



Class of '45 — 70 Years Young!

From the WCAA Director

Happy Holidays Westerners!

We hope you are looking forward to a joyous holiday season. As we, the staff of the Western College Alumnae Association, take a look back on the last year, we are in awe of all that was accomplished together. What a year this has been! I truly cannot imagine a more passionate and enthusiastic alumnae association, especially one that has not had a parent institution in 41 years!



Mackenzie Becker Rice

Go back in time with me. We finalized fundraising for the Western College Legacy Circle, and are now in the process of approving the final materials and tweaks so that it will be finished (fingers crossed) for Alumnae/i Weekend 2016. The new Western College Endowed Professor was hired and is now on campus (and she is amazing — more info on her inside). Alumnae Weekend was a huge success, as were other regional club gatherings. We awarded 213 scholarships totaling \$557,975 in the last academic year. And finally — we helped save Patterson Place from being razed!

This last accomplishment is particularly meaningful to many previous and current WCAA Boards of Trustees, as well as WCAA staff. Patterson Place is special. As the home of many Western College presidents and, more recently, the home of the Western College Alumnae Association, Patterson Place tells a powerful tale about education, passion, and innovation. The historic building — with its pictorial setting and stone bridges — has become an iconic part of the Miami campus as much as it was to the campus of Western College. So picturesque is Patterson Place that an artist recently came for a meeting, and was so struck by its exterior beauty that he painted the below watercolor in just a few minutes while waiting for his meeting to occur!

The interior of Patterson Place holds so many treasures as well. Often at the end of the day, I will sit in the parlor and let myself imagine some of the different events and meetings that Patterson Place hosted. This would include dinners and teas hosted by the Western presidents, WCAA Board meetings, receptions, and most recently, student classes. If these walls could talk!

Patterson Place, while still beautiful, is however in need of a lot of work, including meeting fire codes and in order to be ADA compliant. I hope you will join the Western, Miami and Oxford communities in financially contributing to saving this charming reminder of Western history and legacy.

Finally, I just want to say thanks. We continue to be humbled by your loyalty and dedication to the WCAA and grateful for the selfless ways you make a positive difference in the name of Western College.

Wishing you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons!

In the Spirit of Western,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mackenzie".



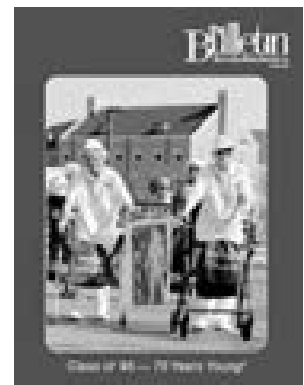
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Mission of the Association:

- 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: Joyfully leading the Reunion Parade, Ardis Dechman Coninx '45 and Margie Gasche Ewing '45, personify the mood of the Weekend and the spirit of Western!

Photo credit: Megan McCracken, student employee



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What's on Your Mind

*In her chapel talk at Alumnae Weekend, June 14, 2015, **Fran Hoffman '65** spoke of “that spirit, that energy, the Western experience” as it became part of her and she of it. We regret being unable to bring you the entire address in these pages, but hope these brief excerpts will whet your appetite for reading every word.* To fully appreciate the twinkle in Fran's eye as she recounted particular anecdotes, well ... you had to be here. [Note: Plan now to be here next year for our 2016 speaker!]*

Ah! Western! It is so good to be here and to be with you! We have all, each one of us, come for a number of reasons:



Dr. Frances E. Hoffman

- To honor our past
- To celebrate friendships and memories of this college as it was ... is it really — for my class — 50 years ago!?
- To continue to serve as witnesses to each other's lives
- To congratulate each other and wish each other well
- And to tap into a familiar West-

ern spirit — a sweet gift of renewed vision and vigor that I refer to as the fabric of Western.

... I have been asked to talk about how being part of Western impacts my life, and to focus on the international aspects of Western and my involvement in civil rights. Now that means I must talk about myself far more than is comfortable. I am trusting that each of you will travel with me

When I try to understand how my life has evolved and where it may lead, I find that the concept “enduring threads of meaning” is singularly useful. Enduring threads of meaning — What aspects of my life, what continuing themes, over time elicit a sense of comfort and of joy ... of knowing. ...

Some threads I can trace to my early childhood — a love of, and an awe and curiosity about nature, a passion for music, an interest in farming, the importance of education, of being an active participant in the life of a community, being fair and appreciating the value of friendships with children from a range of backgrounds. ...

Other threads arose a little later ... the value of hard work and persistence in working towards a goal, learning to feel confident in the face of adversity, a sense of equality, of ethical behavior, and a growing need to engage in the world beyond my neighborhood. When my family moved to Georgia in the mid 1950's when I was in my pre and early teens, the sense of equality and ethics crystallized into a commitment to civic and political action. ...

I found, upon examining my experience at Western College for Women that well-considered supportive attentiveness and action predominated, and I thrived! I am so grateful and I have benefitted immensely.

Looking back, the Western fabric provided an all-pervasive intentional pursuit of creating the best possible learning environment, helping us all grow as individuals in the ways best suited for ourselves. ...

For me, the three most significant aspects of the Western fabric from which I benefitted were the international program, my academic instruction, and the opportunities for leadership development.

International Program

... What I carry with me as a result of the Western College model for international emphasis is the understanding that this approach of respect, inquiry, open listening and communication, and appreciation served as a universal learning and relationship-building method for me. That Western fabric removed barriers, minimized misunderstanding, and made room for creative, positive interaction. What a gift!

Academic Strengths

... I credit Dr. Josephine Schaefer for setting the stage for my sharpening my literary analytical skills and writing capabilities — I worked so hard in that Freshman English class — squeezing the meaning out of every word of Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair*. I'm sure that had a direct connection later on in graduate school to my ability to write a book review about a topic I wasn't deeply familiar with, and get the first draft published in a highly regarded professional journal! ...

She and I shared a double passion for organic chemistry and for baking. She did all she could to encourage me, inspire me and open doors. Classes were small, 6 or fewer of us. And with us — or at least with me — she made the subject come alive. I loved organic chemistry! Not many can say that. And even though I did not make that my profession, I learned well and enough so that I could read and understand the technical material pertaining to municipal waste combustion and later to brownfields redevelopment and methods for cleaning up contamination.

Leadership Development

Now here's the sleeper... the gem that is not in the college brochure, that is as much a part of the Western fabric as the international emphasis or the educational excellence ... leadership development.

I was beginning to hit my stride toward the end of my sophomore year and got up the nerve (thank you, Peggy Gaebler-Morscheck, my roommate that year, for your encouraging kicks and nudges) to run for the office of Junior Chairman. With a lot of support I won the election.

In that position, I had the remarkable fortune of being under the tutelage of Phyllis Hoyt, Dean of Students. The responsibilities of the office of Junior Chairman included being "mother hen" to the entering Freshman Class, until they elected their officers later on in the year, and to serve as the organizational point person for the Sophomore Counselors, who were assigned to assist groups of freshman. During that year I learned a great deal about campus life and the responsibilities of the institution in protecting and enabling the students. That was the year of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I was in Dean Hoyt's office when the campus was made aware of the event, and I watched how the administration responded. So many lessons. . . .

Civil Rights

. . . When Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders of the civil rights movement began to focus on the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, it became a hot topic on campus. A small group of us organized a fund-raising effort on campus to raise money to pay travel expenses for representatives from Western to participate in the march. We gave speeches and collected funds to cover travel costs for students who would represent Western in the march. I was fortunate to have been one of those that were selected to participate.

We travelled from Cincinnati to Atlanta, joining my father and the delegation from the Unitarian-Universalist denomination driving from Atlanta to the rallying point at a church on the outskirts of Montgomery. The experience was like no other. Thousands of marchers, arm-in-arm in tight lines, tense, solemn and singing. Thousands of people lining the road — some shouting vile, cruel threatening words,

some cheering us on — hundreds perhaps thousands of police, the state and local police mostly grimacing, taunting, and the federal troops stone-faced and protective — I can still see the little elementary school children smiling and clapping and an old gentleman sitting on a chair on the sidewalk, wiping tears from his eyes.

We drove back to Atlanta that evening, both exalted and shaken by what we had seen, heard, experienced. And we traveled back to Western to share our impressions with our college family.

It was not until I was thinking about this reunion that it occurred to me that a lot must have been going on behind the scenes among Dean Hoyt, Dean Abbott and President Young to help make this happen well. They facilitated the use of lecture halls, quietly supported our collecting money and helped us think through the process by which we selected our representatives. There was never a sense of holding back on their part, even though there must surely have been concern for our safety and welfare, and for the college's liability. They worked with us, never limiting our goals, nor trying to take over any aspect of the project. This was leadership training in action. It was the college administration finding an opportunity to help us grow.

How different that was in comparison to the reaction of the administrations of Boston College, Tufts and Brandeis University when as graduate students, a number of us attending those institutions collaborated to protest the war in Vietnam. We met solid resistance upon the part of the university administrations and so we ended up in a much less creative circumstance ... we shut the graduate schools down for a spell.

Time and again I witnessed and benefitted from the studied intentional emphasis on opening up new worlds, encouraging exploration, and nurturing competence and leadership potential on the part of Dean Hoyt, President Young, and faculty.

I think that our experience — the Western fabric — is quite unique. I know that I was shown a model for learning and living ... a good and powerful model.

. . .

**We urge you to read Fran's address in its entirety! Copies are available from the office, or it can be found online at: www.miamioh.edu/University_Advancement/WCAA/Reunion2015/FranHoffmanWesternReunionChapelTalkJune2015.pdf*

Meet Our Western College Endowed Professor . . .

On June 26, 2015, three years after our goal had been reached, Miami University Provost Phyllis Callahan addressed this letter to the WCAA Board of Trustees, announcing the awarding of our Professorship:

Dr. Jana Evans Braziel has been named Western College Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies.

This spring, Dean Christopher Makaroff, the new Dean of the College of Arts and Science, appointed a search committee composed of faculty in the interdisciplinary programs and conducted a national search. Dr. Braziel was selected from among a pool of highly qualified applicants. She was the first choice of the faculty and Dean Makaroff. Her credentials were reviewed and evaluated by a committee of full professors who hold appointments in an interdisciplinary program. In recommending Dr. Braziel for full professor rank, Dr. Sheila Croucher, University Distinguished Professor American Studies, wrote on behalf of the committee:

The Ad Hoc Promotion and Tenure Committee for the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies has completed its evaluation of Professor Jana Braziel and is pleased to report that we find her credentials meet fully the requirements for tenure and the rank of full professor.

Scholarship: *Professor Braziel received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2000. Her professional accomplishments over the past 15 years have been extensive. She is the author of four books published by highly respected presses, and the co-editor of five additional books. She has published 16 articles in scholarly journals and 10 book chapters. She also has a number of manuscripts under review and in progress. Dr. Braziel's work has earned a number of awards and been positively reviewed in respected scholarly outlets. She has clearly established an excellent record of high quality scholarship and her current projects point to a trajectory of continued research excellence in the future.*

Teaching: *Professor Braziel has taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate and graduate level and been recognized for her excellence in teaching with a number of awards.*

Service: *Dr. Braziel has a strong record of significant service to her university and to the profession. At the University of Cincinnati, she held positions as Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, and the Director of the Taft Research Center, and served on a range of important committees including the College Curriculum Committee and the Undergraduate Research Council. She also serves on editorial boards and as a reviewer for several university presses and respected scholarly journals.*

In sum, Dr. Jana Braziel has established a record of excellence in all categories and brings academic credentials that unquestionably warrant tenure and the rank of full professor in the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies.

Today, the Miami University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution to appoint Dr. Braziel as chair and full professor with tenure at Miami University. The resolution states:

BE IT RESOLVED: *that the Board of Trustees hereby approves appointment as chair and professor, and the award of tenure to:*

Jana Evans Braziel

Chair & Professor

Department of Global & Intercultural Studies with tenure

Effective upon commencement of Miami University employment, August, 2015.

Your support and your vision helped make this appointment possible. On behalf of Miami University, the College of Arts and Science and the new Department of Global and Intercultural Studies, I thank all of you so much for your generous contributions and efforts in support of our faculty and the quality of our programs for our students. Your vision and your commitment to excellence has made a profound difference as we establish this new department. I believe this is an extraordinary way to honor the legacy of the Western College and you have played a critical role in ensuring the Western College tradition lives on in a meaningful and significant way.

. . . Jana Evans Braziel



President Judy Dudman Henderson '62 (right) introduces Dr. Braziel to trustees at the October Board meeting. She was their guest of honor for an informal dinner at Patterson Place. In her remarks, Dr. Braziel assured the group that she was fast learning all she could about Western College — and very much liking what she was learning. In a personal aside, she shared the correct pronunciation of her first name, Jana (rhymes with banana), and revealed a family link (albeit with a few degrees of separation) to Western College — her daughter is a student at Mount Holyoke!

In the introduction we asked Dr. Braziel to write (here excerpted), she included a detailed and evocative account — plus stunning color photographs — of her last seven years visiting the Grand Rue Galerie in downtown Port-au-Prince. She talked with writers and artists “who live and create in the Caribbean island most plagued by poverty, environmental degradation, natural disasters, flooding, and unsustainable housing, yet who thrive as creative thinkers who reinvent waste as art and resist the abjection of their circumstances.” We urge you to read her complete article on our website: www.miamioh.edu/wcaa.

In the spirit of Western!

As a scholar who values public dialogue, vigorous intellectual debate, engaged thought, and sustained political activism, I am honored to join the wonderful women who are the graduates and alumnae of Western College. In the spirit of Western, I too have assayed breaking down the barriers between theory and praxis, the classroom and the world around us, the academy and the public. As a scholar and teacher, I have devoted my intellectual career to Caribbean Studies; and within that larger geographical and archipelagic terrain, I have dedicated by thought, time, blood, sweat and tears to understanding and translating the rich cultural traditions, the artistic and ritualistic beauty, and the heroic history of the Republic of Haiti and Haitians to others in the Americas, particularly citizens of the United States.

In the Spirit of Western!, I have spent the last eighteen years exploring the culture, religion, history, art, literature, and politics of Haiti; and I have received from Haiti and from Haitians immeasurable gifts.

Having earned my Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, I held the Five College Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Center for Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (CISA) and was Visiting Assistant Professor of Black Studies and English at Amherst College from 2002-2003. Before joining the faculty at Miami University as the Western College Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies, I was also Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati. My scholarly and pedagogical interests are American hemispheric literatures and cultures, Caribbean studies, Haitian studies, and the intersections of diaspora, transnational activism, and globalization. Committed to scholarly research and intellectual inquiry I have written and published four books: *Duvalier's Ghosts: Race, Diaspora, and U.S. Imperialism in Haitian Literatures* (2010); *Caribbean Genesis: Jamaica Kincaid and the Writing of New Worlds* (2009); *Artists, Performers, and Black Masculinity in the Haitian Diaspora* (2008); and *Diaspora: An Introduction* (2008). My fifth book “*Riding with Death*”: *Vodou Art and Urban Ecology in the Streets of Port-au-Prince* is currently under review for publication; and I am also completing a new manuscript entitled *All Too Human? Haiti and Human Rights since Aristide*.

And I am truly proud and honored to be joining you as one of the valiant women *in the spirit of Western!*

— **Jana Evans Braziel, Western College Endowed Professor**
Department of Global and Intercultural Studies



WESTERN COLLEGE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

In 2009, when the Professorship was created and fundraising began, it was to be awarded simply to “outstanding faculty working in the areas of women’s history and/or public history and/or the history of social justice.” Once the goal had been reached — and exceeded — the Board of Trustees approved language more clearly defining and expanding the scope of the award: *Faculty members selected for the Western College Endowed Professorship will be tenure-eligible, full-time faculty members in any department or program in the College of Arts and Science who focus their research and teaching on international/global studies, women’s issues, or social justice movements and/or issues. In the tradition of Western College, this Professorship will support a faculty member who focuses on political and economic issues related to the above-mentioned using interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches while considering intercultural perspectives.*

About the GIC, from CAS Dean Christopher Makaroff’s August 12 memo to the WCAA:

The new Department of Global & Intercultural Studies is set to integrate six CAS programs, elevate their visibility, and enhance collaborative opportunities across Miami for faculty and students.

It is my pleasure to announce the formation of **the new Department of Global and Intercultural Studies (GIC)** within the College of Arts and Science (CAS). Starting this fall, the GIC will shine a spotlight on Miami’s liberal arts curriculum and build on existing synergies through **the integration of six CAS programs:**

- American Studies (AMS)
- Asian/Asian American Studies (AAA)
- Black World Studies (BWS)
- International Studies (ITS)
- Latin American Studies (LAS)
- Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGS)

Jana Evans Braziel, formerly Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati, has been named the new GIC chair and Western College Endowed Professor. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and her research area is modern Haiti and Haitian-American culture.

“The GIC will foster needed interdisciplinary engagement around issues of geopolitical, economic, environmental, international, and interpersonal relations in a rapidly changing world,” Braziel said. “Our department will also enhance our critical understandings of gender, sexuality, racial politics, and economic disparities among diverse populations of the world.”

President’s Message

Greetings WCAA Friends,

What a beautiful fall this has been and we are beginning to ease our way into winter. Winter means something different to all of us. And, I think it provides a metaphor for how we feel the end run of the WCAA is heading.

Like you, I love Western — my invaluable education, opportunities it has provided, my increasingly fading memories, friends I keep close to heart, my trips back to campus for reunions and (now) board meetings. But, there is this sense of looming on the horizon to the day that we close the WCAA in 2024.

So let us rest assured that all will be well. Patterson Place has been preserved thanks to the hard work of our membership, our staff, friends of the Oxford community, environmentalists, the local newspapers, the effectiveness of a social media petition and even Miami faculty and students. The creek running in front of Patterson is now cleaned out and two bridges once unseen, are most beautifully visible. Our green space is secure!

But, the building is tired and doesn’t meet the present day fire or disabilities codes. There is a fiduciary understanding that WCAA will help raise at least a portion of the funds needed to refurbish and bring the building up to standards. I am confident we will do what is right and do our part.

As we look to the 2024 horizon, we must complete our articulation agreement with Miami covering all the details of what we do with our art and artifacts, the staff, our records and how we’ll function in the future. This is a work in progress under the pro bono legal leadership of Anne Weissenborn. Rest assured — once again — your WCAA Board is very mindful of the treasures we have and the possibilities for appropriate distribution.

Two things give us comfort as we look to 2024. First, the Legacy Circle is expected to be completed and dedicated at the 2016 Reunion. Architect Bob Keller updated the Board in October. Your generous contributions are allowing us to have first class construction and materials. Second, the Board met the first Western College Endowed Professor — Dr. Jana Braziel. She’s young but most experienced, she’s intelligent and articulate, and she’s charming and engaging. Both the “Circle” and the “Chair” assure our WCAA mark.

So, as we move to the horizon of 2024, let’s be thinking only of a CELEBRATION, with many mini-celebrations all along the pathway to our new future.

Judy Doolman Henderson

Meet Your New Trustees

Priscilla Strand Berry '54 graduated from Western with a major in psychology. She is a resident of Oxford and served on the original WCAA, Inc. Board of Trustees. Pris worked for Miami University and the Oxford Research Association. She has served as a volunteer in the community for many years and is currently a docent at the Miami University Art Museum, serves on the Lane Public Library Board, and is active in the Presbyterian Church. She and Dr. Robert Berry (deceased) have two children and five grandchildren.



Pris

Betsy Salt '74 graduated from The Western College in 1974. She then went on to get a master's degree in anthropology from Ohio State University (1975) and a master's degree in library science (1979) from Indiana University. Her first professional librarian job was at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. Following that she took a job as Catalog Librarian at Otterbein University, where she worked for 31 years until recently retiring. Betsy has always maintained a keen interest in promoting the WCAA and its projects. She is the daughter of Alice Schacht Salt '47 and served as a WCAA trustee in 1976-1978 before pursuing her second master's degree at Indiana University. Betsy's hobbies include travel, reading, and gardening.



Betsy

Patricia Spokes Snowden '64 graduated from Western with a major in history. She then attended Oberlin for graduate school. Her marriage to Ned Snowden, an Army officer, brought several tours in both the Orient and Europe before they returned to Washington, DC. Patricia taught in Japan and the Netherlands and became the history chair at a private school upon their return to the States. Since leaving the classroom, she has worked for the National Geographic Society and an environmental nonprofit, developing



Patricia

educational programs. A widow with an adult daughter, she currently teaches and continues her volunteer work for church and local public broadcasting.

We want YOU! Think about volunteering... Here's what two current trustees have to say about their experience on the Board:

Sharry Patterson Addison '61:

"... we have a very engaged board and proudly worked quite hard along with residents of Oxford, Miami faculty and students, to SAVE Patterson Place! We will be collaborating with Miami to manage much needed repairs on Patterson Place to preserve it for years to come. The construction of the Legacy Circle will be underway soon — we are so very proud of all those who have participated to make this happen."

Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61:

"I have one more year left in my present term on the WCAA board of trustees. It has been great to be a part of that group at the same time as **Sharry Addison** and **Cindy Horne**. I'm sure they would agree with my encouraging others in our class to self-nominate. Being on the board is fun and also quite satisfying despite momentary downsides such as when we thought we'd be losing Patterson Place. The staff is wonderfully devoted to our association and to the contributions which our alma mater made to the whole concept of undergraduate education. My goal for my last year is the completion of an articulation agreement with Miami U. like the one we already have with the Miami U. Foundation, thereby assuring a structure for the preservation of Western legacies after 2024."

Talk to any trustee or contact the office:

WCAA, Inc., 325 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 45056; 513-529-4400; wcaa@miamioh.edu

Speaking of Social Justice

*There exists in New Market, TN, the Highlander Research and Education Center, a social justice leadership training school and cultural center. Founded in 1932 as the Highlander Folk School, it was originally located in the community Summerfield in Grundy County, TN, near the town of Monteagle. A major benefactor of the school was **Lilian Wyckhoff Johnson, President of Western College, 1904-06**. At the Highlander homecoming September of this year, a new building was dedicated to her. Here in part is the account of the ceremony by Pam McMichael, Highlander director, and Sherry Hebers, author of *Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times*.*

At the Highlander Center Homecoming celebration on September 26, 2015, a beautiful new residential facility was dedicated to the original benefactor, **Dr. Lilian Wyckhoff Johnson**. The lodge will provide welcoming, comfortable and accessible accommodations for those attending workshops at Highlander Research and Education Center (HREC) as well as a place to continue discussions in rocking chairs on the screened-in porch or to rest and enjoy the view from the hilltop. Highlander is an education center for social justice that facilitates workshops, trainings and processes for individuals and groups interested in bringing change at the grassroots level. Myles Horton and Don West founded Highlander in 1932 with the intent of improving economic conditions in Appalachia and preserving the rich culture of the region. However, they needed a place to create a culture that invites people to work together, sing together, learn from each other, and plan action. Dr. Lilian Johnson gave them the space to do that.

Pam McMichael, Director of Highlander, welcomed Homecoming guests from across the country and generations to the ribbon cutting ceremony. The lodge is the result of a capital campaign entitled *Generations to Come*, and it is the first new building in twenty years and only the second in forty years. Elnora Williams, a local retired school principal and member of the capital campaign steering committee, shared the story of Dr.

Lilian Johnson, a pioneer in education who not only deeded her home and land to Highlander Folk School in 1935 but stayed involved through fundraising, attending workshops, and providing support when Highlander was under attack because of involvement in civil rights.

The dedication included a scene from the play, *Aunt Lilian's Deed*, written by Dr. Sherry Herbers, a professor at the University of the Incarnate Word, chronicling the beginning of Highlander Folk School through the eyes of Dr. Johnson. Will Brummett, Board Member of Stay Together Appalachia Youth, played the role of Myles Horton, Samir Hazboun, Highlander staff member read the part of Don West, McMichael was the trusted confidant of Johnson, May Justus, and Herbers read the role of Lilian Johnson. Excerpts from Dr. Herbers' play are sometimes used in Highlander workshops as a way to spark conversation about today's work as well as share history about Lilian Johnson and her role in helping support and sustain the founding years of Highlander.

The ceremony concluded with seven people from across the generations of social activism cutting the ribbon to open the way to a new space. The new lodge was built on the core values of simple comfort, accessibility, community and harmony with the environment, all values important to Lilian Johnson.



Not only has Dr. Sharon Herbers, Assistant Professor at the University of the Incarnate Word, devoted a chapter in her book *Tennessee Women to Lilian Johnson*, she has written an entire play about her. Aunt Lilian's Deed takes place between 1932 and 1935 and looks at dueling philosophies about preserving their rural mountain culture. She says, "It is a joy to share the story of Dr. Lilian, she has inspired me." Here are excerpts from her biographical profile:

Dr. Lilian Johnson (1864-1956) was born in Memphis, Tennessee, to parents who valued education and community service. Her mother was involved in reform movements and her father, a successful businessman, started a night school for young men orphaned by the yellow fever epidemic. Lilian succeeded her father as teacher and principal of Hope Night School. However, he urged her to continue her education. This led her to the State Normal School in Cortland, NY, to the University of Michigan for her A. B., to the Sorbonne and the University of Leipzig, and ultimately, to Cornell University where she earned a doctorate in Medieval History in 1902.

Her first career was in higher education. She taught at Vassar and at the University of Tennessee with the clear intention of founding a prestigious college for women in Memphis. In 1904 Johnson was appointed President of Western College for Women. In 1906 she returned to Memphis to join forces with local women's organizations to establish a normal school (teachers' college). ...

A fortuitous meeting led Johnson in a new direction. David Lubin, the founder of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, was introduced to Dr. Johnson at a conference in Nashville in 1912. He persuaded her to come to Rome to study at the Institute. Her interactions with Lubin convinced her of the value of agricultural cooperatives. **This woman of conviction spoke so persuasively to governors at a conference at the White House that she was invited by President Wilson to assist in the creation of a commission to study agricultural cooperatives in Europe. She visited ten countries with this commission and helped to compile a report to Congress. During 1913 she spoke to over thirty thousand people about cooperatives.** [bold ours] As a woman of action, she was not satisfied with just talking about the principles. She longed to put these ideas into practice.

In 1915 Johnson moved to Grundy County, TN, and established Kin-Co, a cooperative of "kin-folks." She built a beautiful home and opened it to the community as a center for adult education. In addition, she was instrumental in organizing a county fair and even won eleven prizes. She served on the Board of Education

with an objective to establish a nine-month academic calendar with programs in agriculture and home economics, and she sponsored scholarships for local students to attend Berea College.

At the age of 68, Johnson was ready to relinquish her work of community development. When Myles Horton and Don West approached her with the idea of creating a folk school for the people of Appalachia, she was intrigued. Initially, she did not share their beliefs about **how** to

bring about social change. Although she returned to Memphis, she followed the work of Highlander Folk School closely for those first years. In 1935 she deeded the property to HFS because she was convinced that the staff had made a difference in the lives of the people in the community.

For the next 21 years Dr. Lilian maintained her interest in Highlander. ... In 1946, she moved to Bradenton, FL, where she continued to be active in civic, social, welfare and church work. In the final years of her life she undertook raising funds for a youth center for African Americans in Bradenton. When she died, memorials were used to build a youth cabin at Highlander but it was lost when the state of Tennessee confiscated the property. However, her spirit and her legacy lived on through the work of Highlander Research and Education Center which was established in New Market, TN. Now, the Lilian Johnson Lodge reclaims the memory of a pioneer dedicated to education, justice, and hospitality.



Lilian Wyckhoff Johnson
Western College President, 1904-06

From "Progressive era roots of Highlander Folk School: Lilian Wyckhoff Johnson's legacy," in B. Bond and S. Wilkerson-Freeman (Eds.) Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times, Volume 2. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Let's Talk Amongst Ourselves . . .



Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 75 years!

Dear friends of 1941: A TV station here is running a commercial showing groups of young people in the classroom and walking across the campus. The message is "what you learn here will be a part of you for the rest of your life." What Western gave *me* was a deep appreciation of sacred choral music. What's yours?

Suzy Allburt '41
5003 Elsby
Dallas, TX 75209



You all missed a very wonderful occasion when **Margie Gasche Ewing** and I attended our 70th reunion this past June at Western. Because we were representatives of the oldest class to attend, we were honored to head the parade. They asked us if we wanted wheelchairs, but we said we'd prefer to walk. So we decorated our walkers, wore our pink blouses in honor of our class colors, and followed the Miami band from Stonebridge Hall to Boyd where we had our class meetings and some interesting reports and a panel discussion on "Western in the World." All buildings were open, but we were so busy that I didn't get to any. I was sorry to miss seeing Mary Lyon because it will be torn down because it could not be renovated. There are so many new buildings that I couldn't recognize where we were on the campus, and we couldn't find our class tree. Miami must have been happy to get our land so they could enlarge. Four new dorms.

Even though I wrote to all 18 class members for whom the alumnae office had addresses, I heard from only five. Too bad, as I'm sure everyone would have enjoyed news of other members.

My first response was from **Toni Von Leng-erke Kim**. She was married and had two sons. She has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She owned a flower shop, but now she is loafing and reading ("between doctor appointments"). Both of her writing buddies have died — **Elwes Sattler** and **Nancy Critchlow**.

Millie Walker Elberfeld was married and had four children. She has 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her career was as a teacher. She is living in a retirement home in Hamilton, enjoys getting news of our old times and friends at Western, and gets to Oxford occasionally. I wish she had come to Oxford for our reunion.

Kit (Ethel) Jarvis Fischer is usually pretty good about communicating and would have come to our reunion, but her granddaughter was getting married that weekend. We missed her because she usually gets there. She married and had five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She is writing her memoirs this year. She's having trouble bringing up names of things and people, but so far it all connects sooner or later. Her granddaughter's wedding was outside, and the wedding itself was surrounded by fog. The reception later was under blue sky with a wonderful sunset, music, and dancing.

Jane Harris Bugnand is now living in a retirement home in Austin, TX. She was married and had two children but no grandchildren. She had an interesting career in education including teaching kindergarten, going back to school and getting her doctorate, becoming a professor at Essex County Community College and at Pace University. When she was still living in New Jersey, she was active in issues of legislation affecting children, improving many child care situations, and developing a system of watching for legislation affecting children. She is adjusting to life in a retirement village. Her address is 11110 Tom Adams Drive #A217, Austin, TX 78753. She had hoped to come to Reunion, but over a year ago she broke her back, and just this August she got out of a hospital setting and into Independent Living.

My fifth respondent is my best correspondent — **Marilyn Inskeep Fischer**. She hand-writes her letters (!) and even calls occasionally. We have both been trying to reach **Lucy Hittle Jackson** but aren't able to. Inky reminisced about our sophomore year when a bunch of our class lived in McKee. She had forgotten that **Kit Jarvis**, **Bernie Conn**, **Lucy Hittle**, **Jane Harris**, and I lived there too.

Inky has given up driving, but that's OK because two of her daughters live in the same town as Inky, so they drive her wherever she wants to go. She's in the process of getting rid of her old crystal and china. At our age, we'd better be doing that too.

Beth Shirk Bevan's daughter, **Annette Gallagher '69**, wrote that her mother's seventh great-grandchild was born the day af-



Ardis Coninx and Margie Ewing in banquet finery, Reunion 2015

ter Beth's birthday. After six boy great-grandchildren, it was nice to have a girl. Beth always enjoys welcoming her visitors to her assisted-living apartment at Mulberry Gardens. Her daughter, Mary Frances, a retired speech pathologist, traveled from her home in Alaska so they could spend some time together. Beth's son, Alex, gives concerts at Mulberry Gardens, a real joy for Beth.

And I, **Ardis "Dickie" Dechman Coninx** had three children, six grandchildren. I just returned from the wedding of my third grandson in Houston, TX. It was my first time to fly in 35 years, and it was a wonderful flight. I'm still running the library where I live and working on the alumni data base at my high school, ETHS. I try to remember what my balance teacher preaches. "If you don't use it, you lose it." I have a Fit Bit, which counts my steps every day, and I try to get to 3,000 each day.

The WCAA office is going to close in 10 years. Margie says we'd better live that long — age 100 — and be able to come back to Western for the closing ceremony. I'm not counting on that, but miracles do happen. And maybe we'll hear from the rest of you at that time.

I loved my years at Western, and hope you did too. What a wonderful place to "grow up."

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'46 WESTERN

Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 70 years!
News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!

[The Class of '46 reports in the spring, but Nancy and Dorothy missed the 2015 issue, and we decided to make an exception rather than make them wait for another year.]

Nancy Myers is "wondering how many of us '46ers are still among us. Based on the last Bulletin, I know of **Ann Winger Tuttle, Clara Hunter, Patricia Johnson Diebel,** and myself. If there is anyone else out there, please write in and let us know.

"I enjoy spending my days reading listening books and eating ham salad sandwiches (which have helped me lose 20 lbs.). When the weather is warm, I go outside and tour the Peabody campus in North Manchester, IN, where I now live. I find the similar names interesting, but don't think there is a connection to the Peabody name at Western." Nancy continues to correspond with a friend regularly by mail, but finds "there are so many others no longer with us." Her nephew recently visited and informed her he had retired! "Guess that makes me pretty old, right?"

Finally, Nancy asks for horticultural help: "I have a mysterious bush outside my window and am wondering if anyone can help me identify it. The blooms are similar in size to hydrangeas; however, they are cone shaped. They are off-white in color."

Dorothy Warren Rinaldo writes: "Despite my dismay at the prospect of turning 90 in July, 2015 has been a terrific year. In April, I traveled with David and daughter-in-law to Sicily for a week of fascinating sightseeing, delightful B&Bs and fine food. Next we flew to Turin for a week with Marjory and son-in-law David on his sabbatical. Turin is a marvelous city now suffering from the loss of the Fiat manufacturing plant and headquarters. We took side trips to ancient hilltop towns, were interested in the Fiat museum and, of course, enjoyed Marjory's cooking and fine restaurants. Once back in Ithaca, I settled back with the two cats' home, in which I live

"July found my brother Dwight and me in Minnesota with son Jon and daughter-in-law Elaine. Being by the lake and in the woods satisfied my love for the out-of-doors. The big bang was the celebration in Ithaca with ALL my family. Children with spouses, four grandchildren with spouse and one without and little Nate Wyrod, my little great-grandson. Could anyone be more fortunate than

all this! Ordinarily, life is pleasant with weekly visits with Marjory, some committee work and routine that keeps me busy because I proceed so slowly. I hope the rest of the class is as fortunate as I."

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'47 WESTERN

Thank you to all who wrote this year — our numbers are dwindling — I have three deaths of class members to report: **Mary Lamb Brown, Alice Ebeling,** and **Kit Van Iderstein Reed.** We all send warm memories and sympathy to their families.

Gene DeScherer Plotkin was the first to respond. Her days are simple but full. She has given up pottery for sketching (takes up less shelf space). Her family gathered to celebrate her 90th birthday! The best news of the year!

Dene Stern Mayer writes that she lives very near Philadelphia and would welcome visitors (she supplies bed and breakfast). She is still walking as much as weather allows and exercising with much younger women. I appreciate her comment that her short term memory is slipping.

Emily Greenland and I talked on the phone. She is now living in an assisted-living community and enjoys visitors, Bingo, Sing-alongs, and exercise classes. She welcomes mail and corresponds with **Margie Gasche Ewing '45,** her Big Sister.

Mary Feller Epremian's husband of 67 years, Ed, died in the fall. She has sold their home in Sunapee, NH, and is about to move into a retirement community in New London, NH — a lovely bungalow with "indoor parking." Her daughter came from San Francisco and her son and his wife from New York to help with the move and to celebrate her 90th birthday. She keeps busy with local politics, volunteering, reading and painting. I hope to visit before the snow flies.

Jane Alexander Durrell wrote from her new apartment in Cincinnati. She now has the kind of security she feels she needs and she enjoys a sweeping view of the Ohio River from her window. She is still writing professionally — she uses the Internet, handy since she can do it from home. Her writing can be found if you Google "Jane Durrell Cincinnati." I looked her

up and think there will be many articles of interest to read when I finish writing these class notes.

Barbara House Crenshaw's children treated her to a party of 150 guests to celebrate her 90th. Included were all four of her children and their spouses, nine grandchildren and a special surprise, many of her children's childhood friends. She still plays bridge several times a week. She loved Jane Durrell's visit in the spring and hopes she will come again.

Ellen Pletcher Marsden, my roommate for all four years at Western, celebrated her 90th in June with her two daughters and their families from the East in Duluth. We always talk "books" so I sent her a delightful little book of poetry, *Watch Where You Walk*, by Mary Kratt, my daughter-in-law Charlotte's aunt. She enjoyed it and said she would take it to read at her book club's December meeting when they always discuss poetry. What a nice idea! I will suggest it to my book group.

Marilyn McKasson Pletcher in Baltimore and I talk often about what we are reading (large print, of course). For my 89th she sent me a very interesting mystery set in ancient Rome, by Ruth Downie, *Persona non Grata.* And I sent her the poetry book mentioned above.

Alice Baumgartner Haines's Christmas letter was full of news. She has retired from Storytime at the local library after many years and she still enjoys long walks on the beach with her dog. She had a fall and injured her arm, the wound was very slow to heal. Her family was very attentive. She was planning to go to a family camp in the Adirondacks during the summer of 2015 — I hope she did. We will hear at Christmas.

Mary Garnett Tillinghast sent a Christmas letter as well as a Blue Card, bless her! She had a lovely holiday with her family. She, too had an accident, resulting in a serious wound that was very slow to heal but is better now. So sorry! My motto is "Go Slow, Be Careful and Don't Fall!"



Barbara Crenshaw '47 and family

Susan Sargent Hard, a very welcome surprise — a Blue Card from Sue. She was a transfer student from Wellesley in our junior year. She said, "Roommates, classmates, professors all welcomed me. It was wonderful!" She married, had two children and two grandchildren. "Home now is in a Brethren Village, in Lancaster, PA. Very nice but looking forward to Heaven!"

Maxine Murray Long reports from Denver that she enjoyed the summer but is not looking forward to the coming of winter. She is reading a lot (aren't we all?) She particularly enjoyed Nora Ephron's *I Remember Nothing*. Maxine feels the coming election will be very interesting! How will it play out? Indeed!

I, Anne, had a good year, slowing down a lot but still able to get around with a cane. I find airlines are very kind and helpful to little old ladies who request a wheelchair in the airport. So I still travel — 20 Deans shared two weeks on Cape Cod in August, from my two little great-granddaughters, Anne and Ellen (!) to nine of 12 grandchildren, four of five sons and their wives and me. I will go to Seattle for oldest grandson, Rob's wedding on Halloween! It should be beautiful, if unusual, a traditional wedding followed by a Masquerade.

Anne Mack Dean '47
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[See Post Script, page 37, for additional notes received after deadline.]



News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
 See Blue Card, page 50!



Dear class of 1949, my notes will be short this year, as no blue cards were returned.

Margo Freudenthal Kaufman has not had a great year after having fallen on trips to Mexico and Spain, so she plans on staying closer to home in the future. She keeps busy with volunteer work, including Assistance League and Library Board, and enjoys ceramics for fun. Her family is in good shape, and she is glad that her granddaughter is

getting ready to settle down. She likes living at beautiful Lake Tahoe and is enjoying the great California weather.

Ruth Ault Hadley had hoped to attend Reunion, but was unable to do so because she lost her husband David in May after 60 years of marriage, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She is on oxygen (as needed), which makes travel difficult. Ruth now lives in an assisted-living apartment. Her new address is 1925 Reeves Road, Apt. 117, Plainfield, IN 46168. Our love and sympathy go out to her and her family.

Anne Schiffmayer Bugbee and her husband Elliot have moved to a retirement community, not too far from their previous address. Find them at 925 Hoover St., Apt. 2, Longmont, CO 80801. El continues to enjoy woodcarving, while Anne keeps busy with needlework and knitting. Their grandchildren are doing well. Ashlyn graduated with honors in communication from the University of Colorado and now works in an environmental firm in the area. Her brother is a junior at the University of Northern Colorado, majoring in geology.

Arline "Bunny" Bartizal Proctor reports the death of her husband, Stu, May 18, 2014. His experience with Parkinson's was slow and manageable until he needed 24-hour nursing care in January 2013. The nursing facility was one and a-half miles away, allowing her to see him daily. In the months following the memorial service, Bunny found her way by resuming her involvement at church, playing bridge, and prayer group meetings at her house. She stays in touch with **Betty Huttenbauer Heldman**, and the two of them were able to drive up from Cincinnati for the Alumnae Weekend Meily Society luncheon.

Like so many of our classmates, I, Jane, and husband Bruce, are only a few years away from the big 90! Bruce had a very successful triple bypass last February following a minor heart attack. We both attend cardiac rehab exercise classes at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, where I had open heart surgery 3½ years ago. We are coming up on five years at Coburg Village in Clifton Park, NY, 160 miles north of NYC, and are able to attend the same Episcopal Church in Schenectady, where we continue to sing in the choir. We participate in several programs at the Village and adult education courses at Union College. Most recently we went to the Van Gogh exhibit at the Clark Museum in Williamstown, MA.

Our best to you and your families, and let's stay in touch.

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



News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
 See Blue Card, page 50!



Jane Lloyd Cantoni, the lone Class of '50 Reunion attendee!



Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 65 years!

[See page 37 for additional notes received after deadline.]

From **Fran Claggett**: "For the last year, I have been living in the same unreality many of you have experienced. Madge Holland, my beloved spouse and partner of 55 years, died last October. Thanks to her foresight, we had moved from the country into the town of Sebastopol a year before her death; we had a chance to make this house our home before she died. I have been writing an ongoing piece called 'Messages to Madge' — mostly poems focusing on the small details of living with loss. I am still teaching poetry in the Sonoma State Lifelong Learning Institute, and have continued to be active in the writing community of Sonoma County. Our beautiful Saluki Jason died just a few days after Madge; I knew he was going with her. I now have his 6-year-old nephew, the Madgik Hunter, along with Zoe, a Whippet. Although Madge and I had Afghan Hounds for 40-some years, we knew that we needed to move to smaller breeds; we stayed with the sighthounds, though, and love our two. I am not in touch with any of my old Western friends, except for Christmas cards, and last year, I wasn't able to send any of

those! So I'm hoping friends will come through and connect with me again this year."

From **Mary Peterson Shenefield**: "My third hot summer in Phoenix; it would be unbearable if I hadn't made so many new friends or become so involved in new activities that keep me busy with no time for complaining. Happily, I enjoy my work on the Life Long Learners committee. Enrollment approximating 175+/- in a population of 500 residents is enthusiastically supported by participants as well as administration.

"Our Design Studio is a group of elders that is making a difference. Very rewarding is the opportunity to mentor at an underperforming school. Reading to and helping a third grader to read provides hope for the success of a struggling child. And unbelievable is our Neighborhood Project. We assist in a program that instructs refugees in learning the English language. Additionally, I participate in the Residents Council as Parliamentarian. Apart from these volunteer services, I find The Beatitudes offers a variety of trips and tours that are fun and informative. I'll be touring the Arizona Museum of Natural History this week and next on the agenda is the popular production of *Wicked*. Last month was a locally produced dog show and my sweet Shih Tzu won first place.

"Very exciting is one of my granddaughters accepted a professorship at Arizona State University. I now can see two of my five great grandsons more frequently. And, of course, having my son and wife here is a bonus. Although I have some physical problems natural to the aging process, sustainability is maintained with exercise of mind, body, and spirit."

Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh '51
3939 Erie Ave. Apt. 3030
Cincinnati, OH 45208



News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Just weeks before her death, **Patty Wiederstein Hildebrandt** sent this happy message: "Still enjoying Florida even with a rainy summer. Our best to all." Word came during the October Board of Trustees weekend meeting that she had passed away Octo-



*Patty and longtime partner
Paul Lang*

ber 8. Patty's was a loyal Western family: Her sister **Nancy Wiederstein Evans**, who passed away in 2007 was class of '52, and her mother, **Dorothy Schmidt Wiederstein '23**, was president of the Western College Alumnae Association, 1956-59.

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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Hello, all you busy ladies from the Class of '55. As someone said, when you reach our age, if we did not have doctors' appointments, we would have no social life at all! But aren't these doctors handsome? And young?

While **Sara Babcock Burneson** has been visiting her doctors — and a hospital — for a partial knee replacement, she is doing so well, she and **Kay Williams** are planning a cruise up the Rhine River in September! It has been in the planning stage for a year. She will be making the trip at about six weeks after surgery. More power to her! She has also been focused on her grandson, who since January has suffered from acute lymphatic leukemia, a bone marrow transplant, Graft versus Host disease, followed by infection. Needless to say, he is in intensive care. The family has rallied around, forming a huge support group who keep the love and prayers flowing. We add ours, too.

Sadly and belatedly I received the news of the death of **Kathleen "Suzy" Martin Wright** on May 27, 2012.

Barbara Giles Grant also reported the death of her husband, Walt, on May 15. He was 93. **Margie [Stackhouse Flickinger]** has been up to see me and I talk with her and **Lucile [Robinson Allen]** weekly. I've gone back to volunteer at the library and hope to do some traveling next year."

Not only does **Lucile Robinson Allen** talk regularly with Barb, she also has sons living in the area and sees them often. While husband Bob recovers from hip replacement, Lucile walks and bowls. She and Bob enjoy their life in their retirement community in a patio home on the sixth tee on the golf course. "It's a beautiful back yard that we don't have to maintain."

"Nothing exciting is happening to me," says **Dot Runyon Medlin**. She volunteers with Meals on Wheels and drives neighbors when they need transportation. Her family is close enough that she can take her daughter and grandchildren to the beach often. She has been in her same house for 53 years. That must be some kind of record! She learned from the Bulletin that **Barbara Drake McConnell '54** lives nearby and they get together for lunch once a month.

Madelon Operer Hall sent me a long Christmas letter, full of details of a wonderful trip she and David had taken to Spain. More recently she wrote, "Our family has been increased by two additional members this year. Our daughter, Meredith, has adopted a darling little girl from China. Zoe joined the family in January. She is so bright and such fun and we see her on a weekly basis. So David and I have (finally) joined the Grandparents Club, a little belatedly, but we're very happy to function in the role. The other addition to our family is Mary, who wed our son Matt this past July. Four-year-old Zoe almost "stole the show" as she performed her duties as flower girl."

Sally Miller Ihne is still showing her dogs, although Ernie is retired and lets Cash win the honors. While she exercises on her treadmill, she watches and listens to Great Courses. She is currently immersed in music courses by Dr. Greenberg. For fun, she enjoys the comedy of the presidential race.

Charlene Ashing Barry and Jim celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year. She thinks she was the first in our graduating class to get married. Certainly the first to do so in Kumler Chapel. I asked how they celebrated and she giggled and said, "We stayed at home!" She has a request for you all, though. She was reminiscing about Western and remembering freshman English when we used the book, *The Play's the Thing*. She no longer has it, and is wondering how her reaction to the plays she



Sally Ihne '55 (left) and winner Cash (middle)

read back then would compare to her reaction now. If anyone still has a copy and wants to downsize, she would be delighted to buy it from you.

Dale Gorrell Hansen wrote me after years of not hearing from her: "I'm sure you don't remember me as I was only at Western for the freshman year. I transferred to Miami in pre-med, but when I graduated there was a family crisis and I became dislodged, and worked for three years as a mechanic for Oldsmobile in downtown Oxford. Later I got graduate degrees in California and Indiana, became a pilot, got married, and had a son. Now I'm a grandmother of a 2-year-old. I'm widowed now (12 years), still working, on the board and as a docent for FDR's "Floating White House" in Oakland, CA. I am a tutor in a low income district, serve on several county boards, poorly play golf when I can, and travel when I can get away. In addition, my best friend, **Bette Jane Nuppenau**, passed away about 12 years ago. She was also at Western for one year, didn't finish college, but got married and had a son and stayed in Valparaiso, IN, till they moved to Arizona. I still miss her, of course. My best to the entire class. We're a bunch of wrinkled old biddies now."

Shirley Remnant Sloat is another who checked in after a long silence. (And don't think we have all forgotten any of you!) She enjoys a full and happy life, for which she is profoundly grateful. "The body doth protest sometimes during my regular exercise classes but I'm healed by ending up with water aerobics." Her genealogical passion continues and she is currently preserving the voice of an 88-year-old whose grandparents were slaves in Georgia and moved to Texas in 1894. Her online interview has been placed with a University of North Texas project called Texas Portal. Her "second and last love," Ed, is involved with his daughter in publishing Civil War letters saved by his great-grandmother. "My family is well at

the moment — with four children, two of whom are already grandparents themselves. There are ups and downs, but all seem happy and that makes me happy."

I, Mary, keep busy with my usual: book club, archaeology, church, and exercise. But most exciting, my daughter, granddaughter, and I are going on a two-week trip to explore the castles of Wales! We've not signed up for a tour, but have planned it ourselves and will be renting a car (they are driving) and totting our own luggage (they will carry my heavy one). As a result much of my recent reading has been about Wales from *The Mabinogion* and Gerald of Wales' *Journey Through Wales* to Penman's *Here Be Dragons* and Pargeter's *Brothers of Gwynedd Quartet*. Then throw in some mysteries by Ellis Peters (Edith Pargeter) about Brother Cadfael and poetry by Dylan Thomas and you have my reading list. For more current books, I highly recommend *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, the story of the crewing team who won the Olympic gold medal in Berlin in 1936, and *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, a haunting story of two young people, a German boy and a French girl, during WWII. Happy reading! And don't forget to keep in touch next year.

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Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 60 years!
News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



In the past year the Class of 1957 has lost five classmates: **Marilyn Brown Roche**, January 30, 2014, in Waltham, MA; **Rosemary Lane Chapman**, October 9, 2009, but only reported to the Alumnae Office in December 2014; **Shirley Failla Albanese**, March 2, 2015, in Convent Station, NJ; **Sandra Grimes Abouzeid-Surico**, February 7, 2015; and **Verna Schmauder Ruan**, June 23, 2015.

We send condolences to the family and friends of these classmates. I'm sure each of you remembers one or more of them as a roommate (Shirley Albanese was my first

roommate), biology partner, fellow thespian and/or musician and feel this loss.

All alumnae almost lost another beloved (structure) when Miami trustees announced in late April a plan to tear down Patterson Place in order to build a residence hall for 300 students. In May I was having lunch with **Sylvia Stanfield '65**, the WCAA Board of Trustees President, and she was writing letters, doing newspaper interviews and talking to the Miami president and other administrators about this. Soon after we had Sylvia's letter saying that Miami had reconsidered ... in part due to the loud outcry from alumnae, Oxford residents and friends. Patterson Place was saved.

The rest of the news is GOOD. We all celebrated (or will) our 80th birthdays this year. How did we celebrate?

Freddy Barber Miller's fellow retirement home residents gave some perspective to achieving 80 years of age. They said 80 was pretty young. Freddy's dinner celebration in the guest dining room turned into a family reunion with her daughters and son, sister and a nephew. **Joan Mueller McNally** also attended.

I enjoy the **McNallys'** newsy Christmas letter and had a mid-year update on their summer visitors. Mac's sister and niece from Michigan visited in June, and in July Joan's niece, an OB/GYN doctor and her engineer husband stopped en route to Seattle after a year in Ethiopia. August brought Mac's sister from Florida and niece from Michigan. Their daughter, Lisa, and husband Bobby, son Steve, wife Kim, and grandson John always joined the group on the deck. Joan's 80th birthday celebration was a luncheon "out" with the children and included a surprise visit from son Jeff from South Dakota and grandson John and other guests. She "loved not having to plan the party."

The Western College Alumnae Association recognized **Vasso Papagregory Louvakis** in June with the Alumnae Service Award. [See page 30.] Joan McNally proposed Vasso for this award in 2007, citing her as a wonderful ambassador of goodwill toward America and hostess to many Western alumnae through the years. The McNallys visited her and I stayed with Vasso for several days in 1967 en route to Tehran; she was teaching English and when I returned in 1969, she had established a language school and become engaged to Yiannis. In 1974 Massoud and I and two children spent a week in Chania, Crete, and saw Vasso a few times. I wish she lived close enough to come to reunions.

Ellyn Talbott Bogan, a faithful correspondent, keeps busy with her daughter and grandchildren, Marissa (14), Eric (17), and Cole (13). Eric and Marissa are in marching band so Ellyn has "dog duty" twice a



Charlotte (right) with Sylvia Stanfield '65

week. They plan a monthly family dinner. For her 80th birthday dinner her dessert included a birthday candle. The waiter mistakenly delivered it to Marissa, causing a good laugh. The family spent Labor Day weekend at Deer Creek State Park Lodge near Columbus.

Diana Haynes O'Keefe writes that she is healthy and very busy. She is involved in the State of Georgia's Foundation for Childhood Literacy, which works to improve childhood literacy. Our deadline will miss getting the details of her 80th birthday on October 11. The plans are for all her children and grandchildren and her to spend a weekend in New York City.

I, **Charlotte**, can't claim "grandmother duties" or charity work and am hard-pressed to account for just what I did last year. There were two weeks in California at Christmas following two weeks in Washington, DC, at Thanksgiving. In April I returned to Washington to enjoy the Foreign Wives of Iranians (FWI) reunion which I had helped to plan. I have my monthly book club, twice-weekly exercise (I've downgraded to Silver Sneakers) and activities with my sister, who comes from Texas from May to September.

In August, we joined a five-day pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, and Our Lady of the Cape in Three Rivers. Except for a 12-hour bus ride back, it was uplifting. We also drove to Traverse City and spent two days at her son's cottage on Houghton Lake and then a weekend in Port Austin on Lake Huron. Jehan and Kim planned a birthday picnic for me at our park on Lake St. Clair. Both sisters (one from Texas, one from North Carolina), a niece and nephew and families from Texas, a nephew from South Carolina and one from Troy, MI, and Kim's 2-year-old son, Dominic, came. Many friends also came making it a memorable day.

I have saved **Sue Mayer Falter's** letter documenting her preparation for her "Jubilee Year" for the last. I wish I could have printed it in its entirety. She writes: "I decided a year ago that I was going to do something special-just for me-every month of my 79th year, so started last October by asking my hairdresser to dye my hair. She suggested blonde but since I'd never had a blonde

thought, decided to just keep what I had (pretty gray and curly) with a few cut changes.

In November, I bought a new car because we hit a deer and totaled the old one. Neither Jim nor I was hurt. The airbags went off and we limped for help on a dark night on a two-lane road. I told the dealer I wanted one just like the one that saved our lives. In December, Jim got really sick, was hospitalized for a week when they discovered a bacterial infection that has put him on antibiotics for a year."

Anyhow, she writes, "I kept trying with my plan and took courses at University of Dayton in January and February. In March, I met my sister, **Peggy Mayer Hill '59**, for a weekend at the Plaza. It was the weekend of the big snowstorm. We met **Judy Conant '59** for tea at the Plaza.

In April, I won \$2,000 from the Opera Ball raffle. At the end of the month I flew to Greenville, SC, to be with my sister, brother, and one niece. May brought graduations — Henry from Amherst, Sam from New Trier High School in Chicago, and Quinn from Indian Hill High School in Cincinnati.

In June, **Ione Sandberg Cowen** and husband Bill stopped by. ... They decided to do something special each month to celebrate their 80th birthdays. In July, I was going to have my teeth whitened ... but ended up with an extraction and implant.

"In August, I went to Santa Fe, NM, to immerse myself in opera. Imagine my surprise when I learned **Mieke Van Waveren Smit '54** was also there. Mieke remembered Charlotte and **Mary Kay Droste Feller**. I recently saw Mary Kay. ... I am still up in the air about my own celebration. Busy kids, busy grandkids, distance, and limited energy for Jim — all make it difficult to plan. It's October 28 and I think we will celebrate November 21 because everyone is so tied up with travel, sports, etc. and it's not our turn for Thanksgiving, etc. Love to all, Sue."

Mary Kay Droste Feller sent news with her Directory order. She celebrated her 80th at the end of July with a house full! They're



Mieke Smit '54 (left) and Sue Falter '57 crossed paths in Santa Fe.

still in the home they built 44 years ago, but checking retirement communities. She and Allan traveled recently: Scandinavian cruise, Hilton Head timeshare, Seattle, Phoenix, Franklin, TN, among others — trying to do as much as they can now since Allan has Alzheimer's.

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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Dear Friends, Here is the latest **BREAKING NEWS** — Your Western Class Notes Rep is starting to lose it! I prepare this item well in advance and always meet the deadline. However, this year I was so busy playing with my great-granddaughters that the whole project just never entered my brain. Shocking indeed! We were having such a grand time, in a lovely pool, lovely setting, with lots of good food and then exhaustion set in. Perhaps you can relate to after spending several days with 9- and 6-year olds, a person of our age eventually becomes comatose for quite some time? Anyway, that is my excuse and why you were not contacted and demanded for precious updates on your activities and families. I apologize.

Now, in praise, honor, and glory, of our lovely **Margaret Mayer Hill** who responded to the alumnae office request, there is news. Peggy and Billy met their son Andy, his wife and three children in Hawaii for a week in June. They rented a place in Waimea on the island Hawaii. In their minds they were meeting half way, but to Peggy, it seemed as far as Singapore. She had never been to the Big Island and was amazed at all the different climates on one island. It might be quite cold in Waimea but in about 10 minutes you could drive down the mountain to the ocean, where it was hot. Of course it was wonderful to see all of them. You forget how much children change in just a short time. They saw them last Christmas, but it will probably be a year or two before they see them again. Back in the States, Peggy went to SOVA (Southeast Orchestra Volunteer Association) meeting at Hilton Head. She continues doing delightful things and trusts that each of you is well and all your children,

grands and greats are too. Thank you, Peggy. Without your help, this column might have been really short!

A post-deadline reminder from the office prompted this from **Di Koch Mascali**: "While our health is still good John and I have decided to get busy on our bucket list. Last November/December we took a Danube River trip (Budapest to Nuremberg) which included a day in Bratislava, birthplace of my maternal grandparents, then flew to Bergen to meet our daughter, Dana, who was joining us on a Hurtigruten Cruise in search of the Northern Lights for two weeks north to the Arctic Circle. The Norwegian fiords are magnificent and the towns en route charming, even in darkness, BUT the Northern Lights didn't show up for us! We're trying to decide if we should try again next year, next time to Iceland or Fairbanks.

"For spring break we took our son's family to Hawaii for R and R, staying in the lovely Hale Koa, a military hotel on Waikiki Beach. We came home just in time to attend a Navy squadron reunion in San Diego, after which I headed south to visit my sister in Cocoa Beach, Florida, for a week. She's no longer able to travel and one of my brothers and his wife both passed away this summer so our annual family reunion cruises are sadly now a thing of the past. We did go back to Allentown in September to visit family and friends and to attend my 60th high school reunion, continuing on to Paris to embark on another bucket list trip — a river cruise to Normandy. We walked on Omaha Beach imagining the horror of the landing there 70+ years ago and visited the WWII American cemetery, which we pay the French to maintain — and they do so beautifully. Our bucket list is getting shorter but it's a big world out there and we hope we can outlive our list.

"While we were in Europe we got an e-mail from (daughter) Dana who was in Uganda on business for her job at the DoD. After her meetings, she went to a resort where they play polo (in Uganda?!), fell off her horse while playing, and broke her wrist. Back in D.C. and a U.S. hospital, surgery was called for and resetting the bones. She's recovering — but her doctor now has a story to tell about the only person he's ever repaired who broke bones while playing polo in Uganda! A leftover facility from colonial days I assume, but we never visited it on our 1958 Africa Seminar, did we?"

There is the very sad news of the death of **Catherine Clark Stoner**, who passed away on April 18, 2012. She had been a stewardess with United Air Lines in Denver, married for 52 years to husband Harry; a graduate of Ohio State University, where she was a varsity cheerleader. In 1986 she received a master's at Northeast Missouri State. Mother of a daughter and two sons; grandmother of eight and one great-granddaughter. She retired as a social studies teacher

from Wentzville Holt High School in 1998, where she started and coached girls' volleyball, swimming for both boys and girls, e cheerleaders, girls' track team. For many years, she was active in the Missouri Geographic Alliance after retiring and was a substitute teacher at Wentzville and Buchanan High School in Troy. Playing golf and traveling with husband Harry on their sailboat were some of her hobbies. Our sympathy includes her husband, children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Next time, if you find this not newsy enough, a good idea might be to e-mail or send your contribution ASAP as soon as you can while that memory is swirling in your mind, after all the celebrations that are sure to come your way in 2016. Thank you, we will all appreciate that.

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Now for a very special announcement ...

The class raised \$2,200 dollars for the Western College Legacy Circle. This is enough for a Class Tile inside the circle and also a walkway border brick along the entrance to the Legacy Circle. Wording for the tile and the brick has not yet been finalized. The following members of the Class of 1959 contributed: **Jane Williams Andrassi, Mary Baumer Baker, Mary Jo Porter Brown, Suzanne Rhodes Crankshaw, Mary Ellen Thomas Forte, Dorothy Ashley Gordon, Sue Marquis Gordon, Margaret (Peggy) Mayer Hill, Sis Moeller Horst, Martha Jane Knox Juel, Sue Forrester Kincade, Barbara Konheim Kolb, Julia Althoff Laker, Diana Koch Mascali, Anissa Nassry, Gail Budelman Nutty, Patricia French Cook Richardson, Joan Crittenden Seiffert, Thalia Crane Sudnik, Jane Toy Thomason, Hatsumi Takenaka Whitehead, and Ann Ferguson Zeigler.**



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Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 55 years!

It is hard to believe that in June we will celebrate our 55th, and that even in our 70s,

we find that life is still an adventure, frequently unexpected, but often full of joy.

Julienne Mulette writes that she has "had a lot of 'fixing' this year ... eyes, heart, kidney, gall bladder, bladder, teeth, knees, osteo-this, and osteo-that, and skin cancers" and still has more eyes to go. She wonders: "Anyone else going through this stuff?" She is very happy to feel better afterward. As to family, "son Noah now has 14 books published and is teaching. My other son, O'Daniel, is doing his teaching and neuroscience living in Singapore still with his wife ... Dhanny also did a TED lecture this past year — perhaps you have heard of those." Julienne is still "doing radio ... counseling daily," and watching "animals and bears in our pond. ... I've done so much in my life, that I don't really have any serious issues left for my bucket list," but would love to experience more, and says, "I'm fascinated by how things will be changing in the world over the next decades."

"Grandchildren are the best and they keep getting better and better," writes **Marcia Jones Friddle**. She adds that the last year saw the engagement and marriage of her second son, Phillip, joyful occasions. She said, "All of their plans from a large shower early in May to their honeymoon came together beautifully." She hopes for lots of news from classmates.

Sharon Botsford Moyer has recovered from two hip replacements, but still has to deal with "back and knee issues." She spends as much time as she can in Brooklyn, NY, with son Sean's children Aiden (9) and Io (3), and in Brunswick, GA, with daughter Jackie's daughter Riley, who is 11. She loved traveling to Southeast Asia, saying "We traveled the length of Viet Nam, saw the sun rise over Angkor Wat, and found Myanmar breathtakingly beautiful and unspoiled. I would happily return tomorrow." She will travel next to Russia and Finland, returning in time for the Reunion.

She has spent time with classmates: **Jane Miller Brooks** "joined me in Georgia on her spring break and we enjoyed the beaches of St. Simon's Island and Jekyll Island. In February, when I was in Brooklyn, **Judy Buck** and I had a lovely five-hour lunch to catch up."

Jane sends greetings from Canada and tells us that in addition to visiting Sharon, "In March I travelled to Croatia, Slovenia, and northern Italy," and then "in July I hosted my entire family in Toronto, including American relatives that I had never met." She finished the summer off with "a hiking trip to Bosnia/Herzegovina and Montenegro." Jane plans to teach yet another year, asserting that perhaps it will be her last, but says, "I don't expect anyone to believe me!" She, too, is looking forward to the Reunion.

Teaching is also on the agenda of **Ann Bronaugh Kyle**, who says, "After five years of additional education I am in a new teaching position of EC Resource Teacher for four sixth-grade teachers in a local public school. I have had lots of family time this year with great-grandbaby born (Phoenix); wedding anniversary (Oregon); big family gathering (Cape Cod); daughter and husband moving to Geneva, Switzerland, for three years; three grandchildren in our military services, for whom I pray for safety. I am blessed." She adds, "My best to all our classmates and their families."

We are privileged to have three of our classmates on the Board of Trustees of WCAA, Inc. **Cindy Ackerman Horne** notes that being on the board is a pleasure except for the long drives, always in the rain. In addition, she has been active with her local Women's City Club, "getting ready for our annual Boutique and chairing our 95th anniversary" as she did its 90th. She continues, "I can hardly wait to see if we are going to do our 100th. Some of my committee are close to 100"! As to health, she explains, "For the most part, I am fine. Beginning to notice the Parkinson's — my balance is bad and everything I do is done s-l-o-w-l-y. Some days my handwriting is OK, other days it is totally illegible. And worst of all, my brain and my memory don't function well. Some of that may be age-related, I suppose. I hope." You are not alone, Cindy.

Sharry Patterson Addison is enjoying being the VP of the WCAA: "We have a very engaged board and proudly worked quite hard along with residents of Oxford, Miami faculty and students, to SAVE Patterson Place! We will be collaborating with Miami to manage much needed repairs to preserve it for years to come." She is involved with civic events in Cincinnati, notably the 2012 World Choir Games and for the past 20 months as co-chair of the Community Organizing Committee (COC) for the 2015 Major League Baseball All Star Game. ... "What a great way to end my 'volunteer career'!" Actually, far from ending it, she is also on the board of The Cincinnati Children's Hospital and putting in what time she has at Chico's. She still has time for children and grandchildren: Tracy and Ty with Caroline (8) and Camryn (6½) in Dayton. Son Stuart, having had a successful kidney transplant, will be moving back to Florida.

Anne Adkins Weissenborn writes that their yard and icy winters have driven them to decide to move, probably to a senior complex, after the holidays. Though she never imagined living in "a community of 'OLD' people," they expect to find many friends nearby and will be in the same neighborhood. There, she intends to continue her "church-related activities (emphases on racial justice and the Israel/Palestine conflict) and maintain Western ties with local alums including **Sandra Metildi Brandt**, **Renee**

Harris Yates '72, **Sylvia Stanfield '65**, and **Patricia Spokes Snowden '64**, while Ernie will keep his same doctors." [See page 9 for Anne's comments on leaving the WCAA Board of Trustees.]

Gail Howell Litwiler and husband Tom are doing fairly well despite some elderly health issues. They keep busy, and Gail continues to serve on the Hampton Township School Board: "It is now 26 years and I continue to enjoy this important involvement with the education of our community's young people. It is a great school system of which I am very proud." She remains deeply involved in church activities, teaching Sunday school and singing in choir — both for the 33 years they've been in Pittsburgh — and as a member of the Board of Christian Education. They travel to North Carolina several times a year to visit grandchildren (9 and 5½) and to Chicago to see son T.J. Gail spent time in March on Hutchinson Island on the east coast of Florida, with her brother and sister-in-law. She ends: "It is hard to believe that our class will be celebrating our 55th reunion in eight months. Hopefully many will be able to attend."

A holiday card from **Flora Zimmerman Cohen** yielded the news that she and husband Richard continue to travel and enjoy grandchildren. She wonders how she enjoyed the trip, except that it was "Much more strenuous" than expected, "or I'm not as young as I used to be (how can that be?)."

Jeannette Kirkpatrick Duvall and Harry are well — "good shape for the shape we are in :)" — and so happy when on their island in Maine, Vinalhaven ("Vinalheaven"), where kids and grands visit often. Both are active in reach and outreach with shelters in Boston communities and, when in Needham, enjoy local arts and school presentations and sports. Oldest son Duvie, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of South Boston, is "our professional marathoner." Oldest daughter Michele lives in Falmouth, ME, thankful for challenging work with UNUM Corp in disability insurance. Her daughters are Kayla, a sophomore at Skidmore College, and Amber, a ninth grader at North Yarmouth Academy. Duvalls' Suzanne lives in Kirkwood, MO, happily caring for young children. Her Joey (9), loves school, scouts, and baseball. Duvalls' youngest, Donny, and bride Corrina met at Union College, Schenectady. Donny rides his bike to work at the State House in Albany; his responsibility in the Budget Department is with the "Green" Energy division. She lectures part-time at the university in psychology and plans to open her own practice. Their children are Dylan (10) and Arielle (8).

We Obuchowskis have had our share of ups and downs. Wit incredible luck, I received no damage from my brain hemorrhage last year, though my memory and cognitive abilities are wearing a bit. Son Tim and wife

Autumn gave us the gift of a baby granddaughter, Lauren, in January. She joins Evan, who is 2. Son John is closing in on the completion of cosmetology school and has had nibbles from local salons. We love sitting; Pete is writing; and I am still editing and working with the local Friends of the Library. I, too, wish good health and happiness for you, healing for our planet, and a great gathering for our celebration in June.

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What a joyful picture **Judy Scovel Robinson** sent with her catch-up! She and John,



Joyful Judy Robinson

whom she married in 1969, live an hour outside London "with a house big enough to welcome guests, and a garden full of plants that do their own thing — including plums, figs, berries, quinces, and pears, and roses named after many male friends and relatives." She likes cooking, entertaining, practicing the piano, writing, leading singing groups, and teaching Bangladeshi women — "fascinating and fun!" She recently drove over 2,000 miles all over UK with her California daughter and two grandchildren, then met up with her English daughter and two grandchildren for a hysterical double birthday party for the kids: "Sheer exhausting bliss!" On tap next are a visit from Indiana



The Steponkus-Roche nuptials

sister, trip to California to see actor daughter perform in *The Little Prince*, and two visits to France.

Liz Doerr Steponkus reports that her daughter, Sally, was married on May 30 to Thomas J. Roche, Jr. They were married at Holy Trinity Church in Washington, DC, by the same priest who married Bill and Liz 40 years ago. The photo of all four is outside the church.

Deepest condolences to **Nancy Carter Lindfors** for the recent loss of Bo. On their 48th anniversary he entered the Portsmouth Naval Hospital for cataract surgery but tests led to open heart surgery. Just before discharge, he suffered a series of strokes and then an infection that proved fatal. All three children, their spouses, and the eight grandchildren spent Bo's final two days and nights at the hospital, and Nancy even was able to arrange for a surgeon to perform the promotion ceremony of son Eric to the rank of Captain. Before his illness, Bo and Nancy had planned to fly to Japan for the ceremony so that Bo himself could promote his son. In the hospital, Nancy and the surgeon pinned on the eagles that Bo had worn on his uniform. He died the next day.

Nancy included the following advice to all of us: "If you don't have a record of on-line accounts and passwords from your spouse, make sure you get them and put yours on there, too, and put them with your important papers. Even with a power of attorney, I could not get the bank to give me Bo's access number. The power of attorney did not specify computer information. So I got the bank to print out the page with the companies he paid on line, which is what I needed, as it also had the access number on it."

An e-mail from **Nia Jones (Terry) Rokhaya** brought the following news: "I went to Hawaii for the first time in February. I went to Honolulu to have a re-connecting (after 52 years) with two of my fellow Peace Corps Volunteers from the Senegal group of the early '60s. I was there during the Chinese

New Year celebrations, so we did quite a few activities in conjunction with that celebration (I, myself, am a Jan. 1 New Year 'baby'). I also visited the Punahou School (President Obama's alma mater) and spoke with some students and a couple of teachers. We three ex-PCVs also went around the entire Island of Oahu. That was great fun indeed.

"Before leaving the Island I spent a couple of nights with one of the sisters of my long-time friend, **Doris Ning Wong '62**, and another sister and her husband joined us on my first evening there. I was also shown gracious hospitality by **Barbara Kong Vlachos '60** and the two of us had lunch with **Rowena Toomey '62** and her sister. On the night before I left, Barb and I called my friend, **Isabel Oteo de Martinez '60**, a classmate of Barb's.

"My granddaughter, Jasmine, who had previously been to seven Western College Reunion Weekends, accompanied me once more to the campus for the Meily Society luncheon. Jasmine is now in her third year at Emory University in Atlanta. I am in my eighth year of volunteering at Shroder Paideia High School. I also do substitute teaching at the Seven Hills School (all grades preschool through grade 12, all subjects). At the time of this writing, I am scheduled to have surgical procedures on my eyes for cataracts and glaucoma. We shall see what we shall see. I am very well otherwise and extremely well blessed. I am still in touch with many of my global sisters on five continents."



The many lives of Marj Keppel Gross

In the past year, **Marjorie Keppel Gross** has ridden a Zipline, become a great-grandmother, danced with a belly dancer on one of three trips to Florida, continued to teach math online, and has remained active in her church and as a Consumer Support Specialist for the Productive Environment Institute. Book recommendation: a series by Carol Francisco that includes *The Gospel According to Yeshua's Cat*, *A Cat Out of Egypt*, and *The Cats of Rekem*.

Loretta Ryder and Marj lunched in North Carolina in January: "quite a different experience to dine at an ocean side restaurant in the winter." She enjoyed Alumnae Weekend in the new dorm and dining hall. "We actually had a Fundamentals of Movement session in chairs on the front porch of the dorm. Remember fundies?" Loretta got talked into conducting the Alum Chapel choir: seven alums plus the husband of **Janet Smith Stephens '65** as the "antiphonal choir." They "pulled off 'We Are the World for Haiti 25,' including a shortened and modified section of rap! (It was the only piece I could think of that fit the theme of Western in the World.) **Fran Hoffman '65** gave a thoughtful reflection. I'm now back in the swing of cello study, clarinet playing in a regular and jazz band, and choir singing."

In a Mother's Day visit to Chicago, son Tony took **Debbie Hunt Perrin** to a museum and dinner then helped her fulfill a longtime dream of worshipping at a Full Gospel church in Davenport, IA. Back at home, Debbie still enjoys prison ministry and following up with inmates who have been released.

In October, I flew to Massachusetts for fall foliage and fabulous side trips to Vermont and New Hampshire with **Brenda Litchfield Benson** and **Liz Andrus Schoeberlein**. We were so disappointed that our fourth suitemate, **Bonnie McGowan Sammet**, couldn't join us from Florida because of recent surgery, but we fully intend to keep scheduling our annual get-togethers.

With hopes of hearing from you soon and often ...

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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
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I usually do my story last, but this time I want to start out by telling you about the really great 50th Reunion we had. I drove and brought my nine-year-old granddaughter, Jordyn with me. All the WCAA staff and the MU students who stayed over to drive us around, move luggage and provide all the goodies and drinks we could ever want,

were all terrific. The new dorms and dining place were imposing and took a little getting used to. They are huge but still have smaller places to be quiet. No matter how hard the designers of these four new buildings tried to keep the same woodsy, isolated feel of our old campus, they could not do it. The old Western, at least when you first drive in, is gone. You can still get to the old Western if you continue on to Clawson, Peabody, the Lodge, the pond and the Chapel. The campaign to save Patterson Place was successful. The Legacy Circle will be done, and I will see it, if I am able to be at the 2020 Reunion. I'll only be 77 and that's not too old. We had 14 '65ers in our dorm plus two husbands and one grandchild. My family is fine for the most part. My daughter, Karen, will soon have to fight bladder cancer for the third time. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. She is only 36 and is Jordyn's mother.

Most of the following notes are taken from the Reunion fact sheet some filled out and sent back. Unfortunately, I received no other info.

Betsy Smith Ames writes about enjoying her retirement from NSA (?) in 2000 and caring for her four grandchildren for seven more years. She works out and swims at a gym, does upholstering and tailoring to "keep me off the streets." Her daughters and teen grands live close by and visit often.

Faith Barrington attended our Reunion. She still lives in her family's century-plus home on Long Island Sound in Brandford, CT. She is still traveling and singing.

Sophia Karayannides Browne worked in publishing for a while before she married Allen Browne in 1976. She worked at See's Candies in northern California before moving back to her home state, New York four years ago. She and Allen enjoy photography and art. They have traveled all over the world. She was glad to see everyone at Reunion.

On September 3, Sophia posted on Facebook: "Many years ago, I sent a scrapbook containing all that I collected for four years (western) to Jackie at the Alumnae Assoc. Yesterday, I received a note indicating that this 'memory book' is going to be used in two English classes 'studying the decade of the sixties.' Asked for permission to share this with *Bulletin* readers, she responded: "Absolutely ok. I didn't expect so much excitement over the Book. But I am glad that it is a slight insight to our college years and events."

Margaret "Meg" Warnock Carlough was at the Reunion too. She and husband Gene are looking forward to moving to a place called Pennswood Village in Pennsylvania. She will miss doing her volunteer work at the Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA. Meg was



The Golden Anniversary Class of 1965, at Alumnae Weekend 2015 (left to right): Sophia Karayannides Browne, Frances "Fran" Hoffman, Donna Bennert Conklin, Pam Eggers Gill, Faith Barrington, Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens, Rita Gehlhoff (who came all the way from Germany where she now lives, her first trip back to U.S. in 40 years!), Elizabeth "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison, Sylvia Stanfield, Margaret "Peggy" Warnock Carlough, Alice Wilson Pilafidis, Margaret "Peggy" Gaebler Morschek, Shelby Smith McFann, and Carolyn "Nicki" Tyler Williams

a licensed chiropractic physician but broke her shoulder and had to close her practice. Their son, Will, works for MeetUp.com.

Donna Bennert Conklin attended the Reunion. I did not get an update about her recent activities. (I didn't realize that not everyone sent the inquiry letter back.) I hope she had a fun weekend.

Mina Lund Davis really wanted to make it to Reunion. She keeps in touch with '65ers **Tracy Humason Self**, **Beth Reilley Garifalos**, and **Betsy Smith Ames**. She recently caught up with **Alice Von Tacky Ross**. She was a civil lawyer for 15 years but loves her retirement. She is grandmother of six and great-grandmother of twins. She remembers Western as place she developed meaningful and long-lasting relationships with her fellow students and faculty.

Kathy Egolf wanted to come to Reunion but was unable to make it. Early on, Kathy spent most of her life in Panama including when it was the Canal Zone. She was a teacher and administrator until 1990. She was very involved in the Panama Canal Museum begun in 1998 in St. Petersburg where she lives now. The Museum has been moved to Gainesville, FL, but Kathy is still on the Board serving as vice president. She is enjoying her retirement with family and friends.

Rita Gehlhoff came to celebrate 50 years with us all the way from Germany. We did not get much of a chance to talk. I hope things are fine in her world. She looks great

Elizabeth "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison lives in rural Vermont with her husband, Ian. She has her own business as a clinical nutritionist. Ian is the volunteer coordinator at the Grace Cottage Hospital. Liz works part-time at the same Hospital. Liz is also on the Scientific Advisory Council of the International and American Association of Clinical Nutritionists. Ian's son is in Germany for an M.A. and Liz's son lives in Brattboro, VT. She came to our 50th and roomed with **Fran Hoffman**.

Fran Hoffman is another '65er I did not catch up with personally at the Reunion. But she delivered the chapel address Sunday morning. [You can read excerpts in "What's on Your Mind," page 4.]

Marie Iandoli was not able to attend Reunion because she was touring Eastern Europe on a River Cruise at the time. Lucky her. Marie is still very involved with her charity and fundraising work. She sent 180 children from the Head Start program to see a local production of "Peter Pan."

Kathy O'Brian Lillich has been to lots of Reunions but not this one. She had a conflict she could not change. She is also a regular contributor to the '65 Class Notes. Her retirement with husband, Tom MU '65, has been busy and fulfilling with two children and five grands fairly nearby. Her parents recently celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary. Kathy and Tom plan to do more traveling in the near future.

Rosemary Perkins Luttrell writes that she and her husband, Tom, retired to the Brandywine Valley area of Pennsylvania in 2008. They have two children and now have four grandchildren. Rosemary keeps busy with her hobbies and she and Tom try to travel as much as they can.

Shelby Smith McFann came to Reunion with husband John. I didn't get to talk to her but hope they had as good a time as I did.

Peggy Gaebler Morscheck attended Reunion, but left her husband, Rod, home. Rod will be working again as a full professor at Drexel University. He and Peggy spent a lot of time in Italy so Tom could write a book about the Solari family of Milan. It's almost done. They have two children and two grandchildren. They have a large extended family and tend to take trips to places they can meet up. They took a trip to China with family members and made new friends along the way.

Lucia McClintock Payne and husband Giles had two children but lost one at age 33. Their other son, Adam, and his wife, Alana, have four children and live near Atlanta. Both are retired and plan to do some traveling to visit friends.

Alice Wilson Pilafidis enjoyed the festivities at the Reunion. There was a lot to do. She met and married Emile at Miami in 1966. They have two children and two grands. They have lived in southern California for 30 years.

Alice von Tacky Ross and husband Dan celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 7. She met Dan on the Western campus while he was looking for another girl. They have two boys who have large families. They spend the summer in Michigan each year.

Tracy Humason Self and her husband, Richard, worked together in the field of child welfare, marriage, life, and family. When they finished their professional careers, they spent time volunteering in the same fields. They have two married daughters, Courtney and Lauren.

Sylvia Stanfield, because of her job as president of the WCAA, was instrumental in keeping us informed about the plans MU had for Patterson Place. The PTBs at the University have changed their collective minds and Patterson will be renovated and kept at least until 2024. Trustees Sylvia and **Janet Stephens** worked hard all weekend.

Janet Smith Stephens brought along husband Paul to enjoy the festivities. The 50th year is very special to all of us. She and Paul are enjoying their retirement. Janet has three daughters, who are out on their own. She visits a lot. I would like to add a quote from the Reunion bio sheet she wrote for all of us: "We have witnessed and been agents

of so much change in our society in the last 50 years."

Shirin Kassam Velji and husband Noorali are enjoying their retirement in Kirkland, WA. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. They are not too far to visit often — Berkley, CA, and Seattle, WA. She really wanted to come to our big event to accept her Alumnae Service Award, but had too many conflicts. [See citation, page 31.]

Nicki Tyler Williams became a grandmother at 67, and her two buddies call her "abuelita." She and daughter Akila went to Machu Piccu in Peru in 2008. Her bucket list has a visit to North Dakota, state #50, on it. I hope she had a good time at the Reunion.

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



Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 50 years!
News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



To those of you who responded or tried to the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* poll on Miami's plan to raze Patterson Place and those who wrote letters to Western and/or Miami, thank you. As you read in the spring issue, Patterson Place will be preserved, at least for now! [Read more in this issue, pages 2 and 8.]

I have received several inquiries from classmates wondering about interest in contributing funds toward a 1967 stone for the Legacy Circle. The easiest way for those interested probably would be to send a donation to the Alumnae Office designating your donation toward a class stone. Call (513 529 4400) or e-mail (WCAA@miamioh.edu) for more current information on this project.

Joan Barenholtz wrote of her 2014 activities and plans for this year. She managed to do a lot of traveling since her eyesight is still good enough to make this worthwhile and enjoyable. She has invested in a major high-tech Apple device and now is able to look at a detailed work of art, even one on a ceiling, aim her iPhone and enlarge the image without necessarily taking a picture. She also can take a photo of something she can't

actually see, so that she can have a visual record. During a period of stay-at-home last May, Joan got up the courage to "hire a professional declutterer with a band of merry men," who in three days managed to excavate her apartment and make it livable. This was a project she had been dabbling in for at least 10 years. To celebrate, she had a grad school chum stay over for a brief visit. This year Joan is determined that the apartment will undergo a major transformation/redecoration so that she can be apartment proud and finally be able to entertain without a degree of panic. In fact, Joan is issuing an invitation to classmates to "come up and see me sometime."

Muriel Gillette Alexander wrote of her adventure in two-house living. Last year she and husband Mike made the decision to buy a small farm in Missouri to live in during the winter months as the long, cold winters in Alaska were affecting her health. During their sojourn there from October to April, they learned a lot, made friends with the neighbors, cut a hay crop, updated the wiring and plumbing systems, and repainted some of the rooms. This year they replaced the roof, and with Mike's son's help in cutting hedge tree posts, they also replaced the fence posts. During last summer's stay in Alaska, Mike suffered a mild heart attack necessitating a stent in one of his coronary arteries. In June of 2014, Muriel was hospitalized for a bilateral hip joint replacement. After giving herself seven months to recover, she scheduled a knee replacement for February 2015. Their recuperation also included finishing the landscaping of their Alaska property, planting five raised beds of veggies and freezing or canning what was produced. They also did some pink salmon fishing and dipped net for red salmon. The Alexanders spent their free time visiting her three children and their families in Washington and Oregon. Muriel is looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2017 but would like to make contact with classmates before then. Contact her at alex7@mataonline.net or me for her home address or phone numbers.

Carol Hoexter and **Steve Mandel's** bucket list has long included at least one trip somewhere on each continent. With only Antarctica remaining, Steve convinced Hex it was time, and the Tauck tour company provided them with a wonderful experience. The Drake Passage was smooth and the weather marvelous so they were able to make 13 shore excursions to visit sites and photograph penguins who showed no fear of the invaders. Sorry we couldn't print the photo in color, but picture them in bright red suits with orange travel bags, standing in a grayish brown and white environment. The next traveling the Mandels do will be here in the USA in areas both known and unknown. Meanwhile they were looking forward to family Bar Mitzvahs. Grandson number one was to have his in May, followed by a ceremony for the twin grandsons in February 2016.



Mandels made it to Antarctica!

Their granddaughter's ceremony will be the following year. During our exchange of e-mails, I learned that Hex and I share the same June birthday, the first person I've known who does. Plan on our 50th Reunion, Hex, and we can party hearty together!

Hex reports that she talks frequently with **Carolyn Sparks Kokalis** and they try to see each other at least once a year. Carolyn now has three little granddaughters for whom she is quick to offer her baby-sitting services. Hex is sure those little girls are being spoiled by their doting grandmother.

Diane Eby Ozbal sent a long letter to catch us up. She made six round trips to the USA from Istanbul during 2013 and again in 2014 to visit family in Massachusetts and to spend time with her parents in Philadelphia, who were ailing and needed extra help. Her father died in August 2013, a few days before his 92nd birthday. Following his death, her mother was in and out of the hospital with heart problems and died at the end of May 2014. That October the family in Istanbul flew to Boston, where they met up with son Jon's family and drove to Vermont, where her parents had a vacation home. They were joined by her brothers for a weekend of memories and a ceremony to bury their parents' ashes in a favorite spot overlooking a lake. At about the same time, Diane and Hadi were doing the same with his mother, who had been a widow for 35 years, housebound and ill for about a month. She died in November 2014 at the age of 100. Our sympathies to you both!

On a happier note, Diane wrote about family activities. Although no longer teaching at Robert College, Diane continues to work part-time as the Advanced Placement Exams Coordinator. In particular she gives SAT exams in as many as 30 subjects. Last May, she gave 800 such exams and worked 10 hour days to do so. Diane also is a full four-time grandma, spending several hours with daughter Rana's two boys each afternoon. At 3 and 6 both boys have become fluent in English, Turkish and Dutch. Then in the summer when everyone in the family moves out to Rana and Folke's prehistoric dig site (about 8,500 years old), Diane cares for the

children and also acts as the dig registrar weighing, measuring and describing the findings. Meanwhile, Hadi too is not completely retired. In order to use the university chemistry lab for his work in analyzing the pottery, he teaches two courses each semester. The big surprise last summer was finding a footprint preserved in plaster in the floor of a burnt house — so rare a find it made the local TV and newspapers. Despite busy schedules, Diane finds the time to swim a mile every morning and Hadi to train for half marathons. Back in Boston, son Jon is starting up a new, high-tech biotechnology lab, which will run samples to help develop new medical drugs. The company is named Pure Honey Technologies, a play on his name as Oz means pure and *bal* means honey in Turkish. Jon has a daughter in fourth grade, on the swim team and into softball. His son Sam is a kindergartener, into Legos and designing all manner of things. Diane is sure he will be an architect or engineer.

Rosemary Gingrich Parks was on the road often in 2014. Much of her traveling was done with sister Carol or with Carol and her husband Ken. One trip took them to Alexandria, VA, to spend time with Carol's son's family. On another jaunt they went to San Diego to visit Rosie's daughter Marisa and grandson Jordan. Marisa is an administrative assistant with AMN Health. On a third trip in April, the sisters surprised their other sister Priscilla on her 80th birthday. Then in June everyone went up to West Virginia for a family party for Priscilla and to see her husband Bob receive an award for helping to establish the Allegheny Trail 40 years ago. Almost finished, this trail connects West Virginia to the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. Then in November, Rosie, along with daughter Amber, who has been teaching elementary school art for 12 years, and Amber's husband, Joe, headed to San Diego to spend their first Thanksgiving together in 11 years.

Sympathies go out to **Marjorie "Birky" Birkinbine** on the August 2014 death of her twin sister Mary Ellen Birkinbine Smith, the oldest of the five Birkinbine siblings. Mary Ellen had graduated from Elmira college with a music degree and then from the School of Nursing at Boston's Children's Hospital. She had been working for the last 25 years at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. In addition to her brother and three sisters, she is survived by a son and several grandchildren.

A note from **Penny Corcoran Decker** this winter indicated that she was about to make her first trip to Las Vegas, NV. Husband David was going too. Seems Penny was being drawn there by a flower conference. During the spring, she was planning to be teaching her floral art in South Carolina, Florida and Kentucky. In June she had been invited to represent the USA at the WFA



Elisa Caporale (left) with Lola Schmidt Stanton at Lola's portrait showing

Seminar in Barbados. Penny expressed the hope that all is well with her classmates!

Blanche Kung sent a note saying that she has had cataract surgery done on both eyes but was disappointed to find that she still needed eye glasses. She really was hoping for a bit of magic. Blanche continues her "fun with arthritis" — particularly trouble with her left hip. Otherwise, she says she is doing well and hopes classmates are too.

Rauni Pellikka continues to travel and explore. This year she's been to Oman ("what an adventure!"), Italy ("tracing the Etruscans both in Rome and in Latium"), Scotland ("visiting my niece"), Slovakia and Austria ("participating in a conference — it's only 80 kilometres from Vienna to Bratislava"), France ("this time following the wine route in Alsace"), Finland ("to visit my sister and other relatives"), and Germany ("the Rhine valley area"). But clearly the highlight of Rauni's year was another trip to France: "My 70th birthday in Paris. I had 20 persons from seven different countries for a gala dinner up in Montmartre and a cruise on the Seine the following day. It was a weekend to remember for the rest of my life."

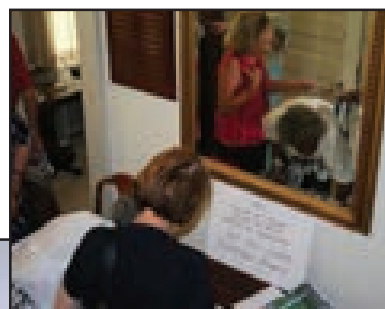
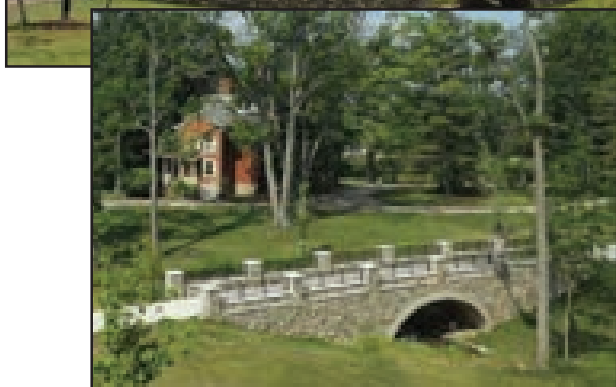
Toward the end of May, Jack and **Jo Ann Brombaugh Wittmann** spent a night in Chatham, MA, with friends. When she realized that she was close to Orleans, Jo Ann remembered that this was the home of **Susie Swan (Jones) '68**, who attended Western but left to get married. She has lost touch with her and wondered if she was still in Orleans. If you read this, Susie, you can make contact at jwt22@gmail.com. The next day the Wittmanns left on a cruise to Bermuda, where the temperatures were in the low 70s and no rain was in sight. Following this delightful trip which returned them to Massachusetts, Jack and Jo Ann explored a bit of New Hampshire before returning home to Maryland.

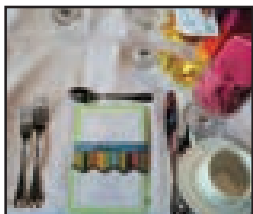
For a number of years I have been indebted to **Elisa Kessler Caporale** with her wide range of multi class contacts for sharing Western information. For example, Elisa heard that **Lola Schmidt Stanton**, who lives

Alumnae Weekend 2015: Western in the World

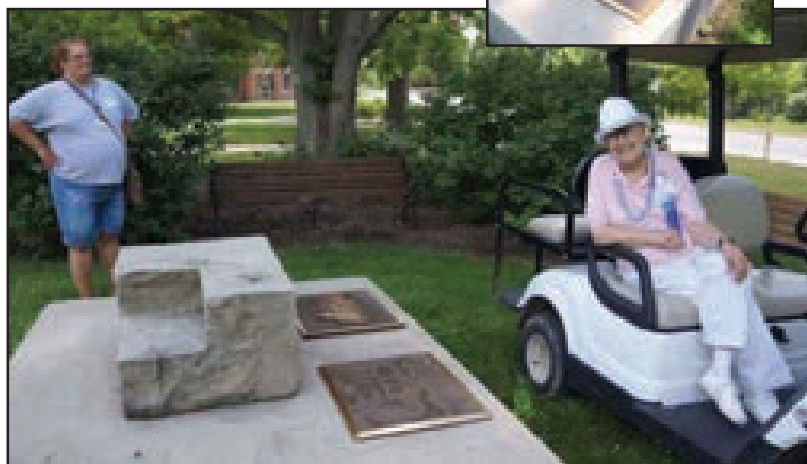
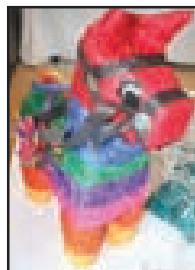


Westerners from around the world (most from the Class of '65) visited our world June 12-14 — housed in new Stonebridge Hall, meeting and greeting, venturing forth for special events such as a guided tour of Patterson Place with Smith Library researcher Elizabeth Johnson.

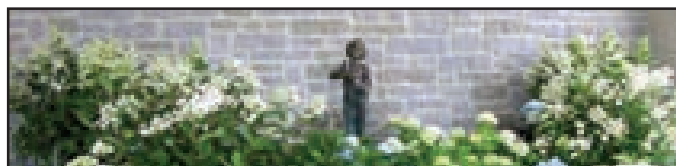
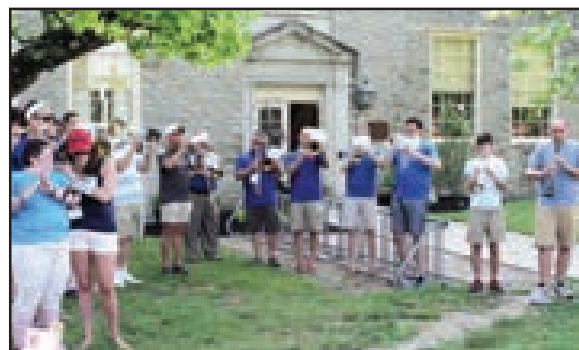




Friday fun morn to night,
 South of the border:
 Sombreros topping,
 Our President greeting,
 MU President welcoming,
 Johnny and Pris clinking.
 Around campus:
 Judy and Nicki texting,
 Evie shopping,
 Gift Shop tables teeming,
 Mackenzie embracing
 Students helping,
 Margie tooling!

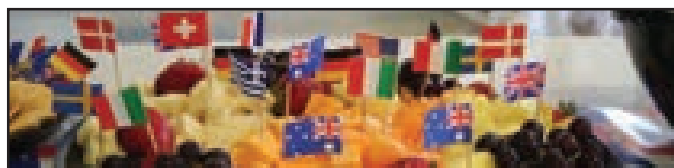


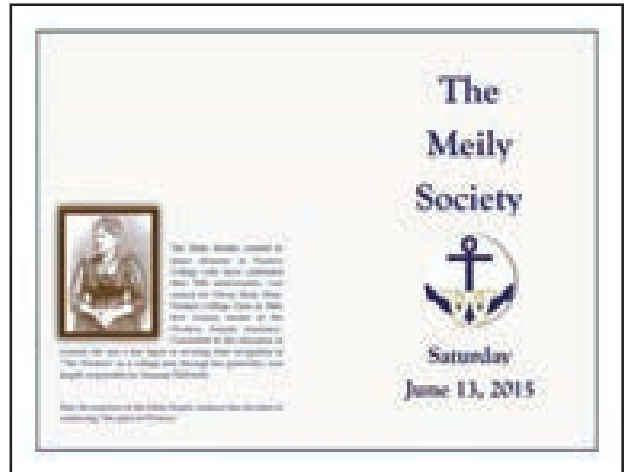
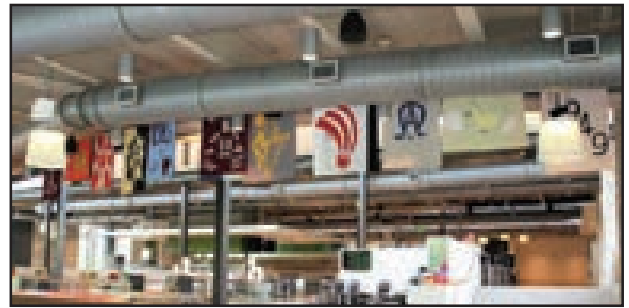
Saturday morning kicks off — literally — with an exercise session, followed by the ever-popular Parade of Classes led by the ever-popular Miami Band members, dressed as always in Western blue T-shirts. The Great Room at Stonebridge proves to be the favorite place to hang out between scheduled events.





Mixing business with pleasure, the Annual Meeting follows the Parade. With Peabody and Leonard Theatre unavailable, Director Mackenzie and President Sylvia present an update on Association activities, including progress on the Western College Legacy Circle, in Boyd Hall. Later, Boyd is the scene of "Western in the World," a student-alumnae/i panel discussion







Meet our newest alumnae — honorary division — here interspersed with presenting trustees (from left): Debbie Baker HA, Senior Program Assistant; Sylvia Stanfield '65, WCAA President; Mackenzie Becker Rice HA, Director; Pam Watts Coates '70, 2nd Vice President; Kaye Wolke HA, Accounting Associate; Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65, Trustee; Judy Dudman Henderson '62, 1st Vice President.



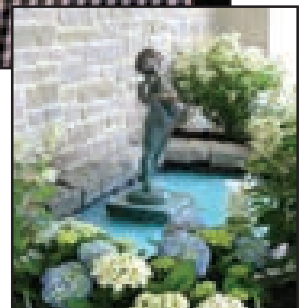
Saturday's Luncheon honoring Meily Society members old and new ... flags flying in Western Dining Commons ... toasting and inducting 50-year Class of '65 ... evening reception and picture taking at Shriver's Heritage Room ... Saturday night's Celebratory Banquet ... surprising Honorary Alumnae ... presenting Alumnae Service Awards ... delivering Class Toasts ... elegant Italian dining ... Sunday morning in Kumler Chapel ... Loretta conducting Alumnae Choir ... Fran sharing thoughts on "The Fabric of Western" ... alums and guests enjoying Farewell Brunch buffet ... Fountain Girl urging return in 2016 — that's Alumnae Weekend 2015 in our world!



Thanks to featured participants at Kumler Chapel Closing Service (from left): Fran Hoffman '65, speaker; Jon Sanford MU '14, accompanist/pianist; Loretta Ryder '63, choir director; Judy Dudman Henderson '62, president.



**Join us next year:
Alumnae Weekend
Legacies Living On
June 10-12, 2016!**



Alumnae Service Award

Western College Alumnae Association
2015 Service Award
presented to
Vasso Papagregory Louvakis
Class of 1957

in recognition of Community and Humanitarian Service
and Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

Vasso Louvakis could be the poster child for all that the Western College international focus intended to accomplish. Or, in the words of one classmate, “She truly fulfilled the dream of Western’s President Herrick B. Young, who began the program in 1957.”

Vasso came to Western in 1955 from her home in Chania, Crete, Greece, after attending Orlinda Childs Pierce College, where she was studying business administration. She quickly became assimilated socially and academically. With her “sparkling personality,” she made friends with both U.S. and other international students. Citing Dr. Isabel St. John Bliss as her role model, she majored in English literature and later said she wished all schools could have “the great spirit of learning” she encountered at Western.

She considered a career as a physician — friends told her she should be an ambassador — but when she returned home after graduation (honoring a promise to her parents), she began teaching English as a second language in her hometown at the Greek-American Cultural Institute. She continued teaching in Crete, then Athens, until 1970, when she returned to Chania to open her own school. The school flourished, enrolling as many as 300 pupils at a time; Vasso retired in 1998. True to her Western ideals, she believed in strict discipline and methodical learning. It was said of her, “Papagregory is tough, but you will learn!”

Ultimately, Vasso has been an ambassador too, for throughout her life she has continued to share her knowledge of many different cultures with her students, their parents, and various groups in her community. Because of her experience at — and love for — Western, she has been especially able at promoting the positive aspects of the United States to her countrymen.

Vasso’s ties to the close friends she made at Western are still strong. She has visited the U.S. several times and entertained Western travel groups and individuals at her home in Greece. Although unable to attend the 50-year reunion of her class, she and her husband, sculptor Yiannis (John) Louvakis, did attend the 25th, “winning our hearts,” according to the ’57 *Bulletin* class representative.

And so we are delighted to present this award to **Vasso Papagregory Louvakis, Class of 1957**, in acknowledgment of her distinguished career, in admiration of her contributions to international understanding, and with great joy in her everlasting Western spirit.



Western College Alumnae Association
2015 Service Award
presented to
Gretchen Wampler McDowell Mousetis
Class of 1958

in recognition of Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

Gretchen Mousetis personified the Western Woman.

She was enthusiastic and committed to the tasks before her — as a single mother raising three children after her husband’s death, as an avid recruiter for the college she loved, or while serving the WCAA as President of the Board of Trustees.

As President of the Association from 1994 to 1997, she served with selfless dedication — always ready to act and react efficiently to the problems that arose. While it was a cohesive Board, trustees’ points of view were diversified, and, as she noted, “the meetings were filled with lively and productive discussions.” Spoken like a true Western Woman!



During her term as President, she saw the Campaign for Endowment make significant progress and saw the renovation of Ernst Nature Theatre completed. She facilitated revision of the Bylaws to pare down the Board of Trustees to 15 members and reinstated three-year terms for the sake of continuity.

Gretchen died July 18, 2011, at the age of 74, the beloved wife of Stanley Mousetis and widow of R. Thomas McDowell; mother of Dave, Jenny, and Amy; stepmother of Michael, Stephen, Tim, John, Lori, and Helen; grandmother of 23 and great-grandmother of two. She was also survived by her brother, Joe Wampler.

The proud daughter of Western alumna **Katherine Mason Wampler, Class of '27, Gretchen Wampler McDowell Mousetis '58** was truly a Western Woman her entire life.

Western College Alumnae Association
2015 Service Award
presented to
Shirin Kassam Velji
Class of 1965
in recognition of Community and Humanitarian Service
and Service to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

A native of Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, **Shirin Kassam** was already a mature and cosmopolitan young woman when she enrolled at Western College in the fall of 1963. She had earned a teaching certificate from Highridge Teacher Training College in Nairobi, Kenya, and returned home to teach for six years at the Aga Khan primary school in Dar es Salaam, when she received a scholarship to pursue postsecondary education in the United States. She entered Western as a transfer student and graduated in 1965 as a history major, with a minor in education. Shirin then attended graduate school at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, where she earned an M.A. in history and certificate in East African studies.



Shirin successfully combined marriage to Noorali Velji, an attorney, and motherhood (their daughters are Jehan and Zahraa) with a professional career at the World Bank. She started in 1973 as a research assistant in the Development Economics Department, engaged in research and writings about rural development, and over the course of a noteworthy career worked on the Africa and South East Asia regions in a variety of capacities. After retiring from the World Bank in 1997, she and her husband returned to Dar es Salaam, where she headed administration and human services for a private firm. Now retired, they have relocated to Kirkland, Washington, to be close to their daughters and their families. They have four grandchildren.

Deeply committed to Western College, Shirin introduced her two sisters to Western; served on the WCAA, Inc. Board from 1992 to 1995; and served as a member of the Campaign for Endowment Committee from 1991 to 1995. She has given regularly to the Association and always been a very engaged volunteer. She was for many years a member of the Maryland Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she held local and national offices. She represented her faith community in outreach and service activities for the Aga Khan Foundation and other agencies and as a volunteer aiding Uganda refugees. She volunteered at the White House for the President's Interagency Council on Women. In Kirkland, she is active in the AAUW, her faith community, and the General Federation of Women's Club/Kirkland Women's Club, where she served as president from 2010 to 2011. Shirin is affiliated with the Overlake Hospital Medical Center's Senior Care/Connections Community Advisory Board, the Eastside Welcome Club, the Board of the India Association of Western Washington, and the Community Advisor Program of the Evergreen Health (Hospital) Board of Commissioners.

We honor **Shirin Kassam Velji '65** for her lifetime commitments to education, civic engagement, and humanitarian public service. She epitomizes the quote attributed to Marian Wright Edelman, "... service is the rent we pay for being."



Theda Hollister, Sue Lutz May, Ann Walton (all '66) and Elisa Kessler Caporale '67 attended the memorial service for Suki Ray Woodworth '66, August 20, 2015.

in New York City, would be having a showing of her portraits. Elisa attended the opening and sent two color photos. Later in the year Elisa heard via **Sue Lutz May** that **Ann Walton's** former roommate **Suki Ray Woodworth** (all of '66) had died recently. Then in early August, Elisa sent a photo of **Theda Hollister, Sue May, Ann Walton** and herself following the memorial service.

In a more recent e-mail, Elisa told us of her attempt to walk the Camino de Santiago, an event she had been planning to do for some time. She and John actually walked 115 miles along the route which included crossing the Pyrenees Mts. from France into Spain. But after 10 days of walking, John had ruptured the muscles in his leg which called a halt to this adventure and started them on a new one — getting them to an airport and home. All is well now and they plan to return in the spring. Walking pathways runs in the family. Their daughter, Clemencia, has been walking the Appalachian Trail and finally completed the 500 miles and received her certificate of accomplishment! Looking forward to fall, Elisa is anticipating working with her weavers groups and participating in senior sing among other usual endeavors.

Jan Chadwick's news was centered around the photograph she sent of her immediate family who gathered for a summer wedding which was held at the Chadwick summer



Jan Chadwick and Immediate family at her niece's summer wedding

home on one of the Finger Lakes in upstate New York. The bride standing next to Jan is her niece Dana who is finishing up Ph.D. program at Stanford. The dress Dana wore is 101 years old and was worn by Jan's grandmother, mother, and aunt. Jan sends greetings to all classmates and hopes that many will plan to attend our 50th reunion **June 9-11, 2017!**

While doing some research on horses for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, I came across a site called Horses by Skinner. Since I knew a classmate with that name, I opened the site and found the lovely photo of **Deborah Skinner Buzan** included in this column and update on her life. With her permission, we have reprinted the photo, taken by her husband, Barry Buzan, a professor emeritus of International Relations at the London School of Economics in England. The photo of Deborah in her studio and the accompanying article were designed to open her website.

After earning her undergraduate degree in art history, Deborah moved to Florence, Italy, where she spent a year studying mosaics. Next her curiosity took her to London and to the City & Guilds of London Art School, where she became captivated by etching. After studying with Henry Wilkinson, she began a career in this field. So, how and why horses? Deborah says she has been drawing horses since she was a little girl. She continues to do so, selling in art galleries in North America and in Britain. Her work appears in solo and group shows including The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, The Royal Society of Painter- Etchers, Limited Editions, L'Angle Aigu (Brussels), The Camden Art Centre, and Artists at the Barbican. Her art can be seen in such public places as The Bank of America, Kulturamt Dortmund, Germany; Lloyds Bank International; St. Pancras Library; and Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery. http://horsesbyskinner.com/?page_id=12 will link you to Deborah's website with photos of her horses and etchings. Enjoy! It has been several years since Deborah visited the USA, and just maybe she will join us for our big 50th reunion.

Wouldn't that be lovely?

Thanks to the deadline extension from the WCAA office, two more classmates were heard from.

Elaine Harris Gomperts is enjoying living in the South — Wilmington, NC, 10 minutes from Wrightsville Beach. She



Deborah Skinner Buzan, drawing her world famous horses

and Bob have a boat docked in their backyard and an in-ground pool used from April to October by Elaine and the four grandchildren (6 to 12 years old). While she enjoys watching them grow up, she does have that "OMG I'm aging reaction." For several years, she has been singing in the Cape Fear Chorale. In September, they sang in the new performing arts center in Wilmington, where "the acoustics are the latest in the nation and are just marvelous!" When Elaine first moved to Wilmington she joined a Newcomer's club. No longer eligible for this, she and five friends from the club formed a new club with a lot of activities of interest to any and all women. After two years, Elaine says the membership is over 100 women. In her spare time she and Bob have been traveling to Europe and Mexico to see old friends and relatives. She has our 50th on her calendar and hopes to see many classmates there. Meanwhile, stop by for a visit. Either way, "Y'all come, ya hear!"

Lola Schmidt Stanton wrote that despite Peter Brown's dismissal of her talent when she was a student at Western, she persevered and feels that she finally has become a painter. She's a member of the National Association of Women Artists and has received the Medal of Honor for her entry at the annual exhibition held this year. Two years ago she received a similar award for an oil painting. Painting brings her much joy, and now that she is retired, she has more time for this pursuit. Husband Bill also is retired, free to do photography for himself or accept the occasional job offers. Their son, Travis, lives in San Francisco where he works as a computer animator. Lola feels life has been good to all the Stantons and that they surely are blessed.

If you are interested in seeing what she has been doing these past years, she invites you to visit her website: lolastantonart.com and blog: decorlola.blogspot.com.

Early this summer, **Stephanie Smith Siegfried** e-mailed to say she and husband Dave would see me in September. Dave is active in alumni affairs at Princeton, especially with his classmates. Each year someone in the class chooses an area to visit and arranges activities with other local alums. This year a classmate living in Santa Fe was their host. In addition to exploring that city and spending time in Taos, the Siegfrieds came to Albuquerque for an afternoon and evening of catching up. Their summer began with a trip to Seattle to celebrate their oldest grandson's graduation from high school, followed by one to the Berkshires of western Massachusetts to celebrate Stephanie's significant birthday. In mid-July their eight grandchildren descended upon them for a week of grandparental spoiling.

Stephanie stays in touch with **Molly Lang Provance**, who spends part of her year in California and part in Paris, France, where she has an apartment. Several years ago they were able to get together at the airport when Molly had a long layover on her trip from Paris to California. Stephanie hopes they can meet again this time back at Western. We also discussed the health and activities or lack thereof of our mothers who are in their mid-90s. It was good to be able to share frustrations. We reminisced about the times we were living in and visited each other in Macau and Hong Kong and later in Xian, China. While Stephanie was shopping in Old Town, David and I found a park bench and traded stories on our genealogical experiences, finds, and stumbling blocks. A patio dinner where we could watch the rising of the red moon and its eclipse topped off a lovely day.

2014 ended and the New Year began for me on a low note, hopefully not to be repeated. In November, my mother began having severe pain in her lower back and leg. This she kept to herself until after a weekly dinner with my youngest brother when she asked to be "dumped" at the infirmary. (She really meant "dumped" and left because a doctor has to send a patient there and at that hour of the evening the doctor was unavailable.) I wasn't informed until Thanksgiving night and couldn't get there (Lancaster, PA) until after the first week in December. The upshot was a fracture of a small bone in her lower back, pain killers, and bed rest for eight weeks, leaving me with a grumpy doped-up mother, who wasn't used to being a patient. I picked up a bug that led to a bronchial infection and what seemed like never-ending coughing. Once that was under control, I managed to put on a family Christmas dinner for 20.

My bright spot that December was a day each with **Barb Zarfes Landis** and **Mary Brubaker Garman Miller**, who did much to help raise my spirits. After almost two months, Mother was back in her apartment and I back in Albuquerque. Mother turned



'67 Rep Kathy Sturm (left) and classmate Stephanie Smith Siegfried

95 this year and once we were sure that she had her strength back and was well enough, we began plans for a 12-member family cruise in June to Bermuda to celebrate her birthday milestone and also mine. Thus in June I went back to Lancaster for another six weeks to help mom get ready for the trip. The trip itself was marvelous, good sailing weather, warm waters and gentle breezes.

Before I left Lancaster I again met up with Barb and Mary. Barb still was undergoing physical therapy for her shoulder injury from several years ago, but at least was now beginning to return to the golf course to play a few holes. She continues to volunteer behind the scenes at local museums helping to catalog items, and was looking forward to a trip to Europe and another visit to a friend in Portugal. Mary and husband Chip had just returned from a delightful trip to the Outer Banks. With nine grandchildren (2 to 14), Mary and Chip keep busy attending sporting and school events. Both are avid golfers and were planning to volunteer at the USGA Women's Open beginning July 9th at the Lancaster Country Club.

Time seems to speed by these days and sometimes gets beyond us. We need reminders and gentle pushes. This is why I and some of our classmates have mentioned our approaching 50th Reunion set for June 2017. There are 102 women on our class mailing list. It would be wonderful if beginning with OUR next *Bulletin* report we can begin to highlight all of your lives, achievements or goals still to be met and to continue this in the issue following Reunion. Again, my thanks to all of you who helped write this column!

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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



It has been an eventful year for me, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**, much of it revolving around the last illness and passing of my aunt in California. A few of you may remember her from visits to Western. Her interment was in Vermont, where her nieces and nephew and families gathered for a few days. It is not often that my siblings and I are together. My husband, Kazu, and I traveled on to visit one of my sisters in Florida where I got to take an airboat ride, a bucket list item. The highlight of our year was the gathering of our children, Christine and Dean, and their families in Maui, a week that went all too quickly! Again this year, I met **Shizuko "Susie" Kitagawa '59** and **Hisako "Chako" Matsumoto Era '68** for lunch and lots of conversation.

The recent crisis of thinking we Western alums were going to lose Patterson Place brought a number of messages to my inbox with expressions of worry, chagrin, understanding, and joy plus memories of Western days as the events unfolded. I heard from **Trudy Muller Moore**, **Judith Van Ingen**, **Cindy Wrigley Spurdle**, **Betsy Philipson Kensinger**, **Roberta Smith Hurley**, **Suzie James Duvillard**, **Nancy Galbraith Karoll** and **Donna Blodgett**, so although they did not send news, I wanted you to know that they are out there and thinking of Western. Several people voiced the wish to attend Reunion '15, but to my knowledge, no one did. So here is looking ahead to '19 if not sooner!

Louise Wiedmann Koch wrote that she still lives in Westlake Village, CA, right on the lake in a small condo where it is lovely but quite warm in the summer. Louise is still very involved in the equestrian sport called dressage. Recently she introduced non-horse friends to the sport at a lovely new venue in nearby Thousand Oaks. While having dinner on that balmy California evening, they were treated to musical freestyle performances. "It was simply wonderful," she says! Teaching, coaching, competing and judging dressage keeps Louise busy. Dressage is also a good excuse to go to Germany to see the Young Horse World Champi-



Grandmom Nancy Karroll

onships and the European Championships. While there she visits one of her best friends, a woman she met 35 years ago during her high school teaching days while participating in a home-to-home exchange between school students from Germany and California. Unfortunately, the German language program was after Louise retired, but she still gets to see former students both here and in Germany. Travel is so much fun.

Cecelia "Cissy" Henig took heart from **Audrey Hinton's** coming forward last year to write although she too left Western after her freshman year. Cissy graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in anthropology. She wrote that Ross Perot, when he headed EDS, claimed that he could make a COBOL programmer out of any liberal arts graduate, and she is living proof of that. This led to a career in information technology, working for several healthcare companies. Cissy retired a couple of years ago, and lives just north of Albuquerque, NM, where she reads, cooks, gardens and takes long bird-watching walks. She was widowed a long time ago, and her son and his wife live in Berlin with their 8-year old daughter. In 2006, she got together with a small group of Western alums who live in the area, but mostly she keeps up through the *Bulletin*. "My year at Western was a wonderful experience," she writes, "and I have very fond memories of the people I knew."

Karen Weber Carlisle and Tom have lived in Maine for 12 years and love living there as much as ever, although it was a rough winter and she had to do all of the snow blowing because Tom had his hip replaced. The snow was piled so high the snow blower couldn't blow it over the top, but the beauty and tranquility of this state make winter memories fade. Karen is still a hospice social worker three days a week. She has a new interest, singing. She has been taking voice lessons, and surprised herself by being accepted into a prestigious choir. They

visit their sons and grandchildren in Florida and California. This past spring she got together with **Celia Dalton** in Baltimore for one of their adventures.

Nancy Galbraith Karroll wrote that the last two years have been very enjoyable, highlighted by a cruise on the Baltic in 2014 and another trans-Atlantic cruise more recently from Montreal to Southampton, followed by a few weeks touring Scotland. Her husband, Richard, plans to retire next year and they hope to do more traveling. She also takes pleasure in visiting her son in Nevada and her daughter and her family in Vancouver a couple of times a year. Her granddaughter Michelle is now 2½ and a lot of fun; she wishes she lived closer. Nancy's life in Florida is always busy with sports and social events. She recently spoke with **Carol Abarbanell**, who now lives a few hours south of Tampa, and has plans to get together sometime soon.

Betsy Summers Solis wrote that this year they decided to visit New Zealand during summer there (February). It was a little chilly, but they had very little rain. They drove around both islands and enjoyed the many tourist stops in a country that feels about 30 years in time behind the U.S. with very little traffic or people, and everyone is friendly and trusting. Back in California in May, they drove across country again this year so that Betsy could go to her 50th high school reunion in New Jersey. They stayed with Larry and **Karen Kling Plumb** after the Reunion and enjoyed catching up. From there they headed to Delaware and back across the middle of America to California, visiting many national and state parks and tourist sites along the way. There was so much to see!

I heard from **Annette Bevan Gallagher** that she had had a fun summer. Interacting with various age groups at events on the Sandusky Children's Museum schedule was as fascinating as usual. She and her husband, Dick, were able to find the time to attend each other's 50th high school reunions. Anytime they can get together with their toddler grandson and his parents is a special treat, and now they are looking forward to an exciting summer in 2016, when their son and his fiancée will be married in the Boston area.

Patricia McDonald wrote for the first time since graduation, so she had a lot of catching up to do. After living many places and trying everything in her 20s, Patsy eventually acquired two advanced degrees in Special Education and Social Work. She maintained a wonderful career, by day with the New York City public schools, by evening career counseling and teaching at New York University. Her work with the NYC public schools involved designing and implementing School to Work programs in the middle and high schools first on the Lower East

Side and then Citywide. She used an applied learning design she had created while in grad school. She is a huge advocate of Experiential/Applied Learning. Now Patsy is retired and living in the Upper Hudson Val-



Patsy McDonald and Roger Long

ley. She still does occasional adjunct work at NYU and continues her private practice as a holistic career counselor and life coach in Manhattan and the Berkshire-Albany area. The best news is that after 40+ years of dedication to her career ("Gloria Steinem and MLK were not lost on me"), she found time to fall in love two years ago with a wonderful sailor and naval architect from Maine, Roger Long. They have covered 4,000 miles of coastline between Canada and Florida by boat and will be exploring rivers and The Loop next. They hope to float up the Ohio and visit Oxford sometime soon. Patsy claims she was not the best student at Western, but learned a lot during those "whispering winds of change years between '65 and '69." She thanks Western for bearing with her. "Ours was a unique class. We were at the forefront of lots of change at Western as we navigated the change that was happening in the world. I would love to hear and share more about our experience of those days if anyone is interested." She signs off, "Keeping that '60s flame alive and sending love and peace to all alumni and fellow classmates of 1969."

I heard from **Janet Hunkel**, who was inspired to reconnect with her Western classmates and share some personal news after meeting with four Western friends this past



Janet Hunkel and Liz Pippitt Shapiro

September. First the news: Recently, Janet received her master's degree in Conflict Resolution from UM-Boston: "Imagine that, at my age." Besides being engaging, she



Lunching in Denver (from left): Susan Blake '68, Nel Ware '68, and Gretchen Blake Roy '71

says it was one of the most useful tasks she'd undertaken in decades, as she uses her conflict resolution skills daily. She is about to move on from her five-year tenure as president of the citizen advisory group for one of Boston's major parks. Her next project, also with urban parks, is still in the hatching stage, so we will stay tuned. Janet still hangs onto her boat like a crusty barnacle, and simply loves boat and house maintenance chores.

The photo Janet sent commemorates her and **Liz Pippitt Shapiro's** celebration of the 50th anniversary of having first met. It shows them before their bike ride, i.e. before helmet hair. Liz graciously welcomed Janet to her wonderful "beach" house in Little Compton, RI, where they talked and talked and biked and talked while walking the ocean's edge, and ate and had a grand time. They do meet up from time to time, but always there is so much to share. Fifty years is 50 years and over a span of that many years they have both made numerous transitions, some tough, others invigorating, and now both find themselves on the brink of new and challenging transitions. Entertainment was enhanced when Liz's son, Alex, demonstrated his new drone, and was generous enough to let Janet operate the controls.



Karen Hardin Roberts '69 in the Alps

Karen Hardin Roberts sends her best to everyone! For her travels this year Karen decided to go with a tour to the Bavarian Alpine area rather than backpack. "Great call!" she wrote. It was a wonderful trip covering a large area in 12 days. Included a gondola ride to the top of Zugspitze and lake cruises with mountains in full view. "The best was Neuschwanstein Castle, plus the best cheese and chocolate in that area of the world!!!" As she wrote, Karen was planning a trip back to Delaware for her high school 50th Reunion in Oct. Like all of us she is wondering where the time went.

September also brought visits with **Susan Vitucci** and **Pam Knowles**, while on a trip to NYC. Susan and Janet visited the restaurant that Pam manages, Pisticci, and at which she also sings fabulous jazz with a bass and piano back up on Sunday nights. Both Susan and Pam are thriving with their arts.

Another Western College alum Janet caught up with during the summer was **Patty Jayson '68**. She is just down the road from where Janet keeps her boat. They pattered about Patty's boat, *Purity*, and as always discussed everything about messing about in boats. Patty, has an expansive knowledge about boats and everything marine.

In July, Janet saw **Suzanne De Peyster**, aka "Dippy," up on her farm in Vermont. Darting this way and that, organizing something for the town or starting the haying operation, she is forever involved and interested in everything, and the happiest person Janet knows.

Last winter Janet went skiing with **Sue Daigle Davis** at her place in Sunday River, ME. Tough to keep up with her!!

Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69
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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Forty-five years and counting! The Class of 1970, Alumnae Weekend 2015 (left to right): Sandra Lee Oxley Fehrman, Candace McDaniel Dalbey, Pamela Watts Coates, and Jane Koenig



Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 45 years!

I am honored to represent the class of '71. I have not heard from anyone yet but I did spend a wonderful weekend in Myrtle Beach with classmate **Valerie Dickson Horton** and **Dee Newell Banks '70**. We laughed until we cried, reminiscing about our years at Western. Fellow classmate Lucretia Taylor and **Dallas Brantley '70** couldn't make it but the three of us made up for it with sunny weather, good food and lots of memories. We are working together to bring more Western alums back to the fold. Between the five of us we are in touch with many of our classmates and hope to inspire more Western and Miami alumni to return to Oxford for Reunion weekend.

Ameerah Haq may have retired from her distinguished 40-year career with the United Nations, but that hasn't stopped her from continuing her quest for world peace. She continues as a co-chair of the UN's High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and was recently appointed to the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, a nonprofit Swiss-based foundation dedicat-



Ameerah



Myrtle Beach girls: Deb McDuffie (left), Dee Banks '70, Valerie Dickson Horton

ed to mitigating armed violence through diplomacy. To read more, visit our website: www.miamioh.edu/

Nancy Kelsey Carty enjoys being a mother of three and grandmother of five. She does a lot of volunteering and traveling with her husband. They celebrated their 40th anniversary this summer!

Fellow '71 classmates, please reach out to me. I e-mail, text, and Facebook. I would love to hear from all of you. My years at Western were some of my best and I know you feel the same way.

Deb McDuffie '71
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'72



News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!

'73



Greetings all! I heard from, or about, several classmates this time around.

Ada Harrigan, who keeps in touch with several other Western Women, writes, "In March, **Alison Owens '73** was out in San Francisco and **Cris Arguedas '75** and I got together with her for dinner. Cris had us over to her house where we watched another spectacular sunset over San Francisco Bay. Neither Cris nor I had seen Alison in 42 years — since Western's graduation. Alison is living in Albuquerque and is a part-time landlord, part-time chef, and enjoying life. She spent many years working in administration at a massage/healing institute in Albuquerque. I was also in NYC in June and stayed with **Diane Bratcher '74** for a night

in June before heading off to vacation in the South of France. The two of us had a great time — as always." Ada, I'd like to hear more about your trip to France!!! adaharrigan@ohsf.com

Helene Pasquale Cella sent a great letter with PHOTOS! She was able to attend **Jennifer Wilson's** wedding, as well as witness her own daughter's wedding, and connect with several Westerners. Here's her account: "A few Western grads were happy to reconnect and enjoy Jennifer's wedding in Kent, OH — and to a Miami man! Ha!! Jeff Shumaker. Actually he went to her high school. They married August 15th.

"Our daughter, Gina, was married June 20, 2015, at St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Chicago. Her husband, Jason Pecho, is from the Chicago area and received his B.S. and M.S. from De Paul University/Chicago. They have been working in the LA area. Jason



Mother-of-the-bride, Helene Pasquale Cella

began working for Disney Mobile Apps, Disney Interactive Studios in Burbank for a few years, and has become lead engineer at Industrial Toys in Pasadena. Gina is a photographer for HauteLook.com, recently acquired by Nordstrom. It was a lovely wedding. My sister, **Marie Pasquale Desch '65** was able to attend and enjoyed her time in Chicagoland.

"Becky Ching Robertson has been in touch from her new home in Las Vegas. She is taking advantage and enjoying all the outdoor activity and entertainment there." helene51@comcast.net

Margaret "Millie" Odede Adongo has been working on a beautiful book about the wonderful artisan work of her native land, Kenya, and lobbying to have Kenya adopt a national dress. In April of this year, she had a book launch for "Proudly Kenyan." She was able to get Academy Award Actress, Lupita Nyong'o (*Twelve Years a Slave*) to be the cover girl! She is hoping to find a publisher to print and market it.

Here is what she asked me: "Hi Chris; this is the latest on "Proudly Kenyan". My prayer is that you will not give up on me, and may help or sponsor the printing of 10 books, 20 books, 50 books, or whatever the Lord places in your heart. And it can be sent to me via money gram or Western Union. 90 kshs is equivalent to 1 American \$. Be blessed my friend."



Millie's book

E-mail me if you'd like me to send you a copy. If you know of anyone who might like to sponsor this project, please contact me, or Millie directly at nyodesh@yahoo.com. See also a photo of Millie and her twin sister, Janet, at their book launch, in some of the fashions from her line of "Proudly Kenyan" clothing and accessories.

Now for MY news: I'm in touch with several Western alums: **Joan Hagan Stoutenborough '74**, who splits her time between Florida and Ohio; **Maria Ligia Galarza Simmons '72**, who lives in Kansas; **Agnes Lafitte '70** who lives outside of Paris, France; and **Mohammed Al-Barwani '74**, who lives in Muscat, Oman. They're all enjoying retirement (or semi-retirement), and grandchildren. Contact me if you'd like their contact information. Facebook is wonderful. If you're on, "friend" me. That's a great way to stay in touch! www.facebook.com/christine.wines.9

I continue to love my career as Holistic Health Practitioner, with a side gig of officiating at weddings and other ceremonies. I've performed four weddings, a renewal of vows, and a baby blessing this year so far. I really enjoy the happy rituals.

I'm heading to Florida in November to spend Thanksgiving with my two older kids, and my three grandchildren. Looking forward to that! In March, I learned that my mother — who had been failing quickly from Parkinson's disease — finally transitioned. So in May, I returned to Ohio for my mom's Celebration of Life service. It was an emotional, but very cathartic memorial, and I am glad she is finally at peace.

Looking forward to a possible European trip next year, maybe in May. My youngest child, Gino, just got a two-year job offer in Somerset, England, to be a social worker. He's waiting for final approval from the social work board in England, and will probably be heading over there sometime this fall. I'm going to try to arrange things so I can be there for at least a month. Wish me luck!

Please consider making long-term plans for our 45th in 3 years, and if possible, attend the yearly reunions. It really is a wonderful way to honor our friendships, our education, and our lives! Many blessings to you all!

Christy Wines '73
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News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Sarah Miller Bomholt writes: "There is a first time for everything! I loved Oxford so much I never left!" She's a grandmother of two, mother of three, and a retired elementary school teacher. She and husband Frank love to kayak, especially on the lakes of the Adirondack Mountains. They have done this often with her sister, **Mary Miller Croxton '74**, her husband, Jack, and almost always include their friend **Connie Wong '72**.

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Alumnae Weekend '16: Celebrating 40 years!
News for Spring '16 Bulletin due Groundhog Day!
See Blue Card, page 50!



Unforgotten Class of '77, you know where we are ... where are you?

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Christy Wines '73, plying her trade at a baby blessing

Class Notes . . . Post Script

More from '47:

Phyllis Petrikin Chirico attended Western only her freshman year but has many fond memories and always reads the *Bulletin*.



Phyllis Chirico and twin grand-grads

She graduated from Carnegie Tech, married, had seven children, 18 grandchildren. She has lived an active life: was a successful realtor for 35 years, has volunteered for many local boards and groups, and feels very fortunate as a family with good health and success in school and business — 89 busy years!

More from '51:

From northern Wisconsin, where she enjoyed a "lovely, long fall," **Nancy McCudden Osgood** reports: "After waiting two years, I finally have a volunteer job at the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation elementary school helping kindergarten and first grade kiddoes at lunch time and in the library. They are a delight and there is no lack of conversation, tho I have to find my old joke book as they are quizzing me all the time. In the animal department, I have two rescue Springer Spaniels, ages 5 and 6. They should help in keeping the black bears away next spring, I hope. One came way too close this June; cute but still a wild animal."

And Nancy sent an update on classmate and close friend **Natalie Christopher Connelly**, whose husband, John, died in August. Connellys had just moved to a retirement community in Peoria, AZ, to be near their younger son, Jack. John was buried in an impressive service at the Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul, MN (where older son, Michael, lives), and Nancy was able to be there with Chris and the family. Nancy says they "had a great visit and looked at pictures from our Western days." Chris would love to hear from you: 13840 N. Desert Harbor Dr., Unit 268, Peoria, AZ 85381; 623-547-5020.

More from '53:

Joan Gularski Hill lost her husband, George, in May 2010, and moved into a retirement home. It is working well for her — lots of activities and great new friendships. She has been involved in horticulture therapy and gardening. She says, "All is great — best of all, my three boys are close by, as are my two grandchildren, Charlie (second grade) and Porter (fourth grade). I am so very fortunate!"

Evelyn Dixon Present is the proud grandma of nine, great-grandma of seven. She is living in a great golf neighborhood, does a "small amount of volunteering" and is grateful to be reasonably healthy. She enjoys golf and visiting senior citizens in homes. She is in touch with **Vesta Peters Philbrick** via telephone. "Life is good! Always counting my blessings!"

In Memoriam

Evelyn Carnahan Van Cleve '39
October 2013

Doris Ludasher Shriver '43
September 2014

Emily Wells Bechtold '44
May 2015

Doris Ludasher Shriver '43
September 2014

Marianne Daries Moore '46
October 2013

Alice E. Ebeling '47
February 2015

Barbara Huls Broderick '50
October 2015

Jeanne Dickson Vale '53
November 2014

Nilda Chavarria McHugh '56
October 2013

Verna Schmauder Ruan '57
June 2015

Barbara Wirth Farley '58
2014

Irene Abernathy Bierman '64
March 2015

Judith S. Harrow '66
March 2014

Susan Ray Woodworth '66
July 2015

Nana Mbelle Seshibe '70
June 2015

David Soloway '79
August 2015

Steven Kanner '83
August 2015

Carol Dornan FF
Ass't. Professor, Home
Economics, 1957-74
September 2015

A native of Oxford, **Carol Jones Dornan** was born July 21, 1921, on Walnut Street. Home-schooled at first, she attended McGuffey School from third grade through high school. She grew up on her parents' farm in Bath, Indiana, where no doubt many of the things she loved — both natural and domestic — took root: fishing, hunting, gardening, cooking, knitting and sewing. After graduating from Indiana University with a degree in dietetics and nutrition, she completed a three-year internship and supervisor position at Cincinnati's General Hospital (now University Hospital). Toward the end of WWII, she joined the Army, where she met her husband, Richard; they were married in Abilene, KS, and Carol taught and worked at the Kansas State University, which Richard attended. They were married for 61 years, until Richard's death in 2007. Dornans moved to Oxford with their two young daughters in 1954 and three years later Carol joined the Western College faculty. She taught dietetics, food preparation, and nutrition until the closing of the college, after which she worked as an administrative dietitian at Longview State Hospital in Cincinnati until retirement. She is survived by daughters Karen Addie and Beth Anne Hoxie (married to Monty Hoxie, son of well-known Oxford photographer George Hoxie) and grandson Alex Hoxie.



Robbie Smith Hurley '69 offered this remembrance: "Carol was an even-tempered, kind, and compassionate professor to those of us who came to college naive and unsure of their paths. She supported all of us in our endeavors and was so proud of us who continued in Dietetics. I was so very fortunate to have her as my advisor and we stayed in touch all these years between graduation and her death. She will be missed!"

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.)

The Western College Program

Hello all!

Enjoying a beautiful fall here in New Jersey, and thinking about how lovely Western Campus looks at this time of year. Especially when the buildings are adequately maintained, like Patterson Place, rescued from the wrecking ball but not out of danger. Say, that reminds me—don't forget that you can help out with Patterson's repair costs by donating a few dollars to the Patterson Place Preservation Fund. Just visit the WCAA's donation page at www.forloveandhonor.org/givetowcaa (be sure to write "Patterson Place Renovation Fund" in the "Comments" field). Or send a check, made out to the WCAA or to Miami University, to: WCAA, Inc., 325 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 45056-2493 (again, write "Patterson Place Renovation Fund" on the memo line).

And you may have heard that I'll be stepping down as WCPAA president in June, and turning over the organic carrots of office (really, it's what we do) to Mike Loeffelman, WCP '03. Mike has great ideas and boundless energy, and is sure to serve admirably, so I'll just turn the floor over to him now.

— Mike Conaway '90
President, WCPAA

Western College Program Alumni

Greetings from Oxford! The fall semester is in full effect with the leaves turning, the football team is half over with hockey season gearing up, and students are hard at work after mid-terms.

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Mike Loeffelman and I am the recently elected president-elect of the WCPAA. I graduated from Western in 2003 with a focus of cultural studies in education and a senior project entitled "Confronting Heavy Episodic Alcohol Consumption among Traditionally-Aged College Students: A Living-Learning Approach." Yes, a lot of fieldwork was necessary! I have worked in higher education for the past 10 years and have recently returned to Oxford, where I am now working at Miami in the College of Arts and Science. Please feel free stop by if your travels bring you back to Western.

As president-elect, I have some very large shoes to fill. Current president **Mike Conaway '90**, past president **John Rego '81**, past president **Irene Dvoraczky Bell '82**, **Ben Gibbons '94**, **Tim Matune '81**, and others have done remarkable work. From the assembling of alumni to saving Patterson Place, groundbreaking for the WCAA Legacy Circle project, hosting Mega Reunions, and everything in between, there have been many successful alumni projects. My hope is to build on that great foundation. During the remainder of this year and into 2016, I will continue to learn from Mike and then will begin my term in July 2016.



Mike Loeffelman

Over the next several months, I will be working with all of you to continue to engage alumni from WCP 2.0 and WP 3.0 with the current program and students. I hope to build on the relationships that we have formed with the WCAA and the Murstein Center and continue these partnerships. New initiatives include a new alumni-senior project mentor program, a 2018 reunion, an updated website and board structure, a strengthened commitment to recruiting new students, and many more!

While 3.0 is definitely alive and well, there are many areas that could use our help and support. Western Program Director **Nik Money** and I have had several productive meetings and I look forward to your help on these new initiatives. Your involvement will be key moving forward!

Again, I am excited and honored to work with both the board and alumni from across the country in continuing the strong Western legacy and tradition. Please be on the lookout for future communications.

— Mike Loeffelman, WCP '03
President-elect, WCPAA

WCP Class Notes

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, your Rep has not replied to our requests for a status update. 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 50.



Yes, folks, **Jeff Schreiber** is alive and kicking. Jeff and his wife, Leslie, live in Columbiana County just south of his hometown of Canfield. Leslie operates three preschools under the name "Small Wonders." Jeff assists Leslie in all facets of the preschool operations including the preparation of snacks and lunches for the little ones, thereby acquiring the moniker "Chef Jeff." In addition to Leslie's daughters, Hannah (20) and Lauren (19), is their daughter, Grace (8).

Jeff's favorite book is Ernest Becker's *The Denial of Death*, the theme of which has been described as *human civilization being merely a well-orchestrated denial of our mortality which produces the basic duality of our lives that pits materiality versus spiritual meaning*. (Whoa, that's got to make for some intense story times at Small Wonders!) An accomplished cabinet maker, Jeff would like to establish a woodworking coop in which facilities and materials would be available to the public so that the craftsmanship of woodworking can be preserved and passed to future generations. **Appearing left below, is a picture of Jeff and Kirk Davis in May 1981. On the right, is a picture of Jeff and Kirk minus their "freak flags." It took them only 34 years to clean up.**



Laura Zappia drives a Mustang ... the four-legged kind. Laura's coastal North Carolina menagerie includes dogs, cats, and her husband, Chris, himself a former elephant keeper/trainer. Chris and Laura have been married for 26 years and they enjoyed their time at our 25th reunion. Shown in the picture are Laura and her high school buddies on a vacation in Asheville, NC. As for recommended books, activities, social mantras, etc., Laura suggests "Anything that helps you get in touch with your authentic self and gives you joy!" Words to live by.

And this story from Laura, as told last spring to **Mike Conaway '90** (maybe in his capacity as WCPAA president?): "During Hillary's last run, I drove the entourage Secret Service Car for Bill's stump speech! At the airport I out maneuvered the Secret Service Agent ahead of me because I had been instructed to stay behind a certain vehicle. I did. The entourage loved it, but also set me straight quickly. And gave me explicit instructions for the rest of the day, including how to park closer to the venue, like Bill's car! An enlightening and great Volunteer experience, but one I don't want to repeat!"

Recently, a get-together was held at **Greg Russi's** home near Glenwood Springs, CO. I thought you would enjoy this photograph. [See photograph, page 42.]

In the next few months, you will be receiving information concerning becoming a volunteer to assist current students with their Senior Projects. For you save-the-date fa-



Laura (left) and high school buddies

natics, the next WCAA alumni weekend will be June 10-12, 2016, and the next large Western Quinquennial Reunion will occur in the fall of 2018.

Tim Matune '81
tmmatune@cafarocompany.com



With apologies to **Dave Dorsky** (who sent this great update last year) ...

"I'm keeping busy as a health policy researcher/data analyst at the Ohio Department of Medicaid. We're one of a handful of states with Republican governors that implemented the Obamacare Medicaid expansion, which to date has added about a half million Ohioans to the program. I've been involved in helping to project, monitor, and analyze the impact of the expansion since it was nothing more than a legislative proposal in 2009. Hard to believe it's actually happened after all these years, and now that it has, it's very gratifying to be a part of it.

"Outside of work I've been trying to fight the effects of aging by keeping active with cycling and hiking, and as a Sierra Club hike leader I try to help others keep active too. Our two dogs, one recently rescued from an Amish puppy mill, help my wife keep active since she has agreed to take on dog-walking duties.

A year or two ago I had a surrealistic experience when I unexpectedly encountered **Jon Myers** and his family on the Oval of Ohio State University. He was accompanying his daughter, a prospective or incoming



Valerie Kirby and Mike Conaway,
Class of '90, at Reunion 2015

student, while I was walking back from a continuing education class to catch a bus to work. I thought such chance encounters only happened in small towns like Oxford and on small campuses like Western, but even in Ohio's largest city at one of the largest college campuses in the country the magic of Western works in mysterious ways.

"I've also had other more predictable Western encounters. Last summer I saw **Ann Culek** during a visit to Slate Run Historical Farm, which Ann has been managing for many years, and I enjoyed catching up with **Claire Reutter Spaeth** and several of her family members when she flew in from Austin and invited me to crash the Reutter family reunion for a few hours at Lake Hope State Park, which also is one of my favorite hiking spots. Every few months I run into **Liz Nusken Wuorinen** on the streets of downtown Columbus while I'm walking to or from work and she's running to or from an important meeting. So Western lives on in many ways, even if our direct encounters are rare and sporadic."

Dave also reported the death in August of **Steven Kanner**, whom he remembers as "a good friend and a kind soul. His commitment to social justice, family, community, and friends was unwavering and inspiring."

James Boyer '83
boyerjames52@gmail.com



Thanks to Class Rep **Madeline Iseli**, who served the class well, but now finds other commitments prevent continuing. She suggests we find a replacement. Any takers?

WCAA, Inc.
wcaa@miamioh.edu



Class Rep **Dana Lundell** is taking a leave of absence due to her mother's illness.

WCAA, Inc.
wcaa@miamioh.edu



No response from **Ryan** in two years. If you miss his wonderful letters as much as we do, send him your news!

Ryan Donmoyer '93
thedonmoyers@gmail.com



Last we heard from **Rebecca** (2013), she was traveling to and from Cape Town, South Africa, and expecting baby #2. She owes us an update! (So do you.)

Rebecca Dingo '97
dingor@missouri.edu
rebecca.dingo@gmail.com



From **Patti Mossey**: "I'm currently living in Cincinnati (College Hill area), and just celebrated my 10th anniversary as a nurse at CCHMC. I'm a Redhawk again, slowly working on my RN-to-BSN. It's a lot different than Western, but I am thankful for the paper-writing skills obtained during my time as a WCP student! In my free time, I run a small craft business (ok, it's just me) called P39 Designs. I make pins from repurposed wool sweaters and zippers, and I sell them at local shops and craft shows in the Midwest.

"Find me at [ww.facebook.com/p39designs](https://www.facebook.com/p39designs). I'll be super giddy if I see Western people liking my page! When I'm not hanging out with my boyfriend of nine



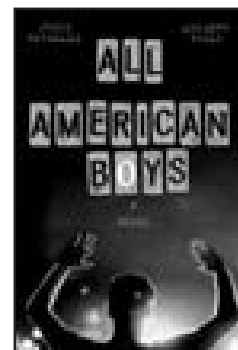
Patti Mossey '99, hanging out with Andy



Patti Mossey '99, hanging out with Saoirse

years, Andy, I am hanging out with my 14-year-old puppy, Saoirse. Give me a shout at p39designs@gmail.com.

In September, **Brendan Kiely** published his second novel, one he co-wrote with his friend, Jason Reynolds, called *All American Boys*. The novel is about two boys, one black, one white, who must decide what role each plays in their community after the black boy is brutalized by a cop and the white boy witnesses it happen. The story is told in alternating chapters from the two boys' points of view; it is also about the effect the violent interaction has on the families, friends, teachers, and other community members around the two boys. The novel garnered critical acclaim, and Brendan and Jason discussed their novel and the issues of police brutality, racism, and white privilege at middle and high schools, libraries, bookstores, and non-profit organizations across the country.



Brendan's book

Karla Schneider Guinigundo '99
guinigkmn@miamioh.edu



Vann is ready, willing and eager to hear from you ... he just didn't this time around.

Vann Geondeff '01
 vangeondeff@gmail.com



Mike Loeffelman: "I have several updates! First, I have come full circle — I have returned to Miami and am now working in the College of Arts and Science as an academic advisor. I am really enjoying the work and it excites me that I get to interact with Western majors every so often. Also, I am engaged! In June, I proposed and we are now living together in Oxford. We are busy planning our wedding currently scheduled for May 2016 in California. Last, I am now currently serving as president-elect along with Michael Conaway on the Western Alumni Board. If you have any alumni concerns/suggestions or if you are visiting O-town, look me up." mloeffelman@gmail.com.

Mike Forrester: "Hello Western! On writing this I realize, if I birthed a baby the same day I moved into Peabody, they would be getting their license right about now. Speaking of moving, Maddie and I recently packed up the brood and have relocated to Cincinnati, well, as much as I hate to admit it, Northern Kentucky. I got a great job at the City of Cincinnati. I am now their Energy Manager, which means I do the electricity and natural gas contracts for the city, as well as the energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Looks like my Western focus in environmental something or other is working out. So far it has been great, and being in Cincinnati has allowed me to meet up with some old friends. I hope to see more people as I settle in."

Erica Bland: "I just celebrated my first wedding anniversary. I worked as deputy political director for Jesus "Chuy" Garcia for mayor of Chicago. I am currently fighting to save a community hospital on the south side of Chicago, and the homecare and childcare assistance programs that are being starved by the new governor."

Lyndsey Godwin: "I'm the Assistant Director of the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality at Vanderbilt Divinity School. I have the honor and challenge of

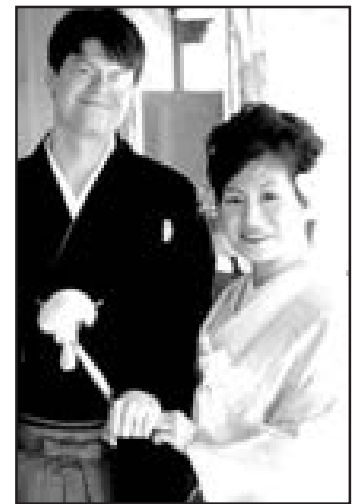
developing programming and partnerships that equip students, communities, and clergy with more resources and tools to have authentic, life-changing conversations about complex, often avoided topics. It's awesome and sometimes overwhelming, and nearly every day I am aware of the ways that Western and my classmates prepared me for this work. Also, after life in Nashville for just over 10 years, I have to admit that it's home."

Nuri Pazol: "After working for seven years for marketing/design firm Agency MSI, I accepted a new position at Performance Trust Capital Partners in their marketing department as an in-house designer. Moving from the agency side of the marketing/design industry to the client side has a different feel. The best part is that occasionally, I work on Spanish-language materials giving me the chance to exercise my WCP-designed focus of digital graphic design in Spanish. Movin' on up!"

Mel Raftery: "I've spent the past 10 years living in Deer Isle, ME. My coffee roasting business, 44 North Coffee, has just entered the fifth year of running and recently this past summer we opened up a second satellite cafe in downtown Stonington, ME. My coffee habit became the real deal when living in McKee Hall on Western, therefore, I feel lucky to have found this calling and a beautiful setting to live and work in. If anyone ever finds themselves in this part of Maine, please stop in and say hello!"

Quincy Essinger: "Quite a bit has happened since my last update. On March 29, I was lucky to marry Yukiko Doi at one of our favorite spots — Hongu Taisha Shrine, a World Heritage Site in Wakayama, Japan. We had a small, Shinto ceremony with our family and friends. After four years of teaching English in Japan, it was time to return to the USA. Yuki and I have settled down in Yellow Springs, OH, and I have taken a position teaching martial arts at a nearby school for those with special needs. We hope to catch up with everyone soon!"

Jen Germano: "Things are ticking along over here in New Zealand. My son Noah has recently turned 2 and is a bubbling and chatty little toddler who loves trips to the zoo and anything with wheels. I'm working for the New Zealand Depart-



Newlyweds Quincy and Yuki

ment of Conservation as a Technical Advisor and Kiwi Recovery Group Leader — missing fieldwork but definitely a job where I can have a big impact on conservation issues. Still getting out for hikes and camping trips on the weekends. Should be back in the USA for my sister's wedding in summer 2016, so if anyone is in the Cleveland area and up for a catch-up, let me know."

I am also back in Oxford. I recently started a position working for the Miami University Alumni Association. It's been great fun to meet students in the new version of the Western Program, stop by Peabody for a few minutes on the porch or grab dinner uptown. Please let me know if you are ever in town — I would love to see you. Or if you are thinking about coming out to an alumni event, let me know. I may be there, even in other cities.

Joy Usner '03
 usnerjm@miamioh.edu



Caught on film having a good time at the July 2015 get-together at Greg Russi's home in Glen Springs, CO (clockwise from the lower left corner): Dean Payne '81, Tom Prorok, Cary Mathias '81, Tim Matune '81, Mike Mendelevitz '81, Kirk Davis '83, Greg '81, Alan Kalish '81, and Bill Free '82

'05 WESTERN

Here we go:

This summer marked a decade since we stood together in Kumler Chapel, sharing light between our candles, celebrating what had been (and what would come). So much has happened in the intervening 10 years. People have traveled, found partners, had children, gotten degrees, moved, gotten more degrees, been published, sold books, sold art, traveled some more, moved again (and again).

First, let's start with the recent nuptials. **Amanda Gibson** married Zachary Aldridge last October on the beach, **Erika Govich** married Brian Adcock this summer and lives in the United Kingdom. **Bethany Weber** got married to Liz Martin, for the second time, as their loving union became legal. **Grace Schneider** will be getting married to Ashish Sharma on June 24, 2016.

And in even the last two years, many babies have been added to the Western family! **Melissa** and **Brian Galli** added a beautiful bundle to their family. Baby Louisa joined big sister Georganna in December, growing **Lia Silver McNelly's** family. **Kristen DeLap** writes: "We've added a spare to the heir, as Isaac joined Soren as a junior partner in the DeLapnichek family. We don't do much else besides attempt to keep two young sons alive and healthy, but hopefully we'll see friends again sometime. If anyone passes through Chicago, be sure to say hello!" My own house grew by one in about a year and a-half ago, added Beckett to the **King-Kaiser** family.

But, we all know that none of us has only our relationships; in fact, this is a class full of creativity, energy, passion and enthusiasm, all on our own. **Grace Schneider** is an educational consultant for the State Support Team in central Ohio, and I just completed the first level of Orton Gillingham certification to tutor people with dyslexia.

Amanda Gibson describes herself as "Still a bleeding heart. Working as a social worker at a child advocacy organization. My husband and I have a small zoo consisting of a dog, two cats and two ferrets."

Sophia Cifuentes "still working at the Cincinnati Zoo in Sustainability and Community Engagement. Teaching graduate field courses (Earth Expeditions) for Project Dragonfly at Miami U. Taught in Mongolia this summer, traveled to South Korea, and five countries in Europe. Learning to be a beekeeper. Absolutely loving life and overall, just being awesome."

Maggie Perrino has gotten great reviews in *CityBeat* in Cincinnati, and says "Jason is teaching, I'm running a small professional theatre, and we adopted a giant Greyhound. Ah, the good life!"

*[Editor's note: Not to forget **Austin Kleon**, whose latest book, Show Your Work, was published in March 2014. But that doesn't mean there aren't more in the works. Austin still lives in Austin, TX, with his wife and two sons, writing, drawing, speaking, blogging, and tweeting. See for yourself: austinkleon.com]*

I know that for each story told, there are at least three or four that have not been told, but that are inspiring, challenging, intriguing ... and everything else that is what our class was. The last 10 years have been so full, and I have no doubt that the next decade will see the Western Class of 2005 having a significant impact on the world around us. Love y'all!

Abby King-Kaiser '05
agkkaiser@gmail.com

She forwarded this news from **Nick Delphia**, in Pittsburgh: "I am currently working for the county health department as a food safety inspector. I am enjoying working as a sanitarian. My son, Noah, is about to turn 3 and my wife and I are expecting our second child sometime near the beginning of the New Year. We can't wait for child number two and to see our son as a big brother. Hope all of you are well"

Kara Love also wanted to send an update: "My husband and I recently moved back home to the Cincinnati-Dayton area. I am working for United Way of Greater Cincinnati as a relationship manager, and my husband is working as a Head Start monitor for the Community Action Agency. We live right next to Eden Park and love going to all the foodie restaurants in Over-the-Rhine. I'm happy to be back home with friends and family and I can't wait for the next Western Reunion!"

WCAA, Inc.
wcaa@miamioh.edu

'07 WESTERN

*After many years' service as Class Rep, **Denise Cheng** regrets having to step down. Though she wants to stay involved, it's too difficult to devote enough time right now. Anybody want to step up?*

'09 WESTERN

*No word this year from Class Rep **Alison Kernohan Sullivan**, but we haven't given up on her.*

Alison Kernohan Sullivan '09
alisullivan@deloitte.com



WCP alums and faculty, meeting in the Narka Nelson Archives at Patterson Place, during the All-Western Alumnae Weekend 2015. Standing, left to right: Tim Matune '81, John Rego '81, Professor Emerita Muriel Blaisdell, Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04 (holding Winnie), WP Director Nik Money, and WCPAA President Mike Conaway '90. Seated: Randy Wilson '04 and Valerie Kirby '90

The Western Program

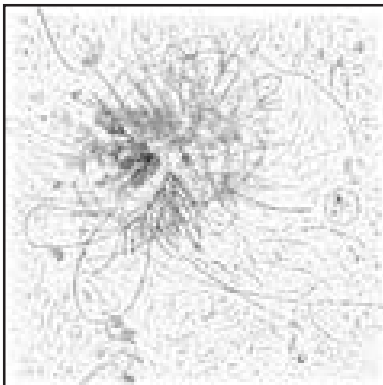
Message from the Director

The weather has turned cold, the leaves are blowing from the trees, and Peabody Hall is chilly this afternoon. Miss Peabody's ghost is pleased, like me, to hear the sound of a student practicing her chords and scales on the piano in the sitting room. The photograph of Helen Peabody greets me in the foyer every morning, and I have wondered how she spent the rest of the day that she stood for that portrait in the 1850s. Having looked at the curriculum from that decade, I know that she invested considerable time in fostering novel courses of instruction, or, at least, introducing courses of instruction that were novel for young women. Science classes offered to students in the Western Female Seminary are an obvious illustration of her progressive approach to educating women.



Nik Money

In this tradition of creative course design, we are working on a new offering for freshmen and freshmen next year titled, "Art Across the Disciplines." The plan we have adopted will allow six or seven instructors to address the visual arts within their areas of expertise. This is an easy one for me, because my interests in microbiology can be described, literally and figuratively, as making the invisible visible. The first images of microorganisms were published in the seventeenth century after the invention of the occhialino or microscope. They included revelatory illustrations of a fringe of mold on a sheepskin book cover, bacteria

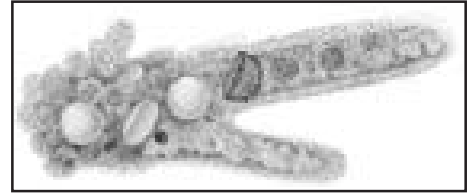


Genome

scraped from teeth, and blobs of yeast from beer. Gorgeous colored drawings of single-celled marine life enthralled naturalists in the nineteenth century and the first photographic images of bacteria were published in the 1870s. In the last century, the technology of electron

microscopy transformed the study of microbiology, and today's molecular exploration of microorganisms has changed the way that we view the whole of life.

There is no shortage of artistic themes within the study of microbiology. Confidence that the undergraduates will be fascinated with this material wanes, however, when I think about the other areas of study covered by my colleagues. The current list of topics includes images of solar system, the evolution of the graphic novel, the iconography of environmentalism, humor and propaganda, and the history of sexually explicit materials. It may be difficult to compete by showing images of fungi and bacteria.



Amoeba

The sun is shining now, lighting the golden foliage that blankets the Western grounds, and warming students walking briskly on the sidewalk. Good wishes this afternoon from Miss Peabody's Hall and all her crew.

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

WP 3.0 Students: What's happening?

WP 3.0 Alumni Where are you now?

We — Western College Alumnae (WC 1.0) and Western College Program Alumni (WCP 2.0) — really, really want to hear from you!

You don't need an official Class Representative to share your exciting news in the Bulletin. Send us your pictures and updates 24/7 either to Kate at Peabody, home of today's Western or WCAA at Patterson Place, headquarters of yesterday's Western.

Kate: mcphersonjk@miamioh.edu
WCAA: wcaa@miamioh.edu

News from Students

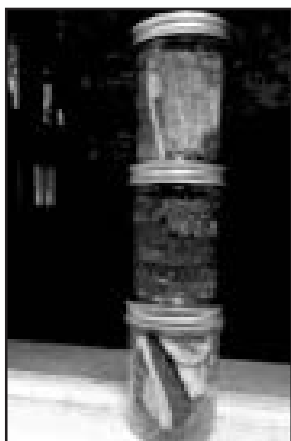
Tasha Anderson, Western Program sophomore, is studying abroad in Australia.



Tasha is a sophomore student who, through the use of the Turner Fund, has been able to study abroad during this fall semester. Her self-titled major is “cryptopaleozoology.” She has been able to utilize her study abroad experience to develop more knowledge and understanding in her topics of interest. Tasha is studying in Australia through a partnership with Center for International Studies. CISabroad has as its mission: “To provide innovative education programs that broaden academic perspectives, promote global awareness, and encourage personal development while laying the foundation for participants to become engaged world citizens.”

Her classes include biology, mathematics, and astronomy; her studies allow her an in-depth understanding of animals, the math of biology — and she says she has been able to experience an increase in the joy of learning through her astronomy class.

The semester is going by quickly, and the students are getting into the calm before exams. This year we’ve been able to continue some Western traditions, as well as add



a few new programs. There was a *pickling event* at the very beginning of the year. Students were encouraged to bring their own herbs to make homemade pickles, or pickle other products. Western and Peabody students were able to enjoy Ernst Fall Fest, taking place the day before Halloween. There was also a big draw during our *Spiders, Cider, Snakes and Snacks*

event. The students love coming in to hold the tarantulas, and this year *one of our seniors brought in her snake.*

During exam week, our students will be able to have access to 3984 West for 24 hours a day beginning the Saturday before exam week. This is a new, student worker-led idea to give our students a place to study and relax during finals week. This week includes quiet study time as well as some activities in the evening. The newest one will be a Midnight Pancake Breakfast, in the middle of finals week. My staff and I are hopeful that it will lighten the spirits of the students taking exams, and encourage them to spend more of their time on Western



For Spring Semester, we have a lot of ideas that help to combine academics and student interests, ranging from music to photography, hikes through the Western Woods, and ideas to help students engage in their community as well as how to schedule better. Our Spring Semester will end with the Senior

Seminar where our seniors share their final projects, which demonstrate their immense knowledge. We are looking forward to announcing those dates in the new semester.

Until then, we continue on.

— *Kate McPherson Haas '14*
Student Activities Coordinator

Photo credits: Pickling Party, Rachel White '16; Spiders, Cider, Snakes and Snacks, Carly Hamilton '16

Miami-Western Theatre Murals

Western Honorary Alums **Curt Ellison** and **Kaye Wolke** (well, she wasn't an "HA" yet) were there for the unveiling. Or *unrolling*, as it were, on a blustery day in February 2014. Two huge murals were laid out on the floor of a large gymnasium in Withrow Court (home of the University Archives) about to be shipped off to Cincinnati for restoration. They had originally belonged to the Miami-Western Theatre in uptown Oxford.

Western moviegoers from the Forties on (along with longtime Oxford residents) will remember the murals hanging on opposite side walls of the theater. It opened on September 23, 1938 — freshman year for the Class of '42. Just one screen and 550 seats, it closed in 1988 and is now the site of the Brick Street restaurant.

That day in February the murals were on their way to the Smith Library of Regional History, which was to be their final resting place. Valerie Elliott, manager of the library, was on hand, as was Smith Library researcher Elizabeth Johnson. Elizabeth remembers, "We all walked up and down looking at them on the floor and various people took pictures." Both Kaye and Elizabeth noted that the murals were in surprisingly good condition given that they'd been rolled up and in storage for years. Elizabeth, an art historian, commented, "They did need restoration, nothing dire."

According to a short history posted at Smith Library, one Chris Rodbro (a 1968 Miami grad) had the foresight to save them and "facilitated their sale to the Miami University Alumni Association." Notable among various locations where they were stored are a private home on Chestnut Street, where they were actually hung in the cellar, and ... Peabody Hall! There, sadly, they remained rolled up. Discovered during Peabody's 1996 renovation, the murals then went to the MU Archives.

When it was announced that Oxford's Lane Library (which houses the Smith) would move to a brand-new building, Miami offered the murals for permanent display. Planning and construction took several years, and the grand opening (for both libraries) took place September 26, 2015 — with the Miami-Western murals prominently displayed on a raised area in the ceiling on the second floor in front of the Smith History Library.



Valerie Elliott, Smith Library manager, and Curt Ellison, Lane Library trustee, welcome the addition of the Thirties pop art murals to the new libraries.

One concern expressed by Valerie Elliott was the lack of diversity in the murals. As she told the *Hamilton-Journal News*, "There is no representation of people of color." Two other artworks now on display address that: one, a painting of Mi-a-qu-a, a chief of the Miami Tribe indigenous to the area. The other, of special interest to Westerners, is a copy of a drawing of Cephas Burns — the master Oxford stonemason who built (along with much else) the beautiful bridges that grace our campus. The original drawing, attributed to Cephas's sister, Jerusha Burns Sims, was rescued from the former home of his father before its 1995 demolition and later reproduced by Smith History Library.



Not to be forgotten, near the entry: Two Art Deco pieces from the "Ladies Powder Room and Gentlemen's Lounge" — a chair and ashtray stand (disguised as a planter)



Curt Ellison HA, former WCP Director and current Director of Miami's Colligan History Project, offers this brief history and interpretation of the Miami-Western murals:

These murals depict collegiate themes of 1938 at Miami University and Western College for Women in Oxford. They were painted by Stiver Studios of Columbus for the Miami-Western Theatre at 36 East High Street.

In 1988 the theatre closed and its new owner sold the murals to the Miami University Alumni Association. They were stored in various locations until 2015, when Miami donated them for permanent display by the Smith Library of Regional History. The murals were cleaned, repaired and hung by Charles Grund Decorative Arts of Cincinnati, courtesy of a grant to Smith History Library from the Robert E. White Irrevocable Trust. [Bob White, long-time editor of The Oxford Press, was a great friend of Western and an Honorary Alumnus.]

The 1938 Art Deco-style Miami-Western Theatre was named for the university and the college that would provide a large number of its patrons. Its murals were executed with paint on nautical-grade canvas. Their relatively loose style, with broad brushstrokes and minimal detail, is similar to paintings of the period executed in post offices or other public buildings and on circus posters.

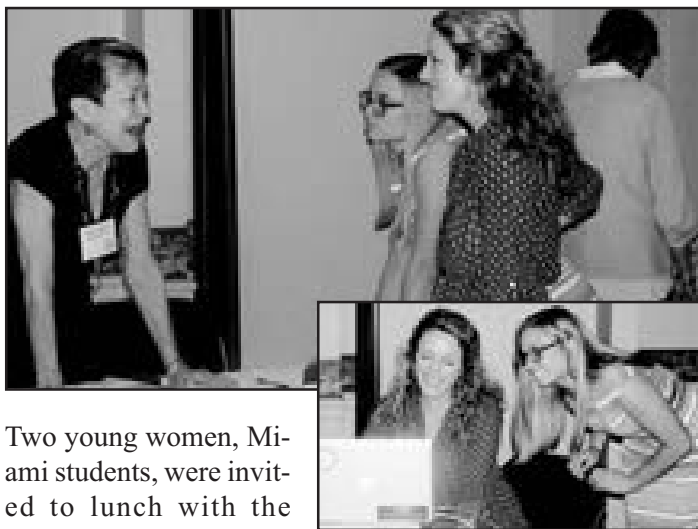
The murals illustrate 1930s college life in Oxford as imagined by the artists. They showcase allegorical figures with the school seal at the center of each painting. The Miami mural depicts the life of a white male student moving from early days as a college freshman through participation in sports, social activities, fraternity life and thoughtful study culminating in graduation. The Western mural illustrates the women's college developing the character of women in a unique educational setting. A Western woman radiates learning from the center of the painting, flanked by scenes of physical education and outdoor activities on campus grounds, and an image of social engagement with, presumably, Miami men.

By 21st century standards these artworks seem dated, yet they clearly reveal the character of popular public art in 1938. They come from "New Miami," the second of six distinctly different historical eras that Miami has experienced. In 1938 less than 4 percent of the country's population graduated from college, and the ethnic, racial, international and gender diversity of today's students did not yet exist.

Trustees in Action



During their fall weekend meeting, members of the WCAA Board of Trustees visited the newly located Smith Library of Regional History to view the Miami-Western Theatre murals, which have been permanently installed there. (*See story, page 46.*) Here (from left) Patricia Spokes Snowden '64, Susan Berryhill Hill '63, and Hazel Williams Drew '66 listen as Curt Ellison HA tells the tale of their acquisition.



Two young women, Miami students, were invited to lunch with the Board at the October meeting. Frankie Roskam, a graduate student majoring in student affairs in higher education, and Abby Lyons, a senior majoring in early childhood education, were there to tell trustees about JOY. An acronym for Justification of Youth, JOY is a full-blown nonprofit organization determined "to start a movement to serve at-risk and orphaned youth around the world by *empowering students seeking purpose* to engage in JOY on their campus." It began two years ago with Frankie's idea of combining MU resources with community projects to help children in the Dominican Republic — with whom she had fallen in love. They are partnered with Kids Alive International among oth-

MU students Frankie Roskam (above left) and Abby Lyons check their laptop and (top) discuss JOY with trustee Patricia Snowden.

ers, and JOY has spread to Taylor and Notre Dame universities. In January, MU will offer a J-term class serving children in Jarabacoa, DR. The WCAA has awarded \$2,500 for a student to participate in the study abroad class. For more information on JOY, check: www.spreadjoynow.org.

From the Archives

Jacky Johnson now serves as the University Archivist and — in addition to the Western College Memorial Archives — is responsible for the Oxford College and Miami University collections.

She sends this report: "The Western College Memorial Archives has settled into our new space and have a new website: <http://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/western/>

"We have received a scrapbook from a Western alumna* that has been used in two classes taught by Miami professor TaraShae Nesbit. The scrapbooks have been used in Intro to Creative Writing class and ENG420 Fiction 3 workshop on Thursday 10/29 from 4:15-5 (13 students)

"We have received new materials for the Mississippi Freedom Summer Collection.

"All our digital archival records are now available through our ArchivesSpace instance."

Jacky also alerted us to the recent publication of *Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times, Vol. 2*, by Dr. Sherry Herbers. She had just received a copy of the book for the Archives as it contains a chapter on **Lilian Wyckhoff Johnson**, Western College President, 1904-06. In addition she corresponded with the director of the Highlander, a social justice leadership training school and cultural center in Tennessee, to which Dr. Johnson had been a major benefactor. That resulted in the story and pictures on pages 10-11.

* That would be **Sophia Karayannides Browne '65**, who posted on Facebook, 9/3/15: "Many years ago, I sent a scrapbook containing all that I collected for four years (Western) to Jacky at the Alumnae Assoc.

"Yesterday, I received a note indicating that this 'memory book' is going to be used in two English classes 'studying the decade of the Sixties.'

In reply **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65** posted: "the text for a generation."

"That's us."

When we asked Sophia for permission to print her Facebook post, she sent this message: "Absolutely ok. I didn't expect so much excitement over the Book. But I am glad that it is a slight insight to our college years and events."

At Patterson Place



Exhibiting the Victorian vibrator in the Narka Nelson Archives ...



Tea and conversation in the Patterson Place parlor



... and on Patterson Place porch

On October 16, 40-plus Miami faculty and students took tea in the Patterson Place parlor! The occasion was Pouring Tea “In the Next Room,” an event co-sponsored by the Humanities and Women’s centers and the Western College Alumnae Association, to promote Miami University’s production of *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*, October 21-24 in the Gates-Abegglen Theatre. Directed by MU theater professor Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, the play depicts “the dawn of electricity in the late 1800s as it inspired new medical treatments. But when technology blurs boundaries between public and private, new vistas open up and human relationships change course.”

Prospective theatergoers were invited for an “interactive salon and tea” while delving into the history of Victorian ideals, scientific innovation, and cultural practice. The tea service was set up in the front hallway, and the action took place in the parlor and in the Narka Nelson Archives with the guest “audience” following the cast up and down the stairs. No one “broke a leg” or spilled a drop of tea, and it was pronounced a huge success.

Of Interest Elsewhere: Project Dragonfly

Miami University’s Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2016 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 15 countries throughout the world. New in 2016 are courses in Galápagos and Paraguay. EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu/15-16_news; Earth Expeditions can build toward the Global Field Program (GFP), a master’s degree that combines summer field courses worldwide with web learning communities.

Project Dragonfly also offers graduate courses and the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) master’s degree co-delivered by premier learning institutions in Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, New York, Phoenix, San Diego and Seattle. The AIP master’s takes place on-site and near AIP Master Institutions and through web-based learning communities. http://AIP.MiamiOH.edu/15-16_news

Applications for the Global Field Program and Earth Expeditions are due by January 28, 2016; applications for the Advanced Inquiry Program are due by February 28, 2016.

Send your news for the Spring '16 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: _____

Western College Legacy Circle — We Did It!



**Ground broken: June 21, 2014! Funds raised: June 2015!
Design reviewed: October 9, 2015! Dedication, June 11, 2016!!**

Robert Keller, University Architect Emeritus, traces the path:

It's been a pleasure to work with the women of Western College over the past couple of years. I remember the early committee meetings where goals were established for the project: incorporate the seal into the design; create a gathering place for students; convey a message to women students of today and tomorrow; reference the importance of international study; enhance the campus. During one of those meetings while discussing the unique qualities of the college and the many accomplishments of so many classmates someone noted that "we've studied and traveled to the four corners of the world from this place!" That was the inspiration for the compass design concept. The next meeting the inner circle seating area composed of elements from the seal was introduced. It was flanked by four outer benches with their backs sloping to points toward the north, south, east and west ... to the four corners of the world. With discussion and valuable insight from so many dedicated alumnae during our meetings the design was revised and refined over the months. We struggled with the open book and lamp elements for a meeting or two. We improved accessibility around the four perimeter quadrants. We didn't all agree all of the time but that's what the collaborative design process is all about! Consider various ideas, analyze, critique, suggest alternatives, gain new viewpoints, learn, try new ideas, review again, and yet again until finally you can sit back and say, "ah yes, that's it."

For me it's an exciting process. It's a process that allows us to meet new people, to know better our previous acquaintances, to create something new together, to make new friends. The enthusiasm and support for this project has been impressive. I hope those with whom I've worked have enjoyed the journey as much as I have. Thank you for the opportunity.

Legacies Living On: Alumnae Weekend, June 10-12, 2016

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325 S. Patterson Avenue
Oxford, Ohio 45056-2499

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