

# the Bulletin

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.  
Fall 2014



*Western College Legacy Circle*

## From the WCAA Director & President

*Happy New Year Westerners!*

I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season. 2014 was an incredibly productive year for us. Thank you for your effort, energy, and commitment. In June, the Board of Trustees transitioned from the presidency of **Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74** to **Sylvia Stanfield '65**. Jocelyn was a truly dedicated leader, and I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank her for her service. We are also thrilled to welcome Sylvia, and are excited for the energy and experience she brings. You'll see from her note below that it is an exhilarating and busy time to be a part of the WCAA. I know I speak for the staff and the Board of Trustees when I say none of this happens without you. Your loyalty to Western College inspires and rejuvenates us. It is an honor to carry forward the Western College Legacy with you.



Mackenzie Becker Rice  
Director, WCAA

In the Spirit of Western,



*Greetings Westerners! Narka Nelson wrote, "The Best of the Past is Part of our Present." How true!*

Following my Oxford visit for our fall WCAA Board of Trustees meeting, I am pleased to report that our campus is as beautiful as ever! It retains the Western look and feel. Summer construction projects have been completed. The old Alexander Dining Hall is gone and the new Western Dining Commons fits in perfectly, as do new residence halls in Western stone. **The tall glass windows of the Western Commons Dining Hall offer a great view of the old stone bridge near the Mary Lyon dorm and a picture perfect view framing Kumler Chapel in the fall.** A Western Walkway passes the new Stonebridge residence hall across a new stone bridge near the site for our Western College Legacy Circle project.

The WCAA Board of Trustees is excited about the Legacy Circle project and thrilled with early pledges and commitments from alums. We look for your support and generous contribution to fund the project that helps ensure our history lives in perpetuity. Seize the opportunity to place your name, that of a classmate, family member, or beloved faculty member on this permanent marker on our campus. Choose among the many options available and send your pledge/contribution. Encourage others to do so. With your help, construction can soon get underway.



Sylvia Stanfield '65  
President, WCAA

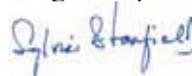
When Miami University hosted the October reunion and conference commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Freedom Summer, Western College was duly acknowledged as the summer 1964 training site for volunteers who traveled to Mississippi to conduct voter registration and establish Freedom Schools. At the Freedom Summer Memorial, there was a ceremony marking a beautiful addition to the campus: three trees intertwined with architectural structures and chimes in memory of Andrew Goodman, James Cheney and Michael Schwerner, who were slain in Mississippi shortly after leaving Oxford. At a pre-conference event at Miami's library, three former volunteers discussed their experiences before donating their materials to the Western College Memorial Archives. Trustee **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65** moderated two conference panels.

Miami University honored Western College in November when it held its first International Education Week celebration of the benefits of global exchange and international education: International Education: Honoring our Past, Looking to our Future. A panel of Western alums returned to discuss how international education has informed their lives.

Meanwhile, your WCAA Board is also moving ahead on other projects to secure the legacy. We hope to finalize our articulation agreement with the Miami University Board of Trustees. We are working with Miami's College of Arts and Sciences on implementation of our endowed professorship, and seeking to ensure that WCAA scholarship recipients are apprised of Western's history.

Planning is also underway for an exciting June 12-14 Reunion 2015, Western in the World. Mark your calendars and plan now to return, stroll the campus, and join us for a wonderful program and enjoyable time with other alums. You'll get to experience housing in the beautiful new and accessible Stonebridge Residence Hall with its suites and elevator.

We've a busy year ahead. In closing, I thank you for all you are doing to help us keep the spirit of Western alive.



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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.

**On the cover:** Adapted from a rendering of the Western College Legacy Circle designed by Robert Keller, University Architect Emeritus

**Anchor alert!**



Be reminded that since the "Anchor" is no longer being published, this symbol calls attention to items of special significance to the over-50 classes.



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# What's on Your Mind

For the past several fall issues of the Bulletin, this column has brought you excerpts from the Alumnae Weekend chapel talks. We know that bits and pieces don't do justice to the carefully crafted syntax of their essays, to say nothing of the passion and, yes, humor, so many of our speakers convey "live." Apology aside, here (slightly edited, but drastically condensed) is some of what 2014 chapel speaker **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins '74** had to say ...

## INTRODUCTION

It is a great honor for me to have been chosen to give the 2014 closing service address, and to be with you all here in Kumler Chapel. My most cherished memories in this historic building were when we gathered to be inspired, create anarchy, be challenged and engage in civil disobedience — Yes, all right here in Kumler Chapel. ...

Why me? Why did you choose me to speak? Did I have some special drive? Did I have some advantage that others have not had? Was I in the right place at the right time? I am just an ordinary person. But, I have had some extraordinary opportunities and made some extraordinary opportunities in my life — that have a difference for others. All grounded in my Western College experience. ...

## My story — the context ...

*College was dream — one that was about to become a reality.* So, how did I come to attend Western College for Women? Fortunately my high school guidance counselor had a connection with Dean Hoyt — enough said! Being at Western College on full financial aid was an interesting experiment for both Western and for me. ...

How rapidly things change — little did I know how rapidly they were going to continue to change. I could never have imagined the world of today. I could never have imagined my journey would have taken me to the places it has — President of the League of Women Voters of the United States — (p.s. Thanks to those of you who voted for me.)

But I would be prepared because the Soul of Western was in me: its legacy, its call to leadership, its lessons for life.

**So, what is legacy:** Legacy is defined as a gift of property; a bequest; anything handed down from the past; something transmitted by or received from an ancestor. What gift were we given? What gift did we leave? *You can't, you shouldn't, you won't, oh my! Women couldn't, blacks shouldn't, society won't* — not phrases that resonated at Western. So the legacy, the gift, was the desire to change the world — one person, one moment, one movement at a time. ...

**What is leadership.** The activity of leading a group of people or organization? But the Western legacy adds another dimension to this definition. Service, mission, making a difference.

## Freedom with responsibility

This philosophy for our educational experience adopted in 1969 helped me to recognize the transformative nature of policy and politics. So, Civil Rights, Human rights, Women's Rights, rights, rights, rights and more rights, all came with tremendous responsibility. The leaders at Western knew that and wanted to make sure that the educational experience students received embodied that soul and spirit and prepared them to respond. These markers of progress were the embodiment of the values of Western College: freedom with responsibility. ...



Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins

## Life ...

Dr. Condoleeza Rice, when interviewed by Dr. Michael Lindsay for his book *View From The Top: An Inside Look at How People In Power See and Shape the World*, said you *lead with your life*. How you represent yourself in public — your life is a symbol and people pay attention to symbols. Others interviewed emphasized missteps and what you learn from them. Oftentimes people see you at the pinnacle of your success: the achievements, the awards, the recognition. What they don't see are the challenges, the missteps, the reboots.

Well my 12-inch black and white television with the rabbit ears from 1970 is history, but I still have my 45s and vinyl albums and even some 8-track tapes. I haven't seen my transistor radio in a while, but I still see bell-bottomed pants are back in style and the platform shoes that always twisted my ankle. I still enjoy classic movies and remember the class "wrestling with the film." I still have all four years of *Multi-faria*, each with its own unique theme. I miss the family-style meals and the chimes and the prayer that began each meal. I miss the Lodge, where I first learned to pour beer without having a glass full of foam. I miss the Tennis Courts where I spent two years of my work study, opening and closing the gates and managing their use. I remember the Black corridor and its significance to my Western College orientation and assimilation. This afternoon we are gathered here, full of the memories of the last two days, of Western — what seems like a lifetime ago. ...

I remember the conversations about Freedom Summer and the legacy of Western's role in it. These leadership lessons learned and applying them to my life. These symbols and teachings have not become obsolete.

Throughout my life, I have had a lot of titles — and I'm sure been called a lot of things (that would not be considered titles) — but what has been most important to me is leading with my life. So, I still abhor injustice and inequality and question the reason for war, I still fight to provide a voice to the voiceless. Like everyone here and everyone who has and will be a part of the Western legacy, I still have a sense of calling, a vision of what the world can be.

What I took away from my Western experience was that leaving a legacy is important, that leadership is critical to change, and that life occurs in seasons each with its own unique challenges and opportunities. ... What were my life's lessons — that the world was bigger than me? That it is possible to change the course of history. That there is no better

*We urge you to read Carolyn's eloquent address in its entirety! Copies are available from the office, or it can be found online at: [www.miamioh.edu/wcaa/aw2014](http://www.miamioh.edu/wcaa/aw2014)*

## Meet Your New (Old) Trustees

*We are happy to welcome back Cynthia Horne and, Susan Hill to the WCAA Board of Trustees. Cynthia served two consecutive three-year terms, 1999-2005; Susan served from 2008 until 2011. Both were newly elected for three-year terms, effective July 1, 2014. We also welcome **Patricia Spokes Snowden '64**, who was appointed to fulfill a half-year term and formerly served from 1996 to 2002.*

**Cynthia Ackerman Horne '61** graduated from Western with a major in English and a certificate in secondary education. She earned her M.A. degree at the University of Akron and did post-graduate study at Ashland University. She was an English teacher and department chairman at McKinley High School before becoming English/Language Arts Curriculum Specialist for Canton City Schools. She retired after spending 34 years with the Canton system, but continues to serve the schools as secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Canton City Schools Foundation. Cynthia also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Canton Student Loan Foundation of which she has been secretary, vice president, and president. Since retirement, she has doubled her hours on the golf course, enjoying the sunshine of Florida during the winter months.



Cynthia

time to be involved than now. I guess that lesson was similar to the lessons from life that were reflected in my grandmother's philosophy of life: Hope, Promise, Commitment, Possibilities. ...

### CONCLUSION

My story is your story. I know you can't live in the past, but it certainly has been good these past few days to go back and remember. This alumnae weekend has given me the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, old memories and renewed possibilities. This weekend has been a celebration of the seasons of our lives. We came from different places, different cultures, different times, but left here filled with the Soul of Western — with a sense of purpose, LEGACY; the power to change things, LEADERSHIP; the opportunity, LIFE.

All of us by our service to the community and country breathe life into that noble tradition that is Western College. ...

**Susan Berryhill Hill '63** graduated from Western with a major in history and a minor in religion and art history before heading for graduate school at Case-Western Reserve. Susan received master's degrees from Case and Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. from Penn. She has taught art history at Penn State and published in the areas of Italian Renaissance iconography and Baroque architecture. Susan has served in many areas, including the Pennsylvania Governor's Committee on Human Relations, Developmentally Disabled Citizens and Group Home Boards, Altoona Hospital Mental Health Unit, ACLU, and various local philanthropic and peace groups.



Susan

## Meet Judy Dudman Henderson '62

*Judy's name is well known to Westerners, as she has served on the Board of Trustees since 2010: three years as Second Vice President/Alumnae Weekend Chair; currently as First Vice President/Treasurer. This past year she took on the additional responsibility of co-chairing the Western College Legacy Circle campaign. In 1998, six months after she became the Rev. Judith Henderson, Judy was honored to be Alumnae Weekend Chapel Speaker. Less well known may be her role as Volunteer — in that “other life” outside Western. Since 2004, that life has been deeply intertwined with the life of a young university in the east African country of Malawi and with the life of, perhaps, its most famous graduate, Muni-Wathu Precious Gawanani.*

In fact, Judy Dudman Henderson '62 wasn't supposed to be in Africa at all. From the time of Western's 1961 Far East Seminar, she had thought her calling was to Asia. After graduation with a history degree and sojourns in Boston, Los Angeles (the jumping off place for the '61 seminar and also where she met her husband, David) and Dallas, Judy and family settled permanently in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Always active in the Presbyterian church, the Hendersons stepped up to sponsor a Vietnamese family in 1975, at the closing of the Viet Nam war. Judy empathized with the 40-year-old woman, her five children and 65-year-old mother because having been on the seminar, she “knew the culture shock [they] would be experiencing in addition to the emotional shock of a disrupted life.”

Community service came naturally, too, and exposed the intercultural thread again. While she was president of the Tulsa branch, the American Association of University Women sponsored a community seminar dubbed “Stop the World I Want To Get On” (after the book by the same title). “Something clicked,” Judy says, and at 40 she switched gears, went back to school and got a degree in computer science. Her nickname became “Ms. Micro,” as she plunged into selling then-new personal computers, teaching computer basics at the community college, and various jobs for Tulsa Public Schools and Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Also during this period she served on the board of directors of the Tulsa Global Alliance, a nonprofit organization that, among other things, does program planning for USAID, providing international guests with home stays and interaction with Tulsa businesses and educational institutions. In 1995, Judy was asked to be part of the Presbyterian Church's delegation to the Fourth Global Conference on Women in Huairou/Beijing, China, because of her “passion for all things Oriental — life, cultural, art, friends, language.” She had just completed a course in Chinese at the community college!

That same year, again “something clicked.” At 53, Judy found herself in seminary. She attended Austin (TX) Presbyterian Theological Seminary from 1995 until 1998, when she was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor. Her first church as an installed pastor was in Neosho, Missouri. But after seven years of long-distance family life, Judy returned to Tulsa, where three interim pastorates led eventually to a de-



2008: Teaching with Dr. Overtoun Mzunda. Judy taught a three-week course in continuing education to CCAP pastors at Ekwendeni Mission Station, where the UNILIA College of Theology is located.

cade of involvement in Africa — “the real ‘A’ continent where I was meant to be.”

At seminary working as a teaching assistant to the professor of world religions, Judy had met Joseph Thipa, a student who, in her words, “made me fall in love with a country I had never even heard of.” He was from Malawi (formerly Nyasaland), a country of 16+ million in southeast Africa.

As it happened, the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery had a partnership with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi. Opportunity knocked and Judy volunteered. She has now been to Malawi — more specifically, the University of Livingstonia (UNILIA)— five times, wearing many hats: teacher and pastor, also facilitator, administrator, fundraiser ... well, you name it.

From 2004 until 2007, she planned programs for delegations coming to Tulsa from Livingstonia and met the Rev. Matiya Nkhoma, the Synod's general secretary, whose vision it had been to establish a university there. [See sidebar.]

In 2008, her first trip to Malawi, Judy taught three-week continuing education classes for 30 pastors at UNILIA College of Theology, on the Ekwendeni campus.

The next year Judy attended the Synod's General Assembly and taught classes in history of the church, preaching, and introduction to the Old Testament for a semester. But the highlight of 2009 was her installation as associate



Students in group discussion during an educational psychology class on UNILIA's front lawn. Precious Gawanani is in the second group in the background. From the original 42 students in 2003, the university has grown to over 1,000.

pastor at Livingstonia Mission Church: “This privileged me to experience every aspect of their lives, as pastors do. A great gift and [it] allowed me to really understand Malawi culture, tribal traditions, and gave me insight into how education is *key* to the nation moving forward.”

Travel complications intervened in 2010, so she stayed home, collecting and sending books to the colleges of Theology and Education libraries. The next year she went back to meet a container shipment and oversee the appropriate delivery of government hospital equipment and university goods. In one month, Judy assisted a colleague from Tacoma, Washington, distributing computers, e-learning and science supplies, plus books, bicycles, furniture, etc. “with the usual ceremonial hand-overs required.”

In 2012, she spent another long month in Malawi as part of a delegation from her home John Knox Presbyterian Church. The church had entered into a partnership with both the UNILIA Laws Campus and the Livingstonia Mission Church, sponsoring two scholarships a year at the university. In addition, they support local children attending secondary school. Upon her return to the U.S. in 2012, Judy and others from Presbyterian churches with active CCAP ministries began a year-long fundraising operation to launch the university's second decade. They raised over \$225,000 for ongoing development, and the next year Judy was on hand to join in the joyous Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

2013 — what a year it was! She was in Africa for six weeks — three in South Africa on an unforgettable photo safari, three in Malawi with no teaching or special assignments but to enjoy “this phenomenal historic landmark event.” She considers it a privilege to have played a small part in helping a university fulfill its vision “to grow from meager beginnings, negotiate the support of the 11 tribal leaders on the Khondawi Plateau (Livingstonia Plateau), close the government secondary boarding school, secure an infra-

structure and develop curriculum that met government standards for university accreditation, open a second campus in Ekwendeni and seek financial stability.” (In 2014, a third campus near Mzuzu, the main city in the north, was opened.)

Over six years, Judy's actual time in Malawi was about a year. Will her fifth trip be her last? “I left with the feeling this might be ... but I certainly hope not.”

— CBC

### Judy describes her meeting with Precious ...

The name of Precious Gawanani is nearly a household word at UNILIA — everyone knows he was the valedictorian of the first graduating class. Plus, he came back and taught for a period of time. I had heard many stories of him when I was teaching for a semester in the fall of 2006.



Trustee Judy and Ph.D. student Precious at Patterson Place, now with more opportunities to get together.

One of them came from my night watchman. He was a village chief that used to like to talk theology with me! Each night with only the stars and a flashlight as light, I would sit on the veranda with him for the time it took to drink a cup of hot tea and eat a biscuit. Once I asked if he knew Precious. He said, “All the night watchmen know of Precious. When all the students would be in their dorms (no electricity), you could always see Precious in one of the classrooms in the wee hours of the morning studying.” In the early days, one block of classrooms ran on a generator at night. There was his dogged determination to make the most of his opportunity to get an education.

I had traveled from Laws Campus down to Mzuzu where the vice-chancellor's and registrar's offices are located. I came into the waiting room, where Precious was patiently waiting to be helped. He was there to sign a form necessary for his Visa, saying that when he completed his studies he would return to Malawi. I was asked to review the form. In our short conversation, I asked Precious where he was intending to study. He said Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I could hardly believe my ears ...

As fate would have it, I was invited to serve on the WCAA Board of Trustees in 2010. Now, when I come to Oxford I always meet with Precious and hear about his studies. The skills and education he is getting at Miami University are tailor-made for what UNILIA needs upon his return. I hope his dreams work out.



2011: Flatbed with contents of container arriving at Laws Campus. "Note the muddy wheels. We came up 20 hair-pin turns to ascend the 4,000 feet to the top of the Khondowe Plateau (Livingstonia Plateau). This 10-tonnage truck had to back up three times in order to make each turn which had no protective barriers against the embankment straight down! I rode in the cab. No small task!"



Livingstonia Mission Church, Synod of Livingstonia, CCAP, where Judy was installed in 2009 as Associate Pastor. "This church serves 11 villages wrapped around the Khondowe Plateau. In the old days, before they started building their own village churches, every Sunday the people would climb the mountain and come worship in this church!"



Judy with her "timid" freshmen at a dinner party following their graduation in 2012. "I had always told them God-willing I would be there. They were shocked to see me!"



There are two services every Sunday, one in English and the other in Timbuka, tribal language of the north. "It's also the church for the college students on Laws Campus. So, it is full!"

Leading worship procession with Rev. Clifford Baloyi at Livingstonia Mission Church. "As a pastor I had the privilege to be welcomed into villages and invited into the homes, to experience tribal cultures in intimate home atmospheres with unguarded trust and conversation that comes from such a position. I attended and conducted far too many funerals, tombstone unveilings, but also preached, hospital-visited, baptized, and served Holy Communion. I was privileged to really see African tribal culture in the midst of rising university education."

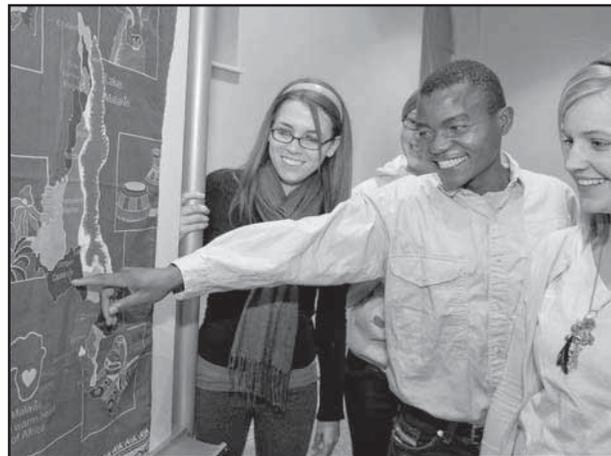


*Eager to be a part of history, 42 young women (18) and men (24) began coursework on August 27, 2003, in the new College of Education of the University of Livingstonia. The College of Education joined Livingstonia Technical College, Livingstonia Theological College, Ekwendeni School of Nursing and the College of Commerce under the university umbrella, and opened its doors in a borrowed classroom at Livingstonia. Despite many inconveniences to faculty, staff and students, this “first class” completed its first term on December 12, 2003. Adjunct faculty from Mzuzu University, university administrators, Synod officials and many others joined in congratulating all in achieving this milestone. — UNILIA Newsletter Vol. 2 September - December 2003*

**Muni-Wathu Precious Gawanani**, a young man from rural Madisi, was there. His village (pop: 1,000) was six hours away, but with the support of his “big and extended family” (he’s the oldest of five siblings with one brother and three sisters), he took and passed the entrance exam and interview, coped with the “many inconveniences” (dormitory rooms with mattresses for beds and hooks for closets, cafeteria meals, distant classrooms), and graduated four years later — in the first graduating class — as valedictorian.

Armed with his new B.Ed. degree, Precious taught social studies and language arts to primary school students at Mtendere Children’s Village, an orphanage in Malawi’s capital, Llongwe — in effect, tutoring them so they could go to public school. That’s where Miami University associate professor of educational leadership Ray Terrell and a team of students from the Miami chapter of Ambassadors for Children found him. “We all just fell in love with him,” Terrell said. When they learned that Precious was interested in pursuing graduate studies, Terrell arranged a teaching assistantship at Miami and the students raised money to help pay for airfare and housing.

In May 2010, Precious graduated from Miami with a master’s in education and went back to Malawi to teach for one year at his alma mater, the University of Livingstonia. But he wasn’t finished yet ...



*A lesson in world geography: Precious Gawanani points out his southeast African country of Malawi to fellow Miami University students.*

Today, a teaching assistant at Miami, he is hard at work on his doctoral degree. He returned to Miami in 2011 and spent this past summer once more in Malawi, collecting data for his dissertation: “Experiences of Malawian Teachers with Continuous Professional Development Programs.” He was able to hold “great conversations” with teachers willing to share their experiences in professional development programs as a way of improving student achievement.

He would decline the label of mover and shaker, but Precious Gawanani’s greater aim is “to help policy makers in Malawi develop and implement effective professional development programs that take into account the experiences and insights from teachers.” With his sights set on May 2015 graduation, Precious is poised to go home again and make things happen.

— CBC

### **About the University of Livingstonia (UNILIA) ...**

In 1894, Dr. Robert Laws decided to locate the Overtoun Institution of the Livingstonia Mission of the Free Church of Scotland on the Khondowe plateau, east of Nyika, overlooking Lake Malawi. This became one of the largest, most productive and influential educational centers in southern Africa. The Livingstonia synod moved its headquarters to Mzuzu, and Khondowe is now the home of Livingstonia University.

— *Historical Dictionary of Malawi, by Owen J.M. Kalinga, published 2012.*

Widespread interest motivated Synod officials to formally launch the University of Livingstonia 27 August 2003 on the Khondowe, now called the Laws Campus. University administrative offices are located in Mzuzu. Programs are housed in the College of Education, College of Applied Sciences (computer engineering, environmental management, public health, nutrition and food security), and Livingstonia Technological College. Located on the Ekwendeni Campus are Colleges of Social Sciences (including development studies and human rights), Faculty of Theology, and College of Nursing. A third campus recently purchased at Lusangazi will support studies in agri-business.

— *Gomezgeka Mkandawire,  
University Relations, UNILIA*

# Revisiting Freedom Summer: Reunion & Conference . . .

**H**eld October 11-14, 2014, it was billed as the “Miami University Freedom Summer Conference and Reunion” and the theme was 50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future. The four day mega-event commemorating the Mississippi Summer Project of 1964 was the culmination of the university-wide, year-long “celebration of freedom.”

Activities included lectures, panels, and workshops featuring guest speakers; museum exhibits; films and presentations; walking tours of the Western campus; musical and dramatic performances (including in Kumler Chapel and Leonard Theatre); indoor classes and outdoor classes in the Freedom Memorial amphitheater; informal conversations and sharing of artifacts and memorabilia. One unusual session involved the playtest of a location-based game created by MU theater professor Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, using iOS devices (such as iPod or iPad) with free applications to experience the orientation and training for Freedom Summer on the Western campus.

The first two days were devoted to the Reunion and began with a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Museum in Cincinnati. This part of the program was planned largely for the returning Mississippi Project volunteers and took place almost exclusively on the Western campus and in Peabody Hall. The Conference half was held in the Marcum Center, with two exceptions: an excursion to the Western campus for “Walk With Me: Freedom Summer Interactive History Tour” and to Miami’s Hall Auditorium for “People Get Ready: Meditation on Freedom Summer,” a Performing Arts Series presentation of dramatic readings, interpretations, and music of the early ’60s.

A total of 526 including scholars, students, community members, and returning Freedom Summer “alumni” attended the reunion cum conference. Of that number, 350 were undergraduate students and 46 were original Freedom Summer volunteers.

Fourteen Western College alumnae attended: **Pris Strand Berry ’54, Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens ’65, Hazel Williams Drew ’66, Jane Smucker Fryman ’58, Rita Greene ’73, Judy Dudman Henderson ’62, Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg ’53, Suzanne Detlefsen Meyers ’66, Loretta Ryder ’63, Susan Riley Scherer ’55, Sylvia Stanfield ’65, Anne Adkins Weissenborn ’61, Pheetta Wilkinson ’76, and Jocelyn Woodson-Reed ’74.** Western College archivist **Jacky Johnson** served as chair of the Planning Committee and co-chair of the Reunion Sub-Committee, and WCAA senior program assistant **Debbie Baker** was a member of the Planning Committee.



## . . . Understanding the Past, Building the Future



### *Before Freedom Summer ...*

... there was the Inter-Collegiate Conference on Community Action in Race Relations, co-sponsored by Western's Government Association and Religion-in-Life Committee (RIL). March 25-30, 1961, during spring break, 28 students from five schools — DePauw University, Greencastle, IN; Butler University, Indianapolis, IN; University of Illinois, Champaign, IL; Miami University and Western College — gathered on the Western campus to hear speakers and participate in workshops. The women were housed in Peabody Hall, the men in Hillside.



**Susan Baarsch Button '61** was the RIL program director. She recalls: "It all began with my taking the idea to Dean Hoyt and her saying, 'Why not?' One of the highlights for me was nervously calling the White House to get someone to see to it that the Civil Rights Commissioner got approval to come! He later said his IQ was raised by our call — his Importance Quotient!" Other planners were **Marian "Tex" Robinson '61, Donna Shalala '62, and Parmalee Taff '62.**



*Susan Baarsch, 1961*

Twelve Western students in addition to the planning committee participated: freshmen **Judi Hampton** and **Roberta Wright**; sophomores **Debbie Hunt, Janet Faust, Joan Kowalski, Rosa Chen** and **Loretta Ryder**; juniors **Linda Prier, Margaret Githara, Rowena Toomey** and **Ann Tudor**; and senior **Pamela Odede**.

The purpose was to make an intensive study of community action to improve race relations. In order to examine the issues from a variety of perspectives — such as labor, management, independent and municipal organizations, mass communications, the church — they heard from representatives of the U.S. Steelworkers Union, the Cincinnati Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee, the Ohio NAACP, Southwest Region American Friends Service, the Cleveland FHA, Cincinnati Urban League, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Dayton WHIO-TV, Fashion Frocks, Inc. in Cincinnati, and Oxford churches.

*Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65, panel moderator*



## *A Unique Perspective ...*

**Loretta Ryder '63** participated in both the 1961 Inter-Collegiate Conference and the 2014 Freedom Summer Conference, giving her, perhaps, a unique perspective.

She recalls, "As I drove to Oxford to attend the Summer Freedom Conference acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the civil rights training on Western's Campus, I thought about a seminar on race issues in America that was held during the spring break of my sophomore year at Western (1961). Ms. [Margaret] Barrier (Sociology/Anthropology Professor) and a professor from Miami's Sociology Department [Dr. David Lewis] steered the conference along with **Donna Shalala** and other students from upper classes.

"We were shown a classic documentary on the power of suggestion in the development of intolerance and prejudice. The film involved a classroom teacher who told her young charges, all of whom were Caucasian, that students with brown eyes (or some other category like hair color) were not 'good.' The students quickly began to discriminate against, bully and exclude those who did not fit the privileged category. Hard, angry and hurt feelings developed over the course of the day. The teacher later reversed the situation. This time the 'blue eyes' were not 'good' and the same feelings and patterns of behavior emerged! What was remarkable was how insidiously the idea of discrimination against other human beings took root in their minds and erupted into discriminatory actions.

"Other topics included the role of photo advertising in maintaining stereotypes; analyses of, and challenges to racial attitudes and assumptions. Ms. [Charlotte] Tinker (Admissions) made some particularly discerning and pertinent observations. A few students from other colleges and MU attended, and it turned out to be an illuminating experience for us all. This may well have been part of the groundwork for Western's acceptance of the challenge to host the training sessions for the Mississippi Summer Project of 1964."

## *Alumnae Reflections from Three Decades ... 1950s*

My friend Priscilla Mead came with me to Oxford. We had dinner recently and both of us agree that the event — our 48 hours absorbing it — was very significant and will always be with us.

Over the years I can tell that I will be working on answering questions for a long time...

As we talked about Freedom Summer — and imagined the people we would meet and the knowledge we would gain, we became more and more interested in meeting the people with whom we would be at the seminar.

I was so gratified that we had figured out that we should attend, because all of the speakers that I met were impressive, really believed in the results of their activities and were able to present their participation in exciting and honest ways. I was impressed with every speaker that I met and heard, and found them so dedicated that it was easy to get caught up in their enthusiasm.

I talked with speakers every time that I could get close enough to ask. They were all dedicated and part of the information that is needed to have this project continue

I continue to be excited about the information that we learned and I will continue to seek current reports.

— Susan Riley Scherer '55



*Susan Riley Scherer*

## 1960s

My only regrets about the 2014 Summer Freedom Conference were that I could only attend the first day, and that I had to choose from four sessions running concurrently, all of which appeared engrossing! I ended up listening to the stories of Oxford citizen panelists, most of whom were African-American, who lived in the town at the time and/or attended MU. Both sessions were moderated by **Janet Smith Dickerson '65**, and their stories were eye-openers for me because I had had so little time to get to know the town when I was in college 50+ years ago. A history of racism infused the community — separate schools at one point, restricted use of park facilities, disrespect in stores, etc., but they told how black community members supported each other, and how integration into the town and on Miami's campus gradually took place.

In the evening, music and the spoken word were the elements of the show entitled "People Get Ready! Meditations on Freedom Summer." Wonderful presentations were made — recitations, singing, dancing, instrumental — but I most enjoyed the MU Wind Ensemble's playing of "American Guernica" by Adolphus Hailstork. In "American Guernica," Hailstork took the idea of Picasso's famous painting "Guernica," which reflected rage about the bombing of that Spanish town, and composed a wide-ranging, turbulent piece with many clashing sounds, high-pitched trills and rapid passages expressing outrage about the bombing of a black Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, which resulted in the deaths of four girls at Sunday School. At the end of the work, four instrumentalists in four areas off stage played quiet solos which represented the souls of those four little girls. Hailstork has a history of combining music with racial themes. In 2006, the Cincinnati May Festival commissioned him to write a piece for orchestra and two choirs, one white, one black, after a period of racial discord in the area. He wrote a work entitled "Earthrise" and insisted that the black choir be the Brazeal Dennard Chorale, with which I sing here in Detroit. The white choir was the May Festival Chorus. We began the composition as two separate choirs singing at different times in different styles, but somewhere near the final section, we physically merged on stage and sang together, an expression of racial cooperation.

MU's exploration into Celebrating Freedom was a year-long venture with the conference as a conclusion. My hope is that another conference can be planned or perhaps even a yearly confab so that I can attend some of the other panel discussions that I had to miss!

— *Loretta W. Ryder '63*



*Loretta Ryder*

## 1970s

Women played many major roles in Freedom Summer. Women from Mississippi were instrumental in forming the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. This party challenged the all-white Democratic delegation at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City for not addressing the issues and concerns of Black Mississippians.



*Rita Greene*

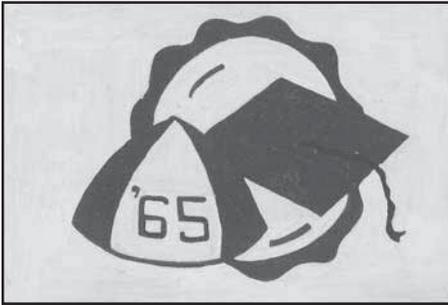
The conference allowed me to put a face to the names I had read about. One event and one workshop stand out in my mind as significant. The event was the unveiling of the Freedom Summer Chimes and the three dogwood trees commemorating James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, slain in Mississippi after leaving Oxford. The workshop was the presentation and talk by Herbert Randall. Here he spoke of his experience in Mississippi during the summer of 1964 and he gave us a backdrop about the photos that he took of the Freedom Summer Project. There were over 100 photos featured in the exhibit

Now it was great listening and talking to those who played a part in these historic events. During lunch one day, Gwen Simmons Robinson shared with our table how she left Spelman College for Ohio and Mississippi against her family's wishes. Her grandmother told her if she left not to come back. You know they were afraid for her safety and hoped she wouldn't go. She went anyway. Afraid of their response, she did not speak to them the entire summer of 1964. She is an example of ordinary people doing extraordinary things — making a difference.

There have been a lot of changes in the last 50 years, but some things still remain the same. Today we are fighting to keep the Voting Rights Act of 1964 alive. It was aimed at state and local governments that kept African Americans and Latinos from voting. We also have policing issues in these communities. We must re-create Freedom Schools in our churches and communities to teach our young people Black and Latino American History. Adults and youth need to understand the importance of voting in the local and state elections. Advancing civil rights is close to my heart and I have decided to work in my own church and neighborhood to get this accomplished.

— *Rita Greene '73*

# 1965: The Sixty-second Graduating Class . . .



**Shirin Kassam Velji** recently had right hip replacement but now the left knee and foot are hurting and she finds at times it's difficult to walk. Shirin hopes her health will allow her to attend the 50th Reunion.



Shirin



Janet

**Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens** apologizes for missing Pam's deadline, explaining, "... alas, I was distracted. ( ? ) We were on vacation." All is well with Janet and her family. She was looking forward to attending the Freedom Summer Conference in Oxford on October 11-14. [Editor's note: Janet did not mention that she was to moderate two panel discussions. See page 10.]

ward to attending the Freedom Summer Conference in Oxford on October 11-14. [Editor's note: Janet did not mention that she was to moderate two panel discussions. See page 10.]

**Elizabeth "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison** and husband Ian had a full summer and the highlight of their fall was expected to be their trip to Scotland late October to see Ian's family. They had not seen them in four years. Ian's son is working on his M.A. in Germany and Brooksie's son is still looking for work after having been laid off 18 months ago. She is working three days a week at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT, as the clinical nutritionist for the Vermont Blue Print program. Ian is volun-



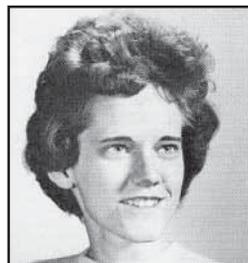
Brooksie

teer coordinator for the same hospital. They are taking full advantage of the one month left of golf season.

**Margaret Warnock Carlough** is still volunteering at Hancock Shaker Village, which she says, "helps me in my spiritual growth, as well as my learning how to spin, warp a loom, make Shaker oval boxes, and make a step stool." They are still looking for a retirement home for next year's move. Since there is no public transportation where they live, they want to move before they stop driving. One possibility is in Mystic, CT. In late September, Margaret saw Sai Maa (a Hindu guru who radiates love).



Margaret



Kathy

**Kathy Fansher Parnell** writes that she had left knee replacement and had a long recovery. She says she is getting lots of exercise now and is doing very well. She sends holiday wishes to all.

Here's an update by proxy for **Sylvia Stanfield**. She is beyond busy as she assumes

her new duties as president of the WCAA Board of Trustees. The board met in Oxford, October 9-11, followed immediately by the Freedom Summer Conference, October 11-14, which Sylvia, along with Janet, several other trustees, and a number of Western alumnae attended. In addition she is a newly appointed board member of the Miami University Foundation, which meets quarterly. It goes without saying that Sylvia will most definitely be participating in Alumnae Weekend, June 12-14, 2015.



Sylvia

Things are going along with me and my family. I took a cruise to Alaska in September. Had a wonderful time. The weather was great and the cruise boat beautiful. I plan to attend our 50th Reunion in 2015. Hope you will too. I wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy new year.



Pam

**Pam Eggers Gill '65**  
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*Five from the class of 1965 gathered in Princeton to catch up with each other's lives (L to R): Liz "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison, Peggy Gaebler Morscheck, Sylvia Stanfield, Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens, Fran Hoffman. "We're enjoying being together. And we miss so many others! We are hoping that our other classmates will join us at the June 2015 50th Reunion at Western. Hope to see the whole group there. Come on you wonderful women!"*



# ... Plus the Thirty-sixth, Thirty-eighth, Etc. ...



**Marj Lloyd Liggett**, not only represented the venerable 75-year anniversary class at Alumnae Weekend 2015, but participated in a highlight event.



Marj and family members look on as ground is broken for the Western College Legacy Circle during Alumnae Weekend. She was asked to say a few words about her family's many and long connections with Western, all the way back to Seminary days.

**WCAA, Inc.**  
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**Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 75 years!**

News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



As I was sorting through my book collection (trash? charity sale?), I came across our senior *Multifaria* and out fell the picture of our freshman picnic in the Beech Woods. There were 144 of us "daringly" posing in short shorts, bare midriffs, and strapless bras.

Fast forward 70 years and we now number 20. All things considered, I think that is a

pretty good record, and hope that all continue as well as can be expected.

One blue card (via the WCAA office) from **Isabel Duncan McCoy!** She writes to inform the WCAA that she accompanied Western students on the African trip [presumably the 1958 or 1966 African Seminar] and still has slides from the trip, which she offered to the Western Archives. "What a highlight experience of an entire lifetime!" At 96, Isabel says she is "happily recalling freshman year at Western, '37-'38," and regretted being "physically not quite up to" attending Reunion, but sent "greetings to those who do make it." [Sadly, we later received the news of Isabel's death in September.]



Suzy and her beloved Belle

My personal note is I am still driving day/night, live alone in the same house I bought in 1956, am a season subscriber to the Dallas Symphony, and volunteer at my branch library two days a week. Best wishes ...

**Suzy Allburt '41**  
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News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



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With a little help from a friend, Suzy was able to find herself and identify Marilyn Glanton, Ida Fontana, Shirley Martel, Janet McIlvaine, Virginia ??, Dorothy Chapin, May Egerton, Alice Robinson, Ann Essington, Betty Merrill, Bernice Nathan, Elizabeth Gerdes, Betsy Bowen, Emmy Eaton, Dorothy Adkins, Ruth Harry, Betty Olsen and Laura Kearns. How many can you recognize? (Follow the arrow to Suzy in next-to-the-back row.)



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 70 years!

Dear classmates, here it is — coming up to our 70th reunion year — and most of us are at least 90 years old. I wonder if any of us thought when we graduated in 1945 that we would live into our 90s, but here we are! I'm hoping to get to our reunion if I'm able to navigate and if I can get one of my kids to drive me to Oxford. I'm still driving but not such a long distance. The dates are June 12-14, 2015.

**Gertrude "Toni" Von Lengerke Kim** wrote that she is deaf and got a CAPTEL telephone which is great. There is a delay which takes getting used to. She has a riding mower which enables her to mow her lawn since she says she doesn't walk too well since she fell down the stairs a couple of years ago. Mowing the lawn at 91 seems pretty remarkable to me.

**Louise Larkins Bradford** is still living alone in the house she has been in for 40 years. She has wonderful friends in the neighborhood whom she meets with regularly for walks or breakfasts. Lou's son is an independent filmmaker living in Denver, and he comes to visit every few months. He's great with home repairs when he arrives. The choir in her church sang a choral work that she hasn't heard since we were at Western.

**Margie Gasche Ewing** called me on the phone the other night — just full of news of



Margie Ewing and Beth Bevan

her life. I tried to take notes as she gave me information. In June she went to Minneapolis for her grand-niece's wedding. She has

a care-giver twice a week, who can do anything that Margie asks for — like a third daughter. She went to Philadelphia to see her daughter Martha and to Annapolis to see her stepson. While there she went to see her nephew who lives near Annapolis. She also spent two weeks with her "man friend" in October, who sent her the money to fly out to see him and attend some events east of San Francisco. Her family had a surprise birthday party for her on the occasion of her 90th. People she hadn't seen in years came. Holly was there, of course. Margie has had a recurrence of cancer and had 17 lymph nodes taken out of her arm. While she can walk pretty well, she has trouble with long distances, so she bought a walker with a seat so she can rest whenever she wants. She doesn't know whether she will ever fulfill her dream — to go to Australia and New Zealand.

News from **Beth Shirk Bevan** comes to me from her daughter, **Annette Bevan Gallagher '69**. I got her information from the Western directory a couple of years ago, and now she sends me news of her mother. Beth is in assisted living in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Beth's 90th birthday was on February 5th, and that very day, her sixth great-grandson was born. She is expecting #7 in February 2015. Beth is in the process of passing on family heirlooms to others lately. In August, family members traveled from her childhood farm area in Indiana, and they chose some things for themselves and selected other items for the history museum in her hometown. Beth's favorite activity where she lives is playing in the bell choir. And sometimes her son, Alex, comes to the home and entertains the residents.

**Virginia "Ginny" Cook Marquett** is her usual busy self. Last September, a group of cousins gave her a 90th birthday party. One hundred six people were there. She is still traveling — to see cousins in Sun City, SC. On her way, she stopped to see her granddaughter and then friends in Charlotte, NC. Her activities at home include church historical society and her retired teachers group. She entertained several relatives who came to her birthday party for a month after the party and will go to West Virginia in October and Lancaster, PA, in November. While she is well, she's finding it takes longer to get things done than it used to.

**Marilyn "Inky" Inskeep Fischer** wrote in August and offered to write to some of our class members. I've not received any news of them as yet. She has heard from several members of the class of '46. **Emily Greenland '47** has moved about 15 minutes away. Emmy has seen **Nancy Myers '46** and **Ann Winger Tuttle '46**, but she didn't send any news. Inky's daughters live nearby and are her health care people, getting her to the doctor or other locations. Doctor visits have been less this year, she says.



Ardis (90), sharing birthdays with her youngest granddaughter (21)

I've (**Ardis "Dickie" Dechman Coninx**) had a good year. I had my family for dinner and picture-taking for my 90th birthday. No big party like some of you have had. However, I'm 90 now. Since my last class news, I've had two grandsons get married and another engaged. My youngest granddaughter turned 21 — a big remembrance in a young person's life — and she went to Europe with her German dance club to perform in France and Germany. I still keep up with most of my volunteer jobs — the most important being running the library in my retirement home. I still walk without the help of a cane or a walker, but I'm not as capable as I was when I moved here in 2001. I'm still hoping to get to Western in June and hoping to see you there too. Love to you all ...

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News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



I talked to **Ellen Pletcher Marsden** on the phone to thank her for sending me *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline for my birthday. We both love books and talking about them. She reports from her home in Duluth, high on a hill overlooking the city and Lake Superior, that her garden this year is the best she has ever had after the hardest winter she can remember!

Ellen comes to Maryland every year to visit her daughter and family and together we visit **Marilyn "Dickie" McKasson Pletcher** in Baltimore.

Marilyn still lives in her house in Baltimore with two of her four sons. They help with all the work around the house as well as shopping and cooking. Dickie enjoys reading and listening to music and almost monthly family gathering to celebrate birthdays and holidays. Her two sons, who are married with families, live nearby so they enjoy all getting together. Ellen and I visited in April for a delicious lunch and conversation about politics, families, books and Western.

**Jane Alexander Durrell** writes from Cincinnati: "I am considerably slowed down, as seems to be the case with us all these days. Can't travel as I did, so am glad to have gone when the going was good. Nothing traumatic wrong with me, just the general wearing out and necessity to use a cane — which turns out to be more of a nuisance than I would have expected. I am lucky in that as a writer I can continue to do some work since athleticism is not required. Nothing big — several people I know have actually written the book they always talked of doing but I continue to turn out the short stuff that appears in disposable media so has no appreciable shelf life. Keeps me interested, though, and just busy enough." Jane's writing is always very interesting and I hope she has kept an archive of it. [*So is her reading: see "Nota Bene," page 52.*]

Just past deadline, Jane wrote with the sad news that our classmate and her sister-in-law, **Susanne Durrell Hunt**, had died on October 31. She was to be buried in Arlington Cemetery, which, Jane commented, "seems appropriate given her years as a military wife." She is survived by her husband, Col. Senour Hunt, her two children, six grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

**Maxine Murray Long** reports from Colorado: "Summer is slipping by and winter not so much to my liking." She is still interested in politics and finds it intriguing that more women are involved all the time. How will it play out? She says of Nora Ephron's book *Remember Nothing*, "I know whereof she speaks." I do, too. She ends, "Take Care, Stay Well," to all our classmates.

**Mary Garnett Tillinghast** wrote from her retirement home in Georgia that she spent a lovely Christmas Day with her son Owen and his family. The rest of her children are in California and can't visit, she misses them. She had a tale of woe about balky computers and lost address lists. I commiserate! It sounds like my life. We are both getting new computers and look forward to using them. She called me and we had a lovely, long conversation.

**Marjorie Reed Kimball** writes from beautiful Whidbey Island, WA, that she still enjoys all the beauty around her — even in the rain. She continues to serve as staff representative for the Navigators, a non-denominational international Christian organization. Her children and six grandchildren live far away so it is a special blessing whenever they can be together.

**Gene Descherer Plotkin** in Boca Raton, FL, was the first to send news. She has a mystery for us to solve — while cleaning book shelves she found a copy of Narka Nelson's history of Western and reread it. She was impressed and says, "Nothing was going to keep these determined and dedicated founders from getting the seminary going and later our college — not three major fires, wars, Lincoln's assassination, floods and even a typhoid fever scare." She found on a blank page in the front of the book the inscription "to the sweetest Mother in the world on Mother's Day, love and kisses, your Western Girl" and the initials "CED." Any idea who that might be?

She reports that Boca Raton is hot and humid. She is mincing along with her collapsible cane and almost daily lunching, where weighty discussions on either world affairs or who was in an old movie heat up the conversation. The best times are when the kids are visiting — all are doing well.

**Marilyn Trester Woodrich** from Washington state writes that she is still living in her home, walking every day, puttering in her garden, joining friends for lunch, and not traveling much except to see her families in nearby towns. She can still drive at night and transports friends as well. (Bless her!) She belongs to book clubs and AAUW and PEO, all of which she hopes keep her busy and alert.

**Alyce Baumgartner Haines'** Christmas letter from Hawaii told of family gatherings and visits with friends on some of the different islands. Her family continues to grow with the birth of her second great-grandson. Her morning routine is a long walk on the beach with her little dog, Hansi, where they meet and greet their doggie and human friends.

**Barbara House Crenshaw's** annual holiday letter is full of news of her four lively families. All 10 grandchildren are either in high school or college, are active in sports and music and are excellent students. She feels she has bragging rights! She says she has slowed down somewhat but her motto is, "I'm afraid if I stop I won't get started so I am going to keep on going!" Many of us feel that way, too. She continues to be active in her church and plays duplicate bridge three or four times a week.

I (**Anne Mack Dean**) was not able to visit **Mary Feller Epreman** in New Hampshire this summer because all five of my sons,

their wives, seven of my 12 grandchildren, and I gathered in Chatham on Cape Cod just before Labor Day. I will visit her later in the fall. [*Sadly, word came in November that Mary's husband of 65 years, Edward Epreman, had died.*] It was wonderful to all be together for a full week! Granddaughter Abigail who was a beautiful bride last June was not able to be there. She gave birth to a beautiful baby this June — a little girl named "Anne Mack Dorothy Rogers"! Such an honor for me!

I stay busy with my three local families, The Woman's Club, three book groups, and many visits to the Kennedy Center for music, ballet and theater. I enjoy taking the grandchildren to some of these and the museums. Can no longer do all I did in past years but like the others I do keep trying. Best wishes to all of the class of '47. Won't some more of you please write? We have the same 10 or 12 each year and we would love to hear from you, too ...

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**Mary Jane Liggett Matson** was the sole representative for our class at our 65th reunion. She wonders, "Where were the oth-



Mary Jane Matson: Lone '49er  
at Alumnae Weekend '14

ers?" Our beautiful campus is changing: three new dorms are being built, and a new dining hall has been added. On a personal note, she attended a family reunion in Ohio, high school graduations for two grandchildren, and the wedding of her oldest granddaughter.

**Ruth Ault Hadley** and David are still keeping involved in church work. Like her classmates, old age is creeping up on them. Join the club! She looks forward to hearing what her classmates are doing.

Sports volunteer work, library board, and travel help keep **Margo Kaufman Freudenthal** busy. Her travels took her to China, Japan, Boston, Hawaii and Spain. She plans to remain in her big house. She doesn't enjoy single life, but finds solace in ceramics.

This has not been a good year for **Sally Proper Lutz**. Her husband, Del, passed away in May after a lengthy illness. She sold her home, and is leasing it back from the buyers until a new retirement complex is finished, hopefully in late October. She is still doing the stationery department at St. Michael's Women's Exchange, and is proud to report that they give half a million dollars to local charities each year. As always, Sally is involved in eight bridge groups. She feels fortunate that her children are doing well, and that the first of her 12 grandchildren was married in June. Her classmates send Sally our love and sympathy.

**Judy Snook** reports that she is physically rolling along with no major problems, but can't see as well or drive at night. She traveled by auto train to Florida to visit her elder sister, Liz. For the last four years she was editor and circulation manager of the independent living residents' association of about 1,600 folks. It has been a headache to get everyone's signed permission to print their picture in the photograph directory; residents either forget or couldn't care less or don't want to be included in the book. She has better luck with managing the monthly "CIA" company dinners, but is thinking of bowing out from both groups. Judy is still treasurer of her Episcopal/Anglican Fellowship Council. There are so many things that she still wants to read that she says she has to hurry up!

**Betty Huttenbauer Heldman** had lunch with **Bunny Bartizal Proctor** a few months ago. Betty and John are still living in their condo but are unable to travel since John has a lung problem and has been sick for over a year. She sends fond regards to all her classmates.

Looking backwards over the year, Bruce and I (**Jane Osgood Tatge**) celebrated Christmas with son David and his family in Herndon, VA. They opt for flying now rather than make the long drive. More recently, family

events meant more travel: twice in August driving to Maine for granddaughter Lindsey's wedding shower and grandson Will's 13th birthday. We will return to Portland, ME, in December for Lindsey and John's wedding. A highlight of the year was a family wedding in Connecticut attended by our niece and her family from Namibia in southern Africa. We live close to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), enabling us to see the NYC Ballet and to hear Itzhak Perlman with the Philadelphia Orchestra. October marks our fourth year at the Coburg Village retirement community. We both serve on the Hospitality Committee, welcoming new members, and I am a member of the Writer's Group and the Dining Room Committee. Both of us are still active in the choir and other activities at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Schenectady, and we enjoy participation in the Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning, where Bruce taught one session on the electrical grid in a course on Engineering Triumphs and Disasters. Physically, we are chugging along, at a time when holding your own is a measure of success.

**Jane Osgood Tatge '49**  
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*Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 65 years!*

News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
 See Blue Card, page 54!



It's been so long since I have heard from all of you, but sometime I would like a little more information from all of my classmates. Our usual due date is around Labor Day. Thanks to those who wrote me or the office.

**Nancy Hon Krauth**: "I kept putting off writing this because it seemed I didn't have much to report. Norm and I are still working with the two black Labs and keeping up with yard and garden work at our home in the country. In July we drove to Oxford to visit my cousin Don and wife who live at the Knolls. At lunch there I saw **Betty Sipe Gerber '52**, who also lives at the Knolls. The new buildings on the Western campus were still in the midst of construction. They will match the other limestone structures. Also



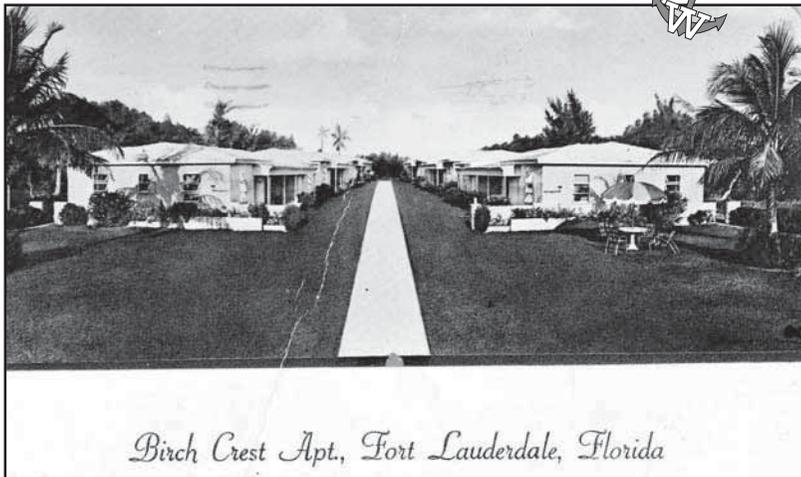
*Laura Flynn '51 and husband Peter*

during the year we took our dog Tripp to a number of AKC Hunt Tests where he earned his Master Hunter title. Our health is holding so far."

**Barbara McGill Benson**: "Well, we finally did it! In October 2013, we moved to a retirement community after 44 years in our previous home. We are just a few miles from our old home, so Jack's commute to work (one of our major issues) is even shorter than before. The small community is built around an old main line mansion and is quite beautiful. We still go to Hawaii each year for a month. Not sure how much longer we can make that long trip. Our two children have blessed us with five grandchildren. We also have two great-grandchildren. Life is good."

**Laura Speers Flynn**: "I am 16 years into retirement, volunteer as University of New Hampshire marine docent, volunteer educator at the Great Bay National Estuarine Reserve's Discovery Center. My husband, Peter, and I enjoy the sociability and fun of singing with the UNH Docent Chantey Singers, performing statewide at a variety of venues. We have a son and daughter, who have produced a grandson each, with another on the way from daughter. We are awaiting word from an assisted-living facility to which we will move (as soon as availability occurs) close to our daughter's family."

No current news from **Jeanne Owen Buhler**, but she sent fun memorabilia discovered while cleaning out her attic: (1) a card from Ft. Lauderdale postmarked Apr 3, 1951 (spring break?), reporting: "Have a cute place to stay with the ocean in the back yard. Weather wonderful. Trip down was fun. About 10 Western girls on plane. Other five got in today with Ruth Kennedy. Their stay 2 doors down. Jane Kemp & friends appeared to visit ... More kids down here. More fun. Love, Ruth." [See post card above] (2)



*Birch Crest Apt., Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

a program of an Artur Rubenstein concert on March 5, 1951, at Withrow Court, part of the Miami University Artists Series, with a P.S. "Did we go together to see Artur Rubenstein?"

Finally, excerpts from a lengthy update of the past several years from **Josselyn Bennett Winslow**: "No news is good news — but for no news, life is certainly interesting. Frank and I celebrated our 61st anniversary, on June 13th with the news that we were, about to become ... great grandparents. ... She was expected in the middle of July. Layla decided she had been ignored for too long; she came about a month early. We have yet to meet her in person; texted pictures help until then.

"We have gathered our old photos. ... We concluded we had better get busy and get our early years captioned before we are no longer around to say, 'But of course, that's Aunt Eva,' or 'That's our first dog, Teddy.' ... Now, they have been scanned into a Mac and are ready for captions.

"Several years ago we moved into a condominium. We love our place and our neighbors, but we have a difficult situation with condo governance. ... Three of us who are Residential Board Members have filed a law suit against the developer/commercial unit owner. Washington state is far behind some states such as Florida when it comes to laws that protect condominium residential unit owners from avaricious commercial unit owners.

"About four years ago I stepped back from volunteering regularly for the Alzheimer Society of Washington but have remained on the board. ... There is so much more information now, but every family goes through a difficult learning period when they discover Alzheimer's has invaded their lives; the great need for Alzheimer's supportive services continues. Further, as a result of my long time experience with Alzheimer's concerns, I have become involved in two other

community health-related groups, one exploring end-of-life issues."

Josselyn concludes, "Frank and I have been fortunate to have stayed reasonably healthy. We work at continuing to be healthy by going to our local YMCA five days a week for an hour's workout. In addition to the workout, we have met some great folks who have very positive attitudes. And, we have kids and grandkids close enough so that we can attend some of their activities and get together for holidays. Life is good."

**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh '51**  
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'52



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!

'53



*Just when you thought she would be your CRF (Class Rep Forever), Cary has respectfully asked to retire. We agree she has earned it. Although she declined to appoint anyone as her successor, she did suggest that there are plenty of "unused" prospects out there. We sincerely hope that one of you will come forward to carry on for Cary. Until then, the WCAA office will, of course, be happy to receive your news.*

In an Easter card to the Reveres, **Beryl Wallman Bennewith** unwittingly paid a farewell tribute to Cary: "I've read the *Bulletin*



*'51 Class Rep Ruth, admiring great-grandson Charlie*

several times and I'm very impressed with all the endless effort you expended on your classmates as well as with other activities. I always knew you were special and now I'll think of you as my 'trophy' classmate."

**Mary Ann McCain Lynch** missed Reunion this year because of a family conflict, but **Pris Strand Berry '54** sent her the program and "goodies," so she felt as if she'd been there. She made a quick trip to New York in November 2013 for her sister-in-law's surprise 90th birthday party, then last June a road trip through Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Highlights were Mount Rushmore and Little Big Horn. All were to be in San Francisco over Labor Day and planned to spend New Year's in New York.

**Sabra Packard Cleveland** may have attended Western only one year, but writes, "I have fond memories of so many of you." Originally from suburban NYC, Sabra has lived in Bend, OR, for 20 years, after 10 years each in Bozeman, MT, and La Jolla, CA. She lost her husband, Jack, recently, after "20 awesome years together." She has three daughters, four grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren. Two of her girls live in Portland, OR, one in Portland, ME! Sabra sends her best and an invitation: "If any of you come my way please contact me."

The highlight of **Martha Wilson Rowan's** summer was "another family cruise with both sons, their wives, four granddaughters, and one husband." They "rounded the British Isles with ports in England, Wales, and Scotland, with the finale in France." At home in Chesterland, OH, Martha has book clubs, study club, church activities, and her "ever-loving Basset Hound, Sadie."

"The brisk and icy Ohio weather in February 2014" made **Lyn Dixon Present** appreciate the "sun and fun" of Siesta Key, FL, where she enjoyed going to the beach, playing golf, dining out, and visiting museums with friends. However, life in Ohio continues to be fulfilling. Living on a golf course provides "views of vast expanses of grass and foliage. A friendly and caring neighborhood makes a blessed atmosphere." Retirement allows time for volunteering at church and a retirement home, playing golf,



'50s alums together in Oxford (from left): Joan Willitts Glatte '53, Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg '53 and sister Marilyn Johnson Ross '51, Ginny Wells Welss '53, and Pris Strand Berry '54

and family — “Just became a grandma for the seventh time.” Lyn talks with **Vesta Peters Philbrick** frequently, and they hope to get together. In spite of her heart attack a year ago, Lyn can “now enjoy good health (but old knees). Life is good!”

Retiring Class Rep **Cary Kimbark Revere** and husband Paul enjoyed breakfast with **Debbie Cohen Kalodner** in August — an annual event as Debbie and her daughter attend the Boston Symphony’s Pops Concert on the Green each year.

Cary also had a nice chat last spring with the daughter of **Aliki Samolada Dikeos**, who said her mother is fine and living in Bronxville, NY.

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 See Blue Card, page 54!



**Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 60 years!**

**Kay Williams** was our only class member at the Reunion this past June. She spoke at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening, giving a posthumous tribute to **Kathy Pip-**

**er**, class of **1958**, whom she had nominated for the Alumnae Service Award. Kay and her friend Eileen have completed another book, *The Matryoshka Murders*, which will be out next year. Kay is also editing the letters she sent from Western and beyond to her dad, who saved all of them. She has added photos to them

and has established wonderful titles for different sections, such as “Were We Ever That Young?” and “From Beautiful Bohemians to Frazzled Frumps.” I am looking forward to reading both of these books.

“All is well with me,” writes **Sara Babcock Burneson**, “other than the aging joints and stuff like that that we all deal with and just keep going. I had two fabulous Road Scholar National Park hiking trips — Yellowstone in late May and Glacier in July. There have been wonderful visits to and from kids/grandkids scattered throughout the year. I’m off to NYC in November to visit Kay Williams. I think this is my fourth time. We do lots of shows, some concerts and we walk and talk while I gawk.”

**Liz Dunham Gibbons** reported the death of her husband, Vic, following health problems beginning in early August. Both of their sons and Vic’s brother were able to visit before Vic’s death. Our sympathy is with you, Liz. “The year seems to have sped by quickly,” she said, “and I don’t have much accomplished to show for the time.”

**Madelon Operer Hall** is still in Connecticut and must spend many snowy days reading, for she finished the tome, *The Goldfinch*, by Donna Tratt. It is almost 800 pages long. I don’t know about you, but I just finished it and I’m not sure it was worth it. Although, the description of the explosion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art was so good it made me feel I was there.

I joined **Charlene Ashing Barry** and her husband for lunch in the spring and hope to do it again this fall.

**Sally Miller Ihne** keeps me amused by sending funny e-mails, but no letters.

I continue active in my local AAUW book club, which is why I read *The Goldfinch*. My favorite reads this year were *The Horse*

*Boy*, by Rupert Isaacson, about an autistic 5-year-old whose parents took him to Mongolia to be treated by Reindeer shamans, and a haunting book, *Snow Child*, by Eowyn Ivey about farmsteading in Alaska in the 1920s amidst isolation and very few friends.

I hope all the rest of you are doing well and are just having too much fun to take the time to share it ...

**Mary Sicer Moore '55**  
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There is much to report this year, some good some sad. First, the great news from **Cecilia Segawa Seigle** that her book titled *Ooku: The Secret World of the Shogun's Women* was published in March of this year. Cecilia has been working on this story for 20 years, she said, along with other books that she has published. The cover is beautiful and reviews are wonderful. I found the book on Amazon and as Cecilia had indicated, it is expensive. It is published by the Cambria Press, University Corporate Center, 100 Corporate Parkway, Suite 128, Amherst, NY 14226. I am going to take her suggestion



The 60-year Class of '54: Lucy Liggett, Virginia Cottingham Gamertsfelder and Pris Strand Berry

and ask my library to consider purchase of her book. So, we are still creative and productive.

I always look forward to the Christmas letter from Loia and **Joan Mueller McNally**. They are determined travelers and had several trips planned but had to change their plans when Mac (Loia) fell and broke his right leg, both fibula and tibia in June. His recovery and rehab lasted until October with many visits from children and grandchildren. Joan did make it to her 60th high school class reunion. All the children and their spouses, Joan's mother and brother were there for a Thanksgiving celebration. I'll look forward to a report of their 2014 trips and hope that someday a trip might take them to Grosse Pointe, MI.

**Freddie Barber Miller** has downsized and relocated to West Chester, PA. (1615 E. Boot Road, Apartment B117; Zip 19380; Cell: 607-7438-4908). Her children handled the sale of her home in Vestal, NY. She is living near her daughter Lisa. She sees **Joan McNally**, who lives close by.

I called **Alicia Melendez McLaughlin** when I realized she might live close to my daughter Roxanne in Irvine, CA. She brought me up-to-date on her activities: She has retired as a counselor and psychologist in the Santa Ana School District. Her married daughter (a teacher in Santa Ana) and two grandsons live nearby. Her son lives in Chicago. We hope to meet when I am in California for Christmas.

And maybe **Ellyn Talbott Bogan** can join us since she is going to Disney World ... on the bus, with daughter Linda, granddaughter Marissa and grandson Eric at the end of the year. Eric's Marching Band will be playing at Disney World. Ellyn is a big supporter of Marissa and Eric's activities, especially the band and choir concerts. Ellyn had gone to Encinitas, CA, in June for her step-granddaughter's wedding.

A pleasant surprise was a call from **Suann Luessow Handschy** from Mackinac Island, where she spends the entire summer. Her five children, Zora, David, Roberta, John and Julie, their spouses and children are frequent visitors to the island. She has a daughter married to an Iranian so we compared notes on that common situation. Someday I hope to take her up on her invitation to visit their home on Mackinac. I know I'll enjoy cool breezes sitting on the porch overlooking the Straits.

WCAA sent on the news of the death of **Elizabeth Beatty (Forg) Lee** from pancreatic cancer in March 2013. We extend condolences to Richard and Liz's sons.

We learned also of the unexpected death on January 30th, 2014, of **Marilyn Brown Roche** in Waltham, MA. She was prede-

ceased by her husband. Her children, Bill, Susan and David, have our sympathy.

My 44-year marriage ended on January 9th of this year when my husband, Massoud, died after a brave fight against pancreatic cancer. I will really miss him when I travel to Tehran on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> (until Oct 12th). My ability to speak Farsi may return (just like riding a bike... ha ha) but comprehending could be a problem. I'm traveling with Kasra Paydavousi, my son-in-law, but he'll be involved with business and not always available to translate or explain.

Since January I have made several trips: to Asheville, NC, to visit my sister, to California to baby-sit for my grandson, Rumi, and to Kerrville, TX, to be with another sister and then go on to Austin for our Foreign Wives of Iranians reunion. It hasn't left much time for local friends and activities, exercise and book club, and house. In fact, I'd better close and go out and do some weeding.

I want to thank everyone who wrote letters or e-mails, called or answered my calls. I'll look forward to the next chapters of our lives next year.

**Charlotte Klein Varzi '57**  
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Here it is the first day of September and in Brooklyn we are finally having some hot days, heading into 90-degrees temp for the first time this summer. That must sound surprising to some of you who live in warmer places. I sure do appreciate air-conditioning and ice cubes.

So sorry to have to pass along this sad news to you, but we have lost **Diana Forshew Kerber**. She passed away on July 18th from cancer. She was a good friend of Western and will be greatly missed. Her grieving fam-



'59ers at Alumnae Weekend 2015: Mary Jo Porter Brown, Judy McMillion Custer, Mary Baumer Baker

ily appreciated all the helpful thoughts, prayers, care and concern that came from so many of you.

**Sue Forester Kincade** was able to visit Diana. She reported that the hospice was an excellent facility with a floor to ceiling window wall that overlooked a Prairie Preserve with a stream and a magnificent "Healing Garden." She was surrounded with the love of her children and grandchildren. Pictures of family and friends reflected her life, including a picture of her at about 4 or 5 years old in a satin dancing outfit complete with a bunny fur hem!

**Ann Ferguson Zeigler** alerted us about Diana's situation. I kept several of you informed (those whose e-mails I had in my computer) and I am sorry if you were not included. In retrospect, it might have been better to have the Western staff communicate with all of you — we seem to become a shrinking number each year. "Fergie" is grateful that she was able to have a couple of good phone visits with Diana, remembering all the fun and silliness they experienced in Dolphin Club, and share other wonderful memories, like being in one another's weddings.

**Lucretia Bilsland Galloway**, sent her e-mail from her iPhone so she is not having any problems learning all this new technology stuff. I really admire that skill! Her note says, "back to school with everyone including Aunt Carol. Taylor at IU, Chris, a senior at Carmel High School and Audrey, fifth grade in Covington. Wedding Weekend! Cubs play the Cards Friday night, rehearsal dinner Saturday night, brunch on Sunday followed by the big event that afternoon and brunch on Monday before starting home! Amanda is her big sister's matron of honor. Caitlin finished her M.B.A. and is working for IBM in St. Louis. Fall activities have started along with 'pet patrol.'"

Dr. Karl Springob and **Helen Jemison Springob** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the spring of 2014. Congratulations, Helen and Karl! Well done!

**Barbara Ann Crotts** has been living in California but is now back in Ohio to help care for her mother. Her brother and only sibling, Howard Crotts Jr., died in 2002 and that was the main reason for her return to Ohio. Her mother is doing well and is about 99 percent self-sufficient. Barbara has started a company — Gold Leaf. She makes scene,



healing and cat picture cards. I was fortunate to receive a few of them and they are delightful. So nice to get a note from Barbara!

June found **Peggy Mayer Hill** was in Singapore with her grandchildren while Andy and Lyn went on a 10-day-trip. Traveling without husband Billy, Peggy stopped in the Bay Area en route. **Sis Moeller Elwinger Horst** came down from Reno and the two of them stayed with **Di Koch Mascali** in Saratoga for two nights. Needless to say the three of them had a wonderful time catching up and a great picture was taken of the event. After four fun-filled days in Singapore, Peggy fell and broke her right arm at the wrist. She still had a good time with the children thanks to **Judy Conant**, Andy's godmother, who knows the children and came over most days. Peggy did not know how she would have managed without Judy's marvelous help. Three children (ages 7-3) and two dogs were a lot. A long plane ride later and back in Greenville, NC, on July 7th, Peggy had surgery with a plate put in her arm. Since then she has been doing her therapy exercises faithfully. Thrilled to be able to drive again, she is grateful to Billy,



*Bay Area get-together for three '59ers: Di Koch Mascali, Sis Moeller Horst, and Peggy Mayer Hill*

who not only drove her everywhere and sat through appointments, but cooked, did dishes and everything else for five weeks. In September, she headed off to Italy for 11 days. Packing lightly, because she still cannot lift much, she promised to step very carefully. Whew Peggy! Glad you recovered and are still traveling to exciting places!

**Diana Koch Mascali** is still in the travel business and stays involved with her book club and her many travel, pro-choice and wildlife organizations and, of course, is always planning their next trip. Granddaughters, Madison (just turned 17) and Mackinsey (almost 14) have been honored by their town of Danville and local service clubs for their "Packs of Love" project. They have to speak to audiences of 50 to 200 people and do it like pros. Needless to say, Di and John are very proud of them. Their parents, Tiger and Carol, are busy with their Burger King business. Dana is the Registrar at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, in Washington, DC, and travels to Africa and Europe several times a year. As long as their health holds out, John and Di will continue to travel. They still have a bucket list of places to see. It is a fun way to spend their kids' inheritance and they take all of them with them at least once a year. A few visits have included Hawaii, Caribbean cruises, Europe, Russia, Australia, South America, China, Southeast Asia, French Polynesia and South Africa — on Di's 75th birthday they were on Easter Island during a huge Pacific storm that moved across the island closing the airport. What fun that must have been! Happy travels, Mascalis. We can't wait to hear about more upcoming trips!

Three members of our class made it to our 55th Reunion: **Judy McMillion Custer**, **Mary Jo Porter Brown**, and **Mary Baumer Baker**. They enjoyed all the activities concerning the Freedom Summer commemoration, the Meily Society Luncheon, and the groundbreaking for the Western College Legacy Circle. They especially enjoyed their room in Peabody Hall directly across from the bathrooms and showers — very important! Mary Baker and husband Larry traveled 4,900 miles in July, visiting friends and relatives in the West. They also went to four temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — Nauvoo, IL, Rexburg, ID, St. George, UT, and Gilbert, AZ. The temple in Salt Lake City was closed for cleaning when they arrived. Mary says that might be the last big road trip they will ever take but you never know.

**Mary Jo Porter Brown** had a relaxing visit with her cousin in Cincinnati. They visited the Princess Diana exhibition at the Cincinnati Museum Center, which



*Tommie and Susie, taking a creative "selfie"*

they enjoyed very much, and had a lovely lunch overlooking the river. Mary Jo reports that the program for Freedom Summer in the Kumler Chapel was packed (extra seats were brought in). A program given by two Miami theater majors in Leonard was very well done and quite moving. They were stunned by all the building taking place on campus: three new dorms and a fabulous new dining hall overlooking one of the picturesque stone bridges. They learned so much about the plans for Miami's future and feel good about how much Western has influenced its progress and vision.

Mary and Mary Jo would like to see at least a brick or a block donated by our class for the new Western College Legacy Circle, which was dedicated during reunion weekend. They are wondering if there is a chance that could happen? Mary Jo says that she thinks a brick is only \$200 but would prefer a stone which is \$2,000. Could we make this happen? Contact either Mary Jo (maryjobrown55@aol.com) or Mary (maryschoolmarm@gmail.com) for more information.

**Mary Ellen Thomas Forte** recently came across a couple of "selfies" taken by classmate **Susie Kitagawa** in July 2005. Susie was visiting the U.S., and they met at the Liberty Hotel in New York City. The mirrors in the reception room of the hotel provided the setting. Says Tommie, "Just imagine — the term 'selfies' had not even emerged at that time!"

Having successfully survived the reverberating disasters of the 2011 earthquake, Susie continues her work as a photographer. She says she is not a "professional," but she participates in group exhibits and contests, and is a member of the Japan Camera Industry Institute. She is looking forward to a showing on the Internet.

Breaking News !! **Sis Elwinger Horst** has become a great-grandma three times in 2014. The first child was born in Fairbanks, AK, in July, the second one was due in October in Houston, and the third in California in November. Sis flew to Alaska for a few days and was off to Houston in November. She enjoyed the get-together with Di and Peggy, especially all the laughs about our freshman year in McKee.

My sister, Lucretia Toy Steiger (88 years old), retired, mother of seven children, newspaper reporter and fashion editor of the *San Diego Union*, passed away in February of this year. We became great friends in our later years. We had many laughs together and long involved conversations that I like to think contained many heavy words of insight and wisdom. I miss her very much. I am not renewing my membership in the pool club this year because arthritis in my right shoulder has made swimming difficult. My new form of exercising is regular walks and many trips up and down the NYC subway stairs, coming and going to interesting places. I drive the car only on short trips and avoid Manhattan at all costs. Must be time for me to start aging gracefully, even though that process started a few years back. Some days it is hard to keep up with my husband, Bob Thomason, who at almost 87 managed an exciting two-month bike trip in Austria (May and June). Now both of us are finding ourselves moving around more slowly these days, and taking a few more naps than usual. Thanks for all your updates, looking forward to hearing more of your lively exploits next time ...

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Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 55 years!

News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



*The editor is acting as a surrogate for your Class Rep this issue to allow her time to recover fully from a stroke suffered in early September before she resumes her duties. Files sent to Mary were forwarded; other files were received in the WCAA office.*

**Julienne Mullette** wrote to correct the record: Her son O'Dhaniel is a research neuroscientist and professor in Singapore and, with his wife, has been traveling all over the world from there, including a recent month going up the west coast of Australia. Herself Australian, Julienne has taken her two sons to Australia a few times, including for a year in school, and drove them through the Australian deserts when they were 6 and 8. "It's exciting to watch them doing these adventures now on their own." Both are published: Dhanny has given a TED lecture and had quite a lot of his research published. Noah has had about seven books published. "He's the next family member in the Philosophy line ... from Bard and Harvard." She'd love to have Ruth Limmer reading his work.

She continues: "So — moi? Not so much. Still full time counseling, knees being repaired, heart being repaired. A hundred years ago the average life span was 47, and now that we've doubled that, parts begin to wear out. So frustrating! Now they're talking about brain transplants — keeping the memory and function intact. Is that a good idea or not? Maybe a little brain tune up would be helpful."

A quick summary from **Cindy Ackerman Horne**, who spent most of January in Florida with her nieces and nephew following the death of her sister on the 30th of December. "She was my last sibling and I realized when I spoke at her Memorial Service that no one could really relate to my stories of growing up with our brothers on Mahoning Road." Cindy returned home in February to back surgery and a lengthy recuperation, but is doing well — still volunteering at the Woman's Club and serving on committees at church. She helped organize an All City Reunion of the classes of 1957 — it has been 57 years since the class of '57 graduated and this was the first attempt at having all four city high schools together. "It was a great success and lots of fun. Got to see and visit with grade school buddies I hadn't seen for 60 years. Life is Good." [Cindy is back on the Board of Trustees this fall, newly re-elected; she served two previous terms, 1999-02, 2002-05.]

**Flora (Zimmerman)** and **Richard Cohen** continue to keep busy, involved, and out of trouble with volunteer activities at the zoo, the aquarium, and a local performing arts center. In addition to regular travels to Atlanta to visit daughters and grandchildren, they just returned from a three-week odyssey to Athens, sailing the Greek Isles, and Turkey. "Amazing but pretty rigorous trip; however, we're thankful we're still able to do it." Their grandchildren are now all "tweens and teens, and the oldest is now a solo driver (scary). How did they get that old? That's about all that's new from a very hot, very dry Texas."

**Jane Miller Brooks** sent greetings from Canada, reporting an excellent year with family, friends, travel, and work. Last February she and **Sharon Botsford Moyer** visited **Judy Buck** in New York City for a long weekend. "The years disappear when we get together — a special time." At home in Toronto, Jane spends as much time as possible with her son, daughter, and granddaughter, who all live in the Toronto area. Granddaughter Finley lived with her for a time in the summer so they could go to swimming lessons. Summer was also travel time: two weeks in France with her Vancouver son's family, seeing Paris through the eyes of her three west coast granddaughters. Hiking time this year was a two-week Ireland adventure. "What an interesting and beautiful land." Home again, Jane was "dreaming of the next travel adventure and looking forward to our next five-year reunion in 2016."

**Gail Howell Litwiler** keeps busy with the Hampton School Board — in her 25th year! She enjoys the involvement with a "great group of people who are there for all the right reasons and a terrific school district." They are ranked seventh in the state as well as ranked nationally. Gail chairs the board of Christian Education at her church, teaches in the primary class, serves on church council, and sings in the choir. Gail and Tom travel to North Carolina to spend time with daughter Tricia and family, including granddaughters Sara (8) and Rachel (4½). They planned to visit son TI in Chicago at the end of September. Other travels included family weddings in Palo Alto in June and Cleveland in August. Both Litwilers are doing well "despite a few medical issues." On a sad note, Gail writes that **Linda Shafer Shinkle** — "a good friend that some will remember from her two years at Western" — died Christmas day 2013. Her family had a number of Western ties. Gail sends "best to all our classmates. I believe we will see a number of changes on campus when next we meet. I am excited to see another step in our Western Legacy."

"I am not letting much grass grow under my feet," writes **Sharry Patterson Addison** in what may be the understatement of the year. In addition to serving on several boards (including the WCAA and Cincinnati Children's Hospital) Sharry is co-chair of the Cincinnati Organizing Committee working with the Cincinnati Reds on Major League Baseball's All Star Game, to be held in Cincinnati next July. "This will definitely be my swan song after 30+ years of volunteer leadership for major national and international events that have been hosted by Cincinnati. I have been very fortunate to have had an exciting volunteer career." Famous last words? After living in Florida for 10 years, Sharry appreciates being home with friends and family — just 30 minutes away from their two young granddaughters.

"Working on our legacy project has been very rewarding with the final design being spectacular! I hope all of you can take advantage of this unique opportunity ... and join us with a space in the Western College Legacy Circle."

[Sincerest condolences to Sharry, whose younger sister, Meribeth Patterson, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on October 14.]

As a WCAA trustee, **Anne Adkins Weissenborn** is heavily involved in the legacy project, currently charged with chairing the committee that is drafting the text to "tell the story of Western College." That's 120+ years of history — no small task. Anne's travels are not completely limited to Oxford — Weissenborns' daughter, Elizabeth, lives in Portland, OR, so Anne visited there in April, enjoying a weekend trip to Bend and Crater Lake, and contemplated a fall return trip to Eugene to see friends she'd missed. Another possibility was a trip to Circleville, OH, to dog- and cat-sit for her sister **Louise Adkins-Ellis '69**. (She didn't mention *bee-sit*.) Louise lives in the house Anne and she grew up in and Anne's husband, Ernie, wants to work on the grand piano, which still sits in the same room. Church activities — with her own congregation and the larger denomination — are many and varied. She was off to Delaware for a conference to chair a group lobbying for two resolutions: one calling for BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) of U.S. companies that do business in or otherwise profit from the Israeli occupation of the West Bank; the second calling for renaming the Washington football team. Also, she has taken four women under her wing who have health problems or have lost family members. "I'm not so good at such caretaking, but am trying to learn how to give advice, set boundaries, etc."

**Sharon Botsford Moyer** reports good results from a hip replacement, thanks in part to Jackie and Riley, her "nurses" for a few days before returning home to Georgia. Thanksgiving and Christmas were spent in Georgia with Sean and his family in from Brooklyn. She and **Jane Miller Brooks** "descended upon **Judy Buck** for a Valentine's Day weekend celebration" and Sharon hoped to see Judy again in the fall when she was to be back on Long Island for a friend's wedding and another visit with Sean. She celebrated her birthday in Eleuthera, Bahamas, with family and friends, scuba diving, snorkeling, and soaking up sun on their beautiful beaches. October and November, Sharon expected to be traveling in Southeast Asia — Thailand through Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Myanmar.



Basking in Florida sunshine: Linc and Flo Firjanian McGurk '63 (left), Marj Keppel Gross '63 (middle), and Marj's son and daughter-in-law

"As for the **Obuchowskis**," Mary herself writes, "our small family is growing, with Tim and Autumn expecting a daughter in late January. Younger son John would like to cut hair, so he is attending the local beauty college. Pete and I still have plenty on our plates, though we are living ever more quietly. Vol. II of the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature* should be out within the year; I am still doing editorial tasks, but no more writing projects. In September, I had a small cerebral hemorrhage, though we have learned that *any* stroke is more than minor. Lucky in more ways than we can count, we anticipate a complete recovery and thank all of you who contributed to and edited this *Bulletin* column, and who sent good wishes.

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obuchmc1@cmich.edu



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



From **Marj Keppel Gross**: "This has been an eventful year with my nephew's wedding in Greensboro, NC, in March, a visit in Florida with my son Kurtis Gregg and his wife, Lesley, in May with an afternoon and evening with **Flo (Firjanian)** and **Linc McGurk** while there, and a couple of days at my family's traditional 4th of July Family Reunion in Michigan with my daughter Andrea. We flew out of Myrtle Beach, SC, on

July 3 while Hurricane Arthur was churning just offshore! Later in July, I attended my high school reunion in St. Clairsville, OH, and while I was in Ohio, my daughter Beth was on a cruise ship in Miami, FL, getting married to her long-time fiancé Indy Ramesh Maharaj. I was unable to be there, but Kurtis and Lesley represented us, along with my grandchildren Alan Robinson, Ishana Maharaj, and Kirin Maharaj. Other big news of the year: I will be a great-grandmother in November! My granddaughter Roxana Gregg is having a little boy to be named Easton.

"In August," Marj continues, "I received a surprise phone call from **Loretta Ryder**, who was heading to the beach that morning before returning to Michigan the next day. We



Classmate Loretta also visited Marj.

met for lunch and a great visit on the waterfront in Morehead City, NC.

"I still teach part-time at Carteret Community College in Morehead City and do some support work for the Productive Environment Institute. It is so much fun to be working with my daughter Andrea (President and COO) and the Institute's Founder and CEO, Barbara Hemphill, as we not only help business owners and others to accomplish their work and enjoy their lives, but also train other professional organizers to become Certified Productive Environment Specialists! I love my busy, fulfilling retirement."

**Loretta Ryder** writes that retirement has kept her busier than she ever thought she'd be: "I'm playing clarinet in regular and jazz band classes along with continuing to study the cello. Adding Spanish next semester. Lots of Hispanics have migrated to North Carolina so I figure I need to know how to communicate! My series subscriptions here in Detroit for the symphony, opera, dance, theatre, and chamber music, as well as rehearsals with choirs, all have begun.

"Enjoyed lunch near Atlantic Beach with **Marj Keppel Gross** when I was there in August. But my big Western Alum news is that after 50+ years, I heard from my junior year roommate, **Zohreh Tawakuli Sullivan '62!** She's now retired from the University of Illinois (Professor Emerita - English) and



*Judith Raices' four B&W pictures of uptown Manhattan, accepted for the neighborhood photography show*

is currently on a Fulbright grant teaching at the University of Jordan, Amman. Her sons are stateside — one a musician (saxophonist), teaching at UNC and the other a freelance video editor in New York. Home base is Champaign, IL.

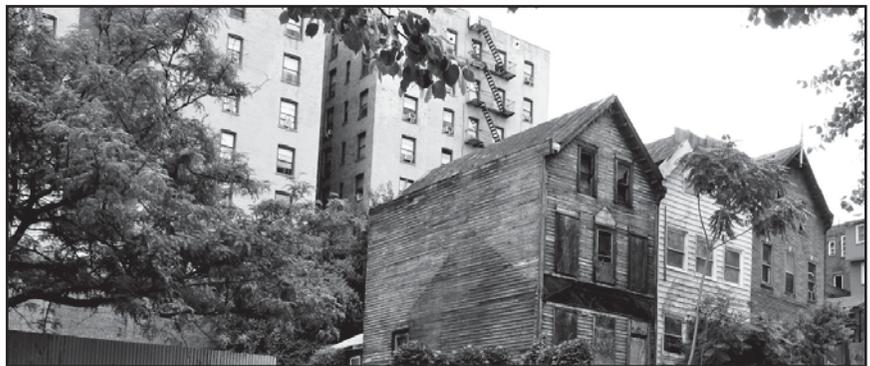
"I'm still astonished that my nephew-in-law is now part of the President's Cabinet as Secretary of Transportation, and that my first great-niece is a freshman in college (Barnard). She was just a babe in arms two weeks ago! Looking forward to attending a bit of the Freedom Summer Conference in October and am quite proud of the fact that our campus was made available for civil rights training during a very difficult and tumultuous time in U.S. human rights history."

**Judith Racies**

writes from New York that "a lovely thing happened to me last week. I'd received an announcement about a little neighborhood photography show and decided to enter it — a first. The criteria: no more than four pictures, black and white, and taken in my uptown (Manhattan) neighborhood. To my total surprise, they were accepted. For about 35 years I sold my artwork working in the textile, cosmetic pkg., paper goods, carpets, and fine



china ... tabletop fields. The economy ended my career since most of the products I worked on are now designed in-house or in third world countries. Photography — I'd prefer saying I take pictures — is just a hobby. I can't explain why I submitted work, but when I deliver my prints, I think I'll charge \$10 a shot. This is an avocation, not a profession! It does, however, give me enormous pleasure."



From **Peg Bradley Sanford**: "After Western I completed an executive secretarial course for college women at Katharine Gibbs School in Boston. I enjoyed Boston and moved there, where I became an office manager in the administration of MIT, and later at Boston University Medical Center. I returned to Western New York in 1971 to marry Fredric Sanford of Perry, and resided in that area for 20 years. During that time we were blessed to adopt two children while they were infants. My daughter, Ellen, lives in Massachusetts and has two daughters, Grace (6), and Lily (4). My son, Clark, is an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard and is currently stationed in North Carolina. I taught business education and computer applications at Perry High School for several years, and was also an adjunct business professor at Genesee Community College in Batavia. In 1991, I returned to Batavia, where I've been volunteering in my church and community since retirement from teaching in 2001."

From **Sue Nave Wilson**: "My 'news' is that life continues pretty much as before. I volunteer two days a week at my church as Prayer Ministry leader, visit my kids and grandchildren as much as possible and constantly fight that 'last 5 pounds' I want to lose. In October, my husband and I are leading a week-long mission trip to Jamaica. Our work is in St. Mary's parish, a rural and very poor area not touched by tourism. Added to my life is more time with Dick's mom. She lives alone at age 94 but cannot walk or stand without her walker so we cook, clean, shop and do laundry for her. We call it Wilson assisted-living. I thank God that we have the health to do this for her. I pray blessings and contentment for all of you in this stage of our lives."

**Ella Brown McMahon** has been dealing with two venous stasis ulcers on her right

leg since before our Reunion last year, but an end is finally in sight. "I am looking forward to driving again," she writes. "Our car is equipped with hand controls for my husband, which increased the risk of further damaging my leg. Joe is not getting around as well and uses an electric wheelchair in the house now. We have a new great-grandson, John, born on September 14 — the first boy in four generations! I hope to see a good representation of our class for our little sisters' 50th Reunion next June 12-14."

I, Jill, am sad to report the September 10 death of Aldo Casanova, my partner of nearly 20 years. A Prix-de-Rome sculptor and professor emeritus at Scripps College, Aldo was a devoted father and grandfather and a beloved teacher. How wonderful that my senior year suitemates (**Brenda Litchfield Benson, Bonnie McGowan Sammet, and Liz Andrus Schoeberlein**) will fly out from Massachusetts, Florida, and Illinois to be with me for the requiem mass and celebration of life mid-September! All of them and their fabulous husbands had met Aldo over the years, most recently when Bonnie and John hosted the whole gang at their lovely home in Florida.

**Jill Hartley Fulton '63**  
**230 Armstrong Dr.**  
**Claremont, CA 91711**  
**jillfulton1@verizon.net**



Happy 50th to the Class of '64! 1. Nancy VanVleck von Allmen, 2. Susan Tillinghast Segal, 3. Deanna Weaver Kleckner, 4. Linda Baker Beavers, 5. Marcia Randlett Oder, 6. Evie Small Hohler, 7. Joyce Shaw Benbow, 8. Jeanne Phillips Rannels, 9. Faith Evans, 10. Daphne Ostle Allen, 11. Janet Wood Beaven, 12. Nancy McGregor Nowak, 13. Sydney Schiller Pfeifer, 14. Gay Nellis Walker, 15. Suzanne Bognar Cunningham, 16. Marion Ginman Classen, 17. Beverly "Bunny" Wells, 18. Patricia Spokes Snowden, 19. Nancy Bergmann Killough.

'64



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!

'67



Please note these address changes. **Mary Newbold Brammall**: PO Box 185, Boonville, IN 47601; **Carol Stone Lehman**: 419 Fountain Pl., Burlington, NC 27215, nana27249@gmail.com; **Rosemary Gingrich Parks**: 13 Patrician Dr., Hampton, VA 23666, cmetax@cox.net; **Susie Jennings Wilson**: 2331 Westbury Way, Santa Maria, CA 93455, swilson@windfall-farm.com. **Val Silpabanleng Hongstong** of Bangkok, Thailand, is missing from our list this year; if anyone has heard from her recently and has a current postal or e-mail address, please let the WCAA office know.

Returning to **Rosemary** and her new house, she moved in October 2013 after a long search to find just the right place. She has been enjoying the unpacking, getting settled, and making it her home. She hopes that classmates passing through the area will contact her to get together. Rosie's oldest daughter, Amber, lives nearby and they often shop together. Amber is in her 11th year of teaching elementary school art in a school of 800 students. As a result of the increase in students, she has lost her classroom and thus pushes a cart with her art

'65



See page 14 for the 50-year  
Class report and *Multi* pictures!

'66



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 00!

supplies about three miles a day. Her other daughter, Marissa, lives in San Diego, where she works in the health field; her son, Jordan, is in kindergarten. Rosie visits frequently and also attends many family events, celebrating events in the lives of her sisters and their families. Rosie recently celebrated her 50-year high school reunion and had a great time catching up with friends. She wishes all of us peace, love and joy in the coming year!

Dave and **Stephanie Smith Siegfried** have kept busy visiting family, particularly their two daughters and eight grandchildren. They've made several trips to Seattle to visit Kim and her family, and spent Christmas 2013 there. Daughter Christine and her family live in Bucks Co., PA, so visiting with this family is easier and more often. They get together too with Steph's mother, who lives in Westport, CT. Short-term trips have taken them to Virginia, California and Florida. Steph has remained in touch with **Susie Jennings Wilson** and **Molly Lana Provance** of Port Richmond, CA. Last summer Molly and Steph met at the Newark Airport when Molly was in transit from Paris. Another highlight for Steph was attending her 50th high school reunion which she said was "awesome!"

Steve and **Carol Hoexter Mandel** gathered their children and grandchildren at Maggiano's Grille on New Year's Day to celebrate what would have been her mother's 100th birthday. Hex said that there was so much delicious food that she was sure she wouldn't need another meal until 2015. Recently while going through some of her father's papers she came across two letters dated 1984 which informed her that there were family members who escaped from Nazi Germany and were living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This excited her because in December she and Steve will fly to Buenos Aires before boarding a ship for Antarctica. Hex is hoping that during her time in Argentina she can meet these relatives. With this trip, they will conclude Steve's desire to visit all seven continents. From here on, Hex will plan all their vacations since she hates the cold and has had warmer climates on her list of places to visit. Meanwhile she is keeping busy with their business, golf, bowling and the theater. She stays in touch with **Carolyn Sparks Kokalis**, whose sons #2 and #3 were expecting baby girls in May.

**Martha Daily Alexander** went on a Road Scholar trip to Oregon this summer and met a Western alum named **Esther Miriam Isacoff** who attended the college in 1962-63, and currently goes by the name of **Eschkie Zachai**. Martha described her as having the calm demeanor of someone who spent many years as a preschool teacher. Both women were amazed at the odds of meeting someone with a Western background. And both recommend the Road Scholar pro-

*Class Notes continued on page 31*

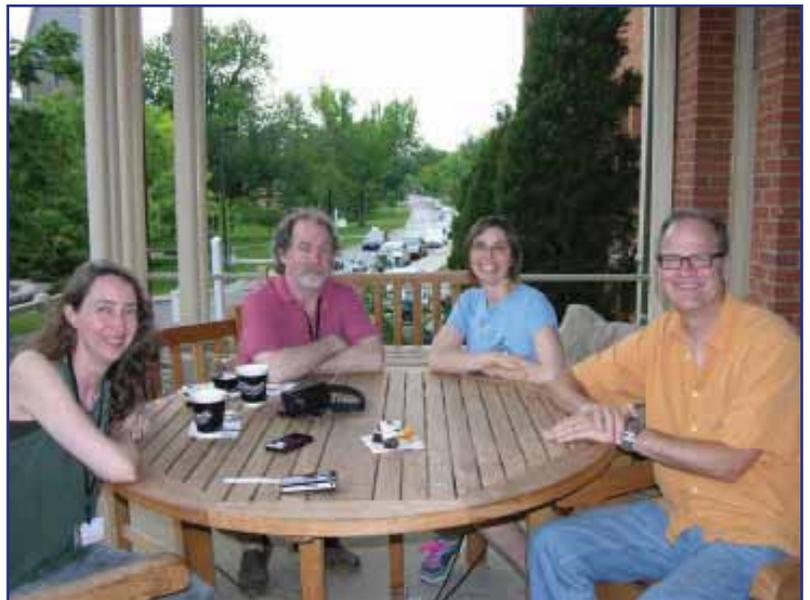
# Alumnae Weekend 2014

Each summer, for the past 40 years, alumnae/i of Western from classes spanning nearly a century, return to our campus to reconnect and celebrate. This June 20-22, Westerners gathered for a special weekend of celebration and reflection. Miami University alumni, staff, and Oxford community members joined us for a Freedom Summer 1964 recognition program in Kumler Chapel. WCAA President Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74 shared excerpts from Phyllis Hoyt's *Where the Peonies Bloomed* and Greta Pope Wimp '74 closed the program with inspirational song. The evening included a reception and dinner in the new Western Dining Commons.



Receptions with lovely music, delicious meals, reunion traditions and a few shenanigans made the weekend most memorable. Jacky Johnson, Western College Memorial Archivist, was on hand to sign her new pictorial history of Western College. A Western alumnae panel - **Evie Small Hohler '64, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins '74, Chris Moranda '74, Sylvia Stanfield '65** - discussed Western's influence on their careers and service in their communities and beyond. A Western College Legacy Circle groundbreaking with special guests, **Marjorie Lloyd Liggett '39** and family, kicked off the Saturday evening festivities. At the celebratory banquet, honors were bestowed upon Alumnae Service Award recipients, Honorary Alumnus **Charles Salt** (deceased), and 5-year anniversary classes. The Golden Class of 1964 claimed the Peabody Cup with the highest attendance. The closing program was held in Kumler Chapel and featured **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins '74, Greta Pope Wimp '74**, and the Alumnae Choir.







Join us in the new dorm, Stonebridge Hall,  
June 12-14 for Alumnae/i Weekend 2015!



*Family of Carol Hoexter Mandel '67, celebrating what would have been her mother's 100th birthday, January 1, 2014*

at their beach house near the North Sea for the grandchildren who range in age from 3 to 12. Here they spend their time playing in the dunes or woods, making shoebox houses, sand castles, singing and dancing and simply enjoying having the grandchildren to themselves without the parents. Gunvor also walks, bikes, swims and dances. She loves being outdoors

grams, which combine learning, seeing interesting places and meeting people.

**Muriel Gillette Alexander** sent the following news from her home in Alaska. She noted that she loves Alaska, especially in the summertime, but for health reasons decided to spend the winter of 2013 in the "lower 48." She and husband Mike decided to live on a farm in the Missouri Ozarks, where Mike had to do lots of repairs to the old farmhouse, fences and fields. It turned out to be one of the coldest and dampest winters in this area for a number of years, while Alaska was unusually mild. When they returned to Alaska in mid-April, Muriel was ailing badly from degenerative arthritic hips; bilateral hip replacement surgery was scheduled for early June. Three weeks later, pain free, she was going to physical therapy three times a week and walking with the aid of a walker. Her surgery went so well that Mike planned to have his knees done in September. Later they hope to return to the Ozarks. She hoped by the end of July to be cleared for normal activities and was looking forward to doing some fishing and traveling to see family on the West Coast and in Missouri. Daughter Melissa's husband has retired after 24 years in the Navy and that their son is in second grade. Son Bryan's daughter has begun college, and son Robert has a new job with Nike, overseeing international sales and coordinating design of the video artwork advertising campaigns.

**Gunvor Fink Moeller's** 2013 Christmas letter tells of her life in Denmark. Husband Poul Anker works part-time as a psychologist and Gunvor works with refugees. When not working, they spend time with their eight grandchildren or helping their three daughters. During the summer they have a camp

and often putters in her garden. In May, Gunvor and Poul spent a week in Cyprus enjoying the sun and water. Then last September, family and friends helped her celebrate her 70th birthday. The grandchildren served as hosts, welcoming people, taking their coats and later presenting her with a cake and candles.

During an exchange of e-mails with **Elisa Kessler Caporale**, who was trying to get in touch with **Rauni Pellikka** in Belgium, I learned that Elisa is in touch with **Hillary Suttle** whom she tried to visit in Ireland — but, alas, Hillary was in the U.S. visiting her son. Also learned that the Caporales have joined the ranks of grandparents! James Richard joined the family in October 2013, the son of their son. Daughter Clemencia has become quite the hiker. She finished doing the Appalachian Trail and then took off to the British Isles to tackle several trails. Meanwhile John and Elisa spent the end of the summer traveling in Greece, stopping on the way home in Brussels to visit John's nephew Daniel who is doing research there. For the second year in a row, the Caporales have had dinner in Europe with Rauni Pellikka! Last year it was in Helsinki, Finland, this time in Brussels. Both gals sent photos of their dinner meeting. Once home again Elisa was looking forward to resuming her singing and weaving groups.

**Rauni Pellikka** tells us that last summer (2013) she had a cataract operation which only took half an hour. She was sent home immediately afterwards seeing

clearly. Not everyone is so lucky. Earlier that same year Rauni had visited Nepal and Bhutan, places she describes as "Unforgettable!" Though she has been doing a lot of traveling this year, most of it has been in Europe. In a survey of her travels, she found that she has lived, worked or studied in 11 countries and has visited 75. She plans on reaching at least 100. The dinner with the Caporales was held at one of her favorite restaurants, Aux Armes de Bruxelles, where they enjoyed Brussels specialties including delicious mussels as shown in the photo. 'Twas a fun night reminiscing and comparing notes in pleasant surroundings.

**Carol Shapiro** wrote to say that in 2012 she retired from MEDITECH (Medical Information Technology) after 24 years as an instrument specialist and supervisor of the group. A few months later she checked an item off her bucket list by volunteering for a few days at Best Friends Animal Society sanctuary in Kanab, UT. Shortly after she arrived, a 9-year-old border collie/Jack Russell dog adopted her. A month later he flew to Boston and has been keeping her company ever since. Today she volunteers at a local animal shelter and also is tutoring in the city's ESOL literacy center. Her students are from all over the world and they insist that they want to speak and understand English as spoken in New England. Several of her tutees are studying for their citizenship exam. In another effort to fill her newly freed time, Carol has started bowling. She admits to having terrible scores but is having great fun! Visiting with friends and families for longer than a weekend has become important. Four generations of family from California, New York and Virginia descended on her last summer and all had a great time! Then too Carol has been able to visit family and friends in Florida, in California and has ventured to New York City for concerts in Central Park and Carnegie Hall.

**Jane Gayley DuBois** writes that after 12 years aboard their trawler *Sea Flat* and 10 years of cruising the East Coast of the U.S.



*Elisa Kessler Caporale, Rauni Pellikka (both '67) and John Caporale, dining on mussels in Brussels*

and Canada, she and her husband decided to relocate to Everett, WA. They have a sister boat named *Passages* and plan to spend as many years as they are able cruising the Puget Sound, British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. Their youngest daughter Jen, husband Andy and grandchildren Erik (5) and Elle (3) live nearby. Daughter Steph and husband Richard and granddaughters Marie (13) and Kate (9) are living back East, so the DuBoises will have plane trips in their future as well. Jane says it took them a year to close out their East Coast life, and getting settled in Everett has been time consuming. But on clear days their views are fantastic. They can see Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier to the north and south, the Cascades to the west and the Olympics across Puget Sound. Eight and a-half years ago Jane had her right knee replaced and did her left knee in February. She rehabbed quickly, gaining full range of motion within three months. At 69, with life and health good, Jane is ready to start cruising in their new area and once winter sets in do some car travel in other parts of the West. For now, e-mail is still [seafatjane@aol.com](mailto:seafatjane@aol.com).

To those of you who helped to write this column, many thank you's! To the rest of you, please don't wait for the blue card reminder in the next *Bulletin*, it's too easy to tear it out to do at a later date and then forget where you put it. Instead, send your news as it happens by snail mail or e-mail. Each of you and your years at Western were an important part of all of our lives, and we care about each of you. We do want to hear from all of you ...

**Kathy Ehrgood Sturm '67**  
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**Albuquerque, NM 87109**  
**[kesfgs@aol.com](mailto:kesfgs@aol.com)**



**News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!**  
**See Blue Card, page 54!**



This year's installment of the Class notes is pretty exciting. What a pleasure it was to get news from so many classmates, some of whom had been silent for a very long time. I also heard time and again from those looking to reconnect with Western friends. If you are among the still long-time silent, don't be shy. Let us know about your doings.



*All dressed up for the Reunion 2014 Saturday night banquet in the brand-new Western Dining Commons, the 45-year anniversary Class of '69 and spouses: Front row (from left): Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak, Betsy Philipson Kensinger, Karen Kling Plumb, Lynette Jones Turner, Nancy Wilson Kobayashi, Julie Cook Downing. Back row: Tom Grzelak, John Kensinger, Larry Plumb, Don Turner, Kazu Kobayashi, Ted Downing*

There were six '69ers at Reunion, each with a spouse in tow: **Julie Cook Downing, Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak, Betsy Philipson Kensinger, Nancy Wilson Kobayashi, Karen Kling Plumb, and Lynnette Jones Turner**. It was great to be together, but it was our unanimous wish to have many, many more gathered for our 50th.

Perhaps the high point of the year for Kazu and me (Nancy) was our trip to London and Istanbul. We had a great time exploring these two cities and were grateful to **Marjorie Custer Bowles '68** and **Susan Hodge** for their travel hints. Another highlight of the year was our trip to the U.S.A. for Reunion and beyond. Unfortunately it got off to a bad start as we were delayed two nights in Chicago due to the storms. We were not in great shape when we arrived in Oxford and were disappointed to have missed the plans we had for that time. However, on our way out we were able to visit **Don Auble (FF)** and Carolyn in their home. They are among my dearest Western connections.

From Ohio we flew on to California to visit with our son, Dean, his wife, my sister and my aunt (now 94) who visited me a couple of times while I was at Western. From there we moved on to our place in Maui where we are deep into renovating. Our daughter, **Christine Kobayashi Ito (MU '95)**, and her family live in Yokohama, so close by for fun visits with the two grandsons (now 4 and 7). When at home in Kamakura, I am involved

with the production of *The Shonan Post* and take hula lessons.

**Annette Bevan Gallagher** wrote that last February she and Dick entered a new dimension of their lives, grandparenting, and are enjoying their grandson, Kaelan, as he learns his baby tricks. Since his mom, **Megan Gallagher Fogt (WCP '02)** is a Pittsburgh children's librarian, he has been hearing the literacy songs/rhymes since his first diaper change. Annette's son, Glen, is progressing in his Ph.D. program in virology at Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. This past summer the Sandusky Children's Museum schedule was as busy as ever. During the school year the museum offers programs in the schools. Annette continues to listen to second-graders read once a week and sings in the church choir. Annette's mother, **Beth Shirk Bevan '45**, is now well-settled into assisted living, so Annette and her sister have been preparing her condo for sale and helping distribute her treasures.

**Audrey Hinton** spent only one year at Western, so she thinks not many will remember her. However, she wants to let her former classmates know that she got married in October 2011. This is her first marriage, giving hope, she says, to all single women still hoping to get married. Audrey and her husband live in Washington, DC. She stays in touch with **Reynelda Ware '68**, who was doing well and moving back to Denver. Audrey



'69ers Stevie Snook and Betsy Solis

retired from the Department of Housing and Urban Development on September 2, 2014, after 42 years of service. [viahinton@gmail.com](mailto:viahinton@gmail.com).

After 10 years as volunteer registration director for the half Ironman in Kona, HI, **Betsy Summers Solis** decided to end that phase of her involvement, giving her the opportunity to return to California in May. She and Tom spent five weeks driving around France in May and June. It was an unforgettable experience and they saw so many things they had read about. Unfortunately, they missed seeing **Suzi James Duvillard**, who was unexpectedly called back to the United States. Upon returning to California they embarked on a five-week drive across country taking their bicycles so they could experience some of the "rails to trails." They had almost perfect weather and were able to bike some lovely trails in five different states.

They spent a few days in Warren, OH, visiting family and caught up with **Stevie Benson Snook** over lunch one day. They visited with many friends and cousins Betsy had not seen in very many years and a few new ones met through genealogy research. They also stopped at many museums along the way and particularly enjoyed the DAR museum in Washington, DC. Betsy has done extensive genealogy work for the DAR this year, and has identified 21 patriots who need to be documented, so she has her work cut out for the coming year. As she was writing, Betsy was looking forward to returning to Kona in September, where she and Tom will again be volunteering for the Ironman in October.

**Carolann Herrold Sharp** wrote that the Sharp family has had a happy time recently, as both their sons, Michael and Christopher, became engaged. Christopher and Courtney Lix were engaged last November in California. They met through a mutual Princeton friend, and will be married in Alexandria, VA, in May 2015. Michael and Christine Allgood, (MU 2003), were also in-

troduced by the same friend. They became engaged this past June, and will be married in the fall of 2015. Carolann and husband Norm are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. They continue to enjoy retirement, with time split between homes in Alexandria and the mountains of Pennsylvania and travel. Last fall they had a marvelous cruise up the St. Lawrence Seaway and through the Maritime Provinces. Carolann continues to make as much jam each summer as she can to share with friends and neighbors, and she has completed her seventh quilt, a hobby she took up in retirement.

**Cynthia Harrington Hochberg** can't remember when she last submitted news for our class notes, but thinks it was probably when her twins were born 35 years ago! Ian is now a Latin teacher and Jeremy is an attorney like her husband, Josh. Cynthia retired from teaching five years ago when her first grandchild was 6 months old. She now has three grandchildren: two girls (6 and 4) and a 2-year-old grandson. They live nearby so she gets to play with them often. As she was writing, Cynthia was looking forward to Jeremy's marriage at the end of August in northern Virginia and seeing lots of family and friends at a cheerful occasion. Cynthia would love to hear from former classmates.

**Britt Henne** sends greetings from Norway. For the first time, Britt could not make it to a 5-year-milestone Reunion this past June. Her husband, Thor, had a special wedding to attend in Pennsylvania on the same weekend, so this once she did not attend. "It feels strange," she wrote, "being in the U.S. and not at Western. I will really miss it and meeting old friends who I get to see every five years!" Aside from the wedding they also visited friends in Delaware and Washington, DC.

Britt is now the grandmother of three boys (5, 3 and 1) and this same daughter was expecting twins in October, so a total of five boys! Her other daughter has two dogs and is a very good aunt. Britt is still working but she and Thor may retire in 2015. Then they will have more time to travel.

**Gretchen Schmidt Grzelak** really enjoyed seeing everyone at the Reunion in June. She and her husband, Tom, returned home by way of the Creation Museum in Kentucky, just outside of Cincinnati. They found it wonderful and recommend it to everyone. For them the summer sped by. Being near Lake Michigan had the benefit of many cool days — good for everything but swimming. Gretchen has been able to spend time with her twin sister, Laurie, as she cares for her new granddaughter, Hadley, several times a week in a near-by community. Gretchen has had little experience with little ones, but her sister is a good teacher and she is learning. As the closest relative she hopes some-

day to be able to step in and help as well. Again this year they set off with their dogs, Whisper and Sara, to camp in Door County. Last year's adventure went so well this year they will planned five days doing the "tent thing." Gretchen finally feels like she has settled into the retirement mode. Her days are so busy with family, friends, Bible study, reading and ma jongg that she certainly could not fit work into her schedule. Although she fell from her leased horse, Ruby, when Ruby spooked, Gretchen eventually got back on and has returned to her passion for everything horse. As a 19-year-old quarter horse, Ruby has taught her a thing or two. Gretchen signed off, "See you at the 50th!"

**Karen Weber Carlisle** has been a resident of Maine for 11 years now, living on the ocean near where she has spent every summer since infancy. "It's a lovely life style," she says, "like living in the U.S. 50 years ago. Her husband, Tom, has retired but Karen still works as a hospice social worker, and she still has time for dressage riding, birding, walking and taking classes at Bowdoin College. Her sons and their wives and her three grandchildren live in the far corners of the country but they manage to see everyone. She visits **Celia Dalton Clark** regularly, and they go off and have adventures in the old Western Women style.

I was delighted to hear from **Penny Earle Cook**, my freshman roommate. Penny is now retired and living with her husband, Rod, in a 6,200-sq.-ft. artist loft in Bridgeport, CT. She retired from Yale a year ago and finds herself busier than ever with morning bike rides and Tai Chi classes at the beach, experiments in cooking, board meetings, grants consulting and, of course, family. She and Rod are both photographers showing their work through PenRod Studio and the Kehler-Liddell Gallery in New Haven. Penny was recognized as the Ann Christensen Award winner at Images 2013, Connecticut's annual juried photography competition. <http://penrodphotographs.com/>

**Robbie Smith Hurley** wrote that things are much the same for her family. Husband Tom is retired from Ohio State and Robbie continues to work part-time as a Registered Dietitian in Home Care (Mt. Carmel Home Care). "The perfect retirement gig!" she says. Their travel is centered on Charleston, SC, where their two grandchildren (3 and 1) live. They are both well, which is about all they can ask! Robbie enjoyed seeing the pictures of our 45th Reunion and also enjoys Facebook with a number of classmates.

**Susan Rapalje Martin** retired in 2013 after teaching archaeology/anthropology at Michigan Technological University since 1979. Now she just has fun all day! She is in two choirs and two book clubs, and occupies seats on two nonprofit boards, and travels



Susie Kitagawa '59, Hisako Matsumoto Era '68, and Nancy Kobayashi '69, catching up in Kamakura

as often as she can. Her travels are mostly related to music or to professional interests, and visits to her two beloved children and their families (two grandchildren, one grand-dog). If she gets really, really, *really* bored, she cleans her house ... twice a year max. Susan and her husband, Patrick Martin (MU '69) spend as much of their free time as possible at their camp on Lake Superior way far north at Agate Harbor, in an old dusty, bug-infested, well-loved log cabin. While there, they enjoy listening to Radio Free Grand Marais Minnesota, a listener/volunteer-operated FM radio station. Once in a while they break out some rare scratchy vinyl 1960s folk music and she thinks fondly of Western.

**Liz Pippet Shapiro** spent the summer in NYC, sharing an apartment in the West Village — SoHo — with her youngest, Victoria, a master's degree student who had a between-year internship at the AP (Associated Press). They have had "a total ball," she said, with an endless stream of Victoria's friends bunking with them and lots of family and friends in the area or passing through, and Liz appreciated being able to be a part of it all. Liz also took a summer drawing course at The Met, and spent every day exploring all that New York City has to offer. All in all Liz says she could not have asked for more.

The family business is going fine. If any of us would like a visit to 17th century New England, we can visit Liz. She lives by the ocean in a village out of a Stephen King novel. (If you sneeze on the way to the village store, someone hands you a Kleenex as you walk in the door.) Liz has been trying to find several classmates including **Nancy Hale Priest** [class list: 406 30th Ter., Bisbee, AZ 85603, nhpriest@msn.com] and **Noni Alerdice** [class list: 3366 Storey Blvd., Eugene, OR 97405] who were her senior roommates. Liz can be reached at elizabeth@torandalex.com.

There seems to be a theme in our messages this year of wanting to get connected. Maybe it's our age? Whatever the reason, let's reach out and reconnect. If you are look-

ing for someone, your Class Rep or the alumnae office may be able to help. Also, if you find a lost classmate, please pass the news along.

**Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69**  
422-6-715 Tokiwa  
Kamakura, Japan 248-0022  
nancykobayashi22@gmail.com



**Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 45 years!**

**News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!**  
See Blue Card, page 54!



Thanks to **Laurie LeGrand**, for taking on the role of Class Rep after the death of her close friend and former Rep, **Debby Fitzgerald Fuller**, in September 2007. She feels it is time to turn over the job to another classmate — someone who may be in touch with more people. We sincerely appreciate Laurie's efforts the past six years and hope a volunteer will now come forward to carry on the correspondence so Bulletin readers can continue to read your updates. Meanwhile, you can always send your news to the WCAA office.

**WCAA, Inc.**  
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Oxford, OH 45056  
wcaa@miamioh.edu



**News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!**  
See Blue Card, page 54!



Greetings all! Here is the news from some of our classmates!

**Ann Beardsley** writes that she and hubby Elliott have become enthralled with sailing — although more the fun of having friends with sailboats, than owning their own, so far. Ann also trained for the Dopey Challenge in Orlando this past January — a 5k, 10k, half-marathon, and full marathon on four consecutive days! Ann says, "Yes, I admit, you kind of have to be dopey to do it. Still, keeps me busy and my blood pressure is low." She reported her race results: "I did the full in 6:27, my fastest ever (which in the scheme of things is really, really slow! 'Real' runners do it in just over two hours)." Congratulations, Ann! I can't even imagine doing that! I'll watch you run from my hammock!

Her first published book, *Tilted Windmills*, is now available at Amazon! And if all this, and her quilting passion, aren't enough, she is one of 706 worldwide applicants (out of 200,000!!!) selected for round two of the Mars One Team! Mars One is an international nonprofit sending four people on a one-way trip to Mars in 2024. You can find more info at: [www.mars-one.com](http://www.mars-one.com). She mentioned this, "I had asked the publishers for whom I edit if they were interested in a Historical Dictionary on Mars. They said, no, but would I do one on NASA and the space program? I agreed, and 450 pages later, I'm still writing it, (with two co-authors). It has taken over my life!" Maybe you can finish it on Mars, Ann, when you get to colonize it in 10 years! Anyone wanting to contact Ann directly, you can reach her at [anmeeker@swiftpassage.com](mailto:anmeeker@swiftpassage.com)

**Melinda "Mindy" Raber McCain** says, "After raising two kids, I spent 20 years in graphic design and Macintosh tech support until being laid off in 2009. Since then, I have been a freelance web designer — hoping to retire from that soon! If I'm not visiting the four grandkids, or weaving, I'm reading — including the books of **Sue Schreyer** — or riding my bicycle on trails everywhere! "I am also a fiber artist/weaver doing art fairs in the Midwest, (like I did in the '80s). My work is online at: [www.loominarias.com](http://www.loominarias.com)." Mindy started weaving pot holders as a child and has been hooked on weaving ever since. She created and sold hand-woven evening bags for several years before joining forces with Carrie May to create Loominarias scarves and shawls. Mindy weaves on a 16-harness dobby loom and a 24-harness dobby loom, and manages the business and technical needs of Loominarias.

Mindy also chided us! "I noticed that our class rarely has any info. Can you nudge other class members to send something? I'd love to hear from **Sue Schreyer, Sally Mitchell**, and anyone else out there!" What about it, class? You can reach Mindy at: [mindy@crittur.com](mailto:mindy@crittur.com).

**Susan Adland** laments that our class is so scattered, but she and **Marcy Jackoway**



Mindy Raber McCain '73, "hooked on weaving"

**Cornfeld** get to see each other at least twice a year. In addition, Susan keeps busy working two days a week as a general reference librarian at American University. She's also very involved in her synagogue, three book groups, knitting, tennis, the League of Women Voters, and tutoring once a week in an inner city school. Her daughter got married this past year – TWICE! The first celebration was in India, and the second in Washington, DC, which was officiated by Susan's brother who is a rabbi in Canton, OH. I'd say she had a busy year! [sfadland@hotmail.com](mailto:sfadland@hotmail.com)

**Margaret "Millie" Odede [Adongo]** is still working on her project featuring the won-



Millie Odede and twin sister Janet, modeling their designs

derful artisan work of her native land, Kenya. She is hoping to find a publisher to print and market the book she wrote, as well as a fabric-printing firm to print the cloth in bulk. If you know of anyone who might like to sponsor this project or help in any way, please contact me, or Millie directly at [nyodesh@yahoo.com](mailto:nyodesh@yahoo.com). I also have a PDF of her book if you'd like it.

**Helene Pasquale Cella** gave us this update: "Our best news is that our daughter, Gina, and fiancé Jason are engaged. Date set for 20 June, 2015! Even though they live

in Los Angeles, the wedding will be downtown Chicago. Guess I should be able to get my act together by then. Please do keep in touch."

**Lynne Sweeney** sent us some news. "This has been a very challenging year. Many of us have gotten to that time in life when we have to take care of our parents. My mom and stepfather are presently living at Hoosier Village Retirement Home in Indianapolis. My mother's dementia is progressing and I have spent countless hours taking care of her affairs. This has put my real estate business on the back burner for several months but I think I'm finally getting everything in order.

"Happy News: My second grandson was born in August and my third grandchild (It's a Girl!) is due in early November. Babysitting is a joy. My first grandson is now 3 — what a fun age! Looking forward to joining some of the Indianapolis contingent for lunch on November 1st!" Lynne is still in touch with **Barb Jackson Muzy**, and invites you to contact her at [LMSRealtor@aol.com](mailto:LMSRealtor@aol.com)

We have a few changes of address and e-mail. **Lesley Wischmann** says, "Come October, we will be moving to North Carolina, and my current e-mail and address will expire. Please note the new contact information for me: Lesley Wischmann, 102 Mardella Way, Holly Ridge, NC 28445, 307-399-8805, [lesleywisch@gmail.com](mailto:lesleywisch@gmail.com)."

**Nancy Pratt Finfer** had a new e-mail address: [npratt4@verizon.net](mailto:npratt4@verizon.net)

Sounds like our class is full of talented, creative people with busy and productive lives! It would be nice if we could do a bit better about staying in touch with each other, though!

As for me, I am still keeping busy with my holistic health business, and an ancillary spiritual/healing center, The Healthy Spirit, that houses my massage therapy room. If anyone is on Facebook, you can find The Healthy Spirit page and take a look at the kinds of events we host, as well as my personal business page, Healing Spirit Holistic Health Center. (I know, the names are similar and a bit confusing, but that's a long story — if you're interested, I'll give you the details in an e-mail.)

My kids and grandkids are all happy, and healthy, and having wonderful, productive, and service-oriented lives. I'm still hoping some of you might take me up on my offer of an airbed and three squares if you come out for a visit to San Diego! "Friend Request" me on FB (<https://www.facebook.com/christine.wines.9>) if you like, or drop me an



Christy, celebrating her birthday in LA

e-mail or call me at 619-701-7264. Until next time ...

**Christy Wines '73**  
5155 Cedarwood Rd., Apt. 56  
Bonita, CA 91902  
[winescl@aol.com](mailto:winescl@aol.com)



News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 2!  
See Blue Card, page 54!



**Alumnae Weekend '15: Celebrate 40 years!**

**Cyndie Cole** writes that she is terribly busy, as the girls are getting older and they find more and more to do. She has served the class from the beginning and we hoped she could hang in there to cover your 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion next year. However, she is looking for help from classmates in the form of a replacement. Thank you, Cyndie for your 39 years of service.

Meanwhile, Cyndie writes that Christine, her 10-year-old, has severe epilepsy — and last year suffered a significant seizure a week at school. Needless to say, life and learning were very difficult. Cyndie was working to have a seizure-alert dog trained to assist Christine, when teachers at her school organized a fundraiser to help. To date they have raised part of the \$20,000+ needed, and Xena has joined the family and contin-



*Our youngest graduates at their 40th! The Class of '74 (L to R) Joan Hagan Stoutenborough, Chris Moranda, Jocelyn Woodson-Reed, Sheila Colligan Sobel, Betsy Salt, Kathy Albright Willowoode, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, and Greta Pope Wimp*

ues in training. With the need for additional funds, Cyndie has gone back to work driving a school bus.

Last spring, Cyndie and the girls traveled to Minnesota and Wisconsin to visit Cyndie's birth family, meeting family members she never knew. They celebrated a "new" sister's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the girls "had a blast" meeting cousins their own age.

**Faith Crook Perrizo** "can't believe next year is our 40th anniversary!" She is still working for the Episcopal diocese of West Virginia, but her title has changed. She is now canon for Ministry Development and Transitions, overseeing the ordination process, churches looking for new clergy, small churches needing to stretch their resources. Faith is looking forward to early retirement (which she calls "re-investment") and moving closer to aging parents and a handicapped sister. Her three sons are "out of the nest" and working in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Columbus, OH. Two grandchildren

— Ashlyn (7) and Evan (5) — are in Phoenix. "Too far away!" She hopes to see many classmates at Reunion 2015, June 12-14.

**Cris Arguedas** sent this update in January 2014: "I am continuing my criminal defense practice. Some of my cases are front page news [defending Barry Bonds] and many are not at all. My partner, Carole Migden [former State Senator from California], and I are about to celebrate our 30th anniversary. I regularly play golf with **Ada Harrigan '73** and have kept up a close friendship with **Biff Hough '73** and **Diane Bratcher '74**, as well. I remember Western as formative, fun, and like a bubble where we could figure out who we were going to become."

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**Oxford, OH 45056**  
**wcaa@miamioh.edu**



*Christine and Alyson Cole, with Xena*



As per usual I didn't hear from as many people as I had hoped I would, but as we all lead such busy lives and are now connected by social media I think it is the wave of the future and am willing to grudgingly go along with it. I still have a (very) few friends who write the occasional letter, but for the most part I keep up with most people via e-mail and Facebook. Quite a few of our classmates are on Facebook, and it is an extremely easy way to keep up with old friends. In addition many of our Western classmates have businesses or websites that will immediately pop up once their name is Googled. I had great fun one rainy wet spring-day doing just that, and found out some fascinating things.

Speaking of fascinating, please be sure to visit **Marty Coleman's** website, [www.napkindad.com](http://www.napkindad.com). It's fun and ever-changing and he has added a new offering: Creativity Coaching. It instructs people who have abandoned their creative efforts in the past and want to get "back into the creative groove." It is available in person and remote via Skype. He is in the process of adding a new line of merchandise and is placing renewed emphasis on his national speaking engagements.

**Branton Shearer** writes, "I thought of Western College last week as I watched parents drop off their freshman students at Kent State. The anxiety was etched on their faces young and old alike. It made me think of un-air-conditioned Peabody Hall and my lack of direction in life. In the 41 years that have passed since that anxious year, my work has grown in very unpredictable ways. Of most interest of late is the path to West Point military academy. All entering "plebs" will take my MIDAS assessment as part of their Leadership studies. I hope it will play a role in clarifying their future branch paths so maybe they will not have to wander a zig-zaggy path towards the fulfillment of their intellectual potential."

He continues, "I had a very wonderful experience a month ago. I was at a relative's birthday party and met a woman who graduated from Western the year that I was there! 1974. In fact, she married the guy who was the RA for my dorm floor. I still have a ceramic jug that he made as part of a pottery class that I bought from him for five or 10 dollars. It was wild meeting her there. We probably never met but I told her I was the half asleep guy behind the steam table slapping down scrambled eggs on her tray for breakfast as a work study student. Go figure. She told me when she was a freshman that the women all dressed up for din-



**News for Spring '15 Bulletin due Feb 21!**  
**See Blue Card, page 54!**

ner and stood and sang before the meal. And then they were SERVED by the work study students their meals.”

I've been in touch recently with **Scott W. Rice**, who was a Miami-Man-In-Residence and lived with us in Peabody Hall. Scott influenced my life more than just about anyone else I have known, and when he called me out of the blue this spring it was a real treat. I've enjoyed getting to know him all over again. He's now living in California with his wife, Deanna Clear — a very talented artist — and Scott has just published his first book, which is available via Amazon in Kindle form. It's titled *Beyond the Wonders of Thule*, and he describes his book as “a collection of brief stories, essays and poems regarding personal experiences, literature and art. Some of these pieces are autobiographical, some are drawn from historical or contemporary events, some are reflections on human nature. My goal was to gather whatever I found fascinating together in one book.”

David and I are well. As I write this we are getting ready to head east to spend a month on Lt. Island (Wellfleet, MA). We spent 10 days on the Cape at the end of May, which coincided with heritage museum and gardens annual rhododendron festival, which was breathtaking.

I lost my little brother — and only sibling — in November of 2013. We held a celebration of his life on July 5th and many friends and neighbors of ours as we were growing up were able to attend the festivities. It was a beautiful evening and honored a gentle, kind soul.

I am still doing the cooking show, *Time To Cook*, which can be accessed via Facebook and the station web site, [www.cable9.org](http://www.cable9.org). While I haven't become a “professional” organizer I've more than gotten my feet wet and am in the process of helping several people declutter and streamline their homes and as a result, their lives. I love doing it.

I would love to hear from any and all of you. My contact information is listed below. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015 I remain ...

**Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77**  
**6971 Darrow Rd.**  
**Hudson, Ohio 44236**  
**[westerncollege77@aol.com](mailto:westerncollege77@aol.com)**  
**[kdregalla@aol.com](mailto:kdregalla@aol.com)**



*We are so pleased to hear from former Western faculty member **James Royster** and hope many more will follow suit! In Jim's own words:*

“Beth (now Liz) and I (still Jim), and our children, Judy (now Joti), Royce (now Sam), and Tumpy (now Steve) will always regard our years at Western College (1970-74) — and those beyond — as extraordinarily rich and enjoyable.

“I taught at Cleveland State University until retirement in 2002. During this time, we lived on a small farm and raised animals (cows, goats, rabbits, chickens) and put in a garden each year. Liz and I traveled around the world in 1983-84 while I studied the religions met along the way in order to enrich my classes. We made a return trip to India (where we had lived for two years in the early '60s) in 2010. Our children, who made WC their larger family while we lived in Oxford, have also traveled and lived in distant parts of the world. Joti directs a spiritual and counseling center near Boston; Sam is helping his 24-year-old son begin a new business in Oregon; and Steve produces exceptional art works in Australia, where he lives with his wife and three daughters. After retire-



*The Roysters on their veranda in Australia*

ment, for each of 10 years Liz and I visited our Australian family for about six months. “The big event for me after retirement has been the final publication in April of a book I worked on for 27 years: *Have This Mind: Supreme Happiness, Ultimate Realization, and the Four Great Religions—An Integral Adventure*. Former students will recognize much that was presented in the classroom, and a whole lot more — as my own understanding expanded and deepened.

“Finally, I'd like to say that had Western College not moved into the Miami University program in 1974 — with the necessary reduction in faculty — I might well have happily finished my teaching career right there.”

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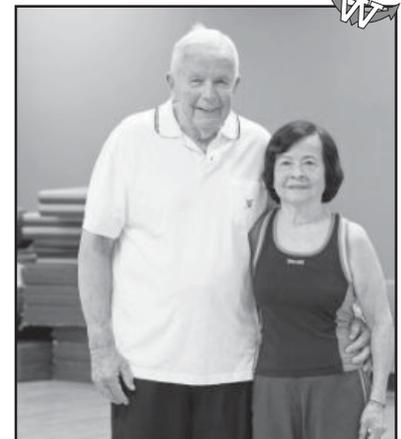
## Class Notes . . . Post Script



*Core strengthening: Maria at 95!*

**Maria Urueta Wells '46** and her husband, Jack, were featured this fall in the *Lincoln Journal Star's* “Prime Time,” a magazine focusing on “active older men and women of Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska.” The Wellses are regulars at the Prairie Life Fitness Center, where Maria goes six days a week for strength, toning and cardio interval classes. The Wellses have many friends and admirers at the center. In August, they surprised Maria with a 95th birthday party. Jack is 89; they have been married 60 years, having met in Oxford when Jack, in NROTC, needed a date to a Miami football game.

Maria came to the U.S. from her native Colombia on a scholarship to Wilson College



*Jack and Maria Wells*

for Women in 1944, then transferred to Western and graduated with the Class of '46. She grew up loving and playing sports with her five siblings and played basketball and field hockey in college, so exercise has always been a way of life for her. To stay healthy, Maria told “Prime Time,” one must “have a good attitude toward life, be a good person, get strong and exercise ... do any kind of exercise.”

Photos by Kristin Streff/Lincoln Journal Star

## In Memoriam

**Pauline Longbrake Weaver '33**  
February 2011

**Margaret Parks Beaver '35**  
July 2009

**Barbara Brandon Hazard '37**  
July 2013

**Ellen Mahle Jewell '39**  
March 2010

**Isabel Duncan McCoy '41**  
September 2014

**Mary McDonald Stragand '41**  
October 2013

**Jackie Wyllys Teter '41**  
July 2008

**Bernarda Danford Rice '42**  
April 2014

**Ann Goldstone Marcus '43**  
December 2014

**Peggy Hefter Stock '45**  
March 2013

**Marianne Daries Moore '46**  
October 2013

**Peggy Kaufman Stricker '46**  
November 2014

**Susanne Durrell Hunt '47**  
October 2014

**Katherine Van Iderstine Read '47**  
March 2013

**Helen Ann Noftsger Welsh '50**  
August 2014

**Bonita Lacey Bogle '51**  
August 2009

**Joanne Sallee Kernitz '51**  
September 2014

**Nadine E. Zumpe '51**  
October 2013

**Jo Ann Fley '52**  
Trustee, 2000-07  
October 2014

**Elaine Francis Dunn '53**  
January 2012

**Nancy Wellington Lee '53**  
April 2014

**Mimi Alcott Levine '53**  
February 2008

**Barbara E. Wolf '55**  
September 2014

**Nancy Lakamp Broad '57**  
September 2014

**Rosemary Lane Chapman '57**  
October 2009

**Marilyn Brown Roche '57**  
January 2014

**Diana ForsheW Kerber '59**  
Trustee, 2000-03  
Class Representative, 1979-89  
August 2014

**Linda Lozier Jones '60**  
September 2013

**Linda Shafer Shinkle '61**  
December 2013

**Elizabeth "Cindy" Flender Webber '62**  
November 2013

**Mary Ellen J. Puglio '64**  
April 2013

**Kathe A. Davis '68**  
January 2014

**L. Charlyne Chatham '71**  
March 2014

**Evelyn Bailey Spencer WF**  
Widow of William C. Spencer,  
President, 1969-74  
Date unknown

*Correction: We sincerely regret reporting "Netti Mills Grove" as deceased in the Fall '13 Bulletin.*

*Dr. Annetta Mills Grove '53 is alive and well and living in Raleigh, NC.*

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

# Alumnae Service Award Call For Nominations

The Board of Trustees invites nomination(s) of any alumna, alumnus, former faculty member, 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 2015, June 12-14. Please fill out the form below and mail by **February 28, 2015** to:

**ALUMNAE SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE  
WCAA, INC.**

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

*Fax your nomination to: 513/529-7400 or  
Submit online at: [www/MiamiOH.edu/wcaa/asa](http://www/MiamiOH.edu/wcaa/asa)*

*For further information, call 513/529-4400 or  
E-mail: [WCAA@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:WCAA@MiamiOH.edu)*

(please do not re-nominate) \*deceased

- 2014 Yvette Small Hohler '64  
Katharine Piper '58\*  
Doris Ning Wong '62
- 2013 Lolita McDavid '69  
Yoriko Konishi Meguro '61  
Cary Kimbark Revere '53
- 2012 Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61
- 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 \*

**Past Award Recipients**

**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 February 28, 2015.**

- **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** \_\_\_\_\_

## Alumnae Service Awards

*Western College Alumnae Association 2014 Service Award, presented to **Katharine Piper '58**  
in Honor of Professional Accomplishment, with Community and Humanitarian Service  
and Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.*

After graduating with a degree in theater, Kathy Piper appeared in various summer theater companies and on television, worked as a recreation specialist, and finally decided to try her luck in New York City. She had several different positions at Viking Press, as well as in advertising and publicity agencies. In her words, "It didn't take me long to realize that the hum-drum routine of 8 to 5 was 'not my bag.' When an opportunity to work for a puppet firm presented itself, I grabbed it quick."



*Kathy Piper*

Growing up in Wisconsin, Kathy was introduced to marionettes by her parents as a way to pass the long winters. She and her two older brothers helped with shows, and she began making puppets and writing skits while still in grade school. She continued through high school to appear at schools, fairs, stores and on television throughout the upper Midwest. At Western, Kathy performed regularly in theater productions and the children's plays presented for area school children. During Western's Alumnae Weekend 2008, her 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, Kathy presented "Turkish Shadow Theatre" in Leonard Theatre.

In 1962, Kathy created her own company, The Piper Puppets. She not only wrote the scripts, constructed her own stage and scenery, crafted and manipulated the half life-size marionettes, but also did all the voices, while operating the curtain, the music, and any special effects. If time permitted, the show was followed by a demonstration of the backstage workings involved in the production. An average season included 300 performances, mostly at schools. Her overriding goal as she stated it, was "to help young people enjoy music, literature and drama, to provide them a genuine theatrical experience and to encourage them to expand their powers of imagination."

Kathy developed and directed a creative dramatics program for the Department of Parks and Recreation in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Under an Ohio Department of Education grant, she wrote the scripts and created the marionettes for *Adventure: Economics*, an instructional television series produced at Ohio University and distributed nationally. Her marionettes were featured in two subsequent series: *Adventure: Environment* and *What About You?*

Early in her career she was named among the "Outstanding Young Women of America" and received numerous puppetry awards. Her production of *Snow White* received a Citation of Excellence from the Union Internationale de la Marionette. She served four terms as president of the Puppeteers of America, Inc. and her puppets have been featured in gallery exhibitions across the United States. They have been described as "better than the Salzburg Marionettes."

Kathy was generous with her time and talents. Proceeds from several performances were donated to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra Women's Association, and she gave benefit performances for Big Brothers Association and ARC (Aid to Retarded Children). A dedicated advocate for children and adults with mental retardation, she served for a time as president of the ARC board.

Although we are sad to be presenting this award posthumously, we are no less proud to be honoring one of our most extraordinarily talented and original alumnae, **Katharine Piper, Class of 1958**, for her outstanding career accomplishments and dedicated service to others.

*Western College Alumnae Association 2014 Service Award, presented to **Dr. Doris Ning Wong '62**  
in Recognition of Professional Accomplishment, Community and Humanitarian Service,  
and Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.*

Doris Ning Wong came to Western College as a refugee from China. An acquaintance in New York recommended that she visit Western, where she was offered a scholarship and began her studies as a sophomore. She did work/study as part of her scholarship award and quickly learned English as she adjusted to life on campus. She graduated in 1962 as a biology major and went on to study medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. After graduating in 1966, she completed her pediatric internship and residency at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, then Boston City Hospital. Early in her medical career, she worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Handicapped Children's services. Between 1976 and 1983, Doris first planned and later directed the pediatric program at the community health center in Boston's China Town. In 1981, she earned a master's degree in Public Health from Harvard University, and continued to serve her community in Malden,



*Doris Wong*

Massachusetts, in private practice for approximately 30 years. Her interest has always been to ensure access to health care for all children, especially those from immigrant families. She also advised families on international adoptions.

“Determined,” “focused,” and “committed” are words used to describe Doris’s tenure as first vice president/treasurer for two full terms in the Western College Alumnae Association. Her persistence worked well for her successful chairing of the national fundraising campaign to create the Western College Endowed Professorship in the Department of History at Miami University. Her team exceeded the goal of \$300,000 and accomplished it two years ahead of schedule.

For her commitment to community health and with extreme gratitude for her incredible fundraising success, we are proud to honor **Dr. Doris Ning Wong, Class of 1962**, with the Western College Alumnae Association 2014 Service Award.

*Western College Alumnae Association 2014 Service Award, presented to **Yvette Small Hohler '64**  
in Recognition of Community and Humanitarian Service  
and Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.*

**Y**vette — better known to us as “Evie” — Hohler describes her first impression of Western as “an oasis in the middle of nowhere,” where she felt the emphasis on intercultural awareness in every aspect of the college. She graduated from Western in 1964 with a degree in history and earned a master’s degree in French at Middlebury College’s Ecole Francaise. In 1976, she left her job teaching high school French in Smithtown, New York, to join her husband, Larry, in Africa where he was on sabbatical, teaching in the Gikumene Secondary School in rural Kenya. Evie taught history and English there, as well as after-school French classes.



*Evie Hohler*

One of their enthusiastic students, Joe Kirima, stood out. They stayed in touch with Joe, later paying for him to go to college, and then being rewarded when he became a teacher, headmaster, and advocate for homeless children in Kenya. That is not the end of Evie’s story.

In the late 1990s, Joe contacted Evie and Larry and told them of the ever-increasing numbers of homeless children living on the streets of Meru Town. AIDS was raging, and children often found themselves homeless after their parents died. Through Evie and Larry’s not-for-profit foundation, Hope Children’s Fund, Ltd., money was raised to convert and equip an outgrown church building to serve as an orphanage. Additional fundraising made possible a dormitory, a dining hall, and a technical training center — all to care for the children.

The doors of Hope Children’s Home opened in Kenya in 2005 with 18 boys and girls. The numbers have grown to more than 79, ranging in age from 6 to 21. Evie and Larry continue to organize fundraising events in the United States and in Kenya to support the Home and to underwrite tuition for some of the Home’s graduates pursuing further education.

Together, the Hohlers are helping these children of Hope become, in their words, “independent, productive citizens who can then ‘pay it forward’ and start to give back to the Home where they grew up.”

While her volunteering efforts abroad may be more dramatic, Evie is hardly neglecting the home front: She is active locally (Port Jefferson, New York) in Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity, the Historical Society, and numerous other Port Jeff Village events. Even closer to home, she served two terms on the WCAA Board of Trustees and is currently in her 36<sup>th</sup> year as WCAA Bulletin Class Representative.

And so with this award, the alumnae of Western College — the “oasis in the middle of nowhere” — are proud to honor one of its daughters, **Yvette Small Hohler, Class of 1964**, for her dedicated and ongoing service to college and community, but most especially for her exceptional humanitarian achievement.

# The Western College Program

## Hello to the WCP family!

See what you miss when you don't attend reunions? At the WCAA Reunion in June, in addition to the stirring Freedom Summer 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, we were able to see some of the changes occurring on Western. There was the groundbreaking for the Western College Legacy Circle — which commemorates Western in all its iterations — and a chance to eat in the new dining hall (the Western Dining Commons) that has replaced our dear departed Alexander. It's quite impressive, and even manages in some of its many dining areas to capture a bit of Alexander's feel. (Those of you who mostly ate in the Western Dining Room will be happy to know that that room is still standing, since it's actually part of Clawson.)

I was also able to take a peek inside one of the three new dorms that have been built at the northern end of Western Drive, between Havighurst and Bachelor. The new construction was designed to strike a balance between the traditional Miami aesthetic and Western's more varied designs. The chief planner of this effort has always been sensitive to the character of Western Campus, and two of Miami's senior architects on this project, **John Seibert '90** and **Ted Christian '90**, were Miami architecture students during the time when the arkies lived and took classes with WCP students; they appreciate and hoped to maintain the integrity of the campus. The new dorms are of course gleaming and modern on the inside, but from the outside, with their grey stone and gables, they most closely echo Clawson (although they're admittedly somewhat larger). In addition, there's a geothermal plant to provide heating and cooling for the new buildings — a first step in Miami's commitment to gradually eliminate its dependence on the coal plant over the next several years. The plant has greenery growing on its roof,

and utilizes a newly built split-level pond in its processes. And there's even a new bridge (in faithful Western style) near Patterson Place.

And one more change. As many of you know, longtime de facto Westerner **Kim Ernsting** — most recently, Assistant Director of the Western Program, but a key part of the WCP's administration before the dissolution, and a Western-in-law to boot (married to **Kent Ernsting WCP '78**) — has moved across campus to a new position as Student Success Manager in Miami's division of Enrollment Management and Student Success. Kim's role in Western's success over the last several years can't be overstated, and though we know she'll thrive in her new position, we'll miss her terribly. Many thanks, Kim, and all best wishes! And we look forward to hearing your stories from the Other Side at the next reunion.

As ever, I encourage each of you to reach out to the students of the new program (start at [www.cas.miamioh.edu/western/](http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/western/)). Learn about their program and their interests; teach them about their predecessors. Visit and speak about your field; arrange shadow days, interviews or internships for interested students. And I encourage all WCP and WP folk, be ye alums or current students, to stay involved in the Western community, via updates to the *Bulletin*, membership in the WCP Alumni Association page on Facebook (search for "WCPAA"), Miami's WESTERNA listserv, the Western group on LinkedIn ("Western College Program"), or simply through your own mailing list; keep those connections open.

Hope to see every one of you at the next Reunion!

— *Mike Conaway '90, for the WCPAA*



*WCPers at All-Western Alumnae Weekend, June 2014 (L to R): Kirk Davis, Alan Kalish, Hannah Mills, Kim Ernsting, Genevieve O'Malley-Knight, Kate McPherson (WP Student Activities Coordinator), Alicia Broderick, Mike Conaway, Jon Schneider, and Tim Matune*

We are happy to include all responses from WCP odd-year classes in the fall issue, whether they come through Class Reps or directly to WCAA. If your class is not included here, either there is no Rep or he/she did not reply to our e-mail requests for updates. 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. Meanwhile, attention, even-year classes: For your Class Rep and class news deadline, see page 54. **In this issue, please welcome new Class Rep: Jim Boyer '83!**



**Amy Isler Gibson** wrote to the WCAA office with this upbeat update: "I am the proud owner of Eugene, Oregon's, newest high end contemporary art gallery, The Gallery at the Watershed."

And continued with her back story: "I have followed this path: Western, then a Ph.D. in philosophy (UNC-CH '91) taught at Oregon State in Corvallis, OR, while writing my dissertation, then went back and got an M.S. in psychology and was a psychotherapist for 20 years, and then went back to school in art. Little did I realize this would result in an art gallery. I am still in touch with **Gene Metcalf FF**, who has cheered me on through this, my third career, in art.

"What I want to say is that where I am, and what I have done, is truly an outgrowth of the values I either learned at Western or that were in me and drew me to the program (I am a grad of '79.) I see my "3" careers as really one path, an interdisciplinary, humanistic one. And I am in heaven over all I have gotten to do and am now doing — now more than ever. So thank you."

WCAA. Inc.  
wcaa@miamioh.edu



**Mark Gizzi** has been working in international development since he joined the Peace



All three Gizzis



Aaron Gizzi

Corps after Western. Presently, he is an Economic Growth Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is endeavoring to assist the government of Mexico implement its economic reform agenda. Mark's wife, Beth, is a social worker currently working on obtaining her teaching certificate in order to work in international schools. Their son, Aaron (8), enjoys Little League baseball with his Mexican friends and is quite adept at speaking Spanish.

While an Associate Director of the Peace Corps in Senegal, Mark worked with **John Stamm '82**. John also works for USAID, currently assigned to Nepal.

**John Rego** writes, "Dear Friends, I am happy to report that my oldest Daughter, Lindsay, was married a little over a year ago to a wonderful guy, Heath, that is every bit her soul mate. They are living the dream as DINK's in Northern California. She works at Apple as a Manufacturing Design Engineer and he is an Industrial Designer for Specialized Cycles. My younger Daughter, Robyn, is getting married in late August at Lake Winnepesaukee in NH to a super guy, Andrew, that is the Yang to her Yin. She is an amazing Stylist at Bloom Salon in Arlington Heights, IL, north of Chicago (Shout-out to her Western clients!!!) and he is the Assistant Golf Pro at North Shore Country Club. Everyone is happy, healthy, in love, enjoying life and gainfully employed! What more can a Father ask for?"

"My wife, Diane, and I are standing in our pasture, among the cows (and cow pies ... occupational hazard) enjoying the moment. We know that Grandkids are not far off and that this moment of calm will become the



John Rego's beautiful daughters

Regos' Flying Circus in the blink of an eye. *Per ardua ad astra.*"

**Kim (Hartssock) Votaw**: "After spending the past 20+ years in South Florida, I am moving in October to South Carolina to enjoy lots of Lake Life and a little less work! I was married in July 2014 in the Grand Tetons of Wyoming to a wonderful man, Jack Reese, and look forward to the next chapter with the anticipation of our first grandchild in December! After working as an Event and Wedding Designer at the historic Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, FL, for the past 15 years, I look forward to the launch of my creative consulting business, designing corporate events for some favorite clients throughout the U.S. Thankful and blessed and hope you are too!"

**Maureen Murphy Rolfe**: "It has been 33 years since my Western departure for the real world. For the past 20 years I have been doing psychiatric assessments at Ohio Health ERs, three days a week. I have lived in Dublin, OH, for the past 20 years and found my dream home three years ago, driven by my husband's recent passion for guitars. We host bands and music parties in our club/studio that was featured in *Columbus City Scene* magazine this year. We love travel and experiencing different cultures. We returned from our 44th country in July and are preparing to explore Portugal and Spain in November. Our favorite times are when we are immersed in nature, with Africa and the Tahitian islands being #1 and #2. When I feel I am 'in the middle of nowhere,' I know I have arrived. My business man husband has metamorphized into more western than I could ever have imagined."

From **Chris Kerosky**: "Fellow Western alumni, recently, a group of us in the San Francisco area (including **Mike Kent, Steve Sphar, Rhian Miller**, etc.) organized a small dinner to honor Mike and Kay Lunine. **Mark**



Kay and Mike Lunine (left) at lunch with Chris Kerosky '81 (center), Rhian Miller '78, and Steve Sphar '81

**Gizzi** flew up from Mexico and a few others from the first few classes attended. Mike waxed eloquent on his years at Western and told us about his continuing work in India. We presented him with a portrait of Kumler and other gifts, and it was a very memorable evening. (Unfortunately no one remembered to take a photo.) Last weekend, we coaxed Kay and him up to Sonoma County for wine tasting and lunch, and attached is a photo we took for the occasion. If anyone wishes to write him or Kay and extend greetings, their e-mail address is: [mjklunine@earthlink.net](mailto:mjklunine@earthlink.net). I'm sure they'd love to hear from you.

Chris continues: "Ten of us from the classes of 1981 and 1982 met in Oxford in early September for an informal but very special reunion of our own. This photo was taken outside of Kumler: (in order) Jim D'Andrea, myself, Van Viney, Steve Sphar, Mark Gizzi, Mike Kent, Ken Vincent, Tom Gordon, Rick Edmiston and Steve Roos. We were fortunate to share lunch and a tour of the new Western with **Kim Ernsting**, former Assistant Director of the program and graduate **Kent Ernsting '78**.

"My own conclusions from the tour and our discussions: Western lives — albeit in a different format than we remember it. Let's support it, and build on what still exists. Lives have been enriched on that campus for more than 160 years — let's not let that end."

**Tim Matune '81**  
[tmatune@cafarocompany.com](mailto:tmatune@cafarocompany.com)



The class of '83 is quite busy, and many have evaded my supplication and dogged searching and left no forwarding address. If this is you, you haven't gotten the *Bulletin*, so, well, not going there, but if anyone has

forwarding addresses for **Wendy Zagray Warren** (and by association, **Bob Warren**), **Claire Ruetter**, **Paul Arel**, or **Ann Wilmott**, send them along so I can include them in our next mailing.

**James Fryman** writes (actually, his entry was ghost written by his wife, Mo Calahan, who reports that he "tragically, has an impairment. He cannot type."): "I am alive and well and living in Chicago. I am married with children: two girls, ages 12 years old and 7 months old. I have been with the Cook County Public Defender's Office since 1989. I now do primarily murder defense but also do general felonies as well. I am somewhat jaded but the girls bring me joy and keep me grounded.

"Prior to the girls, my wife and I traveled a lot. We went to Europe, Thailand, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Now we are more domesticated. We have vacationed in the Midwest, Smoky Mountains, Oregon, California, Canada, and Mexico.

"Otherwise, I'm pretty boring: I work out, read, play fantasy sports, and garden. I recommend people go to the Freedom Summer Memorial across from Peabody Hall." (A postscript, from his ghost writer, who typed his entry verbatim: "He says he does 'general felonies.' He is not, to my knowledge, a felon. He is referring to the type of law he specializes in!")

**Chris Jennings** reports that "It has been quite a 31-year ride since leaving Kumler's warm graduation embrace. The reflection has to start where it started — meeting, dating and eventually marrying another (much more talented) Western graduate — one **Jan Brittain Montgomery**. She has found a way to put up with me over the years and we both have been rewarded by a special 2014. This year has marked our 30th wedding anniversary, my piano playing father's 90th birthday, our oldest son's (Nate) graduation from the University of Miami (yes, in FL — but **Donna Shalala '62**, the current President, is a Western College for Women graduate), our second son's (Nick) graduation from high school and entry into the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and our third son's (Luke) premature departure from high school here in Arlington, VA, and entry into the Interlochen Academy of Art for his last two years of high school to study jazz guitar and composition. As great as 2014 has been, sometimes we feel it is our just reward for an awful 2013, where we memorialized the death of Jan's beloved father Bob, my younger, mentally-ill burdened but gifted brother Eric, and our cherished 13-year old golden retriever Abby. And for the icing, I was asked to help implement the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, and arrived just in time to experience the worst of the near melt-down of the healthcare.gov site. The latter experience concluded with my being hospitalized (yes, quite the metaphor), imposing yet another burden on my family and me choosing to resign my position from the Obama Administration. (All is well now).



A special reunion on the Western campus for 10 from the classes of '81 and '82! Posing on the terrace entrance to Kumler Chapel are (L to R): Jim D'Andrea, Chris Kerosky, Van Viney, Steve Sphar, Mark Gizzi, Mike Kent, Ken Vincent, Tom Gordon, Rick Edmiston, and Steve Roos.

"All of which is to say that like all of us, we have experienced a circle of life that has had highs (wonderful family and fulfilling work achievements) and lows (e.g., the death of my mother and all of 2013), but has kept us busy, grounded and happy. Yes, the circle remains unbroken and we credit the Western College Program as a primary parent of our life's path. It certainly was a major inspiration for us to migrate to D.C. in 1983 and to engage in public service. Jan graduated from Georgetown Law School and has been thriving for over a quarter of century as an Assistant General Counsel at the Government Accountability Office. I worked in the U.S. Senate for 10 years as the Deputy Director of the Special Committee on Aging and also was privileged to work in the White House as senior health care advisor for President Clinton for eight years and, in 2013, for President Obama. In-between government service, I established my own consulting firm, which primarily serves foundations and consumer, business, labor and government purchasers in their effort to get a better return on our multi-trillion dollar investment in health care.

Chris concludes, "Reflecting back, life has strangely reflected the words I entered in that dreaded Western statement of educational objective (SEO). Mine said something along the lines of pursuing public policy that would address the health and economic challenges of a growing aging population. Who would have thought anything close to prescient could have come out of that exercise? Anyway, love and miss all of you guys. Lots of stories to share — not sure we can still do it over a bottle of Drummond Brothers, but I have no doubt we can figure out something at our next reunion."

**Leigh Levine** is still living in quaint and quiet Concord, NH, with wife Kristina and boys Nathan (14) and Charlie (12). "Working still for the Federal Highway Administration — not bad, no heavy lifting. Kristina (wife and fellow Peace Corps/Poland alum) is a part-time substitute pre-school teacher when she's not taking care of the rest of us, and the boys do lots of sports — baseball, soccer, basketball, skiing in winter, camp in the summer. I try to get out and cycle or ski myself when I can. I am very occasionally (no fault but my own) in touch with some of the old gang including **Dave Dorsky**, **Jeff Kirschner**, **Mike Dubiel**, **Dan Adamson** and **Liz Nusken**. Some have even come out here for a visit. I think of my Western days and friends very often, and wonder how everybody is doing, even more so as the boys are getting nearer to that age, and college is discussed." Leigh can be reached at [kllevine@comcast.net](mailto:kllevine@comcast.net).

**Bob Walker** is now teaching at the University of Iowa's Tippie School of Business in the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. His new email is [bob-walker@uiowa.edu](mailto:bob-walker@uiowa.edu) and his office phone is 319-335-0947. He

is also working with his wife on the second edition of their textbook *Personal Finance, Building Your Future* (McGraw Hill Publishers) and blog at <https://frugalfunandfinancialfitness.blogspot.com>. They recently moved to five acres and their new address is 3913 James Ave S.W., Iowa City, IA 52246. They have established a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), have 49 chickens, a large garden and 120 grape vines. The farm blog is at <https://walkerhomesteadcsa.blogspot.com>

Their youngest son, Clay, is a senior at Luther College, Decorah, IA, where he is playing soccer and applying to medical schools. Their oldest son, Nate, just received his M.B.A. from William & Mary University after serving three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nate and his wife, Leslie, are expecting their first child in September. They will soon be stationed in Tacoma, WA. Their middle daughter, Erin, is teaching second grade and her husband, Seth, teaches seventh grade. They have two children, Jordan (7) and Emmy (4) who love visiting them at the farm. Bob is way too young to be a grandpa, but enjoys every second with his grandkids.

Hah, I've always wanted to have the last word, unlike in real life living with Maria and Madeline (now 11)! I, **Jim Boyer**, have been writing, woodworking, riding my bike, and playing guitar a lot. As a result of joining the Malley's Marching Band (which sadly may have played its swan song (pun intended) at the Moondog Coronation Ball (Clevelanders will understand) at Quicken Loans Arena, I'm playing the trombone again, now in a German Band, the Donauschwaben Blaskapelle (DSB). I'm no longer teaching — after a 10-year stint teaching chemistry and physics at Columbia High School, a two-year hiatus to become a Montessori Elementary Guide, and a year as the Program Coordinator and Science/Math Guide of the Middle School at the Montessori School at Holy Rosary in Little Italy, I found myself at loose ends. This year our carefully crafted arrangement for school transportation with a friend ended, and so I have become the transportation coordinator (read "unpaid chauffeur") for my daughter, who attends a Montessori school on the other side of town (42 miles each way). This precludes daytime employment, and I have none so I've been doing other things and waiting for my dear spouse to retire (this year) so we can share the driving. If you really need more information on my life, e-mail me and I'll include you in the Christmas letter, now in its 22nd iteration. Please send any updates to me for inclusion in the next Western Bulletin ...

**Jim Boyer '83**  
[boyerjames52@gmail.com](mailto:boyerjames52@gmail.com)



Rob Nosse '91 (in vest) and family



**Rob Nosse:** "I am in my second month as a state representative for house district 42 which is part of SE Portland. Portland is the biggest city in Oregon. One of at least 10 state representatives for Portland. I won a six-person democratic primary and then got appointed to fill the remainder of the previous representative's term. I am up for election in November but no Republican is running against me." (Rob is pictured with his husband of 20 years, Jim Laden, and their children Helazo and Elisia Nosse-Laden.)

**Brian Buck:** A new chapter has started for Brian's family. Brian's job is being transferred to Denver, CO. He will be moving there the first week of September to begin work. He will be flying back to Ohio every other week-end as they prepare their Ohio house to sell.



Brian

They are building a new home in Castle Rock, CO, which should be finished in December. Although the family is excited about Castle Rock, the new church and community they have found there, as well as the opportunity for Brian to travel less, this is a huge and challenging move and they could use prayers and positive thoughts!

**Janice Waszak:** "I live in Seattle with my two kids, Jack (8) and Shaya (5). I've home-schooled for the last three years and taught Ancient History for elementary kids in our home-school co-op. We mummified things I won't mention lest I gross out my vegan friends, told stories about Candace the Nubian queen who stopped Alexander the Great in his tracks, built a kid-sized Phoenician trading ship. I've had a fantastic amount of fun. My kids head to traditional school this fall and I'm back working as a part-time



Janice and kids

marketing consultant. I still love to read books (classics), to garden, to laugh and to debate with enlightening souls.”

**Robin Hart Ruthenbeck:**

“Here’s my update ... such as it is: I am still living in Northfield, MN (home of cows, colleg-

es, and contentment), and working in St. Paul, MN, at Macalester College. Mac is a

great place to work, and in many ways reminds me of Western. (Seriously, if you’ve got kids approaching college age, give us a look. It was good enough for Walter Mondale and Kofi Anan.) Currently, I am honing my procrastination skills as I avoid completion of my dissertation. When it is done, I will have earned an Ed.D. in Educational Policy and Administration. Check back next year for a progress report. Find me on Facebook if you want to connect.”



Robin and friend



Tonya

**Tonya Bird Willow:**

“So, I just started a position at an International Baccalaureate school teaching K-8 as the ‘Unified Arts’ instructor. IB schools, if you are not familiar,

teach through six “transdisciplinary” themes. (I asked my head of school to tease out the nuanced particulars that would differentiate “interdisciplinary” from “transdisciplinary.” She said a bunch of stuff, but I am not sure I got it.) Regardless, it is pretty awesome that I actually got a job in the interdisciplinary field, if there is one. Ha ha! The IB modality is truly wonderful.”

**Todd Elliott:** “We missed the photo op, but my wife and I had a lovely time connecting with **Robin Hart Ruthenbeck** and her hus-



Todd

band, Paul, recently in a strip-mall restaurant in Faribault, MN!! How’s that for random?! Well, OK, maybe not THAT random, since it was planned a couple of weeks out, but still great to catch up and spend some time with another Westerner!”

**Dina Maiorana**

(writing in third person): “**Dina Maiorana** recently sent her dearest youngest daughter off to 12th grade, and her dearest oldest daughter has become a Buckeye and headed off to Ohio State. She is struggling to stop speeding but feels fortunate not to get caught. She recently proposed a new governmental agency, a special National Guard Female PeaceKeepers Corps that we can send in to prevent looting during protest situations. She states that it would be so much less tense not having the “puffed up men in a standoff” mentality that arises every time dudes in gear show up. She spends enough time on Facebook that it has infected her dreams. Her awesome husband dutifully clicks ‘like’ on all of her posts. She was unhappy with the sappy, maudlin ending of *True Blood*, which is totally justified — the dialogue was crap.”



Dina

**John Laprise** completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern before going to joining the faculty of Northwestern’s Qatar campus for five



John

years. He’s now trying to repatriate successfully back in the U.S. At the moment he is in Istanbul, Turkey, for an international Internet Governance Forum.

**Jon Kopp** lives in Brooklyn, NY, and has been working for the last 15 years as an independent creative technologist, digital producer, and artist. He is currently engaged with the venerable piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons to develop a new series of technology products including an online streaming service for classical music and a high-fidelity 21st century player piano.



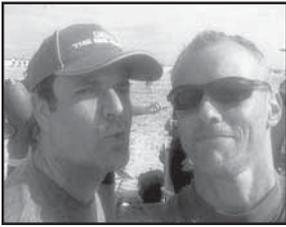
Jon

**Elizabeth (Lissa) Hurchalla** is living in Santa Monica with her husband, Kent, and their 4-year-old son, Dean. She writes and edits for Evite and Google and loves living close



Lissa and family

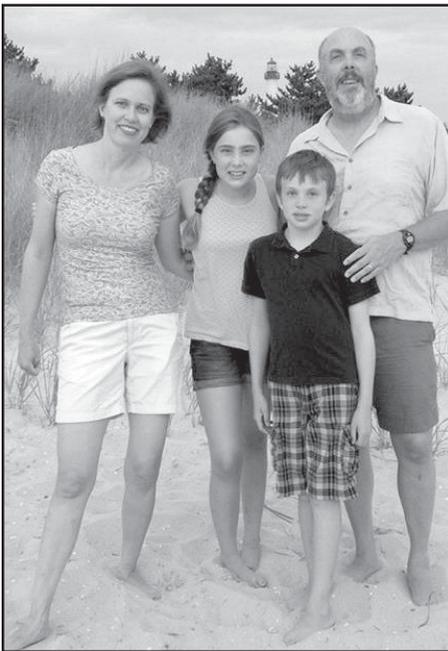
to the beach, though laments that her love for the ocean also means she’s still renting (“LA real estate, sigh”). Kent teaches film at Cal State Long Beach and El Camino College, and Dean just started transitional kindergarten at Ocean Charter School. Elizabeth still counts people she met at Western among her closest friends, and her husband now shares Muriel Blaisdell’s quote at graduation (“The point of education is to get more of the jokes!”) with his own students.



David and son

moved from Michigan to New England at the end of summer.

**Heather Lair:** "I am alive and well in Silver Spring, MD (technically a 'beltway insider'). Two kids, a funny husband, a mercurial cat. I might even call it bliss. As a public transportation maven, I have eschewed the minivan, but the truth is, I am a soccer mom (with poor carpooling prospects). I work on food and agriculture policy for a consensus building nonprofit called the Meridian Institute — we are working with diverse groups along the supply chain (including nutrition and public health) to transform the system and make food and ag a national policy priority.



Heather and family

"I miss my Western peeps. 'Recent' sightings include **Jon Ralinovsky** (who tunes pianos in exchange for B&B), **Cara Armstrong** (I took my kids to see Fallingwater but she had sadly moved on — I did get to hear the tour guides gush about her and see her children's book [*Moxie: The Dachshund of Fallingwater*] for sale in the museum gift shop) and **Chris Murray** (spotted on the metro — pathetically, I live 1.5 miles from him and NEVER see him!). If you are ever in DC, please give a shout. Chris Murray, I am going to track you down!"

**David Bidwell** joined the faculty of Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island in January 2014. Finally got his wife and two kids

**Lara Osborne:** I returned to Oxford two years ago because Oxford is where my son thrives. After two fatal blows to my academic career, I searched for a new path and got involved in the local food movement. I now serve on the board of the Oxford Farmers Market Uptown and am the representative to the state board of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, which certifies organic food in Ohio. I am currently working at the MOON Cooperative Market, but hope to go back into social work at some point.

**Lara Osborne '91**  
lara.osborne@gmail.com



**Brendan Kiely** and his wife, **Jessie Chaffee**, are spending the 2014-15 academic year in Florence, Italy, on **Jessie's Fulbright** to research and complete her novel set there. **Brendan's** first novel, *The Gospel of Winter*, was published in 2014 by a division of **Simon & Schuster** and will be translated and published in Spain, Brazil, Germany, Turkey, Italy and the Czech Republic in the following year. (Pictured: **Jessie and Brendan** in Istanbul on their belated honeymoon.). "Wishing all my Western friends a happy, healthy, and productive year. Be well!"  
kiely.brendan@gmail.com



Brendan and Jessie

**Karla (Schneider) Guinigundo** and husband **Billy** were thrilled to welcome daughter **Zora Lourdes** on August 15, 2014. Fellow



Baby Zora



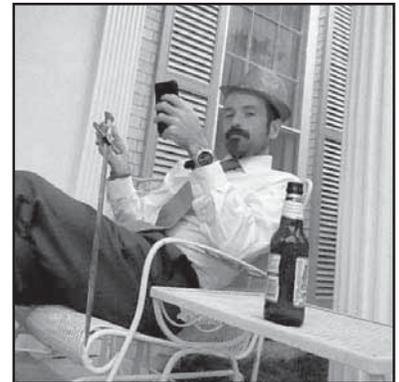
The new Guinigundo family

WCP Class of 1999 alumna **Molly (Meyers) Labadie** is Zora's godmother.

**Karla Schneider Guinigundo '99**  
guinigkm@miamioh.edu



**Sean Collins:** "I hope all is well. I don't know if all that much is new since the last time I did one of these. I still work for the public defender's office in Baton Rouge. However, I now defend adults charged with very



Marathoner-to-be Sean Collins

serious felonies, as opposed to children. I've also started long distance running as a way to stay in shape and reduce stress. I ran my first half-marathon in January and am currently training for a full in November over in Savannah."

**Mike Loeffelman:** "I am still at Purdue and still pursuing my Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies. I wish I was able to say something more exciting, but nothing is coming to me!"

**Kristin McCartney:** "I am still based in Chicago, and I just accepted an appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies at DePaul University. I began working as a college instructor in 2005: I have now taught over 50 courses, most have that familiar eau de West-

ern. My apartment faces a lagoon with lots of migrating water birds and turtles. I've become quite the naturalist while procrastinating on writing projects. People can find me on Facebook — where I still post photos that are likely to embarrass me when I am older ... or wiser."

**Erica Bland:** Erica has been working to push a higher minimum wage in the city of Chicago calling for \$15 an hour. She is also tying the knot Saturday, August 30, 2014,



*Blissful Erica and Mukaila*

to Mukaila Durosini and looking forward to enjoying a life of bliss.

**Leslie Allen:** "I am living in West Chester, OH, with my husband, Trevor, 12 year old step-daughter, Maddy, and almost 1-year-old daughter, Elsbeth. I recently started working as a staff attorney with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, where it turns out I work with a Western alum, although he graduated a few years earlier."

**Joy Usner '03**  
joyusner@gmail.com

## WCP Class Notes . . . Post Script

**Pulkit Datta** is **Class of '08**. In fact, he is the '08 Class Rep. But this news is too big to wait until the spring issue, when he will be officially reporting. Recently honored with one of Miami's prestigious "18 of the Last 9" young alumni awards, Pulkit was in Oxford in early November to accept his award and to participate in the four-day Indian film festival, "Women and Their Families: an Indian Lens."

Filmmaker extraordinaire in his own right, Pulkit introduced each of the eight diverse films dealing exclusively with the challenges Indian women are facing today. Last summer, he had worked closely with Lalita Satyal, professor of Hindi and festival coordinator, and Mary Jane Berman, professor of



This fall marks a decade since we piled into the living room in Peabody, notebooks and index cards ready, practically shaking with anticipation as Bill Newell coached us through our Senior Sem syllabus. I remember thinking ... it's finally here ... the mythical Senior Project. I didn't know whether to live with excitement or dread.

My senior project included my first community art project — a mural with students from my high school. It still hangs in the firehouse in our community 10 years later; but what I find truly surprising is that I use all of what I learned in that project in my job each year. I thought I was dabbling in this approach to art because I loved it. Turns out, a community art project has been a great addition to Xavier's orientation program for the last two years. My senior project lives on.

Over the last decade, our passions have flared up and sometimes flared out. We have continued to study (Congrats on the Ph.D., **Don Frederick!**). We have grown new ideas, new skills, new careers, new passions. Our locations have changed, and changed, and changed (**Erica Govich** moved to England and is getting married next year). Our adventuring has not (In 2014, **Sophia Turczynewycz Cifuentes** was in four countries in six months).

**Becky Singson Blank**, a Technical Strategy Architect at Rockfish, is also a leader of Girl Develop It-Cincinnati. She is bringing coding and tech skills to women who might never think to jump in. In just a few weeks (September 30), she is getting married.

**Bethany Weber** married Liz Martin, Cincinnati native, October 12, 2013, in a beautiful ceremony at Longworth Hall officiated by ... me. They proudly reside on the West Side in a home they bought last summer.

**Amanda Swisher Krisby** also bought a house last summer. She lives with her husband, Adam, and her son, Elliott, in Shaker Heights. Elliott is just about 8 months old, having arrived on Christmas Eve last year. She says she likes him a whole lot. Amanda continues to teach kids with autism while working towards her BCBA.

**Sarah Arnason** writes: "This year celebrated the fifth anniversary of Living Walls: The City Speaks, a nonprofit arts organization in Atlanta that seeks to change perspectives about public space through street art. My best friend founded this organization as an annual conference, and after completing my master's in Nonprofit Management I helped her build it into a sustainable entity with year-round programming. We painted our 100th mural this year — alongside installations, lecture series, movie screenings, and other community initiatives. And that's my volunteer work! I'm still employed by the humanitarian aid organization CARE, with whom I traveled to Bangladesh this year, and I'm about to head to East Africa in October. Somewhere in between I occasionally find time to breathe. At least I'm never bored!"

I imagine none of us as ever bored. I hope that as the leaves change this fall, you might think back to that last year of our time at Western together, not for the sake of nostalgia, but to see the growth and change you have experienced. I hope that we are all as passionate and inspired now as we were then. I am still convinced that we are on our way to changing the world ... one wall, one zoo, one school, one website ... at a time.

**Abby King-Kaiser '05**  
agkkaiser@gmail.com



*Plotting MU's first Indian Film Festival: Lalita Satyal, Instructor, German, Russian & East Asian Languages; Pulkit Datta WCP '08; and Mary Jane Berman, Director, Center for American & World Cultures*

# The Western Program

## Message from the Director

Greetings from Peabody Hall, as the leaves in Western Woods turn gold. The Western Program is moving in a new direction this semester with a pair of critical additions to the professional team.

We are searching for a fulltime Lecturer faculty member with interdisciplinary expertise in the broad area of Social Sciences. By casting the net wide in our advertisement, we are planning to recruit a highly effective teacher who will work with the growing number of Western majors with interests in issues of social policy, social change, and social activism. I am very excited about the prospects for diversifying the Western faculty through this Lecturer position. We hope to have our new colleague join us next fall.



Nik Money

The second hire will meet some of the challenges and opportunities associated with Kim Ernsting's move from Peabody. Kim has accepted a new position as Miami's Student Success Manager in the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Success. Kim has been a tremendous player in the development and launch of the Western Program in the College of Arts and Science and everyone is sorry to see her go. Our majors gave Kim a box of handwritten notes at a recent evening event that expressed their love and appreciation. Faculty and staff are similarly thankful for Kim's deep commitment to all things Western. We recognize, however, that Kim's move will allow her to impact a large number of students through her experience and personal warmth as an undergraduate advisor.

A new staff member titled Coordinator and Advisor will assume Kim's role in Western. In addition to advising Western majors, the Coordinator will work with University Studies students in the College who are in the process of deciding upon a major. This will help extend the visibility of the program across campus and introduce Western to the wider student body. I am eager to see how our Coordinator and Advisor will impact the vibrancy of our program.

Our activities evolve; our ethos is unchanged. Best wishes this fall.

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

## News from Student Activities Coordinator



Kim (seated, second from left) at the dinner honoring her

### Kim Ernsting Experience

In October of this year, **Kim Ernsting** took a new job within the university. [See adjacent column.] One of our seniors, **Andrea Christman**, wanted to make sure Kim knew how much all of the students she had come in contact with appreciated her. We invited alumni and each class in the Western Program, as well as some of the past residents from Peabody, to join in and write a note letting Kim know how much she impacted us. We also planned a dinner where her students could speak as well as give her notes. On the night of the dinner, Kim was surprised to know that it was all in her honor. We ordered Indian food, one of her favorites, and spent the time talking, laughing, and crying.

Kim is now at the Student Success Center, where she will be able to work with students throughout the university. We are excited to see her take this job where she will be able to utilize her skills in student affairs and continue seeing Miami students succeed.

### Study Abroad

During the spring semester, two of our current majors are traveling abroad to two very different locations. **Rachael White**, a junior, will be traveling to South Africa to partake in a program offering a service learning opportunity. She is hoping to have the ability to choose a program where she can work with mothers and children in the area. Rachael's major is directed to working with under-privileged children and their mothers, to help provide a better life and greater opportunities.

Also studying abroad is **Garrett Gust**. Garrett will be traveling with professors **Hays Cummins** and **Kevin Armitage** to Costa Rica, and remain there to study in the jungle.

His program will be all about developing sustainability. This program will help Garrett drive his major forward, focusing on business management and sustainability.

Both students will be back for their senior year and will be able to utilize their experiences from study abroad for their senior projects.

**Jacie Nowland** graduated from the Western Program May of 2014. Her senior project was centered around what makes people happy, and how are they able to find that happiness. She drew from her experience from her semester at sea. Now, Jacie has an opportunity to travel through New Zealand, participating in World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms.

Here is her story:



Jacie Nowland '14

“I have moved to New Zealand and am doing this program called wwoofing. It is a cultural exchange program for organic living organizations and communities. So, essentially, I work 4-5 hours a day on organic farms, gardens and ventures in self-sufficiency and I am then housed and fed three meals a day for that work in either host families’ homes or hostels or bed-and-breakfast’s. There are thousands and thousands of host sites all over the country and it is a very cheap and easy way to see all that NZ has to offer and explore. I will be here in NZ for a year and also traveling around Southeast Asia and doing some missionary work thereafter. This situation, believe it or not, just fell into my lap! Before I knew it, I realized I was doing something VERY Western, again. What are the odds! It is in our blood I assume.”

— Kate McPherson

**Hannah Mills '13**, Kate’s predecessor as WP Student Activities Coordinator, was recently recognized as an up-and-comer by her recently adopted city of Detroit. She is one of about 30 Challenge Detroit Fellows selected from hundreds of applicants.



Hannah Mills '13

Challenge Detroit is a nonprofit organization attempting to stem the flow of the city’s young talent to more vibrant urban areas nearby, such as Minneapolis and Chicago, by bringing together a group of innovative entrepreneurial thinkers. The stated goal is simple: “By bringing tomorrow’s leaders together to experience Detroit for a year, we will jump start a very important initiative: to attract and retain a creative and professional class in the city.”

As a Fellow, Hannah must live in Detroit, work approximately four days for her host company (Hello World), participate in monthly social and cultural activities, as well as team challenges positively impacting the community. It is hoped — expected — that after their year’s experience, the Fellows will “be intrigued to stay in Detroit, work in Detroit, even start their own business in Detroit.”

They also blog. Here is an excerpt from Hannah’s first, posted October 3:

*If it is possible to love a place that frightens you, then all that follows is true.*

*If at any point in my life you had tried to tell me I would move to Detroit, I would have politely ignored you. Detroit was a place for activists. Detroit was a place for artists. Detroit was a place for people with a plan. For better or worse I never had one of those. I knew that I loved people. I knew that I loved honesty. I knew that I loved media. Anything beyond those facts felt out of my control during my senior year of college. Yet here I am, typing to you from the city that so many seek to avoid.*

To read more, go here: <http://challengedetroit.org/blog/hannahmills/2014/10/31/two/>

Some of Hannah’s answers to a Q&A about her background: **Degree?** Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies with focus in Multimedia Design and Social Justice; Graduate Certificate in Interactive Media Studies ... **Leadership experience?** As a Student Activities Coordinator at Miami University, I balanced the diverse talents and passions of 15 student employees while planning and executing special events ... **Why Detroit?** From the creation of the assembly line to the birth of Motown, innovation is part of Detroit’s soul and starting the next chapter of my life here will allow me to tap into that energy while giving back to the city that has inspired so many of us.

## From the Archives . . . Beta Convention



Beta guests on Peabody porch, following Jacky Johnson's presentation in Leonard

During Beta Theta Pi fraternity's general convention in Oxford, August 6-9, Western archivist Jacky Johnson, garbed in rose dress and hat, gave a presentation in Leonard Theatre for "Beta sweethearts and ladies" on a guest excursion. The event was listed as the Beta Rose Rededication and was held at Peabody Hall. The Beta Rose was, of course, Miss McKee's rosebush.

Here's how one chapter's handbook tells why: *Betas who gathered to celebrate the Fraternity's Semi-Centennial in 1889 were guests of the Western Female Seminary at a reception. Here, roses of the "June" or "Queen of the Prai-*



On Peabody porch: Leila McKee, seated at right in the high-backed chair. The Beta Rosebush is behind her.

*rie" variety, growing on the bush adjacent to the veranda of Peabody Hall, were presented to several Betas, including Founders Knox and Marshall, at the suggestion of Leila McKee, Western's Principal. Later that summer, the 1889 Convention selected the rose as our official flower.*

And so, during the four days and dozens of events on the occasion of its 175th Anniversary Celebration & General Convention, Miami's second oldest fraternity took time to recognize and honor the 125th anniversary of Leila McKee's Beta Rose.

## . . . Harriet Beecher Stowe Lecture

On September 24, the Smith Library of Regional History and the WCAA sponsored the Harriet Beecher Stowe Program as part of an observance of the Civil War's sesquicentennial. Whitney Womack Smith, assistant professor of English and affiliate in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Miami-Hamilton, spoke on gender politics in 19th-century women's abolitionist writing — in particular, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Friends and alumnae of Western College are familiar with the "Harriet Beecher Stowe desk," at which Mrs. Stowe is believed to have written a great deal of her famous novel. It belonged originally to her Cincinnati neighbors and Western benefactors, the Tichenor family, but was donated to Western sometime after the Civil War. The desk now stands in the Peabody bedroom at Patterson Place.



At the Harriet Beecher Stowe Program (from left): Warren Waldron; Valerie Elliott, manager of the Smith Library; speaker Professor Womack Smith; Judy Waldron, retired WCAA director; and Jane Smucker Fryman '58.

## . . . and an Unforgettable Alumna

Alert Reader **Jane Alexander Durrell '47** ran across a mention of Western College most unexpectedly . . . in *Janet Flanner's Uncollected Writings: 1932-1975* (1979) and wondered what, if anything, Western knew of one famous alumna: "...this book is a sort of sweeping up of works that hadn't appeared in book form before. Finding Western College there brought me up short.



*Margaret Anderson '06*

"Deep into it, in a piece that appeared June 3, 1974, Flanner writes at length about **Margaret Anderson**, 'the last standing figure from that small early circle of amateur American publishers — oddly enough, all female — whose avant-garde output a half century ago unexpectedly became a new kind of important international literature.' What Anderson did was publish, in serial form, over a period of three years in the early 1920s in her magazine *The Little Review*, the first appearance of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Anderson had gone to Western College from 1903 to 1906, apparently deciding before her senior year that it was time for something new and so moved to Chicago.

"Flanner writes of Anderson's physical beauty which 'enveloped a will of tempered steel, specifically at its most resistant when she was involved in argument, which was her

favorite form of intellectual exercise, as I, who knew her for many years, can attest.' The *Review* founder 'early developed such a wayward, precocious infatuation with piano music that when she entered Western College for Women, a classic freshwater institution in Ohio, she was able to persuade the faculty to let her skip the regular freshman courses and major in piano-playing instead ... She was the born enemy of convention and discipline — a feministic romantic rebel with an appetite for Chopin and for indiscriminate reading. But conversation was her real passion.' Perhaps because Western didn't offer her enough of the latter, she went off to Chicago in 1906, later to Paris, and to a chancy future that surely included plenty of good talk. She mixed about, in Paris, with Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein and eventually wrote three autobiographical volumes although Flanner, who seems to have been fond of her but not bedazzled, says 'she was not a good writer, but she was an animated memorialist of what had made her life vivid and unforgettable.' Alas, so far as I can tell, she did not remember Western as doing either of those things for her, although I suspect it shaped her more than she knew."

*But we remember her! Searching WCMA, Jacky Johnson found a long New Yorker profile, Margaret's sketchy answer to a WC questionnaire, a response to a researcher from former archivist Jean Perry, but no Multi pictures.*

## Around the World . . . Global Initiatives

On November 20, Global Initiatives and the WCAA co-sponsored a panel discussion featuring four distinguished Western College alumnae. **Karla Schneider Guinigundo (WCP '99)**, Associate Director of Global Initiatives, moderated.

The program was a highlight event of the nationally celebrated International Education Week (November 16-21) that included workshops, information sessions, and other activities. **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65**, **Judy Dudman Henderson '62**, **Fran Hoffman '65**, and **Sylvia Stanfield '65** were asked to speak about the impact of their Western international education on their lives and careers. All emphasized the positive and far-reaching effects of the many components of Western's global focus beginning in 1954 such as living with the many students from other countries, studying under professors from abroad, summer travel seminars to the Far East, Africa, Middle East, and Latin America. After graduation they went on to leadership positions in their various careers: university administration, voluntarism and the ministry, the EPA, and Foreign Service.



*Western IEW Panelists (from left): Janet Dickerson-Stephens, Judy Henderson, Fran Hoffman and Sylvia Stanfield*

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## *. . . and Project Dragonfly*

Applications are now being accepted for 2015 field courses and the Global Field Master's Program, which offers groundbreaking courses in 13 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Earth Expeditions graduate courses and the Global Field Program (GFP) master's degree bring together graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical conservation sites worldwide. Sites for 2015 include the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guy-

ana, Hawai'i, India, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia and Thailand.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

Earth Expeditions: [http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15\\_news](http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15_news)

Global Field Program: [http://gfp.miamioh.edu/14-15\\_news](http://gfp.miamioh.edu/14-15_news)

**Deadline: January 28**

## **From the Area Clubs**



*Great turnout at the October NY/CT/NJ luncheon! Seated (L to R): Suzanne Lutz May '66, Elisa Kessler Caporale '67, Joan Barenholtz '67, Lusandre Chaudruc '66; standing: Michelle McVicker '14, Laura Dobbins '86, Evie Small Hohler '64, Eva Nortvedt Humbach '63, Lynne Drucker Albukerk '64, Hazel Williams Drew '66, Stephanie Smith Siegfried '67, Sue Anderson '74, Jane Toy Thomason '59, Brenda Grant Davis '66 and Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65*



*After WCAA Director Mackenzie Becker Rice's presentation on the Western College Legacy Circle, the Indianapolis group decided to buy a brick! At the November 1 luncheon, (L to R): Mary Baumer Baker '59 (seated), Linda Watts '73, Karen Kleinknecht '74, Sally Raub Alkire '58, Pam Watts Coates '70, Sue Off Schrope '52 (seated), Liz Vance Frydell '58 and Lynne Mueller Sweeney '73*



*Call it Cincy or SW Ohio, this group was just happy to get together November 21st! Seated (L to R): Paula Flynn '71, Cathy Bauer Cooper '60, Jane Graham Murphy '66, Bunny Bartizal Proctor '49, Betty Huttenbauer Heldman '49, Jane Alexander Durrell '47, Barbara Johnson Mecklenborg '53. Standing: WCAA Senior Program Assistant Debbie Baker, MU Director Regional Development/Cincy Jennifer Clark, Sarah Rutherford Behrendt '56, Nia Jones Terry '63, Barbara Williamson Wentz '68, Betty Sipe Gerber '52, Pris Strand Berry '54, Marita Lakonen Judge '53, Joyce Roark Phillips '56, WCAA Director Mackenzie Becker Rice*

## Send your news for the Spring '15 Bulletin NOW!

E-mail, or clip and mail the form below to your Class Rep or the WCAA by February 2!

If no name is listed for your class, please send your update to the WCAA address.

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

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

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

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

## What's new on campus ... now and in the future!



*Beechwoods Hall  
2014*



*Western Walkway and Stonebridge Hall  
2014*



*Western Dining Commons  
2014*

**Western College Legacy Circle  
2016? 2015?**



**I**t is so exciting to now roll out our new Legacy goal. Once again, it's to be funded by the generosity of our alumnae through donations, pledges or planned giving opportunities. How generous and how participatory we are will define the extensiveness of our lasting legacy project(s).

A significant plot of land across the creek that runs behind Patterson Place, alongside Western Walkway, has been set aside for our landscaped Legacy project. It's focal, it's functional, it's beautifully framed. This project, entitled the Western College Legacy Circle, is a campus gathering area. As you have seen in the recently mailed materials, the focal point will be the Western seal embedded in the center, and the Story of Western will be reflected in the generous seating area.

However your life has been shaped by the Spirit of Western, you won't want to miss this opportunity to help fund the Western College Legacy Circle. Just as our many stone bridges have continued to bustle with activity, now the new Western Walkway is busy with students walking and riding bikes to and from classes. This Legacy Project will be our major addition to this vibrant Miami University campus. The decisions we each make for the Legacy Project funding will assure that what *was* will always *be* the Western campus. I am listening for your enthusiastic response: "Count me in!"

Sincerely,

*Judy Dudman Henderson*

*Judy Dudman Henderson, Class of '62  
First Vice President/Treasurer, WCAA, Inc.  
Co-Chair, Legacy Fundraising Committee*



**As of December 2014, gifts  
and pledges = \$259,419 (74.1%)**

We are encouraging 100% participation! **Gifts of any amount** are significant and will help the Association complete this lasting legacy. Individual classmates, family members, or friends may group contributions to sponsor a donor category. For more information, contact: WCAA Office (513) 529-4400 or [wcaa@miamioh.edu](mailto:wcaa@miamioh.edu).

**To help us meet our goal of \$350,000,  
mail your contribution to:**

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

**or contribute online at:  
[www.miamioh.edu/wcaa](http://www.miamioh.edu/wcaa)**

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**ON THE CAMPUS**  
**ALUMNAE WEEKEND 2015**  
**JUNE 12-14**