K. Hey, MU Director, International Studies Program and Professor of Political Science, describes how the Dubai 11 came to be, and seven of the participants share their personal reflections.*

Miami's participation in the Women as Global Leaders conference began with an e-mail that the Dubai conference organizers sent out to many listservs around the world. It made its way to my in-box via Mark Peterson, an associate professor of Anthropology and International Studies at Miami. I sent the invitation on the International Studies (ITS) Majors listserv, thinking I would get a handful of semi-interested responses. Was I wrong! I quickly received over a dozen e-mails from students who were genuinely excited about the opportunity. Soon at least 10 more e-mails came from students who learned about the conference via word of mouth from ITS majors.

Although I understood that the conference was an exciting opportunity, I was wary that many of the young women who expressed interest would follow through with a commitment once they learned they had to organize and formally propose panel sessions, write papers and prepare oral presentations, raise funds throughout the university and Oxford communities, attend the conference for a full week, and make numerous presentations to different constituencies upon their return. It's important to note that all these tasks were on top of their already very full class, work and extra-curricular responsibilities and that they would be receiving no formal academic credit for the conference work. Many of the students were seniors and carrying heavy course loads that included capstone seminars. A number of those who inquired dropped out, but in the end I ended up mentoring a full 11 young women as they prepared for the conference in Dubai. Never would I have imagined that so many students were ready to commit to this type of hard work in exchange for one of the most fascinating experiences of their young lives. I'm delighted to say I was very wrong.

The following weeks and months filled quickly with fund-raising, research, writing and meeting. We were able to raise enough funds to cover all their registration and air fees, with help from many Miami offices and especially the Western College Alumnae Association. The self-named "Dubai 11" quickly revealed itself as one of the most impressive groups of students I've worked with over my 16 years at Miami. Rain, sleet and even airport-closing blizzards, not to mention term papers, lab reports, all-nighters and boyfriend dramas, did not deter them from their goal. When they arrived at the conference, they found they were unquestionably the most prepared and qualified of all the undergraduate participants. Most other delegations did not even prepare papers.



*Dr. Hey*

I remain enormously proud of the Dubai 11 and enriched for having gotten to know and spend time with them. Thank you to the women of the Western College Alumnae Association for their support of a project that exceeded my wildest dreams.

— *Jeanne Hey*

*Ashley Kapri Adkins MU '08, anthropology and Latin America studies major, from Cincinnati. Ashley completed Teach for America training in Phoenix over the summer and has begun teaching in Indianapolis (IN) Public Schools.*

**Ashley:** Going to Dubai was a life-changing journey for me. It was not something I had ever actually planned ... it just happened one day that I woke up in the Middle East surrounded by female leaders. But I know it was real because even today, some six months later, I am still receiving e-mails from Manar, one of the Emirati college students (and women leaders) I met at the Women as Global Leaders (WAGL) conference.

When the idea of traveling to Dubai was presented to me, I must admit I had no clue where to find it on a map. It wasn't until I did a Google Earth search that I even realized it was a Middle Eastern city. But even when I learned of the distance from the United States, I had no reservations or judgments. I simply had a strong curiosity about what women really had to say about leadership in a part of the world where women are often looked upon as subservient and second rate.

It soon hit me, as the idea of going to Dubai became more real, that my own preconceived notions about the Middle East were uninformed and unreliable. I decided to write a paper for the conference on female presidents around the world, their role in politics, and the impact that they have made on their countries. This would definitely give me some insight about women in leadership positions, how media portrays them, and the failures and successes they have experienced. I thought it would be an even greater idea to compare this topic with the presidential campaign of Senator Hillary Clinton, to show just how flawed the United States actually is, that such a progressive nation is still struggling with the social constructs of gender and race, while other "third world" and developing nations have already recognized the need for change.

It turns out (which I had no doubt) that the paper I wrote, and the WAGL conference itself would teach me more about being a woman, possessing leadership, and being politically conscious than 22 years of being a woman, college-educated, and voter-registered could have ever taught me. This notion of political correctness (more like politically censored) was challenged, and I was able to ask some of the toughest questions one-on-one with some of the brightest, most life-experienced women leaders (yes, Middle Eastern women are and can be leaders) this world has ever known, and get some of the most authentic, most sincere answers I could ever dream of. Issues of race, class, and gender were all discussed, the American point-of-view challenged, constructive criticism given, lasting friendships and networks created.

I was truly blessed to see the desert and the Gulf within a few miles of each other, try new food, begin learning a



*Ashley and Carrie, on the road to the conference*

new language, and have my comfort-zone tested, all free of charge and free of fear. This trip is not something you lock away in a photo album. It is the type of experience you will live to remember, day in and day out, always referencing the need for unity, understanding, and strong women who are not afraid to take risks...

*Carrie Almasi MU '10, an international studies major/French minor, from Painesville, OH, will spend next semester studying in Rabat, Morocco — thanks in part to her Dubai experience.*

**Carrie:** I chose to become a part of the 2008 Women as Global Leaders conference delegation because as an international studies major it seemed like a great opportunity to experience and learn about Middle Eastern culture. My expectations about the Dubai and women's leadership in the Middle East were quite different from what I actually perceived.

My particular presentation was entitled "Minorities in the Media: Gendered Stereotypes of American Women." In my paper I explored the American media industry, stereotypes of American women based upon what type of media they occurred in as well as what type of woman they portrayed, and solutions for change within a biased media. Yet during my time in Dubai I recognized that I had my own stereotypes about diversity and women in the Middle East. I learned that the world is a much more diverse, varied place than we often encounter with the "Miami Bubble." There were women from over 100 different countries at the conference alone. At one table during lunchtime you were able to find women from six or seven different nations often with dissimilar native languages and beliefs.

Previously, I had considered the Middle East to be a place of conflict and anti-westernization. Yet Dubai was a very westernized, modern, thriving city. Everyone spoke English, and American products from food to clothing to music were very prevalent. Also, before I attended the con-

ference, I considered leadership to be mainly defined as an active and public position. The WAGL conference helped me to discover that leadership actually comes in many, often more subtle forms. While some may consider the women of the Middle East to be generally oppressed and subjugated, at the conference I encountered many Arabic women who feel empowered and consider themselves leaders within their own spheres. In countries such as Dubai, women are even progressing to become leaders in the public sphere as well, holding positions and political sway in organizations such as business and the government.

*Caitlin Leach MU '10, international studies major/anthropology minor, from Medina, OH, spent the summer serving an internship at the World Trade Center in Chicago and attempting to adjust to the Windy City.*

**Caitlin:** One of the most interesting things I learned was that what Western society believes are undeniable freedoms that all desire, others feel are limitations. Several young Emirati women explained that they are quite happy with the expectations of their dress and freedom of speech and press. One asked me how can I be judged on my intellectual ability alone when I wear clothes that show my womanly shape. While we were looking at the dark shadows moving around the conference, they said they were interested in our skirts that bared legs, tight-fitting shirts and jackets, and exposed hair and face. By wearing the hijab and burqa, they are judged solely on their skills and knowledge, not on their appearance and are more comfortable to appear as just figures with minds.

In addition, they explained that the press is not allowed to talk negatively about the leaders and their families. While they may gossip about what the sheik's wife was wearing or what policy he should have talked about, these leaders were elected by them and are honored and respected. They brought up the issue of Hillary Clinton's cleavage and couldn't believe it was all over our news because we should have been focusing on her ideas and policies.

I found these notions from the young women so interesting and thought-provoking that I do believe I have changed, in a sense, when I consider what to wear and what to say. I realize that there is a way to dress to impress, yet modestly, and sometimes lessons of respect must be remembered in this country that prides itself on the freedoms of speech and press.

In conclusion, it became apparent that not all countries desire the freedoms that the U.S.A. was founded on and continues to promote in other parts of the world. We must work hard to understand the cultures and societies we want to help and truly see if what we are doing is desired and beneficial

to the people. For example, when discussing the Middle East, we must remember that these societies consist of thousands of years of Arab and Islamic culture that remains a strong influence in the region. In addition, the United States was founded with a Constitution, yet every other country has had to work to get to that point and some are not ready nor will ever be ready to achieve this.

*Tho "Annie" Nguyen, MU '10, finance and international studies major, from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.*

**Annie:** The conference Women as Global Leaders was truly an eye-opening experience for me. I had a great opportunity to travel to a Middle Eastern country and meet with many other women from different backgrounds to learn more about leadership and culture.

However, there was a small activity that became memorable and valuable. On the last day at the conference, I decided not to attend a panel discussion but instead a workshop: Leadership: Knowing Oneself and Knowing Others. The workshop was very different since it had a smaller number of attendees and closer focus on each individual. During the workshop, I had a chance to talk to another delegate, Samya, who was covered up like every other young woman from Zayed University, Dubai. Due to her appearance, I thought she was from the UAE, and so I started a conversation about how beautiful Dubai is and how well organized and impressive the conference was. To my surprise, she told me that she was from Morocco and it was her first time in Dubai. A little embarrassed by my assumption, I pressed on in the conversation and found that we actually have a lot in common.

After my talk with Samya, I had learned not to make assumptions about a person based on his/her appearance. Furthermore, I realized that I still have so much more to learn about the world. In such a diverse environment like the conference, it is important for a participant to be involved and open to others.

Having a chance to travel to Dubai and learn about its culture and people was a valuable experience, but it was up to each individual to make that activity priceless by really stepping into the social context, being a part of it and trying different things. Had I not decided to join a workshop, I would not have had a chance to talk to Samya and learn more about Morocco.

The conference definitely built up my personal and professional experience in international studies and business by providing me a chance to interchange knowledge with women around the world. It also made me a braver and more thoughtful individual.



*All work and no play? Not exactly ... Rachel, in the desert outside Dubai*

**Rachel Rudwall MU '08**, international studies and Spanish major/European area studies minor, from Dayton, OH, has just completed a three-month journey around the U.S. and Canada and is moving to Los Angeles to work in television production.

**Rachel:** Following months of planning and hard work, 11 Miami students prepared for a springtime visit to the United Arab Emirates. We women had written papers and composed presentations to share at the Women as Global Leaders conference in Dubai, raised adequate funding to reach the other side of the world, and convinced our parents that a visit to the Middle East was both safe and smart. We were well versed in Middle Eastern culture and basic Arabic, and we were ready to immerse ourselves in a world that would challenge us greatly.

However, we did not expect a blizzard in Ohio, delayed and missed flights, lost baggage, and a debilitating stomach bug that would affect two of 11 conferees. We did not plan to be separated in various airports around the world or to lose our business attire in transit, and we certainly did not expect to have to rush to the conference jet-lagged and wearing other conferees' heels and blazers in order to arrive at our own presentations on time. Yet, even with a myriad of travel complications, the Dubai 11 recognized that obstacles provide great lessons when regarded as teachings instead of negative experiences.

It took only a short time for me to recognize just how trivial our travel complications were when compared to the obstacles faced by some of the other conference participants. Students, educators, and presenters from countless nations recounted their life experiences, many sharing tales of war, poverty, sexual abuse, and repression. While their tales wove tapestries of tremendous loss, their voices carried little trace of distress; for, the women of the conference had found

strength in themselves and in each other. These women had banded together and found ways to give back to their communities, whether through education, community service, or entrepreneurship. They had used the challenges of their lives as means for personal growth, and they had succeeded in bettering the world for generations to come.

I can now say with conviction that the human spirit is unbreakable if only we band together and learn from the obstacles before us.

**Stephanie Sterling MU '08**, international studies major/Spanish minor, from Kirtland, OH, is in Lisbon, Portugal, teaching English — her “first adventure as an adult.” Even in a country where she barely speaks the language and has trouble understanding “social norms,” she is confident that she can depend on the help of women in any part of the world.

**Stephanie:** I did not know what to expect from the Women as Global Leaders conference, or from the women there, or from the city of Dubai. I was lucky in that respect, because so often we enter new situations with preconceived notions of what a person, place, or event will be like. But considering that I had met very few Muslim women previously, and had never attended a conference, and that Dubai was supposedly the strangest city on the planet, I arrived ready to observe and absorb. What I learned from my experience was this:

Women are limitlessly powerful. It does not matter what society we live in or what our culture expects of us. We connect; we listen to each other; we empathize; we reflect on each other's thoughts; we encourage and embolden each other; we offer to help; we join together. Women who seek change in their lives or communities or countries thrive with this kind of support.



*Stephanie, across from the spectacular Burj al-Arab hotel, which stands on its own man-made island*



*Erika — along with all the conference participants — was welcomed with native Emirati songs and dances at the Desert Extravaganza!*

women to construct such an undertaking, and am excited to play even the tiniest of parts in the process.

*Erika Wirtz MU '08, political science and marketing major, from Wyoming, OH, is now working at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, in the North America Hair Care Division, living in East Hyde Park and "loving it!" She was looking forward this fall to returning to campus for P&G recruiting interviews.*

**Erika:** *[In an interview before the conference for the Miami "Report" ...] I have had leadership experience at Miami as president of the Panhellenic Association, and I have a passion to engage with other women from around the world, to learn their experiences of leadership, and I also look forward to being out of my comfort zone. We may be shocked at each other's perceptions of freedom ...*

I encountered so many women at the conference who have done incredible, impactful things in their lives. Most can name several women or groups of women who went out of their way to guide, encourage, mentor, or support them.

For example, the Miami delegation met a group of Somali educators who are developing a leadership training network for women in various African countries. Their ultimate goal is to facilitate women leaders at the government level in countries which suffer from poor governance at present. For now, they are connecting with anyone who is interested in the project and gathering information about how to get the project in action. So I, a young college graduate from the U.S. with barely any knowledge of women's leadership in Africa, have offered to do some research online for them. Just like that — a plan, a connection, an offer to help. And across continents! I am amazed at the power of these few

*[Reflecting on her experience after her return home ...]*

One of the most empowering lessons that I learned while in Dubai was the fact that we are all the same. Despite our obvious differences in dress, language, faith, and ethnicity, we all have similar aspirations, goals, and dreams for the future. All of the women that I met at the conference wanted to positively impact the world and the people who live within it. I met women from Somalia, Pakistan, Belarus, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and even Argentina, to name a few. All of us became friends and quickly learned of our similarities. I am so thankful for the experience to attend the Women as Global Leaders Conference, as I have come away with new connections, colleagues, and friends that I continue to keep in touch with to this day. 

*To obtain a copy of any paper written by one of the Dubai Eleven,\* contact Dr. Jeanne Hey: [heyja@muohio.edu](mailto:heyja@muohio.edu).*

"The Face of a Lady Leader: Female Presidents as They Are Seen in the Media," **Ashley Adkins**

"Minorities in the Media: Gendered Stereotypes of American Women," **Carrie Almasi**

"Profiles of a Woman Empowered: An Issue Analysis of Cosmopolitan and Bitch Magazines," **Kirby Broadnax**

"Effects of Media's Portrayal of Changing Women's Roles in Western Society," **Caitlin Leach**

"Women in a Secondary Educational Context: Single Sex Education and Leadership Development," **Tho Nguyen**

\* One participant, Caitlin Fitzmaurice, graduated early and could not be reached for this article.

"The Female Impact on Business and Media," **Jessica Plechaty**

"The Internet as a Tool for Women's Leadership Development," **Rachel Rudwall**

"Reclaiming Power for Political Change: A Historical Account of South African Women During Apartheid and Other Global Initiatives," **Elise Seiwert**

"Independent Income, Independent Women," **Stephanie Sterling**

"Real Experiences from Real Women: Reflections on Living and Learning Leadership in a University Setting," **Erica Wirtz**

# Introducing Your New WCAA President ...

## Stevie Bentzen Snook '69

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

**W**estern College Alumnae Association — 35 years and still going strong! Thanks to the great Western spirit which we share, the WCAA has faced and overcome challenges in the past and will continue to do so in the years to come.



Stevie

Our Association now faces the challenge of establishing our *legacy*, thereby assuring that Western College will live on, long after the last of us are gone. A 15-year WCAA Legacy strategy is underway. Years 1-5 will see us working toward making sure that existing WCAA scholarships are adequately endowed. The ambitious goal of years 5-10 is the creation of a Western College endowed profes-

sorship. And we are looking into a Western College Interactive Learning Museum, to be established in Patterson Place by the time our last graduating class gathers to celebrate its 50th reunion!

These goals, our legacy, are within our reach. To make them happen, we need the continuing generosity of your support of WCAA scholarship endowments, Reunion gifts and the Annual Fund.

In the Spirit of Western,

*Stevie Bentzen Snook*

P.S. Please also consider the gift of your time and talents by running for the Board of Trustees to help forge our future and continue our legacy strategies. (Turn to page 12 to see the happy faces of trustees currently serving on the Nominating Committee.)

## ... and Five New Trustees



Luci

**Luci Bilslund Galloway '59** graduated from Western with a major in Art, then spent nearly 40 years in the home fashion business before retiring; she continues to “help out” her daughter-in-law with her home decorating store. Luci is involved in her church, civic and fraternal organizations and sings bass in her church choir and a community cho-

rus when not attending grandchildren’s activities or traveling with her husband, Paul.

**Susan Berryhill Hill '63** graduated from Western with a major in history and a minor in religion and art history before heading for graduate school at Case-Western Reserve, then Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a double degree. She has taught art history at Penn State and published in the areas of Italian Renaissance iconography and Baroque architecture. Susan has served in



Susan

many areas, including the Pennsylvania Governor’s Committee on Human Relations, Retarded Citizens and Group Home Boards, Altoona Hospital Mental Health Unit, ACLU and various local philanthropic and peace groups.

**Sally Derby Miller '56** fulfilled her long ambition to finish her college education by graduating with Western’s class of 1972, with her husband Karl and her six children in attendance. An English major with a minor in education, Sally was awarded the senior English prize. After graduation she taught and tutored, while continuing to raise her



Sally

own family along with several foster children, two of whom have become permanent family members. In 1993 her first children’s book was published and she continues to write and publish — she has nine published children’s books, with two more under contract. She and Karl are active in their church, and she has served as class representative for several years. Sally’s appreciation of and commitment to Western have never wavered.



Marcia

**Marcia Randlett Oder '64** graduated with a degree in political science but credits her entire Western education for giving her a broad range of interests which led to a variety of careers as she followed her physicist husband around the country. Over the years she has been a technical editor at MIT; a city planner in Macon, GA; a para-

legal in San Francisco, on the staff of a private school in Pittsburgh, PA; and finally manager and director of her husband's research companies. She has always maintained her interest in international affairs which was piqued by her Western experiences; since graduation she has traveled in Europe, South America and Asia and spent some time working in England. Now that she is semi-retired, she is beginning to become involved with volunteer activities. She and her husband live in Export, PA.

**Sylvia Stanfield '65**, after graduation from Western, earned an M.A. degree in Asian studies from the University of Hawaii and studied further at the University of Hong Kong School of Oriental Studies and Linguistics, where her specialization became Asian affairs. She first went to work with the Department of State in 1968, and her first overseas assignment was vice consul with the then-American Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan. Later assignments included tours with the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and the U.S. Embassy in



Sylvia

Beijing. In Washington, she served as a watch officer in the State Department Operations Center; as political and economic/commercial officer in the Office of the People's Republic of China and Mongolian Affairs; as country officer for Malaysia and Singapore Affairs; and as country officer for Zambia and Malawi Affairs. She was director of the Office of Australia and New Zealand Affairs, 1990-1993, and headed the Taiwan Coordination Affairs Office, 1997-1998. Thereafter, she was chargé d'affaires, ad interim, and deputy chief of mission of the U.S. Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand. A Chinese language officer, Sylvia was selected to attend the Department of State's Senior Seminar. In September 1999, Sylvia was named U.S. ambassador to Bru-

nei Darussalam. She completed her ambassadorial tour and departed Brunei Darussalam in late summer 2002. Since then, Sylvia has served as diplomat in residence at both Florida A&M University and Spelman College and as the State Department's senior advisor for Mentoring Coordination. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the personal rank of Minister Counselor, now retired, she continues to be involved in mentoring and international affairs programs.

**Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74** completed a one-year appointment to fill a vacancy on the board and in April was elected to serve a three-year term (2008-2011). Her biography and photo appeared in the Fall 2007 *Bulletin*. **Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61**, president from 2000 to 2002, has accepted a one-year appointment to fill a vacancy.

## The Nominating Committee Wants YOU!



Members of the Nominating Committee (from left) Shirley Small Osepchuk '55, Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61, Barbara Williamson Wentz '68, Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74 and Carol Stone Lehman '67, chair, take to the phones for their favorite task — calling to congratulate nominees and place their names on the ballot.

The Nominating Committee, one of seven trustee committees, is charged with the task of finding new members for the board. They need your help! Although they seek candidates representing many classes and for whom traveling to Oxford is not a burden, the most important qualification is a desire to serve! The board welcomes volunteers — please nominate an enthusiastic fellow alum you think would make a great trustee. Or, nominate yourself! Send recommendations to: [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu).

# See You in Oxford, June 19-21, for Our 50th!



A big hello to the very special ladies of '59. Here we are 50 years later and looking better every day! It is time to "catch up" and tell it like it is — I am so grateful to get the good/bad news from so many of you and thrilled to know that so many of you are making plans to travel to Oxford for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in June.

**Sis Moeller Horst** asks when we gather for that special weekend of celebration and hoopla, "Will we be doing anything satisfyingly outlandish?" I certainly hope so! Nothing seems to stop Sis these days. She and Eric have taken a few trips and from time to time can still be found on various campgrounds enjoying their retirement and those famous golden years. Their most exciting news is that their eldest grandson, Cory, was married in July 2007.



Sis



Eleanor

Sadly we need to say good by to **Eleanor Inman George**, who died January 6, 2008, at her home in Traverse City, MI. I remember many years ago in a "smoker" somewhere having an

in-depth conversation with her about various fudge recipes. It all had something to do with a fund-raiser for something or other. Eleanor was special and the fudge was delicious.

After 50 years, an unbelievably short message from Gordon Garrett, the husband of **Penny Boudreau Garrett** arrived in my e-mail. They have retired to Sarasota, Florida, where she is active in quilting (she has won several ribbons for her work) and jazz (Sarasota has the most active jazz club in the U.S.). They enjoy several cruises a year and had just returned from Norway. Penny, you need to come to our 50<sup>th</sup>. I am sure that there is a lot more in between the lines here that we need to know about. Thanks, Gordon, for your update.



Penny

Speaking of those beautiful far away places, **Bjorg "Unni" Roiri** lives in Kolbotn on the outskirts of Oslo. Her two children and four grandchildren also live there. Unni retired from teaching four years ago and enjoys her freedom. She skis, walks in the mountains and goes to the theater and visits art exhibitions. She also loves to travel. The highlight of this year was her visit with **Sue Marquis Gordon** in Sarasota, Florida. They had a great time together. She has also visited southern Spain and Greece. There is so much to see and learn. So, Unni, we hope you will make more travel plans and join our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in Oxford — it will be a great time.



Unni

And speaking of **Sue Marquis Gordon**, she writes that she is pretty much on the road these days trying to help care for her mother, who is doing remarkably well at 103! She is trying to get her home in Beverly ready for sale while also dealing with one too many condos in Sarasota. It is a great community with lots of cul-



Sue

tural events, a great beach, coffee houses, interesting talks, a good bike trail, etc. Sue would love to see '59ers who want to stop by. Of course, if you would like to relocate, she knows a beautiful condo overlooking a harbor that is for sale. Any takers out there? The sad news is that Sue's husband died at the end of October 2007.

Yeah! We have gotten word from **Barbara Gordimer Roth**. She quickly brings us up to date — three grown children (two attorneys and one photographer), plus a granddaughter and retirement with much travel time. She and her long-time beau, Joel, will make their third trip to China this fall. Barbara notes that our world has certainly changed since the '50s!



Barbara

This year found **Mary Jo Porter Brown** working again with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Indiana for the local Great Strides walk. They raised over \$41,600, a record! She also organized a yearly trip to Shawnee Summer Theater to benefit CF research. As Outreach chair for her church, she managed a mission trip for 19 to help rebuild New Orleans. They almost didn't get out of town due to some of the worst flooding in local history! Their community organizations have come together to help those in a five-county area who are in need of disaster aid.



Jo

Keeping the mind active is fun especially with a membership in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute where weekly lectures on various topics, trips to the opera, theater and ballet, and numerous classes are offered at ISU for a nominal fee. The two that Mary Jo especially enjoyed were a class on religion and culture and another on current events. The Browns will take a Mexican Riviera cruise in November and also visit two of Ralph's children who live in California. January and February will find them in Ft. Walton Beach, FL; if anyone plans to be in the area then, let them know. She expects to be at the 50th and looks forward to seeing many other classmates there.

**Ann Ferguson Zeigler** says that they have had a “Grandchildren Summer” and it has been wonderful. They took care of Bobby’s Mckenna (7) and Hayden (4) for 10 days



Ann

while their parents enjoyed Hawaii. Actually Ann thinks that she and Mike had the better deal. Their parents worried about the length of time they would be caring for the children, possible temper tantrums, picky eating, not wanting to go to bed, etc., but

no problems — they had a fun time with them. Isn’t it interesting how well-behaved grandchildren can be? Much time was spent in the pool and so everyone slept well at night.

A week after they left, Laurie and her girls, Rylee (12) and Lexi (9) arrived from Colorado. They had a week together and then all piled into the van and drove to a fantastic reunion with Ann’s brother and his family in Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Beth and her family joined them there. Beth’s Evan (9) and Meredith (6) were so happy to see their Colorado cousins. Of course they had a biology lab on the dining room table in their beach house ... hermit crabs and various sea worms and other living creatures were a part of the family until they were returned to the sea the day they all left. The children explored the Internet for more information on the creatures — Dr. Rothermel would have been proud! Meanwhile their busy lives continue with trips to the gym, teaching Sunday school, book club and other volunteer responsibilities for which they are blessed and grateful.

There she goes again! Of course I am talking about **Diana Koch Mascali**, who writes

of another busy year with lots of fun trips. They took the children and two grandchildren to Hawaii for Thanksgiving. Enjoyed an Alaskan cruise in June and visited Sunriver (OR) in August. Next, just the two of them cruised in Tahiti and the Marquesas, then attended a Pan Am (remember that fabulous airline?!) reunion in Coeur d’Alene. Talk about memories! They are going back to South Africa and will visit the family Di stayed with in ’58 with the Western College African Seminar, so they will add to the three generations of memories there too.



Diana

Son, John (aka “Tiger”) has changed careers and is now the owner of four Burger King franchises. Being his own boss takes untold hours — seven days a week, and that is with Carol helping with the office duties — but they love running their own business and don’t seem to mind the time it takes, since it is for their family. Daughter Dana still lives in D.C. and is about to change jobs to something very exciting that involves lots of travel to Africa. Di is really proud of those granddaughters of hers with the success of their Packs With Love project. 240 gently used backpacks were donated to a nearby school district where the kids were going without. The school district was ecstatic with Madison (11) and Mackinsey’s (8) hard work. June 20<sup>th</sup> will find Di joining us in Oxford for our big 50<sup>th</sup> and also her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, June 20<sup>th</sup>. (I think our party just got bigger!)



Julia

All is well in Florida with the Lakers. **Julia Althoff Lak-er** and husband Don are planning to return to Oxford next June for that big celebration. By the way she is still riding the bicycle she took to Western in 1955!

**Susan Gessford Spicer** sends word that Joe and she have had some wonderful times touring the U.S. in the past two summers and spending time with their kids and grandkids in El Paso, Florida, and Flanders, New Jersey. They are keeping busy with activities in The Parke at Ocean Pines. Joe was operated on at Johns Hopkins on August 22 for a brain tumor. It all went very



Sue

well and Joe is recovering, grateful to have had an outstanding surgeon and excellent care, thanks to the expert help and advice of their daughter. They also spent 12 wonder-filled days on a tour of Greece and the islands in May. Sue was fascinated to see the ruins of all the areas she taught about for 25 years. Hopefully, we will see Spicers in June.

**Mary Ellen Thomas Forte** mourns the deaths of her husband, Earl, in November, her old-



Mary Ellen

est sister at the end of October and her oldest brother at the end of June. She is grateful for the loving support of her Western College family which has been steadfast throughout and thanks them from the depths of her being: **Rosalind Chu** (Concord, NC); **Judith Conant** (NYC); **Susie Kitagawa** (Kamakura, Japan); **Ruri Kawashima** (Tokyo, Japan); **Peggy Mayer Hill** (Greer, SC); **Nancy Hsieh Kuo** (West Lafayette, IN); **Hanna Nylander Lutterodt** (Accra, Ghana); and **Thalia Crane Sudnik** (Poughkeepsie, NY). The friends marvel at how providence brought them together at Western College and that they have been so close now for over 50 years.

She included a very interesting *NY Times* article from the Real Estate Section of March 16, 2008, which describes her long search and eventual purchase of a more accessible co-op apartment that is just a short walk from her former Victorian home. Unfortunately Earl passed away before the move but she enjoys the convenient location of her new home and especially the sense of community where she often runs into former students. There must be quite a few of those because she taught English for 38 years at her alma mater, New Rochelle High School.

We learn from **Peggy Mayer Hill** that she is having a busy time as president elect of the Guild of the Greenville Symphony and next year will be the president. She is amazed at how much time both jobs take. It is hard



Peggy

to get away, but with her sister, **Sue Mayer Falter '57**, and husbands in tow they headed to Wadmalaw Island (near Charleston) for a wonderful visit with their brother this summer — a real treat since they don’t get together often enough. In October, the Hills will be going to Japan to visit their son, Andy, and his wife, Lyn, and to delight in their little granddaughter Vivienne (2 in September) and grandson, Julian, who was born in July. The computer video chats every now and then are difficult because of the 12-hour time difference, one party is either asleep or awake. The jet lag will be hard but Peggy is eager to see those babies! She is already making plans to be at the Reunion and hopes you are all coming along too!

**Lucretia Bilsland Galloway** reports that almost all of her grandchildren



Luci

are now in college and heavily into various sports. Caitlin is a senior at Washington University (St. Louis), engineering/math, and captain of the soccer team; Amanda is a sophomore at University of Evansville, nursing, soccer, spent five weeks in England comparing medical systems; Christine is a sophomore at Purdue, accounting, economics, education; Taylor is in the eighth grade, football, basketball, baseball; Chris is in the sixth grade, basketball, baseball, golf, soccer; Amanda is in pre-school and Aunt Carol is teaching fifth grade. Paul and Luci will be spending their weekends cheering on all these athletic pursuits.

Hats off to Luci, who serves on the WCAA Board of Trustees, where among all her other important duties she is helping to plan for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. So if you have any ideas (especially the outrageous ones) contact her ASAP.

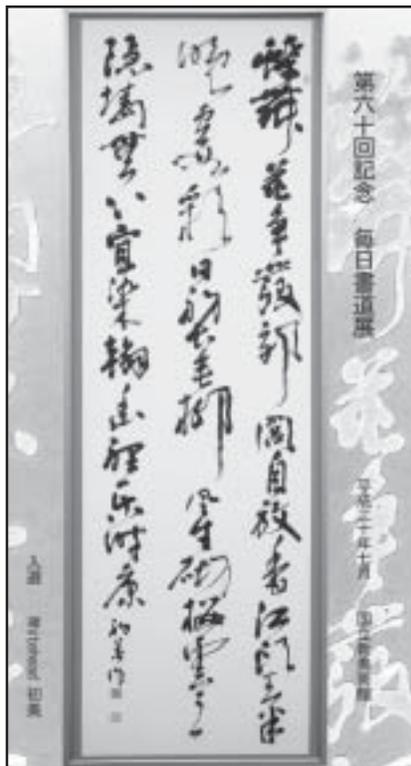


Sumi

**Hatsumi Takenaka Whitehead** or "Sumi" as we know her, has been retired for 10 years. Her last assignment was as a language officer with the American Embassy in Tokyo, a rewarding end to a rewarding career. Her husband,

John, already had retired earlier, but came along as her dependent (and man of leisure).

After leaving Tokyo, instead of returning to Washington, DC, they decided to settle in "the real Washington," WA. They are now living in a very pleasant, small, across-the-river (Columbia) suburb of Portland, OR. The area offers some of nearly everything people enjoy. Sumi has become even more involved in personal pursuits. One of them is Japanese calligraphy.



Depicting a poem that she composed herself, this piece of Sumi's calligraphy was recently exhibited in the new National Museum in Tokyo. It was the fifth time in the prestigious annual Japanese Calligraphy Competition that her work was selected for exhibit there. Entitled "An Impromptu Poem on a Spring Day," it may be loosely paraphrased: "On a leisurely spring day, one can appreciate the enjoyment of a few moments without worldly distractions, even including the butterflies, fragrant flowers, weeping willows moving in the wind, misty cherry blossoms ..." The background for the framed work is an enlargement of a portion of the basic text.

She hopes to see many of us at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

I received an interesting note from **Karla No-ell Galantay**. She started Western in the class of '58, but, when her father became ill, she returned home to help take care of him. In 1959, she resumed Western studies and graduated. Hence, she has been considered an alumna of both '59 and '58. I can pass along this exciting information, she now has eight grandchildren, five of whom live upstairs in her house in Cassonay and three who live in Geneva, Switzerland. She wishes us well but now plans to stick with the '58ers with whom she started. OK, Karla, but we '59ers have much more fun and you will be missed! [Editor's note: See page 61 for a picture and note on Karla's recently published book, a collection of musings and stories.]

Finally, here is the latest **Thomason** news from Brooklyn. We will become great-grandparents for the second time on or around New Year's Eve! Can't wait for that second beautiful little girl to arrive! I have had a quiet and peaceful summer, much of it spent in the Catskills in a lovely home with a heated swimming pool and a divine screened-in porch, where I read and relaxed while tending some beautiful flower gardens and entertained various family members from time to time. Meanwhile, my 80-year-old husband, Robert, toured Berlin and East Germany on his bicycle. (This was the 11<sup>th</sup> trip of his round-the-world bicycle journeys since his retirement in '87). See you in Oxford, June 19-21, 2009. Many thanks for all your priceless blue card news. Cheers!



**Jane Toy Thomason '59**  
305 Lefferts Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11225  
janethomason@hotmail.com



Head shots from '58, '57 and '56 Multifarias; stunt and band shots from '59 and '58 Multis, respectively.

# Getting a Little Older, Getting a Lot Better

'29



**Celebrating 80 years!**

Of the Class of 1929, three of us at least are back in a “dormitory” (read “retirement center” or care center”), pleasantly lazy and cared for. Sounds a bit like the “old Western.” The “dormitory” is not very full, however. After all, we are near 100 or more years old. Cheers!

**Frances Hall King '29**  
600 Carolina Village Rd.#262  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

'37



From **Harriet Doll Van de Water**: “Am in great good health and still living an active life. Five of my six children are alive and very well. Elli lives on a ranch in Kenya, Africa; John lives in beautiful Mackinac Island, Michigan; Anne, a retired M.D., is in Texas; Elizabeth, back from Kenya, lives with me to my great joy! Charles works in California and his daughter lives in New Zealand. I guess that comes from our work in international relations. Greetings to any of my '37 friends! Love to hear from you!”

**WCAA, Inc.**  
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wcaa@muohio.edu

'39



**Celebrating 70 years!**

“It’s hard to believe that next week my family gathers to celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday,” wrote **Harriet Sheldon Brakken** in early August. She still lives in her Seattle home alone and drives a little — 10 blocks to her church, two to the drugstore. Otherwise, her son and family pick her up, friends drive to lunch and appointments — and the library! “What would we do without books?” Harriet says she stays in touch with her Alaska roots.



*Jane Noble Miller. demonstrating the Meily Society “WAVE,” Reunion '08*

**Marj Lloyd Liggett** is living happily in a Cincinnati retirement center, where she has just acquired a new neighbor: **Helen Christopher Barnett '37**, who had lived all her life on the outskirts of Cincinnati in Terrace Park. Although they were sister classes, Marj didn’t remember Helen, but as they talked they named many others known to both. Marj keeps busy knitting, doing sewing and mending for people who can’t — “It’s free, just give of my ‘talent!’” — and keeping up with family. Two daughters, both of whom live in Cincinnati, take her to do errands since she doesn’t drive any longer. Her two sons live in Honolulu and Naples, Florida, and visit at least once a year. Guest rooms are available, if classmates would like to visit — “If you know early enough, you can have one ... of course holidays are taken early.”

“Life goes on,” for **Bee Burkholder Sundstrom**. “So far I’ve had a very good year health-wise.” She celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2007, after going to **Romey Wilson Colby’s** 90<sup>th</sup> in September. They get together for lunch and visit by phone. Bee didn’t get to see **Mary Lou Lynch McColum** this past summer, but her daughter sees her often as they both have homes in Grand Beach, Michigan. “Love and best wishes to all '39ers for a healthy year ahead.”

**WCAA, Inc.**  
325 S. Patterson Ave.  
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'41



New address: **Susanne Poage Hale** has joined her son at 1111 Travis Court, Southlake, TX 76092.

In memory: **Jean Phillips Drexel** in Columbus, Ohio; **Martha Mueller Davidson**, Rich-

mond, Indiana, and **Mary Emeline Eaton**, Honolulu.

World traveler **Elinor Griffith Green** visited Nova Scotia, Greece and Turkey.

**May Egerton Fyfe** is at home (temporarily) but bought a new car — a 2008 Honda hatchback sport model! New Bern pedestrians, watch out.

**Ruth Harry Hathaway** reports **Janet McIlvaine Hutchinson** looks amazingly good. When she is awake, she has “her usual smile and clear eyes.” Ruth has “shifted” from six to four cylinders, but keeps on with family visits and summer concerts.

**Mary McDonald Stragand** says she is “pretty good for 89 and still driving.”

**Dorothy Adkins Ansari** didn’t expect to live to 88, so is grateful to still be here.

**Frances Foorman Dorton** spends summers in Indiana and winters with family in Florida.

**Harriette Conn Frank** remembers Western often, especially Miss Gibbons, who taught her to love history.

**Marguerite Young Currie** writes her health is good though she suffers macular degeneration. She lives in her own home and cares for herself. A daughter lives within 15 miles. She has seven granddaughters and two great-granddaughters. Traverse City, Michigan, is home and she used to see **Mary Emmy Eaton** every summer.

At 88 years, I just renewed my *New Yorker* subscription until November 2011. I’m being optimistic. Would love to hear from more of you, so if blue cards are difficult for arthritic fingers, my phone is 214-357-3148.

**Suzy Allburt '41**  
5003 Elsby  
Dallas, TX 75209

'43



It seems that in this year’s Class of 1943 notes, half of the news is sad, and my question is — should I share that first or last? If you have started reading the class notes at the first of the *Bulletin*, you have found that it took no time at all to reach 1943 and this report! The question I pose should not be a surprise — age is taking its toll. My last listing of known 1943 alumnae is dated 7/7/

08, and contains 39 names. I received *four* blue cards this year, and *two* notices of what I've called sad news — expected at our ages, but still, sad.

**Alice Kimball Spooner's** daughter, Becky Spooner, sent an e-mail to the Alumnae Association, notifying the office of Alice's death March 17, 2008. She described the memorial services of April 19 as "celebratory," and the description she gave of Alice's 85<sup>th</sup> year was in the same tone: "... she passed swiftly, painlessly, and peacefully at a time when she was in fine fettle, good spirits and in pretty good health for an 85-year-old. She had finished her *New York Times* crossword puzzle and was hoping the ASU Sun Devils would be playing in the NCAA tournament."

An e-mail from George Pflieger concerning **Janet Kirshman Pflieger**, contained news (as of July 29) of Janet's lengthy illness in the past year, which culminated in hospice care. I have been kept informed of Janet's problems for several months, as has **Hedy Holt Bancala**; we had talked frequently by phone about Janet and have had occasional phone chats with her. Janet and George's large family have visited frequently from West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and California. Sadly, later news arrived that she had passed away on September 26.

Now for the blue cards:

**Amy Fleming Chatfield** is still living in Leeland, Michigan (northwest lower peninsula) and has 10 grands (five boys, five girls). She says she spends much time gardening and "board meetings" (never bored!). (That's a direct quote — Amy, if that word in quotes is actually "board" and you aren't "bored," you're a wonder!) Amy invites Western friends to stop by if we are in Leelanau, which I remember as a lovely area.

**Mary Moffat Finkbeiner**, in Gambier, Ohio, is seeing Kenyon College students as they return for fall semester and hopes they remember their current days as fondly as we remember our days at Western! She finds life still good — full of books, quilting and crossword puzzles.

**Hedy (Betty) Holt Bancala** has enjoyed fall activities of a visit from her "baby" sister, who lives in Tucson (remembering the startling news that arrived in December 1941, when Hedy was a Western College junior) — and an even bigger reunion of family from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She is feeling better, from her long bout with shingles, and ready to entertain!

**Frances Judy Du Chemin** reports a good year and good health, with a startling number of activities — school volunteering four

hours a week at Denton (Texas) Christian Pre-school (35 years!); co-directing the Meals on Wheels program and driving a route each week; time to play bridge twice a week and get to water aerobics, same time! Wow! There may be other '43ers as active, but they do not get blue cards to me! I must not forget to add the biggest news — the arrival of first great-grandchild, Caden Lee Wardlaw, born in July 2007 to Fran's granddaughter Jennifer and husband. Travel to Williamsburg last August completed Fran's busy year.

So, your class rep, **Margaret Null Bell**, concludes with just a small note of thankfulness that life continues well, albeit considerably slowed down! A wedding here, a new baby there, a family get-together — all interspersed with the inevitable visits to the doctor — made up a satisfying life of almost 67 years with husband, Marion.

**Margaret Null Bell '43**  
801 Huntington Ave., Apt. 5  
Warren, IN 46792



The alumnae office notified me in March of the death of **Anne Campbell Buettner** and sent her death notice. I realized that we shared a birthday, but she was a year older than I. She left her daughter and two grandchildren. Her husband died a few short months after their marriage. She traveled all over the world during her lifetime and volunteered to bring loads of basic necessities to orphans in Russia and China, volunteering nearly 9,000 hours at her local hospitals.

And **Milly Walker Elberfeld** notified me of **Josephine Howell Tipton's** death in May 2007. I think that this is the first time she has written. Even after all these years, she said, "I have no news of any consequence as usual."

We didn't have a very good collection of news this year, but I'll give you what I have.

**Jane Harris Bugnard** finds it hard to believe that the class of '45 has been around for so long. She still attends two reading groups, a study group at church, and travels to Mexico to see her sister and to Colorado to see her daughter. As you may remember, she shares half of her son's duplex.

I can count on hearing from **Marilyn Inskoop Fischer** each year. Thank you, Inky!

She sent pictures of all her grandchildren but none of herself. They had a lot of rain in February, which flooded many of the homes along the lakes and rivers. Luckily, her home is on high ground. She keeps pretty much at home lately due to saving her energy. She has talked to **Betty Jones** and **Virginia Martin Daw**, but she didn't give me any news of them. She's been cleaning house as if she were getting ready to move, but she didn't mention that she was really moving.

**Toni Von Lengerke Kimm** made three trips to see her sister in the Bahamas, Harbor Island. One of her grandsons has been in Afghanistan, where he is a helicopter pilot. Toni has a granddaughter getting married any day now, and her grandson is in graduate school. She says "They're all so much smarter than I was."

**Virginia Cook Marquett**, another of my faithful correspondents, is, as all retirees seem to be, very busy. She went to North Carolina to visit her son-in-law, her granddaughter, Kathryn, and her 1-year-old great-granddaughter. In August, she took a riverboat cruise on the Rhine and Mosel rivers. She started in Antwerp to Basel, Switzerland. She'll be back in North Carolina for Christmas.

**Janet Heinz Philips** said that this was not a good year for her. She had a broken hip in August last year, a knee transplant in December, and a fractured pelvis in May of 2008. She went to Florida for three months and attended her granddaughter's graduation from Eckerd College. Her son, Vol Jr., died in January of 2008 of complications from kidney failure. During the year, she wrote her memoirs. The book is 312 pages long, with many pictures.

The best letter-writer of you all, recently, has been **Lucy Hittle Jackson Teeter**. After a 49-year Jackson marriage, she married a friend named Carroll Teeter, a fellow writer — he, a journalist. Between them, they have 10 kids and 10 grandkids to keep up with or track of. Lucy is busy writing the Jackson family history, assisted by all of the family letters that her sister had saved. Carroll's health requires him to stay in Florida where there is more oxygen than in their summer home in the mountains of North Carolina or their family compound in Michigan. So they're spending their time in Florida, close to family, doctors, and 911.

I (**Ardis Dechman Coninx**) continue to love my retirement home. I see this move as God's plan for my life, as the quadrupled space for our library was ready for me to take care of less than a year after I moved here. My townhouse is about four or five blocks from the library, so I get a good walk

*ALL classes come and celebrate WCAA's 35<sup>th</sup> at Reunion '09 ... June 19-21!*

a couple of times a day and have joined a balance class, two Yoga classes, and a newly formed Zumba class (aerobic exercise to Latin music). My kids come to see me occasionally, but they are all busy with their own families, so my friends here have become my family. I also do data entry for the alumni association at my former high school, and this connection got a friend of mine and me to start an alumni club of over 50 ETHS graduates here on our campus. This year will be our seventh year party, with graduates from 1926 to 1947.

I don't know whether any of the members of our class will be at Reunion this year, but I'm still hoping to be alive to go to our Reunion in 2010. I hope you are too. That will be our 70<sup>th</sup>! Love to you all, Dickie.

**Ardis Dechman Coninx '45**  
606 Trinity Court  
Evanston, IL 60201  
aconinx@aol.com



The politics of 1947 were a long time ago, but, from the news of many of our classmates, 2008 keeps many of us involved in the affairs of the world. A long letter from **Anne Mack Dean**, written on vacation in Hendersonville, NC, with Peter, Charlotte, Julian (5) and twins Clara and Jack (2½) says that she and her sister Mary will take a fall "lobster" tour up the East Coast and one of the highlights will be spending a few days with **Mary Lou Feller Epreman**. Mary Lou is very active in Democratic politics in New Hampshire, but Anne and Mary Lou will also share their disappointment that Hillary Clinton lost the nomination. "It's time for a woman to run for president," writes Anne. She also had a busy summer with a big family reunion in Washington, DC, enjoying each other and exploring the historic beginnings of our government and the current landmarks, adding illumination to the election



"A trio with much catching up to do": Anne Mack Dean (left) received a call from Barbara House Crenshaw (middle), which prompted a meeting in Baltimore with Marilyn McKasson Pletcher (right) as well.

coming up for the kids. News of other classmates comes from Anne, too. She spent time in the spring with **Ellen Pletcher Marsden**.

**Dene Stern Mayer** has a guest room that she would love to share with any Western comrades. To stay in the historic/political mode, she suggests nearby Philadelphia is a wonderful historic experience. She's also only a quick bus ride to New York. Anyone want to meet for lunch? After six days a week exercising with a bunch of 30-year-olds, she's ready for any activity!

While our daily calendars reflect current political events, the class travelers are keeping us in touch with much earlier philosophies. A windfall came to **Jane Alexander Durrell** by way of a commission from her former employer, the Cincinnati Art Museum, to write a history of the museum, combined with an offer from a bicycle tour organization to create their web site to make a big trip possible in the fall. A quick visit with her son, Jeff, in London preceded a tour in Greece, which Jane felt had an appropriate Western connection through Narka Nelson's devotion to the classics. After the tour, her daughter, Amy, met her for another week of exploring in Greece. She topped off the adventure with another stop in London to relate travel tales and details to her family there. Just to add to her London connections, grandson Matthew spent several weeks with her in summer while he worked at King's Island. His verdict: London is better. Could that opinion reflect the tedium of the American election campaigns?

A long e-mail from **Mary Tillinghast** brought news of a very special trip in March 2007 with a Peace Corps buddy working in Mexico. They went to see the Olmec heads at the archeological museum in Villahermosa and from there went to Palenque to see the "most complete" Mayan ruins. After viewing this ancient form of government, she moved to the Medieval era with a visit to Croatia, Slovenia and Dubrovnik. Mary has decided to travel in the future with travel agencies who will assume some of the responsibility in support of her adventurous spirit. She recommends Grand Circle and would love to have a companion who also is interested in out-of-the-way locations. When not traveling, Mary lives in Raleigh where she fills her time with books, helping to produce a monthly newsletter, and bridge. She also had a visit with **Barbara House Crenshaw**.

**Elaine Kramer Millman** leads a busy life, still seeking to make the most of every day. She and Herman enjoyed a river cruise on



A Dean (that's Anne Mack Dean) family reunion!

the Danube, but their life is filled with volunteering, exercising regularly, and (you won't be surprised) frequent trips to the theater taking in repertory from *Hamlet* to *Gypsy* to *Hair*. Just in case they didn't have enough to do, a major storm bashed roof, deck, and skylights, creating a mess that took six months to fully repair.

However, life is not all about exotic travels for the class of '47. At the time of her writing, **Gene DeScherer Popkin** was surviving hurricane jitters well, ignoring the absence of water bottles on supermarket shelves, grateful for ordinary thunderstorms and lightning shows. She took her annual breather in the north to visit family and enjoy mountain greenery. Her first great-grandchild will arrive in November, a true gift of Thanksgiving. Gene herself is still "playing with clay," creating plates and pots.

**Maxine Murray Long** reports that all is well in her part of the world — children and grandchildren all busy and thriving. She is taking the view that a new political season is interesting but a wait-and-see approach is also necessary.

After 25 years of volunteering at the Art Institute of Chicago and loving every year of it, **Jody Farrell Vogel** is ready to try for another 25! Tai Chi and swimming, some travel, and the enjoyment of family and grandchildren occupy her time away from the Institute. That family produced a rousing celebration of her birthday!

The **Kirkhoff** family had a wonderful time together in June. We went to two college graduations and spent the rest of the time on Cape Cod where our Embassy family has a home. They had a little longer vacation because they were changing posts from South Africa to India so everyone wanted to stop by for a reunion with them. Great for Jim and me! Nothing very historic about it unless you count the elder relatives (us) and our proximity to Pilgrim landmarks, but lots of fun. We even had a great early celebration of our anniversary with champagne, lobster, and dancing in the livingroom by all ages. It's been a good year, filled with some

new hobbies and sharing them with new and old friends. My latest is trying to ring bells. Jim does wonder when he sees me waving spoons in the air to practice at home and it does make it very hard to stir the soup!

You will all be grieved to hear of the death of our classmate **Georgia Voorhees Mueller** on April 3, 2008. We will all remember her marriage to Konrad in March 1947. It seemed the ultimate romantic event when they took vows under a tree near Oxford with the blessing of a local minister. Georgia and Konrad lived many years in Washington, D.C., with the exception of seven years overseas in London, Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone. Georgia served many volunteer organizations including a term as Maryland state president of the American Association of University Women. She is survived by Konrad, son Stephen, daughters Margaret and Marianne, as well as grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

We also regret to tell you that travel difficulties have made it necessary for **Anne Mack Dean** to resign from her position as a WCAA trustee. She has represented us well, bringing wisdom and devotion to all her activities. Such service is exceptional and we, and all the alumnae classes, will miss her contributions to the present and future of the Alumnae Association. However, Anne will continue to be an active member and Reunion visitor and urges all of us to join her in Oxford in June. She reports that the staff is planning very special events for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that it should be a great mix of many classes, and a chance to see old friends and to make new ones.

Thank you all who wrote, but we'd love to hear from the rest of you. We don't all travel all of the time and we would like to know what you are doing on normal days, what you are reading and thinking, what activities you enjoy most.

**Anne Eberhart Kirkhoff '47**  
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**Celebrating 60 years!**

The **Lawrence** twins — **Shirley Conyers** and **Pat Chowning** — want classmates to know that they are doing well. Jim and Shirley have their own vineyard and make their own wine. They are still active in Sonoma, California, where Jim works as a tasting room rep. Pat is still in Noblesville, Indiana. Both gals are avid mahjong players and teachers, and phone each other often. Shir-



*Class of '48 "hitched their wagon to a star"!  
At Reunion '08, left to right: Ellen Siddall Zimmerman, Alice Crabb Brandon, Marge Hoerres Kalkoske, Nancy Fleetwood McKinney*

ley has three children and eight grandchildren — Pat has two children, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter on the way. Both are always interested in hearing from classmates and Western friends.

Highlights of a sort for **Jo Moore Becker** were a bad fall in September '07, followed by a disastrous storm in December in the Northwest. The fall broke her left wrist, nose, glasses, and badly damaged her knee. The storm left her with no power or phone in her all-electric house for eight days. Luckily, her place sustained no damage, and friends came to her rescue with food and TLC.

Following her children north to Leland, Michigan, her previous summer hometown, proved to be a good move for **Peg Krehbiel Meeker**. She keeps busy through church, friends and community. She sees **Mary Jane Liggett Matson**, whose brother-in-law attends the same church. Of Peg's 16 grandchildren, three are married, and her first great-grandchild is expected in September. She would very much like to show the area to any Westernites.

Elderhostel trips to East Aurora, New York, Annapolis, Maryland, and Duxbury, Massachusetts, were taken by **Mary Jane Liggett Matson**. In late June, she went to Ohio for the annual family reunion, and from there went to Lake Leelanau, Michigan, to see Cliff's brother. She also visited her sister, **Lucy Liggett '54**, while there.

**Betty Huttenbauer Heldman** was our class's sole representative at the Reunion Meily Society Luncheon. Both she and Mary Jane say that '49ers can do better than that! Betty says that our class flag replica looks as good as it did when first displayed.

**Bunny Bartizal Proctor** continues to be active as a lay reader and chalice bearer in church, and is also on the altar guild. She enjoys gardening, walking, and working out at Curves. Sanibel in the winter gets them

out of Cincinnati weather. If you like rafting in Class VI water, her two sons own and are expanding their business in W. Va. to make it an adventure center. In September, she will make her annual visit to three high school friends in Seattle.

**Ruth Ault Hadley** and her husband, David, continue to be involved in medical and volunteer activities. He has been appointed for another four years as Hendricks County, Indiana, health officer, and does not know how to be retired. Ruth is involved in the Friends Meeting in Plainfield, Indiana, does sewing for newborns in need, and reads once a month to residents of their local nursing home. She took three trips east for various meetings, including the wedding of her step-granddaughter in Teaneck, New Jersey. A highlight was being invited by the present owner of the house where she grew up to come inside and see what changes had been made. They went twice to Freeport, Maine, to see Dave's sister and had lobster at her beachfront cottage.

On Nantucket Island they call **Jane Carpenter Jones** and her husband, Bill, "wash-shores." They have lived there since 1987 and take advantage of swimming and boating. They love to travel, and in the past year they have taken trips to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada (trans-Canada train trip), Florida, Texas and Egypt. On Nantucket, Jane keeps busy with DAR meetings, church committees, book club, and as a docent at the Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum. She would enjoy hearing from Western friends.

Greek Islands called to **Elizabeth Mitchell Baker**, who visited there with her children last spring. Later, she sold her old condo and moved onto one floor in Peoria, Illinois. Bixie writes that her children are all married and happy.

**Lynn Trimmer Collins's** blue card got caught in a cookbook when she was trying to cook Brussels sprouts — we hope she was successful! She still spends five months in Michigan, where by now all her children have their own cottages. She still does some canning, but not as much as in the past. She enjoys reading and walking (when her legs let her).

**Grace Sherman Streb** and Greg miss travel with their big motor home. They hate flying, so drive to visit in the Southeast states, the West and the North. They have added a loving little dog to their lives. Their oldest grandson and wife, who had a civil marriage service, decided to redo it with a big modern renaissance affair in August, complete with period costumes! Grace wonders who'll be coming to our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion next year.

**Ruth Perrill Sheridan** has lived in Naples, Florida, for many years, and has occasionally met Western girls there. Her life has

been busy with trips, volunteer groups and supporting the Naples Philharmonic Center, etc. Call her if you are in the area.

We offer heartfelt sympathy to **Dorothy Davis Kruse**, whose husband, Freddie, died in May after 59 years of marriage. He had congestive heart failure and was home after many months in a rehab facility. She is doing OK, with the help of her five children and 10 grandchildren.

It was graduation time for **Nancy Suter Hull** and her family. Her oldest granddaughter, Rachel, graduated from Washington and Lee, and will enter Emory University for her master's this fall. Mike graduated from high school and will enter Bridgewater College in the fall. Rebecca will be a junior in high school. Steven still lives in Hagerstown, Maryland, and is a lawyer. Daughter Donna lives in Florida; they visit her each February and she comes to Maryland in July. They enjoyed two cruises — the first out of Baltimore to Bermuda, and one out of Ft. Lauderdale.

**Martha Roop Coleman** loves her new assisted-living home. She had cataract surgery, but does not note much improvement. She has been having a lot of fun reading her old diaries from 1938 on — she says they read like fiction, although she can't always recall the events and cast of characters. For any of these she makes up a glorious past!

**Betty Alling Atwood** lives in her home in Surry, Maine, not far from Acadia National Park. She loves gardening, and is program chairman of the Surry Garden Club. She also belongs to a neighborhood book club and for years has served as a "friendly visitor" at the Blue Hill Congregational Church. She is a docent at the Jonathan Fisher House, an historic home in Blue Hill, and is on the board of the Hancock Democratic National Committee where she does canvassing and calling.

**Jane Osgood Tatge** and husband Bruce stayed close to home this summer, but we did enjoy a train trip to Montreal with my brother, John, and his wife to celebrate three 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays. The ride along Lake Champlain was beautiful, as were the botanical gardens in Montreal and dinner in the Old Town. In June, we went to Cape May, New Jersey, for Bruce's cousin's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Family came from near and far, and rented a big beach house for the occasion. We were fortunate to get a Victorian B&B right across the street. Cape May was Bruce's mother's home town, so the trip brought back many fond memories. The last week in August saw us headed north to Vermont and Maine. One of those we visited was **Betty Alling Atwood**, with whom we spent two lovely days before coming to Cumberland, Maine, for our youngest grandson's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. Before returning home we went

to Fenway Park to cheer the Red Sox, with wonderful seats provided by son Bob.

**Jane Osgood Tatge '49**  
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tatgeb@alum.mit.edu



**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh:** Our lives continue to be busy, enjoying our time in Vero Beach during the winters and Cincinnati during the summers. We took a trip out west this summer to visit my cousin and Bill's cousin, and enjoyed seeing Monterey. We took a trip down to see Hearst Castle while we were there. We will head back down to Vero Beach in October. I hope to see everyone at the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2011. Please save the date — June 17-19, 2011, and no excuses, ladies, you can put this on your calendar three years in advance!!

**Nancy Hon Krauth:** "The big news here was the historic flood of June 13, 2008. I live just outside Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and wasn't directly affected by the rising water, but have been in many ways since. Norm was scheduled for a colonoscopy at Mercy Hospital on the 13<sup>th</sup>, but had to cancel when the flood swamped Mercy and put it out of business for several weeks (Fortunately he canceled before he began the prep! He is a 12-year colon cancer survivor). We bought a new black Lab pup last fall, so the winter and spring were spent raising and training Tripp. We and the three dogs spent the month of March in Fairhope, Alabama, to get away from Iowa's severe winter weather. Spring here was wet and summer is hot. It's the same all over the Midwest. We are looking forward to a week's visit from son Steve in August. He lives in California and usually spends Christmas with us, but couldn't get away this past December so we have not seen him since 2006. Norm and I continue



'51 classmates Natalie Connelly and Ruthie Rhodenbaugh



Mary Shenefield '51 and Bushy

to be in good health. We still hit the fitness center regularly in order to keep up with the dogs and look after yard and garden."

**Grete Stern Wrede:** "I was sorry to miss this year's Reunion. At that time, I was in the middle of a six-week drive, which included a company retiree reunion at Niagara Falls; visits to sons in Saugerties, New York, Torrington and Stratford, Connecticut; and a friend of 65 years in Orange, Connecticut. Lastly, I saw my daughter in Walnutport, Pennsylvania, before returning home, some 3,800 miles later. Also saw grandchildren and great-grandchildren's baseball games and class music recitals, Memorial Day parade with four family members participating as Scout Master, Cub Scout, Indian and Miss Liberty. Ten days after returning home, I attended a church conference in Los Angeles and touched based with a grand-niece I haven't seen in 10 years. Met her husband and enjoyed their two young sons. Stephen McSwain makes custom steel guitars and has many well known rock stars as his customers. Great trip!"

**Mary Peterson Shenefield:** "Bushy, my pet shih tzu, goes with me nearly everywhere. Phoenix to visit Eric and Linette is as far as I roam from Prescott, although last year I did go to Ohio for my 60<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion. I have stepped back into some of my volunteer activities, primarily AAUW and my church. My granddaughter Joni writes a blog every week with the adventures of Jasper, my 18 month-old great-grandson. She brought him with the rest of the Georgia family to Arizona to see my other granddaughter, Christy, receive her Ph.D. in business management. She is now assistant professor at her alma mater, University of Georgia."

**Natalie Christopher Connelly:** "Nancy McCudden Osgood flew down to Phoenix on April 19, and on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Nancy, my husband, John, and I drove up to the Navajo Country to Monument Valley, Canyon De Chelly, the Petrified Forest, points between

and back to Phoenix. It was fascinating and always fun. We did not make our annual trip to St. Paul and Wisconsin until July, so we did not see Nancy until the last day before we flew home. We had lunch with the entire family, and then Nancy drove John, son Mike and me to the airport. Nancy is the honorary grandmother to Brigid and John B. I am flying back to Indiana on August 20 to join other high school friends for my 61<sup>st</sup> reunion. I can say that to you all since we are all the same age!" [jconnelly@iopener.net](mailto:jconnelly@iopener.net)

**Jane Donaldson Buswold:** "As a result of a hip replacement in May 2007, I can now claim a flat stomach and no love handles. Physical therapy and daily exercises will do the trick. Physical movement has never been high on my list, but the wish to walk did give me incentive. I went to Forth Worth to see my sister who lives in an assisted living place and for the first time we did the 'remember when' thing. She is 13 years older, and I learned a lot from her that I had never heard before. Good fun. Life is on an even keel right now. I wish the same for all."

**Barbara McGill Benson:** "We keep moving on, although we've had to stop playing tennis. Jack severely pulled a leg muscle and I tore my left shoulder rotator cuff. So we walk a lot to try to keep body and soul together. This past July, we took a wonderful trip through the Northwest to see the beauty of Mt. Ranier, the Cascade Mountains, Glacier, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Thank goodness such country is preserved for us to all enjoy. Jack's still working full time, but as for me, I'm thoroughly enjoying my retirement." [Bensonj403@aol.com](mailto:Bensonj403@aol.com)



Bensons, on their 50<sup>th</sup>

Glacier, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Thank goodness such country is preserved for us to all enjoy. Jack's still working full time, but as for me, I'm thoroughly enjoying my retirement." [Bensonj403@aol.com](mailto:Bensonj403@aol.com)

**Helena Fiesselmann Zabriskie:** "Greetings, one and all! This September 2008, John and I will have celebrated our 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and will have lived in our home 48 years, though if the housing market improves in Birmingham, we will be out of here in a flash! We are thankful for our children and delight in our two grandsons. We continue our volunteer work at our church, in our community and at the Detroit Zoo. One note of interest, perhaps: For many years two of our children have lived in the Chicago area and we have always driven over to see them. Because of age and unexpected bad weather, we took the

Amtrak this spring to our grandsons' activity. I thought it was fun, John not so much, especially since the train was three hours late getting into Chicago and one hour late returning to Detroit. The trip recalled for me all the B&O train trips I took from Hamilton to Detroit while at Western. At that time the trains were crowded because of returning servicemen."

**Alice Merwin Tweedy:** "I continue with volunteer work and enjoy visits from the children. I keep more busy than I think I wish to!"

**Jeanne Owen Buhler:** "In the summers we are constantly back and forth to Smith Mt. Lake and the piles of mail grow on my desk! Frank and I are fine with the usual old-age stuff that seems to come to all of us. Our family is all doing well —the oldest grandson, Owen, just graduated from the College of Charleston, South Carolina. Our son-in-law, Tom, is heading the School of Business at Sweet Briar College now. I am president of the Lynchburg Adult Care Center Board of Directors, which keeps me busy during the week."

**Josselyn Bennett Winslow:** "Greetings from Bellingham. Frank and I had an adventure this summer. Our 25-year-old granddaughter, Jessie, is attending design school in New York City. We asked if she would be willing to act as a tour guide for us, her brother (age 24, from Phoenix) and four other cousins (ages 14-20). She agreed, so planning began. When we arrived at the airport, our 20-year-old grandson from Montana managed to make reservations for our ride into the city — which, due to a generous cabbie, included a great night time trip from LaGuardia, in a loop down through Brooklyn, along the river and up into lower Manhattan to the hotel. The three boys and Frank and I stayed in the hotel suite and the two girls shared a tiny New York apartment with Jessie and her roommate. We had subway passes, New York City passes for the major tourist sites and got tickets for *South Pacific*. While the sites were fun, the best part of the trip was seeing the cousins having the fun of being together and enjoying the experience.

"On our way back to the West Coast, we stopped by Minneapolis for a Korean War reunion. It was a get-together of the individuals who were members of the Korean Military Advisory Group. I am still volunteering with the Alzheimer Society and in my spare time, trying to get some old pieces of furniture which we had in our basement refinished and moved into our condo. Downsizing from a big house to the condo has been challenging, but enjoyable. It has encouraged me to see if it is worthy of the space and fits into our lives these days. My best to all Westerners."

**Yvonne Beaumont Mc Cullough:** "All is well in Maryland. It has been a good year with our health holding up enabling Jim and me to have a lovely trip to the Hawaiian Islands in April. My garden at home flourished and the one at the day care center where I volunteer also provided some beauty for the people to enjoy. I gave my husband an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party (at home) with 25 guests. I don't think I'll do that again but it was a fun time. One granddaughter married in September and another gave birth to a boy, making me a great-grandma! I try not to think of getting old. Blessings to all ..."

Sixtieth Reunion, June 17-19, 2011 ... NO excuses!

**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh '51**  
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Here it is the week after Labor Day and I am trying to finish these notes so that you can possibly read them before Christmas.

First, let me tell you that nine people attended all or some part of the Reunion Week-end. I was sorry not to make the trip to Ohio, but here's the group that did: **Barbara Johnson Wright**, known as "Long John," **Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg**, known as "Johnny," **Mary Ann McCain Lynch**, **Lee Ann Prendergast Curry**, **Sheila Prendergast Luetkehans**, **Marita Lakonen Judge**, **Ginny Wells Weiss**, **Joannie Willitts Glatte**, and **Pris Strand Berry**.

The Reunion got off to a good start at a Coffee Brunch put on by the Knolls and **Johnny**, who was so excited to show off her new home. Her address is: 23 Ivywood Square, Oxford, OH 45056. Phone: 513-524-7418. To quote her most recent e-mail, "There are so many friendly people here, and something to keep you busy from morning until night, or at least after dark. What a life! Please come and see me if you are in the area, particularly at Reunion-time." Does she sound happy or what!

**Mary Ann McCain** e-mailed that the party at the Knolls was wonderful and included a cake with frosting that looked like a replica of our class flag. After Reunion she went home to celebrate her granddaughter's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, then off to Mammoth and Yosemite.

I had a nice note from **Lee Ann Prendergast Curry**, who had gone to the Reunion with her sister **Sheila Prendergast Luet-**



*"Let's Go Crazy," sang the Class of '53! At Reunion '08, left to right: Mary Ann McCain Lynch, Pris Strand Berry, Sheila Prendergast Luetkehans, Barbara Johnson Wright, Lee Ann Prendergast Curry, Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg*

**kehans.** Pris and Johnny showed off their homes on Friday, and on Saturday they visited Miss Peabody, and went behind the scenes at the Miami Art Museum, viewing new acquisitions before they were displayed for the public. To quote Lee Ann, "The campus looked great and surprisingly the people who work in the kitchens and around the campus buildings, etc. have a strong feeling for the college and were very proud of keeping it up. The Meily Society luncheon, the Annual Meeting and the Banquet were interesting too. And, as always, the food was delicious."

I spoke on the phone to **Marge Ashton Ruby**, who had attended our 50<sup>th</sup>. She regretted not making this last Reunion, but was preparing to go on a trip, flying to Poland and eventually to Israel. Marge lives in Denver, has six kids, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. It keeps her busy just remembering birthdays.

**Eva Franceschi Stanford** sent me an e-mail with her new telephone number: 914-214-834. (After seven rings, if no one answers, it will go to e-mail.

**Doris Jeanne McIntosh Webb** writes that she still enjoys meeting people from all over the world, who visit her B&B, the Ebenezer House in Rochelle, VA. Not long ago she co-authored a book, *Self-Esteem and Empowerment*, published by the Professional Women's Network. Her youngest grandson has recently been accepted at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

Faithful **Marty Wilson Rowan** writes that she has just returned from a family cruise on the Baltic Sea. She keeps busy and involved between her church, her book club and many friends.

**Lyn Dixon Present** writes that she is still enjoying her "old" age, playing golf, volunteering and having fun with her grand and great-grand children. She went to Oxford for a Miami event and enjoyed seeing Western's beautiful campus again.

Lyn keeps in touch with **Vesta Peters Philbrick**, just as I do. I chatted with her just before writing these notes. She has had to put her husband in an assisted-living facility, nearby. It was a necessary move, as Vesta was unable to give him the constant care

that he needed. Their grandson Ryan, a sergeant in the ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment?), is leaving momentarily for his third deployment to Iraq. He has been wounded twice already by IUD's and has been awarded two Purple Hearts.

There were two nice notes from **Mac Culver Daniels**, always a loyal correspondent. She has two sons in the service, one in the regular Army and one in the National Guard. He too expects to be returning to the Middle East in early 2009. Their oldest granddaughter is attending the University of Wisconsin, in Eau Clair. Mac is very involved with her church and family.

I hadn't heard from **Pat Brandenburger Green** in several years. She writes that she and Frank are still enjoying retirement, living six months in Florida and six in Pittsburgh. Their daughter lives in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

**Sally Trowbridge Blackwelder** sent along this wonderful picture of her and her husband



*Cruising Blackwelders*

band taken last November on a cruise. Sally was honored last year by receiving an honorary degree from Lenoir Rhyne College, in recognition of her work in education and starting the Catawba Science Center in 1974. Her family will be celebrating her granddaughter's wedding in December.

It was fun to hear from **Sandra Packard Cleveland** after a number of years. She writes that she "has many happy memories of Western, though she only attended for one year. She graduated from Syracuse University. After leaving the East Coast and NYC, she lived in Bozeman, Montana, and then in San Diego before her new husband, Jack Cleveland, and she moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1994, Sandra has three daughters: two in Portland, Oregon, and one in Portland, Maine.

An e-mail from **Cynthia Barnes Stokes** said how much she would have liked to be at the Reunion and seen Johnny's new home at the Knolls. She knows she will visit Oxford now, as she will have a place to stay. She is still working full time for a Dallas Law firm.

A long letter, as promised last year, came from **Audrey Palmer Jones**. She and her husband, Bob, have done a bit of traveling



*Traveling Joneses*

since she last wrote to me. They spent a week in Cincinnati attending Bob's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion at the University's College of Medicine. It was fun seeing old friends and the many changes in the college since 1957. Just two weeks after returning home from the reunion, they left on an Elderhostel trip to Wales. Their grandchildren are either in, or graduated from college. They are off the end of September to enjoy New England's fall foliage, beginning in Maine. Here's a handsome picture of two Joneses.

**Beryl Wallman Bennewith** sent along a blue card, hoping it would escape Gustav and its followers this hurricane season. They are planning a trip in October to Philadelphia, followed by trip to Nova Scotia to visit friends.

One Sunday in August, **Debbie Cohen Kalodner** and her daughter, Liz, made their annual visit to Cape Cod. As always it was fun to see her, even if it was only for a short visit. Our daughter, Avery, joined us along with a Cape Cod girl who roomed with Liz in graduate school. I might say we couldn't get a word in edgewise; but we all, including my husband, Paul, had a lively visit. Debbie looked wonderful, as you can see from



Class Rep Cary (right) with Debbie Kalodner, catching up in Cape Cod

the picture. Can't say the same for the one of me.

I just want to say how sorry I was to miss the Reunion festivities in Oxford — especially Johnny's new home, the camaraderie of old friends, and seeing the campus in the spring. There is no startling news from this end, but we are well and hoping all hurricanes stay way out at sea. We spent several weeks in Maine before the mountains had tremendous rains; we'll be going back soon to enjoy the fall foliage, and eventually the winter. Keep well and thank you for your loyalty, sending me your news.

**Cary Kimbark Revere '53**  
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Instead of writing about herself, **Charlene Ashing Barry** sent several questions about the progress of the organ fund and offered suggestions which I have not included here because the next card I received was from **Shirley Small Osepchuk**, who has made seven trips to Oxford since 2004 (and currently serves on the board of trustees). She says "All is well with the WCAA AND the Kumler organ is being fixed!!!" In between her trips to Oxford, Shirley also managed her seventh trip to Japan. [Editor's note: See "Nota Bene," page 60, for an update on progress of the organ restoration.]

**Lucile Robinson Allen** has also been traveling: Greece a year ago, Charleston, South Carolina, a river cruise to Holland, Germany, and Austria, and Nova Scotia this fall. She also went to San Diego, where she met with **Margie Stackhouse Flickinger** and **Barb Giles Grant** several times. They hope to meet again to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

**Wendy Hurrell Hughes** did not have any great vacation adventures this year, but she and husband Jerry did have adventures. Jerry had both knees replaced in October and they had puppies born in February. "Both adventures took much patience and restructuring of time. Jerry is doing well as are our shepherd mom and two puppies. Recently, we had our 17<sup>th</sup> grandchild with number 18 due in October. And my article about **Sally Miller Ihne's** and my growing-up interest in horses was published in the November 2007 issue of *Equus* magazine."

Way to go, Wendy! How come it is the non-English majors (Wendy and **Kay Williams**) who are being published nationally while we English-writing majors (Sally and I) are not?

Another non-traveler this year was **Sara Babcock Burneson**. Husband Greg fell and broke his ankle and ended up in a non-walking cast. They used a wheelchair mostly and a walker for transfer. He is now in a walking boot but is still limited in his ability to get around. Naturally many things were canceled or postponed. However, Sara keeps busy (in addition to caring for Greg) by continuing her work in charitable missions and foundations. And she participates in walking marathons where her children join her. And I think with my new knee that I am doing well to walk a mile!

**Carolyn Dunkin Schulte** says her only news is that she retired on June 30 after 14 years at the Phoenix Art Museum as tour coordinator. Perhaps now, she adds, she can accomplish all the projects piling up around home. Good luck, Caroline, and congratulations on a job well done.

**Pris Strand Berry '54** forwarded the sad news that **Sharon English Blake** died suddenly on June 30, 2008, in Woodland Hills, California.

Since her retirement in 2001, **Sally Miller Ihne** has visited me, **Mary Sicer Moore**, every spring for a few days on her way to an annual meeting in the Palm Springs of California. But this year I visited her for a week instead. Sally had promised that Minnesota was "paradise" in early May, but due to Global Cooling, Minnesota was still a bit icy in May. It didn't matter. We still had a great time visiting.

This summer Sally is competing at shows with her Shetland sheepdog, Odyssey Ernie of Wyowind, CD RE, to earn his Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title. So far they have been to shows in the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Bismarck, North Dakota, and were planning to go to Des Moines, Iowa, after Labor Day. For vacation some people travel to Europe, Africa, or the Orient. Some people take cruises. Sally and Ernie go to dog shows.

Minnesota was not the only place that I visited this past year. I wanted to be able to take advantage of my new knee and went exploring canyons in Death Valley, hoping to see spring flowers. (They were better in Prescott.) A memorial service for my first cousin took me back to Indiana. Afterward, I spent a week with my sister and niece, visiting favorite places I had known: Clifty Falls State Park (remember our Howl there?), New Albany and old family houses there, the covered bridges of Parke County, Turkey Run, and finally West Lafayette. I even found time to drive my niece through Western, although it was Sunday and everything was closed. I went to Maine hoping to be there for the birth of my second great-grandson (he is here now) and then to Georgia, where I shared in a grandson's first weekend family pass from basic training at Fort Benning.

Along the way I urged friends and family to read my favorite book of the year, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson. It is the inspiring true story of a man who fails to reach the summit of K-2, gets lost hiking down, and finds his true vocation: building schools, especially for girls, in the remote regions of Pakistan. I urge each of you to read it too.

**Mary Sicer Moore '55**  
14 Broadmoor  
Prescott, AZ 86305



Just a year ago we were celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. In that year, life has changed for some of us and for the Western College Program. We who live in the area are fortunate to meet and know the people involved with the program. We are protective of any changes and hope the spirit of the college survives. I know from the lists of Class of '57 donors to the Annual Fund that many of you remember your alma mater fondly and that you appreciate the quality of your Western educations. Some of the "old" Western continues in the spirit of the Western College Program.

Last spring the Miami University Women's Studies Program sponsored a panel discussion entitled "No Men Allowed, Women's Colleges: A Good Idea?" You would have been so proud of the Western women who participated. They talked about their "terrific role models," about enjoying the "company of women," about faculty who valued what they thought, about "finding my voice," about high expectations. It was a small group that heard the discussion but it made me very proud of my Western education.



Most of Sandy Grimes Surico's family, summer 2007

Now, a little update from the blue cards — From Seattle, Washington, **Mary Ann Fichtner-Mountain**: "Since I haven't written in ages I thought I would let you know that I am still alive and kicking!! If you are expecting an exciting travelogue, read no further. After two visits to Greece I have no desire to go elsewhere. Not to mention the dollar exchange against the Euro!!!! I've been hanging around the "estate," doing the usual planting etc. It was a very cold spring — into Juneuary!!!! Late bloomers! I have gone "green" too, and planted a veggie garden and am already eating some of it. Just waiting for corn on the cob! Going to eat the beets at Thanksgiving! This week I plan to make Oregon grape jelly from my yard and a secret stash I discovered in the neighborhood! My dog, Clio, and I walk every day and have now met all the dogs and their owners in three blocks! Makes the trek more fun!!! I could go broke feeding the birds, but it paid off in several pairs of gold finches and now their offspring. Their brilliant yellow color brightens the feeder. I am still painting and have switched to pastels. I am doing well and still loving it!! Kids are good and the granddogs and all the other fur people are great!!! Till next year???"

From Columbus, Ohio, **Eilyn Talbott Bogan**: "I'm so glad Linda, Eric, Marissa and I attended Reunion Weekend this year. It was fun to see everyone from the '58 class. I often think about the "good old days" and wish we could all be together again. We were in TN for a week in July. We had a cabin near the Natchez Trace Parkway. We did some sightseeing along the Parkway, lots of info on Meriwether Lewis. A week after we got back, my sister and her daughter and Linda and I had a girls' weekend away. We went to W.Va. and toured the Fenton Art Glass Co. Then crossed back over the river to Marietta, OH, and went through the downtown shops. We had a great time and

plan to find more new and exciting places to go in the coming years."

From Akron, Ohio, **Ione Sandberg Cowan**: "Was it really a year ago that we were celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup>? Bill and I continue to be blessed with no more aches and pains than expected at our age. We're still living in our house and still talking about downsizing. It's probably time but it's hard to clear out 35 years of memories. Our travel has centered around our family — Hilton Head with daughters Alexandra and Nora, their spouses and five of our grandchildren. We had beautiful weather and a great time and plan to re-

turn next year. Bill and I went to Bogota, Colombia, to spend Easter with Nora and her family — husband Johannes and Mathias (10), Santiago (8) and Hanna (3). We also went to Greenville, SC, in March to visit Alexandra, Doug, Matthew (15) and Sarah (11). We're planning another trip there in October. Tod and his son Charlie (8) visited us in June. Tod, Kitty and Charlie live in Cambridge, MA. One thing about having our children so spread out is having good places to visit.

"We had a milestone of sorts when Matthew got his driver's license last month. Matthew plays trumpet in the high school marching band which will be performing in the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day. We'll miss the Gator Bowl as we'll be in Chile over Christmas and New Year's."

From New Hampshire, **Sandy Grimes Abouzeid-Surico**: "Here is a picture of my family as of last summer, minus my daughter-in-law, Kathy, and new grandson, Max. Stephen and I are enjoying good health with many activities and projects. We travel regularly to see my four children and 10 grandchildren living in Boston, NJ and Italy. Life is good!"

From Dayton, Ohio, **Mary Kay Droste Feller**: "This has been a travel summer: Seattle (twice), Hawaii, Hilton Head. This was the year for our entire family (21 of us) to be together for a summer vacation, which we did in Hilton Head. This was also our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary year and our children planned quite a celebration for us. It took place in one of our historic parks' transportation center, complete with antique railway cars — celebrating our 50 years' traveling through our marriage. They did not leave a stone unturned and we enjoyed every minute of it with family and friends. We will continue this year yet with our Mid-

dle School After-School program at our church with all volunteer workers. Last year we had 298 on our roster (averaging 70-80 students each Monday and Wednesday)."

From Athens, Georgia, **Charlotte Knox Eberhard**: "This year, varied activities have kept us busy and close to home in Georgia. I plunged into several classes here in Athens — Writing Biographies, Memoirs, and Autobiographies, Psychology of Music — Music's Effect on the Brain, and Preparing and Eating Raw Foods (many new ideas, which among others, emphasized many ways to eat spinach and broccoli daily!). I have been participating in a Yoga class — stretching muscles I don't even remember knowing about — but enjoying it very much. Work on history and family history research for myself and others, church activities, and community arts programs have been important also. Wally accompanied me to the National Genealogical Conference in May, where he immersed himself in German history and genealogy, while I learned about new computer programs and web sites for research. As an unofficial delegate, I've accompanied Wally to several state meetings of his literacy and state friends of libraries boards and sat in on their programs which are very interesting. This takes us all over Georgia and has been a great learning experience. September will find me in Kansas City for my 55<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Hope all is well for all of you!"

At Christmas I heard from some of you . . .

From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, **Cecilia Segawa Seigle**: Cecilia went to Japan for an emotional memorial service for her mother; then traveled with her sister to Hokkaido and other cities. In spite of sciatica and osteoarthritis, she goes to lots of concerts, theater, art exhibitions, lectures and seminars and traveled last October to the Adriatic coast. She credits excellent therapists for keeping her going. At Christmas time she said she is writing another book.

From Newton Square, Pennsylvania, **Joan Mueller McNally**: Joan and Mac enjoyed a busy year of travel and also as grandparent spectators for grandson John's football and soccer athletic events. They write that they are in the throes of a big life change. After 23 years with their company, son Steven has taken another position. Mac plans to close his company in 2009 and Joan will also retire from her many duties with the company they have run for the past 26 years.

From Sanibel, Florida, **Nancy Lakamp (Sinclair) Simpson**: Nancy writes that she had a chance meeting with **Joan Mueller McNally** and her husband while dining out with friends in Sarasota. What a nice surprise! Nancy reports that when she is in Sanibel she has a steady stream of welcome guests. She is busy with children and very young grandchildren who live out west, and with

maintaining houses in Dover, Massachusetts, and in Florida. Alaska was on her travel agenda for August 2008

From Cincinnati, Ohio, **Liz Beatty (Forg) Lee**: Liz and husband Bob planned to cruise the South American coast, including Antarctica last winter. Daughter Betsy has moved back to Ohio, Bill and family are living near Chicago, and John has joined a firm with two other lawyers practicing in the greater Cincinnati area. Life is good.

From Ironton, Ohio, **Mary Kay Staley Rader '56**: Kay is busy with the Lawrence County Historical Society. She has studied the personality of Nannie Kelly Wright, one of the area's ironmasters (mistresses?) at the time of the Spanish-American War, and has become her impersonator. In 1900 Nannie Kelly Wright was the second wealthiest woman in the world. (Queen Victoria was the richest.) Those iron furnaces in Southern Ohio must have been very productive! Kay is reportedly an excellent Nannie and is invited to speak all over the area. Bob is very ill but Kay is an excellent nurse and has the biceps to prove it. They've moved to a lovely home overlooking the Ohio River.

From Dayton, Ohio: Here we are, in the same house for 46 years! I can't believe it! I enjoy being with Western friends from all classes who live in this area. (Jim and I were among the many guests at **Mary Kay Droste** and **Allan Feller's** fabulous 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. We were also at Mary Kay and Bob Rader's river home in Ironton when I celebrated my 55<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.) We are both busy and pleased to be able to have active lives. Until next time ...

**Sue Mayer Falter '57**  
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Dayton, OH 45430  
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Reunion 2008: The 50-year class wins the Peabody Cup!  
Row 1 (from left): Kathy Piper, Judith Weir Vandergriff, June Regan Young, Jennie Lou Fredley Klim; row 2: Cay Kawallek Manildi, Gretchen Wampler Moussetis, Sally Raub Alkire; row 3: Juli Beasley Kinchla, Marty Nichols Koehler, Anne Walthart McMains, Joan Brooks Lennox, Jane Smucker Fryman

For Class of '59, see pages 13-15.



Watch out: The Class of '61 is on the run! 2011 and fun, fun, fun!

**Jane Miller Brooks** sends greetings from Toronto, Canada. "Things are good up north. Ontario is cottage country and this summer I spent time with friends on several lakes and a special week with all of my family: son Mike and family from Vancouver, Doug and family, daughter Linda from Ontario. Included, of course, were my four special granddaughters and step-grandson. Keeping up with the next two generations tubing, kayaking, and somersaulting off the raft is getting harder, but we had fun and I didn't get hurt. As well in August, I traveled to Norway for a hiking trip north of the Arctic Circle. What a beautiful, peaceful and environmentally conscious country — I'll go back. For now, back to school and as I say in September (one more year). Life is good in Canada. Come and visit." We'd love a picture of that somersault, Jane ...

**Gretchen Zimmerman Crawford**: Girls just want to have fun! "Johnnie, I just wanted you to know that **Kitty McKee Chretien**, **Marcia Poston**, **Corinne Tietjens Sommers**, **Bobbi Alman Lee** and I met for the weekend of September 12-14. We had not met in many years. Of course we took some pictures and will send something for a later newsletter." Pictures will speak volumes! Great to hear from you ...

A new title from our **Mary DeJong Obuchowski**: mother-in-law. "This has been a busy year so far for the Obuchowskis. Tim married Autumn Smith in April, Mary visited Phyllis Hoyt in May and enjoyed the Reunion in June, Autumn's 6-year-old son, Ty (who lives in California) spent the month of July with us, and this fall, John plans to attend Washenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. We hope to catch our collective breaths sometime in the future." More happy memories on the horizon, 2011! Thank you for keeping in touch with Dean Hoyt and for the special session in June on her book, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*.



Mary Obuchowski '61, with hubby, sons and new daughter-in-law

**Cindy Ackerman Horne** agrees: Yes, girls just want to have fun! "I'm well and enjoying the summer at home. My sister and I took a two-week trip to Alaska — land tour and cruise. We had a wonderful time and loved our 49<sup>th</sup> state. We have decided, however, that the next cruise will be to somewhere warm. June in Alaska is sunny but cool. Of course, everyone told us we should have been there last year — it was warmer! Sure. This was the first trip for us without kids or teenagers (hers) and we had a lot of fun together. I'm looking forward to a female-only trip to Disney World in October — my nieces are all grown and we are leaving husbands and children at home. I'm doing well, getting re-involved with activities I put on hold while I took care of Dick. I still have a few bad days and I miss him, but for the most part I'm coping. Hope all is well with you." Bless you, Cindy. Take care and keep on "a-movin'."

**Marcia Jones Friddle**: Happy retirement. "Everyone in our family is well. Peter, Kathy, Sean (almost 5) and Ryan (3) are now living in a Chicago suburb, and we get to see them more often than when they were in Peoria. Philip still lives near San Francisco, but travels to Dresden often for his job. My two main activities in retirement continue to be docenting for the Lincoln Park Zoo and volunteering in the Lutheran elementary school where Pete and Phil went to school." Marcia, lucky, lucky kids at that elementary school. Time well spent. Thank you!

**Flora Zimmerman Cohen**: Western's bionic woman. "My news is that I turned 68 in April and solidified. I'm getting a new left hip on August 4 (2008) and will probably be getting a new right knee sometime after the first of the year. After becoming bionic, I'll be able to leap tall buildings with a single bound. We did get to New England in June and have plans to spend Thanksgiving at Disneyworld with our children and grandchildren. But the big trip we had planned to take to the Galapagos has been put off until I have new parts. Other than that, things are quiet here. We're still enjoying retirement and keep very busy with our volunteer work." Leap away, Flora. See you at our 50<sup>th</sup>!



Corinne Tietjens Sommer, with her son and his family

**Gail Howell Litwiler:** "We are the Holyoke of the West; buttons burst from our chest.' It has been a busy year for the Litwilers. Tom, in May, received an honorary doctorate in public service from Alderson-Broaddus College in West Virginia, where he is a trustee. Our daughter, Trish, Dave and granddaughter Sara moved in August from the eastern shore of Maryland to Greenville, North Carolina, where Dave accepted a tenured track faculty position at East Carolina University. Son T.J. is still in Chicago, lawyering at his own firm and doing lots of church work. I continue on the Hamptown Township School Board — in my 19<sup>th</sup> year — and truly enjoy it. Also, lots of church involvement. Had a great conversation with **Suzie West Negron** recently. She sounds wonderful. I enjoyed my time on the (WCAA) board of trustees. The Western campus continues to be a special place. Hope many are planning to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> in two and a-half years." Thank you for your service on the board of trustees.

**Ann Kendrick McCrillis:** Lessons learned — *no to black ice!* "Just a short not to say everything is good here. I fell and broke both bones in my lower right leg January 29<sup>th</sup>. Had surgery and got the air cast 'boot' and went home three days later. Spent five months in the cast, then graduated to a cane and now am cane-free unless I am walking over rough ground or long distances. Lessons learned: Black ice is treacherous; handicapped placards are a godsend if only temporary; people are either very helpful when you are in a wheelchair or using a walker, or you are invisible; and family and friends are wonderful. I have a great deal of equipment that I am storing ... Needless to say, we haven't been traveling — in fact, for a couple of months going to the grocery store was an adventure. ... My daughter moved back home for three weeks with cat and computer. She had an agenda ... organized my closets, pantry, linen cupboards and boxes of school 'junk.' If you need a tornado to clean out your years' accumula-

tion of belongings, she is the 'queen of clutter removal.' Paul and I are looking forward to a couple of short trips in October and November." Keep that sense of humor along with your smile!

**Anne Adkins Weissenborn:** We thank our trusty trustee. "The 2008 Reunion was great fun. I highly recommend returning to campus even when it isn't 'our' turn. It was great fun being able to room with **Mary DeJong Obuchowski** and **Gail Howell Litwiler**. Mary led a very interesting session based upon Dean Hoyt's wonderful book, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*. I also volunteered to be part of a smaller group whose memories were recorded

for posterity by Miami and found that especially worthwhile. Hopefully, many others will volunteer for similar sessions at future Reunions. My own life 'in retirement' has been full. Exactly a year ago we visited our daughter, Elizabeth, and several longtime friends in Oregon. Christmas was spent with extended family at my sister Louise's (**Louise Adkins-Ellis '69**) farm outside our hometown in Ohio. In June, Elizabeth was with us for two whole weeks while she happily volunteered as the assistant to the director of SilverDocs, an increasingly well-known documentary film festival here in Silver Spring. Earlier, in January, I began a semester-long assignment as a long-term substitute teacher of 10<sup>th</sup> grade English at the largest high school in our area. Now that was an experience, shall we say! I knew I was crazy going in; little did I know! But I survived and hopefully the students learned something, if only the importance of documenting one's sources for a research paper. Now I've returned to largely church-related volunteer activities, plus one addition, appointed year on the WCAA board ... I look forward to helping formulate a legacy project for the Association. Let me hear your ideas in this latter regard! I can be reached at [weissenborn@starpower.net](mailto:weissenborn@starpower.net)." Blessings to you for your love and dedication to our Western, Anne.

**Barbara Alman Lee:** Keeping in touch from West Coast to East Coast. "We have spent the last two years getting the boys married. Cory, our youngest, married a year ago in Maui. He and his wife are still there, teaching science in a local junior high. We took them on a cruise to Alaska this summer. Casey, our older son, was married this April to the love of his life. He is now in Virginia, going to FBI school. We are so proud of him. Hope this note finds all of you in good health." Thank you, Bobbi — hope you'll be east, to Oxford, in 2011.

**Sharon Botsford Moyer:** Around and around she goes. "I hope this finds you and your loved ones happy and well. This past

year has again been filled with fabulous travels. I spent the end of December and all of January in Australia and New Zealand. What beautiful countries! I got to dive the Barrier Reef and rode a camel in Alice Springs on our way to Uluru. In February, I went with Jackie and family to Puerto Rico for more diving and warm weather. In July, I returned to Costa Rica to dive the Cocos Islands on a live-aboard dive boat. I am happiest in the ocean, I believe. My parents are doing well. We are planning a road trip to Jackie's farm in upstate New York ... it's hard to believe they are 96 years young! Jane, Judy and I plan another NY visit in the fall. I worked the beginning and ending of the 2007-08 school year, subbing for deans on maternity leave and really enjoyed the time there, but am not expecting to return soon. Sean and family are still in Brooklyn, so I have added incentives to spend time there." We are expecting to see you again, Sharon, in Oxford 2011 for more of the good old times!

**Ann Bronaugh Kyle:** Family, friends and the U.S.A. "With high school 50<sup>th</sup> reunion this past year, I guess the Western 50 will be coming along soon. It would be good to make that one in 2011. This is a reminder for me to organize my time. This year so far has brought two grandsons' graduations from high school — one, close to home in North Carolina; the other, in New York. One grandson is now working as a manager at a Tae Kwon Do school and getting ready for college education in early childhood development. The other is in basic training as a new cadet at West Point. Having saved this hard-earned money of today, I was able to enjoy a wonderful visit to Germany, to friends made through family student exchange programs. The association was started when Egon, a high school student from Germany, came to spend a year with the Kyles during my college years. My son spent his junior year of high school with Egon and family. We have now shared visits across the Atlantic and have a real close friendship. So many blessings I continue to enjoy, working, being with family and church, and just being an American citizen. I hope you all are enjoying many blessings also." Ann, we can't wait to see you in 2011!

We **Duvalls** are well, busy (thankfully so), and enjoying our new island home on Vinalhaven, Maine, spring to fall. Harry continues service with the homeless through our church's shelter cooking ministry; and I continue as Eucharist minister, Sunday school storyteller and Bible study co-leader. We both enjoy youth sports, especially hockey; and we travel the States (early April) for the Frozen Four (colleges' final four hockey teams). Last year we enjoyed Denver and area as we cheered on Boston College to victory. This spring the Frozen Four will be in Washington, DC, hosted by the Naval Academy. (Anne and Sandy, here we come again.) All our kids are back East/Midwest

from California. Duvie is executive director of the South Boston Boys and Girls Club. Michele and family moved to Falmouth, Maine. We visit frequently — to “babysit,” to enjoy Kayla’s sports and activities at North Yarmouth Academy. She is in seventh grade, class president and honor student. Amber is a second-grader, loves school, full of energy. Suzy and family live in St. Louis, MO. Their little guy, Joey, is 2. Donny and family remain New Yorkers, now in Delmar, outside of Albany. He earned his M.A. in public affairs and policy last year and works in the governor’s office, budget division, concentrating on energy and the environment. He and wife Corrina also bless us with grandkids: Dylan (3) and Arielle (1).

Blessings to Class of '61. See you in 2011!

**Johnnie Kirkpatrick Duvall '61**  
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**Libbe Dennard** sent greetings from Alaska. She and husband Lee continue to do a lot of traveling. Lee had never been to San Antonio, Texas, the birth state of Libbe, so they had early morning walks on the River



*Libbe Dennard and brother*

Walk and toured the Alamo. They also had an opportunity to go to Chicago, Illinois, where Libbe was able to strengthen family ties with her younger brother — her only sibling. Libbe has spent several months writing a personal essay, which she plans to submit to a literary magazine soon. We'll look forward to hearing more about the progress of your book.

**Sue Humberstone Spahr** wrote from Georgetown, Texas. Her husband John has been campaigning for a state office in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is taking them to every part of Texas — which we know is a very big state. John often asks why they

didn't move to Rhode Island (smiles). Sue is keeping herself occupied on the road by participating in the Guidelines Knit for Kids program. Knitters in the U.S.A. and other countries have knitted almost 500,000 sweaters for chilly children around the world. Keep up the good work!

**Sue Nave Wilson** wrote from Miamisburg, Ohio, that since she has retired, she and husband Dick have been busy with volunteering at church (sounds familiar to me), Bible study fellowship, grandchildren and biking. In the fall, Dick and Sue plan to go on a mission trip with their church.

**Anne Keller Hufford**, who lives in Plano, Texas, was really excited that her granddaughter, Kate, is attending Austin College in Sherman, Texas, this year because Austin has the same international emphasis that Western had. Anne's roommate, **Anne Anderson Letson**, visited her last year and they had a great time together. Anne (Hufford) had the opportunity to visit Oxford a few years ago when her husband had a fraternity reunion. Surprised to see how the town had grown, she felt it would be difficult to find her way to downtown Oxford anymore.

**Bonnie McGowan Sammet** wrote that she and John retired in 2007 and moved from Westport, CT, to Venice, FL, in April 2008. They love the small town of Venice on the west coast with one of the best beaches in Florida. They happily left their snow shovels behind, but kept their gardening gloves and bathing suits. Next March, will hopefully bring roommates **Brenda Litchfield Benson** and **Jill Hartley Fulton**, and **Liz Andrus Schoeberlein** to Venice for a reunion.

**Flo Firjanian McGurk** wrote that she and husband Link have had a great year. "Our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May brought back happy memories of Western and Kumler Chapel, where we were married. We continue to divide our year between Wisconsin and Florida. This fall we are planning to make a trip to Newfoundland/Labrador and a trip to New Zealand."

**Marj Keppel Gross** wrote that "after essentially 'camping' for the last 28 years, I finally have a real house to live in and enjoy, shared by my stepson, Tom. Thanks to the persistence of my kids, who insisted that it was possible, and to the help and encouragement of many good friends. I had the joys and frustrations of building on the lot right next to the property we lived on all these years." Marj shares this quote: "No one gets out of this world alive, so the time to learn, care, share, and love is now!" This is certainly good food for thought.



*Their 45<sup>th</sup>! Front row (from left): Loretta Ryder, Ella Brown McMahon; back: Eva Nortvedt Humbach, Joan Kowalski Jordan, Nia Jones Terry, Susan Berryhill Hill*

**Susan Berryhill Hill** kept her promise and was present at our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion. She really enjoyed herself, but she wished that more of the class members could have attended. She was elected to the Board. Congratulations! Susan would like to be a representative of not only our class, but of Western as it is today and will be in the future. Susan stated, "I am not sentimental about anything and believe that we can never, never, never go back, but only look to the future." Susan wants you to know that if you have any ideas, problems, etc., let her know and she will try to act on them. Susan's e-mail address is catsaregreat@comcast.net.

**Ella Brown McMahon** attended our 45<sup>th</sup> Western Reunion and wants to catch us up. After Western, Ella earned a master's in zoology at Miami, where she met Joe, her husband of 43 years, who also got an M.A. in zoology. They moved to Chillicothe, OH, where they obtained teaching positions. Later Ella went back to school at OSU and graduated with a B.S.N. Joe had a heart attack in 1985 and had to take disability retirement in 1989. He is now 61, post-polio still able to get around the house with braces and crutches. Ella retired in 2005 and they both volunteer at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. Their foster daughter and family live in Aberdeen, NC, and their youngest granddaughter just graduated from NC State summa cum laude with a B.A. in zoology. They have three granddaughters and five great-grandchildren. Ella is looking forward to a mini-reunion with **Audrey Hughes** and **Susan Berryhill** in Pittsburgh in the near future. They thank the Lord for all their blessings every day.

**Nia (Billie) Jones Terry** and I have been in touch throughout the year. She wrote that



*Debbie Perrin (front) organized her own mini-reunion with roomie Audrey Hughes (right) and a friend. Note official Reunion t-shirts!*

she was going to Europe this fall to spend time with a Swiss friend of 37 years as well as to visit a relative while she is in Geneva. She will also spend some time in Paris, visiting Esther Oteo Calfan, sister of her friend, **Isabel Oteo-Bautista de Martinez '60** and also **Kate Van Houten**, who attended Western for one year. Kate is an artist who has resided in Paris for the past 40 plus years. Jasmine, Nia's granddaughter (13), took part in the parade of flags on the Saturday of the Reunion Weekend. She was quite enchanted with Peabody Hall and the Western campus setting.

**Joan Kowalkski Jordan**, one of my roommates senior year, also attended our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We talk on a regular basis. Joan traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico, earlier this year with friend **Susan Vitucci '71**. This fall Joan is visiting Czech Republic and will see the teachers involved with the Miami University exchange program.

**Loretta Ryder**, my freshman roommate, attended the Reunion, too, and sang Sunday morning in Kumler Chapel. She got a chance to visit **Marj Keppel Gross** this past summer in North Carolina. Loretta plans to retire from teaching at the end of the school year. She is still singing and supporting the arts scene in Detroit. Loretta stays busy all the time!

**Audrey Hughes**, my sophomore roommate and I were unable to attend the Reunion due to illness. Consequently, when we both got better, Audrey and her friend Jennifer Conley flew down to Texas and we had a mini-reunion. It certainly was good seeing her after 45 years.

I feel truly blessed to be retired for these past two years. Tom and I are still very active with our church. The highlight of the summer for us was when Tom became an ordained minister.

Please make every effort to attend our 46<sup>th</sup> reunion next year. See you there, Lord will-

ing. God bless you and keep you is my prayer.

**Debbie Hunt Perrin '63**  
P.O. Box 1195  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106  
owl6@flash.net



**Sophia Karayannides Browne** writes: "My family and I went to Europe with lots of family members. We first visited relatives in Vienna, Austria. We then went to Bulgaria's Black Sea area to the site where my maternal grandparents grew up. There were large areas of Greeks in the early 1900s who were driven away by the Bulgarians and the Communists. We were able to find two local historians who were able to give us some insight to the times and conditions there. We even found an old Greek school house which was built with funds provided by the 'Greek Americans.' While we were in Bulgaria, we also visited Plodiv, enjoying its old colorful structures and archeological sites. Greece was next on our itinerary. Athens was crowded and hot. We did visit the island of Samos for the first time, which was a delight. Our day trip to Ephesus in Turkey topped all expectations. One of the largest archeological sites that I have ever been to in all my travels. Unfortunately, everyone from everywhere decided to go there that day. New York subways are less crowded. The only other news is that Allen and I are moving back east next year. Smile."

From **Meg Warnock Carlough**: "I have opened a new, better, cheaper office in Pittsfield, MA. When I finally figured out what to do when I grew up, I made a good choice. I love being a chiropractor, even if I don't do the usual things. I do Network Spinal Analysis and NeuroModulation Technique (NMT.md), neither of which uses a lot of force, which is good for me and for the patients. Look for me under the sign of Light Touch Chiropractic Center in Pittsfield, MA. (I live 5 miles from the Mass. border.) I have hung some of my father's paintings, mostly seascapes which add to the peaceful feel. I



*Sophia Browne '65, with (from left) her nephew, cousin and cousin's husband*



*Brooksie Jones-Harrison '65, at her July wedding, with Phyllis Hoyt*

even have a small one his mother did of rabbits. I still live in East Chatham, NY, in the house we bought on our honeymoon in '72. My son Will, now 30, still a red-head, lives in Brooklyn and sometimes walks to work in Manhattan at MeetUp.com, a web site that helps people of similar interest contact each other so that they can eventually meet face to face. My father has celebrated his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday with a party he planned for immediate family and a close friend and his wife. He spent three weeks on vacation with my sister and/or me, and we saw over two dozen relatives at the family reunion across the street in the big house that our grandfather built for his eight children. I am sometimes amused about the 'old ladies' that I saw walking on the beach that my mother told me lived in the house (the house we stayed in this summer) across from the Big House where we were staying then. They were so old, with grey hair and everything. Now I am probably that age. Have you noticed that people keep getting younger, the doctors, the mothers, etc.? OK, so I'm an exception. ;-)"

From **Maryam Daftari** now living in the U.S. (mdaftari@hotmail.com): "I have been here in Fairfield, Iowa — where my son and family live — since February. I have a little house of my own here, where I am close to my son, Ali, and grandson, Sam (who is 14 and in the ninth grade). I spend my time writing and researching on China. I am working on a book — in fact, my memoirs. I am having great fun with that! I have been travelling quite a bit this year: a wonderful three-week reunion in France in June — in Avignon, Villeneuve, and areas around them as well as Paris. I was in Tehran for awhile before returning to the U.S. in February. I was able to see the Weissenborns when I went to D.C. in April. My son, grandson and I also had a great 10 days in Boulder this summer. I have been in touch with **Ann Walton '66** all the time. I did go visit her in Michigan last year. She is doing well. My son, Ali, and I try to do presenta-

# Play It Again, We Did ... at Reunion 2008!



The 50-year Class sat for the photographer — a “Golden Girls” chorus line!



Business was brisk at the Chocolate Fountain.



Miss Peabody mingled at the Social.



Barbara Williamson Wentz '68 (center) made sure to *connect* with WCP alums, faculty and students.



Nothing breaks the ice like a little jazz guitar.

Kathy Piper '58 performed Turkish Shadow Theater for Mary DeJong Obuchowski '61 and the daughters of Bobby Cox '83.



University Ambassador Valerie Hodge spoke at the Welcome Dinner.



Class rivalry between Doris Ning Wong '62 (left) and Nia Terry Jones '63 is a thing of the past, but Nia's granddaughter, Jasmine (center), enjoyed their stories just the same.



## Act I ... Friday Night

# Act II ... Saturday

Evie Small Hohler '64 led the Parade (and the Weekend!). WCPers Karen Gotter '09, John Obrycki '08 and Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04 "signed" their approval.



## Morning

Director Judy Waldron reiterated the WCAA mission at the Annual Meeting, and new Trustees were introduced. (See page 11.)



Jane Noble Miller '38, Betty Sipe Gerber '52 and Sue Off Schrope '52 lifted voices and spirits at the Meily Society Luncheon.



Kibitzers sipped and snacked to the strains of steel drums at the Patterson Place Reception.



## Noon

## Night

Bea Low Notley '42 gave the Banquet toast on behalf of all non-anniversary classes; Bobby Cox '83 did the same for all WCP alums.



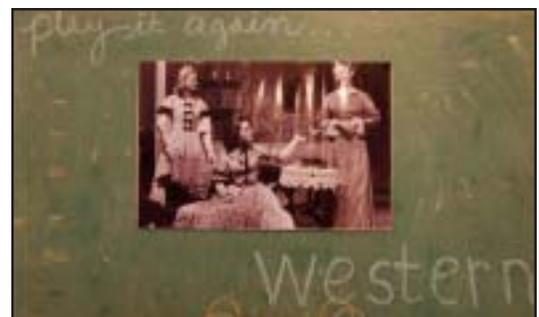
Retiring WCP dean Bill Gracie (below) and outgoing WCAA president Renée Harris Yates '72 (bottom) were among the many Banquet honorees.



# Act III ... Sunday



At the Closing Ceremony (above, left to right), former WCP dean Curt Ellison HA made sure the "Circle will be unbroken"; Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '58 led the choir, Gretchen Wampler Mousetis '58 presided, children's author Sally Derby Miller '56 spoke (then received fans at Brunch, below right), Loretta Ryder '63 sang, and Eleanore Vail FF accompanied.



Catch the sequel,  
June 19-21, 2009!

At the Farewell Brunch, Class of '68 mates didn't seem to mind being Peabody Cup runners-up.

**WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
2008 SERVICE AWARD**

*presented to*

**Kathleen Hayes Ransier  
Class of 1969**

*In Honor of Community and Humanitarian Service  
Through Her Professional Accomplishments*



**T**he Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees wishes to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Kathleen Hayes Ransier with the 2008 Alumnae Service Award.

Kathleen was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and began elementary school there at a time when schools – and many other institutions – were still segregated. The schools were integrated when she was entering fourth grade. Her parents gave her the choice of attending the newly integrated school, or staying in her neighborhood school, and Kathleen made the choice to take the road less traveled, and transferred to the integrated school “for the adventure.” That spirit of adventure prompted great achievement, and sustained her as she went against the wishes of her father and decided to attend Western College on a presidential scholarship, becoming the first in her family to leave town and complete college.

The challenging but nurturing environment at Western provided a perfect setting for Kathleen to enhance her academic and social skills. When she graduated from Western, she took a job in Huntington in computer programming and then went on to receive her J.D. from The Ohio State University.

Since becoming a lawyer, Kathleen has become active in countless professional and community service activities. She works now in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. She has served as special counsel for the Ohio Attorney General, and for the Franklin County Probate Court. She has received appointments to boards and commissions by the Ohio Supreme Court and has served on many other boards, including The Board of Directors of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Huntington Bancshares, The Columbus Regional Airport Authority, The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, The Columbus Bar Foundation and the Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees. She is the winner of the 2004 YWCA Women of Achievement Award, the 2002 Community Service Award from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, The Minority Business Advocate Award from Society National Bank, The Columbus Bar Association Community Service Award, and The Constance Baker Motley Award from the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

And, this evening, we add to that list by awarding Kathleen Hayes Ransier the Western College Alumnae Association 2008 Alumnae Service Award.

**WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
2008 SERVICE AWARD**

*presented to*

**Patrick Callahan  
Class of 1983**

*In Honor of Community and Humanitarian Service  
Through His Professional Accomplishments*



**T**he Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees wishes to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Patrick Callahan with the 2008 Alumnae Service Award.

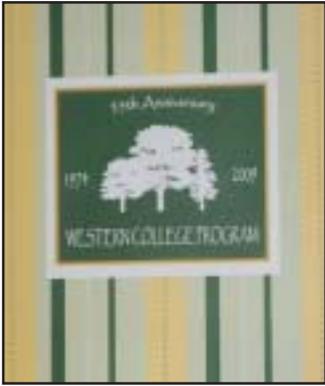
Pat was elected student body president of Miami University in 1982 when a junior in the Western College Program. He graduated in 1983 and began working in economic development and then real estate in Cincinnati. In 1990, Pat moved to Cleveland and joined Equity Office Properties (EOP), which was then a moderate size company of 12 million square feet of office space. As EOP grew into a Fortune 500 company, Pat moved to Columbus, then Denver, and finally to Seattle. Through that journey, Pat helped spearhead the acquisition and assimilation of more than 30 million square feet of real estate in the western United States in nine different metropolitan markets. He also led regional business units with approximately \$400 million in annual revenues.

In 2006, Pat founded Urban Renaissance Group, a cutting edge real estate company that seeks to encourage urban community, economic vitality, environmental conservation and transit-oriented development. Pat based his company on the core belief that America is poised for the re-urbanization of its major cities, and for the creation of urban villages in its suburbs – a distinct departure from land use trends marked by sprawl and de-centralization over the last 50 years. Consistent with his calling, Pat's Senior Project in 1983 was focused on urban development.

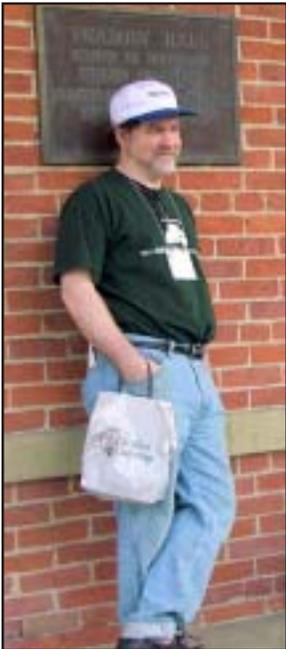
Patrick has a long history of civic engagement. He is immediate past chair of the Downtown Seattle Association and was just recently named Chair of the Puget Sound's regional Quality Growth Alliance. He is an active member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), where he serves on the national Office Development Council, and previously served as chair of ULI Seattle.

This evening we recognize this engagement by awarding Patrick Callahan with the Western College Alumnae Association 2008 Alumnae Service Award.

# And the WCP Reunion, September 19-21!



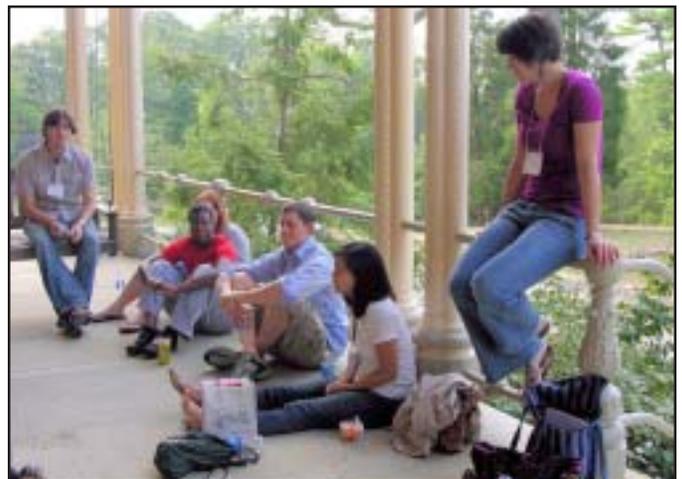
Happy to be together ... wish you were here!



Mike Conaway '90 plays it cool on Peabody porch (left), Grant Thompson '80 obliges the photog with a story about an Alumnae Hall artifact (below), mom Becky Hills and daughter Abby Hills '10 chow down at the WCAA 25th anniversary bench site (bottom).



At organized class lunch meetings ('80s, above) and impromptu breaks (mostly '07, below), lively discussion ruled.



It's Tree Day all over again! With a little help from Barbara Williamson Wentz '68 and Betty Sipe Gerber '52, Kevin Hils '85 and Karen Gotter '09 plant an American beech tree on the hill below Peabody Green. Beech Woods, anyone?



Contemplating the future: Will there be yet another version of WCP when the daughter of Shaina Horner '06 (above) begins looking at colleges?

Contemplating the past: '82 classmates Irene Dvoraczky Bell and Margaret McLaren (right) recall bygone mornings in Ernst.



Fresh from the June reunion, WCAA friends Anne Weissenborn, Barb Mecklenborg, Judy Waldron and Betty Gerber made the scene.



Back by popular demand — the traveling WCAA Gift Shop!

Future alumni at the Saturday banquet heard from president Ben Gibbons '94.



Sean Boda '04 explains the intricacies of close-up photography to Denise Cheng '07 and Anne Towne '09.



It's a bird ... it's a plane ... it's Super Alums '78-'80!

At right: Classmates Neal Cantrell (left) and Jeff Payne '81 model official WCP t-shirts, complete with tree logo.



At left: Janey Drexler Sharpe '80 (right) recited her poem, "Western Memories," intended for the 20th reunion, still apropos at the 35th. Pal Caroline Quine '79 lent moral support.



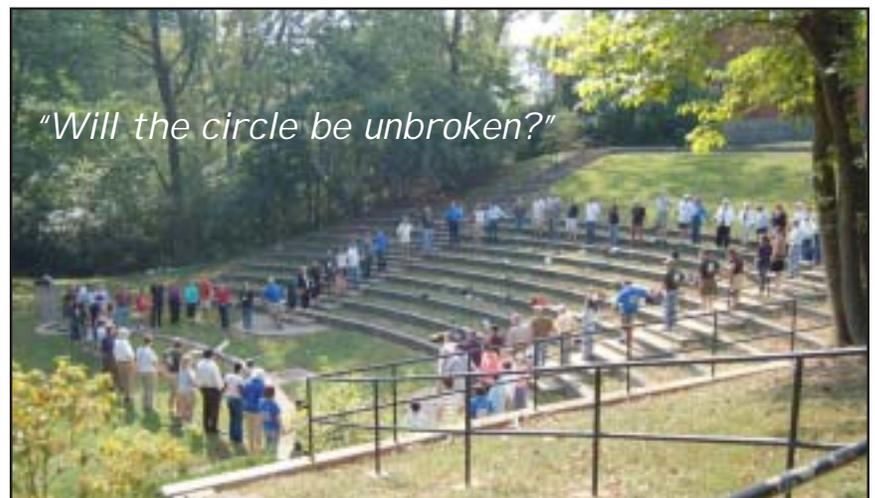
Above: Former deans Mike Lunine, Curt Ellison and Bill Gracie bade adieu ... till the 40th.

Right: Three speakers anchored the Sunday morning Closing Ceremony in Ernst Nature Theatre: Western College graduate Barbara Williamson Wentz '68, Western Program senior Anne Towne, and Western Program graduate Tim Matune '81.



Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04, new WP staffer, welcomed the audience and introduced the speakers.

WCAA director Judy Waldron and Jim Boyer '83 practice the Alma Mater. It went just fine!



tions of the poetry of the two great Persian poets, Rumi and Hafez every month here — acquainting people with Persian poetry. It is great fun! I really hope to hear from my other classmates as well as my students whom I taught for two years at Western in the early 1970s."

**Marie Pasquale Desch** writes a very newsy letter: "I traveled to NH to see Phyllis Hoyt briefly last fall. She called asking me to come pick up the Peabody dresser I purchased at auction about 12 years ago during class of '65 reunion. I told Phyllis and Gail they were welcome to use it as long as they had need and then I would claim it when she decided it was time. She had just returned from the hospital following a congestive heart failure episode. Her family was there helping to clean her apartment. She was tired and looked frail but managed a smile. My only son and love of my life, Niles Gold, married Jennifer Baccei last Aug (2007). It was an understated elegant wedding in CT. They met at Skidmore. Guests included family and friends from France, Russia and all over the U.S.A. My cousin **Cathie Koutsogiane '64** attended. **Victoria Harris '67** and son Tristan, (just graduated from Stanford) attended and visited with us for five fun-filled days. ...My husband, Richard Gold, retired early from UMass psychology dept. to have more time to play chess, help his son whenever called upon, complete projects for me at the Vineyard house, read, and enjoy his enormous wine collection. He wrote a book *How and Why To Build a Wine Cellar* so he could justify to his mother that he had an educational focus which included more than just his love of drinking wine! Rest her soul. After retiring from teaching I kept busy with all our rental properties and then focused lots of time restoring the house in Vineyard Haven.

"Via the grapevine I heard that **Elizabeth 'Brooksie' Jacobs** was just married in July. ... **Phyllis MacConnell** and I were e-mailing on a regular basis. She was living on LI, working in cancer research but now semi-retired, still riding horses and looking seriously into heading toward Virginia."

From **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens**: "I hope you and your family are well. I don't have much news to report, but just wanted to say I'm still working at Princeton, and had the pleasure of seeing my classmate **Meg Warnock Carlough** and her father, who is Princeton's oldest living alumnus, at our Reunions last June! I still travel occasionally on business, and am looking forward to a visit to Oxford in February for a speaking engagement. I enjoyed seeing my granddaughter, Lucca, in July and am hoping to see more of her in the months ahead. She will turn 2 in November. My daughters are all in Southern California, so I cherish the opportunities to visit with them. We are meeting in Charleston, SC, for a family reunion in October — the first time in several

years that my siblings and I, and our families, will all be together. South Carolina has changed remarkably since I left high school in 1961! I extend my deepest sympathy to **Sylvia Stanfield**, whose twin sister Eunice passed last winter."

**Marie Landoli** writes that she celebrated her birthday in March with a visit to Long Boat Key Club & Spa. In June, she visited **Ada Tang Kwoh** and husband David in San Francisco. During her time on the West Coast, Marie toured California as well as Portland, OR.

From **Elizabeth "Brooksie" Jacobs Jones-Harrison**: "Am attaching a picture of Dean Phyllis Hoyt at my wedding receiving my bouquet July 12<sup>th</sup>. Already gave an update on the WCAA website." 1759 Back Windham Rd., West Townshend, VT, 05359 802-874-4429 Fax 802-302-1004

**Kathy Martin Kaster** writes that she has been participating in a cutting edge technique of using her own blood platelets to regrow cartilage in her deteriorated hip joint. This therapy has not kept her from her usual pursuits of walking, gardening, caring for her ponies and practicing yoga. She is very happy with the results of this new therapy as an alternative to hip replacement surgery.

From **Peggy Gaebler Morscheck**: "Our family has had a very good year — I in my partial retirement, with all its volunteer commitments, and Rod working hard on a book during his sabbatical. Daughter Heather and family are blooming and son Peter continues his love affair with living and working in Washington, DC. Last December, following a family wedding in Massachusetts, Rod and I made contact with **Nancy James '66**, and had a wonderful visit with her and her husband, Rick Frese. Nancy's been running her own insurance agency in Concord, MA, for years. It was delightful to recall the several ways our lives have intersected since our Western years and to find that we have so much in common now. While attending my high school reunion in Oxford in July, I visited the Western campus. It was still stunningly beautiful, despite lots of construction in progress. I'm currently working to be the most efficient Democratic ward leader in my township that I can be. We would love to see any Western '65 alums here in Philadelphia — for coffee, dinner, overnight."

**Kathy Fansher Parnell** writes that she has spent most of this year caring for her husband, who injured his back in March. Her father, now 93, has had to be moved into an assisted-living facility. Kathy spent a lot of time clearing out his house in order to sell it, with a marked lack of success.

**Shirin Kassam Velji**: "I have been very busy this summer with family and friends and in fact had not looked at my e-mails for more than a month. I have friends from Paris to-

day and they will be with us until September 16."

"Hello, Western alums," from **Nikki Tyler Williams**: "I am eagerly looking forward to this school year, my last one before a June 2009 retirement. I know if I had not been so mobile in my youth this day would have come a lot earlier. I celebrated my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer with a mother-daughter trip to Machu Picchu and Peru, and to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador. (I still have a bit of my youth left.) It was truly fantastic, and Akilah announced that if the opportunity presented itself to travel with me again she would be glad to do so. I am not in touch with many Westernites any more; we all get so busy, I know. I certainly am with the additional stresses that go with being active in the sandwich generation."

**Lucia McClintock Payne** wrote a card (first time from her) saying she has been married to Giles for 42 years. She spent 20 years as a geriatric social worker at a Veterans Hospital. Her husband is a lawyer planning to retire soon. They had two sons when they were living in Seattle while Giles was in the Coast Guard. Their elder son died in his 30s. Younger son, Adam, graduated from Yale, has his Ph.D. from Princeton and four "delightful/challenging/beautiful" children. Lucia and Giles are very involved in their community and enjoy hiking and backpacking.



Pam, with daughter Karen and grandkids

Sam and I did not do much traveling this year because his health has not improved. We still attend a few antique auto shows locally. Our '51 Hudson, which was badly damaged in a June '07 wreck, is now back together and very lovely. Our children and grandchildren are well. I still spend a lot of my time playing bridge and managing our local club. I also write a small newsletter for our local antique car club — my 10<sup>th</sup> year. If Sam is up to it, we are planning a summer '09 trip with our 1926 Hudson fire truck to Detroit, MI, for the Centennial of the Hudson Motor Car Company. I would like to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy Holiday Season and a great New Year.

**Pam Eggers Gill '65**  
265 Turner Rd.  
East Palatka, FL 32131  
missmillie1926@aol.com

A postcard from **Ann Coleman Lynn** indicates that she has moved to a new address: 37565 104th Place in Scottsdale, Arizona 85262.



*All the way from Thailand: Maria Tamthai Scandlen '67, with her daughter and grandchild*

**Stephanie Smith Siegfried** wrote in January that she and husband Dave had a very comprehensive trip in October '07 to Turkey and Greece, where they spent three fun and educational weeks. After their return they kept busy with a new grandchild, Lily Caroline, November 27, 2007. She joins two handsome brothers and boy and girl cousins vying for her grandparents' time and attention. Since the cousins and their parents live in Seattle, Siegfrieds use any excuse to travel to the West Coast for a visit. Dave is now chairman of the Princeton University Alumni Association which involves some travel and for Stephanie this usually results in meeting interesting people. Stephanie reports that she still teaches ESL but that it is getting harder with all of her family activities and traveling.

**Rosemary Gingrich Parks** also wrote in January, a newsy letter centered on her activities with her two daughters. Amber married Joseph Turek on July 7, 2007, in a nautically themed wedding. After a 10-day honeymoon in London and Paris they returned to Hampton, Virginia, and purchased a condo, which they set about making livable with much help from Rosie and Joe's dad. Amber is an elementary school art teacher and Joe works for Ferguson Enterprises and also is working on a degree at Old Dominion University. In November, Rosie turned her attention to daughter Marissa who was living in San Diego, California. Upon her arrival in California, Rosie found that her daughter was in Las Vegas attending a job-related convention so she hopped in a car and drove for over five hours to join her for the weekend. Upon their return to San Diego, Marissa found that she had a

job offer at the Art Institute in Sunnyvale, California. With Marissa's decision to change jobs, Rosie found herself helping her daughter pack for the 520-mile move to northern California, get her settled and then return to San Diego for her flight back home. Shortly thereafter, Rosie became ill with pneumonia and it was Amber and Joe's turn to help her out. Rosie notes that she is now planning for retirement, which she'd like to come sooner than later. With this in mind, she is sorting through her years of accumulated "stuff" so that she can downsize to a smaller house.

**Diane Eby Ozbal's** Christmas and August e-mails summarize her activities since our class Reunion in June '07. The highlight of Diane's summer wasn't Rana's P.H.D. ceremony the day before our Reunion nor the Reunion but her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration that August at a Club Med near Antalya, Turkey, where the whole family gathered for a week. After reconnecting with **Gunvor Fink Moeller** at Reunion, Diane made arrangements to visit her in Denmark in November. Gunvor and her husband, Paul, met Diane and her mother in the Copenhagen airport and entertained them royally, taking them all around Denmark as well as introducing them to their three daughters and all the grandchildren.

Winter break took Diane and husband Hadi to Boston for a week with their son's family giving them some quality time with their 4-year-old granddaughter. This visit they repeated in July. Meanwhile, back in Turkey, daughter Rana gave birth to her first child, Berent Cemil Gerritsen who was born with a cleft palate. Rana has put a fascinating photo diary detailing how the family has been managing his birth problems on the Web at: [ranafokke.blogspot.com](http://ranafokke.blogspot.com). Fortunately his August surgery to correct his problem was successful! In addition to helping with the new baby, Diane continues to teach high school English and to organize all kinds of the American tests which take place in Istanbul. She has set up SAT exams for 400 to 500 students and given the LSAT, GRE and TOFEL exams as well, which has kept her busy during the school year.

E-mails from **Joan Barenholtz** continue to be a delight — a wry, funny travelogue of her year's adventures. Since space doesn't permit a verbatim report, here is a dry summary: Since Reunion, Joan has been to St. Augustine, Florida, where she searched for the Fountain of Youth but decided that Disney had found it first, went out west to discover what the National Parks were all about, and froze in Scandinavia in September but managed to find hotels and sculpture parks there that she had visited when she was 11. At home in NYC during 2007, she contented herself with off Broadway plays, concerts, lectures and museum exhibits. She even explored the neighborhood around Columbia University where she lived

as a child, finding only a favorite candy store remaining from those days.

This year in mid-March she took a Club ABC tour for a week to Dubai to explore the architecture of this expanding area where she'd swear 1/3 of the world's construction cranes live. A side trip took her to Abu Dhabi, where most buildings seemed to be 18 stories or higher, the grass greener and the malls filled with high-scale shops similar to those here at home. A dinner cruise on the creek and a buffet at a Bedouin encampment where she got a henna design on her arm were part of the evening excitement. Then in April, she spent a week in Paris and one in the chateaux country. In June, she headed back to Holland and Belgium where she emphasized her interest in art and in design. Her August travels were to take her back to Scandinavia, and at some point she wants to go to look at architecture in Seattle and to visit family in Minnesota.

An e-mail from **Martha Daily Alexander** tells us that she now has custody of her granddaughter Erica, who is 11. As a result, Martha spends a lot of time transporting, assisting with homework, and living through many "aha" moments such as when Erica decided to raise monarch butterflies from eggs she found in the yard. Picking fresh milkweed leaves daily for the caterpillars was just part of this effort. Later, a school science fair project involved varying the amounts of yeast in bread dough which meant time together in the kitchen. They also managed a Nebraska visit to Martha's



*Martha, in her Tyvek coveralls*

sister which included Erica's first plane ride and a camping trip. Martha continues to enjoy her work in code enforcement in Lexington, Kentucky, and has sent us a photo of herself in Tyvek coveralls that fortunately arrived the day before she had to go into a very dusty crawl space to check on some terribly inventive structural adaptations. Her other activities include bell choir at church, occasional Sunday school teaching, and gardening. She uses her lunch hour to get in some exercising.

**Elisa Kessler Caporale** has communicated with me several times. While we were having fun at our Western Reunion a year ago, husband John snuck off to a crafts fair in Oxford and purchased Elisa's unique Christmas present — a piece of the Oxford water tower to hang on the wall. Later that summer she combined a wedding in Florida with a visit to **Penny Corcoran Decker**. The summer of '07 also provided an opportunity for her two married children and their spouses to join Elisa and John at their shore house. Fall found them doing some structural repairs to that house, which dates back to the 1700s. In the dirt they found some interesting artifacts including an 1800's Spanish coin and an Indian arrowhead. Emboldened by that success (and while John was away), Elisa later painted the wall along the stairway to the second floor of their home in Summit, New Jersey, and successfully snaked out a backed-up laundry drain. (What can't a Western woman do?) She continues to teach art classes and to create things and this year won first prize in the state Senior Art Show Professional Crafts Category.

Elisa reports that June '08 was a Western month for her. She had a phone visit with **Diane Eby Ozbal**, who was visiting her son in Boston. Next she met with **Steph Smith Siegfried** for lunch and an overdue visit. This was followed by a visit with **Joan Barenholtz** in New York, who was excited about seeing *The Occupant* (Edward Albee's play about sculptress Louise Nevelson, who received an honorary degree while we were at Western). Still later she had lunch with **Sally Fliess**, **Betsy Solis**, and **Karen Kling Plumb**, all of '69. Now Elisa is adjusting to having John at home full time since his layoff from his job at Global Real Estate for Monster World Wide.

**Joan Roderick Sosnicky** decided not to wait another 40 years to write a second note from Colorado. As she mentioned last fall, husband Andy and she plan to make travel a major part of his retirement. Since Joan's



*Roomies Joan Sosnicky and Debbie Warner*

last note, they went in September to China to see Beijing, Shanghai, and the excavation site of the Terracotta Warrior statues in

Xi'an, all fabulous places. However, the real highlight of the trip was seeing the people and temples at 12,000 feet in Lhasa, Tibet, just before the recent unrest there. After a few months at home, they boarded the *Star Princess* for a cruise through the fjords of Chile, then around the tip of South America. They made several stops including Ushuaia, Argentina, which is the southern-most city on the planet. After visiting the Falkland Islands and Montevideo, Uruguay, they spent a few days in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Rested up, they went in April to visit coastal Maine and the Boston area, where they were happy to meet with Western roommate **Debbie Poor Warner** and husband Jim in their lovely Sudbury, MA, home. They had a marvelous visit. Debbie is still teaching school, while she and Jim concurrently provide time and effort to help their daughter, Ginger, get new triplet grandsons through the infant stage. Joan and Andy's next trip is to Dubai and Turkey in September. Don't be surprised if they someday show up in a town near you.

**Jo Ann Brombaugh Wittmann** reported she and husband Jack attended the Saturday luncheon during Western's Reunion Weekend in June. At her table was **Carol Stone Lehman** and husband Fred, whom she hadn't seen for a number of years so they had much to catch up on. She also visited with friends from the class of '68 and with Eleanore Vail. From there she went to visit with her dad at the Trinity Retirement Community in Dayton and also visited **Betty Brown Lembright '32**, to whom she gave a Reunion souvenir shirt. In July she and Jack embarked on a 35-day Voyage of the Vikings cruise round trip from Boston to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Netherlands, France, Wales, England, Scotland and Bar Harbor. They visited a number of new places; met many interesting people; saw plenty of whales, dolphins, seals, arctic terns, and puffins; and earned their 100-day medallions from Holland America Cruise Lines. Jo Ann reports that Jack continues to work one day a week making maps as a SAIC contractor for the U.S. Geological Survey, and she continues golfing, playing the piano and dancing for a senior group, plus actively pursuing deep water aerobics.

**Mary Newbold Brammall** writes (from 143 Clover Court in Plant City, Florida 33565, bnbrammell@google mail.com) that she and husband Stephen have been full-time retirees/residents for 16 months now and are finding lots of things to do and places to go, so much so that he hasn't yet picked up the golf clubs! They have been putting a lot of miles on the odometer and have filled up many CDs with photos of their travels. Mary reports that they may relocate a bit further up north both for climate considerations and to be closer to her parents. That decision may be made when the "snowbirds" return to Florida. Stay tuned!



*Lois Coyle's son, daughters and grandkids, on California vacation*

**Lois Dickey Coyle's** mother passed away at age 96 in December 2007. She had been living in a local nursing home. Lois misses their lively conversations on everything from the economy and the stock market to the grandchildren, gardening, bird watching and so much more. Lois is just as busy retired as she was when she was working, due in part to her two lively grandchildren, Robyn (6) who began first grade on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and Logan (2), who now speaks clearly enough to be understood. Lois finds that he is liable to repeat everything he hears so she must monitor her conversational topics. Daughters Christal and Lois B. arranged a family vacation to California this June for/with Lois, Robyn and Logan. Disneyland was a must as was a trip to Irvine to visit Lois's son. This was followed by a day at Laguna Beach and a day at Legoland.

After last year's Reunion, **Rauni Pellikka** went to Las Vegas — probably a once-in-a-lifetime must-do. So it will stay for her since she doesn't gamble. She felt all was too grandiose and too make-believe, but she did see *Phantom of the Opera*, which made that leg of the trip worthwhile. Then it was on to the Grand Canyon where the highlight for her was the helicopter ride. Unbelievable and unforgettable! In the summer she usually returns to her native Finland to visit her sister and last summer and this were no exception. She reports that the weather was lousy, very unusual for July, and the climate change being seen everywhere was blamed for this. She reminds us that her hometown now is Brussels which has an excellent location in the very center of Europe and offers opportunities to visit Europe's very best cities. She says that she can't hang around by herself at Christmas time so she always goes somewhere new during the holidays. Last year she went to El Qusair in Southern Egypt by the Red Sea. Her recent big adventure was at Eastertime when she traveled through Costa Rica and Panama. She found traveling in these countries to be very safe and easy with the currency based on the American dollar. Next port of call? Perhaps New Zealand. But in the meantime Rauni has made a big finan-

cial decision. In August she started to work part-time. She hopes that the long weekends will give her more time for those little getaways of which she is so fond. Of having less money, Rauni philosophically says nothing is ever perfect and time will tell if she has made the right decision.



*Gloria Molella and hubby Chick*

**Gloria Tumino Molella** writes that she and husband Chick traveled west this summer to visit their daughter, Danielle, and her husband, Kilmer, who live in Seattle. While there she looked up **Leslie Davis Yamada '68 (?)**, a pal from Western days whom she hadn't seen in 30 years. Now back in touch via e-mail, they vow to get together whenever Gloria returns to Seattle. Then it was on to Alaska via a cruise ship for a wonderful trip with Dani and Kilmer. Returning briefly to Seattle, Molellas then left for a three-day trip to San Francisco and thence by Amtrak to Flagstaff and Sedona, Arizona, for a week of exploring the magnificent red rock and the awesome Grand Canyon before heading to Las Vegas for a week. So pleased with their Amtrak journey, Gloria says they will travel that way again. Incidentally, Gloria is a seven-year survivor of breast cancer!

A year ago **Jan Chadwick** was stewing about a rumor, then a possibility and later the fact that a nearby university was going to buy out her condo building for expansion. Litigation dragged on until mid-April of this year, when a June deadline was set for the condo dwellers to move out. Because the building of her new place was delayed, Jan found herself in temporary housing during July. Purchase closed on her new home August 1<sup>st</sup> and by the time she e-mailed me September 1<sup>st</sup>, most of her boxes had been emptied though not everything was in its final resting place. Sometime during this ordeal she broke a bone in her ankle adding to her joys. Moving meant she had to skip the family reunion at their lake house but she intended to get there in October to help with closing the house for the season. Jan's father celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June and thankfully continues to thrive in his Florida retirement community.

**Judy Mason Betz's** daughter, Sarah, and husband Paul had their first child in November '07. Judy and her husband, Gary, made it to North Carolina just in time for the birth

of Mason Paul. After spending a few days helping the new family get settled, they left only to return for Christmas and then again for Mason's Easter Eve christening. Other than spending time with the grandchildren, Judy says life is pretty uneventful. Gary still deals with the renovations on the family house in Ohio leaving her to hold down the fort in Virginia and run the family business.



*Carol Mandel and the gang*

**Carol Hoexter Mandel** sent us this update on her family. Grandson Jacob has entered the first grade this year and the twins, Matthew and Jordan, have begun kindergarten. Granddaughter Shayna is in preschool. In May, Steve and Hex were in Florida for Darren Kokalis's wedding and a visit with his mother, **Carolyn Sparks Kokalis**. In June, the Mandels traveled to Australia to explore that country. They also celebrated Steve's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and his father's 90<sup>th</sup> with a family cruise.

Life here in New Mexico continues at a sometimes too rapid pace since I often feel that there are not enough hours in the day to accomplish everything that needs to be done. I should be finished dealing with Ted's enormous collection of boxes of papers this fall though I expect my routine will be interrupted by some needed interior house redecoration. Then in the new year I plan to begin sorting through my collection of "stuff" so that family members will not have to face what I have. Days are lightened by visits with family and friends both here and in Pennsylvania and short trips around both states.

While in Lancaster, PA, this summer I had the good fortune to lunch and to spend an afternoon each with **Barbara Zarfis Landis** and **Mary Brubaker Garman**. Barb has finished writing her book on the history of the country club to which she and husband Bob belong and plans to have it in members' hands by November. They both continue to enjoy golfing and travel to warmer climes in the winter to do so. They also travel to sightsee — this year to Greece.

My visit with Mary came unexpectedly through an invitation from a friend of my mother's. We all lunched together at the Lancaster Country Club, where Mary also is a member. Well, our hostess once owned the home where Mary's daughter, Victoria, and family now live, and after lunch Mary took all of us there to meet Victoria and to view the restoration she is doing to this lovely old historic home.

While lunching on the outdoor patio, a woman approached Mary to talk about the next day's golf tournament. To my surprise Mary's teammate turned out to be **Judy Woodruff Smith**, who spent her first two years at Western with us! In addition to being a golfer, Judy is an artist. It is my hope that during my next visit to Lancaster we can renew our acquaintance and perhaps I also can see some of her paintings. Small (Western) world, yes?

Thank all of you who helped write the class news. Thanks too for the marvelous photos which help decorate our pages. To the rest of you, we need to hear from you! Any time, any way. Letters and actual photos can be sent via snail mail or by e-mail which often



*"Wine and Gray Lead the Way"! At Reunion '08, row 1 (left to right): Hayat Imam, Pat Jayson, Ella Weingarten Iams; row 2: Barbara Williamson Wentz, Karen Prah Voris, Cece Peabody, Brenda Lee Bell; row 3: Kitsy Dunlop, Susan Blake Rowland, Kathy Evans Findley; row 3: Jeanne Flowers Foster, Susie Williams Oblinger*

is easier since my scanner doesn't always cooperate by scanning photos. Have a great year!

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**Celebrating 40 years!**

We '69ers have certainly been on the move traveling about and meeting each other along the way. Three of us, **Stephanie Bentzen Snook, Annette Bevan Gallagher** and I, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**, traveled to Oxford for Reunion '08 in June. Read on and you will find that there are quite a number of us planning to be on campus in June '09 for our big 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion, and by coincidence it is also the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Western College Alumnae Association. Lots to celebrate and remember.

**Stevie Bentzen Snook** wrote that, a few health problems aside, she has enjoyed her first year of retirement from teaching. She finds it wonderful sleeping in past 5 a.m. especially during the cold, dark and snowy northern Ohio winter months! She does miss her students, but keeps in touch regularly with many of them by e-mail. October '07, they visited a former colleague at Green Mountain College in Vermont where the foliage was gorgeous. This first vacation during the school year felt like cutting classes, but they soon got over it! This fall they plan to head back to New England, this time to Maine.

On September 23, 2007, Stevie attended the wedding of **Annette Bevan Gallagher's** daughter, **Megan Gallagher '02**. There were also trips west to Utah and Nevada for family events. Fred continues his coaching in forensics (speech and debate) and had a national qualifier this year. He also serves on the OHSSL (Ohio High School Speech League) state committee. Every morning Fred and Stevie take a mile walk, joining their neighbors for camaraderie and exercise, and then walk again in the evening; Stevie has lost 10 pounds and had fun doing it!! Son Devon, will start his fourth year of teaching this fall. He teaches high school math, is the head forensics coach, and coaches middle school track and field events and the girls' golf team. In his "spare" time, he is working on his master's. In July, he threw Stevie and Fred a surprise 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party.

Stevie and I, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**, have been serving together on the Alumnae Association Board of Trustees for the past three years. Stevie will complete her sixth year of dedicated service, the last year as president, at the time of Reunion '09. As for me, I completed one term in June '08 and decided not to continue for a second. It was a wonderful three years that gave me an opportunity to be on our beautiful campus and meet Carolyn and Don Auble (FF) on several occasions as well as be involved.

I still live in Kamakura, Japan, and visit family in California often. My husband, Kazu, and I bought a condominium in Maui last spring just down the road from **Alyce Baumgartner Haines '47**. In the summer we saw **Suzuko Kitagawa '59** in Yokohama where she was exhibiting photographs she had taken on a trip to India. With our daughter, Christine, and family living in Yokohama we are frequently entertained by visits with our little grandson, Masato. Our son, Dean, lives in California, and I see him and his wife when I visit my mother in Monterey. And, in case you are wondering, yes, I will be at Reunion in June!

**Jane Walker** wrote her greetings from her home in Oregon. Jane had the pleasure of having **Rebecca Doherty, Sally Fliess**, and **Marjie Lewis Franklin** and her husband, Cal, there for a reunion over Memorial Day. It was the first time they had all been together since 1986, when they got together at Sally's in Connecticut! Even with all the years that had passed, they seemed to take off right where they'd left things! They took a trip to the coast to do some sightseeing, and spent another day just shopping in Eugene. It was more like a slumber party than anything else. One of the things they really missed was a Mac n' Joe's steak sandwich. It was fun, and everybody had a good time, but 22 years between gatherings was definitely too long, particularly with everyone now being in their 60s.

Although **Rebecca Vierling Doherty '74** returned to Western to graduate in 1974, she was originally a member of our class of 1969 and considers it her real "home," as she should. After she left Western in '74, she moved to California and got an M.L.I.S. (Master of Library and Information Science) at UC Berkeley. For the past 22 years she has been working for the University of California's California Digital Library and plans to retire next year. She and her partner, Gary, live in Alameda, California, and love its temperate weather.

Rebecca has been in touch with several classmates. A few years ago **Sally Fliess** (NYC and CT), **Marjorie Lewis Franklin** (Bethesda, MD), and she visited former '69er classmate **Leslie Dwyer Petty**, who

was living in the French Quarter of New Orleans at the time. Leslie (whose husband passed away a few years ago) came through Katrina OK, but has since moved to Florida. Sally is retired and spends time between her house in CT and her apartment in NYC. Marjie's husband, Cal, has also retired and her daughter, Mary, is in graduate school. Sally and Rebecca have done some other traveling together, most recently to Kauai together with Gary in December '07 to celebrate Rebecca's BIG birthday. When Sally left, Rebecca and Gary went on to the Kona area of Hawaii and visited with **Betsy Summers Solis** and her husband, Tom.

Rebecca is also in touch by e-mail with **Carol Abarbanell**, who lives in the Boston area. They reminisced about the good old days at Mac n' Joe's, listening to Nina Simone, Bob Dylan, and Otis Redding.

Rebecca recently spoke with **Diana Wright Fleming** who is living in Cincinnati with her husband, Joseph, and is currently doing online teaching of ESL. They occasionally hear from **Vesta Sedler '68**, who spends a lot of time in Florida.

And finally, she keeps in touch with **Elizabeth Winkler Morris '73**, who lives in Hamilton, Ohio, with her husband Don; their daughter, Lizzie, is in college.

**Betsy Summers Solis** has had a busy and active year. In January, she became president of their condo association, which has been mismanaged for years so is a real challenge. Betsy and her husband, Tom, are athletes. In April, Betsy finished fourth in her age group at the Lavaman Triathlon. Then May was the Honu Triathlon, where she was registration director for 1,500 athletes and 150 volunteers. They stayed in Kona for the summer so that Tom could train for the Ironman Triathlon in October. Betsy had signed up for the Honolulu Marathon in December '08 and was thinking about the Maui Marathon in September.

**Karen Kling Plumb** and husband, Larry, had a fun year. They planned their dream trip to Hawaii and did a cruise around the islands. They got to visit with **Betsy** and Tom **Solis** who were great tour guides around Kona. They got to see Betsy again in July, this time at Plumbs' home in New Jersey when she came for a school reunion. Karen and Betsy shopped all over Morris County and had lunch with **Sally Fliess** and **Elisa Kessler Caporale '67**. Karen is busy substitute teaching and watching grandchildren. She hopes to make it back to for our 40<sup>th</sup>.

**Ann Noble** retired March 1, '08 and finds it truly wonderful. She has no regrets about retirement, after almost 36 years working for the U.S. Department of Labor. The job



*WC friends in NJ: Sally Fliess, Karen Kling Plumb, Elisa Kessler Caporale '67 and Betsy Summers Solis*

she had was ideal until she realized she was working days, nights, and weekends; hadn't read much for entertainment in years; and was tired of figuring out what to wear to work! Since retiring she has been to Hawaii, played lots of golf, read many books, visited their cottage in Connecticut (and **Lucy Boyle**), exercised, worked on her house and yard, and had Lyme disease.

Ann's children are doing well. Mimi is a clothing designer in Manhattan ([sajainc.com](http://sajainc.com)) and will soon be sharing rent with her boyfriend, Zach. Ben is engaged and he and his soon-to-be-veterinarian fiancée plan to be married in May and then move to Arizona so Ben can attend graduate school in mathematics. Becky has accepted a job as program and services associate manager for the Joint Council on International Family Services in Alexandria, VA. Jae seems to finally have found his niche as a hair stylist student at Aveda Institute in Denver, living with Mom while going to school and working for a restaurant.

In looking back over the last year **Betsy Philipson Kensinger** has realized how blessed she and her husband, John, are to have their family close by. They have five grandchildren all living within 45 minutes, so see children and grandchildren often.

John presented papers at several conferences this year, so they traveled to Prague and Rio de Janeiro. Betsy attended the Martha Pullen School of Art Fashion in Huntsville, AL, something she had wanted to do for some years, and thoroughly enjoyed a week of heirloom sewing. On the way back they drove about 200 miles of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi. Betsy is hoping to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> and looks forward to seeing as many of our class as possible!

**Britt Henne** wrote from her home in Oslo that she is still working for the Department of Labor and Welfare in Norway. A major reform joined the social welfare, the labor and the social security systems into one organization so the client can go to one office for information and help from the system. Britt's job is to help establish the new local

offices, in Oslo's 15 boroughs. Her youngest daughter finished medical school in August 2008 and has had her internship in both southern and northern Norway. Britt and her husband, Thor, visited the north of Norway and traveled along the coastline on a big steamer — one of the most fantastic trips they have made, with spectacular mountains and fjords. In August, the young M.D. married Christian, an economist working in insurance. The wedding was held in a big old castle in Sweden, a place they found on the Internet! Her older daughter is a nurse in charge of a nursing home in Oslo and her partner works in drug rehabilitation in Oslo.

Thor is still head of a family counseling center, which has over 50 percent of the clients with non-Norwegian backgrounds — quite a challenge. Britt and Thor still travel a lot: Morocco, Spain, Denmark, Croatia, and soon Hungary and Germany. And Britt is coming to Reunion 2009, and hopes many from the class of 1969 will be coming, too! Cell phone: 0047 91628693, e-mail: [gluppe@online.no](mailto:gluppe@online.no)

**Ginny Weckstrom Kantor** loves teaching chamber music and collaborative piano at The Cleveland Institute of Music and loves living in Cleveland. This fall she will also be teaching at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. Toronto is a great city too, she says, and she is looking forward to the challenge of helping develop a collaborative piano program there. Ginny's last 31 summers have been spent teaching at the Aspen Music Festival. Her husband, Paul, is a violinist and also teaches in Aspen and Cleveland and will teach in Toronto, too.

They have two children. Gwen (24) a student at University of Rhode Island in Kingston, was spending the summer in Rhode Island teaching swimming and lifeguarding. Tim (23) attended a chamber music festival in Italy this summer. He plays the violin and is working on a master's degree in performance at Cleveland Institute. Ginny's mother is still living independently in Massachusetts at age 92. Ginny is in touch, with Eleanor Vail FF, who is as wonderful as always and serves as an inspiration for her. Ginny will try to come to Reunion, though it always seems to fall on the same weekend as the Aspen convocation: "Our 40<sup>th</sup> will be too special to miss."

**Gloria Jordan Wilber** will return to teach family and consumer sciences in the fall of '08 for her 32<sup>nd</sup> year. All of her friends are retired or retiring but she keeps at it! Her husband, George, is still a state representative for the 63<sup>rd</sup> District in Connecticut and is busy raising money to meet the new cam-

paign reform finance laws. He is running for his fourth term this fall. He is on the National Kidney Transplant list, but continues peritoneal dialysis four times a day at home and still works. Their daughter, Kate, has been in London, England, for over two years, working in the IT-Pharmaceutical industry, and it looks like she will settle there. Duncan, their youngest, has just purchased George's mother's home, adjacent to their farm. It is nice to have one of the three still interested in the farm that they have worked on as a family for so many years. Ted, their oldest, also lives in town and is dad to their "most loved" granddaughter, Abby, who will begin school this fall.

**B.J. Gibbons Bramlett** went to the San Francisco Bay Area alumnae meeting at **Susan Blake Rowland's** ('68) house and heard the news about Miami's changes for the Western College Program. B.J. and husband Owen sold their boat five years to the day after they bought it and their search for a new one took them to Virginia for a new sailing adventure and a history tour with her 9-year old granddaughter. They toured the homes of the early presidents and learned some Revolutionary war history. They went to Annapolis and visited **Joanne Blayne Linhard '71**, cruised down the Potomac and had a great visit. They also went to DC for more history and museums, stayed on their new boat in Virginia and did a little sailing on the Rappahannock.

While cleaning the garage, B.J. found her junior garb in a foot locker along with Owen's air force uniform. It might be fun to see some garb reappear at the Reunion for some laughs and tears and cheers. B.J. will definitely be there for our 40<sup>th</sup>.

**Kathleen "Koke" Kibble** wrote that she is semi-retired, but still substitute teaches at a school where she used to work. Koke still likes to teach but loves not having the daily responsibility and grind, and it's nice to be able to be away for a few weeks at a time. Koke travels some with her mother in her motor home. The motor coach company has a major rally June 14 -19, 2009 (Reunion is June 19-21), but Koke is going to try to do a little of both coming to Oxford with her mother in the motor coach.

**Lolita McDavid** sent a photo of the "Fabulous Four": **Jessica Lee '69**, **Valerie Dickson-Horton '71**, **Lolly**, and **Linda Watson '70**, who gathered in Annapolis, MD, in June 2007 to celebrate Lolly's son's graduation from the United States Naval Academy. "It is so wonderful," Lolly writes, "to have friendships that have lasted more than 40 years. We have supported each other in joys and sorrows." Lolly is in her last year of a nine-year term on the board of trustees at Miami University — the first Western alumna to serve. Her daughter graduated from Miami in 2002, two years after Lolly was named by the governor to the board. Lolly and her

husband celebrated their 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past summer and **Dee Newell Banks '70** was with them. Yet another 40-plus-year friend!

**Nancy Galbraith Karoll** married Richard Karoll in April 2007. They had a small wedding in a park near their house in Palm Harbor, Florida, followed by a reception at home. Her two children, Mark and Nicole, flew in from Denver and Vancouver and all had a great time. They continue to live in Palm Harbor (near Tampa) where Richard works as a financial planner for Wachovia Securities. Mark, works in airport planning at the Denver airport and Nicole is a senior commercial loan analyst for a Canadian bank in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Nancy and Richard spent a few weeks in Paris and Switzerland in September '07 and had a wonderful time. She recently had a reunion in Washington, DC, with some old friends from eighth and ninth grade in Tehran, Iran. Nancy no longer works at Macy's but is very involved at the local YMCA and various other projects. She was looking forward to a visit from **Betsy Solis** and her husband in November. Life is very good!

**Robbie Smith Hurley** and her husband, Tom, are still in Columbus. She retired from college teaching 10 years ago but is a "re-employed retiree," working part-time in clinical dietetics with a home infusion company and a home care company. Great work, great schedule with time to enjoy their condo in Port Clinton, OH, on Lake Erie. Their children are grown: son Patrick (30) is a fifth-grade teacher in Upper Arlington and daughter Liz (27), engaged to be married in April 2009, is living in Charleston, SC, and hopes to find work in her area of graduate studies, hospital administration. Robbie finds it hard to believe that all of us are over 60 and our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion is coming up. "I hope we all have the good sense to take care of ourselves!" she writes.

To quote **Janie Walker**: "It seems that my Western friends are still my closest friends, and always will be! Western is alive and well in our memories!" and, I'll add, in our friendships. See you in June!

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The news from our class this year is small but interesting. I hope it will encourage others to write about their lives next year. Being back in touch with our classmates has been interesting and inspiring after all these

years and it seems as if it's only been a few years, not 37!! Those from whom I have heard have done such interesting things. So, let me begin. I hope that next year there will be more of you to write about.

I was so glad to be back in touch with **Lynn Erstein** after all these years and she writes: "In March I took an 18-day trip to China and Tibet with two other women. One had been there many times, and the other had been three times with her. I was the newbie, as it was my first trip to Asia. I have now been to every continent except Antarctica. What an experience! We started in Beijing, went by overnight train to Xi'an and then took the new cross-China train to Lhasa, Tibet. China was interesting and very different from anything I had experienced before, but Tibet was like another world. Such a spiritual place. We left Lhasa none too soon. We heard about the fires and riots in Lhasa (which were right where we were staying and had been wandering around in the markets) when we were at the airport waiting to depart. We were some of the last tourists to leave the country. In fact, of the four places we visited, we would not be able to go to two of them today — Lhasa and Chengdu.

"I accomplished another life goal in the first half of this year. I am listed on Amazon! I co-authored a book by Arcadia Publishing about Upper Arlington, the Ohio community we live in. It is published using my middle name — Kate Erstein — and has been well-received by the community. The project was fun: starting with collecting photos from people in the community, organizing, researching and writing the captions and now doing local book signings.

"Another huge accomplishment this year was the graduation of our son, our youngest. Hurray!! He graduated from the Fisher School of Business at The Ohio State University. And even better ... he is employed!! He is currently in a management training program in California. Daughter Ashley graduated from architecture at the University of Southern California last year and works for a small, cutting-edge firm in Los Angeles. She is starting to apply to grad school on the East Coast for next year. My husband had surgery to correct, or at least stop the progress of spinal stenosis in mid July."

Several years ago I got back in touch and with **Martha Hibschan Collins**. We met in Albany and as I listened to her, I thought her life was so interesting. Only Martha would end up in Antarctica. She writes, "For the last three winters I have had the experience of a lifetime. Not sure how I did it, but I talked Raytheon into sending me to Ant-



"Fabulous Four": Jessica Lee '69, Valerie Dickson-Horton '71, Lolly McDavid '69, Linda Watson '70

arctica to work as a mechanic at the airfield for the American station there. I still get teary when I think of the beauty I have seen and the experiences I had there. I have watched whales from my bedroom window, touched the actual South Pole, and driven a bulldozer in a howling Antarctic storm. I am now faced with trying to find a job at home that can follow an experience like that. Home, for the last eight years, has been four miles down a dirt road in the California mountains where I built a cabin and live without electricity and I get my water from a spring. Guess I never got over the '60s. Anybody know of an interesting job anywhere in the world for an aging mechanic with a B.A. from Western College?"

**Kathy Staubach Robison** writes that recently her Western roommate, **Janny Hadinata Morelle '70**, and she met face to face for the first time in almost 38 years. The last time they saw each other was her Western graduation. The years quickly faded away. And they were gabbing just as they did late at night in their dorm room. This beside the fact that Janny settled in France with her husband and raised two daughters while Kathy stayed in the States and raised two sons. Yet they have faced many of the same issues and now both of them are dealing with the aging parents challenge. Now it is Kathy's turn to travel to France for their next visit. Kathy's one-person consulting business continues to do well. It allows her flexibility to balance family, interests, friends and work. Much nicer than the corporate world.

Her oldest son, Capt. Sam Robison, U.S. Army Special Forces, returned to Iraq for his third tour of duty the end of May this year. They look forward to his return February 2009. Ben, their youngest son, and his wife are now back in Knoxville close to them with his new assignment at Fort Loudoun Hospital as a nuclear medical physicist. They continue to enjoy the Knoxville area with the vast waterways to boat and fish and the Smoky Mountains to explore. Life is good.

**Pamela Waldron-Moore**, who was an exchange student from Guyana, wrote that she couldn't spend much time writing as she was

preparing for yet another evacuation as Gustav is threatening New Orleans. She wanted to mention the fact that she is living and serving as professor of global studies at Xavier University of Louisiana and wishes all alumnae well. Sorry, too, that she cannot make it to the Reunion because of a time conflict with academic engagements. She is also looking to get back in touch with **Pamela Knowles, Janny Hadinata, Sadie Davis** and **Minna McLeod** and would love to hear from them.

**Marilyn McCoy Norwood** writes that she is busy attempting to complete her dissertation in time for graduation in spring 2009. It is certainly a difficult task and she asks for your prayers!

On a sad note we received notice from her husband that **Janet Tyree Clark** passed away on June 25, 2008, after a three-year-long battle with ovarian cancer.

I continue to split my time between Amesbury, MA, and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. We still fly our Comanche back and forth with the cat in the back seat. It's a four-day trip each way but it's usually fun. We use the plane in the islands to get to know the rest of the NE Caribbean. I have recently taken up tennis and love it. My life is full of great friends in both places. I continue to make glass beads in my spare time and try to stay healthy and happy. I love living in St. Croix even if it is very third world in many ways. The power goes out, the phones don't always work, but somehow I don't really care. The weather got me there but the people keep me there. If you get there, I'm in the phone book.

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Greetings to everyone! I know we all have such busy lives that it's difficult to keep up with our classmates. I am as guilty as everyone else in this regard — especially since I wasn't even able to attend our (gasp) 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion this summer! So it's a bit of, "do as I SAY, not as I do!" LOL. I heard from five of our class this time, and visited with a fifth. So come on, people, we are an awesome group, and should share our continued triumphs and adventures! Next time around, PLEASE drop a note. You can always do it by e-mail or phone. Photos would also be very lovely.

The first person to reply was actually responding late to last year's submissions. **Ann Beardsley Meeker** sent the following: "Yeah, yeah, I'm late. I'm finally digging down into my to-do stack and found the blue postcard. So ... save this for next year! Although my e-mail address will stay the same, my physical address is changing — to Georgia for a two-year exile. About 15 years ago, my husband and I bought a home down there for his father. We fixed it up, put a lot of sweat equity into it, and eventually his father died. Now we're looking to sell it — and find we'll owe more in taxes than we ever paid for it. Doesn't seem fair, so we're moving there for two years to avoid the capital gains taxes, plus the 3 percent Georgia nonresident transfer tax. And maybe sell it FSBO. And it will be an exile. The house is lovely, but I just don't ... fit in. So, I'm declaring this my two-year house party and inviting everyone and anyone to come visit (you included!) and relieve me of the tedium (it's 25 miles to a grocery store...).

"Other than that, Elliott is still with LasikPlus, Kelly transferred to UNC Chapel Hill (physics and philosophy), Margie is graduating a semester early and starting at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, AZ (game design), and I'm still editing. Hope all are doing well." [annmeeker@nc.rr.com](mailto:annmeeker@nc.rr.com).

Ann, make sure the WCAA has your new mailing address. Sorry for the exile, but maybe it will be an adventure and a joy after all. Good luck!

**Joan Campbell** from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, wrote to chastise us a bit — deservedly so, it appears. "**Lyn Miller Neely** and I were the ONLY people from our class to attend Alumnae Weekend, and it was pretty sad to have the lowest turnout of any of the other recent Reunion classes who were represented. So the most important thing for me to say to our classmates is: START PLANNING NOW TO RETURN TO OXFORD FOR OUR 40-YEAR REUNION IN 2013!!!! Seriously. We need to do much, much better than we did this year.

"As far as updates go, as in other recent years Ben and I are fine and traveling a lot. In May we took a trip in Wales followed by a small-ship cruise up the west coast of the British Isles and Ireland, as far north as the Shetlands. In July, we returned yet again to the Canadian Rockies, and as I write this, we're preparing for a short trip to Churchill, Manitoba, in early August with a small group of nature-lovers. I'm hoping for a visit this fall from **Lissa Cook Coady** and **Linda Li Ng**. Note that getting the three of us together will be a 50 percent better turnout than we had for our Western Reunion. [Ouch, Joan! Point taken!]



*Millie Adongo, modeling some of the fashion accessories from her catalog, "Proudly Kenyan," which markets native African clothing, accessories and jewelry internationally*

"So, Christy, I hope we can count on getting YOU here in 2013 — because that will probably mark 35 years since I last saw you!!!! [Yes, something like that! Ouch again!] And I do hope we can drum up a lot more participants from our class five years hence, because it's always fun to have a crowd.

"What's up with you? I couldn't help thinking of you a couple of days ago when the local newspaper had a feature on a pregnant belly dancer. No, no, I'm not suggesting you're pregnant! Any news would be welcome. Today's one of those days that should make you glad you left Ohio — it's pushing 90 and HUMID. Joan" [vjc@wideopenwest.com](mailto:vjc@wideopenwest.com)

Since Joan asked ... I think pregnancy would be a medical miracle, but I HAVE been belly dancing! Never really stopped. In fact, I often teach private classes in the Womanly Art of Belly Dancing. It's WAY fun, and very good for cardio-vascular health, as well as for your Inner Goddess! As I probably informed everyone in earlier class news, I was ordained a Minister of Spiritual Peacemaking by the Beloved Community in the summer of 2006 after an intensive seminary, which included a spiritual retreat in Assisi and peace walk to Rome in September 2005. I have done a few house blessings and one funeral so far, and am scheduled to perform a wedding this coming spring, but so far I have not done much with my pastoral life.

**Margaret "Millie" Odede Adongo** was the next to write, conveying her disappointment that she couldn't attend our Reunion. Don't feel bad, Millie, you weren't the only one. Maybe you can manage to join us in five years, and make Joan proud of us! Here's what Millie says: "I always dream that one day God may make a way for me to come to one of these dream trips at Western College. I am at the moment having two funer-

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Representing the 35-year class at Reunion 2008: Joan Campbell and Lyn Miller Neely. [Read Lyn's toast, page 4.]

als to cope with and hopefully can view the website in a week or two when we have buried the two — one of my younger sisters' husband and a son of my brother — both who passed away a few days ago here in Nairobi. I pray regularly and hope that all will be well at this year's Reunion. My best regards to Margaret Barrier, Phyllis Hoyt, and to all Westerners, especially those who graduated in 1973 with me. God bless." adoded@yahoo.com.

Millie, please extend our deepest condolences to your family on their loss! I still dream of a trip to Kenya! So be prepared one of these days to find me on your doorstep!

**Lynne Mueller Sweeney** sent me the following news: "Hi, All! This has been a very busy week. My daughter and I had a wonderful time planning her wedding, which took place on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The weather cooperated perfectly by the time we went to the church and on to the reception. Only a few things didn't go according to plan, but only Stephanie and I knew it! She and Josh drove back to Sarasota and took a Caribbean cruise the following week. [Lynne, please extend our congratulations to Stephanie and Josh, and to you, the mother of the bride as well!] I'm planning a trip to visit the newlyweds in October, and hopefully next spring to Berlin to visit my sister and her family. Now it is back to real estate, which is getting much busier than it was this spring!" 8652 Washington Blvd. E. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46240; 317-439-5514; lmsrealtor@aol.com.

That's good! I know a lot of people have been really suffering in this goofy economy, especially with housing! Hope it turns around rapidly for all of us!

Another blue card came from **Lesley B. Wischmann**, who writes: "Recently, Larry

and I have had some great reunions with other Westerners. In May, we headed east to Madison, WI, to attend the wedding of **Lee Esterly Richter's** ('74) son Brody. The wedding was delightful and the mother of the groom looked gorgeous! I didn't get to spend as much time as I would have liked with Lee, of course — but typical of her always-generous nature, she had arranged for a reunion of five couples, (including us), who all lived in Findlay, OH, in the mid-70s. It was great to see everyone again.

"After that, we dashed to Denver to meet my sister and attend an REM Concert before we came home to prepare for a way-too-short visit from **Tina Shatuck '71** and her husband, Richard. They traded in their house in Connecticut for an Airstream trailer and a gypsy life, which brought them to our doorstep for a fabulous evening together — unfortunately, way too short, as I was off to Georgia the next morning. Tina and I want to know — where is **Connie Wong**? Otherwise, I'm still writing with two books in process, and busy trying to build the non-profit Alliance for Historic Wyoming. Larry and I are great — still love Wyoming. Come visit us!" 712 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Laramie, WY 82070; 307-742-5449; lesleywisch@wyoming.com.

Last, but not least, I was pleasantly surprised to hear from **Beniko Tsubaki** from Japan (benikot@qf7.so-net.ne.jp). She called me from a hotel in San Diego because she was in town with her husband while he attended a conference. Although we both were booked to the gills, they came to Chula Vista's Farmers' Market where I provide chair massage once a week. We had a nice visit, although people wanting a massage kept interrupting us! But it was fun to see her in person, and meet her very personable and friendly hubby!

My massage business continues to thrive and I truly love my work! I occasionally teach Taiji and Qigong classes as well as the belly dancing mentioned above in Joan's letter. Gino is still at SDSU with a double poli-sci/history major, and my two kids in Florida (Allegra and Hugo) are still weathering the storms of the economy as well as the hurricanes! I'm making a swing to Ohio in October to see my mom and sister for a week, then will go from there to Naples for two weeks to see my kids and grandchildren. I may try to go to the Santa Fe, New Mexico, area for Christmas — I have a medicine man friend at Nambé Pueblo (who wants to do joint spiritual ceremonies with me); as well as an Episcopal priest (-ess) friend, who is my mentor in the pastoral field. I also spent a long weekend in Sedona, AZ, in May at a Tantra healing conference — it was awesome, and I continue to pursue classes and workshops in Kundalini Yoga, Tantra, and other spiritual modalities.

I'm looking forward to hooking up with **Renée Harris Yates '72** in a few weeks



Christy with Beniko Tsubaki, in between massages

when she comes to San Diego for a conference. Last month I was able to go up to Los Angeles to see **Mohammed Al-Barwani**, (who was originally in the Western class of '75, but graduated from Miami in '74), and his wife. We pored over my Western yearbook, reminiscing about everyone we knew from those halcyon days! He and his family of five talented, multi-lingual and multi-cultural children own and operate a large international business in Oman and are blessed to travel all over the world for business and pleasure. I was hoping to have a photo of that luncheon, but he hasn't sent them to me yet, the slacker! Contact me if you'd like his e-mail address.

I am still in touch with **Agnes Lafitte** (who was my roommate at Clawson Hall in our freshman year), and who just became a grandma of an adorable baby girl! I also occasionally hear from **Maria Ligia Galarza-Simmons '71**, who lives in Kansas, and who recently suffered an unexpected divorce from her husband of 30-some years. **Eliana Hernandez** is still in San Francisco, and I hope to take the train up to see her in the spring. I'd love to hear from ANYONE from *any* class and am eager for Westerners, who are coming to Southern California for business or pleasure, to come spend some time with me in lovely San Diego! Please stay in touch!

**Christy Wines '73**  
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619-267-1425 (h); 619-701-7264 (cell)  
winescl@aol.com



So, here we are. Really there was nothing except a quick note from **Cris Arguedas**. She is Berkeley, CA, still practicing law with her own firm; they do criminal defense. Cris says that she happily hosted a wedding reception for **Ada Harrigan** and Mary Anne O'Connor ("thank-you, California Supreme Court"). **Diane Bratcher '74** flew out from New York to attend. Cris would love to hear from anyone from Western.

As for me ... Well, life in the fast lane still moves on. Since my last *Bulletin*, we are now an official family of four. In May, Sarah, who had come back into my home last September (2007), became a permanent ward. So I am now the proud mom to three — girls ages 16, 4 and 3. Having Sarah has been a blessing as well as a strain. She has come with lots of baggage, and the financial burden has been quite overwhelming. We are struggling, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel (I hope).

Not much else is new. We did take a trip to Georgia this summer. (My mom and sister now live in the mountains just outside of Atlanta.) On the way back I almost took the girls to Oxford to see where I spent four years of my life, but it had been a long trip and I wanted to get home. Maybe next year. Christine (the 4-year-old) has started preschool and just loves it. Sarah — three days before school started — announced she wanted to go to the Catholic school. We moved a few mountains, got her enrolled. She loves it. I have never seen her so excited to go to school. Alyson, the youngest, is just being Alyson, my little redhead (but she is cute).

That's all for now ... hope to hear from more of you next fall, have a great year.

**Cyndie Cole '75**  
2317 Parmater Rd.  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
ccole@freeway.net



I hope this finds everyone enjoying crisp cool nights. While summer is always too short, it's nice to leave the legendary heat and humidity of Northeastern Ohio behind us and sit by a bonfire toasting marshmallows!

**Branton Shearer** found our Ohio summer almost refreshing after a two-week trip to Puerto Rico in June. He is in the midst of a publishing frenzy: authoring and co-authoring several books, writing articles for academic journals and editing essays. Even though he used laymen's terms to describe his various endeavors I think his website will explain it much better than I possibly could. Please visit [www.MIResearch.org](http://www.MIResearch.org) to learn more about his fascinating profession. Don't miss the link to a picture of him.

**Dan Becker** is still living in Oswega, Illinois, but is steadily pursuing his dream to walk the entire Appalachian Trail. This year he did several day hikes in the Connecticut and Massachusetts region; he only has 12 miles of the trail in Massachusetts left to hike. Recently, his brother moved to Maryland so he'll be starting the Maryland and Virginia portion of the trail next. He only has 2,090 miles left to go. His oldest daughter gave birth to her second child this past spring, and as Dan and his wife live two and a-half

hours away, he is able to see them quite frequently. He continues to teach guitar lessons and is currently rehearsing songs for his upcoming CD, which he hopes to start recording soon.

My year was fairly uneventful. I am still a licensed pyrotechnician, but my main function at American Fireworks still consists of managing the showroom where we sell consumer fireworks. I truly enjoy my customers. Several of them come from out of state and make a mini-vacation out of it — we have several B&Bs in the area and many fine restaurants.

I continue to do a cooking show for my local cable television station. If you are interested in seeing some of my recipes, go to [www.cable9.org](http://www.cable9.org) and follow the recipe archive link. While I was thrilled to hear from Branton and Dan, I couldn't help but notice how many of the e-mails that I sent out were read, but never responded to. I didn't receive one blue card. Why are so many of our voices silent now? If this page was the first one that you turned to when you received this issue of the *Bulletin*, please take a few minutes and send me a note or give me a call — all of my contact information is listed below. I wish everyone the happiest of holidays and all good things in 2009.

**Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77**  
6971 Darrow Road  
Hudson, OH 44236  
330-653-5000  
kimdregalla@aol.com

## It's time to hear from our former faculty and staff!

*As we prepare for the year-long celebration of our 35th year of lively existence, we are making updates on our revered Western faculty and staff a top priority. Blue cards have gone out ... a few have come in. Eventually, we hope to hear from each and every one of you!*

**Margaret Barrier** "moved across the street" in 1974, to teach in Miami's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. After three years, she joined the staff of the dean of the College of Arts and Science, where she worked with summer freshman orientation programs and was responsible, most of each year, for academic advising with undergraduates. Since retiring from Miami in 1992, Margaret has been involved with several nonprofit social service agencies, serving on boards of two Butler County mental health agencies, as well as Family Service, and Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio. In 2000, she moved to The Knolls of Oxford, a continuing care community, where, she writes, "I have a lovely home and enjoy contacts with a number of Western colleagues and alums." Her sister's children and grandchildren "continue to be a joy!"

After teaching at Western College for 25 years, **Eleanore Vail** got a job at Earlham

College, in Richmond, Indiana — a job she enjoyed very much until her retirement in 1994. For the past 10 years, she has had a small part-time job arranging concerts at Earlham, though she is giving that up now.

Presumably, to travel more! Since the death of her husband, Paul, in 1999, she has traveled to Vietnam, New Zealand, Eastern Europe and Russia. Eleanore, too, has remained in Oxford and lives at The Knolls, where her neighbors include not only **Margaret Barrier**, but **Will and Mary Lee Keebler** and **Don and Carolyn Auble**. She writes, "I am still active musically in the community and practice nearly every day."

"Life after Western" began in 1967 for **Dick Sakurai**, who taught physics from 1962 to 1967. He then joined the faculty of Webster College, St. Louis, Missouri, for two years; and was a faculty member at Shimer College, Mt. Carroll, Illinois, from 1969 to 1977.

In 1964, Dick had married **Sandra Still**, Western class of 1957, who had returned to Western as assistant dean of students under **Phyllis Hoyt**. Sakurais moved to Richmond, Indiana, in 1977; Sandy was associate dean of students at Earlham, and Dick had adjunct and visiting professorships at two other colleges. By the '80s, they were in Maryland, where he taught five years in a Baltimore private school, then taught physics and math at Frederick Community College until retiring in 1994.

When Sandy retired in 2000, they moved to Oregon, Dick's home state, and settled just outside Portland, in Troutdale. Since, he has been volunteering at "a left-radical book store collective" and a Japanese American Historical Legacy Center. Two sons, a Japanese daughter-in-law and grandson live in California. Says Dick, "We live at the beginning of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, so visitors will be welcomed and given tours."

## In Memoriam

**Helen Wilson Petscher '24**

March 2008

**Clarabeth Zehring Doyle-Heis '39**

March 2008

**Ruth De Martine Hardaway '50**

May 2008

**Dorothy Hamilton Amato '29**

November 2003

**Elizabeth Brill Morrow '39**

May 2008

**Mary Ellen Higburg Johnston '52**

July 2008

**Janet W. Cartwright '30**

October 2007

**Dorothy Fay Richards '39**

November 2007

**Joanne Bordner Telfer '52**

February 2008

**Edith Snyder Evans Asbury '31**

October 2008

**Anne Tuthill Reynolds '40**

May 2008

**Patricia Valentine '52**

June 2007

**Alice Phillips Scheleen '31**

March 2008

**Jean Phillips Drexel '41**

January 2008

**Marjorie Hamm Hanselman '54**

September 2008

**Betty Wolfe Hale '32**

January 2007

**Mary Emeline Eaton '41**

March 2008

**Mary Gene Flowers Maher '54**

June 2008

**Lois Bauman Leich '32**

April 2008

**Janet Kirshman Pflieger '43**

September 2008

**Sharon English Blake '55**

June 2008

**Dorothy Hopple Buchholz '34**

May 2008

**Alice Kimball Spooner '43**

March 2008

**Eleanor Inman-George '59**

January 2008

**Louise Coppedge Cunningham '35**

August 2008

**Anne Campbell Buettner '45**

March 2008

**Barbara Barrett Kendrick '64**

March 2008

**Helen Pentzer Denny '35**

March 2008

**Jeanne Steward Ballard '48**

August 2006

**Janet Tyree Clark '71**

June 2008

**Alice Janes Fowler '35**

November 2007

**Joan Cleveland Latta '48**

July 2007

**Ann T. Benson FF**

Associate Professor of English,  
1960-63

September 2005

**Elizabeth Ann Shipley Bales '38**

July 2008

**Norma Jean Corey Postel '48**

September 2004

**Kenneth Burke HA**

Vice President for University  
Relations, 1991-2000

June 2008

**Virginia Ruth Charles '38**

January 2008

**Dolores Vogt Sues '48**

August 2003

**Emily Heinrich '38**

June 2008

**Lois Ann Piepho White '48**

June 2008

**Rebecca K. Coup '39**

July 2008

**Carol Cattrell Castle '50**

April 2008

# The Western College Program

*In April 2008, it was announced that Mary Jean Corbett, John W. Steube Endowed Professor of English and Affiliate in Women's Studies at Miami, had been named interim director of the Western College Program, charged with guiding the transition from an independent program to a divisional one. Dr. Corbett graduated from Smith College in 1984 and earned her Ph.D. in English from Stanford in 1989; she joined the Miami faculty in 1989. She is extensively published — particularly in the areas of Victorian literature and women's writing. Her latest book — just out! — is Family Likeness: Sex, Marriage, and Incest from Jane Austen to Virginia Woolf (Cornell University Press, November 2008). We asked her to share her goals and plans for the new Western Program with Bulletin readers.*

However painful they may be, moments of transition also enable significant growth and change. It may seem excessively optimistic to some, but I believe that in migrating to its new home within the College of Arts and Science, the Western Program has such an opportunity at hand—and I am thrilled to be part of it!

With the assistance of the talented and energetic Kim Ernsting and Genevieve O'Malley Knight (WCP '04), the full support of Dean Karen Schilling, and the amazing efforts of faculty and professional staff from across the university, we will launch a living-learning community in the fall of 2009 that builds on and extends the very best of the Western College and Western College Program legacies even as it introduces new ideas and fresh faces to Peabody Hall. Although the task is a bit daunting, I have been deeply encouraged over the last several months on a number of fronts. The outpouring of alumnae and alumni support has been tremendous, as evidenced by both the Western College Reunion in June and the Western College Program Reunion in September. The current projects and future plans of continuing WCP students have already begun to guide our thinking about the kinds of undergraduates we aim to attract. And the interest generated among extremely talented Miami faculty from three of the University's divisions gives me great hope



*Dr. Corbett*

for what lies ahead. I have real confidence that third-wave Western, as I've taken to calling it, will be a dynamic, intellectually challenging program and a vital, diverse community of learners of which you can all be proud.

As we complete the process of recruiting faculty to the new program, we collectively begin the task of designing a curriculum that will draw students to Western, with a special focus on recruiting those who seek to design their own individualized courses of study in consultation with members of our faculty team. Designing and instituting a curriculum take time, and I do not imagine that everything will be in place all at once, so I ask for your patience — and your participation — as the new program takes shape. Whatever the pace of our progress, I certainly plan to draw on your passionate energy and enthusiasm for educating the next generation of Western students, and to share more with you over the coming months, whether in person or in print, about the new program.

— *Mary Jean Corbett*

Celebrating 30 years!

1979 was anticipating a big showing at the upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> WCP Reunion and we were busy getting ready for that, but folks took time to write....

**Cindy Renz First** is First (groan.....) She is sorry she can't make reunion, but writes: "I am still practicing law in Everett, Washington, with one other person. I have a daughter at Washington State (sorority member and a fashion major — John and I cannot figure out where either came from!), and another who is a junior in high school — an athlete, honors student, etc. (can't figure out where those genes came from either). I also have a step-daughter who is a first year at a small school in Belmont, California. I hate to say it, but middle age does seem to be upon me so I am figuring out what I will do for the next 50 years. Big hugs to everyone at the Reunion — I would love to be there. P.S. I just represented a woman who went to Western and graduated years after us — small world! We prevailed, of course. We had two great brains on our side — how could we lose?"

**Katryn Inkley Renard** writes in as a long time reader, first time writer: "I hang my clothes out to dry. It's the green thing to do and as a Western grad that should, and does, please me. But I do it more for the calming influence it has on my day. In theory I'm calm every day since for the past two and a-half years I have not had the stress of my job as a software developer. I loved my job. But as we watched the company's downward spiral, it seemed prudent for me to leave. It's a terrible thing to lose faith in the company to which you've dedicated so many years. But I was fortunate and did not need to seek other employment. So now I have more time. Time to hang the clothes on the line. Time to escape the technology-driven world and let the sun dry the clothes in its own unhurried and calm way. How odd that I made a career by developing faster and better technology and now I rejoice in escaping the buzzer that says, 'I dried these quickly for you; come and do something with them.' I use the clothespins my mother-in-law used. I think about her hanging out her clothes and her mother before her and her mother before her ... It's not long before I feel connected to the women who settled on the prairies so long ago. Did they listen to the songs of the birds and attempt to identify each one by call alone as I do? Did they regard God with awe and their marriages with joy as I do? Were they blessed with good health as I have been even though technological advancements have forced

me to be intentional about exercise instead of receiving it as a by-product of my day? I once commented to my mother-in-law that her 50-some-year-old diapers-now-rags were very white. 'Of course' she replied, 'you can't hang out stained diapers for all the neighbors to see.' I don't hang our unmentionables outside. I wonder what else my lifestyle allows me to hide? The homes in our area have unattached garages. I like that; it causes us to rub shoulders with the neighbors more. It makes it harder to hide. It helps to offset the isolation that comes with air conditioning in the summer and cold weather in the winter. All those years of training our minds in Leonard Theatre lead me to ponder what America would look like if we all had unattached garages and turned off our air conditioners. I'm not sure; I need to hang out more clothes to explore it further."

**Lynn Patterson Hessler** sends an update: "After Western graduation, I received a certificate in paralegal studies from College of Mt. St. Joseph, then worked as a litigation paralegal for 12 years at a large, then a small law firm in Cincy. Married Mark Hessler in 1987; we have four great kids, Charley, Rose, Robin and Colin! We have been home-schooling our kids for 15 years now. Our oldest, Charley, is a sophomore at U.S. Naval Academy; only daughter, Rose, is a freshman at Xavier U. I'm still having lots of adventures with eighth-grade son, Robin, and his first-grade brother, Colin! Our children are all involved in competitive swimming, which of course, means I am too; we get to Miami often for swim meets! I also work part-time for Community Press Newspapers as a district manager in the circulation department. We still live in Cincinnati in Springfield Township.

Alas, **Patty McGowan Eger** has some very, very sad news to share. Western is a painful place for her right now, but she sends her best wishes to all: "Dear Walter and my fellow Western classmates. I write this with a heavy heart. My son **Joey Eger** was a junior at Western College and died by suicide on Oct. 19, 2007. He was a kind, fun-loving, creative and generous young man and his death took us totally by surprise. My husband, Willie, my son James (17) and myself are struggling with our grief. As a nurse practitioner at the VA Medical Center for the past 24 years, I am no stranger to human suffering. I just never thought this kind of tragedy would be part of my reality. I ask less and less 'Why me?' and now try to ask 'Why not me?' My faith in God (the Great Spirit of us all) has comforted me and allowed me to believe that I will see Joey again in another realm. I am hopeful for the future



Lynn Patterson Hessler '79 and family of swimmers!

and look for something good to come from the awful experience. Joey's classmates have initiated a Miami memorial scholarship in his name. We need \$25,000 to have an endowed scholarship and we are only \$8,000 away from meeting this goal. The scholarship will be awarded to a Princeton High School student (Joey's alma mater) who brings 'light and laughter to the classroom' and also has some financial need. My hope is that the first scholarship will be awarded to the graduating class of 2009. I would like to thank all my classmates who have so generously donated to the scholarship already. If anyone would care to make a tax deductible donation, go to [www.forloveandhonor.org](http://www.forloveandhonor.org) and specify in the other box — Joey Eger Memorial Scholarship. Thank you for the love and support I have received from my fellow classmates, Joey's classmates, and the Western faculty. Peace to all."

I encourage everyone to give to the Joey Eger Scholarship Fund. That's all for now. Stay in touch!

Peace, all!

**Tom "Walter" Gardner '79**  
307 Constitution Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
[gardner.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:gardner.thomas@epa.gov)

**Susan Mason Foster** is pursuing a master's in multicultural special education from Mount St. Joseph's College in Cincinnati. She works at The Children's Home; a satellite program for kids with ED in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Daughter Claire is 13, wise and talented beyond her years. Claire is studying violin and vocals at Cincinnati's performing arts school downtown. Susan and Bill run up and down between life in South-



'81 classmates Rich Kemmett and Hank Stern, visiting Western

ern Ohio and Bill's business in Northwest Ohio while diverting to the beach around Christmas time for a couple of weeks of R&R before Bill's hectic tax season. Look for Susan on Saturday of the Reunion, she hopes to join the festivities and share some of her work in Economics in Literature, a thematic unit that focuses on "standards from science, social studies, language arts and math" ... Interdisciplinary Studies Live! Susand31@fuse.net

**Alan Kalish**, Ph.D., is director of faculty & ta development at The Ohio State University and has been very active in helping to shape the "New Western Program" as a member of the Dean's Alumni Advisory Council (DAAC). His mission has been to figure out how to keep WCP alums connected and active in the program. Alan has attended programs at the College of Education in Portugal to further his interest in teaching teachers how to teach and in some cases how to teach teachers to teach teaching to other teachers who are involved in teaching teaching to other teachers. As if that wasn't enough, Alan and Claudia have opened the Lotus Center for Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. Don't worry, Claudia will be handling all the surgery. Kalish.3@osu.edu www.Lotusvet.com

**Rich Kemmett** is with a national advertising media company and hires sales contractors. (Work from home-Make big money-Must have Bachelor of Philosophy degree or equivalent...boy I've been looking for that ad my whole life.) Rich retired as a captain from the Hartford, CT, police department after 26 years of service in an urban area where 62 percent of the population is below the federal poverty line (story time starts

at 7:00 sharp at O'Bryan's pub). The photo is Rich and our fellow classmate **Hank Stern** making a visit to Western. The visit was brief as the *Seekies* still have several outstanding warrants for their arrest...something about statues and undergarments? Richard.kemmett@rtui.com

**Chris Kerosky** writes: "After 12 happy years at our house across the bay from San Francisco, my wife and I moved out to the country in West Sonoma County, California. We found a dream home, at the end of a long winding road, surrounded by oak and redwood trees, in the heart of wine country. The closest town is Graton, which is really just a crossroads, but our new address will be: 11050 Peaks Pike Rd., Sebastopol, California 95472; phone: 707-874-2484. We are also losing our family e-mail address, so e-mail us now at: keroskyfamily@gmail.com. I will still be maintaining my office in San Francisco, but trying to do more work from my home office. Mary will still be helping out in the office, but trying to spend as much time as she can with the dogs, the chickens and maybe even a goat. The kids will have five acres to run around in, plenty of room to chase after the animals. We hope to see Western alumni visiting often in this lovely part of the country."

**Jeff Schreiber** is alive and well and living in Leetonia, Ohio (near Youngstown). He got married three years ago and has three daughters. (He's pictured here with his youngest, Grace, who turned 1 in July.) Jeff



Jeff and his yearling

makes custom cabinetry and is interested in American House Styles. He will not be able to make it down for the reunion (three daughters ... he better make a lot of cabinets) but sends his warmest greetings to everyone. shrubman@earthlink.net

As many of you know our classmate **Jeff Dovel** has been battling with health issues for some time. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts. thedovels@fuse.net

Western has been many things to many people, different things to different people, but it has always been a source of intense emotional memories. Whatever happens to

the program in the future, it will be up to those who live it to make it their own and to create memories and relationships that will last a lifetime. We have given each other a unique and precious gift, friendship and fellowship that have endured for decades now. Nothing they can do to the current program can ever change that. Our Western will live on as long as we gather for reunions, visit the duck pond, see each other when we are near by, call, e-mail or just pause from our busy lives to remember a time when we were young and hopeful and full of energy; excited and angry and dramatic and so incredibly smart. That is the fountain of youth, my friends, drink deep and let it rejuvenate your soul. Long live Western! Rego '81

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Although there was no news from Class Rep **Ann Rosenfield** this time around, it can be reported that three members of the class attended the All-Western Reunion in June and appeared to enjoy themselves: **Patrick Callahan, Robert Cox** and **Jeffry Kirschner**. And it's fair to say the class is proud collectively of Pat, who received a 2008 Alumnae Service Award from the WCAA. (See page 33 for a copy of the citation.) Pat's wife, **Karen Kilbane** — also a member of the class — was unable to attend.

Bobby represented the WCP alums Saturday night at the banquet, toasting the Western spirit that sustained alumnae after the closing of the original Western College and gives hope to WCP alumni as they face the prospect of their "beloved program undergoing an uncertain transformation." [Editor's note: Read the complete toast in "What's on Your Mind," page 4.]

The second Reunion of the year — the WCP's 35<sup>th</sup>, September 19-21 — brought out even more class members: **Jim Boyer**, who sang and played guitar at the Sunday closing ceremony in Ernst; **Dave Dorsky; Chris Jennings** and **Jan Montgomery; Steve Kanner; Chris Myers** and **Lynne Born Myers; Kathy Smith Rademacher;** and **Ann Rosenfield**.

Condolences are due **Chris Jennings**, who left Oxford before the closing ceremony in order to attend a family reunion — only to learn when he arrived that his mother had been killed in an automobile accident. Con-

*ALL classes come and celebrate WCAA's 35<sup>th</sup> at Reunion '09 ... June 19-21!*



Loyal members of the Class of '83 Jeff Kirschner (middle) and Bobby Cox (right) were on hand at the June 2008 Reunion to enjoy activities and honor classmate Pat Callahan (left), who received the WCAA Alumnae Service Award.

dolences, too, to Chris's brother, **Tom Jennings**, Western '86.

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This is the Facebook version of a class reunion. A number of us have "found" each other again on Facebook and it's been a lot of fun. You are invited to join us!

Through Facebook, I've learned that **Heidi Fruehan Francioni** has "scored a solo art show at a beautiful and big winery nearby, scheduled for July '09." Heidi and her husband own a music school where most of the students study guitar. They like to play classic rock, which they call "old rock." Of course, age is relative, isn't it?

When you find **Mark Damschroder** on Facebook, you can see photos of him and his two lovely teenage daughters, visiting scenic wonders such as Arches National Park. You'll also see that Mark "is contemplating *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* recommended by **Laura McShane** ... Good Book!"

Speaking of Laura, she has good cause to recommend or not recommend books, as an employee of the Cleveland Public Library. When you go to her Facebook site, you'll find a link to "Reading List 2008 by LMcShane." Looks like she has some great suggestions!

After **Catherine Charlton** and **Sue Merri-lee's** trip to the Arctic a couple of years ago,

Catherine now finds herself in the beautiful South Downs region of England, where she lives with her (relatively new) husband, Roger. She reports having an interesting vantage point for this fall's general election and is actively supporting the "correct" candidate through Democrats Abroad ...

**John Haffner Layden** is the associate director for publications for the New School in NYC and has posted on his Facebook page an amusing photo of himself bowling.

Somehow, between home-schooling her four children and drinking chai at Starbucks, **Anne Meskey Elhajoui** manages to find time to keep a very lively and up-to-date Facebook page. She

also seems quite adept at playing online word games.

And, finally, when you find Ed Adams' site, you'll see that he hasn't lost his touch as he is "having lunch with the best legal reporters on the planet" and "talking with some of America's smartest lawyers." Oh, Ed.

Facebook has been great fun. I hope you'll all join in and keep us apprised of your latest joys.

**Madeline Iseli '85**  
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No one from the class of '87 sent an update to class rep **Christine Rebera** or, sadly, attended the 35<sup>th</sup> year Reunion on campus in September. But the WCAA office sleuths unearthed this news on one classmate who's making quite a name for himself:

In the May/June 2008 issue of *The Northwest Magazine* ([www.thenwmagazine.com](http://www.thenwmagazine.com)), a feature article tells the story of how **Bill Cameron**, native Ohioan, followed his long-time dream to move to the Northwest and ultimately to pursue the writing life. He landed in Portland 18 years ago, and today he, his wife and kids are still thrilled with the city's easy access to "just about any environment," plus a multitude of family activities and "an almost unending supply of marvelous restaurants." A graphics designer by day, Bill writes mysteries in his spare time and published his first novel, *Lost Dog*, in 2007. He also contributed a short story, "Slice of Pie," to the anthology *Killer Year*,

which came out in January 2008. Read more at [www.billcameronmysteries.com](http://www.billcameronmysteries.com).

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**Celebrating 20 years!**

New news from the class of 1989:

From **Kris Curry**: "Hello, Westerners — Always nice to read about what everyone else is up to, thought I would finally write in with an update as well. I'm marking my 17<sup>th</sup> year in LA working in television (wow, that sounds shocking) and last year moved permanently out of freelance producing and took an exec position as VP of development for Pie Town Productions so I could be home with my family more. My husband, Rich, and I are renovating our 1920s craftsman bungalow (an unfortunate side effect of working for a company that does a dozen some HGTV shows) and our daughter, Dusty, enters kindergarten this fall. I'm always encouraged to read about the socially redeeming work my former classmates are doing, as it seems like it cancels out my contribution to the decline of civilization ... which is nice.

"**Dana Lundell**, what is your new e-mail address?? **Misun Oh**, so great to see you in San Francisco a couple years back — where are you now? And, **John Vanek**, is it true you ran into my sister-in-law in New York City at our film screening a couple years ago? I'm hoping to see updates from you all in this edition of the alumni newsletter! For anyone visiting Southern Cal, give us a shout out and we'll take you out for the best taco ever. No kidding." kris@tributethemovie.com

From **Richard McDonnell**: "In February, I moved to the D.C. area from Richmond, VA. Still with the same company, Altria, doing the same thing, government affairs, but new location. Actually, it was a return home as both Julia and I are from Northern Virginia. We found a great, old house in Falls Church. We moved in just in time for the arrival of our twins — Jackson and Madeline — in March. They joined an older sister, Grace, who turned 4 two days after they were born. She thought it was quite a birthday gift!"

News may be dated, but here is where some alums were a year ago!

**Terry Eisele** is married to fellow Miami alumna Michelle Kozak. Terry is teaching ESL at a Community College in Columbus, and

writing a graphic novel based on interviews with a Czech woman who survived the Nazi decimation of her village.

I heard by e-mail from **Heather Purkey-Wells**. She is living in Fairfield, OH, and reports: "Three kids, a dog, cat, mortgage, etc. Just finishing up my M.S.W. at UC. My kids are 16, 13 and 10. A boy and two girls. I really enjoy them. It's hard to believe my son will be a junior in high school this year! I work in children's mental health and have for a long time. I'm thinking of doing some contract work — therapy, mediation, training. But right now I'm going to just stick with my day job and relax. I spent the last two years working close to full time and going to school full time.

**Cathy Flynn '89**  
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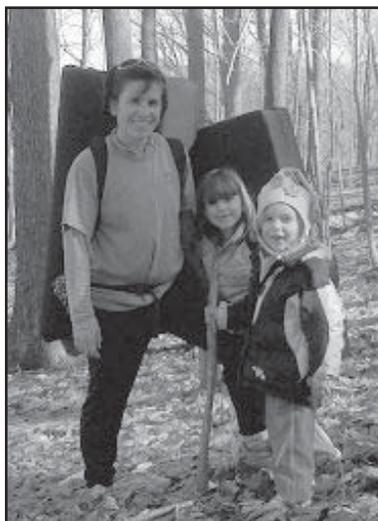
I had a bittersweet time at the Western Reunion. I think most of us came away from it feeling cautiously optimistic. This week I had the good fortune to have lunch with Mary Jean Corbett, the new interim director, and she is a true force of nature. I am confident she'll do everything she can to ensure that the new WCP is a place where social justice, gender equality, creativity and intellectual integrity flourish. My son, Leo, and I are very well. Now that I have a tenure-track position at Miami (I teach social work on the Hamilton campus), we are happily ensconced in O-town. Leo is now attending the McGuffey Foundation School, which is sort of like Western for elementary school kids. He loves it. He finds their cussing policy quite reasonable and enjoys it that they don't make the kids line up single file when they change classes. Our house has been taken over by Star Wars Legos. We've recently been reading *Ender's Game* and *Speaker for the Dead*, two Orson Scott Card sci-fi classics, which kept us busy and enthralled for a few weeks. Leo and **Jon Kopp '93**, who came back for the Reunion, had a profound philosophical conversation: "What is your favorite Star Wars planet?" "Do death stars count as planets?" I myself am firmly in the "no" camp, but clearly there are arguments to be made in the other direction. So these are the things that are keeping my family busy and intellectually occupied. Hope all is well with everyone!

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Two weeks ago, I sat in Ernst Nature Theater on a resplendent autumn Sunday morning with nearly 200 Western College Program alums who represented each of the major eras in our alma mater's storied and principled history. It was the finale of an intense week that was equal parts wake, bull session, and Reunion that somehow left all of us feeling ... hopeful. At home, I realized, I would have been sitting in the pews of my church at that very hour; the same sense of peace that I find in the sanctuary washed over me as we laughed, cried, and sang, raising a chorus on the eastern edge of a campus from which we had been viciously banished, as if to affirm that despite all of Miami University's most evil intentions, we were still there and there we would remain.

But mostly, we sang for us. First, Joni Mitchell's anthem "The Circle Game," then the Western College alma mater, and finally, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." It was a fitting collection of songs. When it was time to bid adieu and begin a 10-hour drive back to Washington, I looked around at a cohort of fellow-alumni, and it struck me that I had more in common with Western graduates from the early 1980s and members of the last two graduating classes than I ever did with the people in Miami University's class of 1993. When Miami University hosts its reunion weekends, people come back and seek out friends only from their own class. At the Western Reunions, age is secondary because everyone you meet shares a history and dedication to a program that embraced all generations; you may never have formally met that person who graduated a decade or more earlier than you, but



you already know her. It's just one of those hugely intangible assets that transcend the (meritless) bottom line justifications for the program's deconstruction. Alienating the some 1,500 people who've graduated from Western in the past 35 years is truly Miami's loss.

**Ben Gibbons '94** noted during deliberations over how we as an alumni group should be organized in the future that we were still here while President James Garland, the master of our demise, is gone. And to some degree, this is true. The current plan is for Western to rise from the ashes into something that shares many of the same philosophies and goals. And it is headed by the very capable Mary Jean Corbett. And we should all be relieved that **Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04**, whose connection to Western is so strong those of us who attended in late '80s and early '90s remember her climbing the trees outside Peabody as an 8-year-old, is Mary Jean's deputy. And while I am hopeful, I'm also suspicious — the University is clearly committed to honoring the alumnae of the Western College.

But there are signs that if we don't assert ourselves, our contributions as an academic program are in danger of being vanquished from the history books. Which is why we must form a strong alumni organization rather than fade into oblivion. A post card explaining a handful of options on how to proceed is on its way to you; look for it. Voting will continue online until December; vote. Let's show the university we will not be forgotten.

I did have the pleasure of seeing many of our classmates at the Reunion. **Ted Welser** and **Laura Black** made the trek across the state from Ohio University, where they are professors. They had their delightful daughters Sydney and Anna in tow, which made me wish I had brought my own girls,



*Trekkers Laura Black, Ted Welser, Anna and Sydney, ready for rock-climbing!*

whose temperaments seem to me to match up perfectly with theirs.

Of course, two months earlier, Laura had sent me a note for inclusion in this missive. It is as follows: "After a long stint in Seattle, **Laura Black, Ted Welsler**, and their daughters, Anna and Sydney, have finally settled back in Ohio. Ted and Laura both completed their Ph.D. at the University of Washington (2006) and spent a year in Ithaca, NY, working as postdoctoral researchers at Cornell University. After a wonderful, but cold, year in Ithaca we moved to Athens, Ohio, where we are both assistant professors at Ohio University. Laura teaches in communication studies and does research on public deliberation, decision-making, and conflict in small groups. Ted teaches in sociology and does research on social roles, networks, and the diffusion of innovation in online communities. He is also quite a poker player these days and frequents the weekly game at the local VFW.

"Anna (6) starts first grade this year. She likes soccer, reading, art, and rock climbing, and she recently declared that she is 'not into princesses any more' (much to Laura's relief). Sydney (3) is a talkative, friendly, imaginative little ball of energy. She likes telling stories, keeping up with Anna, having Mommy read her lots of books, riding



*Kristin Bowling, kayaking with Nicole*

live amongst conservative ranchers and still eat really good sushi, you must visit Klamath Falls, Oregon. The outdoor opportunities here are as diverse as they are wonderful, so I spend as much time as possible on the trail, on the water, and in the snow.

"Though early last year brought the disintegration of my marriage and plans for adopting a child, the transformative journey through this year has brought me an amazing new family. Malcolm is an amazingly accomplished scholar, teacher, advocate, writer, and outdoorsman, and most of all a spectacular dad to 4-year-old Nicole, a powerhouse of physical activity and new initiate of camping — especially the consumption of roasted 'marshmallows'. Though we

run my law practice and try to juggle mother/lawyer/business owner things. So far this year, my mother converted to Catholicism, and my father became a born-again vegan after two coronary 'events.' True to her name, Stella is the light of our lives (though she can't figure out why everyone keeps shouting her name). However, when she turns 16 and starts to catalog all of the ways I screwed her up, I can say 'I nursed you until you were 15 months old, through two trials, 16 depositions, and pumped your breakfast in an airplane bathroom at 30,000 feet in turbulence that would have made an astronaut upchuck!' Actually, no one is more surprised than I to find that the identity of 'Mother' is not full of the Brechtian dissonance I feared. Though every day with a toddler is full of the amusing, poignant, and downright terrifying, I'm so tired that I forget these moments instantly, and hence, have nothing even mildly interesting, much less amusing, to write. So feel free to send me funny things, and suggestions for fiction on CD." [aglesius@glesiuslaw.com](mailto:aglesius@glesiuslaw.com)

Finally, I received a single blue mailer from **Jeff Sikorovsky** with an update. Jeff, unfortunately, didn't make it to the Reunion, but does seem to be doing well: "Enjoying life in 'wild and wonderful West Virginia' with Jessica and daughter, Zoey Rose, who turns 3 in December. Traveled to Cleveland,

*Receive our e-newsletter . . . send your e-mail address to [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu)*

her 'like-a-bike,' and eating dessert. She often wears fairy wings to preschool.

"Although we miss the mountains, culture, and coffee of the Pacific Northwest, we are really enjoying the lifestyle of the small college Ohio town. We have a house in a great neighborhood community (one block from the elementary school) and we walk or ride our bikes to work most days. Ted built a climbing wall in our garage, which is fun for all four of us, and we are psyched to be in a place where we can get outside and hike, camp, and climb easily. The photos included here are us carrying rock climbing pads on our backs and having an adventure in the hills of Athens. Life is good. We would love to stay in contact with Western friends. E-mail us: [htwiii@gmail.com](mailto:htwiii@gmail.com) (Ted) or [laurawblack@gmail.com](mailto:laurawblack@gmail.com) (Laura)."

Other '93 grads at the Reunion included **Kristen Bowling**, who drove in from West Virginia, where she'd been attending a training session. She had also filled me in on her life before the Reunion, so in her own words: "I am in my fourth year running the public services/interpretation program at Lava Beds National Monument in northern California. It is a strange thing to now be supervising 'kids' 15 years younger and not really get the appeal of Facebook. Late last year I moved across the state border — if you've never been to a place where you can

currently make the long trek between here and the Salem area every week or two, I am working on a transfer to a national park in that area in the next year or two so we can all six (three dogs included) live under one roof. Though I never would have predicted my situation a few years ago, I am overjoyed to start navigating the waters of remarriage and parenting, along with all the challenges and small accomplishments of long-distance bonding and complex visitation schedules. Cheers to everyone as we all enter mid-life — yes, at 37-38, it's time to admit it and celebrate!" ([montananshelby@whale-mail.com](mailto:montananshelby@whale-mail.com))

**Noemi Margaret** also made the journey to Oxford in September with her son, Max — it was great to see her.

We unfortunately didn't get to see **Amy Glesius** (who had been planning to make the trip until something came up. She does have an update on her life, however: "Roger and I welcomed Stella Grace Glesius into the world on April 10, 2007. I continue to



*Stella!*

Manchester, VT, and New York City this summer. Zoe Rose caught her first fish with Grandpa and is an avid horseback rider. 'Mommy' has bought a Morgan foal to raise with ZoRo's help. 'Daddy' is busy working, working out, working in the yard, and walking the dog. Best wishes to all in the WCP class of 1993 — write or call, PEACE!" His address: 685 Gordon Dr., Charleston, WV, 25314; 304-389-7696; [jdsike@yahoo.com](mailto:jdsike@yahoo.com).

Finally, **Scott Mongeau** had a good reason for missing the Reunion: He was closer to Oxford, England, than Oxford, Ohio. To wit: "Living in Leiden, The Netherlands with wife Marloes and pursuing master's in finance. As brevity is the better part of valor, I'll point those interested in details to: [www.eyesky.com](http://www.eyesky.com)."

As for me, well, it's been an interesting year. I finished my master's degree in public policy in May, which was a relief. I can't believe I even entertained the possibility of pursuing a Ph.D.! Since then I've been trying to get back into some semblance of physical shape and have taken to commuting to work by bicycle four to five days a week. This has begat the need to take a course on bicycle repair, which starts in two weeks. I'm looking forward to it!

I'm still working for Bloomberg News and have had a front-row seat to the economic



Ryan's girls

meltdown of September (there was even a photo of me interviewing Nancy Pelosi front and center of the *Drudge Report* one day). Avery started kindergarten and lost her first tooth the day after my 37<sup>th</sup> birthday. Both she and Zoe learned to swim this summer. They continue to amaze Patty and me with their spunk, boundless curiosity, and capacity for adventure. And, I'm on Facebook now, along with a number of Western types. So, if you ever needed an excuse to join, there it is. Be well, love life, and please make your voice heard on Western's future.

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Greetings Class of 1995! So many of you are busy working, earning a living, running marathons, saving the planet, and volunteering to save the world, that you forgot to e-mail me your latest update. C'mon, gang, we need to hear from you! Don't be shy. Send us your latest and greatest update as to what you're doing, where you're living, and what's happening in your life.

What's new here? In February of 2007, I moved to Atlanta, Georgia, from metro-Detroit Michigan, to work for a small community bank in Stockbridge, Georgia. (It's hotter than Hades down here, gang. Sheesh!) I got hitched in September of 2007 at a small German Catholic church in Detroit to my beautiful wife, Jacquelyn. My wife and our two cats, Thatcher and Darby, recently moved to Peachtree City, Georgia, to be closer to my office. I presently serve as the Atlanta area president for a locally owned community bank. (No Southern drawl yet!) It's my way of saving the world one borrower at a time. Just kidding! You can catch my business banking blog at <http://broughtonbanker.blogspot.com>. I am volunteering to teach a financial literacy class to Bhutanese refugee immigrants through the local Catholic Charities arm of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. If any of y'all speak Bhutanese, then shoot me an e-mail!



Paul and his beautiful bride

Here are a couple of updates from our classmates **Amy Hyatt** and **Sylva Miller**:

**Amy:** "Hello, All. Thought I might actually make it in on this year's round of *Bulletin* Class Notes. Seem to miss the deadline by a couple weeks every couple of years! I've been living in the Brattleboro, Vermont, area since August 2001, working for Vermont Wilderness School and other sundry sustainable community initiatives in the region. And I've fallen in love working with children outdoors. This year I was hired as program director for the 10<sup>th</sup> year of a nature awareness and earth living program for children and teens that meets nearly every Thursday from September to May in whatever weather, just as long as it is safe for staff and parents to get there. I love it and I especially love the friendships I've developed with the children, teens and families involved in the program. I'm also involved with running a national and regional workshop called the Art of Mentoring, which we're ramping up for this fall, combined with the release of a companion book, *Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature*, due out in September. It's exciting stuff.

"On the home front, I live on 236 acres of preserved land on a steep dirt road, 20 minutes from downtown Brattleboro. I have a cat and a housemate (who I rarely see). I am an 'auntie' to numerous children but with a few I'm especially close to. I don't have any children of my own. In the last three months, I've hooked up with a girlfriend who is quite wonderful. Yes, **Jen Kenney**, you were right all along but I was being honest every time you asked me if I was sure I wasn't gay. I finally admitted to myself that I was gay five and a-half years ago as I was working on my master's degree (which I did finish satisfactorily in Feb 2004). Overall, I'm doing good and really have found 'home' here in southeast Vermont. If you are in the area, give me a call and stop by!"

**Sylva:** "Hey, Paul, I noticed the deadline for updates was yesterday ... operating on



"Three amigos": Paul (center), brother Mike and their dad

Western time, as usual. Anyhoo, I wanted to send you a short note with a picture of my son ... So, here it is with the update. ... I gave birth to my first child, Evan Breece Ballam on May 21, 2008. While my husband, Doug, and I find caring for a newborn quite stressful, I am also constantly entertained and impressed by Evan. Waiting until my mid-30s to be a parent was definitely a good move on my part. As always, visitors are welcome if you're traveling through Colorado."



Sylva and Evan

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It's (almost) all about babies this year! Here are the birth announcements ...

From **Sarah Bernhardt** and **James Wiseman**: "Dear Friends, James and I are very excited to share the news that our son, Henry Praeger Wiseman was born on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> in Houston, Texas. He was 6 lbs. 13 oz. and 19 in. long. We are all home, and healthy and are very happy to be home as a family. Welcome to planet earth, Henry!!! We hope you are well."

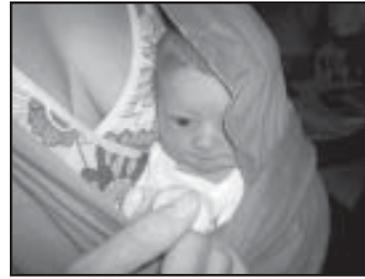
From **Hannah Ehrlich Hardy**: "Our big news for Western is the birth of Ezra. So we now have Galen, who's 2½ (January 2006), and Ezra, who's 9 months (November 2007). I am still working at the PA Environmental Council and I'm still married to Tom (thought I would mention that). We're still in Pittsburgh and Tom's getting ready to finish his M.B.A., so who knows where that will take us. As the boys get bigger I'm hoping to take them out more on all of the trails that I work so hard to build." <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hardyhome1240/>



Babies of '97! New mom Sarah Bernhardt, with Henry ...



and Henry with his dad, James Wiseman ...



Class Rep Rebecca's own Lucia Caroline Dingo-Early ...



Ezra and Galen, Hannah Erlich Hardy's little guys

From your Class Rep, **Rebecca Dingo**, "Here is the scoop on our new arrival: Lucia Caroline Dingo-Early was born on 9/11 — already a rebel, she is taking back a not-so-great date. She was 8lbs 1 oz and 19.5 inches long."

Of course there must be an exception, but we're still happy to hear from **Jon Strange**, who writes: "I'm still in Philadelphia, the city with a chip on its shoulder, where I have a new job I'm excited about — in September I start work at the Defender Association of Philadelphia as a public defender. I'll miss seeing everyone at the Reunion this year, but I hope you're all doing well. Visitors and friends, get in touch: jstrange@gmail.com."

And an update from the WCAA office ...

**Molly Erin Hicks** wrote, "After many-a-job since 1997, mostly as an educator in one form or another, I realized I really wanted to be a professor. I am now a first-year Ph.D. student in environmental studies at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH — a graduate arm of the Antioch College system. (Yes, the main school being in Yellow Springs, OH! :) ) I have three amazing cats and am still loving life as always."

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**Celebrating 10 years!**

Hello again, Western Alums. Happy to report news from class of '99 grads this year.

**Marni Shindelman** wrote to us after a week out west visiting former roommate Megan Tremain (Architecture '99). Marni tells us, "Megan and Lee have been working on building a house for six years now, and it is well worth the wait. They hope to finally move up from the basement in late August ... All those late nights and cardboard

projects paid off for both of them (WCP-ers, remember how much cardboard they went through our first year?!) ... They designed and built the entire house themselves, it has a porch that you reach by climbing out of windows, a partial green roof, and many decks with perfect views of downtown Seattle.

"As for me, I'm still hanging out in Rochester. I've been at the University of Rochester now for six years, as an assistant professor in studio arts. Just like at Western, I am again volunteering at an animal shelter, working on rehabilitating a three-legged dog. (Anyone want a three legged dog? He's fabulous, and sweet, and the easiest dog ever.) My trip out west was also productive. Look for my work at Wall Space Gallery this winter in Seattle, and hopefully next year a lecture and larger show in Seattle or Portland. My house has plenty of extra bedrooms, if you don't mind an obsessive compulsive schnauzer. I am close to Niagara Falls!"

From **Karla Schneider** we heard, "A bunch of us got together for a mini-reunion last weekend in Columbus."

**Megan Motil Olds** sent an update to the office last April. She has joined the Grand Traverse (MI) Regional Land Conservancy as director of development. Prior to that, she was director of regional planning at the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, where she managed a variety of land use, transportation and economic development programs, and "admired from afar the conservancy's efforts to protect northern Michigan's water quality, working farms and natural lands." After Western, where her focus was on local food systems, she went on to earn an M.A. in organizational management. Megan lives in Traverse City's Old Town neighborhood with husband Andy and daughter Eleanor. molds@gtrc.org

The Coggins are still in Cleveland, enjoying another year of hysterical parenting. We're looking forward to a trip to California in October. We hope to see lots of Western kids who couldn't quite handle life in the Midwest.

**Hadley Schreiber Coggin '99**  
1271 Ethel Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
hmcoggin@hotmail.com



A mini-reunion of '99 WCP and Architecture alums in Columbus, compliments of Karla Schneider (left to right): Leah Wilson Trotta and husband Nick, Vickie Mathers Green and daughter Bethany, Christina Heximer and husband Steve Greziack, Karla, Kristen von Gruben, Heather Ane Brown Zeto and daughter Caelan, Molly Meyers and nephew Wesley.



**Dan Corcoran** married Kellie Riggs on September 27 in Seattle.

**Vann Geondeff** is engaged to **Elizabeth Greene '02**. The wedding hopefully will take place next summer ... no date set, yet.



*Vann and his fiancée in Greece, visiting family*

And asked to comment on being the *only* member of the class to attend the September WCP 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion, **Nichole Sturm** wrote: "Yes, I was abandoned by the rest of my classmates ... apathy continues to reign from Class of 2001."

**Vann Geondeff '01**  
1323 N. Pine St., Apr. 311  
Seattle, WA 98122  
vanngondeff@gmail.com



It's been so great to have updates roll into my inbox these past few weeks. I can't believe how many members of the class of 2003 are now married, finishing up graduate school and just acting generally adult like. It's been a busy year for me. My partner, Dan, and I are now living together ... with a dog. I just left my position with the University of Chicago, and have begun a search for my next adventure. I plan to stay in higher education, so let me know if you hear of any openings!

I can't believe it's been five years. So many of you mentioned how great our time at Western was. It's good to know we share those feelings. P.S. I should also mention how surprised (in a good way) I've been by some of the new marriages. I went to high

school with Eric's wife. And Joey's new name, Joey McNamee, is the same as one of my dad's best friends. What a small world!

**Jordan Tate**: On August 10<sup>th</sup>, Jordan and his wife moved to Berlin, Germany, for a year on a Fulbright Fellowship. When Jordan returns, he will be taking a full-time position at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary, Canada. He has an opening in Seattle in February if anyone happens to live there.

**Eric Johnson**: Eric recently married Florenzia Pezzutti. They were happy to see a few fellow Westerners were able to attend! He's currently living in Fort Collins, Colorado, and working for Hewlett Packard as a software migration specialist. Eric is still working on finishing up his master's thesis in anthropology through Kent State, but should be done by spring of '09. His free time is split between hiking the trails in northern Colorado and working on convincing his new wife that they need more camping gear! And Eric is happy he can finally say "My wife is gonna kill me!" ;-)

**Lyndsey Godwin**: Lyndsey graduated with a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University this May and spent the summer job-searching (so frustrating) and working filler jobs. She was offered a position with Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee as a community health educator. She started in late August and is really excited about it — it unexpectedly looks like she'll be hanging out in Nashville for longer than she could have guessed.

**Sean Collins**: Since graduating from Western, Sean has been living in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 2006, he finished law school at LSU and passed the bar exam. He's been practicing law since then. Most of his work involves defending people accused of crimes and parents who have had their children taken by the state. Highlights: Winning a couple trials and watching, firsthand, the Tigers beat the hell out of Ohio State.

**Drew Vankat**: Drew Vankat is tying the knot this fall near Boulder, Colorado, his home base for the past several years. He met his lovely bride-to-be, Kara, in grad school at Michigan. Any and all Western visitors to Boulder are encouraged to drop him an e-mail at dvankat@yahoo.com.

**Nikki Rudnick Thorpe**: Nikki is living in Philadelphia with her husband (of almost five years), James, pursuing a master's in city planning at the University of Pennsylvania. She's about to enter into the second/final year of the program focusing on transportation and urban design. She is also a graduate student representative, serving on the executive board, as vice chair of student life for the graduate and professional student body. Amazingly, Nikki ran into **Mikey Ernst** in NOLA last March, while they



*Eric Johnson '03 and his new wife*

were both serving their spring breaks, giving back to communities down there.

**Leah Kritzer**: Leah is engaged to **Frank Farruggia '01**, living in sunny Phoenix, Arizona. Leah works for the Arizona legislature as a fiscal analyst and is currently working on her master's in public administration at Arizona State University.

**Jen Germano**: Jenny has been living in New Zealand for five years now and bought a house there with her Kiwi partner, Simon, about a year and a-half ago. The house is on a pretty cool spot on top a hill (more like a mountain by Ohio standards) overlooking a gully full of native forest. Jen has one year left to go on her Ph.D. in zoology working with endangered frogs. She's not quite sure where they'll end up after that (anyone out there with a postdoc or job for an amphibian/reptile specialist, please let her know!). Jen is currently traveling to conferences (just went to one in Montreal, came back to Ohio to visit family, and now off to the Amazon for the World Congress of Herpetology), but no doubt she'll be back to chasing frogs on offshore islands when she gets back to NZ. Overall, life is pretty good. If anyone is in NZ, drop Jen an e-mail!

**Michael Forrester**: Michael married Madrigal Stone on September 1, 2007. They had a great wedding and bonfire! He is currently working at COSI, the science center in Columbus, Ohio, as a team leader for volunteers. They also bought a house in February.

**Erica Bland**: Erica is living and working in Chicago as the Northern Illinois regional homecare coordinator and has just recently been promoted to vice president with her union in April. She works for SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana, a union of 85,000 homecare, childcare, hospital and nursing home workers. She's hoping to buy a house by the end of the month!

**Leslie Allen**: Leslie married in September and now has two great step-daughters.

**Jenea Sanders:** Jenea currently works for the Cincinnati Health Department. as a customer relations representative. She was set to marry on Sept. 30, 2008. She is very happy and blessed.

**Rob Oldenburg:** Rob is still working with family for Castino Painting & Home Services as the marketing/IT/HR person. He owns a three-flat in the city here (Chicago), which he rents out. He also recently finished a 190-mile bike race for lung cancer — called Cowalunga. Unfortunately, he has given up his life as an international spy and man of mystery :-)

**Melissa Raftery:** Melissa is currently living with her partner, Billy Voisine, in Deer Isle, Maine. Deer Isle is located mid-coast in Maine and has a year-round population of 3,000 people. They have a bridge that connects them to the mainland, but come winter (after the tourists and summer residents go back home) the remoteness of living on an island kicks back in as the majority of restaurants and stores close down. Melissa has a couple of jobs going, but primarily works for a company called Guyot Designs. It's a lovely small company of six people who design/sell products to the outdoor industry. She is also maintaining her tour leader position for a travel company called Pacific Discovery. In less than four weeks, she'll head off to Bangkok to lead a 60-day trip throughout Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. She'll have 14 participants between the ages of 18 and 26. They travel with local cultures in thought — do lots of volunteering and home-staying, and include a good amount of adventure (rafting, trekking, scuba, elephant riding) in-between.

**Joey Gomberg McNamee:** Joey is living in Salt Lake with Greg, whom she married just over a year ago. She is working as a program specialist for the state of Utah in the department that administers welfare, food stamps and workforce investment training programs. Joey is also in grad school right now.

**Lauren Skirbunt:** Lauren is the property manager for a downtown Cleveland apartment complex, and does theater in the evenings.

**Jess Kemp:** It's been a busy year, but things have been going really well. Jess married in June and started a new job in the same week. She lives in Columbus with her husband, Kevin, and his daughter, Ava. She's working for an IT company that develops software for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Jess was really hesitant to leave direct service, but so far she loves where she is.

**Julia Housiaux:** Julie is working as an in-home family therapist for a community mental health agency and getting used to life down south. She recently attended Lindsey

Sabo's wedding (she married a really, really great guy).

**New Addresses:**

Eric Johnson, 129 Dartmouth Trail #2, Fort Collins, CO 80525; Sean Collins, 17505 Jefferson Highway, Apt. 1608, Baton Rouge, La. 70817; Drew Vankat, 2993 24th St. Boulder, CO 80304; Nikki Thorpe, 1633 Spruce St., Apt 2R, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Michael Forrester, 394 Moler, Columbus, Ohio 43207; Erica Bland, 8235 S Paulina, Chicago, IL 60620; Leslie Allen, 472 Irving Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45409; Jenea Sanders, 2042 Highland Ave. Fl 2, Cincinnati, OH 45219; Melissa Raftery, PO Box 363, Deer Isle, ME 04627, e-mail: threefish81@gmail.com; Joey Gomberg McNamee, 345 E Burton Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84115; Lauren Skirbunt, 1133 W. 9th St., Apt. 706, Cleveland, OH 44113; Julia Housiaux, 280 E. High St., Apt 15, Lexington, KY 40507.

**Joy Usner '05**  
**1520 Trescott St.**  
**Mundelein, IL 60060**  
**joy2@uchicago.edu**



In the days of Facebook, it is not nearly as hard to track folks down as it once was. The word got out that I was looking for alumni updates and juicy tidbits started to flood my various in-boxes. And no real surprise, the class of 2005 — those who entered Western together, left Western together, and everyone in between — is just as feisty and active as we were when our presence first graced the hallowed halls of Peabody.

We are scattered across the country and around the globe. Close to Western in Oxford and Cincinnati:

**Sophia Turczynewycz Cifuentes** is, in short, keeping busy with three jobs, married life — celebrating a blissful first year, photography, zoo life and some artsy fartsy things here and there. She recently was promoted at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens to an assistant coordinator for the Nocturnal Adventures program. She is so fabulous with animal handling that she is now trying her skill with the birds of prey.

**Katie Gibson** has moved up from resident librarian to information services librarian at King Library. Highlight of her job: helping current Western students with that ominous senior project.

**Majida Al-Husaam** is saving the environment one door at a time working with Ohio Citizen Action in Cincinnati.



*Sophia Cifuentes '05 and raptor friend*

North, south, east, west ... Western, Western, we're the best!

**Laura Englehart** is still working for Senator Sherrod Brown in Washington. Though she says nothing is new on that front, we all know that D.C. is hopping with energy around the election.

**John Neborak** lives out of wedlock with his girlfriend in Chicago, works at a library, and got an internship with Devil's Due Publications (a comic publishing company) thanks to his Western degree. He continues to cause general mischief, floods his body with innumerable substances, and listens to rocky roll on a daily basis. The hole he digs is bottomless, as nothing else can set him free. Not much has changed ...

**Katie Zeitler** also lives in Chicago and works for the American Cancer Society.

**Amanda Gibson** graduated from OSU with a M.S.W. and is working for the Franklin County Children Services teenage unit. She just moved to Clintonville, Ohio, where she lives with her boy and a myriad of animals that keep her busy.

**Jocelyn Ellis** lives in Seattle and works in communications for the Nature Conservancy. She is having fun and claims to miss Ohio. I am not sure I believe her.

And have you heard that **Ryan Pearl** is engaged? (Can you believe that!!) Word on the street is he proposed to his girlfriend, Sarah Beiderman, in March...

Those are not the only wedding bells that will be ringing soon. **Lia Silver** is engaged to David McNelly.

**Bethany Weber** is surviving the hot hot heat of Texas — Denton to be exact, an hour out of Dallas. She is currently working as a case manager with a child care assistance program. "Enjoying life and looking for adventure around every corner. If you ever feel like venturing down south give me a holler: bhweber@gmail.com"

Bethany is not the only one in Texas. **Austin Kleon** is in Austin. Chez Kleon is wait-

ing for October to hit, to remember what sub-90-degree temperatures feel like. Meghan and Austin both work for the University of Texas: She's in her second year of the master's program in sustainable design at the School of Architecture, and Austin is still designing websites in a cubicle at the School of Law. The big news: HarperCollins has bought a collection of Austin's Newspaper Blackout Poems ([www.austinkleon.com](http://www.austinkleon.com)) for publication in September '09! The rest of the year will be a madness: Meg starting her thesis, and Austin finishing the manuscript.

**Lisa Headen** is living in her very own house in Cape Coral, Florida, while teaching middle school. What a brave soul!

**Jess Strange** is living in Oakland with tons of Western friends and loving it. She recently started her dream job at a health clinic for (mostly) low income (mostly) Latinos. It is super rewarding and she is learning lots and speaking Spanish daily. Jess is hoping to go to grad school sometime soonish to do a master's in public health ... while day-dreaming about traveling and living in South America again.

We're even starting to take over the world ...

**Maggie Perrino** and **Jason Harnish** teaching English in Seoul, South Korea — kindergarten in the morning and then later in the day working with students who take school after school. And they are blogging about it: <http://strangeseouls.wordpress.com>. Is there something magic about the three-year mark and going back to school?

Some are continuing programs as well, so many Western peeps will be burying their heads in books this fall ...

**Sarah Arnason** is living in Atlanta and starting graduate school at Georgia State University to earn a master's in public administration with a concentration in non-profit management. Currently she is also working at a market research firm, a coffee/wine bar, and teaching ESL at the Latin American Association. "I'm ridiculously busy, but happy! Life is good. I LOVE Atlanta and encourage everyone to come visit."

**Kelly Blewett** (formerly **Kelly Markle**) is starting a master's program at the University of Louisville, studying literature. She is a teaching assistant, dividing her working time between the writing center (where she will be a tutor) and the *Henry James Review*, a scholarly journal published by Johns Hopkins University Press (where she will be an editorial assistant). Her e-mail is [keblew01@louisville.edu](mailto:keblew01@louisville.edu).

**Don Frederick** is in the Windy City too. He finished his M.Div. from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago this past spring. He is entering his second year as a Ph.D. student in the department of psychology in the integrative neuroscience program, and just presented his trial research. He works in Prof. Kay's laboratory (<http://kaylab.uchicago.edu/>) and designed the website. Of that work he says... "I spend my days training rats how to press a lever after smelling an odorant. At first, I was ambitious, and thought I might teach the rats Latin. They never caught on, so it was back to odors. They smell better than they read."

**Erica Govich** is starting at Eastern New Mexico University this fall, pursuing a master's in archeology. She'll be an assistant to the department head ... but, more importantly, she will get to play with mammoth bones and get kids excited about them!

**Amanda Swisher Krisby** will be attending Cleveland State University for grad school! She is going to get her master's in moderate/intensive special education. Husband Adam is also starting school at Ursuline College for his bachelor's in nursing. Of this time in her life, she says: "Hooray!"

**Lauren Bratslavsky** is in graduate school at the University of Oregon. She will get out in 2009 with a master's in communication and society.

We have taken the gift of our education and exploited it as much as we could in the three years since we graduated. Just as I was when we were in class together, each time I received a new update, I was inspired by the passion that shone through these incredible stories. I am still puttering around the Bay Area, finishing a master's program, working at a church and occasionally running into Western alums from our class — and others! If anyone is in the area, look me up. And if you are on Facebook, look for the Western College Program Class of 2005ish group to keep in touch or reconnect. Sincerely ...

**Abby King Kaiser '05**  
1511 Jackson St. #11  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[agkkaiser@gmail.com](mailto:agkkaiser@gmail.com)



**Emily Brown**: "After an intensive job search post a stint of slave labor at a Washington, DC, nonprofit organization ... Okay, just kidding ... I moved to Washington in Septem-

ber 2008 and did a little of everything — an internship with a women's foreign policy nonprofit, a temporary position at PBS, a stint of the bittersweet life of the unemployed — before finally settling at the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, where I have been working as a paralegal since March 2008. I have not been able to attend as many protests or radical statements as previously envisioned, but D.C. has proven to be a hotbed of political and personal realizations. I have a big, comfy couch should anyone wish to see for themselves."

**Adam Brule**: Medical school at LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine)

**Nick Delphia**: "I spent June 2007-May 2008 at Earlham in their MAT program, student-teaching high school earth and space science and middle school general science. In June 2008, I moved to Pittsburgh, PA. For the summer I worked with the Student Conservation Association as a crew leader for a team of urban teenagers. We did trail construction projects in the parks of Pittsburgh. In August I was offered a job as the upper level (grades 6-8) science teacher at Sacred Heart Elementary school in Shady-side (a neighborhood in Pittsburgh). I accepted the job and will be teaching there at least until June 5, 2009."

**Seth Gresham**: "I have done nothing of interest since graduating. However, I often use my philosophy degree to philosophize about not having a real job. Love, Dr. Seth Gresham."

**Justin Hendy**: "I am currently working for a laboratory, EMSL Analytical, which tests various things for asbestos. I work on a transmission electron microscope which costs more than my wages for a year ... or two. I no longer reside in the great state of Ohio as I have moved to the East Coast in the wonderful village of New Haven, CT, the home of Yale. I do not attend Yale. In my spare time I enjoy visiting all of the sights New England has to offer. This coming February I will not only become 24 years old, I will be marrying another Miami alum (Megan Dinkelacker), not a Westerner. We shall see what the future has to bring."

**Chris Kwarciany**: "I am in Cleveland, Ohio, working as a youth mentor for a social service agency. I also rob banks for extra cash, which isn't really true."

**Kara Love**: "After graduation I spent a year with AmeriCorps. I was stationed in Hamilton, Ohio, and worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County. At the beginning of August I was hired on full time for BBBS and am now in charge of all recruitment for Butler County. I went through extensive training and began my work as a court ap-

pointed special advocate in June. I now have three wonderful children whom I guide through the court process. I am their voice in court and their unwavering advocate to find safe, permanent housing. It is one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences I have had in a long time."

**Zach Moning:** "I'm living in Albany, NY, getting an M.A. in liberal studies (which pales in comparison to our dear interdisciplinary B.Ph.). Also, as of the week of August 31, I'm working as an editorial assistant at the State University of New York Press."

**Allison Plavecski:** Working as an interior designer at EHS Design in Seattle, Allison has taken advantage of the laid-back, environmentally friendly West Coast vibe as well as hanging out with the many Western/Archie alums in the area. She recently enjoyed watching the world's largest naked bike ride with fellow alums in Portland, zip-lining through the temperate rainforests of Alaska, and having an alum reunion at Mt. St. Helens. She has enjoyed all the amazing Western visitors who have stayed with her in the Emerald City.

**Amy Pomante:** "I'm still in Italy! Hope the BFP is a lot of fun though! Say hi to everyone for me!"

**Rachel Stern:** "I'm in my second year of grad school at good ol' Miami U. I'm in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program. I'm doing research on the experiences of individuals diagnosed with severe disturbances. I'm also interested in alternatives to the mental health system for those given severe diagnoses. My master's thesis is up and running! I'm also doing individual psychotherapy in the psychology clinic on Miami's campus as well as teaching a couple times a week. In other news ... I'm in a wonderful relationship (to be engaged soon! I'll let you know when that happens...) with a man that is in the same program as me. We live together in a great house in Oxford. I get to enjoy our little town when I can, but mostly, I'm busy with school work. Jacob and I try to travel as much as possible. We even managed to get to France last winter! Other than that, I'm still just me ... being goofy and hanging around."

**Andrew Trout:** "I've started my first year in medical school LECOM Bradenton — that is the Lake Erie College of Medicine in Bradenton, FL. It's a sister school to their location in Erie, PA. Unfortunately, I don't think I'll be able to make it to the reunion with my hectic schedule but I'm sure it will be a hell of a party. Send my regards to all."

So for those couple of people who didn't write in and have the bad luck of me having an inkling of what they've been up to, here's an update:

**Thad Kerosky:** Despite being half a world away in what many would probably think to be a mostly fiber-and-wi-fi-free country, Thad is happily tweeting and blogging away at a teachers college in Mpwapwa, Tanzania. He has started his second year as a technology Peace Corps volunteer, and from the looks of it, become quite a chef. Most recent epicurean tweet: "Made honey-buttr-coatd peanuts from scratch, gorged; Water btle containing fermenting ginger soda is reaching firmness after 38 hours."

**Willi Lempert:** After trekking up the Pacific Northwest from Berkeley to Seattle, Willi flew to Hawaii as an extra hand at what I assume to be a permaculture farm in exchange for room and board. In his last hurrah before starting his grad degree in anthropology at the University of Denver, Willi lay out on dried lava flows, had his first taste of poi and laulau, and learned to surf without once being bitten by a shark. I presume.

**Zoe Streicker-Howard:** Following a Euro trot in May with her best friend, Zoe was proposed to in the midst of a tickle-fight by fiancé Matt Maenpa. Following a spring wedding, they plan to move to Portland where Zoe will realize her dream of starting

a hostel in the Pacific Northwest and —more importantly— be reunited with Denise.

I left Peace Corps back in January due to a combination of personal and health-related reasons. Since then, I've moved to Portland, OR, and—surprise, surprise—started a CTC Vista position with Portland Community Media under the auspices of AmeriCorps. The irony doesn't escape me. Many of you will probably be surprised (or shocked) to know that I have actually used my senior project since graduating. PCM asked to see it during my interviews and I've been regularly coming back to it as I tackle New Media curriculum, development and training. I've been helping with some workshops in digital storytelling and Internet media, and I enjoy feigning the academic much more than I'd care to admit (although this really isn't that bad as it's hardly academic). In other news, I recently went backpacking for the first time ever, and I've decided that future locations will be determined by a mosquito gauge.

**Denise Cheng '07**  
**2207 NW Flanders St. Apt. 205**  
**Portland, OR 97210**  
**dfc785@gmail.com**



Here's the WCP contingent at the 2008 All-Western Reunion, June 19-21! Row 1 (l to r): Stephanie Wagner '84, Ass't. Dean Kim Ernsting, Mike Conaway '90, Karen Gotter '09, Genevieve Knight O'Malley '04; row 2: Pat Callahan '83, former dean Bill Gracie, Paula Taschler '90, Robert Cox '83; row 3: Kent Ernsting '78, Ben Gibbons '94, Alicia Broderick '90, Jeff Kirschner '83; row 4: Professor Bill Newell, former dean Curt Ellison

# Nota Bene

## Coming Soon ... the Kumler Organ!



Instigated by the Class of 1955 and supported by other alumnae and friends, the original organ in Kumler is being restored!

A contract has been made with the Austin Organ Company in Connecticut — maker of the organ that was installed in Kumler Chapel in 1918 — to restore the organ to its original capability (plus some enhancements) and include a new console. Plans are that the renovation will be complete in time for an organ concert at Reunion 2009.

Future gifts to the organ fund will be used for the very important task of ongoing maintenance.

## Distinguished Visitor at Patterson Place



In June, Valerie Hodge (center), university ambassador and wife of MU president David Hodge, was invited on a guided tour of Patterson Place, the historical home of Western College presidents from 1914 until 1974, when it became the headquarters of the Western College Alumnae Association. With Mrs. Hodge in the Peabody bedroom are Judy Waldron (left), WCAA director, and Cathy Bauer Cooper '60, publications editor.

## Shalala Awarded Medal of Freedom



On June 19, President Bush presented the nation's highest civilian award to **Donna Shalala '62**, president of the University of Miami, citing her eight years' service as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, her role co-chairing his commission to study treatment of returning wounded war veterans, and her post-government career in academia.

## Clubs in Action — West to East

### San Francisco Bay Area



Northern Californians met at the home of Susan Blake Rowland '68 to hear about the state of the Western Program from Dean Bill Gracie (center) last March. Among those present were (from left): Jee-Hee Haar Farris '97, Blanche Kung '67, Susan Rowland, Diana Koch Mascali '59, and Chris Kerosky '81.

### DC/MD/VA



Wine tasting appears to have been involved at this gathering of Westerners at the Talula Restaurant in Arlington, Virginia, on May 31, 2008. In attendance (seated, left to right): Paula Moran '04, Marty Hall Wedeman '46, WCP dean Bill Gracie, Betty Buell Baldwin '46; (standing): Ryan Donmoyer '93, Renee Harris Yates '72, Patricia Spokes Snowden '64, Linda Li Ng '73, Joanne Blayne Linhard '71.

### Detroit



Arts appreciation (and lunch with WCAA director Judy Waldron) drew alumnae to the Detroit Institute of Art, October 25. They are (seated, left to right): Lucy Liggett '54, Ellen Siddall Zimmerman '48, Loretta Ryder '63; standing: Ann Walton '66, Alice Crabb Brandon '48, Charlotte Klein Varzi '57, Diana Forshew Kerber '59, Judy Waldron.

**Details will come by mail! Meanwhile, mark your calendar:**

<b>Dayton</b>	<b>December 10</b> , Dayton Country Club
<b>Indianapolis</b>	<b>December 13</b> , Holiday Gathering at the home of Pam Watts Coates '70
<b>NY/NJ/CT</b>	<b>January 3</b> , Open House at the home of Janey Drexler Sharpe '80 (Allentown, NJ)
<b>Columbus</b>	<b>March 21</b> , location TBA

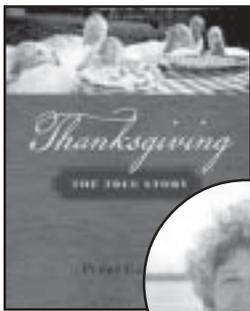
# From the Archives —

## Write to Read: Western Authors

**Karla Noell Galantay '58** has just published a delightful “autobiography in the form of short stories, poems, and a play.” *Karla's Shorts: Scenes of a New York City Childhood and Other Stories* features a cover picture of the Karla classmates will remember, taken in Japan by her husband, Ervin Galantay, just a year after graduation. Karla traveled extensively in the Far East and South America after leaving Western and now lives with her husband in Cossonay, Switzerland, near their two sons and eight grandchildren (for and about whom some of the stories are written). A history major at Western, Karla teaches English as a foreign language and says she began writing stories in the hope of motivating her students with fresh material. She has published in a number of magazines and written several plays. Her book is published by Inesa: [www.inesa.ch](http://www.inesa.ch).



**Penny Morgan Colman '66** quotes Western alums (**Evie Small Hohler '64** and **Judith Vincze Quinn '48**, p. 112; **Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '58**, p. 79; **Rhian Miller '78**, p. 113) who responded to her survey for her latest young people's book, *Thanksgiving: The True Story*, published by Henry Holt and Co., available now in bookstores and at Amazon. In what the publisher calls her “signature narrative nonfiction style,” Penny investigates Thanksgiving traditions in order to give readers the real history of — arguably — Americans' favorite holiday. An incredibly prolific award-winning author and popular sought-after speaker, Penny is currently a Distinguished Lecturer at



Queens College, City University of New York. Her personal biography and blog are fascinating reading, and her website describes her many books: [www.pennycolman.com](http://www.pennycolman.com).

Do you have a book to tell us about? ▲

◀ Would you like to have a club meeting?

Contact the WCAA office!

513-529-4400 or [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu)

Reporting to the WCAA board of trustees, archivist **Jacky Johnson** reviewed last spring's events in recognition of Women's History Month: lectures by Dr. Helen Sheumaker, Coordinator of Education, McGuffey Museum, and Stephen Gordon, Curator, McGuffey Museum; and a panel discussion on the value of single-sex education, featuring four Western alumnae and two Miami students. (Both lectures and the panel discussion were covered in the Spring '08 *Bulletin*; a tape of the panel discussion is available online.)

Jacky announced that the university library system has expanded the online *Western Round-Up* Student Newspaper Collection to include the 99 issues of the *Western Weekly*, published September 1971 to May 1974. The collection is accessible through the Western College Memorial Archives website: <http://westernarchives.lib.muohio.edu/>.

Also available through the website are the oral histories collected from our alumnae at Reunion 2008. See and hear alums from classes 1952-68 recalling “the way Western was,” as well as former faculty members and administrators discussing women's education.

Ohio Archives Month (2008) was observed with a timely theme: The Electoral Process. A program presented October 22 by the MU and Western College archives featured Miami University Assistant Professor of History Nishani Frazier, speaking on the 1877 Hayes/Tilden Electoral Compromise. She discussed the controversial selection of Ohio native Rutherford B. Hayes to be the 19<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, its ramifications and relevance to the 2008 election season.



Dr. Frazier

Upcoming event, March 24, 4 p.m. on campus: Panel of male alumni will discuss their experiences as the first men at Western College. Moderated by MU Women's Studies Program.

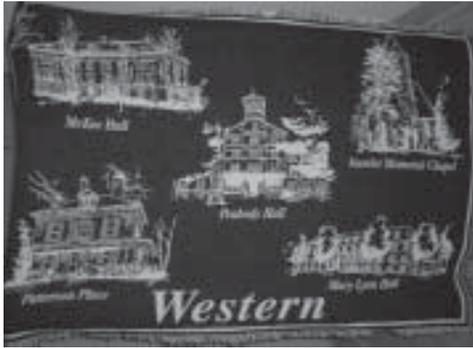
## In Production ... 2009 Western Directory

Coming soon — the new directory, with our five-year update of names, addresses, and e-mails. Published by Harris Connect, this edition is a compilation of stories and pictures — what you and your classmates have sent in. It is scheduled for release in April. For more information: 800-877-6554.



# Gift Shop

Gifts for all occasions ... these are some of the Western items available at irresistible prices in our Gift Shop. View others on our web site: [www.muohio.edu/wcaa](http://www.muohio.edu/wcaa).



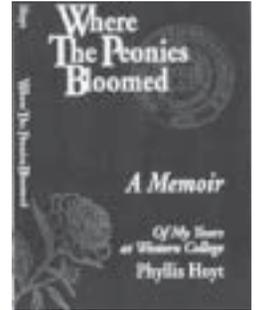
**Item 01: Woven Throw** Heavy, all-cotton, navy or ivory background, with building outlines, 50" x 60" **\$55**



**Item 02: The Western Spirit Lives On! CD** Recorded by Greta Pope Wimp '74, featuring: *Miss Peabody, Alma Mater, Western College Alma Mater, The Prayer* **\$10**



**Item 03: Hooded Sweatshirt** Champion cotton max pullover, gray with navy lined hood Size MD, LG, XL, XXL, XXXL **\$32**



**Item 04: Where The Peonies Bloomed** Phyllis Hoyt's warm, personal memoir of her years at Western **\$10**



**Item 05: Candle** 8 oz. jar with lid, white paraffin wax, Lilac, Rain, Tropical fragrance **\$6**



**Item 06: Flashlight** Mini aluminum, heavy duty, LED, laser engraved **\$9**



**Item 08: Across the Campus CD** Recorded by the Western College Choir in 1961, directed by Richard Monaco, some of the titles featured: *A Ceremony of Carols, Sing Me a Song, Western Blue, Alma Mater* **\$15**



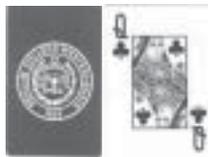
**Item 09: Coffee Mug** 11 oz. ceramic, white with royal Western College seal **\$5**



**Item 10: Pet Leash** 3/4" classic leash, royal blue with white lettering, heavy duty snap **\$7**



**Item 11: Beverage Mug** 12 oz. clear glass with royal blue Western College seal **\$8**



**Item 07: Playing Cards** Blue or white with WC seal, large face **\$6**

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Please make checks payable to: Western College Alumnae Association, Inc., 325 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 45056

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# Gift Shop



**Item 12: Alumnae Hall, 13: Western Stone Bridge, 14: Peabody Hall; 15: McKee Hall, 16: Kumler Chapel, or 17: Western Lodge Tree Ornament** Wood, designed and hand-painted by the Barker family of Oxford \$6  
**Item 18: Set of all 6 ornaments \$30**



**Item 21: T-Shirt** Royal blue 100% cotton with bridge logo, short sleeve SM, MD, LG, XL, XXL, XXXL \$10



**Item 22: Reunion 2008 T-Shirt** Royal blue and white tie dye 100% cotton with short sleeve SM, MD, LG, XXXL \$10



**Item 25: Water Bottle** BPA free, royal blue with white Western College seal, 24 oz. \$6



**Item 26: Coffee Mug** 15 oz. ceramic, cobalt blue and white with WESTERN stone bridge \$8



**Item 27: Baseball Cap** Royal blue and white with royal embroidery WESTERN \$10



**Item 19: Desk Clock** Heavy 3/8" glass and silver metallic mounted on wooden base, 5"W x 6"H x 2"D \$25



**Item 23: Mouse Pad** 7 1/2" x 8" featuring Western campus scene and space for personal photo insert \$7



**Item 28: Jacket** Microfleece full zip, royal blue with black accent tipping and white embroidered Western College seal Women: SM, MD, LG Men (not pictured): MD, LG, XL, XXL, \$42

**Item 29: Colorblock Sweatshirt** Full zip, royal blue and white cotton/poly blend with embroidered Western College seal SM, MD, LG, \$38



**Item 20: Umbrella** Micromax mini, 40" arc, folds to 6 1/4", royal blue with Western College seal, lifetime warranty \$17



**Item 24: Chenille Blanket** Custom embroidered, royal blue, large 62" x 48", super soft and warm \$18



**Item 30: Crew Sweatshirt** Champion Cotton Max 90/10 fleece, navy with white embroidered WESTERN SM, MD, LG, XL, XXL, XXXL \$26



35th Year  
Anniversary

From 2009 Reunion, June 19-21  
Through 2010 Reunion, June 13-15  
**ALL CLASSES, BOTH REUNIONS**

Celebrating the past ...

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2003

Building for the future ...

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2014

... AND THE BEAT GOES ON ...

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