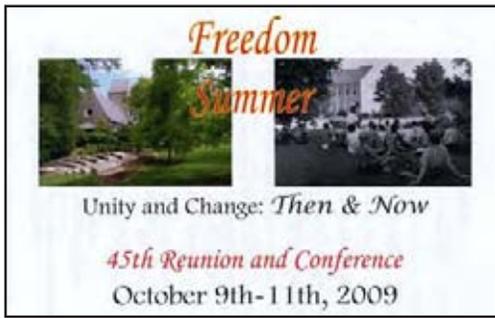


# the Bulletin

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

Fall 2009





## From the WCAA Director

The Western College Alumnae Association was in the forefront of the recent Freedom Summer Reunion and Conference taking place on the Miami campus. Freedom Summer commemorates the time in 1964 when students trained on the Western College campus before going to Mississippi to assist residents with registering to vote. Three of those students — James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner — were murdered in Mississippi. The conference encompassed two days of panel presentations, documentary showings, oral history sessions and addresses. **Dean Phyllis Hoyt**, who was at Western when the decision was made to host the conference and was there when the training took place, was asked to speak at the opening and closing of the conference; she received a standing ovation following her closing words. In the pictures on this page, you will see **Miami President David Hodge** and **Valerie Hodge** listening to her opening words and joining hands in song at Kumler, and the standing ovation as she leaves the podium. You will also see Western alumnae who attended the conference.

Western Female Seminary was founded to educate those who were not in the mainstream — women. The college continued on that path and her spirit is still moving ahead ...

*Judy K. Malden*



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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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*ATTENTION, ALUMS: Blue Cards will no longer be mailed to you. Please send news to class reps (or WCAA) via e-mail or the new blue card form. Forms, class rep addresses and deadlines are printed in the fall Bulletin for even-year classes (reporting in spring), and vice versa.*

**On the cover:** This photo taken in October by Rick Callahan, Miami University Photographs and Drawing Records, shows the Duck Pond bridge fully restored, newly planted grass already lush, and beginning fall color reflected in the pond.



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# What's on Your Mind?

*Mary Ellen Thomas Forte '59 delivered the Reunion 2009 chapel address, sharing her experience as the first African American student to attend Western. Excerpts are offered here; the speech in its entirety can be obtained from the office. Jane Alexander Durrell '47 reviews Curt Ellison's tome on Miami's first 200 years (available at the MU Bookstore: [www.mubookstore.muohio.edu/](http://www.mubookstore.muohio.edu/) or 513-529-2600). Yes, Western is mentioned!*

## A Well-Spring to Womanhood

My arrival at Western College for Women in early September of 1955 was merely the beginning of a dream to go to college. The oldest daughter of a U.S. Navy veteran, I was the first in my family to enroll. I had worked to acquire the grades, had been accepted to a number of Ivy League colleges. Unfortunately, the financial aid was not forthcoming.



Mary Ellen

Luckily, the timing of my entrance into college was right. Probably spurred on by the aura of the Brown vs. Board of Education controversy, Western College was seeking an African American student to become part of her already internationally diverse student body. ... Acceptance to the college carried with it a grant-in-aid, renewable each year. I applied, and my dream, so long held, began to take shape. When the acceptance letter arrived, my aunt who had reared me read it to the entire family: I was to be the first African American student to attend Western College for Women! ...

Both [my roommate, Joan Crittenden, and I] were determined to succeed. We felt we couldn't let our families down. Having breezed through high school, Joan needed to prove that she was a properly capable Crittenden. I was the first in my family to attend college. I had to succeed. As I walked toward Peabody Hall that first afternoon, however, I was filled with awe by the natural beauty of the campus. My fears, my sadness, my worry, my determination were overwhelmed by awe. The Western spirit had begun to take hold. ...

It was during my sophomore year that an incident occurred which reminded a number of us in Mary Lyon that we were part of a larger, sometimes troubled world. I returned to the dorm to find a sizable group of friends in the room. ... I was told that the classmate who had invited me to her home for Thanksgiving had been asked by her parents to rescind the invitation. They lived in Louisville, Kentucky, and were concerned about what the neighbors would think if a black person stayed in their home. The classmate cried; the group cried. We all cried. But another classmate extended an invitation to me, and the situation was resolved.

As I settled into college life, I found that lack of funds became a more troubling issue than race. Every semester presented a constant reminder that although I was doing well in my course work, the prospects for paying my tuition re-

mained bleak. ... I remained at Western where I continued to hope the dream of a degree would become a truth. ...

By the time I reached my senior year, I had become a dean's list student. Encouraged and directed by Miss Ruth Limmer, I had won two writing awards in competitions sponsored by the "Atlantic Monthly" magazine during my junior year. By 1958, I had been elected the chairman of Peabody Hall and I found myself a young woman — enriched by friendships and a positive spirit. ...

The values that Western College nurtured in us are the well-springs that have brought us to womanhood. Most of us entered the college gates afraid, worried perhaps, but determined. We left the college and established our careers and lives with confidence in our identities, more resilient and caring, ready to open our minds, hearts and hands to the service of our families, our communities and world.

... Western College for Women was the right college for me at the right time. In the words of the old spiritual, "I wouldn't take nothin' for my journey now."

— Mary Ellen Thomas Forte

## Miami University, 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives

When Helen Peabody started her seminary in the "wilds of this wild country" another school was already in Oxford. It still is, celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> year this year. One of the markers of that event is a decidedly heavy (four pounds on my kitchen scale) publication, *Miami University, 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives* (Ohio University/Swallow Press). Its sprightly text and inviting layout belie the physical weight. More than 50 Miamians contributed individual sections to a well-planned narrative not limited to Miami, the last institution standing of a cluster of schools in Oxford. The village was established as a home for education and given a name appropriate to that role.



Jane

Western, under its own various appellations (Western Female Seminary, The Western, Western College for Women, through Western College Program at Miami University and on to today) is well documented here. As of course it would be, the editor being Curtis W. Ellison. Ellison, long an honorary member of our Alumnae Association, served as

dean of Miami's Western College Program through most of its dynamic years on the Western campus and in that period his awareness of our college's strengths only grew. An interesting and sympathetic picture of the three institutions for women's education in Oxford is presented, Western being the longest lasting of them.

A prideful note, from our point of view, is that in 1889, when Leila McKee was shaking things up and turning the seminary into a bona-fide college, Western's library in Peabody Hall contained 10,000 volumes, "almost exactly the same as Miami's library in Old Main" at that time.

I was also pleased to find an entry about the builder of our stone bridges and the stone work in other campus buildings. "During the presidency of William W. Boyd, 10 stone footbridges and more than a dozen stone lampposts were built between 1917 and 1925 by Cephaz Burns. ... An African American stonemason who lived in Oxford ... Burns carefully selected 'cannonball' stones from nearby creeks to replace earlier wooden bridges. ... Fireplaces and chimneys of Western Lodge and the Edgar Stillman Kelley Studio are

credited to Burns, as is some of the stonework for Kumler Memorial Chapel."

When Miami acquired Western, the school was 119 years old — the oldest continuous educational presence in Oxford. Although Miami dates from 1809 and is certainly one of the earliest mid-western colleges, once or twice operations were simply closed down. There were exciting times. Students who wanted a greater voice in college affairs instituted the Snow Rebellion of 1848, sealing off the college's main building with snow and trash. After the snow melted half the senior class left, suspended or expelled. Fraternities, a new idea readily espoused here, were part of the disension and a means of students' establishing their own lives.

Generous and well-chosen illustrations are one reason the book is so large; page layouts that invite reading are another. Four pounds of book may even weigh down a lap, but on a table it has much to keep you occupied.

— Jane Alexander Durrell

## New WCAA President and Board Members

Dear Alumnae, here is my WCAA "To Do List" for '09-'10. Can you relate?



Shirley

Re-read P. Hoyt's *Where the Peonies Bloomed* for a good laugh and a good cry. Report to my '55 class rep by e-mail. Refer to the web: [wcaa.muohio.edu/wcaa](http://wcaa.muohio.edu/wcaa) for the fall and spring *Bulletins*. Respond w/\$ to the Annual Fund request to support scholarships, reunions and the publication of *Time Present and Time Past* Addendum III. Remember to support w/\$ the WCAA

legacy goals, including creation of the endowed WCAA Professorship. Reaffirm my love for Western by attending Board of Trustees meetings and encouraging others to serve. Remain positive about the new Western Program, part of Miami's Arts & Science department. Return to Oxford for the '10 Reunion in June and hear again the elegant refurbished organ in Kumler. Regards,

*Shirley Small Osepchuk '55, President*

**Charlotte Klein Varzi '57** graduated from Western College with a degree in chemistry and a minor in German, having spent her junior year in Munich, Germany, on a program sponsored by Wayne State University. Following graduation, she worked at Parke Davis & Co., obtained a master's in organic chemistry at



Charlotte

Arizona State University, then taught college chemistry for over 40 years. Char met her husband while teaching on a Fulbright in Iran, and they lived in Tehran for 10 years — thus, her continued strong interest in the Middle East. She pursued a second career as a financial planner, developing her own business; she has just retired after 20 years. Community activities include, but are not limited to, volunteering with her church and with the DAR.

When Western closed in 1974, **Pheetta G. Wilkinson '76** continued her studies in St. Louis at Fontbonne College, earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She completed a master's in education at the University of Cincinnati, with an emphasis in administration and supervision, worked with Head Start for 13 years in Cincinnati as education director and Head Start director, and followed that with 11 years as supervisor of the Early Intervention Preschool programs at Warren County Board of MR/DD, Lebanon, Ohio. Currently the Assistant Director in Children's Services at the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD in Cincinnati, Pheetta also serves on the Help Me Grow advisory council, appointed by the governor of the State of Ohio.



Pheetta

*Charlotte and Pheetta were elected to the Board of Trustees in April 2009 to serve three-year terms (2009-12). Also elected were Miriam Chesslin '54 and Diane Wright '86, both of whom have had to resign for personal reasons.*

# Western Campus Stone Bridge Restoration — 2009



*What's your favorite Western campus landmark? Kummer Chapel? Peabody Green? Ernst Nature Theatre? Donna Shalala '62 once famously told us all, "If you haven't been to the Duck Pond to talk to the ducks about a problem, you haven't been to college [read Western]."*

*Over the years, much tender, loving attention has been paid our Western Pond. In the beginning, it supplied ice through the winter. (What we know as the boat house was originally the ice house.) Biology and botany — and later, environmental science — classes have unfailingly panned its water for specimens. It has been dammed and dredged, analyzed, endowed — one of our most significant funds is for preservation of the pond— and endlessly photographed.*

*And, of course, it has been bridged. Oxford's master stone mason, Cephias Burns, designed and built the dam that created the pond and applied his signature cannonball stones to the bridge that crossed it in the early 1900s. But time took its toll.*

*Two years ago, Miami came to the rescue. Architect **Randy Stephens** reviewed and consulted on the project. The engineer and project manager was **Jack Pennington**. Jack shares this history:*

The project to renovate the bridge at the Western Campus Duck Pond officially began in 2007, when several sections of the stone wall on the southeast side finally succumbed to the actions of freeze thaw and the clipping of a snow plow. The wall itself was basically freestanding and not tied to the support foundation beneath. When it was built in the 1900s, this was adequate for the vehicular traffic using it at that time. A reinforced wall was not needed for horse and wagon traffic and the occasional Model T truck. Since then, the uni-

versity and technology have grown and the safety requirements for a road and bridge guard wall have also grown.

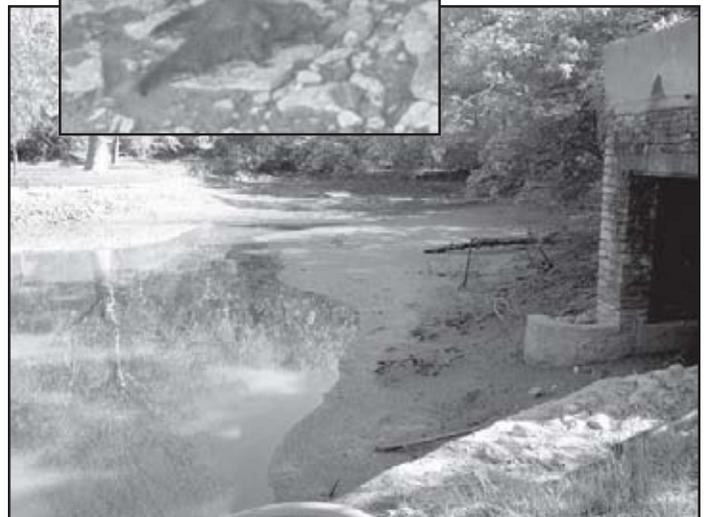
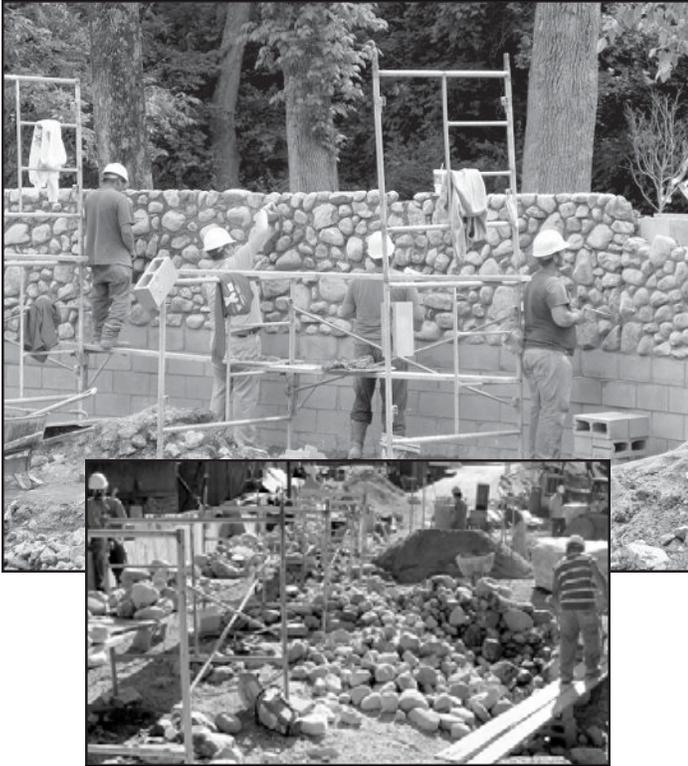
The scope of the repair project was as follows: Renovate the guardwall, repair the bridge section, and bring both up to Ohio Department of Transportation standards for the industrial traffic that would use the bridge, due to the operations of the steam plant.

In addition, the new bridge and wall should maintain the appearance of the old or existing wall, and any façade would use the stones from the existing wall in its construction. Design for this commenced in April 2007 and included the installation of a temporary guardrail to cover the areas that had lost the sections of the existing wall. This phase was built in the summer of 2008 and satisfied the needed safety requirements to allow a final design by late 2008.

The final design consisted of (1) replacing the reinforced concrete bridge at the overflow spillway (2) repairing the spillway and re-landscaping the spillway base (3) redesigning the storm drainage on the bridge (4) replacing the guardwalls with a reinforced concrete core wall faced with the stones from the existing structure, and (5) total repaving of the road system in that area. The reinforced concrete core and bridge enabled the structure to be properly rated for the industrial loadings necessary for operation of the steam plant. Construction for this final phase commenced in mid-May of 2009 and was completed in mid-August.

All in all this was one of the most pleasant projects in which I have participated.

— Jack Pennington



*Stones from Cephas Burns's original structure were used to face the core structure, but because the new walls "grew," additional replacement stones had to be used as well.*

*Some items of interest on this project:*

Due to the reinforced concrete core, the new walls are larger, so 20 percent of the stone on the bridge is replacement rather than original.

The wildlife in the area became so used to the construction that deer frequently grazed adjacent to the site; a great blue heron fished in the pond around the ice/boat-house, not in the least alarmed by the operation of the equipment; and a family of minks frequented the site to play in the pond and mud generated by the work. The minks became so tame that the crew fed them tuna and crackers by hand. A daily ritual was to check around the equipment before starting, to make sure the minks were clear.

It was felt that the exterior of the bridge needed insets at each weep hole to break the monotony of the continuous stone wall. The unintentional effect was what appear to be eyes peeking above the grade — thus, the nickname "Eyebrow Bridge" or "Kilroy Bridge."

— J. P.

*As work progressed, wildlife sightings became a daily experience. Preferring grass, deer grazed in the adjacent field. A family of minks, however, were happier hanging out in the pond and the mud. The crew was careful to inspect equipment before beginning work each day and took to sharing lunch with them.*



*Exterior "weep holes" look like eyes, prompting workers to come up with the nicknames "Eyebrow" or "Kilroy" bridge.*

# What's happening in your life . . .

'29



**Lois Wiggins Newman** passed away peacefully June 3, 2009. Some of us are still around. Cheers!

*Editor's note: Congratulations to Frances, who was honored with other Henderson County centenarians a year ago by the Mills River Life Enrichment Center. And happy 101 as of December 4!*

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

'37



**Harriet Brazier Pasquale** writes, "So many good memories ... I really enjoyed my years at Western. Now I live happily on Bainbridge Island, doing very little. My family keeps me going. Son and daughter-in-law are in the Tacoma area. My granddaughter, Marie, works for Bill Gates, and grandson Eddie is doing well in Florida. My traveling days are over, but I have lots of happy times to think about. I'm very fortunate. Best wishes to all."

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325 S. Patterson Ave.  
Oxford, OH 45056  
wcaa@muohio.edu

'39



**Rosemary Wilson Colby** finds it "hard to believe that 69 years have passed since my graduation from Western College and I still keep in touch and see my former roommate **Beulah Burkholder Sundstrom**. We always remember our days at Western — many fond memories. At my age, I have a comfortable life, enjoying family and a few friends left!"

**Margaret MacGregor Nichols** lives in a retirement community and claims "it does well by us — happy hours with not too bad beer and wine." She says she wastes time on her computer, playing three kinds of solitaire, but does see the *Wall Street Journal*

and *New York Times* each day. The library brings books, there is bridge, etc. She uses a cane in her apartment and a walker otherwise. "The doctor says be glad to wake up in the morning, but sometimes I wish I wouldn't! Ninety-two are too many years — I'm glad I was young when the world was different!"

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'41



In memoriam: **Marguerite Currie**, November 13, 2008, Traverse City, Michigan; **Maybelle Connelly Hall**, January 4, 2009, Lexington, Kentucky; **Janet McIlvaine Hutchinson**, January 9, 2009, Asheville, North Carolina; **Dorothy Malcolm Whisner**, July 10, 2009, Naples, Florida.

New addresses: **Dorothy Adkins Ansari**, 1778 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060; **Jeanne Metzger Scholfield**, 366 Brookfield Ln., Wirtz, VA 24184; **Jackie Wyllys Teter**, P.O. Box 3305, Lake Worth, FL 33465; **Eleanor Duttweiler Stubbs**, 1400 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Apt. 910, Portland, OR 97232.

Ladies who lunch: **Marydale "Mickey" Marsh Maher** and **Betty Ann White Watson** in Sykesville, Maryland; **Mary Jane Morris Sandford** and **Suzy Allburt** in Flower Mound, Texas. All well, active and conversation over food.



*Roomies Mickey Maher and Betty Ann Watson, May 2009*

Also active walking, gardening and visiting families: **Elinor Griffith Green** in Los Angeles, **Catherine Comer Razor** in Chattanooga and **Lela Mae Farr** in Naples, FL.

Like many of us, my arthritic knee keeps me from long walks, but my 20-year-old hip replacements are doing just fine, thank you. My very best wishes for us all.

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

'43



Blue cards have been arriving in my mailbox this year — not in great numbers, but clearly acknowledging my letter of challenge to our 36 survivors to "git 'er done!" Thank you all! One of us asked how many were in our class in the fall of 1939. As I had no idea, I called the ever-helpful Alumnae Office. A list of 134 names arrived! At our ages, I think we're pretty lucky to have 36 left! To date, I have received 11 replies, by blue card, letter, or phone call. And — interestingly to me, and you — replies were quite full of details and news. Here goes, in no special order ...

**Phoebe Carman Bradford** (from Indianapolis in 1939, now in Tampa, FL): Still good memories of Western, with a Christmas ornament of the chapel hanging above her desk! Losses hurt: Elinor, Mary Grace, and Anne. Roommate Sheila is paralyzed after an attack of Guillain-Barré. Phoebe lives across the street from her oldest son and his wife; youngest son lives in Columbia, South Carolina. She's less active now, but enjoyed years of singing in church choir and Oratorio Society, volunteering a lot at a hospital and 10 years at the cancer center. Her husband died 21 years ago. Younger sister taught at Western for a year, married her husband's youngest brother, and **Lou Larkins '45** married another brother. Aren't families the best?

My letter to **Sarabel Williams Goulet** in Maine went awry, but I re-sent it to Michigan, she phoned me, and we had a fine chat. Her address is now permanent: P.O. Box 756, St. Joseph, MI 49085; phone 269-983-0394. You may remember, she married George, a Miami student whom she met at the Western Lodge; they were together some 60+ years, he's been gone for three years. They had three children, and Sarabel now lives near their daughter; immediate family includes two grandchildren and one recently arrived "great-grand." Sarabel chatted with me about the many great years they were in Maine, in an 1800s home on the ocean. This was sold after George died, and Sarabel, who entered Western from

Chicago, now is close to their daughter in Michigan.

An absolutely astonishing note arrived from **Betty Lou Finley Nein** — a blue card of news describing seven demanding activities of current or recent past years, in which Betty Lou served in executive or near-executive capacity: Middletown School Board, PEO, First Presbyterian Church, Middletown Symphony Women's Assn., and "lots of other interests." She served as chairman of the Presbyterian Homes Board before moving to Mt. Pleasant Retirement Village 10 years ago. With her blue card was a charmingly written and beautifully designed brochure, entitled "Step in Time with Nein"! She's chairing a musical event for the Middletown Symphony and running as a candidate for the Conductor Auction Campaign. A lovely tiny portrait of Betty Lou illustrated the heading on the brochure, which listed three couples as honorary chairs: Rick & Barb, Scott & Janis, and Tom & Susan (you guessed it) Nein! You're a winner, Betty Lou — keep it up!

A special "Peabody friend," **Elizabeth Holt Bancala (Hedy to us)**, sent back what she called "the famous blue card" (well —) with a quiet comment on a "ho-hum" life. But her interest in the activities of her two grand-

underprivileged 3- and 4-year-olds. New students have been largely Latin American, and language is a problem. Frannie also is co-director of the Meals-on-Wheels program and drives a 20-mile route at least once a week! Bridge is still her fun time.

**Jane Moore Black** (in the Western records as Esther Jane Moore) writes of her pleasure in keeping in touch through the years with **Leah Chappell**. Roommates are special people; I surely miss my years of close relationship with my second-year "roomie," **Janet Kirshman Pflieger**, gone, now, for almost a year. Jane also describes in her blue card note how she came into relationship with **Martha Ann Dean Widmer** — known to many of us at Western as a good friend named "Pie." Jane, a resident of the St. Louis area way back "when" introduced her Western friend Pie to a couple of guys she went to school with on an occasion of Pie's visit to St. Louis. It ended up with Pie marrying one of them and a long-term friendship developing with Jane; their kids attended the same schools. Pie also left Western and attended Washington University in St. Louis the year after Jane did. I've always wondered what happened to Pie; we were notified of her death in February 2008. Jane misses her very much. Jane's husband passed away in 2004, in Michigan, where

She loves the diversity of her family, religious and ethnic. She mentions last in this letter her own accomplishments in theater and film TV writing. We all know they were notable — 45 years of TV writing and producing, including an Emmy. Look for a republishing of her 10-year-old memoir, *Whistling Girl*, due to be out in the near future. P.S. She never liked her name "Dorothy," shortened to "Dottie," so she's used her middle name, Ann, for 60 years. Now we know, and it's OK!

A phone call from **Charlotte Auten Schmidt-Fellner** was very enjoyable, and provided a news catch-up of the highlights of her life. Unfortunately, my notes are somewhat illegible due to a shortage of available writing paper — they may contain some inaccuracies. I know she said she worked out of New York City, for *Time* magazine, for 12 years. She has three sons, two of whom are living near her; home base is in Stamford, Connecticut. She has seven grandchildren, and I believe the oldest is 20. Bridge supplies her fun time. She enjoys her living in a retirement home, eating in the dining room, and still carries that well-remembered slim figure, at 120 lbs.! She notes the number of family members who were associated with Western: mother, mother's sister, sister, and sister-in-law. Her

*ALL classes, continue celebrating WCAA's 35<sup>th</sup> at Reunion '10 ... June 18-20!*

sons keeps her in tune. The elder, James, is in his junior year at New School, and sharing an apartment in NYC with a colleague from Bard. He's become a sight-seeing coast-to-coast traveler, when vacation time allows. Rob, the younger, has a flair for the dramatic — a drum major in his high school band and a part in the *High School Musical* production of a local theater group. I'm sure Hedy attended this, but not quite as her daughter, Lisa, did — she went to all nine performances.

**Leah Chappell**, thank you for your blue card reply! After having enjoyed a re-connect with you (by blue card) in 2005 when I was also living in Florida, I thought we might not connect again — now "here you are!" in Indianapolis. Leah's career was a military one (Lt.C.). After 32 years of retired "loafing," in Florida, she moved to Indianapolis to be closer to family, and into a "nice, large Sr. Living place, with three meals daily and loads of activities." She stays in touch with **Jane Moore Black**, her roommate for two years.

**Frances Judy DuChemin**, a regular blue card contributor to my *Bulletin* notes, says her biggest news is a 2-year-old great-grandchild and she can't keep up with him! Join the herd of 1943ers who are in the same 87-88-year boat! She is still able to continue into her 38<sup>th</sup> year as volunteer at Denton, Texas, Christian Pre-School for

he and Jane had moved in 2003. She now resides near two daughters in Muskegon and Lewiston, Michigan, and lives in the Garland (golf) Resort on the sixth hole, with her female Rottweiler dog.

Active as always, **Mary Moffat Finkbeiner** got her blue card upon her return from a week-long vacation in the north woods of Maine (100 miles beyond Bangor!) — no TV, computer, or cell phone — "just a cabin on a lake with ducks and loons floating by." A restful contrast to winter life of "meetings, book clubs, quilting groups, lectures, and concerts." Mary says she loves her busy life — and I hope she can keep it up to become one of our 100-years-plus classmates!

**Ann Marcus** — yes, our 1939 classmate **Dottie Goldstone** — wrote a 1½-page letter, catching up to her unwelcome recognition of "old age" with an 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, and accompanying first-time experience of heart problems. She's OK, after some hospital and medical care. She wrote of her gratefulness for a return to what has been and still is a good life, giving those "mere four years" at Western much credit for her being able to build a very rewarding and successful marriage, family and career. There were 46 years with husband Ellis, three children (all successful in their careers and producers of six grandchildren and five "greats"). With her memorable humor, Dottie says these last five haven't "done a darn thing — yet!"

great-aunt, Alice Libby, was head of the English department, and lived with well-remembered Dean Byrne. I do apologize for errors or omissions, Charlotte!

A late arriving note came from the daughter of **Margaret Bower Bossert**, in Colorado. Margaret has been a regular blue card sender. She remains cheerful and enjoys her caregivers, is as sharp as can be, but doesn't hear much anymore. She turned 88 in April, and enjoys seeing her four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, now 20 months old. She is proud of her youngest grandson, Jonathan, age 15, who plays the cello and attends the Denver School of the Arts. "There had to be a musician in the family somewhere!"

**Thalia Carter Miller** answered my search for recent news from our '39ers in a late but welcome note from her Charlottesville, Virginia, address, which ended 35 years in Southern California. She's near a daughter there; another lives in NYC. Her husband passed away four years ago. She's still golfing, doing water aerobics, and playing bridge. She reported good memories of Oxford, and earlier — now lost — contact with **Sally Pratt Snider** (still on my list, in Salem, Oregon). An exciting recent event for Thalia was a return to Cleveland for a ceremony honoring a direct ancestor, Major Lorenzo Carter, who built the first log house in Cleveland — now restored and



The Lorenzo Carter log home

located under the historic Detroit-Superior high level bridge (officially Veterans Memorial Bridge)!

One announcement of a death of a classmate of ours, **Jane Eaton Larson**, must be included. Jane passed away March 3, 2009, in Longmont, Colorado, her home since 1990, close to three of her four sons and families. We remember Jane's winning smile and ever-present enthusiasm in our friendship at Western.

Your current class "rep" can report that she is doing OK — somewhat resentful of the slow-down which heart "A-fib" has forced upon her, but immensely grateful for good health otherwise. *And* especially thankful for the longtime presence and helpfulness and love of my husband of almost 68 years, whom you may remember as the boyfriend who visited me at Western for two years! *Let's keep in touch!*

*Editor's note: After she had mailed her class notes, Margaret received a lengthy letter from classmate **Anne Lowens Perls** (you knew her as "Annabeth"), detailing her very interesting "life after Western." We have room for only a brief synopsis here, but would be happy to make her letter available to classmates upon request.*

From Nyon, Switzerland, Anne came to Western on an international student scholarship and majored in French and Latin, indulging a passion for music with lessons in piano and theory and singing in the choir. After graduation, she obtained an M.A. in Romance languages at Yale, where she sang in the chorus and met husband Tom, who was working on his Ph.D. in physics. Tom's career — first with the Navy, then Lockheed, finally Martin Marietta — took them to DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston and back to the Bay Area. At each stop, Anne continued her music and began to "land" increasingly prestigious roles as soprano soloist — in churches, in instrumen-

tal group recitals, and with opera companies including the Houston Grand Opera. Widowed in 1982, Anne is justifiably proud of their three children: Steve, an architect, practicing in the Bay Area; Marianne, working as an interior architect and space planner in LA; and Tom, a geriatrician researching the genetics of old age, in Boston. Today, Anne lives in LA, where she paints, draws and still sings with a local choir. She admits to having become "a very doting grandma."

**Margaret Null Bell '43**  
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**Celebrating 65 years!**

In case you've forgotten, this is our 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion. I hope that you'll make every effort to return in June. I'm hoping to get one of my kids to drive me down. I don't do a long drive like that anymore.

**Jane Harris Bugnand** almost always sends back the blue card. She's still active doing lots of things — leading a discussion group at church and a Readers Guild in Austin. She lives in one half of her son's duplex and travels around the state to interesting local events.

**Margie Gasche Ewing** has filled out a blue card. She has gone back to work to replenish savings she had to use in her process of downsizing from a house to an apartment. She worked as an attendant on the Hudson school buses all year. She says she's not doing her usual travels but went East to attend daughter Martha's wedding. Her younger daughter, Holly, has been living with her for a couple of years but is returning to Wyoming to be near her children. Margie is hoping to get back to Western in June. In addition to her regular phone, she gave me her cell phone, 330-289-7575.

**Marilyn Inskeep Fischer**, my most loyal correspondent, wrote me that she's moving to Cicero. Cicero, Illinois, is not far from my house, but she meant Cicero, Indiana. (I had thought I was going to have a member of our class within driving distance, but no luck.) The deal for her house fell through, so she'll be in Monticello a little longer. She has seen several Westernites recently — **A.J. Winterfeldt '46**, **Virginia Martin Daw '45**, who is in a retirement home. She found out that **Betty Jones** has moved to Texas, but she didn't give me her new address. Inky is having some vertigo problems and weakness in her legs, but she hopes to get to our Reunion in June.

**Ethel Catherine "Kit" Jarvis Fischer** has a new Apple computer, so she wrote a long letter. She is busy writing her autobiography and organizing family photos. Grandson Jason is a lawyer working for the Justice Dept. Grandson Nate is teaching in Hong Kong. Granddaughter Anna is teaching in Chile. Grandson Hal is getting his master's and learning Hindi so he can work in Asia. Kit and many family members went to Washington, DC, in the spring.

**Jean Merrill Lockley** has a new address: 40 Sherburne Commons, Nantucket, MA 02554. She was married to Bud for 60 years, and he died this past spring. They moved to Nantucket in 1970, and after being the tax assessor on Nantucket, Bud retired and played golf, golf, golf. Jean has six children, all of whom graduated from college. She has two great-grandchildren. She is *still* in Girl Scouting — a lifetime career. She was chairman of Peabody and remembers how she tried to keep everyone quiet after dinner.

**Janet Heinz Phillips** is living with her daughter and son-in-law in Cedar Rapids and goes to Florida in the winter. She wrote a memoir of over 300 pages, which she had published for her family. She is taking a computer course on the history of European art. Last summer her family rented a seven-bedroom house in Alburg, Vermont, for two weeks for a reunion. She gave us her e-mail: Janet.Phillips@gmail.com.

**Lucy Hittle Jackson Teeter** wrote that she and Carroll had to spend the summer in Florida instead of North Carolina for the first time in 28 years due to Carroll's health problems. He is outstaying the time the doctor gave him to live, so they're pretty happy for that. She has been writing about the 49 years that she was married to her first husband and has all the letters that she wrote to her sister in those 49 years to help her through remembering. She has had two granddaughters get married this past summer and now is a great-grandmother due to acquiring a ready-made great-grandchild. Her daughter, Alice, won the Georgia Poetry Award in 2008 and has had a book published titled *When It Happens to You*. Lucy and Carroll are busy with library, Woman's Club, church, and Kiwanis; Carroll is writing the early histories of both Habitat and Hospice.



The Teeters

**Toni von Lengerke Kimm** went to the Bahamas twice this past year to visit her sister, who lives right on the ocean. She has two great-granddaughters in the 3s and two great-grandsons, 14 and 16.



Ardis Coninx and her three children

And I, **Ardis Dechman Coninx**, known to all of you as “Dickie,” am still doing my volunteer work — running the library of 4,000 books here at Westminster Place and doing all the church stuff I’ve done for years. This past summer I had an 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party in our party room here at Westminster for 90 friends. Lots of fun. Only one high school friend and no college friends, but lots of church friends and new friends from where I live. I’ve been here for eight years and love it.

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It is challenging for me to follow Emmy and **Anne Eberhardt Kirkoff** as Class Rep. Emmy did a masterful job for 50+ years and Anne was such a talented writer, but I will give it “the old college try.”

**Gene DeScherer Popkin's** e-mail was first to arrive. She is well and active and still driving to and from her pottery studio while looking out for “the crazy drivers” in Florida. She rejoices in becoming a great-grandmother but finds it hard to believe her daughter is a grandmother. Lunch with **Elaine Kramer Millman** and Herman was a high point when Gene visited family in New Jersey.

**Jane Alexander Durrell** wrote that she is like an aging singer making one farewell tour after another — for her it is that each bicycle tour may be her last but she keeps on cycling! She was in Holland this fall and the Yucatan last spring. A couple of years ago, I came upon an article she wrote about cycling in Europe in the Erickson Retirement Communities newspaper. It was fascinating reading and I was so proud of her. She and her family now celebrate Christmas anywhere but home in Cincinnati. This year it will be Costa Rica.

**Maxine Murray Long** writes from Denver that she gave herself a terrible “bonk” on the head several months ago. It is taking many months to heal and after no memory of the first few months she is now getting better every day. She said the worst part was missing a visit with **Jane Durrell**. Good news is that her son has just returned to Denver and the mountains he loves from Uruguay for a year. Since her other son lives in Denver, the family is happy to be together again. She ends, “Take care and watch your head!”

**Marilyn Trester Woodrich** said that seeing two granddaughters off to college this fall reminded her of her freshman train trip to Hamilton: “All dressed up in my new tweed coat and pill box hat.” That was a long time ago! She has a full life; is on the board of the local food bank, is active in AAUW, PEO, exercise classes, book club and study group. She enjoys good health and loves putting in her yard in Roseburg, Oregon.

Quoting **Dene Stern Mayer** in Lumberton, New Jersey, “I am great, in excellent health, in exercise classes with 20- and 30-year-olds six days a week.” I am impressed. She also volunteers with low income clients at a community center in Camden. She ends with, “Don’t ask me about my short term memory.” So I guess she is human like the rest of us.

From North Bend, Illinois, **Josephine Farrell Vogel** sends a very upbeat note, “So far, so good — I enjoy my children and grandchildren, who grew up in a minute. Swim every sunny day and don’t worry that my hair will fade.” Every now and then she gets together with **Peggy Keiler Ragnar** and **Lynn Trimmer Collins** of the class of '49 to catch up on families and to remember Western.

I will copy **Marilyn Lamb Brown's** note from Belleville, Illinois, verbatim. I love it! “I’m still vertical and so is my husband, Frank. We celebrated 62 years together last spring. We have three grandchildren and two great ones. Hi to all in my class.”

**Mary Garnett Tillinghast** is now enjoying a senior retirement community in Raleigh, North Carolina. It offers many amenities, but since she still participates in many outside activities she does only bridge and the pool. A few months ago she had a “revision” of her 1997 hip replacement. Now she can drive again! A free agent. Her last trip abroad was to Vietnam in Oct/Nov 2008.

From Arlington, Texas, **Mary Lou James Munson** wrote that she and her husband, Sam, enjoy life in an active senior retirement community. Buses take them to Dallas and Fort Worth for plays and other activities. They have given up travel to foreign countries and regret they never made it to Australia and New Zealand. Me, too.

**Ellen Pletcher Marsden's** blue card reported, “I’m still in good health and keep very busy (in my slow way) with book groups, music, opera performances, etc. Duluth in summer is so attractive I don’t want to go anywhere else.” Her two daughters and families came to visit — a big highlight of her summer.

Ellen and I had a great visit with **Marilyn McKasson Pletcher**, her sister-in-law, in Baltimore in April when she was visiting her daughter in Maryland. Marilyn’s youngest son, Anthony, brought his 7-month-old son, Jameson, over to introduce him to us. Ellen and I are thinking about an Elderhostel trip in February or March — not such an attractive time to be in Duluth.

“The year 2008 was a nightmare!” is the way **Nancy Goldenthal Max**, Delray Beach, opened her card. Her son Mike died just 3½ months after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. Our deepest sympathy to Nancy and her family from all our class. While he was in the hospital, she underwent bypass surgery. She ends on a positive note— she is fine now and “the best part last year — I spent a week with **Jackie Jessup Skinker** in California — she opened her home to Mike and me.” And “I became a great-grandmother. It’s a boy!”

**Elaine Kramer Millman** is our class “Ener-gizer Bunny!” She and Herman at 84 and 92 are about to fly off to Israel to visit their son, Kenneth, their new daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Odelia. They figured they shouldn’t wait much longer. Her other granddaughters are in college now and she misses their frequent visits of past years. They had a nice visit to Cape May, New Jersey, and hoped to see Chuck Salt and **Betsy '74** in New York. We can all relate to her closing, “As for the garden — the deer won!”

A wonderful week in Cancun between Christmas and New Year 2008 with her family was a highlight for **Louise Gutman Goldberg**, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland. She is well and believes in keeping busy. 1. Family including grandchildren from 12 to 31; 2. Exercise, walking; 3. Driving patients to the doctor for Jewish Family Services; 4. Arts Seminar group — lectures, exhibits, performances; 5. Bridge. Busy, indeed!

A very busy traveler is **Barbara House Crenshaw**, who lives in Peachtree City, Georgia, when she is home. Last October, she had 10 days in Turkey and in March, 10 days in England and Wales. Both were in conjunction with bridge tournaments: “Very inexpensive trips with luxurious surroundings.” In the spring she came to DC and we met for lunch and drove together to Baltimore for a lovely visit with **Marilyn McKasson Pletcher**, her freshman roommate. Barbara was my roommate for Reunion Weekend at Western in June: “How beautiful the campus is. What fun to be with **Emmy**

**Greenland and Margie Gasche Ewing '45.** She had another wonderful week with her four children, their spouses and 10 grandchildren in North Carolina in July. "Still going strong — afraid to stop, or won't get started!"

From Sunapee, New Hampshire, **Mary Feller Epreman** writes, "In Sunapee the most excitement ... is seeing a big bull moose saunter through our back yard ... cross our neighbor's yard and head for the town hall. My garden has expanded year by year and now I am not sure whether it is keeping me fit or killing me ... We love our raspberries and blueberries so I will keep on digging and weeding. I look forward to reading loads of books this winter. While I snuggle up with my book, Ed is usually off to Mt. Sunapee skiing. At 88, he is the local Old Man of the Mountain. I am co-chair of the local Democratic Town Committee and campaign manager for our state representative, a woman who, in 2006, was not only the first woman, but the first Democrat to be elected to that office in over 100 years." Mary and I keep in touch. She also continues to do beautiful watercolors of flowers. She sent me some for my birthday last week.

**Emily Greenland** writes, "Dear ladies of the class of '47, I had an absolutely great time when I went back to Oxford in June. **Anne Mack Dean** flew to Indianapolis and drove to Western with me. We had an adventure when my car died just as we arrived in front of Patterson Place. We were rescued by Officer Steve of the Oxford police and Debbie Baker and Sarah from her gang at the Western Alumnae Office. The campus was lovely, we thoroughly enjoyed the programs presented for us; **Margie Gasche Ewing '45** clarified the changes that took place in the Alumnae Association when Miami took over in 1974; Phyllis Hoyt commented on her book, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*, and answered questions about her years at Western, 1946 to 1974.

"We particularly enjoyed the Sunday closing service in Kumler Chapel which featured the completely rebuilt organ. It sounded beautiful and I know **Anne Eberhardt Kirkhoff** would have appreciated it. I roomed with my wonderful 'big sister,' **Margie Ewing; Anne Dean** and **Barbara Crenshaw** roomed next door. We were so busy the whole time, we oldies conked out early — could not stay awake and just talked and looked over the memorabilia we brought with us. We all felt very much at home at Western. The whole "Western Spirit" was right there. Come next year, it does not have to be a reunion year.

"I am about to go to Palo Alto, California, for a memorial service for my 94-year-old brother, Alan. Then I will go to visit my nephew, a U.S. forest ranger, and his wife near Mt. Baker in Washington. My sister, Anna Gale Dorch, at 90 is doing pretty well."

From Southern California, **Carroll Smith Lewis** e-mails: "Kids and Grands in Spain, France, California, Montreal — and when asked I replied 'another country — Texas.' The 'asker' was from Dallas and didn't laugh. Hugs, Carroll aka Pud."

I, too enjoyed the Reunion and look forward to next June — you all come! I keep busy with my local family and am active in the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. **Polly Martin Hawver '58** is also a member. In April I had a great trip to California and Washington. Three days in Yosemite Park, Easter with my sister **Mary Mack Hurst '49** and her son and family in Grass Valley, California, then cousins in the Bay Area before going to Spokane, Washington, for a week with my sister-in-law. In 3½ weeks, I flew eight Southwest Airline flights and slept in seven different beds. SW takes very good care of little old ladies who use a cane and request a wheelchair in the airport. I will fly to Manchester, England, for Christmas with son Jeff and family.

I am fortunate to live very close to NIH and have joined a research study on Age-Related Macular Degeneration. I can still see well enough to read and drive. Unfortunately, my sister, Mary, has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's. She has always been so physically and intellectually active that being ill is hard for her. I will visit her again in October. Best wishes to all 'til next year ...

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Retired librarian **Josephine Moore Becker** is still independent and is in the process of downsizing her library, still sorting storage from her move three years ago. She has adopted a new cat, Tami, whom she found through PAWS — loving and good company after going six years without a pet. Jo hopes to go to Prescott Valley, Arizona, this fall, for the grand opening of the new stand-alone library. Jo is selling books on Amazon.com as Beckerbooks.com, reversing the process after so many years of collecting them! Two stepchildren live in the Portland, Oregon, area, two in West Virginia, one in Florida, and one in Denver. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren are widely scattered, and another family reunion is needed! She is sending college memorabilia to the archivist at Western in the hopes that they may be found useful.

A short visit at their daughter's house in Nantucket was enjoyed by **Sally Proper**



*Happily (left to right), Jane Osgood Tatge, Ruth Ault Hadley and Mary Jane Liggett Matson made it back to Oxford for the Forty-niners' 60<sup>th</sup>!*

**Lutz** and her husband, Del. She will head back to the island again in September for a week with her bridge group. She has 12 grandchildren, with the oldest in medical school, four others in college, and the youngest is 8; five live near her and the others are in Montclair, New Jersey, and Oklahoma City. She keeps busy volunteering at the Women's Exchange, running the stationery department. Each year they give profits to community service organizations, and for the last several years it has ranged from \$400,000 to \$500,000 ... "unbelievable what a bunch of women can do."

Sally hopes to get together with **Bixie Mitchell Baker** soon for a post-celebration of their birthdays.

**Margo Freudenthal Kaufman** traveled with her daughter to Morocco over Christmas and went to Mexico in February. The next trip will be to Greece. Her granddaughter, Jennifer, is finishing her M.A. in criminal justice and has a nice job at the federal courthouse. Daughter Lynn is busy getting permits at Tahoe.

**Mary Jane Liggett Matson** and Cliff enjoyed an Elderhostel to Lewisburg, West Virginia, last spring, and got to tour the Cold War bunker, which was very interesting. She attended our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion along with **Jane Osgood Tatge** and Bruce, and **Ruth Ault Hadley** and David. We three gals wandered where the rest of our classmates were! The campus looked so well kept, and the program was extremely well organized.

**Bunny Bartizal Proctor** and Stu still enjoy their condo at Sanibel in Florida in November and the early spring months. Their two sons are Eagles, and they now have two grandsons who are also Eagle Scouts. She calls our attention to Class-VI Adventure Resort, started by their sons 30 years ago; a zipline canopy tour has become a popular attraction. Catch it on their website, Class-VI.com.

Life continues to be great at Green Spring in northern Virginia for **Judy Winger Snook**, where she finds much to do and has made many friends. She subscribes to the National Symphony Orchestra series and Arena Stage series, so is still "getting culture." Martin Lewis, her godson, and family have just arrived at Quantico, Virginia, Marine Base, and are as delighted as she is to be nearby. His two tours in Iraq have pounded his body so much that he hurts constantly. Judy's older sister, Liz, is making progress from a stroke, and Judy will go to Florida to see her this fall.

**Betty Huttenbauer Heldman** was sorry to miss our Reunion because she was recovering from her third surgery in five months. Hopefully everything has been corrected, and she feels much better. She and John are planning to go to Bermuda in October to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon.

For **Lynn Trimmer Collins** it was a summer of weddings by the lake. Thankfully, the weather cooperated each time. Anne and Jason live in Skagway, Alaska, where daughter Nancy also lives; Lynn traveled there after the wedding for party time. She notes that there was no rain all summer with a lot of smog, but the forest fires have begun to run their course.

Exciting news comes from **Ginny Thomas McNabb** and Herschel. Their son, Tim, was married for the second time in a Jewish ceremony in July. The McNabbs flew to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and stayed at the Ritz Carleton (wow!), where all activities took place. They hosted the rehearsal dinner around the pool on the seventh floor. Tim's teenage sons were best men. "The wedding was a blast." Hersh has been in speech and physical therapy this last year, and it has really made a big difference. Ginny plays a lot of bridge at Bristol Village in Waverly, Ohio.

A delightful phone call from **Guileen Lindsey Manuel** brought us up-to-date on family news. She is still living in the same house after Gene's death in 2002. She has had medical problems, "the usual stuff for seniors." She attends the Presbyterian Church in Palestine, Illinois, where she enjoys working on the monthly newsletter which is sent to over 300 people across the country. She reminisced about family reunions at Big Moose Lake in the western Adirondacks of New York. Also to be remembered was our beloved song, "When day is done and night shadows fall, while across the campus darkness covers all..." Guileen is glad to have her son Peter and his wife nearby after a move to Marshall, Illinois, after 16 years in Georgia; her son Chris and his wife are expecting their second child in March. Second son Scott and wife Sheryl are both practicing attorneys in Springfield, Illinois. They have an 11-year-old daughter who Guileen

says is both beautiful and a talented figure skater. She still keeps in touch with classmate **Evelyn Jensen Hill**. Like many of us, she daily counts her blessings.

This was the time for reunions and graduations for me, **Jane Osgood Tatge**, and Bruce. We traveled by car to Virginia in May for granddaughter Lauren's college graduation from Marymount in Arlington, then made visits to old friends in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Baltimore and attended Bruce's 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at Lehigh. We then went to step-granddaughter Ali's graduation from Dublin School in New Hampshire (she is now a freshman at Eckerd College in Florida). In June it was back to Virginia for granddaughter Jaclyn's high school graduation. She is off to Virginia Tech this fall. Following the graduation we drove directly to Oxford for my 60<sup>th</sup>. On the way home we visited Elderhostel friends in Indianapolis. After more than 3,000 miles we were glad to get home, where I had successful foot surgery on July 3. Son David and family visited us from Virginia in early August, and at the end of the month we drove to Portland, Maine, for youngest grandson Will's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. Choir practice resumes soon for both of us.

Please note that two of our classmates have died this year, both in East Lansing, Michigan. We send our love and sympathy to the family of **Sheila Laurie Hepler**, a retired public school elementary substitute teacher, who died on January 5, and of **Carolyn McMillen** of the Michigan State University libraries, who died on January 30. We also remember Charles, husband of **Joan Kadow Choate**, who died late last year after a long illness.

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**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh:** Late summer has not been real great for me. A new hip, a bleeding ulcer and heart problems. I am looking forward to fall in Florida.

In June 2011 we will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. That's two years from this summer and plenty of time for everyone to plan on attending. I would like to see all the regulars join me in Oxford. Maybe some of you who have attended in the past and had a great time can encourage others who have



Grete Stern Wrede '51 with her three sons and daughter

not been there to come and enjoy this "good time." I've spent so many years doing the *Bulletin* that I feel as if I know you all and would like to see you all in person. Hopefully, 2011 will not be my last Reunion!

**Janet Shumaker Narwold:** "Everyone must have had or least is 'nearing' the biggie birthday. I was pleased that all 22 of our crew gathered in June. We all enjoyed much fun and games and toasts and fireworks. The 11 grandchildren range in age from 22 to 2 and it keeps me busy going around the country, also. I had a great garden despite the rain in Connecticut."

**Jane Donaldson Buswold:** "It is August 9<sup>th</sup> and NYC has not had one 90-degree day. The old tapes pop up and play, 'If it doesn't get hot the cotton crop will fail and it will be a hard candy Christmas.' Some things are not forgotten. I joke that my social life is visiting doctors and there are weeks when that is true. Friends fill in time in between visits, so I get rewarded for doing the right thing."

**Charlotte Hutchinson Pursell:** "Both Lyle and I remain in good health. We will celebrate 59 years of marriage on September 2 and my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Our family of 15 grandchildren and three great-grands grew on August 13<sup>th</sup>, when great-granddaughter, Jocelyn, was born. What joy! She has three sisters waiting for her at home." lcpursel@fidnet.com

**Ruth Dunlap Will:** "I'm trying to adjust to being a widow and living alone. Bob was a very dynamic person and I miss him. **Beverly Baisch McKell Kenworthy** was in Chillicothe for her grandson's wedding in May. We had lunch together at the country club and had a nice visit. She looks great and loves living in Peabody, Massachusetts. My daughter, Laura, invited me to go to Tahoe with her family in February. The view from the gondola was awesome. They skied and I drank coffee and read at Starbucks. **Sally Fisher Hutchins '48** lives in Athens, Ohio, and I saw her at a Pi Phi luncheon recently. She is always fun and full of new ideas. I always enjoy reading the *Bulletin* and cherish my years and friends at Western."

**Anne Harlan Ross:** "I am fine and healthy as far as I know! I made a quick visit to Albuquerque to help graduate my third grandchild from UNM. She didn't think I was going to be able to make it, so the surprise was definitely worth the trip. The other big event for me was celebrating my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with all three sons and families coming — Marc from Phoenix, Mitchell from New Mexico and Jay from here in Tulsa. It was super fun, full of happy tears and many laughs. Other than that, I am working to stay cool!" [anneross1@cox.net](mailto:anneross1@cox.net)

**Barbara Scoskie Pipines.** "First, I have a new address: 2423 Forest City Road, Forest City Twp., Maine 04413. We sold our house in New Jersey and retired to Maine full time. Winters are long, nine people in town, so we will spend a few months in Las Vegas by our daughter. We also became great-grandparents, a beautiful little girl. Peter is still guiding fishermen and I am involved with hospital, quilting and reading clubs." [Quiltfish1@aol.com](mailto:Quiltfish1@aol.com)

**Alice Merwin Tweedy:** "No special news ... continue to enjoy living in the Maryland Eastern Shore and am active with children's family visits and assorted volunteer projects." [alicemer@verizon.net](mailto:alicemer@verizon.net)

**Betty A. Vandersluis:** "The biggest announcement is that my niece 'Wendy' has chosen to be a single mother and is now in her seventh month. She has had such bad luck with men that at age 40 she took the leap. I am so proud of her — she waited to tell until she was sure that all was OK. Her baby is a boy and her closest friend is having a baby shower in Connecticut, so I'm driving down for it. Baby is due in October. I am trying to keep well. My M.D. wanted me to have my left shoulder done but I'm waiting. I continue to have trouble with falling (and the scrapes can be almost as bad as a break). I did get to Black Island for a few days, with my postcards, which I am still selling. I turned 82 this year!"

**Mary Peterson Shenefield:** "After recuperating from ulcerative colitis, I was able to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Leechburg High School class reunion in Pennsylvania with my son (it was his class and my favorite to teach). Among the features were tours of the school and canoeing on the Kiskeminetas. Additionally, we attended church where John was pastor in the '60s."

**Grete Stern Wrede:** "This has been a busy 11 months for me. Last October I went to Connecticut to help my son and daughter-in-law as she underwent double knee surgery, complicated in recovery by her fibromyalgia. Two grandchildren and a dog, plus several household chores were my responsibility until I left the second week of De-

ember. In March a grandson was married, also in Connecticut. In April I suffered an automobile accident, when a car parked in front and to the left of my car in a lot backed up as I was getting out of my car, and hit my car door, crushing my leg into the door frame. Nothing broke, but the swelling still has not gone down. In July I had a wonderful 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, family reunion celebration in Connecticut, and also stopped to see my seventh great-grandchild in North Carolina. I drove to and from all these trips!"

**Nancy Hon Krauth:** "Everything is going well for the Krauths. Health is good, garden is producing veggies and flowers, and the three dogs are happy. Our Alabama friend and his 18-month-old golden retriever spent two weeks with us in July and joined us at two Field Trials. Son Steve will again come from his home in Garden Grove, California, to see us in August. Other son, Dave, and wife Ruth are getting ready to move into a newly refurbished home in Mason City, Iowa. In March, Norm and I and the dogs drove from our Alabama RV park to Jacksonville, Florida, to visit Western roommate **Cece Griffin Waggoner** and some of her family. Cece is recovering well from knee surgery."

**Yvonne Beaumont McCullough:** "Am in the midst of packing for a two-part trip — first to Scotland, second a Mediterranean cruise on the *Queen Victoria*. ... Will be gone most of August. It will be hard to leave my beautiful flower garden and especially the tomatoes, which are just starting to ripen. But this trip may be our last, so it will be worthwhile. Two grandchildren have had babies this year, so the family tree is longer now. Still have good health and volunteer at a local senior daycare center. My life is full and I'm certainly not bored."

**Betsy Feuss Gardner:** "In Lynchburg, Virginia, for daughter Mollie's wedding in mid-August, we were enjoying dinner in a local restaurant when I walked **Jeanne Owen Buehler** and her family. We had not met since graduation, but have enjoyed keeping up through our mutual friendship with **Donna Lamb**. It was a treat to reconnect in person! Mollie's wedding was beautiful and at the rehearsal dinner attended by many, many family members, I had a surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. In December 2008 Doug, my husband of 56 years and a Miami grad, died. My three children have been of tremendous support and while in California, I had the opportunity of seeing my great-grandson, who is almost 2 and a wonder child, of course! I look forward to spending September in East Boothbay, Maine, where my son has a home he uses for vacation getaways. Family and friends can escape to a place of beauty filled with history and — most important — the opportunity to eat lobster prepared every way imaginable."

Condolences to the families of **Joyce Hambley McCormick**, **Betty Wishart Colton**, **Helena Fiesselmann Zabriskie** and **Anna "Polly" Polydouris Zepatos**. Joyce passed away July 2007, leaving behind her husband of 58 years, Tom; four children and six grandchildren. Betty died in February of this year, Anna in March, and Helena in August 12. Survived by a brother, two sisters-in-law and "generations of loving nieces, nephews and cousins," Betty served on the WCAA board of trustees from 2002 until 2006, when she was forced to resign because of ill health. Anna, daughter of Greek immigrants, was married to Harry Zepatos, whose father founded the Arcade Restaurant in Memphis, Tennessee — the city's oldest restaurant. Their children operate the restaurant today. Helena, our fourth WCAA president (1983-86), and husband John would have celebrated 58 years of marriage in September. She commented in the 2009 directory that their three children "are our most cherished accomplishments and our two grandsons continue to bring great joy and surprise to our lives."

**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh '51**  
4725 Burley Hills Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45243



Here we are at the time of year again for hurricanes, Labor Day and this labor of love. Now bits of news ...

Sad news came from Jim that his wife of 43 years, **Ruth McCurdy Lochary**, passed away unexpectedly of an aneurism on December 20, 2008. She had always been a loyal alum and friend of Western.

**Marty Wilson Rowan's** summer was a bit less active than usual as she fell over her own shoes while getting out of bed, broke her arm and cracked her shoulder. Her dear, sweet dog was the cause of the fall.

Speaking of injuries, **Beryl Wallman Bennewith** was hit by a car in the parking lot of her local food market in St. Croix. Her husband was with her and saved her from being run over as the driver stopped, didn't see Beryl and started to drive again. Beryl's injuries were relatively minor and she travels to San Miguel, Portugal, and southern France to spend the upcoming fall season.

I had a chat with **Arlene Erikson Fraser** who had a hip replacement last winter. She's still making ice cream. All of her children are near her home in Maynard, Massachu-



*Vesta Philbrick (left) and Lyn Present*

sett. Her granddaughter is at Tabor Academy following in the footsteps of Arlene's three sons.

**Lee Ann Prendergast Curry** and her sister **Sheila Prendergast Luetkehans** joined **Marita Lakonen Judge**, **Barbara "Little John" Johnson Mecklenborg** and **Joan Willitts Glatte** at our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion last June. The group gathered at Little John's new home at The Knolls (21 Ivywood Square, Oxford, OH 45056) for brunch. Her neighbors and fellow alums **Priscilla Strand Berry '54** and **Betty Sipe Gerber '52** also attended the brunch.

There was a nice note this past Christmas from **Ginny Wells Weiss**, sharing the news that her son Chris Wells passed away after a long illness. We send our very belated sympathy to Ginny and her family. On the brighter side, all of her grandchildren have received advanced degrees recently: history, education, library science and German.

The Daniels family news requires more space than normally allotted. **Mac Culver Daniels** and her husband, Keith, love to travel to various time-share locations. Re-



*The Danielses*

cent travels include: Cancun; Orlando and Tampa; Jamestown; 12-day cruise of the Baltic; London; as well as a trip to Niagara Falls. Grandson Mackenzie is living with them as his father is serving in Kuwait. Mac is moderator of the Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of Northern Waters. As with so many of us, Mac and Keith have undergone some medical stuff, nothing too serious, however.

Brief notes from **Sally Trowbridge Blackwelder** and **Patty Wiederstein Hildebrandt** report that they are fine, healthy and busy. Sally is painting and Patty playing golf.

Nice note from **Jean Decker Allread** full of little news items. She plans to attend her 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at Fort Wayne High School and hopes to see **Nancy Underhill Gangnagl**, who went to Western before she and Jean both transferred to Indiana University, from which they both graduated.

**Vesta Peters Philbrick** writes that Bob has adjusted to his assisted-living facility. Vesta enjoyed a big family get together at her daughter Celeste's home. The entire family was in attendance except for her two grandsons who are both in the service. Vesta was looking forward to **Lyn Dixon Present's** visit in September.

Lyn not only plans a visit this September to New Hampshire, but (accompanied by her friend, Betty) visited Cape Cod on a bus tour this past May during which we had a fun visit. It was pouring rain; nevertheless my husband, Paul, and I gave them the \$10 Tour of local attractions. Lyn recommends bus tours for single women who want a comfortable opportunity to travel.

The Reveres also had a visit from **Debbie Cohen Kalodner** and her daughter, Liz, this past August. We had a pleasant luncheon at Hyannisport Club prior to the Boston Pops By The Sea concert. This concert is an annual visit for Debbie and her daughter.

Had an interesting note from **Gayle Roxbury Barrett**. She lives in Denver and tells of a young man she met at a Western-Miami mixer in 1949 and then dated. The two have been pen pals for the past 60 years. More on that in next newsletter.

**Sabra Packard Cleveland** writes that she lives in Bend, Oregon, by way of 45 years on the East Coast, 10 years in Bozeman, Montana, and 10 years in San Diego, California. She has three daughters, two in the Portland, Oregon, area and one in Portland, Maine. She reports that she is happy and healthy and able to do volunteer work.

**Pat Brandenberger Green** says that she and her husband, Frank, are enjoying their lives between Florida and Pittsburgh. She attended her 60<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in Shelbyville, Indiana. Pat's daughter lives in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and works for IROBOT Corp. in Boston as a senior planner analyst.

**Anne Koch Nevins** plans to move permanently to their home in Cape Cod but first they must sell their Winchester house. Anne and Jack's big news is the birth of their first grandchild, Henry Ian Nevins, born May 5, 2008 to their son Jesse.



*The Reveres*

Last fall Paul and I lost our beloved Kiska dog, who passed away quickly and quietly. In December I underwent spinal surgery. The doctor cleaned up some stenosis, fused some vertebrae and added some screws. The recovery took about four months with full-time care from nurse Paul. The surgery was successful and I have resumed my pre-backache lifestyle, which includes a big new white furry dog named "Annie," who we discovered on the Big Fluffy Dog Rescue website. On July 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala party in the backyard. Daughter Avery and son Paul did all the work.

Thank you to everybody for sending your news. Remember next year there will be no blue cards. You will find a reminder/announcement in the *Bulletin* spring issue.

**Cary Kimbark Revere '53**  
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*Celebrating 55 years!*

Our sympathy goes to **Sara Babcock Burneson**, whose husband, Greg, died in March following many health problems. She is making the transition to widowhood well with trips to visit family and friends, including **Dottie Runyon Medlin** and **Kay Williams**. Dot attended the memorial service for Greg and then, before Sara came to see her, had a stroke. Sara says she is making a superb recovery. Dottie's blue card reports she is back at her volunteer work and has two bedrooms for anyone passing through North Carolina.

On a brighter note, we must congratulate **Kay Williams** and her sister, Jerri Williams Lawrence, for the 2009 citation from the Ohioana Library Association for "unique and outstanding accomplishment in the field of writing and editing." The award was for finishing *One Last Dance: It's Never Too Late*



*Class of '54 stalwarts (from left) Lucy Liggett, Pris Strand Berry and Liz Brown Peelle celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup>!*

to *Fall in Love*, a novel penned by their father, Mardo Williams, when he was in his 90s. I've read the book and it's wonderful. Highly appropriate for those of us in our "golden years."

Congratulations are due, too, to **Sally Miller Ihne** and her dog, Ernie, who has earned his Graduate Novice Obedience title and is halfway through his second Rally Advanced Excellent title. Next spring they should be ready to compete on the next level. She is now president of the Brainerd Kennel Club and is serving on the Northland Arboretum Board.

In April of this year **Shirley Remnant Sloat**, who has been active in the Dallas Genealogical Society and the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, was awarded the 2008 A. C. Greene Award, which recognizes "community volunteers who have rendered exemplary service to learning, literature and libraries." One of her efforts which won her this award was assisting the LDS Church in microfilming the earliest Dallas County court records dating back to 1846. Two years and 3,600 hours of service later, thousands of these valuable documents were made available on microfilm from the LDS Family History Library. Way to go, Shirley!

Our active classmates are still traveling. **Joanne Wesner Robertson** and husband Jer alternate living on Manasota Key Florida and Minnesota and Wisconsin. In between they have gone to South Africa and Brazil. All this despite Jer's fall off the roof and resultant surgeries on face and shoulder, jaw and dental work. More power to you!

**Ann Reagan Hallier** and Hal keep traveling, too, and hope to continue until "we get too creaky." They have family close at hand and also enjoy visits, phone calls, and e-mails from **Carolyn Southard Callahan**, her freshman roommate, now in Houston, TX.

**Barbara Giles Grant** and Walt keep their travel closer to home, either on their own or

with seniors in their area. Children and grandchildren are close enough to visit, too. Barb helps out at the library and lunches with friends which keeps her "fat and sassy."

**Charlene Ashing Barry** doesn't travel except to doctors, etc. She and Jim have just finished a big project of gutting their small kitchen and making it larger. I can hardly wait to see it.

**Carolyn Dunkin Schulte** has stayed in Phoenix, busy painting and redecorating her home. Hasn't even made it up to her other home in Pinetop, a cooler place than Phoenix in the summer. She plans to come back to Oxford for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. I think we all should come back. Our 50<sup>th</sup> was great fun and the years are certainly marching by in a hurry. Let's make an effort to get together another time.

As for me, **Mary Sicer Moore**, I have dipped my toe into 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology and now have e-mail. You can reach me at [mismoore@cablone.net](mailto:mismoore@cablone.net). I was forced into it in order to keep in touch with my son, now working security in Qatar, and his son a soldier stationed in Afghanistan. So let's get those e-mails coming my way and then get together in Oxford in 2010.

**Mary Sicer Moore '55**  
14 Broadmoor  
Prescott, AZ 86305  
[mismoore@cablone.net](mailto:mismoore@cablone.net)



The Class of '57 is still a strong, active group of Western alums. Most of the news that comes my way tells of retirement adventures and bravery in the face of illness that makes us all root for each other.

A Christmas note from **Barb Stephenson Northrup**, now living in La Quinta, California, tells a tale of two busy people. Husband Ken has a real estate company and it sounds like their home is on prime real estate — the second hole of the Arnold Palmer Golf course at PGA West, where the Bob Hope Chrysler tournament is played. Barb also talks about trips to Ohio to celebrate reunions with family and friends. Children and grandchildren live "out West" with the exception of granddaughter Megan, who is studying at Indiana University.

Also at Christmas the **McInallys (Joan Mueller)** brought us up to date. It sounds as if they would be perfect hosts for a tour of the Philadelphia area. How about a

"Duck" tour of the City of Brotherly Love and a chance to see the Phillies play! Daughter Lisa and sons Steven and Jeff continue to be an important part of their lives.

The blue cards brought a mixture of good and bad news.

**Mary "Peggy" Finney Kah** died quietly at home June 12, 2009, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease and related dementia. We send sympathy to her family.

Sympathy also goes to **Dorothy Poeschl Hawkes**, whose husband, Robert, died in January at the age of 88. She was comforted by children and wonderful Hospice care. Dottie stayed in Columbus with daughter Jenny until April to escape some of northern Ohio's cold weather. Jenny, a major in the Marines (due for promotion to Lt. Col. this fall), travels the Midwest, visiting wounded Marines and getting help for them and their families. Their older daughter lives in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

**Sue Martin Scott** writes, "All the grandchildren are now teenagers or acting like it. Bruce and I love being grandparents this time around going down that thorny path! We send our best wishes to all."

**Ellyn Talbott Bogan** relates a busy summer, starting with the reunions in Oxford. Daughter Linda wanted to go to Miami's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and Ellyn wanted to go to Western's Reunion, so they did both. The grandchildren were excited that they could stay one night on each campus. Camping, hiking, and fossil hunting at the many Ohio camp sites made the summer fly by.

**Mary Kay Droste Feller** writes that all is well at the Feller household. She had successful back surgery in February for a congenital situation in the lumbar area and now has no pain in her hip and leg. She and Allan are busy volunteers and busy grandparents. They cared for 11 grandchildren and sometimes "grand-dogs" too. They spent time at their lake house with the family, went to Branson, to the Berkshires and to son David's home in Seattle. Daughter Lisa and her husband moved to Franklin, Tennessee, where her husband is the city manager. They enjoy watching their children raise their children. "It is so good to see them mature so nicely."

**Sandy Grimes Surico** sends word that she and Stephen spent two weeks this summer at Cape Cod with the entire family: four children and their spouses and 10 grandchildren plus a couple of friends from Italy. They had a wonderful time and the house they rented was spectacular. They did not get a group picture but Sandy sends one of her-

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self and two grandchildren enjoying the beach. Grandchildren range from almost 2 to 23! Besides grandchildren, their other passion is their gardens. "Hope to make Reunion in 2010."

**Ione Sandberg Cowen** and I had a wonderful, long phone call late last spring. She has had some serious health issues. "I had successful surgery for thyroid cancer last November ... follow-up radio-iodine treatment in February which showed that the cancer had not spread. I'll probably repeat that next year as a precautionary measure which seems to be standard procedure." She and Bill are travelers! Daughter Nora lives in Chile, where they spent a summery Christmas south of Santiago. In April they were in Massachusetts to see son Tod. He and his wife have adopted a 1-year-old from Guatemala — their seventh grandchild. Daughter Alexandra lives in Greer, South Carolina. (I keep thinking I will see Ione when I go to visit my sister who lives there also, **Peggy Mayer Hill '59**.)

The Class of '57 is proud that one of their own, **Charlotte Klein Varzi**, has been elected a trustee for the Western College Alumnae Association. She reports that she retired in May 2008 and has since taken some trips to see daughter Kimyia in Washington during the Abraham Lincoln celebrations, to Savannah with an Iranian wives group, and to Southern California to meet her first grandchild, who arrived in March. She is looking forward to serving on the board.

Our little sisters (Class of '59) had their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in June and I was pleased to be part of their induction into the Meily Society. I was their Junior Chairman when they first appeared on the Western campus in September 1955, so it seemed like a good fit.

Jim and I continue to be busy, busy, busy. I didn't even get my Christmas letter mailed last winter. The Opera Guild takes up much of my time and I have taken some wonderful classes through the University of Dayton's Osher School of Life Long Learning. I do work out, trying to make this 73-year-old body behave. This past summer we took two 9-year-old grandsons who are cousins, on a Disney Cruise. We have one more grandchild to take on a 9-year-old trip and I hope we make it. We did have a delightful week in Door County, Wisconsin, with son David and his family and stopped on our way home in Glencoe at the Writers' Theatre to see *The Minister's Wife*, an adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida*. It was wonderful! My liberal arts interests live on!

A happy bit of serendipity: The last game of the Dayton Dragons' season (our Class A baseball team), a nice young couple accompanied by two young people sat next to us and the young woman said, "Aunt Sue? Uncle Jim?" Lo and behold it was Laurie Davis Guiney, daughter of **Jean Marquard**

**Davis Wall**. Laurie and Bob had just sent their youngest off to college and were looking forward to an "empty nesters" trip to Aruba. We had a great time reminiscing about the old days. Until next time...

**Sue Mayer Falter '57**  
**4112 Tonawanda Trail**  
**Dayton, OH 45430**  
**jimandsue4112@sbcglobal.net**



50<sup>th</sup> Reunion — you have got to be kidding! Celebrate? Well, we sure did and had a fabulous time back there on the beautiful Western Campus. If you were among the "no shows," then this update is going to be very special. The alumnae office put together a picture album of '59ers and our families, but there were not nearly enough pictures to satisfy me. You remember **Susan Gessford Spicer**, Gessie? She was an only child and she sent a wonderful picture of her family, all 15 of them! Her note said that she retired from teaching/administration in 2000 and they have spent most of their time traveling the U.S.A. Joe and Sue had three children, all of whom have had successful careers and blessed them with seven fantastic grandchildren. Their last trip was to Greece in May of '08. Shortly after their return, Joe was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He spent four months in various hospitals and rehab centers. Their lives have changed dramatically, but as of May, he is able to get around some. On June 13, they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and feel very fortunate to be able to share it with each other. Many thanks go to their daughter who spent 10 years working at Johns Hopkins in oncology research developing a drug to cure brain tumors. She gave them tremendous support and advice. Sue was sorry to miss Reunion adventures and seeing the "McKee gang" again as well as so many others. She remembers that her two years at Western remain the best part of her college career.

**Thalia Crane Sudnick** passed along the sad news that **Nancy Stevens Walton** died suddenly on April 9, 2009, in Florida. Nancy lived in Sarasota and driving home after lunch with an old friend south of Sarasota, started feeling ill, pulled over and called her husband but died of a heart attack before she could really talk to him. Along with her husband and son, we mourn her passing.

Thalia and her husband moved from New Jersey to Poughkeepsie four years ago and love it there. Yes, it is cold, but beautiful in all the seasons. They have a real yard with woods on one side, overlooking Wappinger Creek (really a river) — lots of birds and oth-

er wildlife. Thalia is familiar with Eastern birds and really enjoys seeing so many so often — but that doesn't apply to the deer in her vegetable garden! Active in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Thalia participates in a bunch of other volunteer activities. She is still working part-time and loving it. Their two children are not too far away. A son, wife and toddler live in Westchester County, an hour south and a daughter and her husband are in central New Jersey.

**Barbara Crotts** has moved back to Ohio and been very busy. A cancer survivor, she is also a published poet; has started (along with the school nurse) asthma support groups in the public schools; has written a handbook on learning disabilities; published a set of combination haiku and photographs; innovated historical collages — idea to be used by local historical group (family collage and historical information); and participated in establishing local POW WOW, a first for the Cuyahoga Falls area. Whew! Barbara, congratulations, you certainly have many accomplishments and been big-time busy!

**Barbara Gordimer Roth**, now retired, sure gets around! Her e-mail came just before she set off for Beijing, where she and Joel



*Barbara Roth and her redhead*

have many friends as well as Joel's cousin Lee and his family. Lee is the executive director of a charitable foundation that provides basic health care to women and children in Tibet and surrounding areas. She has one 3½-year-old granddaughter, who has lots and lots of red hair!

The most exciting things for **Karla Noell Galantay** are the accomplishments of several grandchildren. Sixteen-year-old Josephine is Junior Swiss Champion in skiff rowing. Ten-year-old Edward is in a special violin class (the youngest of 12) at the Conservatory of Genoa — she is buying him a 100-year-old 3/4-sized violin. All the others are skate boarding, swimming, learning languages and just being kids. Best for her was publishing her collection of short stories — of which there are only three left! She went to California September 1<sup>st</sup> to attend the



*Fifty? Unbelievable, says the Class of '59 (left to right): Lois Maguire Wisniewski, Sis Moeller Horst, Sue Forester Kincade, Mary Jo Brown Porter, Peggy Mayer Hill, Diana Forshew Kerber, Diana Koch Mascali, Sue Marquis Gordon, Betty Thebaud Sharr, Jane Toy Thomason, Luci Bilsland Galloway, Mary Ellen Thomas Forte, Hatsumi Takenaka Whitehead, Judy McMillion Custer and Mary Baumer Baker. With 19.72% of the class attending the banquet, the Peabody Cup was theirs!*

wedding of a lifetime friend. On the down side: Dr. Dietrich Kurrer (former Western faculty) died at 86 on May 21, 2009. They had come to know his family.

**Julia Althoff Laker** is sorry to have missed the Reunion. It would have been great to see everyone. Their two grandchildren (13 and 16) spent two weeks with them. They all traveled around Florida and had a grand time. Sadly, oldest daughter Cathy's husband died in June. She lives in Florida so they are able to see her often.

**Luci Bilsland Galloway** worked very hard to make our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion a great success and a really special time — spouses too! They then had a lazy, hazy summer that ended too soon. They managed to wear out the "popcorn" sensor on their microwave and have bought a new car that they hope will last 10 years like their old one. The college girls have all found new apartments. Doug and Julie have a newer larger home. Paige and Stacy have a new "vintage" '78 Airstream travel trailer. Nancy and Rick have new hardwood flooring. Carol is refurbishing her kitchen. Luci wants you to know that the Galloway Gang are doing their best to stimulate the economy! Yea! Grandson Taylor has his driver's permit and is now in high school! Audrey has started kindergarten finally — she wanted to go last year. Watching soccer games keeps Luci and Paul busy, especially when Amanda and Audrey are playing. Taylor will be playing football while Chris is planning to run cross country. Obviously this family are big sports aficionados and must all be quite healthy and in good shape.

**Mary Jo Porter Brown** sends greetings from Terre Haute, where she is quite the activist, sponsoring a theater benefit for the Indiana Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She traveled to a five-day national church conference in Indianapolis. Vacationed with her daughter and her four teenage boys in a cabin in the Smokies for five days and takes those same guys to dentist and orthodontal appointments and soccer practices. Made a trip to see the King Tut exhibit in Indianapolis with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Indiana State University. A member can take classes at ISU for a minimal cost, take trips, attend concerts and lectures and thus continue learning just for fun. She is excited to be going on her first Alaskan cruise. The trip should be good preparation for the soon-to-arrive cooler weather! Ralph's granddaughter, Mariah Robertson, artist, got a complimentary article in the *New Yorker* recently. She does interesting work and exhibits in NYC where I get to appreciate her talent!

**Peggy Mayer Hill** enjoyed a five-day visit with son Andy and his wife, Lyn, and grandchildren Julian (1) and Vivienne (almost 3). Of course the children are adorable and Peggy was exhausted by the time they left. This was the first time they've visited North Carolina and it was a learning experience. Being president of the Guild of the Greenville Symphony is very interesting, challenging and time consuming. Billy has been helping out by doing the meal planning, grocery shopping and cooking (for the most part). When Peggy finishes up in a year, they will have to figure out some new routine. But that seems like a long way off!

Peggy has spoken to **Judy Conant** a couple of times since the Reunion and sent along some pictures and then had to identify them! **Mary Ellen Thomas Forte** reported that Judy is whiz of a math teacher, still teaching, and that her students all score in very high percentiles. Peggy's e-mail from **Garlan Stamper Tinney** said that she was thinking of us having such a good time at the Reunion. So where were you, Judy and Garlan?

**Mary Baumer Baker** enjoyed the Reunion celebration and even though she graduated from Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven, she has always felt a part of the our class since she spent three years at Western. She is glad that we don't have to live in a dorm at this time in our lives but it was "fun" to re-experience that way of life for a very short period! Mary writes that for those who did not come to the Reunion Weekend, you missed a great talk from our very own "Tommy" (**Mary Ellen Thomas Forte**) in Kumler Chapel. I agree! Tommy was the first African American student to attend and graduate from Western. Her experiences back in those halcyon times were both wonderful and painful. Her meditation on her Western days will be long remembered. You need to get a copy. [Contact the office: [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu).] What an honor it is to have her as a distinguished member of our class. Mary — now Baker — enjoys being back in her hometown (city) of Indianapolis, even though it has changed (grown) so much since she left back in 1958. Her new husband, Larry, and she met and dated while in high school and then went their separate ways. Now they are having a good time together again after all these years.

**Patricia French Cook Richardson** managed to spend a little time with us at the Reunion and was sorry she couldn't stay for the whole weekend. She especially enjoyed seeing **Sue Forester Kincade**, whom she had not seen in 50 years! Pat and Bob traveled east to NYC and Long Island where they visited friends and attended theater in Manhattan (9 to 5 with a former student of Pat's in male lead) and East Hampton. Then on to the eastern shore of Virginia to visit Bob's relatives. Finally, they cruised leisurely down Route 17 to Savannah and then home to Fernandina Beach and Amelia Island. Pat invites anyone coming to Florida to come and see them and promises that you will fall in love with Amelia Island just as they did. They're busy with fund-raising activities for their new community theater building which has more than doubled its capacity.

**Carole Crow Frank** sends a special hello to everyone. Carole has not traveled for three years — even to see her brother and his family — as her rheumatoid arthritis symptoms such as deformed feet and hands are worse than five years ago. It is very frustrating, especially because she can't dance anymore, but she tries to keep busy in NYC

## NEW: BLUE CARD FORM! SEE PAGE 50.

by going to theater, ballet, concerts and visiting with friends. You were greatly missed Carole!

**Diana Koch Mascali** and husband John celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at our Reunion. And they certainly did not look or act like they had been married anywhere near that long! However, we did celebrate with a champagne toast at the Reunion banquet on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Di has been at home all summer and has thoroughly enjoyed cool California after a year of traveling. They seem to be taking more cruises: Tahiti and the South Pacific, then Alaska with the grand-girls over spring break, and a Viking River Cruise in China in November. Back to Pretoria, South Africa, for a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion with the family Di stayed with on the Africa Seminar in 1958. Several of their grandchildren have stay with the Mascalis in the past year and they hope to someday be able to host their great-grandchildren. They did safari for a few weeks in the Kruger and Zululand areas. 2008 — a year of reunions included an annual Caribbean cruise with Di's siblings, John's 55<sup>th</sup> high school in Pennsylvania in September, his 50<sup>th</sup> at Annapolis in October and Thanksgiving celebrations in Hawaii with their children and grand-girls. Those lovely ladies (12 and 9) have just finished their third year of Packs With Love, distributing 300 new and recycle-filled backpacks to kids in need. Tiger, their dad, is the Burger King, with five franchises. Dana lives in Washington, DC, and is registrar for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at Fort Nair's National Defense University. A perfect job for their career girl!

Bob and I have added a wonderful great-grandson-in-law, Edward, and a lovely great-granddaughter, Kailyn, to our growing family this last year. There have been no cycling tours of foreign or domestic desti-

none of whom had changed one iota. And of course I must mention the nine — yes, 9 — husbands: three Bobs, two Johns, and one each, Paul, Eric, Billy, and Gerry. What a grand time it was! A special thanks go to **Penny Boudreau Garrett** and **Helen Jemison Springob** for their pictorial contributions to our Class of '59 Reunion Photo album — now how about some more of those missing family pictures from the rest of you? Six pages is just a beginning!

**Jane Toy Thomason '59**  
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janethomason@hotmail.com



**Marcia Jones Friddle** says this is her favorite time of the year when “cooler weather and the startup of almost everything is just around the corner.” She's had a busy summer doing two things she probably won't do soon again: planning a Jones family reunion held at a state park on Lake Michigan and putting the book collection of a small school library online. Good luck, Marcia, and keep on truckin'!

**Ann Bronaugh Kyle** recently enjoyed her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with children, spouses and grandkids at a South Carolina beach. Grand fun! Trips included visiting family in Oregon. Still teaching and still amazed at that! Ann's still young at heart!

No exciting news, according to **Suzy West Negron**. She's been retired from elementary school teaching for five years. Itinerary: soaps and other TV shows, three news-

usual one more year this September. I'm already looking forward to our 2011 Reunion and hope to see *everyone* there so we can all feel 21 again.” Jane's still the wanderer.

**Ann Kendrick McCrillis** — a happy, happy grandmom! Good news: new granddaughter, age 4, arrived from Russia in March. She quickly learned English and big brother Quinn is very protective. Ann's husband, Paul, had some health issues so they limited their jaunts, but did enjoy a two-day riverboat cruise up the Mississippi.

**Gail Howell Litwiler** — volunteering around the clock! — writes that daughter Trish and family have moved to Greenville, North Carolina, where son-in-law Dave has joined the faculty of East Carolina University. Big news is that Trish is expecting their second grandchild! Travels have taken Gail and Tom to North Carolina and Chicago, where son TJ is doing railroad work with his law firm. Gail keeps busy in her 20<sup>th</sup> year on the Hampton Township School Board and is running for another four-year term. She continues to teach Sunday school, sing in the choir and serve on the board of Christian education. Pleased that the WCAA has taken on funding of a Western College professorship at Miami, Gail urges that many of our class support this endeavor.

Biggest news from **Julienne Mulette** is that her son, Noah, moved back to the East Coast after many years in Los Angeles. He visited the Czech Republic, returning with “amazing marionettes,” which he is working with to create stories. A writer, he is beginning another book. Her other son, Dhanny, is a neuroscientist at Duke University. Apart from her sons, Julienne insists she is “pretty boring these days,” but goes on to say “... life is always exciting. I'm still counseling, doing quite a bit overseas.” She still misses Australia, after all these years, but

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nations recently, but another is pending. You might be thinking that we could be slowing down a little but No, No, No, all is well and we continue our enlightened activities throughout NYC and environs. A lovely respite in a cabin on top of a nearby Catskill mountain with a large swimming pool was a delightful repeat of last summer's adventures. Visits continue with regularity to museums, concerts, theaters, pool clubs, dentists, doctors — but no surgeons! Life is good and we are richly blessed.

**Sis Moeller Elwinger Horst** enjoyed every minute of our Reunion. Great to see so many old friends. There were former Western board member **Diana Forshew Kerber** with lovely daughter Hillary Spittle, **Judy McMillion Custer**, **Lois Maguire Wisniewski**, **Elizabeth Thebaud Sharr**, **Sue Marquis Gordon**, and **Sue Forester Kincade** —

papers each day, workout at Curves four to five times a week. Suzy and ex-hubby Bill remain good friends. He lives in Arizona with his third wife, but he still loves Suzy, his first! Suzy ... “young love, sweet love ...”

**Jane Miller Brooks** sends greetings from Canada. Summer is her “traveling time,” with visits to friends in Ontario cottage country, a family get-together with her three children and five grandchildren, and two hiking trips. In July, she hiked with a group in the Julian Alps in Slovenia, followed by three days of sightseeing in Vienna. Next it was to be Cape Breton and its Cabot Trail — “a hikers' paradise and I'm looking forward to earning the views.” In October 2008, Jane, **Sharon Botsford Moyer** and **Judy Buck** had “an amazing weekend in NYC” and were planning to repeat this fall. Jane closes, “I'll be returning to the classroom for my

recognizes responsibilities are here “at least for the moment.” No signs of slowing down — she continues to write and host her radio show.

From **Flora Zimmerman Cohen**, our class's “bionic woman”: “Our traveling this year has been somewhat limited because I had a knee replaced in March to go with the new hip that I got last August (2008). Now that I'm semi-bionic and can move, we'll be traveling again. A planned trip to the Ecuadorian rain forest and the Galapagos that we had to put on the back burner because of my joints is now on for January.” Cohens are still busy as “professional volunteers” and enjoy being able to visit all children and grandchildren in one place, Atlanta.

**Sharon Botsford Moyer** returned to teaching last fall (2008), due to a colleague's sud-



Dean Hoyt and Miss James are in this 10-year reunion picture from the Class of '63. Recognize anybody else?

den illness, and finished the last 10 weeks of the school year for another on maternity leave. This fall she expected to be back again, from Labor Day to Thanksgiving for another maternity leave. Her daughter, Jackie, and granddaughter live on St. Simons Island, as Jackie has been transferred to the federal training facility in Brunswick, Georgia. Sean and family are still in Brooklyn. In July, Sharon celebrated the big 7-Oh at a surprise birthday party in College Corner, Ohio, where her parents — in excellent health — continue to live on the farm. But since this was a major birthday, she decided to celebrate by visiting her seventh continent and planned to continue with three weeks in South Africa, going on safari, visiting Cape Town, and scuba diving!

"This has been a summer to forget," writes **Cindy Ackerman Horne**. She'd planned to spend it on the golf course putting her game back together after a five-six years layoff, but experienced "terrible pain" between her shoulder blades, went to the ER and discovered she had an inoperable malignant tumor on her lung. She has undergone radiation and chemotherapy and in August was looking forward to a week's rest between treatments. She was pleased to have lost 10-12 pounds, but her doctor was already threatening her with an appetite-enhancer if she lost any more. This winter Cindy will go South to spend time with her sister — and she'll take her clubs! Cindy hears from Ann and Flora regularly and is counting on catching up and sharing *good news* with all of us at our big 50<sup>th</sup> in 2011.

All is well with the **Duvals**, enjoying our cove and island home from early spring to late fall. Our grandkids are now 14, 9, 4, 3 and 2 and how we love them! Travels have been through Virginia, North and South Carolina, savoring those hush puppies, Southern seafood and good "ole" mountain music. Trust you all, too, are well and enjoying these special years. Remember '61's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion is right around the corner — mark your calendars right now before you forget.

Much love and prayers as we celebrate the life of **Pamela Odede Mboya**, our sister in public service and women's rights, who passed away in South Africa in January 2009. May she rest in peace.

**Johnnie Kirkpatrick Duvall '61**  
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Needham, MA 02492  
johnneo@verizon.net



**Nia "Billie" Jones-Terry** wrote that she attended the 2009 Western Reunion this year as she did last year. She spent a week with her long-time friend, **Doris Ning Wong '62** and her husband Chueng in Seattle in July. She also spent about five days in the "Outback" of Oregon (Prairie City in Grant County) with friends who are cattle ranchers. Billie and the husband served in the Peace Corps together in the early '60s. Billie went to visit friends in Geneva, Switzerland, for three weeks. It was during this time that she met with artist **Kate Van Houten**, who attended Western for two years. Also while in Paris, Billie had dinner with her friend, Nena, youngest sister of **Isabel Oteo-De Martinez '60**, whom she had not seen in 40 years. They had lots of fun. Keep traveling, Billie.

**Florence Firjanian McGurk** wrote that in the past year Linc and she enjoyed sailing in Florida and going on a Smithsonian tour of Newfoundland and Labrador, then a three-week driving, canoeing and hiking trip in New Zealand. When they are not walking four miles a day, sailing, or traveling between homes in Florida and Wisconsin, they volunteer at their library and local Nature Conservancy and Land Trust.

**Libbe Dennard** (better known to us as **Marion Roberts**) is still living in Juneau, Alaska, but traveling extensively on the mainland and abroad. Libbe attended a masters class in memoir writing at the Taos Summer Writers Conference. She really enjoys writing. In June she returned to Austin, Texas, for her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. She felt that she graduated with a group of super high achievers. (I imagine that a lot of us attended 50-year high school reunions.) This winter Libbe hopes to take a trip to South India, where she studied Yoga in 2005-2006. She welcomes questions from potential visitors to Alaska: libbedennard@gmail.com

**Nancy Carter Lindfors** wrote that she is still teaching and counseling at Trinity Lutheran School. Their children are doing well. Oldest son Eric is now a Cdr. in the Navy and Executive Officer of the *USS Halyburton*, the ship that stood off the Somali pirates in the *Maersk Alabama* incident. Their second son, Matthew, works for Northrup Grumman as a systems engineering analyst and is flying all over the country to help out in their other offices. Their daughter, Natalie, is now working at Trinity Lutheran School, as well, in the development office. Nancy's grandchildren are going into the 4-year pre-K, so it's a family affair.

**Ellen Brower Brightly** is now working part-time from home for the Graves' Disease Foundation. She answers calls from their 800 lines and website e-mails. The interesting part for Ellen is hooking up the Graves' disease with the people and literature that previously belonged to the Thyroid Foundation of America. Ellen's other news is that her 34-year-old son is getting married. The ceremony is in Maui, Hawaii. It will be a family vacation for all involved as Ellen has not been on an airplane for 25 years. She is a boater, not a flier. In fall 2008, Ellen's other son got married and she attended her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.

Certainly was glad to get an update from **Betsy Guthrie**. After tenure as Senior Warden at her local Episcopal Church, she resigned. Over 22 years ago she fell in love with Scotland. Now that she is retired, she rented a flat and spends time in Glasgow and the surrounding area. Unfortunately, during the year she developed a mild case of the swine flu which turned into pneumonia, but is much better now and enjoying being back in the United States playing with her 2-year-old, grandson, Chet.

**Eva Nortvedt Humbach** wrote that she attended our Reunion last year, but was disappointed that more of our classmates didn't attend. Our 50<sup>th</sup> is not that far away, so she urged all of us to start making plans to at-



Roommates and friends for 50 years, they included their men in this reunion: Ron and Liz Andrus Schoeberlein, Don and Brenda Litchfield Benson, Jill Hartley Fulton and Aldo Casanova, and John and Bonnie McGowan Sammet.



Smiles abound in the Class of '64 (left to right): Marcia Randlett Oder, Daphne Ostle Allen, Evie Small Hohler, Patricia Spokes Snowden and Sydney Schiller Pfeifer

tend now. Eva and husband John travel a lot to Norway to visit her family, and to England, Spain and France for fun. Eva is on the board of trustees. If you have any questions, e-mail her: ehumbach@yahoo.com.

**Susan Berryhill Hill** said that she didn't have much news, but she had some questions for us as she is on the board of trustees, as well. Susan would like any suggestions, problems, ideas, concerns, etc. that we might have regarding the WCAA and its future. Please e-mail her with your ideas: catsaregreat@comcast.net

**Ella McMahon** wrote that she and husband Joe traveled out West in May and between them they took 3,000 pictures in a couple of weeks. Also they stopped to see **Audrey Hughes** and her companion, Jennifer Conley. They went to almost all the National Parks in southern Utah, which they enjoyed very much. Their youngest granddaughter is taking her master's degree at George Washington University in International Public Health and is interning in Kenya during this fall semester. Ella has five great-granddaughters (1-15). I'm still trying to get my first grandchild, so congratulations, Ella.

**Susan Humberstone Spahr** was excited to report the news that her husband, John, was elected Jr. Vice Commander of the Texas Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in June at their convention in Corpus Christi. They spent 2008 campaigning over 14,000 miles throughout Texas and enjoyed the opportunity to meet great people and see the big state of Texas. In 2010 John will be Sr. Vice Commander, in 2011 will be installed as Commander of the Department of Texas. For several years, John has been a member of the VFW Legislative Committee, visiting Austin and Washington to encourage our elected officials to support legislation assisting our veterans and active military. Indeed John and Susan's retirement years are as busy as their working years were and they are enjoying every minute.

**Judy Scovel Robinson**, who lives the farthest away of all the classmates who wrote, sends us a short résumé. She lives in Bucolic, England, which is close enough to London to visit, take in night shows, etc. and still get back home by train. Judy is cele-

brating her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with 40 events, including a 40-mile hike. She has completed three of the events so far and is enjoying them no end. They are expecting their fourth grandchild soon. She is working with three European projects which have taken her out to see the rest of Europe and meet fascinating peo-

ple in Germany, Poland, Finland, Spain, Slovenia, and Malta. Plus she made a personal visit to the Netherlands. She's learning British Sign Language to help with continuing professional development of deaf teaching — one day they are teaching her and the next day she's teaching them. Judy finds it an amazing experience to communicate all day in silence, then go home and play the piano a while. Finally, she is writing a book.



Judy

From her summer home in Maine, **Judy Kirk Fitzsimmons** wrote, "I'm thinking back to the richness of Western's International Program and the exceptional opportunities it gave me to travel to the Far East for six weeks packed with a multiplicity of experiences that ranged from visiting tourist attractions to embassies, businesses, and other enrichments. For about 11 of 21 years, Doug and I moved back and forth across the Atlantic residing in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and England. In retirement we moved to Cambridge, Mass. We have three children, all married. Each of them has two children. We've been very blessed."

**Bonnie McGowan Sammet**: "We didn't know when we met in the fall of 1959 that we'd be roommates at Western and close friends for 50 years. Our last reunion was Washington, DC, five years ago so it was time for another. In March, **Brenda [Litchfield Benson]**, **Jill [Hartley Fulton]** and **Liz [Andrus Schoeberlein]** traveled to Bonnie's new home in Venice, Florida. We decided that this time we should include the men in our lives. It was a great weekend, which included visits to the Ringling Museum and Selby Gardens in nearby Sarasota, swimming, tennis, and lots of laughter, stories, and photos of grandchildren, and more laughter."

2009 has been a blessed year for me. In February I flew to my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, to celebrate the 104<sup>th</sup> birthday of a family friend who still lives alone and is really in touch with events. It was a blessing to be in her presence. Then in May, I spearheaded a walk-a-thon for our church.

My husband got the prize for being the oldest walker! This was certainly a healthy event as we also had a health fair along with the walk-a-thon. This summer Tom and I visited our son Tony in Chicago. We had a great time!

Always enjoy reading your letters, so keep them coming. May God bless you with joy, peace and happiness.

**Debbie Hunt Perrin '63**  
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**Celebrating 45 years!**

From **Faith W. Barrington**: "I moved from Stamford, Connecticut, where I had lived for 29 years, to family home in Branford, Connecticut, in 2004, right on Long Island Sound. I'm still active as a travel consultant — with 39 years experience — now working out of my home office, but still affiliated with the Stamford agency I've worked for since 1990. I travel as often as possible to keep informed and see new destinations. I have continued my love of singing, and am a member of Silk'n Sounds, a women's a capella chorus in Hamden affiliated with Harmony Inc. We sing four-part harmony, barbershop style, and I love being able to use my 'bass' voice to sing wonderful music. We perform in the greater New Haven area. This summer I was a member of the cast of *Music Man*. What fun that was. I happily live with my two felines, who help me with the yarn while I do my crochet work. I am looking forward to the WCAA Reunion next year. I hope many of our classmates will come back to campus. See you then." faithbarrington@sbcglobal.net

From **Sophia Karayannides Browne**: "Allen and I will be moving to New York state the end of the year after an absence of 33 years. I'm finally retiring from See's Candies having survived 20 years of retail Christmas holidays. In September I will be actively looking for somewhere to live. Unfortunately, not in the city, my first love. It will be an interesting transition but we will be next to old friends and family. Yes, we are aware that there is a bit of snow and other weather scenarios but we will overcome them in our old age." ambrowne@mindspring.com

From **Margaret Warnock Carlough**: "It seems funny that just as most of you all are retiring, I am trying to start a practice. It is hard going, but I do love what I do. One of my techniques is a long-distance one, a con-



*Sandy Harwood, riding into retirement with Alden and their three grand-boys*

tradition in terms for chiropractic? I would be glad to answer questions. My cell is 518-653-3263. When I accompanied my dad to his Princeton reunion (at 104 he was the oldest returning alum), I saw **Janet Smith Dickerson**. My son, Will, is in Brooklyn, working part-time in NYC (his choice) and has done some work in film. Look him up on the WWW. I'm still taking classes and go next weekend for more information in nutrition. May we always be learning!" [margaret@carlough.net](mailto:margaret@carlough.net)

From **Maryam Daftari**: "I went back to Tehran (from Fairfield, Iowa) in February. I spent a very cold winter in Iowa — I plan to go back to Tehran in the winter months and come back to the U.S. in the spring, summer, and fall, when the weather is nice. I enjoyed teaching Chinese Government and Politics at the Political Science Dept. at the University in Tehran the spring semester. I had 23 students, mostly juniors and seniors. I came back to the U.S. a week before Iran's presidential elections, so I missed all the problems. I am still upset and deeply troubled by events that have taken place in Iran during the past several months. My son and grandson (who is 15) participated in an international karate (Shotokan) championship in Athens in July. As I had always dreamed of going to Greece, I went along with them.

"As they were going to be totally involved in the tournament, I decided to call on a former roommate of mine from Western, **Donna Bennert Conklin**, to see if she would be interested in coming along. To my surprise, she consented, and so we had a great time going to all the museums, sightseeing not only in Athens, but also in Corinth, Mycenae, Epidauros, Delphi (which was fascinating), and three lovely islands of Poros, Hydra, and Aegina. I spend my time reading, writing, researching on China, writing poetry, playing the piano, and keeping up with political/international affairs as a whole. My grandson takes piano lessons from me and

is at present learning Beethoven's Pathetic Sonata (pretty good for a 15-year-old)! I truly enjoy my life and feel blessed! I would LOVE to hear from my Western friends — those in my class, and those whom I taught for two years at Western. I am sorry I couldn't make it to the '09 reunion. Maybe next year!" [mداftari@hotmail.com](mailto:mداftari@hotmail.com)

From **Janet Smith Dickerson**: "Our life is good, although my husband is now spending most of his time caring for his parents who at 90 and 87 are increasingly fragile. We did enjoy a great train trip, Via Rail Canada, out to Vancouver, BC, in July. We also visited our daughters and our granddaughter, Lucca, in California. I'm looking forward to the new school year at Princeton." [jdickers@princeton.edu](mailto:jdickers@princeton.edu)

From **Brooksie Jacobs-Harrison**: "Ian and I celebrated our first anniversary on July 12<sup>th</sup>. We are planning a trip to Scotland to see his family in 2010 and will also take in England and Paris, France. We enjoy life on our Vermont mountaintop with a beautiful view, golfing in the summer, skiing in the winter. I work two days a week in my private practice as a clinical nutritionist and do per diem work in admissions for the Brattleboro Retreat, a local mental hospital. Ian works there part-time in direct patient care after retiring from a 35-year career with Hewlett Packard. Our two sons, both named Paul, are well and enjoying their goals and dreams. We are going on a fun trip with **Lynne (Drucker '64)** and **Jak Albuquerk** to Las Vegas right after Thanksgiving and will do some sightseeing. I visit (Dean) Phyllis Hoyt at her home in Peterborough, New Hampshire, every few months. At 91 she is a very amazing woman. I thoroughly enjoy our talks. It's one of the highlights for me of living in this area." [liz@nutried.com](mailto:liz@nutried.com); [www.NutriEd.com](http://www.NutriEd.com)

From **Sandy Severson Harwood**: "After 32 year as Director of Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, New York, I retired! Now I have more time to enjoy some special times with my husband, Alden, and all of our family including my three little grandbaby boys. We are selling our house in Kenmore, New York, where we have lived for 60 years. Alden has been renovating a cottage on Lake Erie that belonged to my parents. We are going to live there for six months a year. Our two sons still live in Buffalo, so we didn't want to give up all of our ties to the city by the lake! We just bought a condominium on St. Simons Island, Georgia, where my daughter and her family live. We will live there for the rest of the year. This is a great adventure for us and we would love to have visitors in Georgia or Buffalo. Come see us!" [ssharwood@verizon.net](mailto:ssharwood@verizon.net)

A note from **Kathy Martin Kaster**: Kathy had the "grand adventure" of a total hip replacement this spring. She has been on an enforced vacation. She was in touch with **Emmy Thomee** this year. Her involvement in the local therapeutic riding program continues to be a joy.

**Kathy O'Brian Lillich**: Her note was short. She attended the '09 Reunion and spent some time with **Sylvia Stanfield**. "We all need to come back in 2010 for our 45<sup>th</sup>." She plans to be there. "The campus is beautiful." [lillich@juno.com](mailto:lillich@juno.com)

From **Peggy Gaebler Morscheck**: "My husband and I were able to have dinner with **Claude Bontemps Meyers**, my freshman roommate, in New York City in March — our first talk of any length in some 40 years. It was fascinating to get together again and catch up on decades of family and professional happenings. Turns out she lives mere blocks from a nephew of mine, so I hope we'll have a chance to meet periodically from now on." [morscheck@comcast.net](mailto:morscheck@comcast.net)

**Kathy Fansher Parnell** reports that her beloved father died in July at age 94. She looked after him at his assisted living home for many years. She has also mostly recovered from a bad bout of sciatic pain thanks to some chiropractic care.

From **Shirin Kassam Velji**: "We are exploring and getting used to living in the Northwest; however, we do miss our friends in the East Coast. We are happy to be near our daughter, Zahraa, and enjoy taking care of Khalil (4) on Mondays. The rest of the days he attends kindergarten. He is such a joy and he keeps us young and entertained. Our other daughter, Jehan, who lives in San Francisco area, visits Seattle often for her work and we are able to see her sometimes. Our move has been good for the family. I very much wanted to attend the Reunion in June '09 but in the end could not. I am in touch with **Patricia Spokes Snowden '64**, **Lynn Albuquerk '64** and **Sylvia Stanfield**. I will try my best to attend the Reunion in 2010. I am involved in a few organizations, volunteer with the City of Kirkland, enjoy attending lectures and walking with the local Community Center and also try to learn as much as I can about the Washington state. The travels are now short, usually to Oregon, California or British Columbia. We are planning to go overseas soon." [shirin\\_velji@hotmail.com](mailto:shirin_velji@hotmail.com)

From **Mary Biedler Williams**: She continues to study classical Chinese medicine with about a year and a-half remaining in her program. These skills will be used to address PTSD, among other health challenges, as she assists in the establishment of an East/West Heartland Healing Center in Kansas. Her three children and four grandchildren continue to grow and thrive. How does that saying go ... inside every older



Gillis in front of their 1929 fire truck

person is a younger person wondering what happened. mmbiedlerw@hotmail.com

From **Judy Bybee Boardman**: She is still painting in acrylics and watercolor, and taking care of three granddaughters off and on. Fall is birthday season so she has been birthday shopping for all, but is saving for a Disney World Cruise in 2011—the girls are getting excited! Bill is doing the majority of the babysitting; Judy just fills in. He also has discovered a new talent, playing the organ for church and leading simple anthems. He has found a calling as fill-in organist.

**Kathy Clark Lord** is working as executive director for the Bayou Preservation Association in Houston, Texas: [www/bayoupreservation.org](http://www/bayoupreservation.org).

News from the **Gill** clan: Sam and I recently returned from a ride to Pontiac, Michigan, for the Centennial of the Hudson Motor Car Co. There were about 400 Hudson-built autos and trucks from 1909 to 1957. Our 1929 fire truck, "Miss Millie," was one of eight vehicles from Florida. While neither of us enjoy particularly good health, we don't let it stop us from trips, tours and events (usually local) with our three car clubs. We just bring the wheelchairs and medical devices with us. Our children continue to be employed, quite an accomplishment in this day and age. Daughter, Laura, is going to give us a new grandson this December in cold Colorado. We may have to wait till spring to visit. Our 3-year-old granddaughters met up for the first time in one and a-half years in Kissimmee, Florida — so cute together.

I want to wish you and yours a safe, healthy and maybe even a prosperous New Year. I plan to get to Oxford for this '10 Reunion. I really enjoyed the one in '05. PS: If you want the e-mail address for any of our class mates, just let me know.

**Pam Eggers Gill '65**  
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Another year is passing and it is time to bring you up to date on the happenings in some of the class of '67 family.

While **Rosemary Gingrich Parks** still works for the City of Newport News, she also has her own tax business. Daughter Amber and son-in-law Joe live nearby. Amber teaches art at the elementary level, grades K-5, traveling to four different schools during the week, and Joe is working on a degree at Old Dominion University. Daughter Marissa, employed at the Art Institute in Sunnyvale, California, and husband Hector Verdugo made Rosie a first-time grandmother in March with the birth of their son. Niece Jenny has been living with Rosie while finishing her medical education at the Medical Career Institute from which she expects to graduate in January 2010. In April '08 Rosie and family joined the Gingrich clan for a wedding cruise which began in Miami, stopped off in Key West where a nephew was married, then continued on to Cozumel. A fun time but her favorite trips are to California!

A Christmas '08 note from **Stephanie Smith Siegfried** advised that she and husband Dave, who is President of the Princeton Alumni Association, traveled in March with that group to Hong Kong and Singapore. It had been 11 years since they had been back to that area, and they were amazed at how Hong Kong had grown up and out into the harbor. Both were glad that they lived in Hong Kong when they did. Other and more frequent trips are made to visit their six grandchildren.

Blue Cards arrived from **Mary Newbold Brammall** and from **Carolyn Sparks Kokalis**. Mary writes that after over two years of retirement in this "oven" they call Plant City, Florida, she thinks she and husband Stephen are starting to get the hang of it: Stay inside with the AC on or take a road trip North! They travel to Indiana four or five times a year to look in on her parents and help with projects. These trips also give them a chance to visit area wildlife preserves for Stephen's bird photography and for Mary's scenic and flora shots. In November they planned to return to the Isle of Man to surprise Stephen's mother on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mary enjoys her correspondence with classmates **Rosemary Gingrich Parks**, **Lynne Strothman Pilgrim**, and **Jeffie Hughes Olney** and hopes one of these days to visit with them!

Meanwhile, Carolyn's blue card advises that she is ecstatic that her final son is now married. David, her eldest, was married this year in Riverside, California. Now she lives for the day when the boys tell her that the grandchildren are on the way! In May Carolyn took a 14-day cruise through the Panama Canal and in June she was in St. Louis for the AAUW convention, which was awesome. The 950 ladies in attendance voted to keep the academic requirement in place for at least another two years. Carolyn is beginning her second year as the AAUW President of the Lee County Chapter in Lee County, Florida. A Labor Day weekend trip took her to New Jersey for a visit with two sons and their wives; while there she was hoping to also visit with **Carol Hoexter Mandel**. Thus her life stays full and productive.

June brought an e-mail from **Gunvor Fink Moeller** in Denmark. She reports that June is beautiful in her country — a good time for her daughters to bring their children for a visit. They gathered in Nissum and spent much time at the nearby beach. The Limfjord begins there and goes all the way to east Denmark. Daughter Hanne photographed this visit with her two daughters and with sister Mette's two children as well, and Gunvor included Hanne's photo album website so we could see them all at play: <http://picasaweb.google.dk/lh/sredir>. Gunvor says hi to you all and invites you to contact her should you visit Denmark.

**Ann Coleman Lynn** brought us up to date on her family. Both parents are now deceased as is husband Fred's father. His mother at 88 is in assisted living not far from their Scottsdale home. Son Jeff was to be married in October in Nashville, Tennessee, to Lindsay Levkoff. Jeff has law degrees from the University of Virginia and Oxford University and is completing his M.B.A. at the Said Business School there at Oxford. He and a friend have started an interest-based financial services company, which is beginning to take off. Lindsay received a Fulbright Scholarship to Oxford where she completed her master's degree and has just completed her M.B.A. at Harvard. She will be employed by Bain Consulting in their London office. Both Ann and her husband are doing pretty well for people in their mid-60s. They love living in Scottsdale, where Ann is on the board of trustees of the Arizona Theater Company, but when those summer temperatures of 115 degrees or more hit the area, they often flee to Maine. She travels often to New York City to see the shows and has recently traveled to Germany, the United Kingdom and Eastern Europe. Ann sends greetings to all and asks if 42 years have really passed?

**Jan Chadwick** e-mailed greetings to the class from her family's lakeside summer

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home in New York. Her niece, who works for a renewable energy company in San Francisco, and her nephew, a sophomore at Cal Tech, visited her there to help with some minor upkeep repairs that had been deferred too long. Cousins who live next door also were on hand to help. Her father, at 91, found the trip from his retirement community in Florida too arduous to make this year so Jan will visit him there when the weather cools. She has lived in her new condo for about a year now and she has some construction repairs to oversee there too. Then maybe it will feel like she is settled in permanently.

**Jo Ann Brombaugh Wittmann** is well and still kicking, literally. The day she wrote, she planned to play piano and dance in an annual variety show put on by a senior performing group. She and husband Jack continue to travel both here and abroad. May found them in Beavercreek, Ohio, for her father's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. They were in Ohio again this summer for the bicentennial at the church in Germantown where they were married. August saw them on a 24-day cruise in the Mediterranean, and they had intentions of spending Thanksgiving with her two brothers and their families who live on the West Coast. It has been a while since she has talked with or visited with **Judy Mason Betz**, **Elaine Harris Gomperts** and **Carolyn Sparks Kokalis**, and she hopes to remedy that soon.

An e-mail from **Rauni Pellikka** in Brussels advises that the past two years have not been pleasant. Towards the end of 2007, walking started to hurt. Little by little the pain got worse until towards the end of 2008 she could move only with the help of strong painkillers. On March 16<sup>th</sup> of this year, her doctors finally operated and she is now venturing upon a new life. Thanks to super modern American technology Rauni now has a state-of-the-art hip transplant called a recap. She reports that the rehab was hard but totally worth the pain. She trained every day come rain and snow so she could return to work by the end of May. Now several months later she hops, dances, swims and works out at the gym like any 30-year-old. Despite her pain she visited Morocco during Christmas '08 and is looking forward to more frequent traveling. At the same time Rauni is cutting back on her working hours in preparation for probable retirement in May 2010.

**Ruth Kline Keppler** wants her friends to know that August saw the arrival of her fourth grandchild, a boy, son Jeremy's second child. His daughter, Sarah, turned 4 that same month. Ruth's daughter, Brenda, also has two children, Eli (5) and in kindergarten and Max (3½). The Kepplers keep very busy — happily so — with these children since both families live nearby. Ruth retired in

2000, Paul, two years later. They sold their home in Bedford, New York, where they had lived for 32 years, and moved into a condo on the Hudson River in Tarrytown where the living is easy since everything they need is within walking distance.

Kepplers have gotten together with the Leipzigs and the Leisenrings over the past several years in Florida, North Carolina and Massachusetts, and Ruth included this update. When **Ann Verdon Leisenring** and her husband visited the Kepplers over Memorial Day Weekend, Ann reported that she had a 16-month-old granddaughter, whose family lives in California. **Pat Troyer Leipzig** has three granddaughters: 3½- year-old twins and a 6-week-old, who live around the corner from them in Summit, New Jersey.

Tom and **Gail Chatham Clifford** are enjoying life in Helena, Montana. Each works from time to time under contract but most times Gail says "they just enjoy being." Tom spends these days woodworking or fishing, while Gail gardens or works at improving her piano skills. They have set a goal to travel someplace new at least every other year and have been to Ireland twice and to Italy. Next on their list: Alaska and New England. On the off years, they vacation with their children and their families. Of the four children, only one lives in Montana so they do a bit of traveling when going to visit the kids and grandchildren. They always enjoy reconnecting with friends from Western and advise us that they now are on Facebook in hopes that some of you readers who use that venue will send them a note!

**Joan Barenholtz** is traveling less these days and enjoying New York City more. However, this summer she did leave the city for several weeks in order to visit a friend and two nieces who live in Minneapolis, Seattle and Spokane. She also went on a recent journal-writing retreat where one of the exercises allowed her to think and write about the people who have had an impact on her life, people to whom she is eternally grateful.

**Susie Jennings Wilson** has a very happy life for which she is eternally thankful, but notes that the older she gets, the busier she seems! She and husband Dean live on a 5-acre hobby farm in Galena, Illinois ( in the northeast corner of the state). They have added several new members to their farm family this year: an orphaned calf named Chuck Steak, who may not be with them past early spring even though he is best pals with their dog; 25 new chickens to add zest to the lives

of the 32 elder chickens already inhabiting the farm. They also raise organic vegetables. Susie still works three days a week at Wild Birds Unlimited and is a year-long volunteer for the Special Olympics, coaching bocce ball, bowling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing — something to keep her life in perspective! In her spare time she works on crafts, this year painting gourds and making concrete birdbaths from rhubarb leaves, sooo much fun! Daughter Sara (24) and son Chris (20) live and work in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Son Scott (34) and his wife Anne (31) live in Evergreen, Colorado. Susie also is on Facebook, and through that website has hooked up with neighborhood buddies from Pittsburgh 50 years ago and with friends in California. She has seen **Gail Clifford's** site and also one for **Lola Schmidt Stanton** and hopes other West-erners with access will contact her.

As for me, I continue with my computer work in the archives of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, read a great deal, exchanging book ideas with **Barb Zarfes Landis**, and have picked up my work on my family's genealogy, which I had begun several years ago. I spent a month this summer in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with my mother, dragging her to cemeteries and picking her almost 90-year-old brain for family stories about the people whose gravestones I was photographing. We also visited many museums and historical sites, both old favorites and some that were new to us. In between I managed lunch dates with Barb before she and husband Bob left for a trip to Scandinavia, with **Mary Brubaker Gorman** prior to her trip to Maine for a family wedding, a few concerts and plays, and weekends with my brothers and families.

The alumnae office has received notification of the June 6<sup>th</sup> death of classmate **Katherine Elizabeth Walker** at age 63 from a brief battle with breast cancer. Kathy spent  
*Class Notes continued on page 29*



*Susie Wilson and extended family*

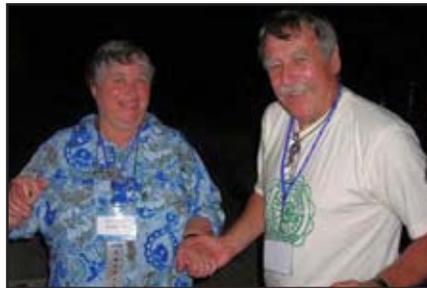
# Reunion '09 and The Beat Went On . . .

Our 35<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration has been launched! We had lift-off June 19-21, welcoming back former faculty and trustees emeritae, unveiling the newly restored Kumler pipe organ, and providing loads of entertainment and enlightenment for returning alums from all classes.



Real-life sisters, "Big John" and "Little John": Marilyn Johnson Ross '51 and Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg '53 arrived early.

The weather cooperated and we gathered on Clawson patio for refreshments Friday evening. Following the Welcome Dinner buffet, we heard from guest speakers including Miami President David Hodge and Ambassador Valerie Hodge; founding WCAA board members; and surprise mystery ghost, er, guest, Helen Peabody herself! Then 'twas time to party on with DJ and dancing!



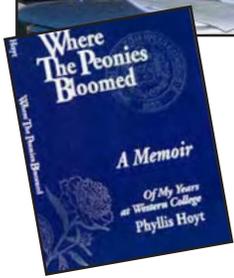
Saturday morning and we still love our Parade!  
Senior Program Assistant Debbie Baker and a student helper stood ready to collect the flags prior to the Annual Meeting.



At Peabody, Chris Moranda '74 posed with a reminder that the Western College Program celebrated its 35 years last October. And everybody gathered on the PH steps en route to the Annual Meeting in Leonard, after which WCP interim director Mary Jean Corbett introduced new faculty members and outlined the new curriculum. Of course, there was time to pore over old Multis in Archives and patronize the Gift Shop, where trustee emerita Margie Gasche Ewing '45 was minding the till.



Time for the Meily Society Luncheon! The Class of '59 was honored, they practiced the proper WAVE, and all in attendance joined in singing "Miss Peabody." Later in the afternoon, Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61 helped lead a discussion with Dean Hoyt of her memoir, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*. A tour of newly renovated Presser Hall and reception — complete with chamber music — preceded the Celebration Banquet at Shriver Center, where returning former Western College faculty were introduced and one of their number, John Simmons, shared reminiscences.



Amidst the traditional class toasts at the Banquet, Ben Gibbons '94 gave WCP alums pins to recognize their new status as *friends of the WCAA*; Reunion chair Barbara Williamson Wentz '68 presented outgoing president Stevie Bentzen Snook '69 with a Western print.



Sunday morning's *Closing Gathering* featured an organ concert performed on our handsomely restored Kumler Chapel pipe organ, installed just in time for Reunion. Eleanore Vail FF and her former student Ginny Weckstrom '69 made beautiful music together on the piano, Jane Toy Thomason '59 presided, and Mary Ellen Thomas Forte '59 spoke of her experience as the first African American student to attend Western. Jane thanked organist and Austin Organs president Michael Fazio, and he, in turn, presented WCAA Director Judy Waldron with a t-shirt sporting the company logo. The weekend ended with the Farewell Brunch at Clawson.



# Thirty-five Years and Counting ...

The Beat Goes On — let's *all Westerners* keep it going at Reunion 2010, June 18-20!

most of her childhood in Akron, Ohio, and had graduated from Old Trail School. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Western College and a master's in microbiology from the University of Akron. She also did graduate work in public health at Tulane University, New Orleans. Kathy worked at the Creative Biology Laboratories in Norton, Ohio, the pathology dept. at Tulane and at the University of Iowa from which she retired in 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Lady. She is survived by her parents Dr. Lewis and Charlotte Walker and by three brothers and a sister among other family and friends. Condolences may be sent to her parents at 1148 W. Market, Akron, Ohio 44313 and memorials to the charity of your choice. My thanks to all of you who helped write this column. We wouldn't have had one without you!

**Kathy Ehrgood Sturm '67**  
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kesfig@aol.com



Everyone who attended our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion had a great time and that includes me, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**. I am going to high-jack a thought that **Stevie Bentzen Snook** had, and say how heartwarming it was to see the alumnae and our class working so well toward our legacy goals and especially the funding of a Professorship that will bear the Western College name. In the months since Reunion I've been working on two magazine articles. As they involve Maui, Hawaii, where we have a vacation home, and Hawaiian music and people, the assignments have been great fun.

**Betsy Philipson Kensinger** attended Reunion with her husband, John. She wrote, "It was wonderful to be back at Western and it was so much fun. The campus looked absolutely gorgeous." Betsy and John still live in Denton, Texas. Their seventh grandchild was born in June, and since all live within 40 miles of them, they are kept very busy. Besides caring for two of the seven on weekdays, she occupies her time with heirloom sewing, volunteer work, and looking after her mother who is in a nearby nursing home.

**Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak** and husband Tom attended the Reunion in June. She wrote that it was wonderful to reconnect with friends from the past as well as make a few new ones. It felt like it was just yesterday that we had all been there, not 40 years ago. It must be that Western spirit that lets us pick up where we left off. Things remain the

same in her life. Working at the hospital keeps her busy and challenged. Tom is enjoying retirement and uses his time to work on projects around the house and yard. They purchased bikes last fall and get opportunities to see just how far they can peddle. Other past times include ballroom dancing, Bible study and her horse, Buster, now 30. He is doing great and she actually rode him a few times this past summer.

#### **Karen Kling Plumb**

also enjoyed Reunion together with her husband, Larry, reconnecting after, unbelievably, 40 years. "It was a fun weekend," she wrote, "and I can't wait to do it again in five years." She and Larry are enjoying retirement, and have plans for a few trips in the next couple of years. They also look forward to enjoying some good times with their five grandchildren.

**Britt Henne** lives in Oslo, Norway, and works in public welfare. She came to Reunion and wrote after returning home to her "everyday life." For her, Reunion seems to get better every time she attends. After Reunion she traveled on to Reston, Virginia, where her husband, Thor, was staying with his college roommate from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. They were joined by another of Thor's friends so had a mini-Muhlenberg reunion. After sightseeing and shopping for the things on their daughters' long wish lists, they traveled to Ithaca, New York, where Britt has cousins. Britt's father taught at Cornell University, so she graduated from Ithaca High School. It was fun for her to see the high school and the houses where she had lived and where she had taken her driver's ed classes and all the hills where they had made her start, without rolling backwards! On July 1 they returned to Norway to an unusual heat wave that lasted for a week. Britt and Thor like to travel. By the time you read this they will have visited Britt's 95-year old mother in Bergen, gone to Berlin for five days and spent some time on their little farm an hour outside Oslo. Britt hopes we can keep in touch and see each other at our 45<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Reunions!

**Annette Bevan Gallagher** made the flower wristbands and hairclips we wore at Reunion (thank you, Annie!). She and her family are happily pursuing their various interests. When she wrote, she and Dick were winding down their outdoor summer wet and wild activities with the Sandusky Children's Museum and shifting into their school programs. Their son, Glen, left on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for



*Class of '69 at 40 —is that the new 20?— from left: Sue Hamilton Eidemiller, Annette Bevan Gallagher, Stevie Bentzen Snook, Nancy Wilson Kobayashi, Britt Henne, Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak, BJ Gibbons Bramlett, Karen Kling Plumb and Betsy Philipson Kensinger*

San Juan, Puerto Rico, to work under a fellowship at the U.S. Center for Disease Control station to study/prevent diseases spread by mosquitoes. Daughter **Megan Gallagher Fogt (WCP 2002)** is waiting to find out how cutbacks in Pittsburgh libraries will impact her and children's services. Her husband, Erick, is working towards his CPA.

**Stevie Bentzen Snook** is wondering where the retirement boredom is that people used to warn her about. She has thoroughly enjoyed her presidency of the WCAA, working together with women who love Western as she does. Her wish is that all alums begin to get more involved in things Western. She had great fun at Reunion and hopes even more of us will turn out for our 45<sup>th</sup>. Stevie and her husband, Fred, continue to judge NFL tournaments (National Forensic League, NOT football) on Saturdays. They see their son Devon every Saturday since he is head coach for the forensics' team for Vermilion HS, where he has taught for four years. He continues to work on his master's. Stevie helped Devon move to his new place in Huron, Ohio. That experience motivated her to tackle her accumulated stuff, so now she is cleaning the basement along with tending to repairs to their home of 33 years. Stevie also finds time to reconnect with old friends, participate in her poker club, attend minor league baseball games and see productions at Oberlin College. Oh, and she grows herbs. So Stevie says to all the newly retired — you will NOT be bored!

In May, **Kathleen "Koke" Kibble** wrote with the sad news that her mother had passed away in late April. Koke was busy with various duties and would be unable to attend Reunion. Not long after Reunion, **Annette Gallagher** and **Stevie Snook** met Koke in Akron to reminisce and help work on some of the chores.

**Linda Galantin** has a yurt where she spends weekends. Last December (2008) she traveled to the Brazilian rainforest to live



BJ Bramlett and Robin Bartlett

like and with the natives. Except for her green tea bags, she took no special foods and strove to blend in. The main meal was in the afternoon — white rice and beans with a little protein and maybe a bit of vegetable if you were lucky enough to be there when the food was first served. She learned that in this Amazonian culture, meals are never announced; you just “know” when to show up. Once she got the hang of it, it was okay, but at first she felt excluded and unwelcome. The good news was that she lost 10 pounds. She also had to deal with constant rain and mold, but she said, “At least the mosquitoes did not bother me while it was raining.” The people were simple but genuinely kind, and all generations got along well together enjoying each other’s company.

**Susan Hodge** wrote about her life since graduation: “You know that Dr. Seuss book — *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*? My life reads like the long version of that. I have worked as a travel agent for more than 20 years. If you think that this is a glamour job, you may



Susan Hodge, travel agent

keep your illusions. ... Those ‘free’ familiarization trips consisted of seeing dozens of hotels and being fed cheap liquor. ... So early on I decided it was better to travel as a real person, and designed my own working trips. Hotel reviews are a breeze in a place like Hong Kong. Royal Viking sent me two pages of how to dress and behave (!) but most cruise lines, especially the Star

Clipper, are more laid back. Still, it was an unfortunate job to have socially. At one party I had not even taken off my coat and a guy started yelling at me about his terrible flight. I had not booked it. On vacation I usually told people I was a secretary. Being a travel agent was never boring, but I also had to handle such things as clients needing a medical airlift out of Bhutan. Still, people trusted me with their dreams and their money, and once I switched to home-based, I did more custom design. I am world class at this — there is not a trip design on earth that I cannot improve. However, looking back, I do not want my epitaph to read, “She booked Vegas.” Clients have repeatedly told me I ought to publish my writing. So that is the plan. Maybe, finally, I have something to say.”

Susan Hodge was in touch with **Michele Slung**. Michele has had a fascinating career, detailed online at Chronogram.com (“The Constant Gardener,” 3/29/07). She has published about 20 books, but finds it work to write about herself as it is so close to what she does for a living. “I think it’s that I sometimes feel buried in words, overwhelmed by their relentlessness, getting them onto a page in the right order, etc.,” she says. Her descriptive writing now is on behalf of the authors she works with. She feels burned out as an author and now edits other people’s manuscripts. Michele has good feelings about Western but no nostalgia. It was a long, long time ago.

Susan Hodge also heard from **Rebecca “Becca” Hall Metzger** who was happy to share her news. After Western she took a job with *National Geographic*, renting a Georgetown apartment that she kindly shared with Susan for a few weeks when she worked at the World Bank one summer. Becca met her husband, John Metzger, when they worked together on a story about Alaska for *National Geographic*. They moved around a good deal due to John’s work as a photographer. Becca now lives in Idaho where she runs a home-based business, doing work for a California hospital. They have two sons, John and Colin. She is relieved that her son John Jr. has finally finished his stint in the Army. Sadly, her husband died in 2005 while they were visiting family in Hawaii. The *Press Democrat*, the Sonoma newspaper where he was working, did a great story on their family and John’s nationally acclaimed work that you can access online. <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20050414/NEWS/504140338>.

**Betsy Summers Solis** and her husband divide their living between California and Kona, Hawaii. They are on Kona now until June 2010. Betsy serves on several boards including the DAR, but hopes to get off some of them in the coming year. She had a bad bike accident in Oct. ’08, which has left her with some double vision. In November, while in recovery mode, she and her husband vis-

ited **Nancy Galbraith Karoll** and her husband in Florida. Betsy was well enough to run the Honolulu Marathon in December ’08 and has stuck with running events and manning the information booth at the Ironman Triathlon in Honolulu for this year. Betsy heard from **Rebecca Vierling Doherty ’74**, who is looking forward to retirement soon.

**Ann Noble** and **Betsy Solis** were able to get together for a short visit when Ann was in Kona last Jan. Ann lives in Denver, Colorado. She was unable to get to Reunion, but for the happy reason that her son was married the weekend before and she continued entertaining family after the event.

Life continues to be good for **Nancy Galbraith Karoll** and her husband of two years, Richard, a financial advisor for Wells Fargo Securities in the Clearwater, Florida, area. She visits her daughter, Nicole, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and son Mark in Denver, at least once a year. She and Richard ski in Colorado each winter so they also see Mark at that time. **Betsy Solis** and her husband, Tom, spent two weeks with Nancy and John in Florida last fall (’08) when Tom participated in a triathlon event. **Carol Abarbanell** has been in touch. She is still working in Massachusetts but plans to retire in Florida in the near future.

**Louise Wiedmann Koch** lives in Westlake Village, California, and wrote that she was unable to attend the Reunion due to equestrian judging commitments. Besides judging and teaching dressage, she is again competing. In May ’09 she rode her 5-year-old black stallion, San Shivago, at the Markel/USEF Western Regional Championships for Five-Year-Olds. Her horse won and is now ranked #1 in the U.S. She wrote that they would be traveling to the Championships for Five-Year-Old Dressage Horses in August (’09). Louise is hoping that this is just the beginning of his career and that they might be able to compete internationally as they move up the eight levels of dressage. You can see photos <http://www.dressage-news.com/?p=2918>.



Bev and hubby John Colby

Since **Beverly “Bev” Rohlehr** ([www.colbymusic.com](http://www.colbymusic.com)) was our class song leader, it will come as no surprise that she continues to be a musician/singer/songwriter-

er. She is lead singer of the R&B/jazz-influenced band, The Colbys. Their CD *Big World* is "real" music for youngsters, and parents say their kids are driving them crazy playing it! Their most recent CD for adults is *Meat 'n' More*. Bev is also an allied and alternative healthcare provider.

**Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69**  
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whalefannan@yahoo.com



This has been a quiet year for the class of '71. I wish more had responded. We have such an interesting class and I love hearing what people are doing. Maybe next year.

As usual, **Lynn Erstein** has been continuing her life of travel and adventure. She writes that this has been a year of reconnecting with old friends: "In February I attended an art show at UCLA for a friend of my daughter whom we've known since they were 5. I rode north with his parents and spent the next five days visiting good friends in Capitola, San Jose, Los Altos, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. Over Memorial Day weekend I drove a co-worker to Washington, DC, to visit her daughter, and I visited a friend I've known since we were 4 in Greece, an old neighbor and a friend from Boston days who has just returned from living in Uzbekistan and the Ukraine. I had a productive, fun and exhausting three weeks in August helping my daughter, Ashley, move from Los Angeles to Boston to attend the Graduate School of Design (architecture) at Harvard. We drove her car home to Columbus, Ohio, stopping to tour the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde, visit family in Denver and friends on their 2,200 acre farm in Kansas. We spent six days in Columbus, and then flew to Boston. After working hard to get Ashley settled, we headed to Amesbury and visited **Laurie LeGrand** and her terrific partner, Phil. Laurie and I shared an apartment our first year in Boston, but we hadn't seen each other in 37 years!! We had a great time catching up on our adult lives. It was a wonderful reunion with a sunset cruise, a champagne and lobster dinner and lots of great laughs."

**Kathy Staubach Robison** reports that this past year life continues much the same as before: "Our oldest son, Sam, finished his third tour of duty in Iraq, made the Army major promotable list a year early and is getting married Sept. 19. So his life has had a certain amount of excitement. Our youngest son, Ben, is studying for the second round of his nuclear medical physicist boards and in the process of buying his first



*Lynn Erstein and Laurie LeGrand, catching up after 37 years*

home stimulated by the government's \$8,000 new home buyer program. Jeff and I continue to enhance our native plant gardens, play golf, and boat, enjoying the waterways and mountains of eastern Tennessee. I continue to do consulting around the country on insurance management, policy language training and as an expert witness. Working for myself gives me the flexibility to put family first and have a better quality and pace of life."

I feel like I write the same thing every year, but that's the way it is. This was a quiet and calm year for us and we continue to travel back and forth between Amesbury, Massachusetts, and St. Croix in the USVI in our plane. We enjoy both homes but the island is truly a wonderful place with wonderful people and I think we will eventually end up there all year. I still make glass beads and play tennis as much as I can. I'm actually getting better. It was great to see **Lynn Erstein** this summer. It was like we hadn't seen each other for a few years, not 37! We laughed and relived some great times. I think it was interesting for her daughter to hear also. There's just nothing better than old friends who really know you even after years and years. I have Western to thank for putting us back in touch. I wish everyone a happy and healthy year ahead and hope to hear from more of you next year.

**Laurie LeGrand '71**  
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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 so it's a bit of, "do as I SAY, not as I do!" Let's see how many of us make it for the Reunion 2010, June 18-20!

**Joan Campbell** from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, writes: "Ben and I are both fine, although he's dealing with the death of his father in July. My father-in-law was 88 and in pretty good health until shortly before he died. We've been home more this year than last, although we just got back from a couple of weeks in the Canadian Rockies, an annual addiction we indulge. July is an especially great time to go because the alpine wildflowers are blooming and the birds are particularly active. We'll be returning to Canada in September with a small group to search for the Spirit Bear, a cream-colored subspecies of the black bear, found along the British Columbian coast. We've had some exciting nature encounters here at home, too, most notably with a pair of Barred Owls who nested very near our house this spring and raised two owlets. The parents become comfortable enough with us that they sometimes allowed us to come within 10 feet or so of them as they perched near the nest tree, watching out for their babies inside the cavity. What a thrill!" vjc@wideopenwest.com

**Lynne Mueller Sweeney** sent me the following news: "This has been quite a busy year — my daughter was married in June 2008, and she and her husband moved back to Indy from Sarasota in June 2009. I remodeled my '50s kitchen and it is almost complete after about six months. Real estate has been challenging over the past two years, but things are turning around. My son and his girlfriend of eight years bought a house as first-time home buyers, so he is now slowly getting his things moved out of my house. It is quiet and much cleaner without the three dogs here ... but I'll miss them all." 317-439-5514; Imsrealtor@aol.com. 8652 Washington Blvd. E. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Former Class Rep **Ann "Pogo" Powell** writes: "This past year has gone by very quickly. Unfortunately, it hasn't been a good one for me. In February I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately we caught it in the early stages. So after surgery and chemotherapy, things now seem to be under control. Sorry for the bad news. I'm sure that by next year I'll have much better news." Sorry for all your health problems, Pogo! I'll certainly keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Class: If you'd like to get in touch with Ann, here is her contact information: 15231 Magnolia Blvd., Unit 116, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403; 818-501-7889.

**Melinda "Mindy" Raber McCain** dropped me this note: "I have never sent in anything for the newsletter, so I thought I would give it a try. I recently took early retirement (instead of lay-off) after 17 years from my graphic design/Macintosh tech support position at an advertising agency in Indianapolis. I am now doing freelance web design/production and focusing on my fiber art. My hand-woven garments have been in local



Mindy McCain as Disc-O-Queen

fashion shows and were featured at the 2009 Midwest Weavers' Conference this year in Iowa. I am modeling my two 'concept' garments from the conference fashion show: Disc-O-Queen, with a skirt made from recycled CDs, and Warrior Princess (which is my idea of hand-woven armor), using black ribbon and plumber's o-rings as embellishments. These designs are woven on a computer-assisted loom and are made from 100% cotton in original patterns. You can view more of my hand-woven art at <http://www.crittur.com/weft/>. I recently connected with **Linda Watts**. We are in the same industry in town and didn't know it, so it was nice to meet up with an old Western College friend."

**Susan Adland** wonders where the Class of '73 is? "Tough summer here. I lost my mom, and then my former husband — too much loss and mourning. I am currently a part-time reference librarian at American U, and I LOVE it! I walk to work, and my boss is a Western Program grad (**Gwendolyn Reece '91**) — small world! I'm contemplating a return abroad; I'm heading to Vietnam and Bangkok in January. I have added a second little Japanese Chin to my household — the cutest little dogs. My daughter is hard at work on the Hill, writing health care legislation, which we need! I still knit, play tennis, read, garden, and see **Mary Jackman**." [sfadland@hotmail.com](mailto:sfadland@hotmail.com)

My massage business, Healing Spirit Holistic Health Center, continues to thrive and I truly love my work! The Mayor of Chula Vista just officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for my move into a professional building. I occasionally teach Taiji and Qigong classes, as well as belly and sacred danc-

ing. Lately, I have been branching out more into my ministerial vocation, with several worship services, a wedding, and a funeral, as well as a few house blessings. My youngest child, Gino, is a senior at SDSU, but is currently studying European History and Politics at the Universitaat Maastricht in the Netherlands. The two older kids in Florida (Allegra and Hugo) are both doing well, as are Allegra's two children, Adrianna and Jean-Paul. Right before Gino took off for Europe, Allegra and kids, and Hugo all came out for a few weeks' vacation. What a great time with my progeny! Also new since last newsletter is that I now have a wonderful man in my life — Robin John Bradshaw, originally from England, so he's got the cute accent! Am making no plans for the future, just enjoying my time with my Beloved. I continue to pursue classes and workshops in Kundalini Yoga, Tantra, and other spiritual modalities.

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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**Bonita, CA 91902**  
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**Celebrating 35 years!**

**Kay Thomas Berger** says she hates to skip writing when they had such an eventful year. Their son Jacob graduated high school and went off to Missouri State U to study engineering. He is hoping to do environmental (solar/wind power etc.) type work. Heidi their 25-year-old daughter was married in June. The wedding was beautiful. Now Heidi and her husband are doing auditing and accounting in Joplin, Missouri. Ted and Kay are adjusting to the empty nest on the farm. They have several good friends at that same stage in their lives and all get together frequently. Ted is still selling his organic veggies and Kay is still teaching sixth-grade math. They still see and hear from **Bill Lenahan** and other Miami friends. Kay would love to hear about **Kansas Cook** and what she has been up to. On a side note, Kay, I will have to do some thinking but somewhere in the



Christy (right) and the mayor, cutting the ribbon

past year, I ran across someone I know who ran into Kansas — but I can't quite put it all together. But I will remember that because it was one of those small world things.

2009 is a very dry year. I certainly hope those of you who have not kept in touch will do so next time. I waited until the last possible moment and — surprise — I received one more card. **Sue Beardsley Preslar** writes she got quite the surprise from **Anne Curley Bowen**. Sue and her husband, Neal, were on spring break in San Francisco and had made plans to meet Anne at the Art Museum. Well, to Sue's surprise Anne didn't walk in the museum alone — she had **Jackie Daw Mullen** with her. She hadn't seen Jackie since they all shared a quad in Peabody Hall in 1972-73.

As for me, life continues to throw challenges my way. The little girls are getting so big now ... Christine, the 5-year-old, just started school and is so excited she gets to ride with Mom everyday. That will start to subside when she can't get away with anything on the bus. Alyson has started preschool and because of my schedule she has to ride the county bus to get to daycare every morn-



Kicking off the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Class of '74: Betsy Salt, Jocelyn Woodson-Reed, Chris Moranda

ing. Of course she thinks she is quite grown up. The oldest, Sarah, has started her senior year. I thought last year was tough — so far this senior year is taking first place on stressful. Last homecoming, last football game, last everything. We want to go to college, we don't want to, we aren't smart enough, mature enough — you name it, we aren't it! I do thank Facebook for its existence; it gives me the opportunity to vent without worry. Facebook has been fun, since I have connected with many friends from high school and summer camp — nobody from Western yet, maybe this winter. We took a family vacation to Georgia once again, had a pretty good time. It is so difficult for the little girls to get out and play — there is nowhere for them to go since my family live on a mountain.

So for now, hope all is well with you all and we will catch you in a year. If I survive.

**Cyndie Cole '75**  
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Gaylord, MI 49735  
chey\_80@yahoo.com

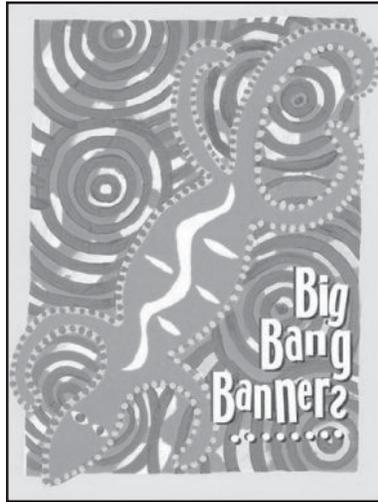


Hello and Happy Holidays from Hudson. I am so pleased that I heard from so many of you, and must give the Internet credit for making it easy to communicate and locate people. As a direct result of this, I will be able to give you several website addresses that you can visit to see what your fellow Western classmates are doing.

**Erica Zap** is an amazing jewelry designer. Visit [www.ericazap.com](http://www.ericazap.com) to see the line of jewelry that is sold internationally under the name Erica Zap Designs. Her signature store, The Erica Zap Collection, is located in Newport, Rhode Island, where she also resides with her three "cute" cats. As Erica states on her web site, "My goal is to design a contemporary look which exposes beauty through the simplicity of form. My jewelry reflects the integration of past and present cultures. I use metals, stones, textures, shapes and color to create precious pieces that are as individual as the women who wear them." She has certainly succeeded; both her designs and the execution of them are lovely.



Erica



To see what new creative endeavors **Caryl Henry Alexander** is involved in, look no further than her web site, [www.bigbangbanners.com](http://www.bigbangbanners.com). A talented visual artist, art educator and world traveler, Caryl continues to be heavily involved in community projects and art education. As always, her murals and masks are breathtaking. She is still in contact with **Andre Kreft**, another one of our talented classmates.

**Karen James-Cody** and Caryl, who met in September of 1973 as Western freshmen, are still the best of friends after 35 years. They went camping together in August and had a splendid time. Karen's oldest daughter is 21 and is just finishing up at Rutgers. Her youngest is 17 and currently a freshman at Temple University. Karen is still involved in the publishing industry; she's been the communications director of BNA since March 2006. She is a board member at both Black Women Playwrights' Group and For Love of Children. For Love of Children provides young children and youth at risk in Washington, DC, with the resources to achieve educational and personal success, through a continuum of educational services that prepares them to become confident, life-long learners and contributing members of their communities. To learn more about this wonderful organization, please visit [www.floc.org](http://www.floc.org).

**Barb Finkle DiScenna** is putting the master's degree in art therapy she earned from Goddard College to good use. She has been practicing art therapy around the Cleveland area for a very long time, and currently works at University Hospitals (in addition to having other contract work). Barb and husband Al have been married 29 years. Their son, Matt, just graduated from (of all places) Miami University and he is thinking of living in Italy for a while, as he studied Italian and spent eight weeks there through a

Miami program. Barb and Al have visited Italy several times, as Al is Italian and has family there. They would love to go back for another visit.

When I heard from **Branton Shearer**, he was in Singapore working with secondary students on leadership development. On this trip he also conducted a workshop for educational representatives from India, Hong Kong and the Philippines; these countries are among many that are making plans to implement Branton's work in schools in their country. He just had an article published in the *Career Development Quarterly* and his third book, entitled *Multiple Intelligences at 25* is to be published this fall by Teachers College Press. It's a collection of essays and interviews he wrote and conducted in the last 25 years, including his interview with the father of modern linguistics and political activist, Noam Chomsky. Anyone interested in his work can learn more and contact Branton at [www.miresearch.org](http://www.miresearch.org).

**Ginny Baxter's** life is going to the dogs — literally, as she continues to show her English bull terriers with great success. She has shown (and won) under Judge James G. Reynolds, who in the past has judged Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York City. When her friend's dog Rufus was awarded Best In Show in 2006, Ginny was "right there on the arena floor" screaming her head off. When not showing-living-and-breathing her dogs, Ginny works as the Director of Contracts for Compusearch Software Systems, whose software runs the majority of the Federal Civilian Government Agency's Contract Management processes. Ginny's husband, Bob, while retired from the Patent and Trademark Office, is busy enough doing consulting work that they were able to afford a new two-car garage to house his Shelby Cobra.

**Gina Di Franco** has lived in Denver (in the same house!) for 25 years. She reports her sons, Francis and Raffaele, are "grown now at 26 and almost 25 respectively." Gina continues in private practice with students who, for any number of reasons, are having problems in school. Most are in high school but recently she has been working with children in elementary and middle school in addition to a college group. She loves the work and feels blessed by her patients over the years; she is grateful for all that she has learned from THEM.

**Lucy Pekoc** lives in Miami and had a wonderful summer enjoying time with her two grandchildren, Timmy (5) and Maggie (3). She takes an annual summer trip to Cleveland prior to returning to teach seventh-grade life science every fall.

Visit our web site directory to register your e-mail address: [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu)

For **Dan Becker**, life is as busy as ever. He visits with his daughter and grandchildren frequently, as Morton (Illinois) is not far from Oswego, where he and his wife live. He enjoyed spending a lot of time this past summer with his wife, as she was off from school. He's still teaching guitar and he will be teaching art classes by the time this is published. Dan has spent a long time on his next musical project — a full-length album (collection of recorded songs). He plays his songs at local coffeehouses with the Tourists, and jazz at local restaurants with his trio. I found his web site, ([www.danbeckerandthetourists.com](http://www.danbeckerandthetourists.com)) to be so much fun that I spent a great deal of time just looking at the graphics. Don't miss the pictures on the billboards on his home page. That's Dan's picture on the billboards, playing his guitar!

David and I are still in Hudson, where I continue to work for American Fireworks. David celebrated 30 years as an employee of Rockwell/Allen Bradley in the neighboring town of Twinsburg last spring and continues to enjoy the work he does. Like Erica, we are cat people and currently house two indoors and are surrogate caretakers to several feral cats who drive us crazy. Sometimes I feel as if we live on an animal preserve — between all of the felines, deer, geese, skunk, opossum, fox and coyotes, David and I are certainly in the minority. It is not uncommon to see 15 deer at a time in our field, which is a lovely sight, and I love the smell of skunk. The coyotes, however, are a different story; I saw one yesterday that was as big as a deer and didn't seem at all shy. David saw one while he was mowing grass on the large tractor, so he now keeps a powerful roman candle on the seat

next to him, just in case. I will be sure and get a picture of this as soon as I figure out my new digital camera!

It was truly a pleasure renewing so many friendships while getting ready to write these notes, and I look forward to keeping in touch. I would like to close with this quote from an e-mail I received from **Regina Di Franco**, as it so wonderfully expresses the way I also feel about the year I was fortunate enough to spend on the Western Campus. "Whenever I think of Western it is not just a place, it is the people, the community and the sharing. For me it was a unique time, full of change, challenge and wonderful people."

**Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77**  
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Hudson, OH 44236  
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## Former Western faculty continue to send updates ...

*We launched our year-long WCAA 35th anniversary celebration at Reunion 2009, with special recognition for returning Western College faculty and staff. Our goal is to hear from each and every one, and we want to see more of you in person at Reunion 2010, June 18-20!*

**David Larson** dropped in at Patterson Place June 17 — his first trip back to Oxford in almost 35 years, just a one-day stop. Saying, "as always my timing is execrable ... I would so much like to stay around for the reunion (June 19-21)," he was forced to take his leave. "The real world makes its demands ... even on retired professors." David taught history at Western from 1971 to 1974, then followed that with 31 years teaching at Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas. He has been retired for three years, doting

After four years at Western, **Jim Royster** left in 1974 for Cleveland State University, where he taught in the Department of Religious Studies until 2002. His update begins with his children ... His daughter, Judy, who had been studying at Western, continued her studies at Miami University. The boys — Royce (now known as Sam) and Thumpy (now Steve) — went with him and his wife, Beth, to a small farm south of Geneva, Ohio. Jim had a 50-mile commute but they all thoroughly enjoyed rural life. On one of his sabbaticals, he and Beth traveled for 10 months around the world while he did research designed to enrich his teaching.

order to visit their sons and their families. Both married Australian women and have between them four daughters.

Jim concludes, "We consider ourselves immensely fortunate and undeserving of the wonderful life we are now living."



*David Larson is welcomed back by WCAA director Judy Waldron.*

on three wonderful grandchildren and, together with his wife, Marilyn, "starting to learn how to relax a bit."

About a year before retirement, Roysters sold the farm and bought a small cottage on Lake Erie in Geneva on the Lake. There, they shifted their interest from gardening and animals to water and sailing. Each fall since retirement, Beth and Jim go to Australia for six months — "that's right, we miss winters" — in



*Among our Reunion 2009 faculty honorees and their guests (left to right): Mary Lee and Will Keebler, Donavon Auble, John Simmons and Carolyn Auble. Professor Simmons shared memories of Western at the Reunion banquet.*

## In Memoriam

**Lois Wiggins Newman '29**  
June 2009

**Helen Richards Resch '29**  
July 2009

**Martha McCuaig Heath '36**  
June 2009

**Margaret St. John Beeman '37**  
April 2009

**Dorothy Partenfelder Dober '39**  
May 2009

**Zoe Williams MacKenzie '39**  
September 2009

**Dorothy Malcolm Whisner '41**  
July 2009

**Julia Kinder Atherholt '42**  
April 2009

**Martha Stedman Jordan '42**  
February 2008

**Harriett Jean Knoell Loos '42**  
March 2009

**Jane Eaton Larson '43**  
March 2009

**Virginia Hilleary Wilder '44**  
April 2009

**Marion Holtz Homma '46**  
June 2009

**Roberta Scott Ball '49**  
March 2009

**Sheila Laurie Hepler '49**  
January 2009

**Carolyn J. McMillen '49**  
January 2009

**Betty Walton White '49**  
June 2009

**Barbara Leith Rittenhouse '50**  
April 2001

**Elizabeth Ziv Rosenhaus '50**  
August 2009

**Helena Fiesselmann Zabriskie '51**  
August 2009

**Anna Polydouris Zepatos '51**  
March 2009

**Joan Grabill Hayes '54**  
August 2009

**Barbara Leslie Swanberg '54**  
May 2009

**Mary "Peggy" Finney Kah '57**  
June 2009

**Nancy Stevens Walton '59**  
April 2009

**Margaret Githara Karugu '62**  
September 2007

**Ingrid Mansson Hook '65**  
March 2009

**Katherine Elizabeth Walker '67**  
June 2009

**Lynn Larkin Wood '75**  
May 2009

**Dietrich Kurrer FF**  
Professor of German, 1954-55  
May 2009

**Robert White HA**  
May 2009

# The Western Program

Greetings from Peabody Hall! A new school year has brought new energy and excitement to our wonderful old building as we move forward with plans for the new program even as we support the last class of Western College Program students in their senior year. This last class is small but mighty: full of enthusiasm and ideas, ready for all sorts of challenges, and united by their love for Western. It's wonderful to see them all in action! And it's also terrific to see them interact with the students in our living-learning community, who are carrying forward the spirit of Western in new ways. It is a real pleasure to have such capable and confident young people in our midst.



Mary Jean Corbett

Their commitment is matched by that of our new Student Activities Coordinator, Karen Gotter, who is playing a critical part in helping us to make the transition between old and new at Peabody. Working alongside Kim Ernsting and Genevieve O'Malley Knight, Karen has been responsible for making sure that mainstay events of the Western College Program — from the opening convocation and La Manada (a howl at the moon, for the uninitiated) to community dinners and Cotillion — have been a success. In addition, Karen has provided much-needed support for the Freedom Summer Walking Tour, which brings alive an important part of civil-rights history and Western College's role in the movement for Miami students and campus visitors. Living and working in Peabody Hall, Karen has done a fantastic job of keeping the Western spirit alive and well in everything she does. We are most grateful for her efforts!

Another event that Karen has been instrumental in organizing is a monthly tea, which we hope will become a new Western tradition for years to come. One of the things I enjoyed most in my time at Smith was gathering with housemates and guests each Friday afternoon for casual conversation and tasty treats — a chance to unwind, catch up, and enjoy the pleasures of community life. So we've adapted that women's college tradition to bring together faculty, students, staff, and friends for an hour or two each month. At a recent tea, we unveiled a newly restored painting by Susan Peabody, "The Letter Writer," that will hang in the front parlor. Although we have not definitively identified the subject of the portrait, Dean Phyllis Hoyt, who was on campus for the amazing Freedom Summer Conference and Reunion, speculates that the sitter for the portrait may well have been Budge's brother Henry, who apparently wrote long if less than scintillating letters about the weather to his sister! Special thanks to Jacky Johnson, Western Archivist, who coordinated the painting's restoration and provided us with much of the background information that helped bring this piece of Western College history back to life.

Finally, the Western faculty has been busy in readying the new curriculum for approval by the College of Arts and Science. We are excited about the prospect of recruiting students to the community and have already planned to offer some of our new courses in the coming semester. If all goes well (and I expect it to!), we should have a new individualized major in place for the fall of 2010 as well as a new director and a cohort of new students. I look forward to what the next months will bring, as it's an exciting time for the new program and for everyone associated with Western!

— Mary Jean Corbett, *Interim Director*

## ... and for WCP Alums

Friends of Western: In the fall of 2008, Western College Program alumni came together in Oxford to look back at the history of Western, particularly the most painful parts of the recent past, and discuss the future of WCP alumni and the new Western program.

This past winter, alumni spoke to chart the future of WCP alumni, voting overwhelmingly to establish an alumni organization under the auspices of the Miami University Alumni Association AND maintain a strong relationship with the Western College Alumnae Association. During that voting process, over 50 WCP (or soon-to-be) alums, expressed an interest in helping organize this new alumni group.

This spring, a group of those alumni came together again in Oxford to establish a strategic plan, process and timeline for the establishment of this new Western alumni organization. The efforts of this steering committee led to a vote on the By-Laws for the Western College Program Alumni Association. The online vote was unanimous and the Western College Program Alumni Association was officially established. The first annual meeting of the WCPAA occurred on Saturday, June 20, 2009, during the All Western Reunion Weekend.

Finally, this summer, a number of WCP alumni rose to the challenge to serve and were elected through your votes

to serve as the inaugural Board of Directors for the Western College Program Alumni Association. And they are:

**Irene Dvoraczky Bell '82**, President-Elect (5-year term)

**Bob Cox '89**, President (5-year term)

**Jane Drexler Sharp '80**, Past President (5-year term)

**Daniel Woltman '91** (5-year term)

**Karen Gotter '09** (4-year term)

**John Rego '83** (4-year term)

**Eric Becker '80** (4-year term)

**Michael Conaway '90** (4-year term)

**Andy Miller '94** (3-year term)

**Samuel K. Ackerman '98** (3-year term)

**Jonathan A. Schneider '92** (3-year term)

Please join me in congratulating these folks for their willingness to serve, and support them in their future efforts. Rumor has it that they're already planning for their first meeting, where they'll discuss weighty matters like the new Western Program, the ongoing relationship with the WCAA, and looking ahead to a BFP in 2013. And be sure to bookmark this link — [www.miamialum.org/WCPalumni](http://www.miamialum.org/WCPalumni) — for future updates on the WCPAA and its activities. *Sláinte.*

— Ben Gibbons '94

**The DIVA Institute  
Leadership Summit for Young Women  
July 26 – 30, 2010**

The DIVA Institute is an intellectual and exciting experience designed for high school juniors and seniors from throughout Southwest Ohio. Students will experience the spirit and legacy of the Western College for Women by living and learning at historic Peabody Hall. The aim of the DIVA Institute is to engage existing and rising female leaders in dynamic workshops surrounding the following themes: learning through diversity; community organizing; arts-based activism; globalization; media and popular culture; body image; cultivating the self and relationships; and leadership skills. *For more information regarding the DIVA Institute, including the application/nomination process and how you might volunteer your time or expertise in July, please contact **Lisa Weems**, Director of the DIVA Institute and faculty member of the new Western Program, at [weemslid@muohio.edu](mailto:weemslid@muohio.edu) or 513-529-6835.*

Class  
of  
1985:  
25  
Years  
Old!



The Class of '79 is sad to report that our friend and classmate, **Kim Taylor**, passed away on February 7, 2009, at his home in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Colleen, and daughters, Stephanie, Alexis and Peyton. Many of his classmates were able to attend the funeral and share fond memories of Kim's infectious grin. The eulogy delivered by **Bill McMahon** included the following quote from Cicero (apparently Bill's daughter tracked it down...):

*Friendship is nothing other if not an agreement of all divine and human things with well wishing and affections. Nothing ever better has been given to man by the immortal gods. How is life able to exist, which does not rest on the shared well-wishing of friends?*

We will all miss Kimmer.

As I mentioned, a bunch of us were able to attend Kim's funeral, and we all resolved there and then to get together for a happy occasion. Uncharacteristically, we were able to get ourselves coordinated and organized enough to gather in Cleveland August 14-16 with a bunch of class-of-1979-era folks for "BurningRiverFest," a celebration of the rebirth of the Cuyahoga River after the 1969 fire. One of the scheduled highlights of the celebration was a sun-setting-over-Lake Erie concert by **Caroline Quine** and **Steve Madewell**.

If you want more details, contact an attendee, or the Cleveland Fire Department. About the only reported downside was jaw pain from three days of constant grinning. Kudos to everyone for making it there, and a special thanks to **Caroline Quine**, **Janet Jordan '80**, **Bill McMahon**, **Joe Conway '81** and **Brynna Fish**. A reprise event (time, date and location to be determined) has been demanded by all participants. If you are interested in getting e-mail on the planning and execution, please contact me.

Individual Reports:

**Bill McMahon** swears he has not been up to anything. As does "law dog" **Jeff Horst**.

**Rob Burns** reports that he still sleeps in a closet, and peers out from time to time.

**Chuck Rodabaugh** writes: "I live in Dayton, work in Cincinnati and have a sophomore son at Miami majoring in International Studies. No big news here. I work at Macy's as Director of Marketing Analytics and my wife, Barb, teaches kindergarten at the Academy of Dayton, a charter school in W.



A "bunch of class-of-1979-era folks," happily gathered in Cleveland, August 2009

Dayton. My younger son is a senior in high school, plays soccer, and reminds me how old I am. As the kids become more autonomous and I am not as involved in leadership in youth organizations, I am enjoying the many bike trails in the area and reading. I recommend Stephen Carter's mysteries — they have good plot, characters, and an enjoyable pace. Hello to all!"

**Tom "Walter" Gardner '79**  
307 Constitution Ave. NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
gardner.thomas@epa.gov

**Lorna Jordan** tells us that she has retired from reporting after 25 years of early morning and late night deadlines. Our Lorna has turned her talents to leading a women's group and acclimating newcomers to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood, Ohio, as well as serving as a member of her Vestry (parish council). Lorna has just finished spearheading a blood drive and also makes and sends cards to the church's shut-ins. Lorna was always a bringer of sweetness and light to the bitter and dark corners of McKee Hall (and by bitter I mean hung-over and by dark I mean "close those blinds can't you see I'm trying to sleep off a hang-over"). The world needs more Lorna's. lcjcookie@sbcglobal.net

**Jeff Dovel**, in his latest shout-out to the world, is doing well after a stem-cell transplant that has allowed him to get off chemo and all its side effects and return to work and life in the new normal. Jeff describes

that new normal as "living in the Now" and enjoying every moment spent with his wife, Janice, their kids and grandson. In addition to Jeff's courage and perseverance we can all learn that "Seize the Day" is not just a bumper-sticker but a philosophy to live by. **Bob Linton** said it best: Jeff has been "inspiring." We wish Jeff and his family well and thank him for the powerful example he has set for us all. thedovels@fuse.net; linton@lintonhirshman.com

**Mary Crockett** (formerly **Mary Hager-Rogers**), having spent many years as a Community Development Director for the City of Xenia, Ohio, now lives in Dayton. She has received her master's in business from Antioch McGregor and another bachelor's in IT from DeVry, enhancing what has been and continues to be an interesting career. Mary stays in touch with **Cynthia Rundquist '80** and **Beth Long** if you are looking to connect some dots. mhcrockett@fuse.net

**Karen Grimshaw Maudlin** writes: "Hello, fellow Westerners! We just dropped our oldest daughter Katie off at Denison University and the rolling hills of Ohio brought back some great Western memories. I am still a psychologist and executive coach busy in the Chicagoland area. My husband Mick is still with Harper Collins books in their religious division as editorial director. We love books! My youngest is a sophomore in high school and we are making the transition to a partially full nest. All the best and call or e-mail if you are in the Wheaton/Chicago area." drkarenm@aol.com

**Rich Kemmett**, now a retired captain from the Hartford, Connecticut, Police Force, is easing into using his new badge (a laminated AARP Card ... I keep throwing the envelopes away but they keep coming). Rich is pondering a second career while enjoying



*"Big Chill in Sonoma": A reunion of California émigrés, WCP/MU '81-'84 alums*

life with his wonderful wife and two daughters. rkemmett@hotmail.com

**Mark Juergens** is living in New York (the "Park Slope" area of Brooklyn ... "You-Got-A-Problem-With-Dat?"). Mark has been plying his trade as a film editor, currently working on an extensive documentary series dealing with immigration reform. Mark and his beautiful and talented daughter, Charlotte, just returned from a trip to Greece which they "highly recommend." Aside from processing a significant birthday this year, Mark says, "Life is grand." mcj@aol.com

**John Rego** has moved from Mason, Ohio, just north of Cincinnati to the rolling hills of Ripley, Ohio, east of Cincinnati near the Ohio River. The renovation of our 1886 farm house has begun in earnest, the water leaks in the roof are plugged (knock on rotted wood) and the plumbing has been upgraded (it's inside now). I have a product design and development company, Rego & Roy, LLC, that we run from the farm (by "We" I mean our daughter Lindsay, a graduate of the Ohio State University with a degree in Industrial Design, and I; along with our business partners Mike Roy and his son Dan). My wife, Diane, has retired from teaching and is honing her pioneer skills now and our daughter Robyn is a successful stylist in Northern Ohio. No longer paying college tuition, we now spend all of our discretionary funds on paint, wood and nails ... we really should have started this a decade ago; Ibuprofen is my new best friend. jregohg1@aol.com

**Chris Kerosky** writes: "In March, we organized a reunion of Western and Miami graduates who immigrated to California soon after graduation, and spent the years of 1981-1984 in Berkeley, living together in various pseudo-communal living arrange-

ments. Friends came from Oregon, Texas and Scotland to take part. We called the gathering: Big Chill in Sonoma. Among those attending from Western's 1981 class were **Michael Kent**, his wife Becky Rosen and son Nathan; **Steve Sphar** and his wife Linda; and **Chris Kerosky**, wife Mary Kerosky, and kids Sara, Sophia and Sam. They are pictured here with friends from Miami's class of 1981 Janet Mattick, Kim Hostetler and Keith Jacobson in front of Chris and Mary's house in Sonoma County, California. ckerosky@youradvocate.net

**Maureen Murphy Rolfe** is living in Dublin, Ohio, and working as a behavioral health social worker in the E.R. She and her husband of 20 years, Mike, travel extensively for fun. They have been to 37 countries so far, proving that you can't have too much fun. Maureen stays in contact with **Kim Hartsock** in Florida and **Cathy Schneider** in Minnesota. rolfe4084@yahoo.com

And the winner is ... **Jean Fudge**, for getting her update in at the last possible second. A self-proclaimed pack-rat, Fudge unearthed the little blue card from Western just in time to let us know that she has traded in her old boyfriend for two brand-new cats. The cats have issues but so did the boyfriend, two for one, sounds like a good trade to me. Fudge is still in the newspaper game in Lebanon, Ohio — which is, she notes, the birthplace of Woody Harrelson, 1983 graduate of Hanover College with a major in English and theater. (Nothing gets past the steely eyes and lightning fast pen of "The Fudge Report.") jaf529@earthlink.net

**John Rego '81**  
**8963 State Route 353**  
**Ripley, OH 45167**  
**jregohg1@aol.com**



The class of '83 is evidently busy since replies were low but knowing all of us (including me), writing in is something we plan to do tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow. I'm sorry to report the loss of Friend of Western Cornelius Bennhold, husband of **Laurette (Samaan) Bennhold** and father to Catalina, after a long time with cancer. Our thoughts and best wishes to Laurette and Catalina.

On a happier note, **Kathy (Smith) Rademacher** reports all three of her kids are now in college. I got a quick "Hello" from **Wendy (Zagray) Warren** and **Leigh Levine**. The "bunkies" — **Lora Schoenberg**, **Teresa (Cox) Wherthy**, **Kathy Cline**, along with Friends of Western Jeff Webb (husband of the late **Lisa Ostrom Webb**), Karen Johnson, Elaine Muntz, and Lynn Appel — when last heard, all were healthy, employed, and kids were well so the important stuff is good. The rest is just details.

I'm still working as a fund raiser for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, single parenting two teens, and doing my M.B.A. If I don't completely lose my religion, I will be done with the M.B.A. in 2011 and kid #1 goes to University in 2013. So presumably the time crunch gets better.

Many of you seem to remember my mom, who is well and just actively participated in settling the lawsuit the League of Women Voters had filed against the Ohio Secretary of State. She was working with the League and now is focusing on redistricting.

**Ann Rosenfield '83**  
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**Celebrating 25 years!**

*In case you missed it, turn back to page 37 for the picture proof!*

Flipping through the *Miamian* alumni magazine a few months ago, a "Member Profile" caught my eye. I thought I recognized the face. When I saw the name, I was sure.

**ALL classes, continue celebrating WCAA's 35<sup>th</sup> at Reunion '10 ... June 18-20!**



Stephanie Wagner and David Hertzig represented the 25-year Class of '84 at Reunion 2009.

There on the page was a lovely portrait of August Fluker and his beautiful wife and 6-year old son. Remember "Augie"? He was one of the first cohort of architecture students required to take their core courses with us. August is a principal in the City Architecture firm in Cleveland. I always think of August in, well, the month of August! I had never met an "August" before him!

**Kevin Hils** sent in this missive: "As I write this, I am truly amazed! My youngest daughter, Abigail, will be in the final Western graduating class. This is bittersweet! Am I this old? Is Western gone, like my NS paper to Doug Meikle? Not sure if he found it. Naah, Western will rise like pigeons off Peabody. This last class has some great students. Wish 'em well in this new world they will enter! My oldest is an assistant coach at Virginia Wesleyan. AND my wife still loves me after all the years. Come visit the Knoxville Zoo anytime!"

A quick scan of Western friends on Facebook over the last few days finds **Heidi Francioni** picking peaches off her peach tree and promising peach jam through the Facebook airwaves. Heidi has a new studio at Studios on the Park in Paso Robles, California. [www.HeidiFrancioni.com](http://www.HeidiFrancioni.com)

**Bill Cameron** is in Portland. He looks the same — just more gray in his beard. Oh, and his hair isn't orange anymore.

**Anne Meskey Elhajoui** is a graphic designer in Sarasota, Florida. She has four lovely children.

One of my happiest Facebook reconnects in recent months has been with **Bryan Adamson**. Bryan earned his M.A. in mass communication and political science at Purdue and then went on to earn a J.D. at Case Western. He's now an associate professor at Seattle University, teaching topics that involve law and the media.

As of June, I am now happily finished with my master's and am slowly getting around to cleaning up the messes of three years of household neglect: children's school work

and photos expediently shoved onto a shelf; stacks of old *Gourmet* magazines that I'll never find time to read, full of recipes that I can probably find online anyway; bills that have been long-paid and now beg filing. Three years it took me, one class at a time, three years that I now look back on and wonder where they went. My oldest is a junior at Ohio U. Gosh, he's 20 already. My youngest is in fourth grade. My 11-year old weighs almost as much as I do.

It hits me: Can it truly have been almost 25 years since we graduated from Western? And, of course, as Kevin points out above, the Western we knew is quickly fading into the past. Change, as we all know, is inevitable. After 25 years, I suppose it is time for some aspects of Western to change. But I hope that other aspects — commitment to community, to a bigger picture, to service, to diversity, to cross-fertilization and interconnectedness — never leave Western, however it manifests itself. I hope that those values continue to enrich your lives as well.

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From **Julia Champe**: "Hi, everyone! Gosh, it's been forever since I've been in touch. Hmmm ... a quick review of my life since Western reveals three themes, I think: Education, Love and Parenting. I'm in my second year of teaching in the counselor education program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and am still getting used to living in The South. (C'dale is just three hours north of Memphis! The bugs are way bigger here.) I teach in a grad program for counselors in training to be clinical mental health, school, or couple and family counselors. I took a 'do-over' to come to SIU and the opportunity to be in a program with both master's and doc level tracks, so am still working towards tenure. It took me a long, meandering time to get here, but I am so happy teaching and training students into a profession I love, with energetic and committed colleagues who are supportive of family and research, and of course, working with my students who inspire and challenge me every day. After spending 12 years in Montana, where I got my M.S. in counseling and briefly had a private practice, I moved to Pocatello, Idaho, for the Ph.D. program in counselor ed at Idaho State.

"After graduating, I moved to Wisconsin for my first teaching job and lived there for four years. (Where I got to see the **Milligan-Tofflers** but never got to connect with **Dana**

**Lundell '89**, all of whom are in MSP/St. Paul, last I heard.)

"Along the way, I got divorced from a very nice man (some of you knew Nick back in the day — he's remarried and lives in Missoula now), was single, dated, became a mom, and finally married my long-suffering boyfriend, Kent, last year (another very nice man, the best kind!). I became a mom through adoption in December 2006, when Kent and I traveled to Ethiopia to bring home our daughter Ella, now 4. After a year of commuting between Wisconsin and S. Ill., while Kent completed his M.S. at the U of MN, we're finally all back under one roof together, and enjoying the hectic life of 'older' parents with a very busy preschooler.

"We're about two hours from St. Louis, and about five hours from Cincinnati, so as we settle in and get more time to explore the larger southern-eastern-mid-west-y region, I hope we get to see some old Western folks. I have really enjoyed the ongoing mini-reunion on Facebook in that past 9-10 months, people! It's been great to catch up, however virtually, and seeing you all online has just reconfirmed what a unique, creative and awesome bunch I was lucky enough to spend my four college years amongst. All the best!"

**Melissa Milgrom's** book *Still Life: Adventures in Taxidermy* will be published in March 2010 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Check it out at: [www.MelissaMilgrom.com](http://www.MelissaMilgrom.com)

I (**Christine Rebera**) completed my Certificate of Advanced Studies in December at SUNY Cortland and am now a certified district and building administrator in New York State! I'm currently the director of the Lansing-Groton Teacher Resource and Technology Center.

**Christine Rebera '87**  
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**Will Standley** is living in Southern California and reports that he is happy, healthy, and employed. Will is married, with two daughters, ages 7 and 5. He and his wife just celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Will hopes to visit Oxford this fall during a trip back to Ohio.

From **Carolyn Brucken**: "Hi to the class of 1989! I've been meaning to do this for years — decades! In the first decade post graduation, **David Paddy** and I married and earned our Ph.D.s. We are now in the Los

Angeles area, where Dave is a tenured professor in English literature at Whittier College and I'm Associate Curator in Western women's history at the Autry National Center."

From **David Paddy**: "**Carolyn Brucken**, my wife and fellow alum, has caught you up on the activities of the past decades(!). For now I'll say that I'm heading off to Copenhagen, Denmark, to teach for one semester. I'll be teaching an interdisciplinary class called "The Literature of Ice and Snow," a kind of study of globalization in the northern lands. I don't think I would have classes like this in me if it hadn't been for Western. At Whittier College, where I've been teaching now for 13 years, I try to bring the ideas, ideals, and practices of Western to life every day. The dream seems to be perishing in Oxford, but I hope we are all keeping it alive wherever we are."

From **Dana Lundell** (4552 Columbus Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, 612-825-6086, bugabooumn@yahoo.com): "Hello, classmates. Can't make the reunion this year, so decided to give updates. How to sum up more than a decade or two? Still living in Minneapolis, where we were happily surrounded by a sea of Obama signs, including our own, this past election cycle AND we got Franken in the Senate.



*Happy couple, Dana and Russ!*

Other happy news is I met my wonderful spouse, Russ Littlefield, and got married to him in June 2006! We do a lot of traveling when possible between our jobs, including India, Turkey, Panama, Costa Rica, and Iceland recently. My job is, well, on the rocks with the economy tanking — my former 'dream job' I had for years at the University of Minnesota. In a similar battle faced by Western College at Miami University, a merger occurred, essentially closing my college and the research center I directed and implemented there for over a decade. Moving on ... not many options, so I took an escape position with Argosy University, one of those for-profit places. Stereotypes abound, but the place is not too bad. I love teaching adult graduate students in the field of education, but I am still searching for my next dream job. Bad timing, though! Aside from that, I'm glad to be employed. For fun and killing time in the winter months, I am

still plunking away at my guitar, playing in an all-female band and writing tunes. Not sure what the next decades hold, but Russ and I do plan to exit Minnesota at a key point if we can — possibly to live in the Pacific Northwest or Desert Southwest (my parents have retired in New Mexico — incidentally, so did **Kris Curry's** parents!) For now, Lake Wobegon is still home. As they say in Minnesota, 'it could be worse!' Take care and peace, everyone."

**Cathy Flynn '89**  
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On Saturday, March 6, next year, "mushers" (dog sled drivers) from Jamaica, Scotland, Italy, Canada and the United States — most especially Alaska — start the 2010 Iditarod. The sled dog trail race will take them and approximately 1,000 sled dogs over 1,112 miles of Alaska wilderness from Anchorage to Nome. Among them will be rookie Iditarod musher and classmate **Emil Churchin**. Born and raised in Ohio, Emil now works as a digital imaging technician in Anchorage, Alaska, where he's also a member of the Alaska Poetry League and enjoys travel, reading, writing and kayaking. To support Emil, check out his Facebook site: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=50126752450](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=50126752450)



*Emil: Iditarod bound*

**Ed and Libby Frato-Sweeney** are active and busy educators in Hiram, Ohio. Ed is Coordinator for Citizenship Education for Hiram College, which means — according to the handbook — that he "coordinates all student conduct procedures, training, hearings and communications, initiates efforts to educate students about voting and other citizenship opportunities and produces the Hiram College Student Handbook." He also serves as a liaison to campus security and the Hiram Village police." Ed was especially busy last year during the 2008 election and was quoted in the online *AuroraAdvocate*: "My office helped coordinate our campus-wide efforts — we worked hard to get students registered in Hiram Village so it would be easier for them to vote on Election Day." Libby teaches art at J.A. Garfield High School in the nearby village of Garrettsville.

**Gwendolyn Reece** is head of Research Teaching and Learning Services at American University, where we can report one of those "small world" connections we so love: **Susan Adland '73** is currently working for Gwendolyn as a part-time reference librarian! Apparently they've compared notes on Western — Susan knew her boss's Senior Project was on Western's ghost stories.

*[Editor's note: Your Class Rep needed a little help from the office this fall — she had not heard from anyone and was "in the middle of a huge project." Something to do with attic insulation, new rafter vents, giant pieces of Styrofoam and gutters. Here's hoping you will take pity and write to her next year.]*

**Lara Osborne '91**  
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I was in the car the other day. The radio was on, tuned to the local NPR affiliate, broadcast by American University in Washington, D.C. The announcer was running through entertainment news; I was zoning, concentrating on the brake lights in front of me. Then, suddenly, a passing reference pulled me out of my trance: Tyler Perry will write, direct, and produce the film version of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Was Unfurled*. Starring Beyonce, apparently. Talk about a title I haven't heard in nearly 20 years. As I tried to recall whether I had actually completed the assigned readings, I thought: How random to be reminded of these poems as I trudge into the office for a day writing about health care reform, IRS regulations, and exploding hedge funds. It's funny how worlds collide when you least expect it.

It's been that kind of year. Since I last wrote this letter, the economy blew up, we inaugurated an African American man as president for the first time, and Michael Jackson was proven mortal. I've had a front-row seat to the effort by the Obama administration to affect the biggest transformational shift in public policy of my lifetime. Needless to say, I've been putting in some long hours.

On a personal level, highlights of the year include transitioning to bike commuting (the opening anecdote on this missive notwithstanding). I think I risked the love and affection of my wife, Patty, when, faced with the logistical nightmare of vehicular and subway travel to the inauguration, I suggested we bike to the big event. So, we bundled the girls (Avery and Zoe, who were 5 and 3

at the time) into the trailer, layered up, and joined tens of thousands of people who trekked into D.C. for big event on a freezing cold day. It was, um, memorable. (There's video up on my Facebook page.) In any event, I'm now making the 9-mile trip via bike most weekdays — a liberating, invigorating experience I highly recommend.

We made family trips to San Destin, Florida (drove 1,000 miles each way — I don't recommend it), the Jersey Shore, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire (lovely!). Avery started first grade in September, and Zoe is in her final year of preschool. I continue to enjoy working for Bloomberg and anticipate no changes there; Patty is gradually engaging the workforce again, now that the girls are in school five days per week.

Speaking of Facebook, most of our class updates come courtesy of my connections there. This was the first year I received no actual submissions, so I started threatening to play "gossip" based on Facebook status updates. That prompted a deluge of last-minute submissions. Thanks, guys!

**Sean C. Duncan** writes that he is finally finishing his Ph.D., and is coming back to Miami (again!), this time in a tenure-track assistant professor position as the C. Michael Armstrong Professor in the School of Education, Health, and Society and Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies. He also has no idea how he's going to fit all of that on a business card. For those keeping track, this is Sean's THIRD tour of duty in Oxford, counting his stints as an undergrad and faculty position at Western earlier in the decade. Still, tenure track sounds promising — we wish him well!

More academia from **Jeanine Weekes Schroer**, who writes: "Doing really well in Jonesboro, Arkansas — my partner, Bob, is about three months away from applying for tenure in the English and philosophy department here at Arkansas State University (I'm a year and three months out myself). After a month this summer at an institute in Salt Lake City, I'm starting a new research project in the interesting field of experimental philosophy. This is also causing me to recommit to our research/travel project: Last year saw us in Vancouver, Cleveland and exotic Rice Lake, Wisconsin; this year we're looking forward to Nashville, Chicago and San Francisco (wish us luck). We've also had two new mammalian additions to the family: Jack and Turk ( a mismatched pair of tiger-striped 4-month-old kittens). This brings our family to a grand total of five once you include true love of my life, a not quite 2-year-old boxer/mix pup named Brontë. Much is right in my world, I wish you all the same."

**Jeff Sikorovsky** writes: "All is well in Charleston, West Virginia — wife Jessica Rodecker has left the practice of law and is spending her time improving her health via 'green living' and other holistic means, while also caring for her Morgan horse, Bocephus (aka "Hank"). Daughter Zoey Rose is in her second year at Mountaineer Montessori School and enjoys gymnastics, swimming with Daddy, and hanging out at the barn with Mommy. Travels to Manchester, Vermont; Sanibel Island, Fla.; Fairview, North Carolina; Athens, Ohio; and Cleveland to see family and friends have been fun and relaxing. Sad to hear about the impending demise of Ozzie's Balcony — a great groove was always found there. Enjoying keeping up with Western friends via Facebook!"

Out in San Francisco, **Naomi Margaret Robinson** writes: "By the time you read this my son, Max, will have turned 3. He goes to preschool three days a week via bicycle, which is a true delight even though he doesn't help with the pedaling yet. To balance the good effects of that we have a Vanagon trip to Austin planned in December, and in February we'll drive up to Vancouver for the Olympics. (Kid pix on Flickr under crayonbeam.) My partner, Jim, is working for CurrentTV. I still work for the National Park Service and have been promoted to Chief of the Office of Special Park Uses for Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Ask me for a First Amendment permit next time you're in San Francisco."

Finally, our fellow traveler from the fall of 1989, **Ben Gibbons**, had a number of updates.

"First, a pretty exciting announcement on the alumni front. After much bloviating and many online votes, the Western College Program Alumni Association is a reality. Beginning with the alumni caucus at the 2008 WCP 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend and running through this summer's voting for Board members, it has been established as an official alumni organization with Miami University. The WCPAA by-laws, Board members, future update and, we hope, information on a BFP in 2013 can be found at [www.miamialum.org/WCPalumni](http://www.miamialum.org/WCPalumni)." With that, Ben is "retiring" from WCP alumni activities and has passed the football, and related codes, to the WCPAA Board of Directors. [See page 36 for more.]

He continues, "This year brought Ben and Michelle fewer opportunities to travel and visit WCP alums. If you saw them in Asheville, North Carolina, Denver or Eugene, they must have been visiting family. However, Ben's high school reunion weekend presented a chance to get together with **Michele Casto** and her daughter Lily, and sample some barbecue at Michele's folks'

place. August brought a visit from **Jeremy Holmes** and his wife Melissa, during the course of their annual Cedar Point pilgrimage. And, Clippers games brought many an opportunity to visit with **Megan Simmons** and her husband, Denny.

"Rumor has it that Ben and Michelle are also expecting a new arrival this fall, to occupy the jungle-themed nursery in their house. You might want to check and see if Ben submits another third-person update for his actual graduating class ('94), for further updates on a wee bairn."

In any event, that's the news from the Class of 1993. As always, I hope this letter finds you happy, prosperous, and at peace.

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*Celebrating 15 years!*

**Gillian Izor** says she has been meaning to "catch up with the Western crowd for a while." She moved back to her hometown (Germantown, Ohio) from Columbia, South Carolina about seven years ago. She has "two great kids, Emmaline (9) and Samuel (7)," was recently accepted to the University of Kentucky's Master of Library Sciences program and looks forward to starting soon. She signs off with, "Keep in touch!"

**Jennifer Kenney** writes that she is currently living in Pittsburgh with her sister and her girlfriend, having moved back from New York in August to work on her dissertation. She's also working at an agency serving women in early recovery from drug and alcohol dependence. To those who knew Zami, her dog of 13 years, she passes along the sad news that he died in May, saying, "I could not have hoped for a better friend and companion." Soon after, she rescued Haki, a collie/Doberman mix and will keep us posted on his progress. Jennifer invites all to contact her on Facebook or at [jennifer/zami@juno.com](mailto:jennifer/zami@juno.com).

Wow, what a crazy year. Wrapped up my position as the Market President for a small community bank down in Peachtree City, Georgia, just outside Atlanta. Relocated after the birth of my baby boy, George, who was born in February 2009. He is our pride and joy! Moved back to Michigan with my wife and son, our dog Daisy, and cats

Thatcher and Darby. In early August, was shipped to Orlando to work on a contract for the FDIC, managing the receivership for the sixth largest bank failure in U.S. history. Home every other weekend, and enjoying the Florida sunshine! Life is good.



Baby George

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Well, I now see many of you WCPers on Facebook (please feel free to find me there). Not much has happened to me in the last year ... other than surviving the first year of motherhood. I continue to enjoy my job as an assistant professor but both Zac and I dream of leaving Missouri one day to be nearer to friends and family. Here are some updates from a few of you!

**Brie Turner-McGrievy** and husband Matt McGrievy (Miami class of '97) welcomed twins Quentin and Sabine, on April 21, 2008. They and Matt live in Chapel Hill, where Brie is working on her post-doc in nutrition.

**Carmen Wargel** and husband Ryan welcomed their daughter, Amelia, in May 2008: "She's intense and bold, with a full zest for life. We are so lucky and life is good. I am mostly a SAHM, and am also a community organizer working to end domestic and sexual violence. We live close to family and friends and are just really, really happy. I hope you all are too!"

**Molly Hicks** says, "I am working for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and currently in my second year of a Ph.D. program in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England. I am focusing upon local and regional food production and consumption. Finally, after 1½ years, I feel I am settling in to New England with my three kitties and housemates, who keep me happy and loved! Funny — sooo many trees here (absolutely gorgeous), and the ocean nearby, but often I find myself dearly missing the acres and acres of farm fields in Ohio, with lightning bugs taking flight at dusk."

**Rebecca Dingo '97**  
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**Lindsay (Sullivan) Estrada** was married in 2007 to Justina Estrada, and is living in San Diego. Congratulations! Lindsay finished a master's in Liberal Arts and Sciences, in a program similar to Western and is now working as a Project manager overseeing software development. E-mail: estrada.lindsay@gmail.com; phone: 619-546-9451.

The **Coggins** have a new baby! (Wait, didn't we just do this? Weren't we going to catch up on our sleep?) Emmett Michael Coggin was born April 8, 2009. Our 2-year-old Maggie loves him to pieces, most actively by throwing things at his head. We really never expected to say things like "Stop trying to put that in his eye" and "Please use your inside voice, you're going to wake up the neighbors." Marty is still teaching, and Hadley is still a nurse — but very part-time. We are rarely at a computer to keep up with what everyone is doing, and have traveled with two babies enough to know that it is not fun. As always, we would love to see the kids passing through Cleveland. We can be reached at 216-228-7168 or, if you're patient, by e-mail.

**Hadley Schreiber Coggin '99**  
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**Katy Greene** is "still rocking and rollin' in the land that's all glitter and no gold" and seriously misses her "Midwestern roots at times." She is considering a move back to Midwestern life, but is sure it is just a phase that she will soon grow out of.

**Mark Mussman** is still in Cincinnati. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Studies in December of 2008 and would like to express how sorry he is there isn't more to tell.

**Kate Johnson** is currently in Washington, DC, running a staffing agency that specializes in legal placements. She actually had something to say and I can't say it any better: "In my spare time, when I'm not writing my Q-list blog or going on horrific blind dates with scary Republican men sporting pleated pants and bow ties, I energetically validate the stereotype of 30-something single girl in the city. Last year I fulfilled a long held dream and became a New Kids On The

Block groupie during their much hyped yet strangely under appreciated reunion tour. After following NKOTB through two states and throwing several pairs of panties at the stage, I got to meet Donnie. I may or may not have gone all Fan Girl during this experience. Current goals include becoming a Georgetown MILF or maybe starting a cupcakery. It's a toss up. But in all seriousness, if anybody ever needs a place to crash in DC, I've got a love seat, air mattress and floor space. I slept 18 during the Inauguration." Thanks, Kate. Keep up the good work.

**Nichole Sturm** is in her final year of ER residency at U of Michigan. She "looks forward to almost being FINALLY done" and her return to Chicago life.

**Laura Scudiere** and husband Rob Mentzer (Creative Writing, 2001... I think) are "living in Wisconsin's Northwoods where there is nature all around. She became Executive Director of Bridge Community Health Clinic in 2008, which helps uninsured and underinsured get the health and dental care that everyone deserves. Laura's sister, **Jern '98**, had her second baby, beautiful baby girl Giulia in May. Rob is a journalist for the local paper, where he writes for the opinion section and does the editorials. And I happen to know his articles have been picked by Keith Olbermann for his show.

**Kelly Foley**. At first Ms. Foley attempted to hijack my "give me your update" mass e-mail by soliciting communications from each person on the list. I gave her a virtual smack on the hand and she gave me more info than we could all ever want about her. So. Here is the synopsis. Lives in Boulder, Colorado. Works as a Geologist. Runs, swims. Has been to more places on the earth than the rest of us. Has a boyfriend.

**Sam Spillman** is in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was in Japan for a few years, but decided to change fields and became a licensed chiropractor in 2008. When he isn't playing god with other people's ability to



Kelly Foley, Geologist



Katy Bowman, Mom

stand (opinion), he is training for a half marathon and running a Japanese club to keep his chops choice.

**Katy Bowman** says: "I have a little update for you. On May 27<sup>th</sup> I had my second kid! Her name is

Emily Jane" Being unaware of her first child I pushed for its name. His name is Samuel and he is 2½ years. Most importantly, she neglected to tell me she is a published author! [www.wingedhalo.com/mag/reconciliation.html](http://www.wingedhalo.com/mag/reconciliation.html)

**Isaac Bloom:** I'll let him narrate — "Isaac lives in Minneapolis, but is about to move to DC, where he will continue to be a regional director for a national nonprofit. He'll spend his days working on citizen outreach campaigns on issues like passing a national global warming bill, national healthcare reform, and glbt rights laws in places all over the Southeast. He'll spend his nights glad-handing, laughing with really excellent stemware, and in general wearing extravagant cumberbunds. But also possibly just biking, cooking for lots of people, and reading books. Expensive cigars to be smoked in the company of Very Important People can be sent to his home address, as soon as he has one."

**Kevin Degnan** is still in San Diego. He says, "I surf a lot, teach English, read comics and occasionally teach English classes about comics or read comics while working at the surf shop." Wife **Beth Schuh** is working at



Kevin Degnan, English teacher

a local bio-tech company that actually manufactures their products in downtown San Diego. In her off time, she enjoys going out for full tea at the local tea shops. Kevin says he is not much of a tea-man himself, but it is growing on him and the little sandwiches

are usually pretty darn good! The happy couple are looking for a house, kind of an odd adventure in these crazy times.

**Kristie Settle** now **Paluch** moved to the Denver/Boulder area three years ago with her unnamed Husband ... let's call him "Champ." Kristie and Champ recently bought a house eight miles northwest of the city.

**Annie Montgomery Ruble** and husband **Craig** (see how that works, Kristie?) are still in Fairfield, happy as can be. Annie is a labor and delivery nurse at Good Sam in Clifton and Craig is a warehouse super for DuBoise in O-town. ANNIE IS PREGNANT AND WILL HAVE A BABY XMAS EVE! What else do I really need to report? Oh. It's gonna be a boy. Don't forget to suggest the name Vann if any of you happen to speak with Annie between now and then.

**Matthew Krainess** is living with Lucy, his pet bulldog. He claims she is the love of his life. I didn't believe him until I saw the pics. Now I want a Lucy to love and to hold. Since college, Matt says he spent a year in exotic New Jersey, working at a non-profit that helped inner city kids from Newark, then "proceeded on the normal Jewish migration (although, about 50 years early), and moved to Florida." Matt says he's been in Tampa for seven years now. Spent 6½ years building a youth group and campus organization with his Messianic Synagogue and just recently stepped down to pursue teaching (Spanish and history) and coaching (wrestling and track). He loves it in Tampa and doesn't plan on moving, but has been happy to visit a few other places: Australia, Ireland, Israel, Nassau and Kansas.



Matt and Lucy

**Alicia Marin Marseille** has been living in Phoenix, Arizona, for about seven years. She has been married for three years and has a 1-year-old son. She works at a small university and co-owns a small Haitian coffee importing business with her Haitian husband.

**Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi** lives in Columbus, Ohio, with husband **Adam Port '05**. She has a daughter named Sophie Port and she is a "dancing queen." Adam is in nursing school and works at Harding Hospital at OSU on the youth psych floor. Kat still works with the GED classes and teaches a section at Godman Guild. She was very happy to tattle on **Amy Smith Palmer**. According

to Kat, Amy has "co-started an intentional urban community in her home" ... and I think that very cool.

**Christiane Candella** lays her life out better than I can. She says: "Hey, WCP grads! As some of you know, I have been living-working in Stockholm, Sweden, for the past two years. But the real craziness lies in the fact that I haven't called the good old U.S. of A. home since a month after graduating from Western. Funny how thinking about all you guys puts that into perspective ... It has been eight years since dealing with our senior theses and worrying over what was to come next in the chapters that would comprise our autobiographies. And it seems like so many of us have carved out quite interesting paths!

"As for me, I work as an elementary teacher at a bilingual school in Stockholm. I landed here after meeting and falling for a Swede while working in Kyiv, Ukraine, three years ago. I spend most of my time trying to master Swedish, biking around town and trying out any outdoorsy activity ... from long distance skating to kayaking to learning how to identify edible mushrooms (not as dangerous as it sounds). Like Kelly, I have spent much of my 20s collecting stamps in my passport and butchering foreign languages. However, I really like my new home and am planning on sticking around for a while. :-)

My guy and I just bought our first place, a very small apartment in downtown, and I am starting to get use to 'compact living.' The public transit system makes up for what we lack in space, well almost. My 'sambo' (great Swedish word meaning *domestic partner*) has a daughter who I help raise and who adds spice and laughter to our lives, which I guess is why most people willingly accept sleep deprivation in exchange for the former."

**Elizabeth Greene '02** and I moved back to Chicago last fall and bought a condo in September (2008). We would like to thank every last one of you for contributing to our 8k first-time home buyers tax refund. If you'd like your money back, please come visit.

**Vann Geondeff '01**  
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[vanngeondeff@gmail.com](mailto:vanngeondeff@gmail.com)



Whew! I can't believe another year has gone by so quickly. I've just moved to South Bend, Indiana, to start a new job at Saint Mary's College as the Assistant Director of Student Involvement. There isn't a lot going on here (other than football games at Notre Dame), but I'd be happy to host anyone who is in



*Jen Germano and Simon*

the area ... or, more likely, passing through as you drive to Chicago. Below are a few updates from folks around the globe. It's always great to hear from all of you, hopefully our paths will cross again soon!

**Leslie Allen:** "I just started law school at the University of Dayton. I think that is about the only thing going on with me. But right now ... that's plenty!"

**Erica Bland:** "I purchased a home and was promoted to vice president last year. I worked on the Obama campaign from August to November to turn a red state blue! I do have a new addition to the family – his name is Prince. Now I have two dogs! WE are a complete and happy family. I am currently working on stopping cuts to the social service programs of Illinois. Thousands of seniors are being threatened by the state with losing their homecare workers who provide vital services to them and the community daily. Also fighting childcare cuts that will stop all after school programs and cut eligibility very low. Whew, the job of a union organizer is never done."

**Mike Ernst:** "I am still living it up in San Francisco. I've been out here over six years now. Come visit sometime! In December, I graduated from UC Berkeley with a master's in City Planning, focusing in Urban Design. I did a quick East Coast trip in January to Boston, New York, and DC, where I huddled with a million of my closest friends in the bitter cold to witness Barack Obama's inauguration. In February, I began working as an urban designer at Design, Community & Environment, an urban and environmental planning firm in Berkeley, California."

**Jen Germano:** "I'm finishing up my Ph.D. on the reproductive biology of some of New Zealand's endangered frogs at the end of this year. Still living in New Zealand with my partner, Simon, but might be heading off overseas for a postdoc (maybe back to the Northern Hemisphere, we'll see). Otherwise, keeping busy with fieldwork, backpacking, traveling (was in China and the Cook Islands this year) ... going home to visit my family for Christmas – which will be my first white Christmas since I left Western (never the same in the Southern hemisphere when

Christmas falls in the middle of summer) – so if anyone is near Cleveland at the end of December and wants to catch up, let me know."

**Jessie Kemp:** "Ha ha. I think my news is not the kind you typically announce in the *Bulletin* :) I'm divorced now. Pretty happy about that, but people don't typically know how to react to that news. Otherwise not much has changed with me. Just happier."

**Mike Loeffelman:** "I have moved once again. This time it is to Greenville, North Carolina, and East Carolina University. I have begun work in the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center and am loving every minute of it! This part of the country is definitely new to me and I am still learning about the many facets of country and spiritual music."

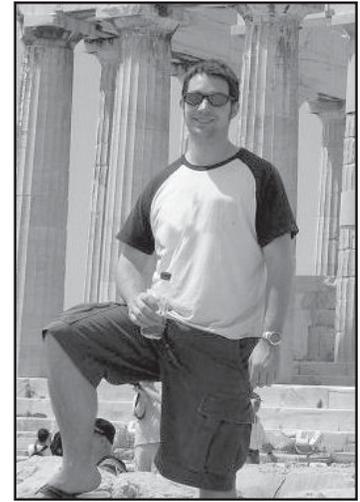
**Joey Gomberg McNamee:** "Greg and I are still living in Salt Lake, and I work for the State of Utah as a policy specialist. I am scheduled to complete my master's degree in December, and I am counting down the days until I have my nights and weekends back. Nothing glamorous, but it keeps me pretty busy."

**Heather Miller:** "I have just recently moved to Seattle to begin a new job. I am working for a Native American nonprofit organization, Potlatch Fund, as our training and technical assistance program coordinator. I am already busy fulfilling our mission of inspiring giving in Northwest Indian Country!"

**Nicole Ortiz:** "I opened Live Well Clinic, the first Integrative Naturopathic Medical Clinic in the Coachella Valley (two hrs east of LA). After Miami I attended medical school at NCNM in Portland and became a primary care naturopathic doctor. My vision was to create a clinic that offers a synergy of healing approaches to help individuals create a lasting balance of their body, mind, and spirit. I am joined here by my husband, and my family, who relocated from the Midwest. For those unfamiliar with naturopathic medicine, it is a blend of centuries-old natural, non-toxic therapies with cutting edge evidence based natural medicine. As a naturopathic doctor I am a primary care physician that focuses on finding the root cause of disease and seeking the most natural treatments first. I feel blessed that my passion is lived each day through work and play. Please visit anytime." [www.livewellclinic.org](http://www.livewellclinic.org)

**Rob Oldenburg:** "Not a whole ton new. Same job, same house, same bar tab :-). I did however, just get back from a week in Greece as well as ride in a 200-mile bike race for charity (lung cancer)."

**Annie McNerney Tate:** "I wish I had some exciting news to report, but I don't! Just working as a school psychologist outside Cincinnati, still married to James."

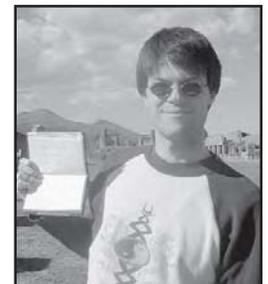


*Rob Oldenburg, in Greece*

**Holly Van Horsten:** "I have some pretty interesting cases that I am working on right now. I am an attorney at a law firm in South Florida. My law firm handles a wide range of litigation, but mainly focuses on championing justice on behalf of the individual. I am the junior associate on a large case against a plastics company. This company put profits above safety, did not follow federal regulations, and exposed its workers to cancerous, toxic fumes. Had the company imposed proper safety methods, one of my clients would have never contracted a serious, life-threatening cancer (and another, now former, client would still be alive). While I'm not sure if that is update material, it is what I've been up to. I've also been dealing with a federal case in Orlando dealing with a sham and malicious peer review of a surgeon."

**Sarah Shook Zinn:** "I'm living in Dayton with my husband (we got married in '06). We have a charming 1900s home here. I recently started a new job as a school-based therapist in an alternative school for kids with emotional disabilities. If anyone is in the area give me a ring." 440-413-1591 or [sarahshook@gmail.com](mailto:sarahshook@gmail.com)

**Quincy Essinger:** "I've been continuing work on a master's in Arts Administration focusing on arts venues and social organizations. While doing this, I have had some exciting positions including teaching college level courses in the humanities and helping coordinate a travel program to Italy earlier this year. If there is something in Assisi, Pisa, Florence, or Rome — I've seen it! A highlight of the trip came when I was able to go to



*Quincy, in Italy*

Pompeii and stand in some of the same places my grandfather stood nearly 65 years ago. I'll also be leading an open entry group to China in early 2011." witherbane@hotmail.com

**Melissa Raftery:** "All is well for me in Deer Isle, Maine. I am still working for a small outdoor products company – Guyot Designs, www.guyotdesigns.com – and now training to become a birth doula!"

And a few new Western babies have joined the world. Baby girl Eden joined **Caroline Bishop's** family in the April, and baby boy Sam joined **Mike Forrester's** family in July.

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### Celebrating 5 years!

The Western Class of 2005 is scattered all over the country, working and studying in fields as far flung as archeology, special education, business, health, media, and just about anything else you can think of. Here are some highlights from the folks that responded to the call for updates:

**Maggie Perrino** and **Jason Harnish** recently returned from a year abroad teaching English in Seoul, South Korea, and seeing the sights of Asia. Over the year they had a wonderful time with their students, hiked the Great Wall, toured Angkor Wat, and crawled through Vietcong tunnels in Ho Chi Minh. Though less exotic, they are very pleased to be back in the Midwest and visiting their friends and families. Jason has taken a position as a college and career counselor at a south-side Chicago charter, and Maggie is making the most of her leisurely unemployed life!

**Erin Woedl** just moved to Colorado Springs a month ago and is a preschool teacher.

**Todd Nadenichek '02** and **Kristen DeLap** are happily new homeowners, purchasing a single-family home in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. It's a bit of a project, but they are enjoying the challenge and Kristen is glad to put her carpentry skills to use. Their first big purchase was 1,000 worms for their vermicompost bin, and they are in the process of building a hen house for what will be their first real pets — chickens! This October would be their second wedding anniversary and they are headed to Texas to celebrate, with the help of **Aus-**

**tin** and **Meghan Kleon**. If you get to Chicago, look them up: kdelap@gmail.com

**Grace Schneider** finished her licensure program at the University of Dayton for Early Childhood Education and Intervention in 2007 and just has a thesis left to complete her master's. She is working as an intervention specialist with students with mild/moderate disabilities in an inner-city school near Dayton, Ohio, and absolutely loves her job! She also got engaged to college sweetheart, Michael Nave, and they are getting married July 17, 2010.

This past summer, **Sophia Turczynewycz Cifuentes** had the amazing opportunity to travel to Trinidad with Earth Expeditions. This 10-day field course allowed her to work with local community conservation groups, informal educators and nature centers. While in Trinidad, she got to tag leatherback sea turtles (largest and most endangered sea turtle), visit the Nariva Swamp, home to the Blue and Gold Macaw, which was extinct from the island of Trinidad in 1960. Upon returning to the States, she widened her zoo responsibilities by volunteering with the Wings of Wonder Bird Show, as well as conducting random animal encounters for zoo visitors. The zoo must have taken notice of her eagerness to work there at all times (day and night) because a few weeks ago, they offered a brand new position! She recently started as an AmeriCorps member for Environmental Sustainability and Education at the Cincinnati Zoo. She works with the new Go Green Garden that promotes becoming more environmentally friendly. Fia also started her first graduate class this semester, so needless to say, she has been busy! Thankfully, a break is coming soon. She and Daniel would be traveling to San Francisco at the end of September!

**Erica Govich** just started her second year of graduate school at Eastern New Mexico University, which has an acclaimed Anthropology and Applied Archaeology master's



*Erica, digging for ancient bison bones in New Mexico*

program, and was able to continue her graduate assistant position working in the museum on campus. Over the summer she participated in ENMU's archaeologi-



*Fia, tagging endangered leatherback sea turtles in Trinidad*

cal field school, where she spent five weeks in the desert digging up 10,000-year-old *bison antiquus* bones (the granddaddy of the modern-day bison). She and her unit-mate discovered the perfectly articulated hind-quarters of a baby bison and were able to successfully excavate and pluck the bones for laboratory analysis. Erica's find was so cool, in fact, that it was featured on the back of the field school t-shirts. Very exciting!

**Lia Silver** is attending Washington University for an M.F.A. in fiction.

**Jess Strange** is starting a master's in public health program for professionals (once a month) at UCLA! She can't wait. Other than that, She is still working her dream job as a clinical health educator at a community health center, speaking Spanish all day. She lives in Oakland and loves it!

To stay in the loop, get on Facebook and join the group called "Western College Program Class of 2005ish."

**Abigail King Kaiser '05**  
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Oakland, CA94612  
agkkaiser@gmail.com



**Shelli Brasseur:** "I am currently serving a year in service to America through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. VISTAs work with a nonprofit or other organization dedicated to fighting poverty. My organization, One Economy Corporation, is a global nonprofit that provides low-income persons with technology hardware, access, and training to build job skills and find career, health, education, money management and other resources online. I am currently working in the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, office and helping with several different projects, including running a youth program for teens

to become technology mentors and tutors in their communities. After I finish my AmeriCorps service in December, I will be applying to graduate school in Library and Information Science at Kent State (a career option I had never even considered until I realized that I was the only one actually having fun researching my senior project ;). North Carolina is great, but I can't wait to get back to Ohio. I miss Miami and Western all the time, and will always remember it fondly. Good luck to everyone in all that you do."

**Andi Bennett:** "I've been living in Germany for some time now, working in a hotel, studying the language, teaching and tutoring English at a language school and applying to grad school. I even spent a bit of time selling berries and asparagus out of a strawberry-shaped fruit stand in different cities. I've spent the summer back in Oxford (home to me), working and spending time with friends and family. In October I start a master's program in Religion, Society and Culture at Leibniz Universität Hannover, in Hannover, Germany. I'm very excited to see what the program is like. It lasts two years, so I'll be over there awhile, so it seems. I don't

know what I wanna do when it's over. Just going to wait and see what I feel like then. That's it in a nutshell. Oh oh oh, my address over there is: Andrea Bennett, 153 Göttinger Chaussee, 30459 Hannover Germany."

**Emily Brown:** Emily will be earning her master's degree in International Development Studies at George Washington University beginning fall 2009. She is eager to hit the books again and give up the 9 to 5 for a short while. Emily is an avid concert attendee and welcomes other Westerners to touch base if they come to Washington, D.C., for a show!

**Denise Cheng:** I recently moved from my beloved Portland, Oregon, to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to take up a position as the citizen journalism coordinator for *The Rapidian*, a hyperlocal, community-generated news site. (Two years later, and my senior project still isn't over!) I hardly have any time to breathe but I am incredibly happy to be counted among the lucky few who love their job. Although working across from the Southern Fish Fry will be my undoing. I am friends with one of Mo's former high school mates, have an awesome roomie bear and get to play everyday with her cat, Spaghetti. A word on Blue Moon ice cream: Unless you love the flavor of chemical blue, don't be fooled by the name.

**Dylan Daney:** "I am living and working in Texas, eating a lot of meat, and engaged in

mates, family, and girlfriend. I'm looking forward to year number 2 as a professional science teacher, and all the opportunities that I will have to fix/improve upon things that I screwed up last year."

**Maureen Harter:** "I am working for Fort Riley Army Base as a Department of Defense Civilian (DOD Civ). I am the assistant director at the Fort Riley Middle School Teen Center and work with youth grades six through 12. Summer kept me pretty busy. I implemented two extreme water sports camps (outdoor recreation) and they were extremely successful. I have a wonderful dog named Bubba who is about 5-6 years old. I am moving to Manhattan, Kansas, and about to start a master's degree (part-time) in Youth Development completely online through Kansas State University. I hosted **Anne Smart** for an evening here as she was making her way to California. I showed her how the good ole country bars are run here in KS and we really had a great time hanging out and seeing each other again. Her dog, Grover, and Bubba definitely got along."

**Randy E. Hirsch:** Legislative Assistant for Congressman Mark Kirk, Washington, D.C.

**Amy Jones:** "I have been working at Borders bookstore as a supervisor for two years and I just started attending graduate school for literature at Wright State University in Dayton, which I am thoroughly enjoying!"

**Thad Kerosky:** thadk is eying the end of his Peace Corps service in December. He's been running around East Africa working magic with available gadgetry, and sharing digital ideas. Early 2010 he plans to be on the West Coast looking at hot tech and ICT4D orgs while dizzied by our nation's gargantuan superstores vs. his simple pad of two years in Tanzania.

**Willi Lempert:** "I have one year left to go in my master's program in anthropology at Denver University. I've been enjoying living out West and have been skiing and checking out all the local sights. After I graduate next summer, I'm planning on doing some backpacking in southeast Asia. Hope everyone is doing well."

**Carl Marsh,** who is too lazy to write his own update, asked Denise to let everyone know he's spending much of his mental capacity at Capital University trying to figure out what to do during the five hours between classes while walking around pantless. He just got licensed as a motorcyclist, gorges on Skyline everyday, and continues to hack away at his juris doctorate.

**Zach Moning:** "I'm one of those weddings! I had me a Miami Merger with my longtime girlfriend, Mandi, in July. I'm working at the State University of New York Press now, living in Delmar, New York, outside of Albany. Our honeymoon was delayed by a kidney stone until September, but we'll be off to visit Ireland soon."

**Shira Moskowitz:** "I'm currently living in the Boston area and am working on finishing my master's in television at Boston University ... one more class and a thesis, yay! I am also the Monk Fellow at the Boston Museum of Science, where I shoot and edit short video segments for The Gordon Current Science & Technology Center and assist technical support on live TV spots."

**Anne Smart:** "After I graduated from grad school at the University of Delaware, I drove across the country with my dog. I had a great time exploring Pittsburgh with Nick, two-stepping in Kansas with Mo, and BBQing in Denver with Willi. I now live in San Jose, California, in a big old house that I inherited from my grandmother. (I have guest rooms. Visit me!!!) I am the Associate Director of Energy and Environmental Programs at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and I basically spend my days convincing representatives from Google, Microsoft, and all the other businesses and green tech companies in this area to support California climate change policies."

**Rachel Stern:** "I'm in my third year of graduate school at Miami University (still!) pur-



*Karen Gotter '09 (left) and Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04 — both of whom now work for the Western Program in Peabody Hall — gave former Western College dean Phyllis Hoyt a warm welcome at Reunion 2009.*

suing my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. I very recently got married to another graduate student in my program ... so far, so good! Also, my name is now Rachel Goldsmith (although I use **Rachel Stern Goldsmith** so that people don't get too confused). Just thought you might want to know that :-)"

**Zoe Streicker-Howard:** Zo got married in April in a lovely, intimate ceremony outside of Chicago. She then scooted off on a European adventure/honeymoon before moving to the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area. Western kids in attendance at the ceremony: **Sarah Reed, Meagan Hubbard and Denise Cheng.**

**Jenn Swing:** "Hello! Jenn Swing here. I just had my last round of radiation therapy today (after 12 consecutive weeks of chemo) for the Hodgkin lymphoma that I was diagnosed with in March. Hopefully, this is the end of my treatment except for regular check-ups. Having beat cancer, I'm now setting out with a renewed purpose in life. Although, I must admit that facing the challenging decisions of a life yet to be lived is more intimidating than the thought of death. There's not much to decide there. But, I guess that says something about me. Don't get me wrong, I'm extremely grateful for this 'second chance.' However, it is a notewor-

thy responsibility to live one's life to one's best ability. Hope this note finds you and all Westerners well!"

**Craig West:** "I got my M.Ed. in May from the University of New Hampshire and am now teaching ninth-grade Writing Workshop and Study Skills at Noble High School in North Berwick, Maine. On June 13, I got married to Sarah Stitzlein, a former Miami professor and graduate. We live in New Hampshire with our dog, Chief, and our cat, Molly, who likes to jump out of windows. **Willi Lempert, Nick Delphia, Gaya Guhanarayan,** and **Andi Bennett** were all in the wedding."

**Denise Cheng '07**  
**640 Hawthorne St. NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
**denise.f.cheng@gmail.com**



The Class of 2009, only off Western campus for three months, are up to great mischief, travels and work. However, it seems all are missing Peabody, our classmates and the "magic" of Senior Seminar.

If proximity has anything to do with our longing for the Western community, then **Garret Koehler** and **Sara Wenger** are definitely pining. Currently, Garret is "wandering around Latin America, doing some volunteering, studying, and trying to master Spanish," while Sara is training to teach English in Ukraine with the Peace Corps.

Some of us didn't get our fill of writing and reading copious amounts and decided to head off to graduate school. **Jan Shanklin** is studying law at Georgetown, in Washington, D.C.; **Rosie Landau** is at Vanderbilt getting her master's in Severe Disabilities and Special Ed teacher's licensure; and **Amy Humphrey** is at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Some of us have managed to find work, against all odds. **Sean Manion** is interning in Chicago and using free weeks to freelance at Dyson. Playing the jack-of-all-trades, **Keri Agriesti** is helping out her parents, while preparing for her spring semester internship with a coastal conservation and activist group in Puerto Rico.

Recently relocated to the big apple, **Marisa Rendina** is working for the New York City Museum Educators Roundtable (NYCMER), an organization that regulates all the museums in the city.

**Mikey Warden** is using his creative genius as an electrician's apprentice for the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Orlando, Florida.

Keeping up his rebellious demeanor, **Christopher Feran** is "staging Coffee Parties in protest of the Teabaggers protest movement — as tea consumption has fallen every year since 2002 in the UK," in addition to protecting the country once more, this time against microbes "working part-time as a contractor for a vaccine clinic in Cleveland."

However, there is one person who isn't missing Peabody because she's still there! Currently working for Western, **Karen Gotter** is keeping the spirit alive by organizing community events, sharing stories and creating legends.

As for me, I'm surviving the monsoon season in Atlanta, Georgia, while working on my master's in Public Health at Emory University. And because school work isn't enough to keep me busy, I'm writing international water aid policy with CARE, an international humanitarian organization.

I know almost everyday I am reminded of something I did while at Western, applying many of the lessons learned there to my "adult" life (and I use that word loosely), but I can't help to imagine what great things will come next. Till then ...

**Alison Kernohan '09**  
**481 Lullaby Circle**  
**Amherst, OH 44001**  
**kernohar@muohio.edu**

**August**



**Convocation Picnic — Alumnae Green**

**October**



**Charity Concert — Western Drive**

**Monthly**



**Thursday Tea — Peabody Parlor**

# From the Archives

*Jacky Johnson, WCMA archivist since 2005, is now part-time; other duties will require her to work in King Library in the Technical Services Department, cataloguing books for Special Collections. She is available in Archives Monday-Friday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. We fully expect her to work twice as hard in half the time. To contact Jacky: johnsoj@muohio.edu or 513-529-9695. Here is her report on recent activities:*

As co-organizer of the Freedom Summer 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Conference, I would also like to thank you for your support of the Conference, Curriculum Workshop, Teachers Workshop and Digitization Project. Since January of 2009, I have been working non-stop on the Freedom Summer Project. During the summer, Ohio teachers participated in a workshop at Miami to develop curriculum guides and study plans on Freedom Summer. The 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Conference was held October 9-11, with many Western College alumnae, friends and board members attending.



Thanks to a grant awarded the Miami University Libraries from the Ohio Humanitarian Council, the Mississippi Freedom Summer Digital Collection is now online: <http://digital.lib.muohio.edu/fs/>

Another special project recently completed was the reclamation of a painting by Susan Peabody, called "The Letter Writer" and believed to be a portrait of her brother, Henry. The restored painting was unveiled during the October Western tea at Peabody, where it will be hung.



Western Program Academic Advisor Kim Ernsting (left) with WCAA trustees Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74 and Pheeta Wilkinson '76 at the unveiling of the Susan Peabody painting

The Archives Month Lecture, Friday, October 30, at King Library was given by Dr. Rodney Coates, Professor of Sociology & Black World Studies, who spoke on the Abolition Movement in Ohio.

In connection with Women's History Month, a panel presentation will feature three Western College alumnae — **Robin Bartlett '69**, **Ardis Cameron '70** and **Lolita McDavid '69** — speaking on the topic, "The Impact of the Women's College Experience on My Professional Life." March 30 at 3 p.m. in Peabody Hall.

## Nota Bene

### Wong Leads Professorship Campaign

**Doris Ning Wong '62** has been named by the Trustees to lead their Campaign for the Western College Endowed Professorship. Begun at the 2009 Reunion, it will continue until 2014, allowing every alumna to honor a favorite professor with a gift toward this important legacy. (This project is above and beyond our Annual Fund, for which we need continuing support!) You will be hearing more about the Professorship Campaign in the coming year, so STAY TUNED!



Doris

PROGRESS REPORT: \$ GOAL = \$400,000/received = \$35,452 (8.9%); # GOAL = 2,404/received = 158 (6.6%)

### Clubs Meet, Plan Holiday Events



Loyal Detroit Club members (l. to r.) Lucy Liggett '54, Char Klein Varzi '57, Loretta Ryder '63, Ellen Siddall Zimmerman '48, Alice Crabb Brandon '48 and Ann Walton '66 went to the opera in October.

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

**Indianapolis** December 5, Holiday Gathering

**Dayton** December 16, Holiday Luncheon at Dayton Country Club

## Send your news for the Spring '10 Bulletin NOW!

**E-mail, or clip and mail the form below to your Class Rep. Deadline: December 31.**

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johanner@gmail.com

John Blair '96  
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Kjirsten Frank '98  
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kcf4489@hotmail.com

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Cincinnati, OH 45209  
katiekatie@hotmail.com

Marta Roberts Lawrence '02  
8376 Glen Highlands Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46236  
martaroberts@gmail.com

Eric Fox '04  
391 Broadway #505  
Somerville, MA 02145  
ericmfox@hotmail.com

Robyn MacConnell '06  
5627 Miles Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94618  
robyn.s.mac@gmail.com

Pulkit Datta '08  
325 S. Patterson Ave.  
Oxford, OH 45036  
pulkitdatta86@gmail.com

**Dear Class Rep:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your full name and class year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number and e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Gift Shop

Gifts for all occasions ... these are just a select few of the many 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: Patterson Place Ornament**  
Not Pictured - **Item 02: Alumnae Hall, 03: Western Stone Bridge, 04: Peabody Hall, 05: McKee Hall, 06: Kumlner Chapel or 07: Western Lodge Tree Ornament** Wood, designed and hand-painted by the Barker family of Oxford **\$6 each**



**Item 08: Coffee Mug** - 11 oz. ceramic, white with royal Western College seal **\$5**



**Item 09: Hooded Sweatshirt** - Champion cotton max pullover with navy lined hood: Size: SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL **\$32**



**Item 10: Vest** - Microfleece full zip, royal blue with black accent tipping and white embroidered Western College seal: Size: XS, SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL **\$35**



**Item 12: Slide Flash Drive** - 2 GB, includes keychain **\$20**



**Item 11: Infant T-shirt** - 100% ringspun cotton, heather grey, royal imprint: Size: 6mos, 12mos, 18mos, 24mos **\$10**



**Item 13: Chenille Blanket** - Custom embroidered, royal blue, large 62" x 48", super soft and warm **\$18**



**Item 14: Sweatpants** - Fleece, open bottom, navy: Size: SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL **\$26**



**Item 15: Long Sleeve T-shirt** - Gildan, ultra cotton, white with navy imprint: Size SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL **\$15**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

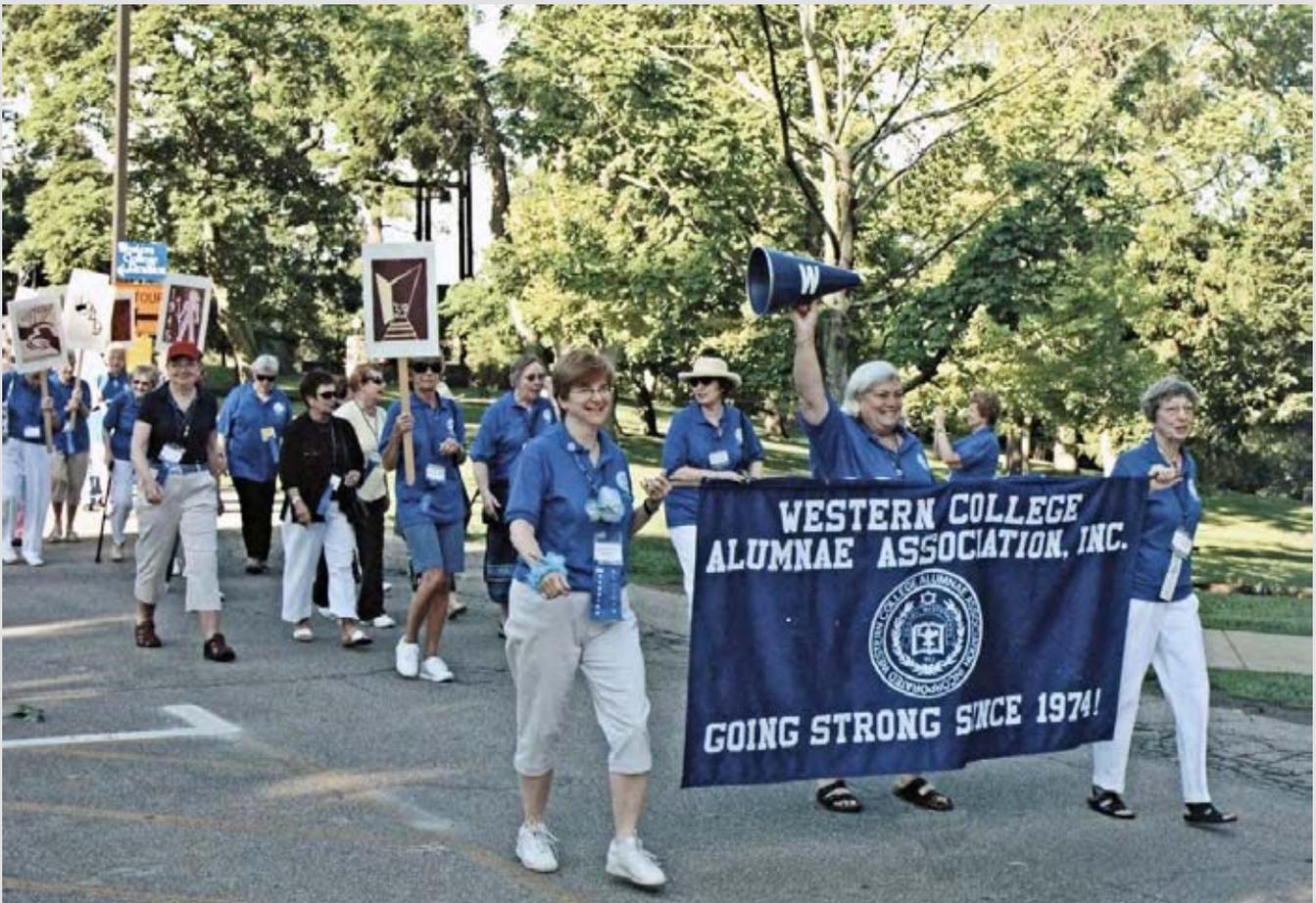
Please make checks payable to: Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.  
325 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 45056  
Phone: (513) 529-4400 Fax: (513) 529-7400 E-mail: [wcaa@muohio.edu](mailto:wcaa@muohio.edu)

Qty	Item No.	Description	Size	Color	Cost	Total

Shipping charges:  
Up to \$14.99 add \$3.00  
\$15 to \$19.99 add \$5.00  
\$20 to \$49.99 add \$6.00  
\$50 to \$99.99 add \$8.00  
\$100 to \$149.99 add \$10.00  
\$150 and up add \$12.00

Sub-total \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

## The Beat Goes On, from Reunion '09 . . .



. . . through Reunion '10, June 18-20!  
All Western, All Classes  
with a Special Invitation to All Class Reps!