



Phyllis Hoyt, 1918-2011

From the WCAA Director

Hello from Western! What a delight it is to be on the Western Campus in the midst of holiday festivities. We just finished a holiday tea at Patterson Place with several students from the new Western Program, some of them WCAA Scholarship recipients. Professor Don Auble and his wife, Carolyn, came to talk to the students and give them an idea of what Western was like during Professor Auble's tenure. The more the students interacted, the more we realized how much has changed with the passing of time. And yet, the Spirit of Western is most certainly still alive and thriving ... in these students, and in YOU!

The holidays serve as a reminder for all of us at Patterson Place of the many blessings we experience being part of the Western family. Getting to arrive at work every morning to the beauty of the Western Campus hardly seems like work at all! Then we get to meet students who are so very thankful for the scholarships the WCAA has provided them. These students often tell us that without these scholarships, their dreams of attending college would never have been realized. And finally, and most definitely our favorite part of all of this, is getting to know all of you! I was fortunate to meet many alumnae and friends at this past year's Reunion Weekend, and others of you I have met attending regional club events. What a passionate group! It has been a great joy to hear your stories of Western, and it is an honor you allow me to share in them.

We have so much to be thankful for this year. We are SO close to seeing a Western College Endowed Professor. We had a wonderful Reunion Weekend filled with reconnections and showcasing of incredible talent. We have a devoted and diligent Board of Trustees that cares deeply about the Spirit of Western and carrying on the legacy of Western. All of this happened because of all of you.

In short, I am very fortunate to be serving in this capacity as Interim Director of the Western College Alumnae Association. And for that I say THANK YOU! Thank you for all YOU do to make the WCAA so great.



*Mackenzie Becker Rice
Interim Director, WCAA*

In the Spirit of Western,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mackenzie' followed by a stylized flourish.

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Mission of the Association:

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

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On the cover:

Thanks to Deborah Hoyt, who contributed this professional portrait of her Aunt Phyllis and several of the photographs on the inside pages of our tribute.

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What's on Your Mind?

Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh, Class of '51, did not heed the request to keep her 2011 Reunion banquet toast "short." Seniority has its privileges, after all. Perhaps it's fitting and proper to make an exception for the 60-year anniversary class. At any rate, the June audience listened to every word and begged to have it available in print, so here by popular demand is Ruth's "Welcome to the 60th reunion of the class of 1951."

Ladies, put yourselves back in college at the beginning of the '50s. The Korean War was being fought in a distant land. MacArthur was removed from his command. The comic strip "Peanuts" was first published. *Cinderella*, *All About Eve*, *The Greatest Show on Earth* and *Father of the Bride* were popular movies. "The Tennessee Waltz" was a favorite song on the radio. *The King and I* opened on Broadway.

There were many things going on out in the big wide world, while we enjoyed the best of times in the glorious setting that Western College provided.

Think back to the beauty of the campus that we enjoyed each day. The most popular spot on Western's campus was the Lodge — you could get snacks, play cards, dance. It was the place to get something to eat if you did not enjoy dining hall food.

The Western pond was a good place to hang out and watch the ducks when the weather was pretty — although it was awfully lonely when it froze. One winter the pond *looked* frozen but that didn't stop one young man from trying to tell his date to come on, that it *was* frozen — it wasn't. It was a cold walk back to Miami and by the time he got to his house, he looked like an ice sculpture!

Remember the bicycles that everyone rode? The only other ways to get around were by foot or bus. We all walked everywhere, rain, snow or shine! A rare treat was a picnic in the Beech Woods, complete with hotdogs and hamburgers.

Think back to campus as you remember it.

Kumler Chapel was the place where we all spent lots of time together. We had to go to Chapel every day at noon — we could miss four Sundays per semester. It was also the site of important events. Often in the chapel there was a speaker at lunchtime. One time a lady who owned a lingerie factory came to speak about how she became successful. The closing hymn was "How Firm a Foundation." The class of 1951 laughed so long that Miss Hoyt shushed them.



Ruth Rhodenbaugh '51

On move-in day, McKee was the most popular dorm. The rooms were pretty well furnished. Clawson, the new dorm, did not have doors for the rooms at first — it took some getting used to! The plumbing was not quite right at first: When they flushed toilets, girls would have to yell to those taking showers to keep them from getting scalded! Peabody, with its four floors, challenged the girls who lived on upper floors without benefit of elevators.

We all enjoyed the dances on campus, held in Clawson. Sophomore year the Winter Formal was held on December 4th. Each girl had a dance card and the men had to sign up for each dance number. The Chess Whales Orchestra played from 9 to 12.

If you lived in Clawson — it was new and so nice — but they could not charge extra, so instead they had girls sign up for work there — serving lunches, serving dinners, and sitting bells. No one minded because the Miami boys who worked in the kitchen were attractive.

Graduation was in Presser Hall. Happy girls turned into crying girls when it came time to leave campus.

Not all our time was spent on campus. There were favorite spots to go to uptown. We would go to the Purity (but there was no drinking!), to Mac and Joe's, or to the corner of Spring and High to get cherry pie. We went to Tuffy's on the corner of Tallawanda and High Street for toasted rolls.

We would go to the theater to see the movies of the week. Often some wiseguy would set off an alarm clock in the middle of the show!

The girls of Western formed a close-knit community. On Friday nights you could not stay out too late. Girls who did not have plans and stayed in would have "sparkle night," doing their hair and their nails.

At the end of the hallway, there was a room set aside where girls who wanted a snack after hours could fix tea and smoke and do ironing.

We grew while at Western and learned valuable lessons. Western required us to pass a swimming test before graduation. It was said a few girls would be wearing swim caps under their mortar boards! When the President had the annual tea party, Miss Caine helped us learn to write a "proper" reply. Miss Hoyt helped many girls deal with sadness and provided lots of encouragement. We had our housemoth-

ers in dorms to keep watch over us. Looking back, I can see that they were not much older than the girls.

Western girls watched out for each other and knew whom they were dating. One year, girls kept seeing a boy they thought was dating Jeannie with another girl. They were worried for her and thought she should be told. She just laughed about it and revealed that her boyfriend was a twin and that it was the twin's girlfriend they were seeing!

We had our honor code to guide us. It encouraged us to report infractions, even on ourselves, and then we would be judged by a group of girls who were the judiciary committee. The honor system was a good thing because it kept all of us on the straight and narrow.

We had fun while we were here at Western College. Think of yourself while you were here — we all wore saddle shoes, pleated skirts, and peter pan collars. We rarely wore blue jeans.

In our senior year we could request the dorm keys so we could come and go as we pleased — but only for one night for that year. We could stay out as late as we wanted and we really looked forward to it — but uptown Oxford closed at 10 and there was no place else to go ... unless you had a fellow with a car. If it rained, it was even worse! Nothing ever really lives up to the hype!

There were several weeks that aviators kept flying over campus — they made lots of noise around Peabody because they were looking at the girls on top of Peabody's porch roof who were sunbathing. Girls could climb out the windows onto the flat roof and catch some sun — and the eyes of the aviators!

We always looked forward to the Howl — a weekend away from classes.

The boys at Miami featured prominently in the lives of the Western girls. Fraternities used to have their members serenade us. They wanted to look good and if there were boys who couldn't sing, they were told to mouth it. There was excitement when a friend got pinned.

Washing was not a weekly job at Western because there were no washers or dryers, unless you went uptown. Everyone mailed laundry home in silver or brown metal boxes. Once a week you would send your laundry home — it only cost a couple of dollars — you would get back a box of clean clothes to unpack and you'd be done!

There were pranks. Someone put a smoke bomb in Miss James's car — she was quite upset but no one ever owned up to it. Several snuck in to sleep in Miss Peabody's bed — and no one has ever squealed!

The class of 1951 was known as the singing group because we sang all the time, to the point we annoyed some college mates. The songs we loved to sing came from our songbook; we especially liked "All for One," "Western Blue," and "You Don't Know Nothin' Yet."

There was a swim club. The Dolphins members were good because they trained in a very short pool. It was such a small space that they were very good at turns. They won a lot of races and said they owed it all to their training space.

All in all, we enjoyed a very special place and time. We were happy, safe and sound in our campus home. We enjoyed our friends, our classes and our community.

Small is beautiful, too. Karen Dollinger '90, MU Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, posted this comment on the Western Program Listserv in August and was happy to share it with us.

What made Western so magical for me — *Living learning community/interdisciplinary studies*. I loved the interrelatedness of subjects, the opportunity to be creative, the fact that learning didn't end when we left the classroom, the wide-ranging discussions with other students and professors.

History of Western College. I was fascinated by the sense of history I felt living on Western Campus. I felt a connection with the former Western College for Women, and was honored to be allowed to be part of it. It was also fun to be living on the most haunted campus of the most haunted university in Ohio.

The beauty of Western. Peabody Hall, Kumler Chapel, the bay windows of McKee, the stone bridges, the trees, the Art Museum, the brook, the pond — the physical setting of Western was (and still is) breathtaking.

And, of course, *Nancy Nicholson's science fiction tangents*. ;-) This semester I get to teach a science fiction course in Spanish; maybe I'll get a chance to emulate her.



Karen Dollinger '90

We Remember Dean Phyllis Hoyt ...

Western College alumnae from 1946 to 1974 knew, loved and revered Phyllis Hoyt. For us, she personified the "spirit of Western" that we all lay claim to. As the sad news of her death on May 26 was received, tributes began coming in. Miami University President David Hodge offered this condolence, e-mailed to alumnae in early June and distributed to those in attendance at Reunion, June 17-19.



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Dear Western College Alumnae,

For the second time in just over a month the communities of Miami University, Western College and Oxford, Ohio, have been saddened by the profound loss of a legend. Phyllis Hoyt, whose devoted career at the Western College for Women spanned 28 years, died May 26, 2011, in Peterborough, N.H.

Her passing joins with the loss of President Emeritus Phillip R. Shriver a month earlier.

While our community has certainly lost another icon, I know that for members of the Western College family the loss is much more personal. Her memory is preserved in Hoyt Library, named in her honor in 1974; in her moving Western Campus memoir, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*; and in the scholarship fund that bears her name. But her legacy truly lives on in the countless lives she touched as an educator, Dean and advocate of student affairs.

Her contributions are perhaps best captured by the inscribed plaque in the vestibule of Hoyt Hall: "In honor of Phyllis Hoyt, Dean and Vice President for Student Affairs, Counselor, Teacher, and Friend for seven generations of students from 1946-1974, she embodies the spirit of all that was the Western College (1853-1974)."

Ms. Hoyt's life will be celebrated with a candlelight service, Saturday, June 18, during the annual Western Reunion on Western Campus.

On behalf of the Miami University family, I extend my deepest sympathy with the news of this great loss. Ms. Hoyt will forever remain a vibrant part of your memories and our community's rich history.

Sincerely,

David C. Hodge
President, Miami University

... the essence of Western College is hard to catch. It cannot be bought. It cannot be sold. It cannot be captured. It cannot be mimicked. It is too spirited, too lively too full of zest for that. Think of it carried comfortably by each of you wherever you may be around the world, next September or 50 years from now. As faculty and students go forth to learn and teach in as many as 300 other colleges, Western College goes with them. Our limits are the limits of our lives and the lives we touch from now on.

— Phyllis Hoyt, at the dedication of Hoyt Library, March 9, 1974

After the closing of the college and the incorporation of the Alumnae Association, Phyllis extended the bond. From the beginning, she advised WCAA staff on protocol relating to traditions and former faculty, attended reunions — with Gail James, until the year after Gail's death in September 2003, when she gathered a few friends to scatter Gail's ashes in the woods behind the Lodge — and spoke at Chapel in 1974 and 1978. She edited a Bulletin column, "News from Colleagues," for several years in the late '80s. In 1997, she became the first non-alum to receive the WCAA's Alumnae Service Award. Ultimately, she dedicated her memoir to "the Alumnae of Western College, Oxford, Ohio" and asked that proceeds from sales help create a scholarship. In 2002, the Board of Trustees established the Phyllis Hoyt Peabody Scholarship Endowment Fund, stipulating that all reunion gifts go toward the fund. Many of the tributes excerpted here quoted her words above, written about the college. The same words apply to its long-time dean of students.

On June 10, the Hoyt family held a memorial service in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Janet Dickerson, Elizabeth Harrison, Mary Obuchowski and Anne Weissenborn spoke to the congregation, which included other Western alumnae.

Janet Smith Dickerson '65:

Dean Hoyt was the embodiment of grace, dignity, wisdom and compassion. She was the iconic Dean: "Urging us to balance freedom with responsibility; helping us to prepare for independence and modernity, recognizing the changing roles of women in families and in the professions; and, as dean of students, handling her dichotomous roles with dexterity and judiciousness, meting out discipline... and tenderness ... with equal measure.

I will always remember my first meeting with Dean Hoyt: I came from a small rural community in South Carolina (Denmark, SC) and in choosing to attend Western College I thought I was traveling North, leaving the segregated South behind. (Only later did I realize that Southern Ohio isn't "north"!)

My family and I — two parents, my younger brother and sister — had driven for over 20 hours without stopping to rest because frankly, in those days, we were uncertain about how, as African Americans, we might be treated. On that warm September afternoon in 1961 when we finally arrived in Oxford, I climbed the steps of Peabody Hall and entered Dean Hoyt's office to introduce myself and to get a recommendation for a motel where my family might spend the night. I was obviously weary and uncertain. She and her assistant, Mrs. Carrie Cheeks Morgan, were most hospitable and kind, perceiving immediately that we had a special need. Dean Hoyt arranged for us to be housed in the Home Economics Cottage, which as I recall was also the Infirmary.

... Dean Hoyt was cognizant of the needs of all the students at Western, and what a diverse group we were! As I recall, there were only about 450 students in attendance, and we represented most of the States as well as 68 different coun-

tries! The Western women came from all walks of life; some were princesses and future queens; many came from families of privilege; others, like me, arrived with our inherited family trunks and little else but intellect, ambition and dreams. She listened to us carefully — often while knitting, as I recall; she reprimanded us as necessary when we failed to follow parietal rules (in those days we had to be our dorms by 10:15 pm!), and even when she had to admonish us she acknowledged and advocated for us.



In the Dean's office, 1961

... Because of her modeling the role, I followed in her footsteps and became a dean and vice president for student affairs. In fact, I retired from serving as Princeton University's first Vice President for Campus Life last summer. I attended Princeton's Commencement exercises two weeks ago, because I had promised a few students that I would return to witness their graduation. I especially wanted to find a young man whose mother and aunt had traveled from Madagascar to see Princeton for the first time, and to see him graduate. When he introduced me to his mother, the student said "Mom, this is Dean Dickerson. She knew me by name." I was very touched. In reflecting on what I might say about Dean Hoyt, I thought of his words. She knew me by name. She knew all of us by name. I thank you for sharing her with us; we will always cherish her memory.

Elizabeth “Brooksie” Jacobs Harrison ’65:

I was very blessed to find her nearby when I moved here [Vermont] and it took me a few years to go see her but we did become friends vs. the distance of Dean/Student. I learned so much from her and she was a great loss in my life when she died.

She supported me during very rough times, she was always focused on the total person and our growth. She was protective, but always strong in her standards. She taught that the number 1 is a whole number. I reconnected with Phyllis at our 40th reunion of the class of ’65. Finding that she lived at Rivermead in Peterborough, less than two hours from our home in West Townshend, Vermont, my husband and I began making regular trips to see her. We would have Sunday dinner and visit for a few hours afterwards. There were long talks of politics, world peace, justice. Whenever I asked her how she was feeling, her response was always “just fine.” I talked to her the Monday before she died in preparation for a visit the following Sunday. She had moved a month prior to assisted living and was on oxygen. As always, I asked her how she was and her answer was the same, “just fine.”

She was a woman of worldly knowledge who knew how to take the blossoming, struggling young woman and help her feel protected while she grew and tried on life for size as a whole person. She was magnificent and one of the “quiet miracles” in our midst and way ahead of her time as she helped each of us reach beyond ourselves. She understood the generational differences and gave us “Steel Magnolia” strength to search for our truth as individuals and value ourselves as we fought the forces around us to conform to values that no longer made sense. Western College women who knew her were blessed.

Mary DeJong Obuchowski ’61:

How can a person sum up a relationship of over half a lifetime that is still growing? I remember my first encounter with Dean Hoyt, when I was a freshman who had just arrived at Western College. As she came in, everyone stood (we had been coached by upperclassmen), and there she was, a tiny auburn-haired woman with an immense aura of authority. And she knew all of our names!

Because she was the college disciplinarian, she scared many of us. Even though we became ever closer friends over the years, it was not until I worked with her on her memoir, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*, that I realized what an advocate she had been for students. I already knew that she loved us.

She enjoyed telling stories. A favorite one was about Sarah el Mahdi, class of 1962, who was the granddaughter of the Mahdi, the most important religious leader in Sudan:

Sarah had acute appendicitis and urgently needed surgery. The only surgeon available was male. Phyllis tried to contact her family, because no man could touch Sarah’s body without permission from them. Finally, when they couldn’t wait any longer, Phyllis gave the permission, herself. Afterward, she confessed this to Sarah, who said, “Family is love, and you love me, so you are family.”

I remember a toast that Phyllis gave to what she called “the Unforgotten Classes of 1975, 1976, and 1977,” the classes that could not graduate after Western closed in 1974. She said that she had written to the students when the news came in the summer of 1973, and most of the students did actually return for Western’s final year. Phyllis said to them in that toast in 1996, “You were the *raison d’être* for the faculty and staff of Western College during what was for us, and for you, a difficult and yet exciting year. As undergraduates you gave us hope, you made us glad, and most of all, you made us proud.” Who could not be proud of that?

She saw the best in us, and drew it out of us, at least in part because of her grace in speaking and writing. I was one of those who urged her to write about her years at Western, and I was also privileged to help with the editing of that memoir. She fussed about my fussing about commas. More important, all of her editors encouraged her to include more, more, more of her experiences, and she did.



Book signing, Reunion 2001

One of the things I cherish most is her laugh, that infectious giggle, and the sparkle that went with it, especially when she told stories on Gail, or on herself. In her book, she recalled that “the Asian students were preparing different dishes for an Asian dinner. All of them included rice on the menu, but they could not agree on how to cook it.” An argument arose, and Gail saved the day by suggesting “that they substitute Minute Rice. The disgust of the Asian students for that product united them ... and the Minute Rice was cooked.”

She admitted that “the role of a dean is a tricky one,” but she tried always to be fair. Phyllis was the essence of Western for me: honest, always learning, wise, compassionate, and the embodiment of shared values and absolute integrity. Hers was the measure I set for myself. She will continue to be that for me. And she will come to mind whenever the peonies bloom.

Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61:

I knew Phyllis Hoyt for 54 years! Goodness — how fortunate can one be?! The beginning of our relationship was that of a college administrator and one of her students, starting when I arrived as a freshman at Western in 1957. Later we were colleagues when I returned to Western for a two-year stint as an instructor and as the head resident of one of the dorms. During both of my periods on campus, Phyllis was dean of students, a post she held until the college closed in 1974. As you know, this meant that she was in charge of all aspects of college life outside the classroom. From the beginning, I was in awe of Dean Hoyt, Miss Hoyt — Phyllis. That feeling never subsided, although I became somewhat less self-conscious around her as the years went by. (Note the “somewhat.”) She treated me as an equal long before I felt even close to being one. ... Later I realized that we were truly friends — it took a while!

What a role model Phyllis was! First of all, she simply never stopped being intellectually curious, which led to much reading, and she would pass along the names of authors and the titles of books that interested or helped her. For example, last October she urged me to read Tony Judt’s new history of post-World War II Europe, which I bought for my husband for Christmas. And, during that same visit in New Hampshire, we went to lunch at the wonderful bookstore in Peterborough because, as she had told me earlier, she had recently seen references to Herodotus, the 5th Century B.C. Greek historian, in articles she had been reading. She wanted to buy his collected writings. Later she reported that he “is funny.” I loved that!

Phyllis was also very wise. I think that was a lifelong trait, not age-related. Her wisdom was certainly evident fifty years ago when I served as president of the Western College Government Association, and thus was privileged to be able to meet with her at least once a week to discuss issues that were coming up on campus. Her antenna picked up much more than the students realized, and she had an amazing ability to see beneath the surface to psychological needs of both individuals and groups. ...

Phyllis greatly cherished Western traditions, including the honor system, but she was also very much a person of the present. In other words, she could adapt to changing social environments, in some ways much more readily than many of the students and, especially, the Western alumnae. By 1969, we all found ourselves in the midst of the cultural revolution then sweeping so many campuses. Western was probably affected less than many schools because our students already had considerable say in the governance of their lives; however, the new ethos made the honor system largely unworkable, at least on the social side. Phyllis, while probably disappointed, was quickly ready to adopt new approach-



With Anne Weissenborn, leading discussion of her memoir, at Reunion 2009

es to rule making and rule enforcement that reflected changing times but that still could teach personal responsibility and inspire personal growth in the students.

Phyllis was a very outspoken advocate of women’s education throughout her career; that was an important part of her relationship with the Western College Alumnae Association before and after the demise of the college itself. She also loved the international orientation of the college beginning in the mid-1950s, which ... brought to campus a high percentage of students from many other countries. Another very important part of her commitment to bridging what divides people was her concern about the racial situation in this country. At Western, racial diversity began, albeit slowly, to be better represented in the student body after the first African-American student was admitted in 1954. Over the next two decades, Phyllis was especially aware of the need to listen to and learn from this growing group of students, although it took time for some of them to feel able to discuss with her the negative attitudes of some of the white students on campus, especially during the early years of integration.

Finally, I come to what I know ... was one of the most moving experiences of her life. During the early summer of 1964, she was the administrator on campus during the training program for what became known as Freedom Summer. Freedom Summer was the voter registration and freedom school project that the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee or SNCC undertook in Mississippi, using volunteers recruited from campuses all over the country.

... In the fall of 2009, Miami University hosted in Oxford a reunion of the Freedom Summer volunteers on the 45th anniversary of the project. Among the volunteers who returned to the Western campus was Rita Schwerner, Michael Schwerner’s widow, who had been waiting with the others to leave for Mississippi when word came of her husband’s disappearance. Phyllis was invited to speak both at the reunion’s opening dinner and at the closing brunch. At the brunch she was given a standing ovation. Here are the words she directed to the returning volunteers at the dinner. Try to hear her voice and her passion:



Phyllis addressed a rapt audience — including MU President David Hodge (photo above, far right) and his wife, MU Ambassador Valerie Hodge (far left) — at the Freedom Summer reunion in 2009 with these words:

“It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the Oxford campus. It is also a great joy for me. Students were my life and I was here all the time you were. I stood by the bus that summer night and watched you go to Mississippi. The emotions of that moment are still vivid for me and the pleasure of seeing you again is overwhelming. ...

“My invitation asked me to share a few thoughts and I am pleased to do so. As a bit of background that you may not have known at the time, Western College for Women (as it was called then) was a private, nondenominational Liberal Arts four year college for Women. It was stated in the catalogue that it was a Christian college. The faculty, students and alumnae had spent many hours debating and joking about what that meant in our daily lives. Then one day, the President of Western had a telephone call from a friend of his who said that [a] group called SNCC was looking for a place to hold training for volunteers to go to MISSISSIPPI to register people to vote. He knew that we held summer conferences on campus. The Western president called his senior officers together with a representative of the National Council of Churches and they told us what they knew, which was very little, and asked us what we thought about the use of our campus for such a program. Some one of us said it is stated in the catalogue that we are a Christian college. Let’s do it. It was unanimous.

“I wrote an article for the Western students and alumnae in defense of the training and the mission and told of your great courage. The National Council of Churches circulated that article and as a result I had many letters. Most of those addressed to me were supportive. The hate-

ful ones were destroyed by a clerk. Although I did not go to Mississippi, I felt a deep involvement in all that was being said and felt by those around me.

“My office was on the main corridor of Peabody Hall and I could hear bits of the lectures and for some I moved closer to hear fully. Then I watched in wonderment as you took off your earrings, your sandals, your belts, cut your hair, changed into tighter clothing, attacked each other and assumed the fetal position as you fell. I saw you as you walked on campus alone or with a friend or two, heads bowed pondering the persistent question, shall I go? Shall I stay? What will happen to me if I go? What will happen to me if I stay? I have never ceased to talk about that summer. For me, witnessing your courage and your commitment was the experience of a lifetime. I saw belief become commitment and then action. Not just random action, but concerted, well-designed action with a purpose. Your commitment became a model for most of the movements for social justice that followed. How many times in the last 45 years have you been asked, was it worth it? Did it accomplish anything? You must have answered, ‘We were a force in the process of cultural change.’ That’s powerful stuff.

“The last night I joined hands with you in a circle outside of Clawson Hall singing ‘We Shall Overcome Someday.’ By that time most of you knew what had happened to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. *But you went. As I stood by the bus and watched each one of you board it, I knew at that moment our lives had changed forever. You are my heroes.*”

Saturday night, June 18, during Reunion 2011, Western alumnae and friends from Miami University and the Oxford community attended the Candlelight Service in Remembrance of Phyllis Hoyt, at which Mary and Anne reprised their tributes and others were read.

Fran Claggett '51, FF:

It's 1947 and I, an entering freshman, have just found my room in McKee Hall. It is on the first floor, next to the two-room suite of our housemother, the Assistant Dean, Phyllis Hoyt. I realized instantly that I was going to be under constant surveillance, and so the pattern was set. All of us in McKee Hall that year recognized Phyllis Hoyt's authority, gently applied, but to be respected nonetheless. Little did we know how pervasive that authority was to become as Miss Hoyt became Dean Hoyt and began her distinguished career at Western. Little did I know that she and I would eventually become close friends, but not until much later.

My memories of Phyllis during my student days at Western were transformed when I returned to Western to teach for four years. Suddenly, my erstwhile professors were col-



Recruiting her first niece, 1950

leagues, and I had to train myself to call them by their first names, as requested: Elizabeth (Schneider), Mary Etta (Knapp), Aunt Julia (Rothermel), Gail (James), and, Phyllis. Gail James was the reason I had been recruited to return to Western to teach (biology and physical education, as this was before my career-changing dedication to teaching English) so it was natural that I spent a fair amount of time with Gail and Phyllis. During those four years, I discovered Phyllis's marvelously sly sense of humor, which she had concealed from her charges in McKee. More importantly, during those years, I also discovered her passion for justice and her commitment to Western College, evidenced in so many ways over the years and certainly central to our view of her in her beautiful memoir, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*.

It wasn't until many years later, after a correspondence that while not prolific was continual, that Phyllis drew upon my experience in teaching writing to begin working on her family history. I always felt honored to be, at last, a real colleague, engaged in a common task.

The most important aspect for me of my friendship with both Gail and Phyllis, however, came when my partner Madge

Holland and I visited them in New Hampshire. There we were welcomed like family and I was gratified that there was no longer any question of Phyllis's acceptance of our partnership. And when Gail and Phyllis joined us in becoming "dog people," we knew our friendship was set. Pictures of our Afghan Hounds found their way from California to New Hampshire and, according to Phyllis, were always within sight.

How we would have loved to have had her come to our 50th anniversary gathering last year. I am going to miss her quirky smile and wonderful letters.

Loretta Ryder '63:

What an honor it was to be asked to sing at Dean Hoyt's memorial service. As I awaited my turn, listening to Anne Weissenborn's remembrance, a lone firefly meandered into the front of the chapel. It wafted back and forth, then up into the choir loft behind the podium and back down again, intermittently flashing its beacon of light. In North Carolina, we called them lightning bugs and we would run around and capture as many as we could in a jar before releasing them all back into the night. I thought, as this firefly surveyed the front of Kumler Chapel, "Aha — here is Phyllis's spirit checking up on us and still lighting the way!" So cool. I sang "At the River," adapted by Aaron Copland.

Chris Moranda '74:

We are each here tonight to stand with and for Dean Phyllis Hoyt and to say our farewell to Western's most precious gem. We all have our individual memories and stories with Dean Hoyt — some funny and some not so — but what I always remember is her integrity and fairness in each situation. As she is inscribed in my copy of her memoir, *Where the Peonies Bloomed*, in 2001: "Dear Chrissy, we both



"Dear Chrissy, We both love The Western Always"

love The Western Always. Love, Phyllis.” Well, I always thought she would be here always and now I just rest with the knowing she IS here with The Western and each of us whose life she touched.

This ... sentence from the first chapter of her book shares how she lived her life in our company: “Whenever someone enters your life, she is there forever to a greater or lesser degree, and you never leave another’s life completely.” So, Phyllis, you have never left our lives and never will. We will always remember you and hold you and The Western in our hearts ALWAYS. Namaste.

Curt Ellison, former WCP dean, HA:

Dean Phyllis Hoyt’s book, *Where The Peonies Bloomed, A Memoir of My Years at Western College*, published by the Alumnae Association in 2000, is a book I have recommended to others. It is a memoir, with telling accounts of people, places and events that shaped life in this place from the Second World War to the early 1970s. It is more. It’s a compelling guide to principles for building an educational community — one with an active sense of place, with broadly understood goals and values, rituals of orientation, traditions of the life cycle of a student’s college years, strategies for helping us learn to internalize responsibility, tolerance, and the embrace of people different from ourselves. It suggests how to experience protest as a stage of personal growth, how to maintain dignity in the face of mortal adversity, and how to proclaim the truest values of liberal learning, given here in the words of a former Western student, “to prepare to go out into the world and do good.”

In March of 1974, Dean Hoyt spoke for the dedication of the library named for her. “On July first,” she said, “Miami University will have in its hands highly mercurial ghosts which I predict it will have to cope with for many years to come. Unless there is a depth of understanding of the balance of heart and mind, of learning and thinking, the essence of Western College is hard to catch.”

As a faculty member of the Western College of Miami University from 1974 to 2001, I spent the 27 most rewarding years of my life as an educator learning what she meant by that sentiment. As dean of that college for seventeen years, I learned the wisdom of Dean Hoyt’s remark that “the title Dean, far from being part of a bureaucratic hierarchy, is a title designating human relationship. Other titles are a classification defining the office and its function, not the relationships. If you need elaboration of that,” she wrote, “go to Miss McKee, for she appointed one of the first deans in American higher education and defined the role [i.e., to make the college what the president said it was].”



In 2004, with WCP deans Curt Ellison (left) and Bill Gracie

What presidents and provosts and admissions officers and other academic officials usually say — in some fashion — is that their college is a learning community. Not all of them, however, meet that standard. Dean Hoyt had a sound understanding of this. “Most colleges have residences,” she wrote, “but that does not make them residential colleges. To be that is a matter of attitude, an attitude which strengthens and supports the same values as women’s colleges. It means that living together and learning together are compatible, that they support and reinforce each other. They make exchanging ideas and learning from each other a vital part of the total experience, in many ways the most important aspect of the college years ... Residential colleges ... did not come into being to keep an eye on the students, but to encourage the mix of learning possibilities, and to develop a sense of community.”

I believe that those who worked in the Western College of Miami University took this to heart, even if they might not be able to say it so clearly. And when we actually met Dean Hoyt, it was more than clear that we were in the presence of the active sense of the past that is the Western College spirit. We would not try, as she cautioned in 1974, to mimic that, but to learn from it, and to aspire to the holistic goals that are its deep meaning.

The summer Dean Hoyt first signed her newly published memoir at the WCAA Reunion, she took me aside and said, “What happened to Western was bad. What you have done is the next best thing.” I regard this comment as the highest praise.

I miss Dean Phyllis Hoyt. Yet as long as those who have worked in this special place exist, she will live.

Alumnae were invited to write or e-mail their recollections and impressions to be compiled into a memory book. Here is a sampling of their contributions.

Martha Hall Wedeman '46:

Dean Hoyt came after our time, but we remember her as a warm and gracious Western leader whom we got to know at reunions. She was tops in the long tradition of wonderful faculty and administrators and friends who characterized our alma mater. Lucky were those who knew and remember her.

Jo Ann Fley '52:

My feelings of emptiness and grief are quickly replaced with thoughts and memories of Phyllis — that red-haired embodiment of the spirit and values of Western with the Boston accent. She scared the bejeebers out of this callow freshman in 1948, but slowly I grew to appreciate her, her humor, her strong devotion to Western and Western's students. She was not a sentimental person, but she knew each student and respected each one, holding high expectations for each student. Nothing gave me more pleasure than to have her laugh or smile, for these were fairly rare ... one had to work to earn a laugh from her.

Mieke van Waveren Smit '54:

Sixty years of friendship just become part of the tissue into which you weave the people that touch your life. Somehow there must have been a start, when the first gold thread became part of a pattern. It was probably after I left Western, and we stayed in touch by correspondence, that we developed a contact that would never disappear.

After three years in Oxford, my re-entry in Holland was not easy. The Western campus was such a secure place to live, that the transfer to Amsterdam pulled me out of my comfort zone. Her comments were always considered and thoughtful, her humor enlightening. Snail mail was perfect. Life moved on, I got married, we emigrated to the U.S., we moved around a bit, became U.S. citizens, and were transferred back to Europe. Busy times. About ten years later, now "married with three children" we showed up in Holland again and it was there that she came and paid us a long and extensive visit. Around 1970 the Netherlands was in the middle of a huge construction project to protect the area that had been flooded in 1953 when I was at Western. Dikes, dams, bridges, everything was happening in the province of Zeeland where I grew up and nothing could have given me greater pleasure than to take her to one of those construction sites. She had heard so much about the history of the area that she was a very keen observer and of course her questions were

always to the point. To show her the house where I was born really closed the circle. ... Phyllis, by the way, endeared herself to the children easily, and to this day she is part of their memories. She also loved tasting all the good foods, the Dutch pastries, the Indonesian specialties which are a left over from our colonial past. ...



Her visit to Brussels in 1985 was very special. Henk had a position at the U.S. Embassy and we lived in an embassy residence. That particular week we had several invitations in which she could be included. One was a huge reception in the Grand Hall of the museum of Ancient Art. There were speeches, toasts, ambassadors and ministers, all that in the elegant surroundings of Rubens paintings. Phyllis wandered around easily, talking to people and taking it all in. She loved it, but knew all along that "greatness" is relative and "importance" temporary. ...

Holding Sadie, back cover of Peonies

We bought a condo at Hilton Head Island, SC, in 1993 and from then on she and Gail James would make that a regular stop on the way from Naples, FL, to New Hampshire. ... That was the time when she was writing her very personal memoirs for the family. One evening before going to bed, she handed me a copy. I spent a long time reading and then could not sleep. One of the most poignant stories was about the time of the great flu epidemic. Phyllis must have been about two and lost her twin sister. I believe the Hoyts lost at least four children and it is difficult to imagine the grief in that young family. What really moved me was the description of herself, crying in her crib, "sister, sister," unable to go to sleep, and her mother reluctant to pick her up and console her for fear she might become spoiled. It gave me a new and deep insight in the emotional development of this friend, who suffered so much at an age when she could barely express herself. Her parents had several more children and it was equally heartbreaking to read that during the polio epidemic in the 1940s, Phyllis lost her 18-year-old brother. Now at least she could bring consolation to her mother.

... The move to Rivermead, the retirement community in Peterborough, turned out to be a good one and when we visited there, she and Gail were completely integrated in the community. Phyllis soon became a board member and the two of them were clearly comfortable in what seemed like a

dormitory setting. After all, they spent so many years living on campus, surrounded by people. Without Gail, she must have been more alone, but she had her little dog, Sadie, and of course she always had her books. About four years ago I decided to go and spend some quality time with her while she was still well and would enjoy my visit. ... She met me at the Manchester airport and had three days all planned. A concert at a summer festival, lunch in a quaint place, dinners with her Rivermead friends and just quiet time for the two of us. And yes, an extensive visit to a bookstore where she bought at least five hefty tomes. No "light reading" for Phyllis. Her mind was too inquisitive, her time too precious to spend it on anything less than a learning experience.

During the following years her energy dwindled, but whenever I called, her voice was chipper, her mind alert, immediately tuned in to whatever I had to tell her. ... These telephone conversations meant a lot to both of us, and it is difficult to imagine that just one week ago we had the last one. I finished by saying: I love you, Phyllis. Her answer came slowly: I love you too. The end must have come peacefully. She was ready.

Deborah Hoyt, Phyllis's niece:

I am amazed at what she kept. There were letters from students thanking her for her help, one from a parent maybe in Singapore? ... some family crisis happened while the daughter was at Western and Phyllis was there to help. There were letters from all over the place! What an amazing and fulfilling life she led. There were student evaluations she kept of herself. A group of them were very interesting for the freshmen made comments about being a bit fearful of Miss Hoyt, hesitant to approach her. Sophomores were a little less

wary and by the time the seniors wrote the critiques, she was all kind, helpful and friendly. It very much reminded me of my own personal journey of getting to know my aunt as I matured over the years. I've been reading a book she bought last Christmas season, *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg, and I wish she were here to discuss it with me! ... It's been heartwarming and a



Family's favorite portrait

privilege for me to go through her stuff.

In a note to Debbie Baker, thanking the office for so promptly notifying alumnae of her aunt's death, Deb wrote: "How well your news carries and the word spread from coast to coast very quickly. WCAA has it working!"

Dedication of the 1972 Multifaria

To Dean Hoyt:

"firm and fair, dignified and witty. Her sharp keen mind cuts away the nonsense and a quiet chuckle softens the decision. She brings her clear, precise, logical mind to bear on all matters which need her judgement ... and adds that precious quality of wisdom ..." and the wisdom of Dean Phyllis Hoyt commands the respect of all of us. We all have had to grow up to know Dean Hoyt; what freshman has not trembled at her look, what sophomore has not resented her power, what junior has not admired her ability to cope, what senior has not left without deep-abiding respect for the capability, the intellect, and the serene poise of this woman.

Even as we go, she will remain an impenetrable paradox of warmth and sternness, sensitivity and coolness, openness and reservation, compassion and mercilessness, quietness and calm articulation.

She represents a tenor of women who have dedicated their hearts and their intellects to what they prize most highly and do not shirk from the demands of cold administration nor sacrifice a woman's perception, sensitivity and care for its sake.

Soft-spoken yet strong, by her life she admonishes us to stand strongly upon our womanhood and to take our lives in our own hands.

Words fail to do tribute to one for whom actions speak most clearly;

of a woman we have all grown to love, the twinkle in her eye would tell you more ...



Report from the Board of Trustees

*As all of us know, we of the WCAA are growing older and are diminishing in numbers. In addition, the current economic situation in the U.S. and in Ohio has brought ever more serious fiscal challenges for the University as an institution receiving less and less financial support from the State of Ohio. It must be stressed that there has been no indication, either explicit or implicit, that the University is contemplating a complete cessation of support for the Association. However, it seemed a year or so ago that the time had arrived for the WCAA to be proactive in seeing that all parties' rights and responsibilities are set out officially as they relate to the future of the WCAA, covering both the remaining life of the WCAA as such and the post-WCAA era. Thus, the report below: **The WCAA and the Miami University Foundation — a New, Long-term Agreement.***

It is official! As of June 24, 2011, the WCAA and the Miami University Foundation (the legally separate body that invests and manages endowment and other funds donated for the benefit of Miami University) have entered into a formal, written agreement that spells out the relationship between these two bodies for the remainder of the WCAA's existence and after the WCAA ends.



Anne Weissenborn

By 2010, the WCAA Board of Trustees had decided that the time had come to formalize the WCAA's present and the future relationships with Miami University and with the Foundation by negotiating two separate "articulation agreements." The Board agreed to form a special Articulation Committee to which **Judy Dudman Henderson '62, Marcia Randlett Oder '64, Sylvia S. Stanfield '65, and Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61** were appointed, with Anne serving as chair.

The first agreement to be drafted and negotiated is the one with the Foundation. With amazement on both sides at the speed of this initial undertaking, it took only a year to write and negotiate the agreement. The WCAA committee, not the Foundation, wrote the first draft which was ready for initial presentation to the WCAA Board of Trustees and then to the appropriate committee of the Foundation Board by early 2011. After a brief back and forth and very few modifications, the Foundation Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of its own committee and formally approved what became the final document at its meeting in May 2011. The WCAA Board added its approval at its meeting in June. (The full text of the agreement is available upon request.)

Several factors influenced the decision to begin the agreement process at this point in time. First, it is important to bear in mind that for 37 years Miami University has supported the WCAA by providing both Patterson Place for office and meeting space and a wonderful staff, all at no cost to the Association. And, until very recently, the University supplemented these "in-kind contributions" with direct financial support, particularly for WCAA publications. In re-

turn, the WCAA has, over the years, provided scholarships and other gifts to the University which, as of 2011, total more than \$2 million. For the most recent 17 of these years, the Miami University Foundation has included WCAA endowment and other funds in its investment portfolio — to good effect as the fruits of these investments have increasingly supported our scholarships and other programs for the University.

The principal contents of the finalized agreement between the WCAA and the Miami University Foundation can be summarized as follows:

The Foundation will continue to manage and invest WCAA funds as part of its overall portfolio as long as the WCAA exists, and beyond;

The Foundation will continue to distribute endowment and other income according to the wishes of each donor or, if from undesignated funds, of the WCAA itself as long as the WCAA exists, and beyond; and

When the WCAA ends, the last WCAA Board of Trustees will make a number of decisions as to the future uses of undesignated funds, both those already in WCAA accounts and those that may be received by the University and/or the Foundation for WCAA-related purposes after the WCAA itself is gone.

The WCAA Articulation Committee and the Board are enjoying many good feelings about the ease with which the agreement with the Foundation was finalized. On the other hand, it is probable that the process of entering into an agreement with the University itself will raise many, more complicated issues. It is anticipated that the full process will take considerably more time than the first one. However, no matter how much time may be required, the goal remains the same — to ensure that the Western College legacy is honored and preserved, living on into the distant future through the many already-existing WCAA scholarships, the new Western College Professorship, and other ways to be determined of keeping the Western College story alive. Do stay tuned!

— Anne Adkins Weissenborn, chair

"Western College is a part of all of us ..."

'29



Helen Ramsdell

When **Helen Gerber Ramsdell** wrote last year to update classmates (just past the deadline), she was still teaching voice to six students in her Monroe, OH, apartment and giving recitals three times a year.

Frances Hall King's friend and secretary, Ellie Cox, has written to let us know that Frances will not be able to continue as Class Rep. Though she is wheelchair bound and has memory problems, Western is still "one of her most important interests" and she "still enjoys finding just the right word to express her thoughts and feelings." *Bulletin* readers will sorely miss her letters.

WCAA, Inc.
325 Patterson Ave.
Oxford, OH 45056

'32



Reunion '12: Celebrate 80 years!
News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!

'33



Happy Birthday to **Virginia Watson Earnshaw**, who turned 100 in January 2011! Virginia mailed in her *Bulletin* blue form to update us. With help a few hours each day from — "a young lady who also drives my car so I am not housebound" — she continues to live in her own home in Annapolis, MD, with her "beautiful cat whose name is Sherman." Virginia received her B.S. in Ed. from Ohio State University and went on to earn her master's at Catholic University of America, in Washington, DC.

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'38



News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!

'39



Marj Lloyd Liggett writes from Deupree House, her retirement home in Cincinnati, where the word has gotten around that she sews — for everyone, men and women. And she does needlepoint for family: the homes of all four children (two sons, two daughters). Her elder son Reese's home was a challenge, since he lives in Honolulu. He and his Hawaiian wife have an adopted Chinese daughter, who, at 14, is quite an athlete — running and winning races. Her younger son lives in Florida, and two daughters are in Cincinnati — along with 30 other living relatives, all of whom she claims to see "now and then." Ever the baseball fan, Marj roots for the Reds and watches their games on TV. At 93, she's proud to say she doesn't use a cane... "or anything else."

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Oxford, OH 45056

'40



News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!

'41



In Memoriam: **Catherine Virginia Comer Razor**, June 2011, in Atlanta, GA. For the past few years, she had lived with her daughter in Chattanooga.

May Egerton Fyfe has lived thru several hurricanes, but when Hurricane Irene hit New Bern, it was her first experience in "the eye." The area was without electricity for five days, so her retirement home provided informal coffees and brunches. She finds her retirement living so convenient she has given away her car and does not miss it.

Ruth Harry Hathaway, in Brevard, NC, agrees and gave hers away also. Planned activities in her area keep her busy. She and May find "rest breaks" come more frequently than they used to.

Isabel "Issie" Duncan McCoy looks forward to every Tuesday evening when the "guys of the Men's Poker Club" break open a new deck." She enjoys reading and writing and still uses her trusty electric typewriter.

I discovered a photo when cleaning out a closet and it just brought back memories of dances in the gym with Miami men, ca. 1938. [Editor's note: *Apologies to Suzy, who wanted to share it, but it was too small to reproduce here with recognizable faces.*] Best regards to all from Texas, where we had 71 days this summer of 101 degrees or higher.

Suzy Allburt '41
5003 Ellsby
Dallas, TX 75209

'42



Reunion '12: Celebrate 70 years!
News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!

'43



After an Indiana summer of unusual heat and unexpected storms, it is good to reach September and *Bulletin* time again. News from our class, however, has been sparse.

Sarabel Williams Goulet surprised me with a phone call in late August! (A slightly changed phone number: 269-983-0394.) She and George were married for 62 years, until his death five years ago. She now lives with her daughter in St. Joseph, MI, on a channel into Lake Michigan — scenery is lovely, every season. Sarabel spoke espe-

cially fondly of a 2-year-old great-grandson, Dillon, in Kansas City. The recent death of her sister has been a big loss.

Betty “Hedy” Holt Bancala has been a regular “phone buddy” with me for a long time, and especially so in the past few years. She still lives in her own New Jersey home, which is near her daughter and her family. Two grandsons are in college; the younger has experienced illness that has kept him from completing his most recent year. Hedy described the recent weather complications in her area — storms and rain that have left areas of flooding, quite severe in her area. At her daughter’s home, a huge tree was dislodged by something described as a “micro-burst.” Unable to travel much now Hedy enjoyed a recent visit with a nephew and his family — with pictures and stories of an extensive trip to our national parks.

Leah Chappell writes: “There was a wedding August 27 of a great-niece here in Indianapolis. I went to the huge and noisy reception that evening. The music was too loud to even think, let alone talk. A big breakfast was held next morning for family from Indiana, Tennessee and Georgia. Unfortunately, I was sick and couldn’t make it, but a niece with a great memory related all the family news to me later. Talked recently to **Jane Moore Black** and we got caught up on our family news.”

And so it goes for our “senior” classmates! The M & Ms (Margaret and Marion) will celebrate a 70th wedding anniversary October 12, 2011! Life has really slowed down, but is still enjoyable. We appreciate the care and conveniences of our Heritage Pointe townhouse in Warren, IN.

Recent losses of classmates include **Grace Cleveland Hamilton**, August 2011; **Helen Metzger Cain**, February 2011; **Mary Ellen Rowe Mitchell**, December 2010; **Frances Judy Du Chemin**, May 2010; and **Mary Jane Brickley Rowe**, March 2010. With love ...

Margaret Null Bell ’43
801 Huntington Ave. #5
Warren, IN 46792



Another year has gone by — and there are always changes. One change is that I hear from fewer people each year. Thanks to **Marilyn “Inky” Inskeep Fischer**, I did get to hear from some whom I haven’t heard from in some time. She writes by hand — cursive — which is a dying art. All of my correspondence is either by a computer letter or an e-mail. I haven’t joined Facebook

or Twitter as yet. I wrote to all who have an e-mail address, but I didn’t get any response. I even contacted one of **Beth Shirk Bevan’s** daughters, but no luck with that either.

When I wrote last fall, I described, in brief, what a good time we had at the Reunion. I hope I can repeat the trip in four years, but I’m not making a room reservation quite yet. I continue with all of my jobs that I have done for years. My library is now 9 years old and still takes a good amount of my time. I have a group of faithful volunteers who work two hours a week in the library and help people who come in, shelve books, and do other necessary jobs. This is the start of my 11th year in my retirement home, which I love.

My oldest grandson is engaged and will be married next summer. Number three grandson graduated from college as a mechanical engineer and got a job the day before he graduated. He’s located in Arkansas. And my oldest granddaughter received her doctorate as a physical therapist and is working in Nashville. They are getting spread far and wide.

Jane Harris Bugnand stays busy with two reading groups and a study group at church. She is so far away from Oxford, she can’t make the trip at Reunion time. She has been reading old letters from World War II and finds it hard to remember what it was like to be 16 to 20 years old. Lots of changes, she says, but there are still wars.

Virginia Cook Marquett wrote that she spent Christmas and some time after with her granddaughter and went to California in August, and her son-in-law will be coming in September and bringing her great-granddaughter for a visit.

Janet Heinz Philips wrote that she has family coming and going all the time. Florida was hot this summer, but she stays cool in her air-conditioned house. She now has nine grandchildren and three great-grandsons. A year ago, she took a cruise to Alaska. E-mail: janet.philips@gmail.com.

Lucy Hittle Jackson Teeter has so many children and stepchildren that her letters are always full of news. Her late husband, Carroll, was remembered when the Habitat for Humanity house #100 was built in Auburn-dale in his honor. Lucy’s youngest son and his wife are her caregivers and live three minutes away.

Reminiscing, as we all do, she remembered that she was in **Jean Merrill Lockley’s** room in Peabody, third floor front, on the Sunday that news of Pearl Harbor was broadcast.



Reunion 2011’s most senior (l to r): Jane Noble Miller ’38, Ora Jane Craig Tipton ’42, Betty Maddox Daniels ’46

Gertrude von Lengerke Kimm, whom we knew as Toni, slipped on the ice this past winter and hurt her foot. Luckily, nothing broke. They had quite a winter in New Jersey, and I wonder how they survived this summer through Irene. Her grandson, Jeff, was a helicopter pilot in Afghanistan and should be home by now. His second tour.

Mickey Caylor McClure responded to a letter that Inky wrote to her with a good summary of her life. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She and her husband have been married for 66 years! They are selling the family home and will be living in Sarasota full time in a retirement apartment complex with assisted living. They are both still driving — “very well, too,” she said. She and her husband lived in Evanston years ago when her husband was at Garrett. I didn’t know that.

Mary DeMuth Fuehrer, who was at Western for just a year, died this past November. She attended our Reunion six years ago, coming from the Knolls of Oxford where she lived. Her daughter, Mary, teaches at Miami

Milly Walker’s husband died a year ago, and many of her Western friends are also gone, but she is coping with all the big changes in her life.

Inky called **Marilyn Bolanz-Rusler Williams**. She was still in Alaska and had a daughter living with her and another nearby. Sadly, the office received word in October that Marilyn died last April.

Pat Hannan Weigen’s husband wrote to inform us that Pat had died this past July.

As mentioned, **Inky** helped a lot with this letter, having written to **Mickey Caylor McClure** and many others. Most didn’t reply, but I was glad to hear from **Mickey Caylor**, and **Lucy Hittle**. Letters to **Bette Hougland Underwood** and **Nell Nickell Best** were returned to her.

Inky, herself, is being taken care of, when needed, by her daughter, Joan, who keeps her supplied with groceries and gets her to



Margie Gasche Ewing '45 and Santa, in North Pole, Alaska

the doctors. Inky has a buyer for her house, so she can "check that off the list." Her oldest grandson is an engineering major at Swarthmore. Her granddaughter is majoring in French at Indiana University. There are five more grandchildren — the youngest in eighth grade. Inky has had trouble with double vision, but recently went back to Monticello to celebrate the 70th year since high school graduation.

I couldn't figure out why I hadn't heard from **Kit Jarvis Fischer** this summer, but when I turned on the computer, here was an e-mail from her. She had driven — by herself — to St. Louis from Michigan to see an old friend who is very sick. She also did some genealogy stops on her way home — and at the end of September she's going to St. Louis again to attend her 70th high school reunion. Her granddaughter was married this past summer, and Kit made four four-layer cakes for the occasion. Friends and family helped decorate them. And then she remodeled a bridesmaid's dress to fit an eight-months' pregnant granddaughter who delivered Kit's second great-grandchild a month later.

Lou Larkins Bradford lost her husband about a year ago and is learning to be on her own. Her son, a filmmaker, lives in Denver but he is giving her wonderful support. Those of you who play the piano know what a great solace playing can be, and Lou says when she plays pieces that she first learned at college she is reminded of all that we shared at Western. She's in good health, so she plans to stay in her Philadelphia home. It's within walking distance of Center City and all the historic sites, and anyone coming to Philadelphia is welcome to stay at her home.

Margie Gasche Ewing called me with quite a tale of her adventures. A man who had been her high school classmate 70 years ago had lost his wife recently and wanted someone to travel with him — as part of a group — into Canada and Alaska in his RV.

They had a wonderful time with this caravan group, but as they were moving from one location to the next in the rain, the RV went off the road, and her back was injured. They flew to his home in California where she stayed awhile until her back was well enough for her to get back to Cleveland. No sooner had she got home than she received a certificate from her Good Sam camping club honoring her as the oldest woman (at 87) to drive the 1,422-mile Alcan Highway! She is still in pain but sounded cheerful, in spite of the fact that her breast cancer has returned. She's on a new medicine for that.

She knew that **Betty Jones** is living in Texas near her niece, but Margie hasn't been able to talk to her.

Marian Records Thompson is in an assisted-living facility, mainly because of macular degeneration. Margie talks to her occasionally. And she visited **Beth Shirk Bevan**, also in an assisted-living facility a few miles from Margie. Beth looked great and enjoys her location; all children and grandchildren seem to be doing well.

Jean Merrill Lockley has moved from her long-time island home in Nantucket to Liverpool, NY, to an independent senior community. She lives about 10 minutes away from her daughter, Carol, who lives in Syracuse. Jean and her husband were married 60 years when Bud passed in July 2008. Jean has six children who live in New York and Massachusetts.

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Reunion '12: Celebrate 65 years!

Class of '47: June 15-17, 2012, will be the 65th Reunion for our class from Western. What exciting times to have lived! I hope many (some) of you will join **Emmy Greenland** and me on the third floor of Peabody Hall (they have an elevator now), at Western, in Oxford, to celebrate the past, the Reunion and the future.

Marjory Reed Kimbell in Oak Harbour, WA, sent an interesting Christmas letter about her family. If you send a letter at Christmas I'd love to receive a copy, a painless way to keep in touch with me. Some in her family continue to work in the ministry and some in education. Her grandchildren are in high school and college or the military. "Nate just joined the Air Force, finished basic training in Texas, and at this present moment is going through "SEARS school" — learning how to deal with becoming a prisoner of war...Please keep him in your prayers..." She is so proud of them all. She sends blessings to all her friends. She sent a beautiful picture of the glorious Cascade Mountains in the snow.

Jody Farrell Vogel on the day after Christmas celebrated the connection of her computer and e-mail account in her new home in Roscoe, IL, by writing to me: "In September 2010, I moved from my condo in Roscoe, IL, to a group living community south of Beloit, WI." I hope she's happy in her new home, making many new friends.

Gene DeScherer Popkin wrote from Boca Raton, FL, that they had little damage from Hurricane Irene. She spent a lazy summer except for making angry phone calls to congressional representatives during the Washington debacle. After seeing a program on TV about "hoarding," she got started removing clutter "that would have otherwise been thrown in a dumpster with me along with it." Her daughter came for a lively Seder in April with her family including Gene's great-grandson. Always good to see family. She will start pottery again soon, making bowls to give away, even to some service men who fix things and are startled to receive a bowl along with a tip. She is in good health and gets out to the local bagel place to chat about all the things we have little control over. And she keeps moving!

Maxine Murray Long sent the following blue card from Littleton, CO. "That time again! It seems to come faster every time. All well here. Once more engrossed in the turmoil of politics — and now the stock market's rocking. Very interesting. Always. Spending much too much time at the dentist's office these days, but enjoying summer, the best time of the year! Best wishes to all."

Elaine Kramer Millman in Rivervale, NJ, writes: "The Golden years are a tad rusty but no major health problems. I am the designated driver, mileage goes to Dr. appt's., shopping and visits. We've made it to our 60th anniversary — not a bad achievement!" Congratulations from all of us! They still live in their house of 50 years. In May, they attended a grandchild's graduation from Tulane U. in New Orleans and enjoyed the fabulous food and a terrific tour of the city. In the past year, Elaine appeared on the local stage — a brief scene from the movie *When*



Four generations of Emilys: Emily Greenland with great-great-niece Emily Elizabeth Wills

Harry Met Sally. She was not Sally but had the wonderful line, "I'll have what she's having." Her interest in theater gets her into NYC to see great shows. She mentioned the passing of **Betty Levering Keffer**, her freshman roommate. They had stayed in touch. Sad — we are all losing friends these days.

Sue Sargent Hard in Lancaster, PA, has a favorite memory of *Western*: the Music Department's warm welcome of her and the classmates who made her feel at home. She enjoys the *Bulletin* and the beautiful pictures of the campus. She is now very busily and happily living in a nice retirement home near her daughter. She enjoys birds, dogs and especially cats, reading, (C.S. Lewis), Bible study with a very knowledgeable friend, music — still — word puzzles, TV sports and visits to the coffee shoppe, the library, etc. She had a bad car accident some years ago so now uses a wheelchair or walker and has a good friend who takes her places. She ends, "God bless and keep you all."

Louise Gutman Goldberg lives in Baltimore, MD, near her two children and her "four fabulous, caring, bright and talented grandchildren. I am reasonably well but visit several doctors regularly for a heart condition and severe anemia. The oldest granddaughter graduated from Washington U. in June with Phi Beta Kappa honors and cum laude. WOW, am I proud!" She is also a great-grandmother to two boys, 3 and 6. Louise concludes, "Good wishes for the four seasons of 2011-2012."

Jane Alexander Durrell from Cincinnati, OH, writes "This is the year of the Significant Birthday (85th, as any *Western* reader can figure out) and my kids were talking about a party ... but they did a super one 10 years ago so I said let's do something else. Something else turned out to be a weekend in Cincinnati (my three kids, their spouses, five grandchildren and me), the next three days in Yellow Springs, OH, in which those of us who bicycle (everyone except the Cincinnati daughter and her husband) went bik-

ing on the splendid Little Miami Bike Trail and poking around Yellow Springs which is like the 1960s, still lively and with good restaurants. This fall I am going to Egypt, a Road Scholar tour. Excited about that!"

Mary Garnett "Tilly" Tillinghast, threatened by **Emmy Greenland** with dire consequences if she did not write, did write. Tilly's activities — in addition to bridge — include monthly book club, weekly sewing group, and serving on the local library committee, which was charged with the large task of organizing a miscellaneous collection. She is also still active in the Raleigh, NC, Newcomers Club. And there's travel: a 10-day trip to Vietnam and annual visits to her children in California. One of her twin grandsons "produced a fine boy child, my first great-grandson after four great-granddaughters." Tilly's daughter, who used to live there in Raleigh, is now teaching with the Peace Corps in Albania, with eight months to go. Tilly promised to write for the 70th — better yet, *be there, Tilly!*

Thank you to all who wrote. The biggest change in my life this past year has been that I gave up driving (eyes). I keep busy at home, keeping up with my 12 grandchildren (ages 5-23) and the rest of the family, my three book clubs and the Woman's Club activities. **Polly Martin Hawver '58**, gave me a ride home last night. I keep traveling — airlines are very kind to little old ladies who use a cane. I've been to California twice, Oregon, Washington, New Hampshire, Minnesota and Massachusetts and will go out to California again in November to see my sister, **Mary Mack Hurst '49**.

I just returned from a visit to **Ellen Pletcher Marsden** in Duluth, MN, my roommate all four years. She loves Duluth, her lovely home of 50+ years, her beautiful gardens, her cat, her friends and her busy life there (I can see why). She comes East every Easter to visit her daughter in Maryland and we'll meet for a visit with **Marilyn McKasson Pletcher**, her sister-in-law, in Baltimore again. Dickie is well, enjoys her family and reads a lot. We three spend a lot of time "talking books" whenever we visit or speak on the phone. After Labor Day a very good friend who now lives in Massachusetts drove me from Cape Cod to New Hampshire. We had a delicious breakfast on September 8, my 85th birthday, with **Mary Feller Epremi-an** in New London in one of those photogenic NH diners. She is very busy with her home and garden, community and NH politics. She is campaign manager for Sue Gotting, who is running again for state office.

Best to all of the Class of '47 — I so hope you will come to *Western* in June 2012.

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Guess which anniversary Jinny Thomas McNabb '49 and husband Herschel are celebrating!



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Family travel was in the news for **Ruth Ault Hadley** and her husband, Dave, who recently returned from a three-week vacation. Their trips took them to Freeport, ME, for a big family reunion, visiting Dave's two sisters and a brother and 30 nieces and nephews! They went on to Philadelphia, PA, to visit her sister, and Warwick, NY, to visit her brother. Both siblings saw flood damage in their areas. A trip to visit Dave's brother and wife in Bloomington, IN, resulted in another family reunion. Their 21-year-old granddaughter is a junior at Wellesley College, studying international politics. A grandson, a freshman in high school, is into tennis and theater.

Grace Sherman Streb fondly remembers her motor home trips with her late husband, Gene, to visit family and friends. She keeps very busy with bridge club and volunteering at church; visiting nursing and assisted-living facilities keeps her up on her peers. She has been active in P.E.O. (a philanthropic educational organization) for 62 years. Grace recently established communications with cousin **Connie Bush Dodd**, class of '47. She sends love to all her classmates and hopes that she will be able to attend a future *Western* reunion.

This has been a stay-at-home year for **Josephine Moore Becker**, with a almost no



Betty Huttenbauer Heldman (left) and Bunny Bartizal Proctor (both '49) lunched with John Smale MU '49, husband of late classmate Phyllis Weaver Smale not long before John's death in November.

travel outside of home in Aberdeen, WA, except to Olympia, where she shops for craft items. She is doing a lot of sketching, some of which she transfers to note cards. Note cards are also made from color photographs of floral arrangements or flowers. Jo will sell cards and pictures for framing at the Park Craft Bazaar in November. Anyone for painted rocks, ladybugs, penguins or frogs? Jo has been editor of the Leisure Manor Park Homeowners monthly newsletter, and in May, became president of the Homeowners Association. Her cat, Tami, is 3 now, and good company.

The **Lawrence** twins, **Pat (Chowning)** and **Shirley (Conyers)** are doing well, staying close to home (Indiana and California respectively) with no traveling. Between them, there are five children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. All are well, and the children are the ones who travel!

Ruth Perrill Sheridan writes that she has lost touch with several Western friends who lived in Naples, FL. She keeps busy working with the Philharmonic League and other groups. After losing her husband she moved to Bentley Village, which keeps her busy — golf, tennis, bocce and traveling with many Army friends on tours. She sends her best to all.

Lynn Trimmer Collins is deep into genealogy, having spent the last four years compiling and writing family history on both sides. It is almost ready to go into book form, which her older daughter Kathie will take care of. Now Lynn is the great-grandmother of four babies. Having vowed never to spend another winter in Chicago, she spent the past few months looking into a retirement community in Traverse City, MI, which is about 25 miles from her summer compound. Her family has been going and coming since June! Lynn's new address as of October 1 is: Glen Eagle, 3950 Sumac Drive #206, Traverse City, MI 49684.

What have **Jane Osgood Tatge** and Bruce been up to? We sold our home this July, nine months after we moved in to a retirement community (the same as the gest a-

tion period for a baby, and almost as nerve-racking). It was hard to move from the house that we built in 1960, and where we raised three children. Our apartment is only 15 minutes from the old house, so we can continue to see friends, attend church programs (we continue to sing in the choir) etc. We enjoy programs at Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning, where we will take courses this fall and where Bruce will teach next spring. We have seven grandchildren, all of whom are on the East Coast so that we can occasionally see them. I celebrated my birthday last winter by slipping and breaking my collarbone. The moral is: Don't wear sneakers on ice! I hope that more classmates will send news next year — we all enjoy hearing about your activities, even if it is just breathing!

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Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh — This has not been a great summer. Bill had hip replacement and I had a complete shoulder replacement. We hope to head back down to Florida after Bill has his other hip replaced in October. I was sad not to see more friends at the Reunion at Western. It doesn't take a bit of work to put together and I wish more people had been there to enjoy it. The entertainment was great and the food was delicious. Van and I were the only two there from our class.

I did hear from some class members. **Mary Ricksecker Bow** keeps in touch with **Anne Waltman Greene** and **Janet Shumaker Norwald**. All are fine. Mary is still enjoying the game of golf.

Jane Donaldson Buswold was more content to stay home because of health issues, but writes, "Scrabble has turned into a great form of entertainment and after that, politics. I have found people I can argue with and anger doesn't occur! So in the process I am learning more than I dreamed possible at this stage. Greenwich Village is a Mother Lode of people who are dying to talk politics!"



In Cincy, warming up for Reunion '11: Harriet Hunt Hokanson, Ruthie Rhodenbaugh and Betty "Van" Vandersluis, all '51

Nancy Hon Krauth had hoped to attend, but their Iowa Retriever Club was holding an important event the same weekend. She and husband Norm are still enjoying training their dogs and they have won some ribbons!

Barbara McGill Benson — "Jack and I are celebrating our 60th anniversary this year. Had the whole family here for a weekend party. It's hard to get us all together, since my son's family lives in California and my daughter's family is in Maryland. One grandson is off to med school this year and a granddaughter just graduated from Oberlin. We have five grandkids in all, ranging in age from 16 to 26." Bensonj403@aol.com

Nancy McCudden Osgood — "I was sorry to have missed the Reunion (a disappointing attendance) but after conversations with **Natalie Connelly**, **Nancy Hon**, **Harriet Hokanson**, **Alice Tweedy**, Van and Ruth, I decided not to go. Instead, when Natalie and John were in St. Paul with their son and family, we decided to meet Nancy Hon in Iowa for lunch (hence the picture); non-stop chatting and we all look pretty good. When did we get to be 80+? Nice to meet Nancy's husband, too. My only news is that my house is for sale and when and where to go depends on the sale, not a good market. If I do end up at the cabin in Wisconsin there are several volunteer opportunities for me, though I'd miss my friends and the children I tutor in English here. How about a mini reunion in Arizona in mid-March. Hugs to all." Natalie is in Fountain Hills — let her know if you'd be interested.

Jeanne Owen Buhler — "Don't we live in interesting times — now waiting for Hurricane Irene to hit (Lynchburg, VA) and still an aftershock from the earthquake nearby. No damages here but lots of windows rattling and paintings and mirrors swinging back and forth — what next?! Our son Mike's boys live interesting lives — Nate (19) just returned from six weeks in Bangladesh on a medical mission. What a poor, crowded, miserable place. He is a pre-med student at Sewanee in Tennessee. Brother Owen (26) based in Charleston, SC, sells Vitelco products internationally. Mike manages a



Three friends from '51 (l to r): Nancy Osgood, Natalie Connelly, Nancy Krauth

large warehouse filled with tenants who use it for storage and production while still trying to dissolve large Old Dominion Machines. His wife, Dede, is an accomplished artist (look up Dede Buhler on Facebook). Daughter Amy, a busy Realtor and mother of Cooper (12) and BG (10), baseball and tennis lovers, and her Tom, chairman of the School of Business at Sweet Briar College. As I write this, Frank is golfing (trying) — he will have another knee replacement October 10th. We have spent the summer back and forth between our place at Smith Mt. Lake and home. I am still involved in non-profit community boards and church and now remembering with gratitude my life, especially those four years at Western." fbuhler@comcast.net

Betsy Feuss Gardner — Two years after the death of her husband in 2008, Betsy moved from St. Petersburg, FL, to Westminster Canterbury Retirement Community in Lynchburg, VA. She is just 10 minutes away from daughter Mollie and family (husband Tom, grandchildren Alison and Brice) and has re-connected with classmate **Jeanne Buhler** there in Lynchburg. Daughter Susan and husband Paul live in California, as does granddaughter Caitlin and family — including Betsy's two great-grandchildren (Jacob, 3, and Meg, 1). Her son, Doug, and his family are in St. Pete. Betsy says she is enjoying new opportunities at Westminster and is "happily busy!" betzel6@gmail.com

Janet Shumaker Norwald — "With five sons and 11 grandchildren, the summer has been busy! We have several grandchildren in June and visits from children. Just had the youngest grandchildren (10 and 7) for a week — we took them swimming every day (to wear them out!). I was watering my garden the other night and I was reminded of how we used to sunbathe on the roof of new dorm (with our iodine and baby oil). The Delts down below were cleaning garbage cans and turned the hose on us! How we squealed! Four of the 11 grandchildren are returning to college this week — wish I were going too!"

Natalie Christopher Connelly — "John and I go up to Minnesota every year for our granddaughter's birthday on June 21. (This year was Brigid's 16th). Anyway, rather than attend the WC Reunion (would have cost each of us about \$1,000), we drove down to Mason City, IA, and met **Nancy Hon** and her husband for lunch. He took the pictures and Nancy is sending hers as they were the best. As you will see from the picture, she has not changed one bit. Neither Nancy is any different. Both just great and I have aches and pains but still glad to be here." Nconnnelly81@gmail.com

I want to thank all of you who took the time to send your news!

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Reunion '12: Celebrate 60 years!
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We in New England were especially saddened to learn of **Phyllis Hoyt's** passing in May, as she had always attended the functions in New England. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to the Western College Alumnae Association. Further, two classmates passed away. **Sally Patten Diehl** on April 24th in Centerville, OH, and **Cynthia Barnes Stokes** on November 7, 2010. After graduation from Western, she married and lived in England, later moving to Dallas, TX, where she raised her four children. She went on to have a second career at Baker Botts law firm.

Just before Labor Day I spoke with **Anne Koch Nevins'** husband, Jack, who reported that Anne is recuperating slowly

from a serious fall last April. She suffered the fall while traveling to a local bridge tournament. Anne is recuperating at a rehab center in Winchester, MA, where she formerly lived.

Arlene Erikson Fraser says she is doing well now after her terrible fall last winter. This past October (2010), Arlene had lunch with **Shirley Small Osepchuk '55**, **Jo Ann Chism Savoy '57**, and **Char Bergmann Russell '54** who "haven't changed a bit." [Editor's note: Sadly, Shirley passed away in October of this year.]

Here's a wonderful picture of **Sally Trowbridge Blackwelder** and family on a cruise over Christmas. The picture shows all of her "grands," one married, two in prep school and four in college. Sally is excited to become a great-grandmother.

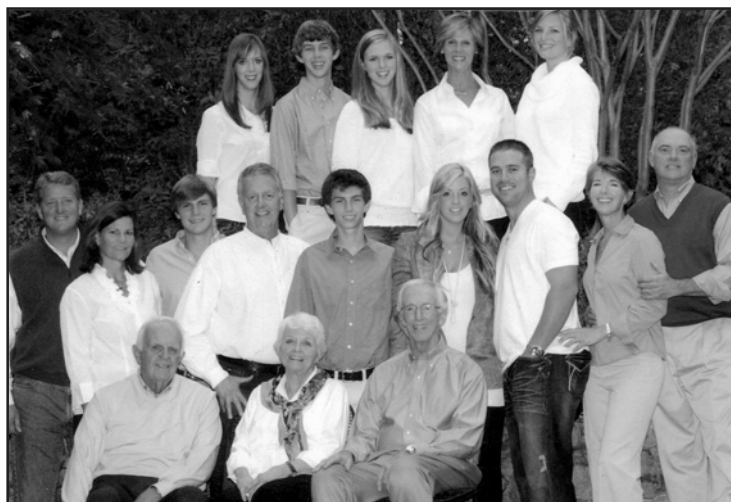
As always there is plenty of news from **Mac Culver Daniels** and family: a marriage, a graduation, a family reunion, a return from Kuwait, and a family vacation in Williamsburg, VA.

A nice note from **Marita Lakonen Judge** tells of two deer that she has in her yard in Cincinnati. She says they drive her dogs, Skipper and Arny, bonkers. Like most of us, Marita finds it hard to believe that we are 80 years old!

Lee Ann Prendergast Curry is still working two small jobs that keep her busy and involved.

It's fun to hear from **Jean Decker Allread** as her granddaughter is a sophomore at Miami.

Ginny Wells Welss announced that she has a great-granddaughter, born January 15, 2010. "She is a beauty and has brought great joy to our family."



Sally Trowbridge Blackwelder '53 and most of her family!

It is always good to hear from **Patty Wied-erstein Hildebrandt** and Paul, who often send long and funny e-mails including pictures of what the world must have looked like when we were freshmen.

Vesta Peters Philbrick as always keeps in touch. She had a second knee operation a year ago and reports that she has no further pain. She kindly sent me notices regarding **Phyllis Hoyt**.

Vesta talks with **Lyn Dixon Present** on a regular basis. Lyn keeps busy with her family as well as with volunteer work and playing golf.

I had a long letter from **Doris Jeanne McIntosh Webb**, who owns and runs a B&B in Rochelle, VA. She says, "It's a lot of work but I meet a lot of interesting people from all over the world." DJ had such a great time at her 80th birthday party that she is already planning for her 90th.

Marty Wilson Rowan faithfully sent me her annual blue card with her updates. Marty recently retired from her position as president of her local P.E.O. She keeps busy with her book club, study group and traveling with her sister.

Our annual visit from **Debbie Cohen Kalodner** didn't happen this year. I did, however, learn about her daughter Liz's new job at CBS where she is bringing Star Trek to an amusement park in Jordan.

I hear regularly from **Beryl Wallman Bennewith** about the beautiful weather in St. Croix that is punctuated by tropical storms and hurricanes. Beryl and her husband Geoff still travel to South Africa frequently to see his brother.

Paul and I are doing well. Enjoying our life both here on Cape Cod as well in Maine. We spent most of last winter in our condo at Sugarloaf. Paul still skis, although I gave it up several years ago. Paul is three G's: gardener, golfer and granddad. I still have my small antique business, which squeaks by in the present economy. Please keep the news coming to me or else I'll have to make up the news myself.

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Classmates, Where are you? Are you so busy you could not find time to write? For surely, you are not in such a state of decrepitude that you cannot pick up a pen or type an e-mail.

Sara Babcock Burneson has been busy traveling. This has included trips to be with family in Vermont, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Ohio. Also to see a granddaughter play on Bowling Green State University women's basketball team on the BG campus and at northeast Ohio sites where they play. End of season tournaments have been in Cleveland; they've been champs for two years running! Other travel has been hiking weeks with Road Scholar in National Parks. "So far I've done Grand Canyon, Big Bend, Zion, and Bryce." A family trip is planned for Arcadia in Maine. She stays busy with committee work at church and serves as a trustee on a foundation. "Sometimes overload still happens as it did before retirement, but not as often."

Charlene Ashing Barry is pleased to report her arthritis is under pain control. But her big news is that a granddaughter won a music scholarship to UC Davis. Charlene and Jim and busy preparing a care package of nail clippers, band aids, etc. to keep her safe through the coming semester. She also periodically sends me clippings, most recently one on English as "goodly spoken" in southern Asia. The article is too long to quote here, but I recommend you go to samosapedia.com to read some of 2,500 definitions of such as *preponed*, *nonveg*, *passing out ceremony*, and a *convented homely girl*.

I, too, **Mary Sicer Moore**, have done my share of traveling. Chaco Canyon in May, Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City Utah in July, Maine in August for my granddaughter's wedding on York Beach, southeastern Utah with the Archaeological Society in September, and Albuquerque for Thanksgiving. In between, I am active at church and in book club. My favorites for this year are *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Finders Keepers* by Craig Childs, *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross, and the Frankie MacFarlane mysteries by Susan Cummins Miller. These are laid in the Southwest and since Frankie is a geologist, the books all incorporate the geology of this beautiful country. It's a lot easier to learn it this way than to take a course at the community college.

I hope the rest of you recover from your writer's block and send us news next year.

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Reunion '12: Celebrate 55 years!

Western reunions will not seem the same with the loss of **Dean Phyllis Hoyt** earlier this year. She was remarkable, even into her 90th decade, and seemed to remember us all. Do you realize that she was only 35 years old when we started our freshman year in the fall of 1953? It was a privilege to be a student while she was there. We shall always remember her.

We also grieve with our classmates who have lost loved ones this past year, in particular, **Helen Hinkel Bradfish** whose beloved husband, Aug, died this past summer and to **Mary Kay Staley Rader** whose husband, Bob, died in September. We extend our sympathy to the family of **Cynthia Har- rar Wilson**, who died in October 2010. The rest of us carry on.

Sandy Grimes Serico writes that she and her husband, Stephen, are preparing for another move. This time they go back to New Jersey to be closer to family although they will still spend time in the Boston area with one son and will travel to Italy to spend time with another son and his family. Sandy says, "Hopefully this is our last move..." They look forward to enjoying being with family and to creating new perennial gardens.

Ann Ellison reports that she is spending her retirement (and all her money) traveling the world. "Last winter I cruised from Los Angeles to Miami—the long way—including a visit to Antarctica and our scientific station down there and the Falklands..." As a footnote, she has 12 grandchildren and all are a joy. She sends regards to the class of '57.

Ellyn Talbott Bogan plans to attend our 55th Reunion next June and hopes we will all be there. She has had a difficult year with broken bones in her ankle and foot that re-

quired a walker, a nursing home and therapy. She warns us all to be careful going down steps. She continues to travel with her daughter and looks after her grandchildren during the summer months.

Ione Sandberg Cowen stays busy just visiting her children and family who are living all over the world. Internationally, this year took Ione and Bill to Germany to visit a niece and family and to Bogotá, Colombia, to visit their daughter and grandchildren. Here in the States they visit their son in Cambridge, MA, and their daughter in Greenville, SC. (I keep thinking I will see her there sometime as that is the community where my sister, **Peggy Mayer Hill '59**, chose to retire. Ione poses a question from one English major to another: Do you have an e-book reader? Both of us like the feel of a book in our hands. Anybody have another opinion?

Mary Kay Droste Feller is still a busy lady, serving on several civic and religious boards that are important to this Dayton area. Allan is retired and they travel. When they all get together for family vacations now, there are 21 of them, including 11 grandchildren. Mary Kay had a knee replacement last fall and recovered from that very well although she managed to break an ankle this spring and hobbled around in a "boot" for over five weeks. Ladies, we need to be careful where we walk!

From the Christmas mail ... **Liz Beatty (Forg) Lee** writes that she and Bob stay busy with family and church activities and were scheduled to go with a Miami University trip to Rome and to Spain in February. They were excited about seeing the NCAA regional basketball tournament at the Omni Center in Chicago 2011.

Barbara Stephenson Northrup wrote about their happiness over the birth of a fourth grandchild and a first great-grandson, all in one year (The grandson is two months older than the granddaughter.) They have been back and forth across the country, keeping up with family. Barb says she and Ken have "OAS," better known as "old age stuff" but are doing as fine as can be.

Mac and **Joan Mueller McNally**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year with a family get-together at Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. In June they drove to Athens, GA, to visit Vally and **Charlotte Knox Eberhard**. They continue to stay busy traveling to be with their family and even attended a Barbershop Society annual convention in Philadelphia.

Nancy Lakamp (Simpson) Broad sent a wonderful note and family picture taken October 9, 2010, following her wedding to Russell Broad. Russ had been a friend and business associate of her first husband and their children knew each other plus the families were very good friends. "Now four years

after the loss of our spouses we have combined our families. We have 16 grandchildren, 10 and under!" It's a wonderful photograph and we wish them happiness.

I have just said good bye to my sister **Peggy Mayer Hill '59**, who was here with her husband for a weekend visit. I am lucky to be in the area where there are Western alumni. **Louise Wilson Braley '50** and I are working hard at Curves to preserve what is left of us and had lunch with another of Louise's classmates, **Diane Heckert Staub '50** this summer. I walk every week with **Martha Cowden '64** and her leader dog, Sable, and **Mary Kay Droste Feller** and I try to support each other's projects.

I am busy, busy, busy. No one feels sorry for me as I have brought this business on myself. I am taking three classes at the University of Dayton Life Long Learning session this fall and continue to be grateful for the education Western gave me. This past summer I went to Russia with a group of Episcopalians that included the Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and several other clergy. We stayed in St. Petersburg and environs for almost two weeks and really learned a lot. There is still a lot of the world I haven't seen, but I am trying!

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The excellent Christmas letter (2010) from **Hatsumi "Sumi" Takenaka Whitehead** arrived announcing their 50th wedding anniversary in Kyoto, Japan ... time flies. They had a super vacation trip to Italy with their son Chuck and his family. The trip included a week in a private suburban villa with historic tours of Rome, followed by another week further south in Sorrento, Pompeii, Vesuvius, etc. Chuck's enthusiasm for revisiting places he and his brother had toured some 30 years earlier electrified his children. Bill and his family stayed home with their little 2-year-old twins, too young for travel-

ing. Sumi kept up a hectic pace with two more trips to Japan and two in the western U.S., along with an end-to-end Mediterranean cruise

In April, she submitted her calligraphy work for the Mainichi Calligraphy Exhibit (her work again was selected this year for display at the National Museum in Tokyo). In May she was on the Izu Peninsula for reunions with her high school tennis club and visited relatives in Kyoto. In October, back in Japan she attended memorial services for her parents (the 17th for her mother, and the 33rd for her father). A heroic trip to Seattle with two other Japanese ladies to visit a fourth, was more exciting than expected: Terrible weather on the return more than doubled the drive time, but Sumi's experience and will power brought them safely through snow and icy conditions. Chuck, a professor at Cornell's School of Law, has commented via various media producers on development in corporate, financial and other banking laws. He was honored to represent the entire Law School faculty at the graduation ceremonies and following his speech was given a standing ovation. Bill wears three hats — anesthesiologist (M.D.), researcher (Ph.D.) and teacher — at the University of Texas Medical Branch and Hospital in Galveston. Sumi enjoys bridge, calligraphy, Shigin, Jazzercise and planning more trips. Way to go Sumi!

Peggy Mayer Hill admits that they did not particularly enjoy the over 6 inches of snow they had last winter. Snow is not so bad for driving but ice is an entirely different matter! Their big news is that they now have another grandchild: Silas was born on March 1st. Always good to hear from Peggy, and I hope that this winter will not have as much ice.

Thalia Crane Sudnik sent along this update. Still living in Poughkeepsie and she never gets bored. There is so much to do in the beautiful Hudson Valley. With three colleges plus three more nearby, there is no end of lectures, music and dance programs. They enjoy abundant local hiking trails and the wonderful Walkway Across the Hudson State Park in Poughkeepsie. The food is better up there because the locavore movement is big in the Hudson Valley, plus the Culinary Institute is in nearby Hyde Park. A trip to NYC every few months on Metro-North only takes about an hour and 20 minutes. Both their daughter-in-law and daughter had babies, so they are busy babysitting and spending time with them. Their son and family live in Westchester and their daughter and family in Central New Jersey. Thal sees **Judy Conant** and **Mary Ellen Thomas Forte** every once in a while and last August visited with **Sue Marquis Gordon** in Boston. If anyone is in the area, do call. I plan to do this soon since I am of ten in the area visiting my great-granddaughters, who live nearby in Wappingers Falls.

Mary Jo Porter Brown has also had another busy year, just the way she likes it. Escaping the terrible ice and snow for two months in Fort Walton Beach, FL. She spent one of the hottest Hoosier summers on record. With two of her grandsons, Jo toured Vincennes University campus in a heat index of 107 degrees! A tour of Purdue University, with another grandson, was a tiny bit cooler. Her Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis in May was their biggest yet for the Terre Haute area with several hundred in attendance and the financial goal blown out of the water by thousands of dollars even in this economy. A three-week trip to Greece, including a cruise to the islands Istanbul and Ephesus was delightful. Ask her sometime about their experience in the hotel at Delphi (shades of "Fawlty Towers"!). She was chair for An Evening of Music and Chocolate, an annual benefit for her church music ministry and United Campus Ministry. Her main job was procuring fabulous desserts from generous local restaurateurs. (This sounds like a perfect fund raiser for just about any cause — brilliant and delicious!) Jo will become a great-grandma for the third time. Number three is a boy and these new little ones in the family have called for a brush-up on the crocheting skills.

Isabel Oteo De Martinez '60 visited them for several days after her 50th reunion. It was a wonderful time of reconnecting and strengthening the bond of friendship they have shared all these years. Their children visited each other's homes during their teens, a wonderful opportunity for the children to sav or another culture in a friendly and safe environment. There are fond memories of those times. Western's international program was one of the most valuable parts of our college experiences.

A note from **Ann Ferguson Zeigler**, states that she and husband Mike are holding on through the Alzheimer's journey. Along with the rest of us, Fergie was saddened to learn of **Phyllis Hoyt's** death, what an example she was to us all!

Sad news from **Marlene Fink McGonigle**, who reports a call from Father Dan Sullivan, a mutual friend of hers and **Marlene Link Curnow's**, saying that Link died on November 2, 2010, following a battle with cancer. She was living in Bellevue, WA, the last time they had contact many years ago. Link was a lively member of our class for two years, '55 and '56. She will be greatly missed by her family and all her many friends.

More sad news from **Luci Bilsland Galloway** is the death of her delightful husband, Paul, in July. Luci and Paul sold their home and had just moved into an assisted-living facility near Indianapolis, when Paul required full-time skilled nursing care. Fortunately, all the members of their large family were able to gather around for his last few

days. Luci is grateful for all the love and care from her family. Paul will be greatly missed at the Western reunions, he was always in good spirits. Other news from Luci reports that the grands are keeping her busy with their graduations, sporting events and celebrations. Speaking with her recently, I am convinced that between Paul and Luci they are related to two-thirds of the residents in Indiana. She will never be able to complain of loneliness.

My news is not nearly so exciting as all of yours. However, I am full of energy these days after seven hours of surgery last November that has left me neutered or spayed ... whatever. I am busy three days a week swimming, struggling though piano lessons, loving reading on my Nook, playing bridge and keeping up with all the "culture" here in the Big Apple. Not to mention lovely play dates with the little ones, Anya, who is now a VIP member of her kindergarten class and Kailyn, who has an uncanny ability to acquire unlimited hugs and kisses from all human encounters. Carolyn and Katherine and their husbands have proven to be excellent care takers as we move along into our senior years — even when it is hard to keep up with our comings and goings. We appreciate everything and everyone. This column seems shorter than usual which tells me that your retiring ways should not include neglecting communications with your WC Bulletin Class Rep! Enough with the vacationing, cruising, hiking, golfing, skate boarding, surfing, sky diving, scuba diving, whatever. Stay in touch! We love hearing from you, so sit a spell, pick up that pen or turn on that computer and tell all. Merry Christmas everyone!

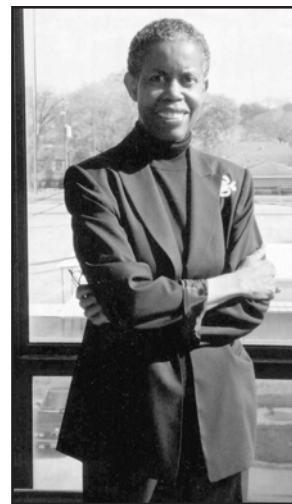
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News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



Ann Bronaugh Kyle: "Missing the 50th reunion was a bummer, but I did get a great report from **Gail Litwiler** on the events. This summer has been hot, hot, just as summer is. There is something about this season that I love. The cooling nights make it worthwhile. I have been a companion to a sixth-grader



Marian Robinson sent this brief pre-Reunion 2011 note along with a picture from her home in Houston, TX: "Sisters, New career — teaching art. Happy Reunion!"

whose parents both work. We have done lots of games, field trips, playing cards, and getting together with my grandchildren. It has been enjoyable. I am taking reading education classes for a graduate degree in education. I guess I really like education because I keep doing it. I hope to put it to use in the schools or community. I am really proud of Gail and her years of work on the school board in her community! I was able to get together with all my children this summer. That is the best!"

Flora Zimmerman Cohen: "All is well with us and our family. We're still staying busy and keeping out of trouble with our volunteer activities. And our big trip for this year is South Africa, where we'll be for almost all of September seeing the animals in natural habitats instead of working with them at the zoo and aquarium."

Cindy Ackerman Horne: "It was a great weekend, but then it always is when I get a chance to walk the paths of Western with old friends and talk about when we were young! I find it amazing that we go five, sometimes 10 years without seeing each other and when we do it seems only a day or so. I missed **Miss Hoyt** at this Reunion and I'm glad we were there for her Memorial — Ann and Mary did a fine job. We sang our flag song with a minor change as our toast at the Banquet, led, of course, by Gail. We were sooooo good!!! And I do hope you got a t-shirt. Flora is to be commended for doing such a good job. For years we bragged about and sang about our flag, NOW we can wear it.

"Enough of that nostalgia! At home life goes on. I keep getting good news — no new cancer cells and the tumor hasn't grown, it is still there, but smaller. My body is used to my chemo drugs and I have no ill effects.

REUNION REFLECTIONS

In 1986, I was "volunteered" to write memories of our 25th reunion. This time, after our 50th, I am moved to do it with no prompting from my classmates.

Then, there were 23 of us there; this time, we mustered only 12. We were joyful to see each other but saddened by our diminished size. We sorely missed those of you who weren't there.

While we returned to a campus where the peonies no longer bloom, much is still the same. The beauty and mystique of the Western campus is still there — Miss Peabody's ghost still roams and Phyllis Hoyt's presence and influence is deeply felt.

Picking up the threads as though we had never been apart, we paraded, sang (a lot), laughed (a lot), and ate (a lot) our way through the weekend. While enjoying our stay in air-conditioned Peabody, the long walk to community bathrooms reminded us all why we really don't like dorm life at this point in our lives! And were the pews in the chapel really that hard 50 years ago?

We enjoyed visiting at the Lodge — and, no, the sweet rolls aren't the ones we remember, but they are good. Because our talents lie elsewhere, we watched the Friday night talent show instead of participating. On Saturday, we proudly wore our flag for the morning parade and were inducted into the Meily Society at a luncheon (which I guess makes us officially old). The dinner that night at Shriver was delicious and fun. Small but mighty, we had the best toast (or so we thought) and won the Peabody Cup for best attendance (the advantage of having been the smallest class to start with). A beautiful and moving candlelight memorial service for Phyllis Hoyt on Saturday night with Anne and Mary as presenters and a Sunday morning chapel service with Cindy as the speaker and Gail as the choir leader were definite highlights of the weekend.

We took our leave of each other on Sunday with the same appreciation that we had 25 years ago of how important an influence our years at Western had been in our lives, with the same pride that we are part of her heritage, and with hugs and promises to be back for our 55th. I hope the rest of you will join us for what, just like it was then, still is a fantastic experience.

With my heart felt thanks to our wonderful and dedicated Alumnae Office staff for all their hard work in making this experience possible and to their student helpers who made our lives easier during the weekend.

— Flora Zimmerman Cohen '61

My hair has grown in — all grey but it's hair, and I'm 30 pounds lighter than when this all began. Life is good. This episode has put things in perspective for me and I'm grateful for that. I miss Dick — I always will, but I get along. Busy with the Woman's Club, volunteer a bit, play golf when I can, go to lunch and/or dinner with friends and visit family in Florida when it gets too cold in Ohio."

Sharon Botsford Moyer: "The 'terrific twelve' had a great time reconnecting and catching up.

"I spent quite some time in Indiana this spring as my mother had several health issues; however I did get to NYC to spend time with Sean and family. In March, Jane and I descended upon **Judy Buck** again. She has retired from NYU and is working at adjusting to a new rhythm. She was an excellent tour guide and hostess. My sad news is that my mother died in May from a massive stroke. I am very happy we had just returned from a road trip to spend Easter through Mother's Day with Jackie and Riley in Brunswick, GA. Dad remains on the farm missing his companion of 83 years! We are planning his 100th birthday in November.

"**Jane Brooks** and I just returned from a fabulous month in Eastern Europe. We started with ElderTeks in Prague and walked through the Czech Republic and northern Slovakia into Krakow, Poland. At the end of that trip we took a train to Budapest to connect with a friend of mine and continued to Salzburg, Berchtesgaden, Cesky Krumlov and Vienna. We had beautiful weather and toured fabulous castles, churches and medieval towns. Jane has introduced me to hiking poles so I feel somewhat more comfortable in this 'walking thing'; she has, however, not been in water deeper than the mineral baths in Budapest. I continue dividing my time between the farm in Indiana, Brooklyn, Georgia and, occasionally, Oak Park. We celebrate Jackie's 50th birthday this month with a short cruise in the Bahamas. Sean and Sarah are expecting a baby girl in December so we are anxiously awaiting her arrival. That will take me to Brooklyn!!"

Gail Howell Litwiler: "What a wonderful 50th Reunion we had in June! There were 12 of us and the Alumnae staff did a superb job of making our time together enjoyable and fun. It was great to see everyone. Not one of us looked like we should be celebrating our 50th!"

"Tom and I also celebrated our 50th in July, and my entire family (22 in all) spent a week at Corolla on the Outer Banks, NC, where our children had a celebration complete with a video of our life together for 50 years. We missed the hurricane by 1½ weeks. We keep quite busy — I continue to serve (22 years) on our local school board, and we both are very active in our church with teaching, board work, and singing in the choir for me. We regularly travel to see our children — our son, TJ, in Chicago and daughter, Trish, and her family including our two wonderful granddaughters (almost 5 and 19 months) in Greenville, NC. We are all well and for that I am very grateful. My best to all, and thanks to my fellow classmates for such a great time in June."

Anne Adkins Weissenborn: "Our 50th Reunion was fun!! We talked and sang and laughed, and the years since 1961 flew away. It means a lot to be part of such a thoughtful, caring group, and we hope very much that more '61ers will join us for an equally good time in 2016.

"For me personally, the past year has brought considerable travel. Last summer Ernie and I flew to the West Coast, starting in Seattle where we were royally welcomed and cared for by **Doris Ning Wong '62**, and her husband. Our daughter, Elizabeth, joined us there and then drove back with us to her adopted city of Portland. We then visited the beautiful Oregon Coast and caught up there with two sets of long-time friends. Our return home took us through Denver, where we stayed with Peter Brown, former faculty member at Western in the mid-late 1960s, and his wife at their mountain home at the beginning of the Rockies. Last fall and again early this spring, I was able to visit **Dean Phyllis Hoyt** in New Hampshire, the second time in the company of **Mary De Jong Obuchowski**. We were there the weekend in late March that Dean Hoyt was moved into assisted living, and we hope that our being able to help with the physical move softened the psychic blow to her independence. All too shortly thereafter I was honored to be included, along with Mary among the speakers at Dean Hoyt's memorial service in New Hampshire in early June, and then to be able to repeat my remarks at the WCAA Reunion at her candlelight memorial service in the Western Chapel. During the latter service we were joined by a firefly that flew down the aisle and around the chancel several times before departing. Many of us had the same reaction!

"Spring also brought Ernie's 80th birthday party and additional travel, the latter including a week-long bus tour of civil rights sites in Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham and Memphis. Before this trip I had been reading Bruce Watson's book, *Freedom Summer*, which describes in detail the settings and the events of the 1964 Mississippi Summer project for which Western pro-



50-year class, resplendent in custom black and gold t-shirts! Front row (l to r): Sharon Botsford Moyer, Anne Adkins Weissenborn, Suzy Negron West, Marcia Jones Friddle, Mary DeJong Obuchowski; middle row: Flora Zimmerman Cohen, Ann Kendrick McCrillis; top row: Sharry Patterson Addison, Gail Howell Litwiler, Judy Ulmer Brockschmidt, Cindy Ackerman Horne, Jane Miller Brooks

vided the training site. With the Watson book very much in mind, I was moved by being able to travel across northern Mississippi in a racially mixed group without apprehension — something that would not have been possible in 1964. I highly recommend both the book and a similar pilgrimage. In June, **Renee Harris Yates '72** and I completed our fifth year of planning and hosting a two-week DC program for university students from Hong Kong. Despite the heat this year we'll probably go for it again in 2012. In the meantime, I will enjoy the swift completion of the WCAA articulation agreement with the Miami Foundation and turn, together with my great committee, to the process of reaching a probably more complicated agreement with Miami U as such. [Please note discussion of these agreements on page 6.] It is good to be back on the WCAA Board of Trustees, something I highly recommend to anyone interested. Don't wait to be invited!"

Jane Miller Brooks: "All is well north of the 49th parallel. Life is good, especially in the summer. Certainly a highlight of the past few months was our 50th reunion last June. The 12 of us had a great time — hardly missed a beat catching up. Hopefully, we will continue Reunion gatherings with even more classmates. It is especially meaningful for me coming from Canada to reconnect.

"Summer is also the time when my three children and four granddaughters get together in Ontario. It was, of course, wonderful. I had to leave before the Reunion was over as it was time for **Sharon Moyer** and me to begin our trip to Eastern Europe. With a knowledgeable Czech guide we traveled for two weeks in the Czech Republic,

Slovakia, and Poland: medieval towns, castles, beautiful landscapes, hospitable people, the impressive cities of Prague and Krakow, and some hiking in the High Tatras of Slovakia. Two weeks of living history lessons. The visit to Auschwitz, of course, left a deep impression on us. An overnight train took us from Krakow to Budapest where we met Sharon's friend, Susie, to continue the adventure for 10 more days — visiting Budapest, Salzburg, Cesky Krumlov (Czech medieval village), finishing in Vienna.

"After traveling for 26 days, tired but richer for our experience, we came home. I have wonderful memories and hopefully will have access to photographer Sharon's incredible pictorial record. Now back to routines, work, and dreaming of the next travel adventure. Cheers."

All is well back here in Maine and in Needham, too. I sooooo missed you all and am so proud of the terrific 12 who carried the banner for the 50th celebration of the best class of all, '61! Special thanks to **Anne Adkins Weissenborn** and **Mary De Jong Obuchowski** for their loving tribute in memory of our dear **Dean Hoyt**.

Harry and I continue to travel and, of course, to follow granddaughter Kayla (almost 16), with her sports. Her school, North Yarmouth



Missing: Class Rep!

Academy, captured Maine Class C State Championship in Field Hockey (overtime and second set corners) this fall. Best big news is that I finally retired from BOD as President of Needham Youth Hockey (24 yrs.) Unexpectedly, I was selected to be inducted into the Mass Hockey Hall of Fame. I felt honored and enjoyed the event with many friends from over the years. I pray our class stays well and stays in touch with one another. Lots of love & blessings ...

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Reunion '12: Celebrate 50 years!
News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



It is with much sadness that I inform you that our classmate, **Daphne Shepard Chun**, passed away in July after a prolonged illness. She had moved to Texas to be taken care of by her daughter, Heather. Since I hadn't heard from her in a while, I wrote to her in Texas and her daughter called to inform me of her mother's demise. Our prayers are with the family in their hour of bereavement.

It was so exciting to hear from **Dottie Adler Bennett** and to learn that while she had taken her granddaughter to the University of Miami, she had coffee with **Donna Shalala '62**. Donna rolled out the carpet for them and they had an amazing time together. Donna is accomplishing wonderful things at the University of Miami, which is now ranked number 38 academically in *U.S. News*. Dottie also wrote that she and her husband, Richard, spent over three weeks in Indochina last November. Two of those weeks were in Vietnam, which surprised them by its beauty. They spent a lot of time on the Mekong River and relived much of the war. Laos and Cambodia were also very interesting. Cambodia is still recovering from its difficult past. Dottie recently received an Obama appointment to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. She will be working on commemorating the role that Italians played in WWII to save what turned out to be 80 percent of their Jewish population. She feels

Class Notes, continued on p. 30

Reunion '11 — Spotlight Western: You Are a Star!

The Western Spotlight did indeed beam down on Reunion 2011, June 17-19. YOU, the stars, were everywhere: catching up with the Class of '61 over Tuffy's toasted rolls in the Lodge, mingling with Miami's "first family" and Western Program guests on Clawson patio, performing onstage or applauding in the audience (which included Crossan Curry HA) at "Free To Be You and Me" in Leonard Theatre, checking out the Silent Auction and Gift Shop offerings . . .



... parading with fellow stars (led by director Mackenzie Becker Rice, chauffeuring Betty Vandersluis and Ruth Rhodenbaugh), smiling for the camera, singing along with Jane Miller '38 at the Meily Society luncheon, chatting with author Sheila Curran '78 at the Book Discussion, kibitzing at the Presser Reception ...



... celebrating at the Banquet, with (l to r) super star Reunion Chair Rita Greene '73, new Honorary Alum and ASA recipient Judy Waldron, trustee Ella McMahon '63 and Class of '46 toastmistress Betty Daniels; remembering Dean Phyllis Hoyt at the Candlelight Service; and concluding the weekend with the Closing Gathering and Farewell Brunch.



Closing Gathering stars (far left, l to r): organist Bill Jenne MU '91, presider Judy Henderson '62, speaker Cindy Horne '61, choir director Gail Litwiler '61

'til next year: June 15-17, 2012!
(See Alumnae Service Award information, p. 53.)





Dottie Adler Bennett, on U of M campus with president Donna Shalala

very privileged because she also completed a five-year stint at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum as a George Bush appointee. Hats off to you, Dottie! Turning 70 in February was such fun. She had a big celebration with friends and family. Their oldest grandson is starting St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. Ariel is a senior in high school and Jared is a 12-year-old seventh-grader.

Marj Keppel Gross twisted **Loretta Ryder's** arm to spend a few days with her while she was in North Carolina to check out the storm damage on her home after Hurricane Irene struck. She was happy to find out that her home was not demolished. She only had debris in the front and backyard. Praise the Lord. While there, Loretta and Marj had a Red Hat lunch and afterwards went to the Atlantic Beach at Fort Macon State Park.



Red Hat ladies: Loretta Ryder and Marj Gross

Loretta's most exciting news, was that the Brazeal Dennard Chorale with which she sings, had the honor of singing the national anthem at Comerica Park before the Tigers game on July 16th. The Old Negro Leagues were being honored. It was quite an experience for them to step out on that field and their performance was well received. You can view it on YouTube. Wow!

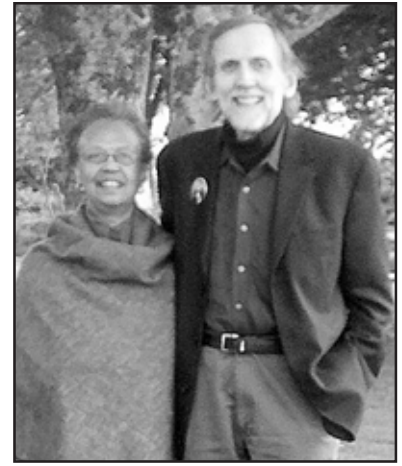
Marj wrote that she had a very busy year of retirement. She is teaching online. Also she became a Certified Productive Environment Specialist. Through this program she helps individuals and/or businesses to create a productive environment. Living in North Carolina. Marj has seen tornadoes, a hurricane and the shakiness of the Virginia earthquake. Marj mentioned that she would love to connect with more of her classmates via Facebook. She is listed there as Marj Keppel Gross. Please "friend" her!

Nia Terry (Billie) wrote that she had fun participating in the Western College Reunion showcase, "Free To Be You and Me." She wanted to thank **Celia Dalton Clark '70**, **Betty Sipe Gerber '52**, **Geri Kuscher Pizzi '68**, **Loretta Ryder**, **Stephanie Wagner '84**, **Ginny Weckstrom Kantor '69** and **Dr. Eleanor Vail FF** for the joy and privilege of entertaining "together." Nia's 16-year-old granddaughter, Jasmine, attended her fourth Reunion. Earthquakes and Hurricane Irene kept Nia from being in the DC area for the unveiling of the MLK Memorial Monument on the Mall. This year commemorates the 50th year of the U.S. Peace Corps in which Nia served in the first wave in Senegal, West Africa. She wishes all Western College sisters peace, love and joy!

Betsy Guthrie stated that during the past year she experienced a slight stroke and AFib. She has now recovered from both. Thank the Lord. Instead of living alone, Betsy's son Matt and his son are now living with her. It has been a pleasure for Betsy to get to know her adult son again and she feels like she has the world's "most wonderful grandson." Betsy is very thankful to be alive.

Ellen Brower Brightly's big event of the year is that her younger son has become engaged to an American-born Vietnamese woman. On June 5th her family took part in the engagement ceremony. It was just as elaborate as a wedding. After a year's engagement Yuri and Annie will have two weddings — one in Methuen, MA (Vietnamese) and another (American) in Bar Harbor, ME. Ellen is still working part time for the Graves' Disease Foundation. Next year will certainly be busy for you, Ellen.

Libbe Dennard celebrated her 70th birthday last November with her husband, Lee, by spending a month in Guatemala. They were mostly in the Spanish capital, Antigua, which is surrounded by volcanoes. Smoke shot up from one during their visit. They also traveled up to beautiful Lake Atitlan which is surrounded by scores of indigenous villages. They arranged a week's home stay with a multi-generational Indian family. Their hostess belongs to a weaving co-op and showed them the intricate work she does on her huge home loom, taught by her mother and teaching her daughter. Libbe has completed the fourth draft of her memoirs



Birthday girl Libbe Dennard and husband Lee

and has begun using the material to craft short stories which have been published in her local Juneau, AK, newspaper.

Liz Andrus Schoeberlein wishes us all a Happy 70th and good health, too. She and husband Ron celebrated their 48th anniversary on August 17th. He has been retired for 16 years and is following his passion for music. They have five grandsons, ages 16, 14, 9 and 4. In September, Liz, **Bonnie McGowan Sammet**, **Brenda Litchfield Benson** and **Jill Hartley Fulton** went to



Former roomies at the "Bean" in Chicago: Bonnie Sammet, Brenda Benson, Liz Schoeberlein and Jill Fulton

Chicago to celebrate their 70th. They planned to go to a spa for R&R and then to the city for some fun.

Sue Nave Wilson wrote that she is on staff at her church as a volunteer prayer ministry leader, working about 15-20 hours per week. This has been a blessing for her. This year Sue and husband Dick took their dream trip to Israel. This was a life-changing experience for them and their family. Sue describes this season of her life as content. Amen to that, Sue.

Becky Denson Rothfuss wrote that her 98-year-old father's goal is to reach 100. He is still living with her. She spent the summer traveling from Iowa to several states, including Florida and Virginia. She drove over 6,000 miles and was able to welcome a new granddaughter, Faith Scarlett Graham. Her daughter Karen now has three children, all under 5, plus she has a full-time job and a husband to take care of. I'm sure she appreciated a little help from Grandma Becky!

As for me, **Debbie Hunt Perrin**, the highlight of this year was reaching my 70th birthday and having our son, Tony, give my husband and me a joint 70th birthday celebration. I thank God that he brought me through the storms and the rains of my life to see my 70th birthday. He is in control and I praise Him for my life, health and strength, but most of all for my salvation. In the year ahead, may God give you peace. I hope and pray that you are doing well and that you will start planning now to attend our 50th reunion in 2013, Lord willing. Love and prayers ...



The Perrins at 70

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News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



From **Sophia Karayannides Browne**: "One year later, having moved back to New York [from California], we have endured the worst snow winter in New York state. Have endured the rainy season all summer, green algae in the pool, an earthquake and finally a hurricane. All this is our welcome back to the East Coast. Fortunately, we did have a wonderful Browne family reunion in July. I just came back last week from a trip to island of Santorini in Greece where we had a Karayannides family reunion. There were

eight of us from the U.S. and Beirut, Lebanon. Of course, our original flight was scheduled for the weekend of Hurricane Irene's arrival. We had to drive to Chicago to catch a flight to Rome/Athens that Monday or not go at all. It definitely was worth it. Nothing was going to get in our way ... not even a hurricane."

Margaret "Meg" Warnock Carlough writes: "Last year I was in a short (14 minutes) movie following Hawthorne's Canterbury Pilgrims, one couple leaving and one couple coming into a Shaker Village (Come Life). After that I got involved with Hancock Shaker Village and the music program it does every day (I only do some of the days). I get to dress up in 1850 Shaker costume and explain some of what the Shakers thought. They stood for peace, equality (of the sexes and race) and tried to make the world a better place. My chiropractic practice is small but I still enjoy it. My son, Will, the redhead, is enjoying a part-time job with MeetUp.com keeping time free for more interesting things. My husband, Gene, is well, and getting back to running after cataract surgery. My father celebrated 106 years this year in an assisted-living facility in New Jersey in the next town from where I grew up. I still sing with a small chorus in Pittsfield. Life is full and interesting."

From **Maryam Daftari**: I continue to live in Fairfield, IA, where my son and his family live. I spend about eight months of the year there, continuing my research and study of Chinese affairs (political and economic), playing the piano, doing traditional Chinese paintings, and working on my book of poetry. Due to the terribly cold winter months in Iowa, I travel back to the old country (Iran) and visit with family and friends during the months of Dec.-March. I have a 17-year-old grandson, Sam, who is a senior this year and will be busy applying for college. He is into robotics and tennis. Hope to hear from many Western classmates.

Mina Lund Davis sent a short note about her mini-reunion with **Betsy Smith Ames**, **Tracy Humason Self** and **Beth Reilly Garifalos** (all '65ers) at her home in Hernando, FL. "What a blast. We are still talking about it. It was really a special time, and I am so grateful they all made the trip here. It's so true what they say, there is no friend like an old friend".

From **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens**: "I retired from Princeton last August and have enjoyed having a bit

more freedom and flexibility to visit my three daughters and granddaughter. My oldest daughter, Jill, and her family are in Los Angeles. I have taken on such duties as planning Lucca's fourth birthday party to driving her to swimming lessons to caring for her while she recuperated from scarlet fever. Dawn, my youngest, is the Spa Director at Hotel Healdsburg in California. Happily she has introduced me to wine tasting, mud baths and mineral water soaks. KC, who is the VP for Digital at a global advertising firm, relocated to London in April and together we went antique shopping in her neighborhood, near Portobello Road. I have also been helping husband Paul with the care of his 92-year-old mother, who has dementia. I'm on a number of nonprofit boards, am involved in my local chapter of the Links, Inc. and with my church. In June, I was pleased to be able to visit **Liz "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison** in Vermont and to attend **Dean Phyllis Hoyt's** memorial service in New Hampshire. We're hoping to plan a girls' weekend sometime soon. So, life is good!

From **Brooksie Jacobs Harrison** a short and sad note: "Hurricane Irene devastated many roads and homes around us but we were blessed with being spared. I am proud to be a Rotarian with all the help that has poured in from Rotarians around the country."

Rebecca Bartholomew Kraus writes: "I'm playing golf again after a fairly long respite from the sport. Newer, lighter clubs are making this transition to new golf from old golf a lot easier. We have a 2-year-old Tennessee Walking horse in Kentucky that is doing well in country pleasure classes. He's smooth as glass, too. I love riding him. My health is good, no problems. That's a blessing. I'm able to enjoy swimming, routine exercise, and bowling on the Landings League. This is a retiree community (in Savannah, GA), and the median age of our team is 75. At 68 I'm one of the young ones."



Seeing the sights in Hernando, FL! Mini-reuners (l to r): Mina Davis, Betsy Ames, Beth Garifalos and Tracy Self



All hail, Class of '66! Row 1 (l to r): Jane Graham Murphy, Suzanne Lutz May, Ann Walton, Charla Coatoam, Sue Detlefsen Meyer; row 2: Edie Taylor Molumby, Charlotte Dickerson, Hazel Williams Drew, Kathi Ramsey Bumblis

We had a lovely trip to Vegas in June, then flew up to Utah to visit my brother in Park City for a week. We are going to the Pro Bowl in Hawaii in 2012. That does it for trips. More may be added if we get restless. It's hard to find places to visit when our island living is like a vacation."

From **Kate O'Brian Lillich**: "Greetings to all! We're getting ready for two 50th high school reunions, Tom's in Cincinnati this weekend, mine in Dayton/Oakwood the end of Sept. Has this much time passed??!! Still enjoying the five grandkids (three here in Lexington, two in Cincinnati). My work with The Lexington Singers Children's Choir (and my own singing), the French exchange student committee, bridge, reading group, socializing and traveling have all kept me busy. Had a big family weekend here in June for my mother's 90th (my father's was in 2010), and on it goes!"

From **Alice Von Tacky Ross**: "After voicing the suggestion for months that we get together, **Joyce Benbow** (roommate at Western) and I finally met in Batesville, IN, in the spring for lunch and lots of time for yakking. We both share the love of a 'second home' and all that comes with that ... critters, water damage, weather issues, age issues, and so on. It is quite disappointing that neither of us hears from our fellow comrades from our college days. Proof positive that people are way too busy. We had a wonderful, albeit hot and humid (unusual for Michigan), summer with friends and family.

Currently, Dan and I are attempting to catch some large, delicious to eat salmon from Lake Michigan. Looking forward to the colors in Michigan's fall season. We leave for our winter residence in Ohio in late October. We have the best of both worlds."

Shirin Kassam Velji tells us about her chronic tendon problem in her leg. Nothing seems to help this debilitating condition. As a result of this problem, Shirin has had to curtail her travels and her volunteer work. She took a short trip to Vancouver to visit friends. She is planning a trip to Alexander Valley with the entire family to celebrate her husband, Noorali's, 80th birthday and their 43rd anniversary. Her children are fine and the four grands are growing up fast.

Life down here in hot Florida has not changed much this past year. Sam's son, Brack, moved away to a new house close to the West Coast. We don't see much of him or his kids. Gas is too expensive for much visiting in any case. We did not go anywhere this year for that reason. Our daughter, Laura, still lives in cold(er) Colorado. She got her master's in Administration early this year. This resulted in a good job with Ashford University as an admissions counselor (entry level). It pays much better than anything she has done before. Our daughter, Karen, who lives next door, has started on her B.A. in Healthcare Services (on line) so she can get a decent job in a hospital. Sam is very slowly recovering from a bad fall in May. As of September, he has

been more than three months out of a hospital; almost a new record for him. I keep busy with my bridge, my newsletter writing and caring for Sam. We still go to antique auto shows with his wheelchair in tow. If he is feeling up to it, we may go to a big show in South Florida in November. We have some help this year from an unemployed friend of our daughter. He and his girlfriend needed help with a place to live, and we needed their help at our place. Sam has not been physically able to keep up with all the chores and maintenance required around here. They are both willing and able to help.

I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy (with cheaper gas) New Year ...

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News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



Reunion '12: Celebrate 45 years!

Thanks to **Geraldine "Gerry" Davies De-George '66**, we have information to impart regarding the life and death of **Marcia Louise Hogg**. Gerry and Marcia were lifelong friends, having together attended the same high school and also Western. Following graduation, Marcia taught for several years in New Hampshire before joining her husband, Charles Buckley, in a move to Syracuse, NY, for his work. There she became involved in a career in personnel placement and retail. Marcia was a long-time active volunteer for the Central New York AIDS Community Resources including the AIDS Hotline and the Names AIDS Quilt Project. She provided support for those in crisis, meals, and hospice for those dying of AIDS. Marcia died December 19, 2010, in Syracuse following a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her sisters, Carla White and Sheila Hogg.

Judith Jennings Wood is another classmate whose death I must report. Judy, who was at Western only freshman year, died October 27, 2010. She was married to Lloyd Wood and lived in Savannah, Georgia.

Many of you are aware of the May 26, 2011, death of **Phyllis Hoyt** our Dean of Students. The Alumnae Office sent me a copy of her obituary should any of you wish it. For those of you wishing to do so, memorial contributions may be made to the Western College Alumnae Association, or more specifically to the WCAA Peabody/Hoyt Scholarship, Patterson Place, Oxford, OH 45056.

Carol Stone Lehman has a new home address: 4531 Troxler Mill Rd., Gibsonville, NC 27249; e-mail: nana2749@gmail.com.

Elisa Kessler Caporale's Christmas letter indicated that she still is leading an active creative life. She had a busy 2010 year teaching and demonstrating, so this year is restricting her chartered school teaching to two eight-week programs, just enough to pay for her next basket guild conference. Elisa still participates in two library book groups, weavers and basket guilds, and a Book Arts group. Additionally, this year she is participating in a journal/sketchbook that is online.

She and husband John are slowly renovating their kitchen, and sadly, when it is finished, Elisa and her need to dye her baskets will be relegated to working in the basement. The Caporales' son, Stefan, is now working for Dow Chemical because his company was purchased by them. Daughter Clemencia is an Outdoor Recreation Coordinator at Washington State University in Pullman, WA, where she recently passed her ski patrol exam. 2012 just may bring a trip to Western for Reunion, and in the fall a trip to Spain for the Camino de Santiago Walk.

Later in April, Elisa and John went to Ormond Beach, FL, where they had a nice visit with **Penny Corcoran Decker** and Penny's husband, David. The next day Penny and David were heading off to a cruise on the Mediterranean.

A winter letter from **Rosemary Gingrich Parks** brings us up-to-date on last year's events in her life. After Rosie finished up her tax work in the spring of 2010, she joined daughter Amber and husband Joe on a trip to California for grandson Jordan's first birthday held in a city park near Los Angeles. The day after this party Jordan was christened. Rosie made his christening suit, complete with vest and bow tie, from the fabric of an old christening dress found in his great-grandmother's wedding trunk. Back in Virginia, the family dogs were entered into an Easter egg hunt contest and Rosie was pleased that her Sammy, at under 4 pounds, won the prize as the smallest dog. Later in the year her life was filled with family visits to see a new baby her brother-in-law's 90th birthday, the deaths of several friends and finally an early Christmas visit from daughter Marissa and then 20-month-old grandson, Jordan. Watching him have breakfast

with Santa and later open presents was a wonderful memory. At the end of the year, Rosie drove the van for the Salvation Army Bell Ringers, delivering them to their destinations. Rosie is most grateful for the people in her life, a feeling that probably most of us share.

All is now well with **Ann Coleman Lynn**. She had to delay her 65th birthday celebration trip scheduled for October last year to have a second knee replacement. Because that knee healed so nicely the trip happened this May and was worth waiting for. Ann had chosen Paris as her place to celebrate and included a side trip to the Normandy beaches. For his 65th birthday trip, her husband, Fred, chose Berlin and Dresden during the last two weeks of August. In between trips, the Lynns spent some time away from the heat of Phoenix, vacationing in Maine joined by son Jeff and his wife, Lindsay. The young folk live in London where Jeff is awaiting approval from the FSA, the British equivalent of our SEC, for his new Internet company. Lindsay is working for Bacardi Rum.

For **Susie Jennings Wilson**, our annual August e-mail chat comes in the middle of her garden's growing season. This year she decided not to haul her veggies to the Farmer's Market hoping that she would have less pressure, but then forgot to make her organic garden plot smaller. Now she is overwhelmed by both veggies and weeds.

Part of the blame, Susie, lies with that wonderful vacation you took with your husband and daughter-in-law driving through Amish country in Indiana and Ohio to your old stomping ground in Pittsburgh, then partying with your 90-year-old aunt. Driving home via Niagara Falls, Canada to Marshall, MI, and thence down home to Galena most assuredly gave extra play time to the life in your garden. What with harvesting, weeding and your regular job at Wild Birds Unlimited, how do you ever find time for your spin (bike) class or to make all those concrete bird baths and tables? Susie also reported that her husband is working on a master's degree in Information Systems through the University of Maryland, and that she has no grandchildren to brag about in spite of the hints she drops.

Jan Chadwick sends greetings to all classmates. Her e-mail centered around multiple family gatherings concerning their lake house in New York. This house, built in the early 1950s, was definitely showing its age and renovation no longer could be considered an option. After her 93-year-old father gave his blessing to tearing the house down and rebuilding, Jan and her siblings met several times to clear out the house prior to September demolition. Her sister-in-law, an architect and general contractor, is managing the project and family members have been meeting with her this summer to put forward ideas for possible incorporation into

the new house. Hopefully, it will be ready for use next summer. Jan has been delighted with input and help from her niece and nephew who live in California. Her niece is beginning a Ph.D. program at Stanford and her nephew has just graduated from the California Institute of Technology. Jan closed her note with the hope that many of you will return to Western in June 2012 for our next big Reunion!

Jo Ann Brombaugh Wittman wrote to say that she and husband Jack spent three weeks this summer driving cross country from Maryland to Eugene, OR, to help her older brother and his wife celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. This trip of 6,500 miles gave them the opportunity to visit with friends along the way as well as a chance to visit Glacier National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Craters of the Moon. All parks provided beautiful scenery and comfortable weather. Indeed they were happy to have missed the earthquake on the East Coast and Hurricane Irene. JoAnn is now on Facebook and looks forward to seeing friends' posts and photos there.

As for me, I keep busy doing computer work in the archives at the Indian Museum, genealogy work at home and read a lot. In the spring I joined friends from the museum on a trip to Washington, DC, where we were privileged to spend time consulting with the staff at the National Museum of the American Indian and visiting their archives and research center in Maryland. We all came away with new preservation/conservation ideas as well as confirmation that we were on the right track in the work we currently had undertaken.

I continue to make several three-week trips a year to Lancaster, PA, to spend time with my mother and brothers. While there I have been fortunate to be able to spend time with **Mary Brubaker Garman** and **Barbara Zarfoss Landis**. Both gals are active sportswomen so our summer get-togethers tend to be between golf and/or tennis matches. This year I also undertook two remodeling projects, the dining room and making the kitchen more user-friendly. Now that they are finished, I find myself scurrying around getting the house back in order in preparation for house guests coming for a family wedding in mid-September. I do hope that I haven't lost anyone's notes during this process! But if I have, please make next year's news a bit longer and also plan to come to Reunion where you can help write this news column. Have a great year!

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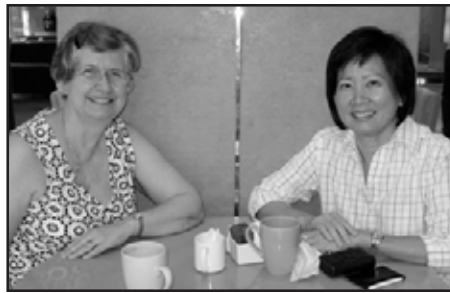
News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
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My own news must include the March 11 Great Tohoku Earthquake and the resultant tsunami and damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plants that are still primary topics of conversation here in my part of Japan over six months later. Thank you all who thought of me, of Japan and the people here. In the days following the quake, I was very focused on my own situation, that of my family here and of the country, and on letting family abroad know that I was well. It was a heartwarming surprise to be asked after by so many of you. Writing to you was good therapy for me. [See *Spring 2011 Bulletin*.] Thank you and blessings on all of you who participated in events for Japan, gave money, or sent prayers. All was and is appreciated. Japan is mending slowly; it is mending — bending to consider all of the ways in which that earthquake impacted the country — and the world. For news about the recovery, I suggest reading the *Japan Times*, an English language daily on line at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

It was a hot summer in Japan, and a time when we had to be especially careful about the amount and timing of electricity use to avoid blackouts. I was lucky enough to get away for five weeks in August and September. My husband, Kazu, and I spent two weeks at our place on Maui. During that time, we were joined by our children, Chrissie and Dean, their spouses and Chrissie's two little boys. It's extremely rare for us all to be together, so it was a special time. I traveled on to spend a couple of weeks visiting and helping my mother and aunt in California, then capped the vacation with a visit to my sister's little farm in Florida.

Jitrapa "Judy" Kantabutra Himathongkam wrote last Christmas that the highlight of 2010 was her and Thap's 40th wedding anniversary on December 12th. They held a luncheon party for about 150 people at the big function room of the new lifestyle building of their hospital, Theptarin Grand Hall. The children were all there. Bam came home to help celebrate and sang a beautiful "My Valentine." Bunny and Bic presented "Our 40 Years Together," capturing the more important incidents through the



Nancy Kobayashi and Judy Himathongkam in Bangkok, January 2010. After 40 years, they barely recognized each other, but had plenty to talk about!

years. Judy surprised the guests by changing into her original wedding gown and recreating the church wedding procession with their children (three couples) leading the way onto the stage.

Thap and Judy visited Sweden, Russia, and Orlando, FL, for diabetes-related conferences. After the Orlando meeting they flew on to Washington, DC, and spent three days with their daughter, Bam. Judy does lots of healthful exercise including swimming, workouts in the gym and Qigong, a good exercise for older people: slow movements, deep breathing and concentration. She says she and Thap have to practice what they preach concerning disease prevention. Judy is also involved with the Foundation for Slum Child Care, daycare project for children of the poorest workers.

Stephanie Bentzen Snook wrote that she and her husband, Fred, continue much as before. Fred still coaches speech and debate and they both judge tournaments, they play euchre and Stevie has her monthly ladies poker night. Stevie wrote about two highlights of the year. Their son Devon married Kendra on December 18, 2010, in Bellevue, OH, on a clear day with bright blue skies and the sun glistening on the snow that had fallen during the previous few days' storms. **Annie Bevan Gallagher** and **Dick Gallagher** attended the wedding and the reception, which was held in their hometown of Sandusky, OH. Dick was the hit of the reception making balloon animals for the kids. He's as much fun as he was as a student at Miami.

Since this year Stevie and Fred put their efforts into landscaping, their vacation was a short one to Virginia. She recommends that if you are ever in Virginia on July 4th, be sure to visit Jefferson's home, Monticello, where immigrants take their oath of U.S. citizenship on the lawn — very impressive. Stevie keeps in touch with **Betsy Solis** and **BJ Bramlett**.

Julie Cook Downing wrote from Sarasota, FL. Julie attended Miami's alumni weekend this June with her husband, Ted Downing, who sits on the Alumni Board at Miami. Due



Last spring, Nancy lunched with Susie Kikawa '59 (left) and Chako Matsumoto Era '68 in Kamakura, Japan. They'd be talking still ... but Chako had to catch her train.

to Ted's responsibilities, most of her time was spent on Miami's campus, but they did have a chance to visit Western's campus briefly to relive the memories of when they met on Julie's first day of college in September 1965. They celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on June 21, 2011, so it was a nice touch to be in Oxford June 15-19 where it all began. Western looked beautiful to them, and they were amazed to see the large number of deer. They enjoyed a performance at Leonard Theatre, and were able to attend a portion of the memorial service for Dean Hoyt. Julie looks forward to a return trip to Oxford joining Ted on at least one more Alumni Board weekend during his remaining two years of service.

Julie and Ted have lived in Sarasota since 2001. The move and adjustment were difficult, but Julie no longer pines for Chicago. They brought her dad who had dementia with them to live and the sadness of it all overwhelmed her daily. Her father passed in 2006 only for them to accept responsibility for a 95-year-old aunt in 2008 for almost three years. She relocated in late 2010 and although they now celebrate their freedom, Julie remains involved. She facilitates a caregivers' support group monthly and has self-published "Caregivers' Comfort, A Journal and Record Book for Caregivers" (www.caregiverscomfort.com) as a direct result of her mother having Alzheimer's disease in the late '90s. (Julie Cook Downing '69, 7016 Gold Rush Ln., University Park, FL 34201; 941-400-5612; jujag45@aol.com)

BJ Gibbons Bramlett claims that she usually has nothing to share because at this age her life is pretty consistent, but this year she and husband Owen decided to take the Miami University Alumni Association's trip, a cruise to the Mediterranean Sea. It felt like a chance to experience all those places they learned about in all those history courses. The first stop was Ephesus, and then on to the Greek Isles, Sicily, Rome, Florence, Provence and Monte Carlo, where they were gearing up for the Grand Prix. Owen and BJ had a great time, in part owing to the opportunities to meet and socialize with alumni of our era. On future trips they would

like to see a few Western alumnae on the passenger list. BJ's advice is to take trips while you are still agile enough to enjoy places like Ephesus with its miles of decaying steps.

BJ and Owen are still sailing on the San Francisco Bay where things are heating up for the America's Cup. They went to Newport, RI, to see the original race course (and of course eat clams and lobster) and it was beautiful. They also sailed in San Diego and Seattle. Newport was part of a trip to New York City, the first visit for them as a couple. They had a great time; tickets to the shows were easy to get and of course they had to eat real pastrami sandwiches. They still go to Puerto Vallarta for a week in December. They started going there when it was a small village; now it is booming with lots of beautiful condos. The place they stay has a three-bedroom penthouse with a rooftop party area. Anyone want to join them?

BJ sees **Susan Blake Rowland '68** and **Diana Koch Mascali '59** occasionally, but now that Betsy Solis has moved to Hawaii, they meet just once a year.

Betsy Solis wrote from the Big Island of Hawaii. In addition to her usual volunteer activities (DAR, condo boards, triathlons), she added a marine film festival in February, which really opened her eyes to the effects of plastics on our oceans. She also joined AAUW (American Association of University Women). Her chapter's main event is a GEMS (Girls Exploring Math and Science) program where all fifth grade girls from her side of the island are invited for the day to explore future opportunities for them through 20 fun and educational workshops.

March brought the tsunami from Japan, causing significant damage from which recovery has been very slow. She and many of her neighbors took in complete strangers who were unlucky enough to be vacationing along the ocean that night. In support of Japan she joined a benefit run, her first run since she injured her Achilles tendon (which still hurts) over a year ago. After returning to California in June, she joined a Crohn's walk to honor a friend.

Virginia "Ginny" Weckstrom's news is that she and husband Paul Kantor will be moving to Houston in the summer of 2012. Both have accepted positions to teach at Rice University beginning September. She has never lived in the South, so it will be a big change, but she is very excited! They still teach in Aspen, CO, in the summer, so they won't need to deal with the extreme Texas heat and humidity. In the meantime Ginny is enjoying the lovely fall weather in Cleveland and the beginning of a new term at school.

Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak sent greetings from Grafton, WI, where she often thinks of her Western years and misses all her classmates. This past year has been a year of milestones for Gretchen. On a sad note she lost her equine companion, Buster Bar, in July after 26 years together. She writes, "He was truly 'my buddy,'" and she misses him terribly. He was surely a gift from God, and she has many wonderful memories.

On a happier note, Gretchen has recently retired. She and her husband, Tom, are looking to the future hoping it is filled with exciting opportunities and wonderful new experiences. The highlight of their summer was their traditional outing with their son, Michael, and his wife, Teri, and their children, Taylor and Tanner. This year they went camping and had a great time boating, hiking and enjoying being together. With her newfound freedom, one of her goals is to have more time for family and friends. This said, Gretchen wonders if she will get her Christmas cards out on time.

If anyone sends me Christmas news, on time or not, I'll file it away for next fall.

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News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
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Another year has gone by and unfortunately, I haven't heard from many of you. I would love to know what everyone is up to.

A surprise this year came from **Esperanza "Pela" Oteo Gereffi**, who was in Asia as she wrote. It was great to hear from her but I don't have a lot of information for her except that she is married to Gary Gereffi and she lives in Durham, NC, where Gary teaches at Duke University. They have two grown daughters. She would love to hear from **Lillian Poon**. She laments that she has lost touch with everyone except **Sharon Keeler**, her roommate. She hasn't been back to Western for about 10 years, the last time she went to a Reunion with her sister, **Isabel Oteo De Martinez '60**. I hope Pela will

continue to keep in touch and let us know a bit more about her life for the last 40 years.

Jenet Kimmel Mullins' latest move "brings quite a change." She and her husband have moved from a 100-year-old home in a historic Dayton (Ohio) neighborhood to a ranch on a slab in the township. Life is so much easier, she says — "no steps, the laundry room is on the same floor as the bedrooms and the kitchen" — that they should have done it years ago. Jenet remains active with the Dayton Landmarks Commission, working to maintain and stabilize historic homes and areas in Dayton, and on the Housing Appeals Board, "patient about both boards and the rebirth of Dayton." But she admits that it is refreshing to not deal with the urban challenges a city offers — they are happily retired, enjoying their time together and the opportunities to travel: "Life is good!"

Lynn Erstein has had a busy year and it doesn't sound like it will let up any time soon. In the spring, she wrote and worked with a designer to produce outdoor interpretive signs for a historic timber frame barn that was going to be demolished. She brought the barn to the community's attention, it was restored and added on to and it is now a popular community venue for weddings, birthdays and family reunions. She also was in charge of the annual Wall of Honor ceremony and the Upper Arlington Home and Garden tour. She went to Boston for her daughter's graduation from the Graduate School of Design in architecture at Harvard. All this within a month.

After all that she started thinking about her promise to herself that someday she would move back to California. She realized that "someday is now," so she quit her two part-time jobs, put what she could fit in her car and the rest in storage and drove to California, stopping to visit family and friends along the way. She will stay in a friend's guest house until she can find someplace to live near the beach in the Santa Cruz area. Not what most 62-year-old women do, but then Lynn has never fit any mold! I find Lynn inspirational and still filled with a great sense of adventure. I hope her new life is just as she envisioned it.

I am still traveling back and forth between Amesbury, MA, and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Although the plane never made it to the island last year due to weather and some strange events, we are on schedule for this year and hoping to leave Massachusetts in mid-October. We fly down the coast, stopping at different spots each year and then across the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos, over Puerto Rico and into St. Croix. The trip takes at least four days and sometimes longer if we decide to stop for a few days. We also made a couple of flying trips to Canada this year to visit friends. Phil and I are fine and can't believe we are 62 — how did that happen? I used

to think that was old, but not so much any more. We play tennis a lot and I still swim and enjoy living in two very different places.

I wish everyone a good year and hope to hear from more of you next year.

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Reunion '12: Celebrate 40 years!
News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



Greetings to everyone! I didn't get many responses in my mailbox this time. I can only assume it's because we are all such BUSY women! But even if you forgot to send in your blue card on time, have no fear — I'll include your letters in next year's publication. So just drop me a line any time!

Our first note comes from **Beniko Tsubaki** in Japan. "Sorry, I cannot write a long note today. Please send my best to all Westerners and thank them for warm wishes we received after the March 11 earthquake. Love and XXX. Beniko Tsubaki" (benikot@qf7.so-net.ne.jp)

Joan Campbell writes: "For Ben and me, travel turned out to be the major focus of our year, which seems to be our habit. We stuck pretty close to home all winter but then our schedule got a little crazier. In May we took a cruise with Lindblad Expeditions that began in Madeira, on to the Azores, the southern coast of England and a couple of the Channel Islands.

"We'd been back home for a few weeks when we headed to Boston for a fascinating reunion with an old friend from Malaysia, whom I hadn't seen in person since 1980. Ben and I had several riotous days with Latiff, his wife, his son (who was finishing a year at MIT in a special M.B.A. program), and his daughter-in-law. As we all know from our Western days, long-time friendships are something really special, and it was also a delight to make our first visit to the Boston area — I hope not my last.

"The highlight of our summer was three weeks in the state of Washington, from mid-June to early July. We spent the first week on a nature-focused trip in the San Juan Islands with a group of friends, after which Ben and I descended on Western classmate, **Lyn Miller Neely**, who lives in Richland. For the next two weeks Lyn and her daughter, Elisabeth, were our tour guides not only in the Tri-Cities area, but also on a driving trip through the North Cascades, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainier. Wow — we had SUCH a good time (and good weather) exploring a lot of Washington by car and on foot (although there's still lots we didn't see — it's a BIG state), and I think the four of us seriously strengthened our diaphragms from laughing. As I write this in late August, we're packing for our annual trip to the Canadian Rockies. After the hot, humid weather we've been putting up with this summer at home, the mountains appeal more than ever, but I'll bet that when we return home, we'll be ready to take it easy for a while." (vjc@wideopenwest.com)

Susan Adland sent a note: "Wish I had something wonderful to write, being in Washington these days does not give me much pleasure. This place has become a circus. Perhaps by the time you read this, the government will have become productive again. I continue to work part-time as a reference librarian at American University. What a vast difference from going into the old library in Alumnae Hall! I am able to walk to work so it is the perfect part-time position, though having healthcare would be nice too. I enjoy being challenged by the students. Tennis, Shanghai style mahjong, knitting and taking care of my two adorable Japanese Chins keep me occupied, and of course, travel to anywhere — Turkey is coming up soon. Learning to read Hebrew after all these years is a goal for 2012. My daughter is here in DC as well and it is always a pleasure to spend time with her.

"**Marcy Jackoway Cornfield** and I see each other at least once a year and I am hoping to meet up with **Susan Rasman Brodsky** later this year as well. We would love to hear from more '73ers." (sfadland@hotmail.com)

I heard from **Ann Beardsley** TWICE! She wrote to me after receiving her 2010 *Bulletin*, and was prompted to drop me a line. So here is what she says about LAST year! "OK, so I got the *Bulletin* today and it prompted guilt. (That HAS to be the Catholic upbringing, yes?) I had meant to write several times, but never got around to it. I deserve a break though ... I get around to a lot of things; that just wasn't one of them. Our older daughter, Kelly, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill last spring (2010), and for graduation she wanted a trip to Ireland. So the four of us went over and spent eight days hiking the trails in Ireland. Locals told us the week we picked was the sunniest week in years, as we only had one afternoon show-

er. What they say about the 'green, green hills' of Ireland is definitely true; what they don't say is how blasted high they are. We did some serious hiking. We left her there, on her own, for another few months of jaunting around. Another benefit is that the reward of a trip to Ireland (or elsewhere) might prompt our younger daughter, Margie, to get serious about staying in school.

"I continue to edit full-time, Elliott is still an optometrist, though now for the Army as a civilian doctor, and we are enjoying laid-back life in coastal Georgia. I've taken up quilting (something **Amy Robinson Collins '74** tried to get me interested in many, many years ago) and have become thoroughly hooked."

Now for THIS year's submission, Ann says, "Well, I turned 60 last week and threw a humongous low-country boil for myself and about 40 other people. I've signed up to do the Goofy Challenge in January in Orlando with my kid sister Kate (15 years younger than I) so I'm trying to figure out how to run (about time, huh?). Daughter Kelly has found a job with spoonflower.com, a custom fabric manufacturer, so I can feed my quilting obsession — one of my kids is at last 'settled.' Daughter Margie is enrolled in college but is still trying to figure out what she wants to do. I have no advice, as I'm not sure I've figured that out yet.

"Other than that, things are pretty stable: I'm still editing, and Elliott's still an optometrist. I have a 350-mile bike trip planned with friends in September, from Pittsburgh to Georgetown. The squirrels have gotten all my tomatoes and melons, but left me the eggplant. That's about it. Exciting things do happen (the backhoe did not kill the baby guava tree; I learned how to do curves in quilting; Elliott created a website for a friend's new business) — but they're just the ordinary events that are only exciting in comparison to the rest of our (rather boring) life — which is fine with me. I have no complaints. I hope you and yours are doing well." (annmeeker@swiftpassage.com)

We have some sad news that landed in my in-box this past December. **Tina E. Yerian** passed away at age 58 on March 19, 2010 at her home in Covington, KY. Our condolences to her family and friends.

My massage business, Healing Spirit Holistic Health Center, continues to be a challenge in this weird economy, but I am blessed to at least have a source of income!

I was delighted to hear from **Kathy Albright Willowoode '74** after the *Bulletin* published last winter. She saw my paragraph about my holistic business and wanted to touch base since she's also in the field. This is what she told me, "I have been working at health food stores since 1989, after getting a second degree from Purdue in Dietetics. I

do nutritional counseling, as well as Reiki, mostly for friends and family, and Shamanic healing. I am especially interested in herbs, both growing and using as medicines." It's really nice to know that so many people are interested in Complementary Health Care options. I'm going to ask her to make me some herbal blends for my own business!

My youngest child, Gino, still lives with me — helping with expenses, which is nice! He's been working two jobs, both of them for disadvantaged youth. He is preparing to take his GREs to apply to grad school in 2012, and plans to change his major from Political Science to some kind of Social Services degree. His siblings in FL, (Allegra and Hugo), came to San Diego for a two-week vacation in June. Hugo brought a new girl friend, and Allegra came with her husband and two children, Adrianna, and Jean-Paul, and her Baby Bump, so at one time we had seven adults and two kids in a two-bedroom apartment. But it was SO MUCH FUN, and I really would love to have all my kids and their families closer by! I am going to Naples, where Hugo and Allegra live, October 5-17, hopefully arriving on time to welcome my new grandson to the world on or around the 11th.

The wonderful man in my life, Robin, and I will be soon celebrating three years together. We still have no plans to marry; he lives and works in Orange County, about 1½ hours away, so we mostly see each other on weekends, which suits me well. I like to joke that I get the benefits of the honeymoon without the responsibilities of the marriage. (Is that too risqué for this magazine?) I'm kind of freaking out to be turning 60 in a few weeks, but I keep thinking, "60 is the New 40!" Right? A friend of mine and I are planning to throw a big party later this fall to celebrate this Rite of Passage to "Matron" by honoring the Crone Goddesses. We'll have a ceremony and feature the various "dark" goddesses who over time have been turned into witches and hags by the patriarchy. We're having a blast planning this event. Making this party is taking some of the sting out of my progression into Old Lady-hood. (Laughing Out Loud!)

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! Especially if you're a CRONE! Please stay in touch!

Christy Wines '73
5155 Cedarwood Rd., Apt. 56
Bonita, CA 91902
619-267-1425 (h); 619-701-7264 (cell)
(winescl@aol.com)



News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



Well this time around is just about the bleakest we have had in responses. I hope that by next year we can have a fantastic showing from the class of 1975. I know how hard it is to keep things going. I would imagine that some of you feel sort of misplaced, since we were short a year from being a Western Graduate, but remember we did three years there and that includes three years of friendships. We will never know what it felt like to walk that graduate walk on the grounds, but that is minor compared to the many other life lessons and experiences we did have. Western College is a part of all of us and will be forever.

Sally Stark writes: "Hello, I'm not doing too much these days, after having been laid off from my job in '08. Our library cut out a lot of 'dead wood,' (otherwise known as part-timers), and put in self-check machines! I'm upset, but I understand it. It's far more important that libraries STAY OPEN! Basically, I'm doing a lot of blogging, writing short stories for pleasure, and catching up on all the reading I never had time for ... Sunny SoCal is just that. Sunny and warm today, and my fig tree has enough to feed every crow from San Diego to Santa Barbara! Have you heard ANYTHING from **Janet Jones** or **Claudia James**? They were housemates from Clawson. Yours from Clawson 219 ..."

As for me, life is pretty much the same. My oldest Sarah left home in November; she is trying life as an adult. The little ones are both busy in school. They are now at the same school finally so that make it easier on mom. We are still struggling with Christine, the 6-year-old. She was diagnosed with epilepsy in October last year and the past year has been an up and down battle with meds. My mom is still hanging in there, living in the mountains in Georgia with my sister. So in a nutshell, that is all from Northern Michigan.

Cyndie Cole '75
2317 Parmater Rd.
Gaylord, MI 49735
chey_80@yahoo.com



Reunion '11: Pheetta Wilkinson '76, in a class by herself!



News for the spring Bulletin due Jan. 13!
See Class Rep & Blue Card, page 54!



Reunion '12: Celebrate 35 years!

Winter is fast approaching, which means that I get the privilege of hearing from my fellow classmates and the pleasure of sharing their news with you. It seems as if everyone I heard from is doing something fascinating and incredibly creative; thanks to the Internet we are able to see just how awe-inspiring some of their work is. Many of us are on Facebook, so please feel free to send me a friend request ... my name is odd enough that it should pop right up when searched for. Also, note that I have set up an account specifically for class news (westerncollege77@aol.com), although I can still be reached at the addresses listed below.

Three of our classmates are still wowing me with their art work, so while I have mentioned **Caryl Henry** and **Erica Zap** in previous *Bulletins*, their websites bear repeating as their work is ever changing and evolving. Caryl's art and the work she does within her community are nothing short of incredible. Her website (www.bigbanners.com) gives a nice overview of both.

Erika is still turning out exquisite jewelry; her website is www.erscazap.com.

Be sure not to miss **Marty Coleman's** www.napkindad.com! I discovered "Napkin Dad Daily" this

year; it's chock full of wit and wisdom; and he sells cards, mugs and shirts with some of his clever drawings and "observations of life." Marty refers to it as "insight and inspiration for the human journey", and that it is. His daily musings are not only clever and insightful, but they are thought-provoking as well.



Marty

Branton Shearer was in contact with me while he was in Florida doing a day of teacher training at a private school. He has spent more than 20 years on the road, but his work with multiple intelligences has proven to be an "amazing roller coaster ride." In addition to the work he does with schools around the world, he also has projects going on with law students, and of all people, bomb disposal trainees. One of his books was recently translated into Chinese and he is currently working with researchers on translation projects in India, Germany and Korea. He finds it possibly even more gratifying that several elementary and high schools near his hometown of Kent, OH, give his multiple intelligences assessment (MIDAS) to all of their students to aid in instruction and career planning. Two schools have implemented special projects to use activities inspired by multiple intelligences to enhance the reading comprehension for fourth-graders. He closed his note with "Always fascinating," which I feel sums up his profession and life very well.

Dan Becker is very busy between teaching guitar and playing with his band, the Tourists. He also plays with a traditional Irish band. To listen to Dan, go to www.facebook.com/pages/Dan-Becker-and-the-Tourists/351472087837. In addition to two granddaughters, Dan's family welcomed a grandson into the family fold in January. He drove through the Western campus in May on his way to Columbus but did not have time to stop.

Sally Dinwoodie's landscaping business (www.TLCgardener.com) is doing very well; in fact, business has actually grown this year in spite of California's economic woes. In late August, she dropped her son off at The University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. He has matured into a kind and caring young man, and while she is thrilled that he has the opportunity to attend such a fine college, she'll miss him and is a bit sad that he will be so far away. Her twins, Anna and Keirnan, are now in the eighth grade and

are still best friends. They are both intensely into soccer and sometimes the teams scrimmage each other; the girls hold their own against the boys.

Barbara Moonan Henderson and her husband, Warner, have been very happily married for almost 37 years. Their son, Spencer, works as a client service representative in Warner's business, Auquitas Investments, and is engaged to be married in the spring. Their daughter, Kelsey, is a portrait artist in Brooklyn, NY, and you can check out her work at www.kelsey-henderson.com. Barbara is very busy with her interior design business and finds that after 26 years, word of mouth is still the best advertisement and priceless. Barbara and Warner do a lot of cruising — both by boat and motorcycle, mostly in the New England area, but this fall they went to the Blue Ridge Parkway and enjoyed all that it had to offer. Barbara would enjoy hearing from anyone in the Western Community that remembers her at bmhenderson@yahoo.com.

She would love to know the whereabouts of **Molly McCarthy '76**, as Molly was in her wedding in 1974 and they have since lost touch. [Editor's note: According to the current masterlist, Molly's address is 940 Monroe Ave. NW, Apt. 107, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.]

David and I are fine; it was a long summer and we encountered a few bumps along the course of it. June and July were hell on wheels and I greeted August with open arms. I broke a few ribs in the middle of June (great timing for someone in the fireworks industry!) and David had a small cut which turned into cellulitis and subsequently and very quickly turned into blood poisoning. Someone broke into our garage and stole beer, wine and 40 pounds of charcoal — on, unbelievably, the 4th of July. One of our cats was hit by a car, the other one developed a viral infection he is just now getting over. Someone plowed into our mailbox, which we thought we had anchored well enough that it would take a Sherman tank to mow it down. Maybe I am wrong, but it sure seems to me that there is a country and western song in there somewhere. August brought lots of rain, and our garden (including my beloved Brussels sprouts) loved every minute of it.

As I write this we are preparing to leave for vacation — our month on Lieutenant Island (Wellfleet, MA), and I can hardly wait. I look forward to seeing my friends and eating wonderful seafood.

For years I wondered what had become of my Western roommate **Sarah Terry** — and lo and behold, she sent me a message via Facebook. She spends a lot of time in Wellfleet also, so I am hoping to connect with her there at some point. It truly is a small world.

As always, please know that I am sincere when I say that your news is always appreciated at any time of year. I enjoy hearing from each and every one of you; all of my contact information is listed below. Have a wonderful holiday season — and a happy, healthy 2012 ...

Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77
6971 Darrow Rd.
Hudson, OH 44236
330-653-5000 (land line)
westerncollege77@aol.com
kdregalla@aol.com

Post Script . . .

Campus Choraliers, Anyone?

Betty "Van" Vandersluis '51 was instrumental in forming the versatile choral group in 1949 and served as its director until her graduation (at which time she passed the baton to **Dolores Revelos '53**). Three records were made — one of Western songs, one all Christmas, the third a mix of both plus a couple of pop tunes — and sold as a senior fund raiser in 1951. Recently, Van had a CD made from the old 78's and is offering it (free) to anyone interested.



The informal all-campus chorus of about 30 voices typically performed their repertory in chapel, the Oxford community and on the campus radio station. A radio broadcast in February 1951 honored seniors with a special arrangement of "For All We Know," plus a medley of spirituals, patriotic songs and listener requests.

When she led her last performance of the Campus Choraliers in May 1951, *Round-Up* wrote, "Thanks, Van. You've done a lot for the music here at Western — your spirit will be carried on ..."

If you would like to hear the Choraliers again, contact Van directly: 33 Webber Ln., Fitzwilliam, NH 03447; (603) 585-2237.

In Memoriam

Irma Thompson Shawhan '31

January 2006

Betty Brown Lembright '32

April 2011

Mary P. Graham '33

August 2011

Martha Kail Baumberger '34

October 2011

Mary Catherine McLain Smith '35

June 2011

Charlotte E. Niederhofer '36

July 2011

Harriet Brazier Pasquale '37

April 2010

Beatrice Clerke Young '37

July 2011

Mary Roberts Cothran '38

April 2009

Judith Jones Gerdis '38

May 2011

Elizabeth Hargrave Johnson '38

May 2008

Margaret Saurer Aldag '39

August 2011

Gwenyth Lemon Burrows '39

November 2009

Rebecca Coup '39

July 2008

Eudora Hungarland Haas '40

July 2011

Margaret Wood Singley '40

June 2011

Catherine Virginia Comer Razor '41

June 2011

Jeanne Metzger Scholfield '41

September 2011

Betty Teague Bickert '42

January 2008

Miriam Wright Cool '42

October 2011

Helen Metzger Cain '43

February 2011

Grace Cleveland Hamilton '43

August 2011

Roberta Hulliberger McVeigh '43

January 2009

Phyllis Drew Beauchamp '44

July 2011

Mary Brennan Russell '44

July 2011

Pat Hannan Weigen '45

July 2011

Marilyn Bolanz-Rusler Williams '45

April 2011

Roberta Pinkerton Pazder '46

February 2011

Mae Mathews Biscotti '48

July 2006

Mary Dye Shambaugh '48

January 2011

Mabel Harris Bennett '49

January 2009

Ruth Rosenberg Marder '49

January 2011

Betty Ashman McGee '49

May 2009

Asra Haman-Stork '50

August 2011

Louise A. Moberg '50

October 2010

Joan Burkhart Moffat '51

September 2010

Carol Dorkey Norris '51

August 2006

Mary Maw Walsh '52

October 2011

Sally Patten Diehl '53

April 2011

Janet Sneddon Nilles '53

March 2011

Marta Kreider Krebs '55

September 2011

Shirley Small Osepchuk '55

October 2011

Gretchen Wampler Mousetis '58

July 2011

Marilyn Moore Wood '58

September 2011

Emelia Lehmann Hammer-Greschel '60

January 2011

Daphne Shepard Chun '63

July 2011

Judy Stitt Mollica '63

August 2011

Judith Jennings Wood '67

October 2010

Tom Toffoli '80

July 2011

Jack V. Booch FF

Artist in Residence, 1972-73; Professor of Theatre, 1973-74

February 2010

Phyllis Hoyt FF

Professor and Dean, 1946-74

May 2011

Williard P. Keebler FS

Business Manager, Vice President for Business, 1956-1974

June 2011

Bulletin policy is to list deaths of Western College alumnae, former administrators, faculty and staff in "In Memoriam." Obituaries are not printed, but class representatives are notified and encouraged to include personal remembrances in class notes at their discretion. Administrators with exceptional, long-term service will be eulogized. (Deaths that occurred more than five years prior to publication are not included.)

The Western Program

Message from the Director

Oh, mercy, mercy me,
Ah, things ain't what they used to be
Marvin Gaye, *Mercy, Mercy Me* (*The Ecology*) 1971

I had planned today to return to Mr. Leach's story (*The Bulletin*, Spring 2011), but will let this fiction rest a while longer in favor of providing an update on the evolution of the Western Program and to address a couple of wider issues. A piece of good news first. According to this month's count (October), we are blessed with 47 majors in the Individualized Studies: Western Program. This is our third semester of operations and given the experimental nature of introducing the new curriculum in 2010-2011, I think that a round of applause directed toward Miss Peabody's Hall is justified. Thank you, thank you, no, no, this is too much, thank you. The faculty and staff have done a fantastic job in welcoming students from all areas of interest to join the program in the last few months. We are working currently with a group of six seniors that will constitute the first graduating class in May 2012. As you know, our seniors engage in a capstone experience that culminates in the presentation of a research project. The topics of the current projects are: Calvinist-inspired dialogues, cost-benefit analysis of different methods of energy production, development of a professional book proposal, novel approaches to assessing community needs, comparisons between online and non-online communities, and the photography of self-mutilation. Difficult to do justice to these highly creative works in a list, but perhaps I have indicated the breadth of interests among our majors.

In common with my Western colleagues, I have been occupied by the tasks of curricular implementation, responding to exciting administrative initiatives from the College of Arts and Science (does that sound sarcastic?), and so on, but I am not unaware of events beyond Peabody. The Occupy Wall Street Movement and its multiple offspring have captured my interest. I spent last weekend in Manhattan and visited the protests in Zuccotti Park on Saturday (October 15). I took the photograph below with my cell phone. The protestors reflect a type of existential attitude, bringing a multitude of issues to the fore, from patent injustices in the job market to the obscene rewards given to incompetent bankers. And, added to this mix of grievances is the call for the federal legalization of marijuana. Like many of us, I'm struggling to understand the unifying motivations of this movement. I have the strong sense that something is very wrong



Nik Money

with our national trajectory, without knowing whom to blame (no shortage of candidates of course), nor what to do to assuage my unease. Critical thinking is the key, a Westerner might think, but the mélange of problems facing our country, and our entire species, in the 21st century make it impossible to tease out a consistent and logical response.



Demonstrators in Zuccotti Park, New York City, October 2011

A practical reaction to a national predicament is to act locally, and this brings me to the thorny issue of the pending visit to Oxford by representatives of the Westboro Baptist Church. This is the church that demonstrates at the funerals of military personnel, claiming that our casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan are God's punishment for America's increasing acceptance of homosexuality. Church members were invited to a Miami class in the Department of Comparative Religion this semester, then disinvited following community outrage. (The church responded by deciding to come to Oxford anyway and scheduled their materialization on October 25.) Some Western students expressed passionate opposition to the original invitation; others were supportive, reluctantly perhaps, based upon their reading of the First Amendment. This incident illustrates the ineluctable fact of our immersion in the national debate. Western students, versed in the principles of critical and interdisciplinary thinking, are among the best equipped to participate in the crucial discourse on what it means to be an American and what we want our country to be. Thanks for listening.

— Nicholas P. Money
Western Program Director, Professor of Botany

Alumni Board Update to All WCP Classes

Dear Alumnoids: I had the pleasure of joining several of our WCP Sisters and Brothers at this year's All College Reunion sponsored by the Amazing Ladies of the Western College (for Women) Alumnae Association (WCAA). The graciousness and warmth of these accomplished Women toward our fledgling WCP Alumni association is nothing short of wonderful. With their example and guidance we hope to create an organization that can follow in their well-placed footsteps. We hope to honor the special place that was and is Western, provide for the care and feeding of our individual and shared memories as well as begin the process of stepping up to become the sole Alumni organization that services the Western Legacy by 2024.

Yes, the WCAA is planning to pass the baton to the WCP Alumni by 2024 at which time we will become the stewards of all that Western has meant to all of us. It will be incumbent upon us to show these fine ladies that we can take care of our history with the same joy, devotion and respect that they have shown for so many years. The thought of becoming an adult scares me as much as it does many of you, but our time has come and to avoid what is clearly both our right and responsibility would be a shame. Together, with the help of the WCAA, we will use the next few years to learn how to be a strong, functional and vital organization.

We are starting the planning process for our WCP College Reunion for the Fall of 2013. This reunion will be held at a time that will allow us to meet the New Western Program students and begin the process of welcoming them into our WCP Alumni ranks. We will work with **Nik Money**, West-

ern Program Director and **Audree Riddle '10**, Western Program Student Activities Coordinator, to link our two organizations in a positive and meaningful way. If we are to become a force for true individualized interdisciplinary education, an active and engaged advocate for social justice and a keeper of the Western Flame, we will need to tap the deep, wide resources found across our collective experience. Collaboration, cooperation and empowerment must be used to focus the WCP Rebel Spirit in a mature and effective way. The measure of our success as an Alumni organization will be what we did, the lives we touched, the students we helped, the awareness we raised and the permanent mark we leave behind once we have each passed through Western for the last time. This is our new beginning, guided by the light that the Women of the WCAA have carried for so long with such honor and grace. Let us join together and write our own history as well as our shared future.

Thank you all for your continued support.

John Rego '81

WCP Alumni Board President

PS: Many thanks to **Irene Dvoraczky Bell '82** for her work in pulling this organization together and for continuing to actively serve as WCP Alumni Board Past President and Parliamentarian; she has given me a clean office (figurative as it may be) with an organized set of goals and activities. I apologize to **Mike Conaway '90**, the WCP Alumni Board President Elect, for I am sure that I will be handing him a box of squirrels (not necessarily a figurative reference) when it is time for him to take office.

**Reunion 2012
June 15-17:
Celebrate
Twenty-five
Years
(and Counting)!**



We regret that not all WCPodd-year classes are represented in this issue. In some instances, your Class Rep did not hear from anyone, so did not submit a letter; in other instances, we did not hear from the Class Rep. While well aware of the many alternative ways of keeping in touch with each other, we continue to believe the WCAA Bulletin is the best way of keeping in touch with Western. Here's hoping for a fuller response next year! Meanwhile, attention, even-year classes: For your Class Rep and class news deadline, turn to page 54.



Carolyn Johns McConnell writes: "Son Andrew graduated from Benedictine College and is now a history grad student at Cleveland State. He lives in the attic. William is a senior at Hobart — he will be spending the Christmas break in Manila (for world parliamentary debate championships) and Seoul. Bill and I travel around in our tiny camper (19 ft.) with the dogs. This fall we will be visiting Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan. We are looking forward to more of the same on a bigger scale (25-ft. rig) in just a few years."

Sarah Ellen Fellerhoff Schofield: "Hi, Everyone! I'm still doing my yoga and Pilates thing. I'm an official Cancer Exercise Specialist, working at Haven of Hope, a nonprofit cancer support services organization at The Zangmeister Cancer Clinic in Columbus, OH. Our services are available and free to all survivors, regardless of where they received treatment. Phil is staying very busy working at Battelle Memorial Institute. My youngest, Harry, graduated with a degree in journalism, minor in professional writing from DePaul University, working, but looking for a 'real' job. My daughter, Sarah, is a commercial real estate evaluator working for Huntington Bank. All is well. Our address has changed, we downsized last year 1001 Highland Dr., Columbus, OH 43220."

Rhonda Redden: "I am still in independent practice of clinical psychology. My husband, **Carl Reitz '78**, continues to work in the exotic metals industry. We celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary in August. Living with the Cumberlands out our back door and the Smokies out our front, we spend as much time as possible in the mountains. Truly not a lot of news with us. One child married, two own their own homes, one has moved back in, using his former rent money for transportation. Luckily the downstairs of our house is a one-bedroom apartment, so we maintain some privacy. Funny, I grieved so when they all moved out (within six weeks of one another), but that was four years ago, and we've gotten used to having the house to ourselves, again — well, us and the two dogs and three cats. I thought of Western the other day ... as I was packing my bookcases in preparation to move my office (just two blocks). I ran across Bill Green's book *Water, Ice, and Stone*. Brought back lots of nice memories. Just ordered Bill's new one,

Boltzman's Tomb, which has certainly gotten some lovely reviews. Look forward to hearing from other Western classmates!" 7 Forest Court, Knoxville, TN 37919; Ph: 865-382-2747; email: ravenstone@comcast.net

Dave Soloway: "Work at the reading school is the same as it has been for the past 29 years — challenging and absorbing, News Flash: two years ago I met the love of my life, Qi Yun Tan, and we are getting married on November 12th at our new house in Petaluma, CA, which has 33 hilly acres of oak forest and grassland. We're excited and happy."

Tom "Walter" Gardner '79
gardner.thomas@epa.gov



I, (**Tim Matune**) am pleased to take over the reins as the Class of 1981 Representative as **John Rego** accepts his responsibilities as the President of the Western College Program Alumni.

Kurt Niemeyer (ktrg65@gmail.com) is continuing his family's legacy of active participation in motorsports. Recently, Kurt and I attended the Honda 200 IndyCar Race at Mid-Ohio near Mansfield. Kurt's lifelong involvement with motorsports personnel allowed me to rub shoulders with Mario Andretti and Roger Penske (believe me, that's big!). Kurt is currently the motorsports editor of *Cincy Magazine* and is living in Milford. Car owners also entrust their valuable classic cars to Kurt for transportation and presentation purposes at elite car shows nationally.

Kirk Davis has put his master's degree in sociology to good use. For the past 20 years, Kirk has worked at the Akron Area Agency on Aging where he is currently an elder rights supervisor. Kirk; his wife,

Kristine; and sons, Kade (7) and Kyle (6) live in Akron. Kirk continues his trek toward spiritual enlightenment through meditation and the writings and recordings of Ken Wilber, his favorite interdisciplinary pundit. Kirk's practice is to be the guru (properly pronounced ge-'ru, not gu-ru) dad. (His children do have a wonderful mother). To ensure that his physical being is as nourished as his spiritual being, Kirk also rides his bicycle quite extensively. Kirk and I each year attend Tribe and Browns games. Inevitably, while watching the game, references to spiritual integration and dualism get mixed with sacrifice flies and corner blitzes; quite interdisciplinary. Contact Kirk at: kdavis15@neo.rr.com.



Kirk's kids, Kade and Kyle

As for me, my wife of 27 years, Joann (middle school language arts teacher), and I live in Youngstown approximately three miles from where I grew up (always the risk taker). For the past 25 years I have been Counselor for The Cafaro Company which develops shopping centers and commits other nefarious acts. My daughter, Maggie, graduated from John Carroll University (JCU), is a social studies teacher at Ursuline High School in Youngstown, and is pursuing a master's degree in nonprofit administration at JCU. Subsequent to obtaining that degree, she hopes to earn a master's degree in secondary school administration. My younger daughter, Kelly (who may have very



Class Rep Tim Matune (left) with Kurt Niemeyer at the Honda 200

well been a Westerner but for the "De-bacle"), is a senior political science major at JCU. Our beagle, Giovanni, holds the fort down at home. I will finally have some "down time" this winter, having concluded an 11-year stint of coaching middle and high school basketball in the Youngstown area.

Tim Matune '81
tmatune@cafarocompany.com



Jeff Goodman and Jennifer Hines (both '83), photographed by Jeff's wife, Diane, at Naan and Curry a couple years before Denise Chang '07 called for a SF community dinner there in January 2011!



Bob Walker received his Ph.D. in educational leadership from Iowa State University in May. He is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Business at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, IA. Bob and his wife, Kristy recently published a personal finance college textbook with McGraw Hill.

Ann Rosenfield '83
factotum@sympatico.ca



Lara Osborne '91
lara.osborne@gmail.com



Congratulations to your Class Rep, recently named one of Miami Valley's Ten Top Women, an honor awarded by Cox Media Group Ohio. See story: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/ten-top-women-named-for-2011-1273209.html>

Madeline J. Iseli '85
madeline.iseli@sinclair.edu



To the class of 1993 (and the matriculated class of 1989): I awoke early on this second day of October to the chill of a new-to-me house that has a programmable thermostat I haven't yet figured out how to make function properly. The smell of last night's fire lingers in the air. The sun is still an hour away and the rest of my family is sleeping. Even the dogs, who scampered into the frosty grass to do their thing after stalking me for breakfast, have curled up into balls, one on top of the other. All is peaceful. I love autumn.

Of course, the beginning of October also marks the past-due deadline for this annual missive to you. ... I always enjoy reading about your adventures and growing, active families. For most of us, this has been a milestone year, replete with 40th birthday celebrations. My own occurs two days from when I am writing this (yeah, I'm behind most of you, courtesy of a parental decision in 1975 to start me in a California kindergarten at the age of 4).

I've been startled to see the grey at my temples spread across my mane, as if on cue. The sciatica flares up more of ten now, the insomnia more chronic. I watch football on the television and realize I'm old enough to be those players' father. I have no idea how

to use Twitter and I don't think I want to learn. When the social media outlets were making abig deal about the 20th anniversary of "Nevermind" recently, I went rummaging through old boxes to find the cassette I bought on High Street in Oxford. The other day, I almost said, "you kids get off my lawn!" I find my professional ambition has been tempered as I'm drawn to spend as much time with Avery (8) and Zoe (6) while they still adore me before their teen angst years; I coached their softball team this year, which was a blast, even if it was a lot of work.

All of this is as it should be, right?

Compared to the alternative, I can deal with a few aches and pains, minor annoyances, and assaults on my vanity (not that I was ever much of a looker to begin with). I would be shocked if many of you weren't experiencing many of the same things.

A few other quick and dirty details about yours truly before I move on to updates from the rest of the class: I left Bloomberg News (and journalism) in March after more than a decade. It wasn't an easy decision, but I was burned out on journalism generally (it's not the same profession I entered post-grad — I just don't think I could ever get the hang of an investigative tweet). I was particularly tired of staking out Capitol Hill at all hours of the day (last December, a couple of days before Christmas, I posted as my Facebook status "if I ever see the Rotunda at 2 a.m. again, it will be too soon). So, when I received an unsolicited offer to do marketing and communications for the global tax division at Ernst & Young LLP, I took it. It's been a new challenge, but I'm working with a great group of people, have more control over my hours, and more freedom to write creatively and work on my own passion projects, which I never had at Bloomberg. I'm six months in, still adjusting. We'll see where I'm at a year from now!

By coincidence, we also moved from the house in Alexandria where Avery and Zoe came home after they were born. We invested our home equity into a fixer-upper in neighboring Arlington and have been busy landscaping, painting, and designing what we expect will be our "forever" house, or at least the one the girls bring our future grandkids to when they visit. My running joke to Patty has been that of course it's our forever house — it's going to take forever to fix it up and furnish it to our satisfaction! But we are happy. The girls love their new school, Patty cleared a 5-year cancer-free hurdle and is starting a new communications company, the Donmoyer-Miller Group (if you or your company have communications needs, let me know and I'll connect you). And me, well, let's just say I'm settled.



Reunion 2012: Celebrate 25 years!

Christine Rebera '87
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Dana Lundell '89
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Noemi Robinson and family

I was pleased to receive a note from **Noemi Margaret (Gross) Robinson**, who might possibly have the best job in America as park ranger in San Francisco. She writes: "Greeting O Classmates! 'T was an excellent summer, featuring much traveling. I got to NYC over Memorial Day weekend and enjoyed the heck out of myself. I visited Liberty Island, Governors Island, the top of the Empire State Building, and my favorite clothing store in Brooklyn. I saw a play written by a friend and fellow Miami alum, *Bengal Tiger in the Baghdad Zoo*. This might surprise some of you, but three days is really not enough time to see the whole city. I hope to get back when they are finished with that heat and humidity stuff."

"For my 40th birthday (and let us take a moment to pause and think back to the early '90s about what we thought of folks who were older than 39) I went to Reno and shot not a man but a target for my concealed weapons permit. That could have been a Western Senior Project: Why does the ACLU ignore the 2nd amendment? (Would need more colons and a subtitle.) Work-wise I've been gearing up for the 34th America's Cup coming to San Francisco next year. [Class Rep's note: I've seen the America's Cup staged a couple of times in Auckland — it's well worth attending if you have the time.] The Golden Gate National Recreation Area will have a significant role during the racing months, and I suspect I might end up being the Planning Section Chief (PSC) of our Incident Management Team (IMT). I'm excited about this because working for the National Park Service (NPS) requires a Minimum Daily Dose (MDD) of Three Letter Acronyms (TLA). May 2012 will also feature a big celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge. (No bridge walk is planned, phooey.)"

"And where do Park Rangers go on vacation? National Parks of course. We threw the kids into the VW Van and drove to Glacier National Park by way of Spokane, where we threw my parents in the van too. (They flew in from Cleveland.) We enjoyed a beau-

tiful week in Montana and Alberta. Went on boat rides and hikes, saw some bears, ate some fry bread and a few thousand huckleberries. (This might be an ironic time to say I've been doing a low carb/high fat diet and have lost 60 lbs, but I'm proud of that, so there it is.)"

"Max started kindergarten this year, and neither of us cried on the first day. Over the summer he had his sublingual frenulum snipped which required general anesthesia, and that was far more traumatizing to me. I don't think either event was traumatizing to Max, so I guess I'm doing something right. Max has discovered chess (definitely not my idea as I'm only slightly better than he is) but it is such an improvement over Candyland that we've been playing it often. Max's brother is 12 and is living up to all the parenting book promises about tweens and teens."

Noemi concludes, "I'm crayonbeam on all those Internet Website things the kids are so enamored of these days: Flickr, Twitter, Facebook, and all. If you want to know what I ate for lunch, that would be the place to look. I hope you're all doing well. I enjoy seeing your posts here, there, and everywhere and as always, I've got crash space for you in San Francisco. P.S.— I'm so totally going to watch that new George Clooney movie for the shots of Miami and Ohio."

So, Noemi gets that Twitter thing. Good on her! I also received an update from **Ben Gibbons** who, technically speaking, didn't graduate until 1994 but as we all know matriculated with us to Peabody and McKee back in August of 1989. That's the thing about these class letters — I feel strongly that given the cohort structure, it's almost more important to group us by matriculation class than by graduating class. In any event, Ben's had some important life changes since we last heard from him in 2009.

Ben: "For me the annual update always works best by recalling fellow Westerners we visited with over the past year. Or, in this case, the last two years (having missed the 1994 deadline last winter). In May of 2010, I attended the last WCP Graduation and served as a pinch-hitter for one of the class reps. Caught up with many Western grads, and was blown away watching our early '90s peer, **Rick Calkins**, graduate with the last class!"

"In June 2010, we traveled to Gates Mills for the 1st Birthday Party for **Amy Glesius** and Roger Buelow's triplets!?! At the party we also caught up with **Traci Forrester** and **Yelena Boxer** and their respective families. (Grace also took her first pony ride at this hootenanny.)"

"In October of last year, we went to DC and visited with **Ryan Donmoyer** and **Jeremy and Melissa Holmes**. We also met Jeremy and Melissa's little boy, David. (Grace and



Jeremy Holmes and son David with Grace Gibbons and mom Michelle

David tore it up in the family section at Dogfish Head Brewing Co.)

"Late October brought a surprise birthday party for classmate **Sean Owen**. Lordy lordy Sean is ... still older than me."

"Finally, late December brought an opportunity to lunch with **Kristin Bowling**, Sean Owen and **Lisa Link Phillips '94**, while Kristin was passing through town. (Grace enjoyed trying Indian food for the first time.)"

"A Western contingent turned out for this year's Dude-a-thon at Studio 35. Big Lebowski, Bell's Beer, the occasional flashback. You know the drill."

Ben continues, "Memoria I Day weekend 2011, Melissa, Jeremy and David came to Marion to visit family. So, we made the jaunt up the road to visit. We corralled a table at Bob Evans, and it looked like an Alex food fight afterward. Michelle and Melissa behaved themselves though."

"In June, we traveled to Madison, WI, to see the nuptials of **Sean Duncan** and Liz. We also shared a table at the wedding with **Matt and Jill Connor**. Matt's a much younger



Ben (left) with groom Sean Duncan

Western grad (2004), who had the pleasure of kicking my rear in the W AFL for many year's [Class Rep's note: That's fantasy football, for the uninitiated]. (Grace also made one last charge to reclaim Wisconsin's Capital while we were there.)"

"As you've probably picked up on, Michelle and I are having a blast with our little girl! Sources tell me that Grace will likely have a roommate by the time you read this. Stay classy, Western!"

Scott Mongeau also checks in from across the pond, where he's formalizing his life as an expatriate! I'll let him explain: "Recently visited by my WCPA Architect roommate and his wife, Dan and Kelly Malec-Kosak. A fine time was had by all as we toured around Holland, visiting Amsterdam and Delft. My wife, Marloes, and our dog, Luck the Boxer enjoy living in Holland — excellent quality of life and we enjoy showing people around. Soon I will be obtaining dual Dutch nationality which will allow me to escape Homeland Security Chief Schwarzenegger's robot riot police in the dystopian Tea Party State of 2024 (OK- just kidding! just some sci-fi satire...).

"Still based in Leiden, Netherlands (between Amsterdam & Den Haag). Recently graduated the Rotterdam School of Management International 'OneMBA' program (Executive M.B.A.). For those who wish to discuss over a beer in Amsterdam, am always happy to opine why we need more liberally educated M.B.A.s in the world rather than less. My view is that capital and debt instruments are integral to spawning infrastructure projects and development initiatives which expand the baseline quality of life for a populace. Anyway, in final module this past May we visited Delhi as well as Shenzhen and Hong Kong (speaking of infrastructure projects and aggregate improvement to quality of life, Shenzhen is a monolithic phenomenon)."

Scott's also continuing his schooling and appears to be integrating our Western teachings with, well, something more tangible: "In April started a part-time Ph.D. in Business at Nyenrode University. My research is interdisciplinary (surprise!) and focuses on organizational interfaces with Smart Systems — complex, multi-agent, hybridized systems composed of human, advanced sensors, orchestration software, and semi-autonomous IT agents. Early applications for such solutions focus on sustainability solutions: Smart Buildings, Grids, and Cities. I'm studying best-practices related to the organizational implementation and management of such systems. Such pro-human and environment initiatives currently tie heavily to capital markets: I recommend the book *Natural Capitalism* for background.

Scott wraps up: "Meanwhile have been an independent business consultant via my two business 'brands' Biomatica (www.biomatica.com) and Sark7 (www.sark7.com). The former specializes in biotechnology-related financial and risk analysis (currently heavily involved in planning out implementation of chain of cellulosic bioethanol plants across US midwest) and the latter is general risk-management and computer-base decision guidance for large projects and strategic initiatives (advising companies broadly on risk management and efficient

capital management). Anyhow, that's it for now. Hope everyone is well!"

Brady Christoph checks in to say he just returned from East Africa, where he had been living and working. To wit: "Hi all. After a year in Zanzibar teaching high school trigonometry and chemistry, I returned to Tacoma and found myself less than motivated to teach again. Having spent time with students who walked five miles one way to class and shared pencils with one another I found myself lacking the emotional drive to teach in the States. (Every child here seemed overprivileged and under-motivated.) So I'm making a midlife career change to physical therapy. It sure is nice having a wife who supports me through myriad changes from teacher to park ranger and back. I continue to spend most of my time with my pre-teen sons, coaching soccer and wrestling, and going on mountaineering trips." Brady also offers his contact information: 253-759-4812 (home) and 253-753-0255 (cell); 4823 North Tenth St., Tacoma, WA 98406.

Kristin Bowling also is in the Pacific Northwest. She writes: "I'm halfway through a master's in Curriculum & Instruction at Portland State in Oregon, in what is hopefully a temporary hiatus from my National Park Service career. Also preparing to be a mentor to undergrads this year in the University Studies program, which is eerily like Western and run by Western alum **Dana Lundell '89**. Hoping to return to the NPS next year as an Education Specialist working with students visiting parks. Still searching out plenty of wildlife in the city parks and rivers!" montananshelby@yahoo.com.

This and that: I received a very brief note from the very busy **Yelena Boxer**. She writes: "In the last three years, I became a partner at my law firm, got married and had two children (one at a time). Except for the sleep deprivation, everything is peachy and I'm the happiest I've ever been."

And **Jon Pixley**, now going by **Alex**, checks in to provide an e-mail address: alex_pixley@hotmail.com.

That brings to a close this year's class update. I hope it found you happy and healthy. As I've noted in the past, a bunch of us stay loosely connected on Facebook. There's also a Western group on Linked-In, but it doesn't have a lot of discussion (which is really odd, if you think about it). Don't ask me about Twitter. As always, my door/guest room/hospitality is open to you if you visit the DC region. My new address is 3415 N. Glebe Road, Arlington VA 22207. My home phone is 703-532-7926 and my cell is 703-51-3592. You can also e-mail me.

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Paul Broughton '95
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Reunion 2012: Celebrate 15 years!

Greetings class of 1997! I hope all is well with you as we all navigate this intense political and economic climate.

I have heard only this year from **Jami Belt**. Jami lives in a yurt!!!! A yurt! How awesome is that?! This year Jami has finished a master's degree and gave birth to baby Ia. Here is what she has to say:

"I am still living near Glacier National Park with my partner, Travis, where I work (for the National Park Service) studying wildlife species that are vulnerable to climate change and leading a citizen science program that sends people out hiking to help us study wildlife. Last fall I finished my master's degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana on mountain goats and citizen science. As I finished writing the last lines of my thesis, we were joined by Ira Kestrel, our little red-haired boy, born in December. We invited our families and friends out to meet Ira and decided to tie the knot (after 12 years) while they were all here — **Kacey Huffman-Cox '96**, **Eve Gilmore '96**, **Matthew Lozier '96** and **Kayvon Bahr-**



Jami Belt '97 and family

amian '95 joined in our celebration. In case we didn't have enough to do yet, we are also building a timber-framed clay-straw home with actual indoor plumbing — a much-welcomed addition to our current yurt home."

This year for me has been year of travel. I got to mix work and pleasure as I traveled to South Africa and Spain. I spent most of



'87 Class Rep **Rebecca Dingo**, enjoying the view in Cape Town, South Africa

my time in South Africa in Cape-town working with professors and students at the University of Western Cape (UWC) and taking in South Africa's complex and fraught racial and class history. UWC was established as a "coloured" school under Apartheid and is still working to build its capacity in a post-Apartheid era. The University of Missouri (where I am Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Women's and Gender Studies Program, Department of English, Rhetoric and Composition) has had a close partnership with UWC and fought alongside its faculty and students against Apartheid.

In the next 10 years, UWC is planning on increasing their numbers of Ph.D.s granted by 150 percent and so I plan to travel back to UWC to establish a dissertation writing community workshop for students in the humanities generally and Women's Studies specifically. This workshop will then be

continued online and I am working next semester toward building that platform. I just received a grant to return to do this work and I plan to travel back to South Africa with Lu (who is now 3) and Zac in summer '12. My time in Spain was about two weeks. I spent some of that time at a conference and then the rest traveling with Zac and our good friend Jason Palmeri (who, incidentally, is an English professor at Miami).

Other news is that I have two books coming out in spring '12: a collection titled *The Megarhetorics of Globalization* (edited with J. Blake Scott) and my monograph "Networking Arguments: Rhetoric, Transnational Feminism, and Public Policy Writing." Both books are coming out with the University of Pittsburgh Press. Both address the materiality of the rhetorics that support so-called global development. These books (along with various other publications and a good teaching and service record) have helped my tenure file move to the level of the College of Arts and Sciences. This means that if all goes well, next year I will be writing to you as Associate Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies.

Rebecca Dingo '97
rebecca.dingo@gmail.com

'99



The class of 1999 has been quiet again this year. I hope this reaches someone with lots of Western Facebook friends, who might be

interested in taking over as our Class Rep. I'm curious about what you guys have been up to, but think we might need someone more motivated to keep us in the loop.

You are welcome to contact either me or Cathy Cooper '60 (coopercb@muohio.edu), who is our *Bulletin* editor.

The Coggins live in the Cleveland area, although have recently moved slightly south and east. We are still a family of four. We were in Oxford recently, for about 10 minutes, and are sad to report that Tammy and Sharon no longer work in McKee. Hope you are all well.

Hadley Schreiber Coggin '99
hmcoggin@hotmail.com



Laura Scudiere: "In May I had a baby Forrest Mark Scudiere Mentzer, who I think might very well be objectively cute. I'm still the executive director of a community health clinic in central Wisconsin, and we live in the Northwoods with our two cats and the great horned owl that lives in our backyard."

Vann Geondeff '01
vanngondeff@gmail.com



Notes for the Class of 2003 are a little shorter this year ... I think I see a correlation between the number of new babies and the amount of free time my classmates have.

Sean Collins: "Not too much is new. I still work for the Office of the Public Defender in Baton Rouge, defending mostly children accused of violent crimes. Earlier this year, one of my best friends and I did have the opportunity to defend an adult accused of a double homicide. While the work was grueling, the experience is one I'll never forget. On a personal level, I'm looking forward to the start of college football and Saturdays spent tailgating and watching my beloved Tigers play."

Jordan Tate: "I have a daughter (Ava) and things are going very well professionally."

Mike Ernst: "I recently accepted a traveling faculty position with the International Honors Program's 'Cities in the 21st Century' semester. For one semester, I will be teaching undergraduate-level urban planning classes while traveling in Brazil, South Africa and Vietnam. I'm especially excited for this teaching position because I did this program as my semester abroad while at Miami. After I finish the 'Cities' program, I'm moving back east to New York City. I'll be living in the Lower East Side."

"By the way **Andy Dolan**, **Mike Loeffelman**, **Mike Forrester** and **Tim Perkins** all met up a few weekends ago for some backyard grilling at Andy's house. Fun times."

Rob Oldenburg: "I have no idea what I sent you last time around, but I have been at Platinium Restoration as a general manager for almost exactly a year."



At a recent reunion in Nashville, hosted by Lyndsey Godwin: (front l-r) Megan Strobel, Victoria "Gus" Misuraca; (back) Lyndsey, Joey Gomberg McNamee, Amy Diaz Bariga, Lauren Skirbunt, Abby Hoicowitz, Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi '01, Wendi Wallace '04

Nuri Pazol: "Nothing really new except I've worked super-hard this year to add several new clients to grow my portfolio (Ace Hardware, Fantastic Sams, MB Financial, GA Communications, True Value, and Groupon) — something to make my parents proud :-)"

Jen Germano: "I moved to Las Vegas, NV, where I'm currently undertaking a postdoc position with the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research and the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center. I've been researching how habitat affects the movements of desert tortoises post-translocation. Also been exploring lots of the National Parks and the mountains out around here with my husband, Simon."

Lyndsey Godwin: "I am still rocking it in Nashville, TN, and just bought a house with my girlfriend, Khethe. I serve as the community education coordinator of Planned Parenthood of Middle and East TN, and continue to work with faith communities to create more opportunities to integrate sexuality and faith."

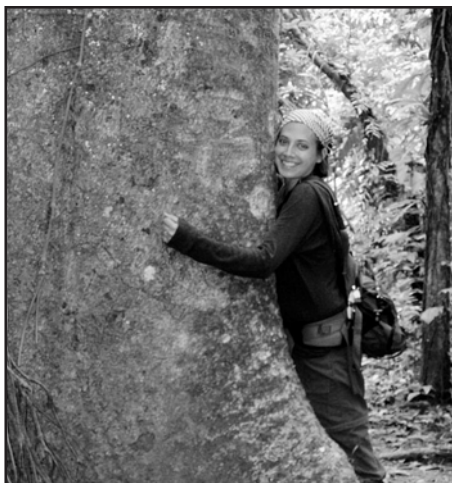
Mike Loeffelman: "I've moved again!!! I recently said so long to the great state of North Carolina and hello to Indiana! I have been working at Purdue University as the Assistant Director for the College of Liberal Arts Honors Program since July. It has been a wonderful move and I am happy to be back in the Midwest! In the coming months I plan to begin a Ph.D. program in American Studies. If you're ever in the West Lafayette area, e-mail me at mloeffelman@purdue.edu."

Joy Usner '03
joyusner@hotmail.com



The Class of 2005 is busy as ever! New jobs, new relationship, new babies. We are scattered coast to coast and around the globe. **Sarah Arnason** just started a new position as communications manager in the Office of the President at CARE. **Kristen DeLap** and **Todd Nadenichek** are expecting their first child, while **Kelly (Markle) Blewett** just survived her first year as a parent. **Katie Gibson**, a humanities librarian at good old King Library, just published *You Have Nothing to Learn from Me: A literary relationship between George Bernard Shaw & Rodolfo Usigli* with Ramón Layera. And this is a crew that loves to travel.

From **Sophia Turczynewycz Cifuentes:** "Greetings from Cincinnati! It's been a great summer for me, having spent most of it in Peru traveling and student teaching and Earth Expedition field course for my master's program. Highlights from the trip in-



Sophia Cifuentes '05, in love with the Amazon Rainforest

clude visiting Machu Picchu, boating to the Ballestas Islands, flying over the mysterious Nazca Lines, spending an evening and a night with a local family on Lake Titicaca, always being mistaken for being a local, eating fabulous food and my absolute favorite, spending 10 days in the Peruvian Amazon. In the rainforest, we focused most of our class on avian ecology studying over 100 species of birds as well as having countless discussions on the impacts humans have on the environment. It was pretty incredible! It's hard to believe it's been almost three years and graduation is right around



Erica Govich '05, in love with St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow

the corner, this December. The summer ended with my AmeriCorps service concluding, and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden offering me a permanent position as their Sustainability Coordinator! (First one ever, might I add!) My efforts will focus mostly on community projects such as community gardens, home weatherization, farmers markets, rain gardens, green education and special events. Daniel and I continue our house hunt, so I am hoping by the next issue of the *Bulletin* I'll have more good news! I hope everyone is doing well, and if you're ever in Cincinnati, come on by and I'll show you around the Greenest Zoo in America!"

From **Erica Govich:** "I am in my final year of studies at Eastern New Mexico University, working on my anthropological master's thesis entitled, 'Making Something Out of Nothing: An Ethnography of Flint Knappers in Portales, New Mexico.' I am also the chief graduate assistant to my adviser's 'We Are What We Eat' food ethnography; fingers crossed for publishing opportunities! If that wasn't enough, I recently began teaching Cultural Anthropology part-time at Clovis Community College. I had the most magical summer — I went abroad, for the first time, with Miami's language immersion program in Novgorod, Russia. I spent five weeks living in the most beautiful city of Novgorod, eating everything my host babushka placed in front of me, and touring all the sights in St. Petersburg and Moscow. I also met with the head of archaeological studies in Novgorod (they have nine 10th-century sites there!) to discuss doing future dissertation research in Novgorod. Other than that, I just celebrated my third anniversary with my bellydancing troupe, I am dating a wonderful 21-year old comic book artist, and I am still trying to figure out ways to avoid turning 30."

Brad and I are still living in Oakland, now with our 10-month old daughter. We love California but miss the Midwest. As we all near 30 ... the adventures continue to abound for everyone. Keep in touch, we love to hear from you!

Abigail King Kaiser '05
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Reunion 2012: Celebrate 5 years!

Allison Plavecski: Allison spends her time living the Pacific Northwest stereotype in Seattle: hiking, biking, snowshoeing, sailing, eating salmon, being vitamin D deficient and drinking local craft beers. She continues to work at Commercial Office Interiors. She enjoys taking trips to National Parks

when the weather's nice and to Hawaii when the weather's not. She's been fortunate to have several Western alumni visit and comes back to Ohio twice a year.

Amy Jones: Amy Jones just finished her master's degree in English Literature from Wright State University. She will begin teaching English as an adjunct instructor at the University of Cincinnati this fall. In the meantime, she's been doing lots of traveling, including England, Italy, and Tulsa, OK, where strangely enough, she met British novelist Ian McEwan.

Amy Pomante: "I am in NYC now (have been for the past 2½ years now). I'm an IT Recruiter, so basically I'm trying to get people hired doing things that I don't understand. I'm loving NY! I'm not traveling as much as I was before, but my passport still manages to get a few stamps."

Andrew Trout: Andrew is finishing his fourth year of medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and is in the process of interviewing for a family medicine residency program, likely in the Midwest. He is enjoying not being tied down to any one place for more than a month.

Andy Bennett: "I am in Oxford attending the M.A.T. Secondary Social Studies Education program at MU. I have another year of classes and GA-ing, then off to Belize for a semester of student teaching. This summer has been filled with classes, TA-ing for a literacy workshop on the Hamilton campus, visits from friends and family, and a bit of travels. In two weeks, I'm planning a trip to the UP and can't wait to escape the heat for a while. I've also recently developed a growing love for John Prine."

Anne Smart: "I live in Silicon Valley, where I've worked the past two years advocating from the tech community for cap and trade, renewable energy and energy efficiency with Google/Apple/Facebook, etc. I've recently been joined in the Bay Area by former Peabody residents **Charlie Weber** and **Tim Bankroff**, and we encourage everyone else to consider moving to California. It's a great place to live and to do politics."

Carl Marsh: Carl works as an attorney in Columbus, OH, with an attorney from northern Ohio. He primarily practices bankruptcy and civil litigation but will soon be practicing divorce. He is happy and content with how life is going and has nothing further to report.

Chris Berg: "I am going on four years strong in Washington, DC, and loving it. I'm working at a progressive political consulting and public opinion polling firm called Greenberg Quinlan Rosner (Greenberg was a Miami grad too!), where I help manage various types of research projects around the globe. We're doing some cool projects — some

with labor unions, orgs like HRC, and even some research on MJ for state ballot initiatives. I'm also happily getting to use my Spanish (my other Miami major) with our various clients in Latin America. I've also been working part-time at a Turkish restaurant, which has been supplementing my crappy salaries since moving to the District in 2007. Beyond work, life in DC is a blast. I live just off of U Street and next door to the 9:30 Club, a famous music venue that's sure to host **Jesse Feister** any day now. When this happens, I'd be more than happy to host a pre-show rooftop party."

Chris Wolfe: "I really miss Western but I am doing well in the department of psychology at Miami. I like what I am teaching (The Psychology of Language & Thought, Advanced Cognitive Processes, Reasoning & Problem Solving) as well as my research. I have a grant from the National Cancer Institute, 'A Web Tutor to Help Women Decide About Testing for Genetic Breast Cancer Risk.' It's a good and challenging project. My son, Michael, is a rising senior in high school, and we have been traveling quite a bit this summer looking at colleges. It's amazing how many of the top schools boast a Western-like program as part of their basic sales pitch."

Christopher Kwarciany: "The past year, I was the native English teacher at Gilju Middle School in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea. After completing my contract in mid-August, I traveled in Mongolia, then America's West Coast before returning to some eventual type of yet unknown normalcy."

Craig West: "I have recently left my teaching job to get a Ph.D. in literacy education at the University of New Hampshire, where



Craig and European friend

I have earned a graduate assistantship. I continue to make friends with cats around Europe, protest with public school teachers and Matt Damon in Washington, DC, and record music (my music is on Facebook!). I am the bassist in a band that regularly plays at biker bars around New Hampshire and



Craig and wife — parents to be!

Maine. My wife and I just found out that we will be having our first baby, due in February 2012."

Dylan Daney: "No complaints. I'm writing to everyone from Albuquerque, NM. Just arrived, not sure when I'll be leaving but I miss San Antonio. I'm continually grateful to be able to get paid to fight corporate domination. I spent the early part of the year in Los Angeles where I was a part of the Loyola Marymount University dining employees winning union recognition and the right to collectively bargain for the first time ever. ...

"I made it back to San Antonio where fellow Westerner **Christine Miller** and I managed to win our first city council race (Christine did a kick-ass job leading the team) by identifying and turning out a couple thousand voters. It was something we had planned to do for about two years, so actually electing our first politician was a big boost of confidence that we will continue to take over city council as necessary.

"I took off after that to travel through Spain, the Netherlands and Germany with my sister and saw some old friends as well as getting much needed rest. I returned to SA for another first — as a part of our continuing campaign to organize the two non-union Hyatts in San Antonio, we organized a civil disobedience in downtown SA. The incarceration system in Texas is less than friendly so I ended up spending about 30 hours inside before being released. ... Had to wear the orange jumpsuit and everything. Fortunately, everyone in jail watches the 5 o'clock news so they all knew what we had done and were quite supportive. I think going to jail made me a much more patient person; 30 hours of waiting and sleep deprivation makes the delayed plane flight seem pretty insignificant these days.

"It's been a good year. I always like these updates and I miss many of you, old friends."

Emily Brown: Emily has competed in two half-marathons in the last year, and will be running her first full marathon mid-October. Never a distance runner before, the training has been a fulfilling personal and phys-

ical accomplishment for her. In March, she visited Ghana to implement a monitoring system for a land survey company. She found trekking through cocoa farms outside Kumasi better than wading across blue-green, trash-strewn creeks in a slum near Accra, but seeing the excited children's faces in bare bones schools made it worthwhile. After graduating with a master's degree in May, a desk job prevailed. Emily works at an international development nonprofit as a program associate, backstopping overseas offices in exotic, poverty-stricken countries for a health and nutrition program. Still, every day she wishes she was a dive-master on Utila instead.

Florence Heinen: Florence has spent the last four years in Ann Arbor, MI, working for a consulting/software company. The company focuses on strategic network design — basically supply chains. She has worked with commercial clients, strategic partners and public health clients. As of a few weeks ago, Florence moved back to Europe and will start her M.B.A. in Barcelona in early September. She will spend one year in Barcelona and intends on doing a four-month exchange in either NYC or Chicago. Post graduation, she plans to work in either strategic consulting or retail logistics.

Gayatri Guhanarayan: "Still in Amherst, MA, working on my M.S. at UMass. I really like it here a lot. I got to travel around a little more in the U.S. this past year which was great. Got to meet up with a bunch of Western grads during my visit to SF and O-Town. I am so jealous that there are now three Indian restaurants in Oxford. Back in my day we had to drive 40 minutes to Cincinnati one way to get half decent Indian food! Anyway, if you're in the New England area you should stop by. Maybe I'll finally go hiking. Hope everyone is well!"

Gene Metcalf: "I retired this year. For the last four years, I've been teaching in the program in American Studies. Very similar to what I taught at Western. Each summer, I have taken a group of students to Paris for six weeks. In the future, we will stay in Oxford for four years until my daughter graduates from high school (she will be a freshman this year). I'm currently working with my wife (an art curator) to organize exhibitions at various museums around the country. Our latest show, the work of artist Thornton Dial, got a five-page review in *Time* magazine as well as a major review in *The New York Times*. We were excited. In the future we will be doing lots of traveling, and I plan to start surfing again."

Jesse Feister: "OK, so I'm still living in Nashville writing and playing music with my band, South Jordan. In January, I signed a songwriting/publishing deal with Warner/Chappell Music in Los Angeles and spent most of the past year traveling to other major music cities to collaborate with produc-

ers and songwriters. We are hoping to have a national release out by this spring, but the music business is a volatile place these days, so what will happen is anyone's guess. I also still do freelance digital marketing consulting. A lot of my work is based in Chicago, but I have picked up some entertainment clients here in Nashville, mostly smaller labels, music festivals and individual artists. I'm still adjusting to the South; it's not quite my thing although the opportunities are abundant here in Music City. I don't think I'll stay here forever, but for now I'm enjoying it for what it is."

Jessica Ruff: "So five years turned to six when the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development funded a grant proposal I submitted. I'm working on a research project that is tracking the social functioning of children with IBD [inflammatory bowel disease]. Basically, I get to talk to kids about their poop! We're developing a mentoring program that we hope will help change social skills of kids with a somewhat embarrassing illness. I've decided on a career in orthopedics, now if only to see if they decide that I can join their field. Officially, I'll be Dr. Ruff in 2013, but since my co-workers have stated this sounds like a porn star name, I think I'll just go by Jessica. It appears I'll have about six months to 'productively' spend time between finishing my classes and graduating. I'm taking suggestions for travel or fun job to work before I hit the real world."

Jon Pliske: "Almost immediately after sending last year's update I started working at Groupon. I'm going on a year there and really enjoy it. Still living in Chicago, but I'm also traveling to San Francisco regularly for work. In my free time, I enjoy thinking about how to get more free time."

Kara Love: A lot has happened in the last year. Kara moved to Chicago to attend the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. She is focusing in nonprofit management and is about to start a year-long internship at the Field Foundation. In July, she married her sweetheart, Joe Bruce. They just got a new apartment by the lake. She is enjoying married life, Chicago summers, and the mentoring she continues to do with children in foster care.

Kevin Krease: "I'm still in Detroit working in educational publishing (Cengage Learning) spending most of my time networking and understanding the state of Detroit economically/politically. I've been coming up with some ideas for various startups that would play a role in Detroit's revitalization and will hopefully start getting those off the ground soon. Travel-wise, I went to Rome last summer and Barcelona this summer, loving both. Married? Nope. Own a home? Nope. Thinking about buying a motorcycle? Yep!"

Kristen Phelps: "After graduating from Western in 2007, my continued education took me overseas to complete a masters degree in Visual Culture from the University of Nottingham, England. Shortly after, I moved to Denver, CO, where I am the social outreach consultant for the Beantalk Foundation; a nonprofit startup dedicated to remarkable local leaders who address issues in their neighborhoods like providing healthy food to safe homes, promoting the arts and providing assistance to neighbors in need. In my spare time I run a film club dance, and give lots of love to my pugle, Lola. My goal is to start a little WCP community out here, so if you visit or come to live, let me know!!"

Laura Weisman: "I'm a yoga instructor and school counselor living in Milwaukee, WI. This spring, I completed my master of science degree in Counseling at UW-Madison, and I'm now working as a school counselor with middle and high school students (it's total chaos and really fun). I've focused my research on the benefits of yoga and mindfulness practices for youth, particularly in schools and am really excited about being able to merge my passions for yoga and counseling in my professional work. I spend my free time practicing or teaching yoga, walking, jogging and biking near Lake Michigan, exploring parks and trails around Milwaukee, enjoying my beautiful yard and garden, and creating/eating delicious homemade meals (I don't really cook, but my boyfriend is a chef, so eat well!) Be in touch if you ever wander through Wisconsin!"

Maureen Harter: "Still working as the director at West Point, NY, of a youth center. I work with grades 6-12. I will graduate with my master's in Youth Development in December 2011. I became an aunt in May of a beautiful little girl named Autumn Grace Harter."

Michele Brasseur: "I am continuing my work with First Federal Savings and A Call to College in my little old hometown of Newark, OH. Actually, I moved to Thornville to live on a horse farm with my boyfriend of two years. I am not a farm girl, which makes my whole situation very Green Acres. No ring, no kids, plan to keep it that way (take that, every middle-aged woman I know who constantly asks when I'm going to get married and start popping out babies; no offense to those of you who are doing that). I keep plugging away at my masters of Library and Information Science and am looking to move into a position that will give me more library experience soon. Why Library and Information Science? I think I am one of the few people who actually enjoyed researching for the senior project, and I can't wait to help people as much as the King librarians helped me. Peace and love to all my classmates. I'm very proud of all of the Western world travelers and hope to roam myself some day."

Muriel Blaisdell: "Dear Friends, I am writing you from New Hampshire where we are enjoying blueberry season and a pleasant visit with my sister. I hope you have a wonderful reunion. This past May, I went to Turkey to see the part of the world where Greek science began and had the great pleasure of going to places where natural explanations first replaced Zeus, Apollo, Athena, etc. to explain events like lightning. I went up in a hot air balloon over Cappadocia. I continue to enjoy serving on History of Science Society committees and on Oxford Center for Peace and Justice and the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science. This fall, I am teaching a course for the Institute for Learning in Retirement's, 'Greatest Hits of 17th Century Science.' This note brings fond greetings to each of you. If you ever come this way be sure to send a little note and I'd love to have your news in person."

Nick Delphia: "I got married on July 23 to Rebecca Kottler-Wein in my sister's backyard. Many elements of the ceremony were made by my family members (my sister made the lace canopy, our brother made the frame that held it and the cup that we used, and I made one of the benches that the guests sat on during the ceremony). Married life is splendid. We are going on our honeymoon to Maine. **Craig West**, his wife Sarah Stitzlein, and **Willi Lempert** were at the wedding. I'm returning for another year of teaching middle school science at an independent girls school in Pittsburgh. This year, I will also be teaching an environmental science elective to seniors. I continue to enjoy making things, working in my garden, and cooking."

Nikki Etter: "I graduated in 2009 with a master's in Speech Language Pathology from UK and started working at a local rehabilitation hospital with individuals with strokes and head injuries. I'm currently in my third year of completing a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences. Anyone visiting to do some of the Bourbon Trail or see some horse races is welcome to stop by! :)"

Rachel Stern Goldsmith: Rachel has finally left Ohio (nearly eight years of which were in dear ol' Oxford!) and now resides in Chicago, pursuing (yet another!) Master's degree, this time in Marriage and Family Therapy from Northwestern University. In a surprising twist of fate, her husband, Jacob, does NOT live in Chicago with her, but instead lives in South Bend, IN, for the year as he finishes one of his last duties as a doctoral candidate by being a clinical intern at Notre Dame's counseling center. Between weekend visits with Jacob, Rachel and their dog, Penny, can be seen exploring various neighborhoods in the Windy City, finding the best places to eat and drink, and generally enjoying urban life. They love having visitors (both in Chicago and South Bend), so please give them reasons to cook and entertain you by going to see them!



Nick Delphia '07 and bride Becca Kottler-Wein, daughter and niece of WCP alums

Sarah Reed: "Meagan Hubbard and I live in Lansing, MI, with our three dogs and cat while we are finishing up graduate school. We were legally married in California during the brief time in which it was legal to do so. She is finishing her master's degree in Human Ecology while working as an evaluator at the Michigan Public Health Institute. I just completed my comprehensive exams in community-ecological psychology and am now starting, tentatively, the dreaded dissertation! To keep sane while in school, I attend martial arts classes a few times a week. My graduate school adviser is my training partner and we will be testing for our black belts in September! I'm glad Western made me comfortable interacting informally with professors!"

Shira Moskowitz: "I'm finishing off my first year with the Maryland Science Center as the Assistant Producer/Education Coordinator. For the school year I present planetarium shows for school groups, taking them on tours of the night sky or journeys through the solar system. When not doing shows, I help with the production process for updating and the creation of new planetarium programming. My biggest project this summer is updating some of the education packets that are given to teachers who bring their class to the planetarium. All in all, I am having lots of fun here and getting to explore the city in my free time."

Thad Kerosky (Denise is translating A LOT here): "So since last time, I've NOT moved to my U.S. city of choice. Instead, I'm in the fascinating, U.S.A.-inspired nation of Liberia, West Africa, which is reconstructing itself. Initially with Peace Corps on a seven-month assignment training teachers on central processing units (CPU) by petrol

candlelight, now I'm doing tech consulting with a Liberian information and communications technology (ICT) + agriculture startup. The group, Farmbuilders, aims to rejuvenate old rubber farming techniques for small/medium farms with small capacity. Graduate school is on the horizon, too. Cheers everybody!"

Willi Lempert: I just moved out to Boulder, CO, to start a Ph.D. program in anthropology as well as live near family and mountains. I'll be here a while, feel free to visit."

Zoe Streicker-Howard: "I just moved to Boulder after two years in San Francisco, and I started a job with a staffing company recently. I am enjoying having our own place with my husband and living in a really sunny place!"

I, Denise, am still in Michigan helping to steer *The Rapidian*, Grand Rapids' citizen journalism project, but looking at other opportunities. I've had the chance to test out my community building skills and have been framed as a subject matter expert in engaging citizen reporters, resulting in speaking engagements and facilitating breakouts at national conferences and trainings. Four years after graduation, I've been assessing my skills to see what's missing (business savvy and programming ability most keenly) and feel ready to go back to graduate school. Basically, everything's up in the air, and I'm really relishing that. It feels like I'm on the cusp of something new, and I can see the beginnings of several "choose your adventures."

Denise Cheng '07
Twitter: @dennetmint
<http://blog.dennetmint.com>



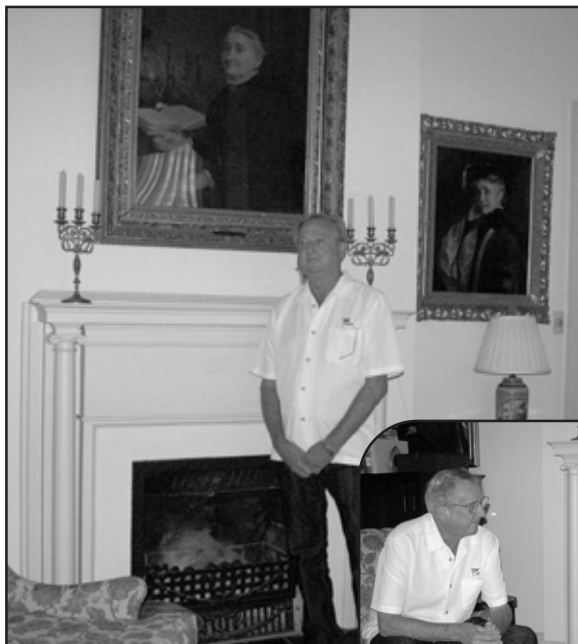
Eva D'Intino: After giving birth to arguably the most perfect child in 2010, Eva returned to Oxford to complete her master's in Curriculum & Teacher Leadership. Eva is now basking in the joys of unemployment, while taking Ellie to a full schedule of yuppy baby activities and enjoys being the most over-qualified mom at story time. Ellie is currently preparing to graduate from Western in 2032.



Perfect baby Ellie

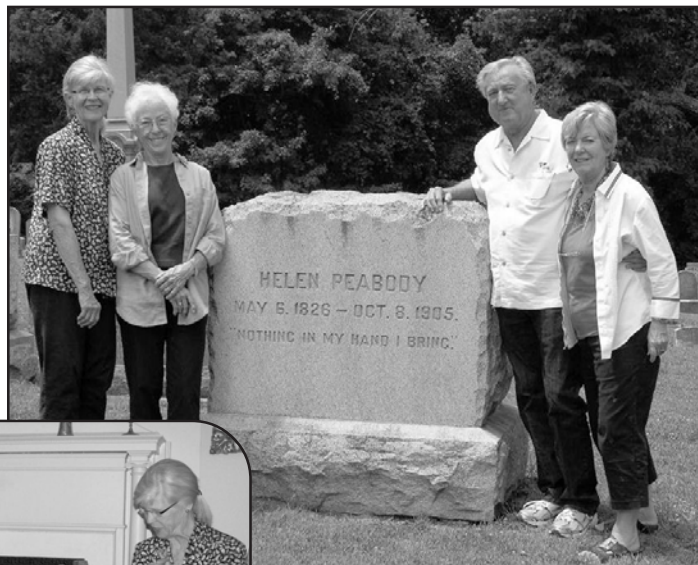
Alison Kernohan '09
akernohan@gmail.com

Helen Peabody's Family Is Alive and Well and Living in Florida (and Indiana, Ohio, etc.)



A definite family resemblance

When Steve Peabody, of St. Petersburg, FL, discovered that there was a building on the Western campus of Miami University named after his Great-great-aunt Helen, he just had to pay a visit. Fortuitously, he and his wife, Mary Jane, were to attend a Peabody family reunion in Lafayette, IN, in July, so a stopover in Oxford was arranged. President Hodge, Steve's first contact, put him in touch with history professor (and Western honorary alum) Curt Ellison, who then connected him with the WCAA.



At left, Steve Peabody looks on as Judy Waldron examines Miss Peabody's infamous stool. Above, Judy and Cathy Cooper visit her grave with the Peabodys.



On Friday, July 15, the Peabodys were given the Grand Tour — including a session with WCAA archivist Jacky Johnson, a tour of the campus, a tour of Patterson Place, and a visit to Helen Peabody's grave in the Oxford Cemetery.

Curt kindly guided the tour, and the office staff — including retired director Judy Waldron — thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the extended Peabody family (dating back to 1614!) and sharing memorabilia (dating back to 1853).

Where the (Club) Action Is — Southwest Ohio, Detroit and . . .



Lunching at the Knolls, Oxford, last spring, front row (l to r): Harriet Hunt Hokanson '51, Barbara Williamson Wentz '68, Carolyn Auble, Ann Gingrich Kuehn '60, Don Auble FF; back row: Jane Smucker Fryman '58, Judy Waldron HA, Willi Lempert '07, WP director Nik Money, Debbie Baker, Kaye Wolke, Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg '53



WCAA's Detroit Club enjoyed lunch and a theater matinee, May 11, 2011, in Chelsea, MI. Charlotte Klein '57 (far left) summarized Western news for the group (l to r): Ellen Siddall Zimmermann '48, Ann Walton '66, Loretta Ryder '63, Alice Crabb Brandon '48 and Jennifer French Sponsler '68.

... Indianapolis



Indy Club members gather for a fall luncheon (l to r): Judy Vandergriff '58, Mildred Orr Palmer '42, Pam Watts Coates '70, Linda Watts '73, Barbara Wolf '55, Lynne Mueller Sweeney '73, Nancy Haas Osborn '56, Luci Bilsland Galloway '59, Dru Zearley Clingman '57, Sue Off Schrope '52.

From the Wonderful Folks Who Brought You Dragonfly*

Experience an Earth Expedition! Earth Expeditions is accepting applications for 2012 summer/fall graduate field courses and Global Field Program Master's degree offering international studies in 11 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas.

Offered by Miami University's Project Dragonfly, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and partners worldwide, the GFP Master's degree brings together graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical field sites across the planet. Sites for 2012 include the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guyana, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia, and Thailand.

Tuition for seven graduate credits and all basic in-country expenses are covered in the \$1,290 course costs. Accepted students are responsible for airfare.

Our Field Expeditions take educators to signature sites in the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guyana, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia, and Thailand. In past years, Earth Expeditions students have explored coral reef ecology in Australia, Buddhism and conservation in Thailand, joined cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia, monitored blue-and-gold macaws in Trinidad, and radio-tracked Pallas cats in Mongolia. Students exchange teaching experiences with peers in other countries, and make connections with local people, while collaborating on educational approaches that make a difference.

The application due date is January 28, 2012. To learn more and to apply, please visit: <http://www.EarthExpeditions.org>.

**Project Dragonfly, headquartered in lower Peabody, began in 1994 with Dragonfly magazine, the first national magazine to feature children's investigations. Today dozens of partnership programs promote inquiry-driven reform and reach millions of people worldwide.*

WCAA Supports MU's "Year of the Arts"



October, piano concert: Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg '53 and Jane Smucker Fryman '58 attend.



August, shadow puppets from Thailand (left); September, Pansuri singer/storyteller from Korea (below): Jane Graham Murphy '66 (seated, second from left) is there.



Upcoming events, 2012:

February 7	<i>The Rivalry</i>, LA Theatre Works, sponsored by Kona Bistro and WCAA, Hall Auditorium
June 15-17	Western Alumnae/i Weekend, Western campus
October 13	Indianapolis Club gathering, location TBA

Alumnae Service Award

Call For Nominations

The Board of Trustees invites nomination(s) of any living alumna, alumnus, former faculty, or administrator who has brought credit to the traditions and spirit of Western by contributing significantly in one or more of these categories:

- **Community and Humanitarian Service**
- **Professional or Career Accomplishment**
- **Service to Western College, Western College Program, or to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.**

The award will be presented at Alumnae/i Weekend 2012, June 15-17. Please fill out the form below and mail by **January 31, 2012** to:

ALUMNAE SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE
WCAA, INC.

325 S. Patterson Ave. | Oxford, OH 45056-2499

*To fax your nomination, 513/529-7400 or
 Submit online at: www.muohio.edu/wcaa/asa*

*For further information, call 513/529-4400 or
 E-mail: wcaa@muohio.edu*

Past Award Recipients

	(please do not re-nominate)	*deceased
2011	Judy K. Waldron HA	
2008	Patrick Callahan '83	
	Kathleen Hayes Ransier '69	
2007	Hélène Mambu-Ma Disu '72	
	Rachel DeLugish Hastings '94	
2006	Deborah J. McDuffie '71	
	Ann B. Rosenfield '83	
2005	Kyle W. Farley '83	
	Lucy A. Liggett '54	
2003	Emily Wilson Greenland '47	
	Catherine Ross Loveland '52	
	Sylvia G. Stanfield '65	
2002	Deborah L. Moran '72	
2001	Ruth Elzey Rawlings* '31	
	Josselyn Bennett Winslow '51	
2000	Gay Belcher Hadley '52	
1999	Dorothy Mershon Bajak '48	
	Robin Lynn Bartlett '69	
	Jane Alexander Durrell '47	
1998	Janet Smith Dickerson '65	
	Ann Niehaus Tobias '50	
1997	Phyllis Hoyt FF*	
	Eleanor Van Dervort Talbot '34	
1996	Mary Kinzie '66	
1995	Catherine Bauer Cooper '60	
	Valerie Dickson-Horton '71	
1994	Martha McKee Keehn* '43	
	Nancy Ewing Travis* '40	
1993	Carman Wolff Hunter* '43	
	Margaret Gardner Markel* '27	
1992	Donna E. Shalala '62	
1991	Rosemary Ferguson Dybwad* '31	
	Helen Potts Felsenthal '56	
1990	Betty Maddox Daniels '46	
	Nancy Boerner Larkin* '48	
	D. Ann Goldstone Marcus '43	
1989	Elizabeth Brown Peelle '54	
1988	Alice Lanterman Hammond* '28	
	Frances Hall King '29	

I WISH TO NOMINATE: Name(s) _____ **Class of** _____
 (Please include all information as the selection will be based on this nomination form. Attach any additional pages, clippings, letters, etc.) **Please mail no later than January 31, 2012.**

• **Community and Humanitarian Service**

• **Professional or Career Accomplishment**

• **Service to Western College, Western College Program, or the Western College Alumnae Association**

Your Name _____ **Class of** _____ **Telephone** _____

Send your news for the Spring '12 Bulletin NOW!

E-mail, or clip and mail the form below to your Class Rep or the WCAA by January 13!

Dear Class Rep: _____

Your full name and class year: _____

Address: _____

Phone number and e-mail address: _____

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

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WESTERN COLLEGE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

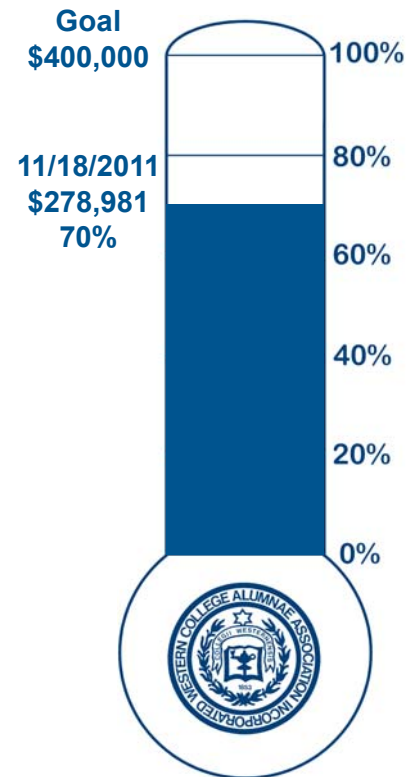
In tribute to the faculty of Western College, alumnae and friends are joining together to create a Professorship in the name of Western College. The professorship will be awarded to outstanding faculty working in the areas of women's history and/or public history and/or the history of social justice. Annual earnings from the endowment principal will supplement the professor's income, as well as provide support needed to pursue research, work with students outside the classroom, present at national conferences, and more.

This important campaign for Western's legacy has three goals:

- To achieve the total required to endow a professorship: \$400,000
- To welcome MANY first-time donors as partners
- To keep the name and spirit of Western College alive in perpetuity

We are pleased to report that our national campaign to create the Western College Endowed Professorship is very close to our goal: \$400,000. If we can raise 75% of the amount by December 31, 2011, Miami University will match the other 25%. To date, we have raised \$278,981 from 378 alumnae, friends and former faculty. We are only \$21,000 from our December goal, but we must reach the 75% mark by the 31st to obtain the matching fund. Please help us reach this goal with your generous contribution.

*Doris Ning Wong '62, chair
425-512-9755; dnwong@comcast.net*



WESTERN COLLEGE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Name _____ Class _____

Please accept my gift of

\$ _____ for the Western College Endowed Professorship

I would like to make a pledge of

\$ _____ to be paid in yearly installments of \$ _____
over 3 years. I would like to receive my annual reminder in the
month of _____.

My gift is in tribute to _____

The total qualifies me at the following level:

- ☐ Platinum (\$5,000) ☐ Silver (\$500)
☐ Gold (\$1,000) ☐ Bronze (\$100)

☐ I am also interested in exploring a planned giving option.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check payable to WCAA, Inc.

☐ Automatic deductions of

\$ _____ **quarterly** or **monthly** (circle one)

Provide voided check and sign below

Date to discontinue: ☐ None ☐ Date _____

☐ Credit card:

____ American Express ____ Discover ____ MasterCard ____ VISA

Account # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____

Signature _____

*For international alumnae: If you wish to transfer funds by wire,
please contact the WCAA.*

Mail or fax to: WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, INC.

325 S. Patterson Ave. • Oxford, OH 45056-2493 • Phone 513-529-4400 • Fax 513-529-7400 • E-mail wcaa@muohio.edu

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

325 S. Patterson Avenue

Oxford, Ohio 45056-2499

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Honoring Western Choir Members as we celebrate the history of Western



- Alumnae Choir performances
- Peabody Hall reception
- Walking History Tour
- Welcome Peabody family members
- Western College history presentation

Alumnae/i Weekend June 15-17, 2012