

# the Bulletin

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.  
Fall 2017



*Fait Accompli!*

## From the WCAA Director and Board President

Dear Westerners,

As the fall semester winds down and the holiday season begins to gear up, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued engagement with the WCAA, Inc. The sustained loyalty of Western alums, faculty, and friends has resulted in 43 years of long-lasting connections and many great accomplishments.

Moving forward to 2024 – when the association will be dissolved – there is much work to be done! Rest assured, your Board of Trustees will continue to identify worthy projects that encompass the spirit and values of Western and further tell the story of Western's incredible legacy. Miami University has been extremely supportive of our organization since 1974 and will play a key role in providing services to our alums in 2024 and beyond.

The WCAA Board returned to campus in October, welcoming back former board members, **Judy Dudman Henderson '62**, **Sylvia Stanfield '65**, **Ann Walton '66**, and **Pheetta Wilkinson '76**. The meetings were very productive! President Greg Crawford met with the Board upon his first visit to Patterson Place. Greg acknowledged Western's commitment to international engagement, social justice, and diversity. He described Western College as "courageous and ahead of its time" and thanked the WCAA Board for "ongoing benefits of collaboration," which he hopes to further through 2024.



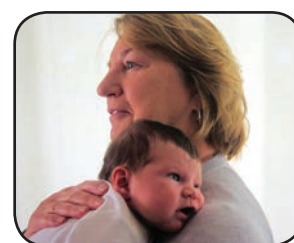
Mackenzie



Sharry

While on campus, the trustees had a wonderful opportunity to attend a lecture, "The Challenge of Following the Steps of a Trailblazer," by Dr. Sharon Herbers. (Read more about this on page 41.) The trustees also had an opportunity to tour the Miami University Regional Campus in Hamilton. The tour was especially interesting to the Board due to the association's history of providing scholarships to non-traditional students primarily on the regional campuses. The idea of establishing a "scholarship for an older female student" or developing a "program for women returning to the academic life during middle age," was first proposed to the WCAA Board by Dr. Mildred Seltzer, Miami University acting associate provost on November 7, 1975. On February 27, 1976, the Board voted to transfer \$4,000 for Peabody Scholarships. Since inception, 748 Peabody Scholarships have been awarded totaling \$998,164.

As we enter into 2018, the WCAA headquarters will experience some change. Mary "Kaye" Wolke, accounting technician, has announced her retirement in January. Kaye has been an integral member of the WCAA team for 24 years. She has served under three directors, with a multitude of board and staff members, and each will contest to her remarkable talents, accuracy, and dedication to Western. Please join us in thanking Kaye for her service, congratulating her on retirement, and wishing her well as she transitions into this next stage of life which will include spending more time with four beautiful grandchildren.



Kaye and first grandchild  
Evelyn Anne, born 9/9/16

In closing, we encourage each of you to plan to attend the All-Western Alumnae/i Weekend, June 8-10, 2018. Your reunion committee has planned a fantastic weekend of *Celebrating Western Traditions*. Please join us for a rejuvenating weekend of reminiscing, revisiting favorite campus locations, and much Western fun!



Mackenzie Becker Rice HA  
Director, WCAA Inc.



Sharry Patterson Addison '61  
President, WCAA Board of Trustees

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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:** The completed Western College Legacy Circle, dedicated June 10, 2017, at All-Western Alumnae/i Weekend.

**Photo credit:** Front and back cover photos plus selected pictures on pages 6-8, by MU photographer Scott Kissell.



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# What's on Your Mind

*Fiftieth-anniversary celebrant Elisa Kessler Caporale delivered her very personal chapel address at Alumnae Weekend 2017's Closing Ceremony: "A Special Time in a Special Place." In it she outlined the many opportunities offered her — and her classmates — during their years at Western. Space permits only brief excerpts here, but readers can go to our website [www.miamioh.edu/wcaa] or request printed copies from the office to read the speech in its entirety.*

I remember the first time I stood at this lectern, it was to recite a reading. It was just 2½ months into my freshman year, a Friday afternoon, November 22, 1963. This was a time when news was at 6 and 11 and in black and white. No one shot you if you minded your own business, but someone had shot our President, no not the President of the college, as some thought, when they heard the news. The President of the United States had been shot and killed. No one knew what to do or what was going to happen. Many of us gravitated to the chapel and Dr. Brockman quickly organized a service so that we could be together and of comfort to one and other. There was no Facetime, no cell phones, we only had two pay phones in our dorm and you had to call after 7 p.m., when the rates went down, or incur your parents' wrath.



*Elisa Caporale '67*

We had to depend on each other, we had to be strong. Our classes were cancelled for the funeral on Monday, but some of the students felt that they should have the whole day off to watch everything that would unfold on television that day. Students marched on Dean Abbott's house demanding a change. This was my first taste of the strength and independence of Western Women.

Less than a month later, one of our freshman classmates died of meningococcal meningitis, which was very contagious. ... Many of us had to line up before meals for our medication. We were afraid for ourselves, afraid for our friends. Again, no cell phones to call home, no grief counselors flying in. It was a different time. We were on our own, we had to be **Western Strong**.

...

The theme of this weekend is Western Strong, but when I thought about what I would say this morning the word *opportunities* kept popping into my head. You hear the expressions "once in a lifetime opportunity,"

"do not let this opportunity pass you by," "I missed that opportunity." I see opportunity as a *seed*, something that may grow now or flourish at another time.

...

One of the programs that attracted me to Western College, in the brochure, was that 10 percent of the students were from foreign countries. When I arrived at college it was the first time I had seen the Western Campus. I interviewed in the East and knew only one person who was attending the college. ... The campus van was at the airport to pick us up and by the time we turned down the drive to the college, about 40 minutes later, I already knew a few girls — one who would become my roommate in New York five years later. **An unknown opportunity.**

...

I was nominated to be president of the freshman class. I was scared of taking on too much. I was already in choir and participating in the Westminster house on Miami's campus. **Fran Hoffmann**, our junior counselor, encouraged me and I ran and won. What an **opportunity**.

I do not know why I was nominated ... but being an officer meant I HAD to follow the honor system and it may have helped keep me on the straight and narrow when others were tempted to take risks. In my sophomore year I was on the Judicial board with two deans, faculty members, Government Association boards and class representatives. When the honor system was broken, students came before this committee. Each case was different though the infraction might have been the same. One spring Saturday, the testimony from the students and the deliberation took eight hours with some breaks. It went from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This taught me good listening skills, to listen to the students as well as the committee and to hear their reasoning. It taught me understanding of when personal freedom conflicts with community commitment.

...

I had the **opportunity** to make lasting friendships. Many of my friends from my freshman dorm were here this weekend. I believe that these friendships were stimulated by all the class and inter-class activities we had on campus, from Beanie Day to the tug-of-war, writing a class song, and the Sophomore Stunt, written and directed by the students. We may have thought those were silly then, but they did help us form a bond, friends for 54 years. Friends I was able to visit in Denmark, Brussels, France, Turkey, Japan, and Germany to name a few. Five years ago at my 45th reunion, my daughter, who was traveling in Thailand between jobs, informed us that she had been stung by a box jellyfish and the severe burn had not healed. She had to be treated in Thailand for several weeks or be evacuated to the U.S.A. I was able to get an e-mail to **Maria Thamthai**, a classmate I had not seen in 45 years. I had no idea where in Thailand she lived, but thought she might know someone in the area. Her response was "I live nearby, your daughter is welcome to recuperate at our home."

...

I reached out to my classmates to ask what opportunities Western afforded them ...

**Gloria** wrote that because of an assembly her sophomore year she became a VISTA Volunteer.

**Joann** wrote that she grew up in a rural, white Christian community in Ohio. She was later able to defend Muslims when she heard people making derogatory comments, because they had been her friends at Western.

**Kathy** said, "I came from a male-dominated high school. It was a whole new world being in a place where all the leadership positions had to be filled by women. What I learned has been integral to both my personal and professional life all the years that followed my time at Western."

I called **Stephanie** because I knew she had taken the travel seminar to South America. She said she had always wanted to travel and when she started out on the six-week trip at the end of her senior year, she could not believe that every day when she woke up she would be traveling. Once she started telling me about the trip it sounded as though she had just returned. Mexico, Chile, Peru, Brazil, I could hear her enthusiasm. What an **opportunity**!

**Lynn** was only at Western her freshman year. Her answer was "Western provided me with the knowledge

that I can fall down and still get up, that I am able to solve the challenge of life myself, that independence is good and mostly the friendships like those I made at Western are treasures for life."

**Diane** was able to get a good job in Turkey because of Miss Davis' classes in Introduction to English and English as a Second Language. "I used those courses to sell myself as an ESL teacher. I landed what had to be the best paying job with a salary in dollars. The social security and pension is what I am living on in my retirement. What a great **opportunity** those courses were for me."

Not all opportunities came from academics. **Elaine** talked about her music experience. "Singing madrigal, singing in the musicals put on in our theater, also student teaching and singing on our choir tour to Europe. All these experiences gave me my interest in music and enriched my 35 years of teaching."

...

So what **opportunities** lie ahead of us now? What seeds have been dormant since graduation? In one of the courses I took for my Gerontology Certificate I learned that our life cycles have changed. It used to be that your life went to a peak and then it was downhill. Now our lives are circular. We have our career which may overlap with having a family, which is one circle. You may switch jobs and move to a new area, another circle. When you retire and move to a small easy-care home, another circle. I know people who are learning to paint and do things they never did until they reached 70.

...

When the Alumnae Association dissolves, we can still have reunions. We will still have the opportunity to contribute to valued educational institutions that support women's studies and international programs.

Instead of regretting **missed opportunities**, get out and explore. Think about what seed you have not sprouted. Come back in one, two, three, four, or five years and share what you have done and inspire others. And ...

Keep the gift of the **Western Spirit** alive.

— *Elisa Kessler Caporale '67*

# The Western College Legacy Circle Comes Full Circle!

*In the beginning, the Board of Trustees set three goals for Western's legacy: full funding of scholarships, establishing an endowed professorship at Miami, and creating a physical memorial. The first two were quickly accomplished. The third took more thought, more time. Brainstorming ensued, a rendering of the concept, coming up with a name, and writing texts to tell the story. Fundraising began with a flourish and ground was broken during Alumnae Weekend 2014. Installation was soon underway and the almost-completed Legacy Circle debuted October 8, 2016, at a special event honoring the Liggett family. Finally, on June 10, 2017, during another Alumnae Weekend — complete with ribbon-cutting, the Western College Legacy Circle was dedicated! We've asked its creator, University Architect Emeritus Robert Keller, to tell the story of how it all came about. Here are his words:*

When Debbie Baker contacted me about participating in the dedication of the Western Legacy Circle, thoughts came rushing back to me of the early meetings with the ladies over in Patterson Place and Peabody. Looking through project folders and notes my memory was refreshed. The earliest notes were from a meeting in August 2012. The Western Alumnae Board wants to leave a legacy. We discussed goals and objectives: artistic; sculptural; seating for individuals or small groups; the seal of course, located somewhere along the new Western Walk. The meetings were free-flowing and enthusiastic with many good ideas being generated. The Western story needs to be told and preserved; identify key milestone events; and their early international emphasis was very significant in their development — “Our alumnae have gone to the four corners of the world!” someone exclaimed.

Early designs had curved seating around the center of the seal with the outer elements flipping up on the face of the seats and seat backs. There were concerns that the seats would all be facing inward toward the center. More choice or orientation would improve the design and the experience. And how might we capture some of the spirit of the Western College in physical form? Maybe additional seating could be added emanating out from the center offering multiple views. But how to make it graceful and sculptural? ... what about shaping the seat backs into points ... pointing to the four directions of the compass ... why not shape the entire design into a rosette compass design?! ... pointing “to the four corners of the world?!” At our next meeting that became our design concept and we were well on

our way to our design. When I posed the question of material there was a quick and unanimous response: “It must be made of enduring, quality, handsome material. It has to be granite!”

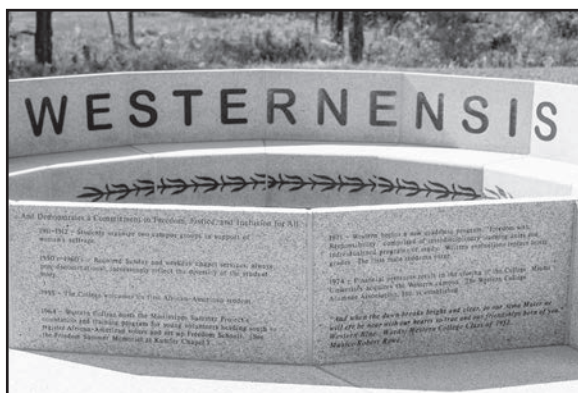
A group was organized to work on the text of “the story.” My compliments to those ladies for their accurate research, their skills of composition and their patience. There was a lot of story but not a lot of space. Version one submittal: very good but far too long. Version two: even better but still too long. Version three: still a little too long; etc., etc. Finally, after much effort it was just right! Our team expanded to include a skillful artist (Charles Benick), who created very nice renderings that took any guess work away from visualizing what it would look like — he nailed it beautifully. And the project manager (Ethan Dole) did the “heavy lifting” (sometimes literally!) as he persevered through the challenges of the actual construction phase to bring “Legacy” to a reality.

For all of us it was a long journey — envisioning, designing, refining, funding, and, finally, building the Western College Legacy Circle, but it was also a rewarding one. It was my pleasure to get know so many of you Western Alumnae and make so many new friends. Thank you for the opportunity!

— Bob Keller



Bob Keller



*Engraved on the backs of the six encircling granite benches, carefully crafted texts tell the story of Western from Seminary to small women's liberal arts College, to a College nationally recognized for its global vision, intercultural emphasis and commitment to social justice.*



### The Early Years of an Independent Female Seminary

1853 - Oxford citizens, led by the Rev. Daniel Tenney, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, and Mary Adams Parker Tenney, charter the Western Female Seminary.

1855 - Helen Peabody, the first principal, and five teachers come from Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary, Holyoke, MA. Protégés of Mary Lyon, they bring "The Holyoke Plan" with its strong emphasis on academics. The Plan becomes the Seminary's foundation.

The first class of 150 students, some as young as 14, arrives from 10 states for a three-year course emphasizing English, Latin, religion, sciences, and math, plus music, art, French, Greek, and calisthenics. Establishing a tradition, Miss Peabody welcomes each one on the

### Western Female Seminary Becomes a Pioneering Liberal Arts College

1888 - Seminary graduate Leila S. McKee, class of 1877, becomes the second principal. She and the trustees begin the arduous steps required to become a college.

1894 - The Seminary is now The Western, A College and Seminary for Women. Miss McKee is one of the youngest college presidents in the country and the first woman to join the Association of Ohio College Presidents.

1895 - Mary Alma Sawyer, instructor in chemistry and physics, is appointed to the new position of dean. As one of the first deans of an American college, she becomes a definer of that role. The College awards its first Bachelor of Arts degrees.

### With a Progressive but Practical Curriculum/Program...

1894-1904 - Western adds a Department of Physical Training and becomes the first American college to offer academic credit for "domestic science."

1912-1916 - New concepts of "majors" and "minors," semester hours, and a letter grading system are implemented. Economics and Sociology Departments are created. The Departments of Psychology and Education are combined to support a new teacher training program. Passing a swimming test becomes a graduation requirement. An Honor Society is formed.

1917-1918 - Students plant "war gardens" during WWI.

1924 - Western is one of the first American colleges to offer training in Modern Dance.



*After the June 2017 dedication ceremony, alumnae and guests descend onto the Circle, looking for names on the walkway border and circle tiles, reading the history texts, trying out the seating, and — of course — taking pictures!*



June 10, 2017: Cameras flash as attending dignitaries Judy Henderson, Janie Liggett Mercurio, Sylvia Stanfield, and Bob Keller cut the ribbon.

At the entrance, the Liggett stone, inscribed with the names of major donor Marjorie Lloyd Liggett '39 and family members (see closeup, page 7), is flanked by bench backs bearing bronze plaques of (left) the official College seal and (right) third president Leila McKee's personal seal.

At the center of the Circle, of course — the seal! Detail (top photo) shows the iconic book, lantern, and scroll with Greek motto, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me do?"



Students find the benches just right for lounging and/or studying. No doubt they have just walked the Circle to read the history of Western College beginning to end ...

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
WCAA Board of Trustees begins discussion regarding the third goal of the 2008 Legacy Plan, establish a Western museum or center. One of the suggestions is a sculpture or series of plaques to convey the legacy of Western College.	A sculptor is invited to campus to meet with trustees and Miami University architect, Robert (Bob) Keller.	Bob Keller meets with the Board to brainstorm about the project. Key concepts are identified and Bob proceeds with initial design. Judy Henderson and Sharry Addison appointed as fundraising co-chairs. Anne Weissenborn chairs history committee.	Project is named the <i>Western College Legacy Circle</i> . Donor giving levels established and fundraising campaign with \$350K goal begins. Receive leadership gift from Marjorie Liggett. Groundbreaking, Alumnae/i Weekend, June 21.	Text for history panels finalized. Fundraising goal reached during Alumnae/i Weekend. Contractor and project materials selected.	Site preparation and construction begins. Legacy Circle Preview, Alumnae/i Weekend, June 11. Legacy Circle Debut with Liggett family, October 8.	Project completed! Legacy Circle Dedication, Alumnae/i Weekend, June 10.

# Civil Rights & Social Justice: Take Two

*The Western campus first made headlines in the summer of 1964 as the site of the orientation and training for the Mississippi Summer Project. Erected in 1999 and dedicated the next year, the beautiful outdoor amphitheater — the Freedom Summer Memorial — in 2006 attracted the attention of Ohio magazine, which named it “Best History Lesson.” The editors noted that the memorial “marks a little known chapter of Ohio’s involvement in the civil rights movement.” In October 2014, USA Today ran an account of Freedom Summer by Cincinnati Enquirer contributor Mark Curnutte on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of participants on the Western Campus.*

**T**his past summer Western College for Women, along with Miami University, was recognized yet again for its involvement in and commitment to civil rights and social justice. On June 18, 2017 — on behalf of the Western College Alumnae Association and Miami University — WCAA Trustee **Fran Hoffman ’65**, and MU President Greg Crawford jointly accepted one of three Social Justice Awards from the National Civil Rights Conference in Philadelphia, MS. Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, MU Associate Professor of Theatre, also received an award for creating the app ARIS, a location-based tour inviting participants to experience the events of June 1964 by roleplaying as a volunteer during training while exploring Clawson, Peabody, and other sites on the Western campus. (A third award was given to a local resident for her years of unceasing work in social justice.)

The three recognitions came about through the efforts of University (and WCMA) Archivist **Jacky Johnson**, who — along with Dr. Armstrong — attended the 2014 National Civil Rights Conference in Meridian, MS, and gave a formal presentation: “Learning from the Past to Empower the Future: Creating a Civil Rights Curriculum for Civic Engagement.” Jacky says she “simply wanted to connect Western College with the events in Mississippi (1964,) and have the WCAA and Ann Elizabeth recognized by a national civil rights organization for their commitment to social justice.” But that’s also when Jacky learned about the annual awards, and subsequently went one step further — writing the nomination that led to this year’s awards.

Upon her return, Fran wrote a lengthy detailed memo to the WCAA Board of Trustees, describing the trip (she was able to travel aboard Miami’s private plane), the ceremony and attendant activities, and her enlightening conversations with President Crawford.

Each year at the conference, a ceremony is held to

commemorate James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, the three young men murdered during the first days of their work as Freedom Summer Trainees. It was during this, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Service, that the awards were bestowed. Here is Fran’s account (excerpted) of the ceremony:

“... The service was held at The Historic Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Mississippi. I was not aware that this annual remembrance ceremony has been held over the years. It is a lovely way to honor the sacrifice of those three young men, and to nurture the commitment to move forward strongly with love ... and it was a forceful reminder of the power of the right to vote.

“It was on and near the grounds of the Mt. Zion Church that the three young men, all participants in the Freedom Summer training at Western College for Women during the summer of 1964, were murdered. ...

“This year’s service was the opening day of the National Civil Rights Conference, and was held in the sanctuary of the Mt. Zion Church. The church was packed, the church’s pastor, Elder Ada Clay, and local and county elected officials welcomed everyone in a profoundly loving manner. It is important to mention that all four elected officials were African-American, one of them a third-term Mayor. Things are certainly changing. In addition, Mr. Roscoe Jones, the young man who was asked (but not permitted) to join the three that were murdered, was present to offer some heartfelt words about his living to establish a Freedom School in the area.

“... Both Greg and I were invited to say a few words. I spoke first, and although I had prepared thoroughly, I dropped my notes and let my heart lead. I spoke a little longer than I had planned, but not too long, and I could hear ‘mmm-hmmm,’ ‘yes,’ and ‘praise be’ from round the sanctuary. I think they got a good taste of Western ... that Western spirit came through warmly and with some power.

“Those given awards were presented with a medallion to wear around our necks and a book. The book that Greg and I were given was about women who were active in the social justice movement. Dr. Keith Parker, who presented the awards, selected the books, each thoughtfully appropriate for the awardees.

“The featured speaker followed the social justice awards. The Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. is the first African-American in our country to serve as a U.S. Magistrate. He has a remarkable record of service and accomplishments — serving 40 years as a judge and working under the Kennedy, Reagan and Carter administrations in various key capacities.

“Following the ceremony and photo taking, we were treated to home-cooked and homegrown food at the home of one of the parishioners. who was also an elected official.



*“As we left for the trip back, there was a full double rainbow arching across the sky. How amazing!” Serious amateur photographer Greg Crawford captures the image.*



*“And we took time to stop by the spot, identified by a commemorative marker, where the bodies of the three men were found.” MU President Greg Crawford and WCAA trustee Fran Hoffman '65, at the memorial marker*



*The Miami contingent with Mt Zion Church pastor, Elder Alda Clay at the National Civil Rights Conference, Philadelphia, MS (from left): University Archivist Jacky Johnson; Debbie Scott; Dr. Ann Elizabeth Armstrong; Assoc. VP, Institutional Diversity Ronald Scott; President Crawford; Frances Hoffman, Pastor Clay; graduate student Esther Claros Berlioz; and Assoc. Professor of Theatre, Stephanie Danker.*

**Criteria:** *The Annual Awards for Civil Rights and Social Justice are presented to individuals or community based organizations who promote human dignity, civil rights and social justice through actions characterized by great personal initiative, selflessness, fearlessness, compassion, imagination and achievement or compelling personal stories that encourage and inspire creative and personal stories that encourage and inspire creative and effective action in support of human dignity, civil rights and social justice.*

*The Annual Awards are intended to honor those who demonstrate a strong and persistent commitment to enriching the human experience in the areas of civil rights, social justice, human dignity and equality, while striving for an inclusive environment and a more just and socially responsible world.*

**Miami University received a Champion Award for its Freedom Summer App** at the first-ever ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony on Oct. 19. The awards recognize colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates and civic participation.

The app was designated as “most innovative.” Miami also earned a Bronze Seal for achieving a student voting rate between 50 and 59 percent. **Ann Elizabeth Armstrong**, associate professor of theatre, spearheaded the project with a recent class and accepted the award on Miami’s behalf.

# Meet Your Duly, Newly Elected Trustees ...

## Western College Alumnae Association ELECTION OF ALUMNAE TRUSTEES 2017-2020

In accordance with the bylaws of the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc., the Nominating Committee, composed of **Pamela Watts Coates '70**, Chair; **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65**; **Elizabeth Salt '74**; and **Patricia Spokes Snowden '64**, presents these candidates for election to the Board of Trustees to replace those whose terms expire on June 30, 2017.

**Judith Dudman Henderson '62** received a B.A. degree in history. Lessons learned from her participation in Western's summer travel program to the Far East continue to influence her pathway. While raising their family, Judy served on the national board of American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Tulsa Global Alliance. She has helped develop programs that encourage children to understand and respect cultures different from their own. After returning to college for an A.D. in computer science, she worked in management for a utility company before entering seminary. As a delegate from her denomination, she attended the Fourth Global Conference on Women in Beijing and Huairo, China. With a M.Div. in theology she now serves in an active ministry in Northern Malawi, Africa, including teaching and helping to establish a partnership between Miami University and the University of Livingstonia. The Hendersons live in Tulsa, OK.



Judy Dudman  
Henderson '62

*Judy came to the Board in 2010 and served two terms, 2010-2013, 2013-2016: as 2nd vice president, 2012-2014; 1st vice president, 2014-2015; as president, 2015-2016.*

**Frances Hoffman '65** graduated with a degree in chemistry and a minor in mathematics. After several years in biophysics and biochemistry research, she obtained a master's degree in Social Planning in a joint program at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work/Planning and Community Organization and the MIT Graduate Department of Urban Planning. She served as the social services planner for the Boston Model Cities Program and the South Shore Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, leading collaborative programs in housing, education, day care, health and social services. She earned her doctorate in Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University and went on to her major professional field of brownfields redevelopment, serving at the national, state and local levels in facilitating EPA grantee projects and advising EPA on national brownfields policy, directing New Jersey's state brownfields program, and doing private sector brownfields redevelopment. Fran has authored numerous papers, articles and has co-authored a book about brownfields redevelopment. Now retired, she resides in Mystic, CT, where she serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission, heads the Conservation Committee of the Mystic Garden Club, is the former president and now board member of CUSH, Inc. (Clean Up Sound and Harbor) and is a founding director of Mystic Geriatrics Institute (MGI). Fran is certified as an "Organic Land Management Professional" — her new retirement career. Her two children and their families live in the San Francisco Bay area.



Fran Hoffman '65

*Fran was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board, 2016-2017, but has been elected to her first three-year term, 2017-2020.*

## ... and Get Reacquainted with Familiar Faces

**Sylvia Stanfield '65** graduated with a degree in intercultural studies. Then, as, an East-West Center grantee, she earned an M.A. in Asian studies from the University of Hawaii and studied Chinese at the University of Hong Kong. In 1968, she began work at the Department of State. Her first assignment abroad was with the American Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan. In addition to other Taiwan assignments, she served in Hong Kong and Beijing. In Washington, she served with, inter alia, the Office of the People's Republic of China and Mongolian Affairs, as country officer for Malaysia and Singapore Affairs, then Zambia and Malawi Affairs. She directed the Office of Australia and New Zealand Affairs prior to a posting as Deputy Chief of Mission/Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand. She headed the Office of Taiwan Coordination Affairs. She was the U.S. Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam from 1999 to 2002. Afterwards, she was Diplomat-in-Residence at both Florida A&M University and Spelman College prior to becoming the State Department's Senior Advisor for Mentoring Coordination. Now retired, Sylvia continues to be involved in mentoring and international affairs programs. She is a past member of the WCAA Board, and a director of the Miami University Foundation Board.



*Sylvia Stanfield '65*

***Sylvia was first appointed to the Board, 2008-2009; elected to two three-year terms as trustee, 2009-2012, 2012-2015; and elected to a one-year term as president, 2014-2015.***

**Ann Walton '66** graduated with a degree in history and a minor in German. She returned to Western in 1968 to serve as Assistant Director of Admissions. In the early '70s, she began her 25-year career at the University of Michigan. Within 10 years, she had attained the position of Director/COO of Executive Education, a self-supporting unit of the Michigan Business School with annual revenues of \$20 million. A major achievement was that Michigan was ranked number one in *Businessweek* magazine's first annual ranking of Executive Education Programs world-wide. After leaving this position, Ann became Associate Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations for University Development, working with executives in the consumer durable, energy, and health industries. Upon retiring from the university, Ann became a management/coaching consultant. For the past 10 years, she has been a real estate professional in the Ann Arbor residential market. Ann is a past WCAA Board member and President, and served two years on the Business Advisory Council for the Richard T. Farmer School of Business at Miami University.



*Ann Walton '66*

***Ann was first elected for two terms, 1988-1994, and served as president from 1992 to 1994.***

***Pheetta G. Wilkinson '76 returns to the Board, having served two terms, 2009-2012 and 2012-2015 as secretary. She has been appointed for one year to fill a vacancy. and will stand for election to a third full term next fall.***



*Pheetta Wilkinson '76*

# "The Time Has Come To Talk Of Many Things ..."



With no news of her five remaining classmates, intrepid class rep **Suzy Allburt** has resorted to writing about the weather. She'd had calls asking how Dallas was living through the hurricanes: "We got not a sprinkle and except for the community's efforts to help would not know anything happened." She went on to quote a local joke: "When Noah and his Ark set sail, Marfa (a small town in the Big Ben country hundreds of miles from here) got one half inch."

Suzy prefaced her letter with "We [class of '41] have waited a long time to lead the section of class notes. 1942 will come later and we will share with them the love and happy memories of the Western Campus. Our best wishes to all."

**Suzy Allburt**  
5003 Elsey  
Dallas, TX 75209



*Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 75 years!*



Dear members of the class of 1945,

When **Margie Gasche Ewing** and I attended our 70th reunion at Western two years ago, we found out that they were planning to close the Alumnae Office in 2024. We realized that we would be celebrating our 100th year birthdays that year. I told Margie I didn't plan to live that long but where I live, there are many people who live here who are well over 100. Anyhow, she was sure we would make it.



*Margie*

However, this past spring I was informed that she was in the care of Hospice, and it looked as if we

wouldn't be getting there. Then the Alumnae Office informed me that she had died on June 8. I'm hoping I'll make our 75th reunion two years from now, and I am hoping some of the rest of you will join me.

In the meantime I needed to write something for this year's *Bulletin*. Luckily **Jane Harris Bugnand** had sent me a note on the "blue card" with the news that she is living in a resident apartment building for seniors. She had given her address, which the office had but not her phone number. But here was her number 512 - 992 - 2444. I called it and she answered. She has a lovely apartment with two balconies. There are 100 apartments in her building, and they are adding 100 more. She swims in the pool and attends an exercise class. The food is good with three choices at each dinner. Lots of music programs and speakers in the evening. She is "only 92," the baby of our class. Her daughter lives in Colorado and her son is in Belize.

Yesterday I called **Kit Jarvis Fischer**, and we had a long visit. She broke her neck a few months ago and had to wear a cervical collar for eight weeks. She has recovered nicely and is back to driving her car. She decided to finish the basement in her house so that her grandchildren would have a place to stay when they come to visit, but there are so many of her relatives around that they haven't needed it. She has cut down on some of the entertainment that she used to do, but she has tea parties with her friends and relatives every other week or so. She has moved to various apartments in her complex, and I believe she said this was the fifth apartment she has occupied. She said she is living for today and planning for tomorrow. I suggested that she have one of her kids drive her down to Western for our 75th reunion. We think we are the only roommates that are both living at this time of our lives.

My last call was to **Marilyn Inskeep Fischer**. She has moved recently to Assisted Living. As she was moving around, she didn't have her regular phone, but now she's settled and has her regular number back again (317-984-1882). We, too, had a good visit. She said that she has seen **Emmy Greenland '47** a couple of times lately. Emmy is in memory care now, and Inky wasn't sure that Emmy knew her. Inky goes to the dining room for her meals. She has two rooms in her apartment. She has trouble seeing very well, she says.

I can't remember when **Milly Walker Elberfeld** dropped me a note, but she said that she had been to the Western campus recently and saw the Legacy Circle. She was not impressed.

Some time ago I received a letter from **Virginia Cook Marquett**. I looked through all the Western stuff that I have in a drawer, and I wasn't able to find it. I sent all kinds of stuff about our class — pictures of our class reunions etc. to the Western Archives, which is now at Miami. I don't think I sent the letter with that material ... Ginny is still keeping up with all the things she used to do.

I'm still in my townhouse here at Westminster Place — and still able to run our library of 4,000 books. However, I've given up several of the secretary jobs I've done for many years. That's a relief. I have three grandchildren married and another one planning an April wedding in Kentucky. No great-grandchildren yet.

Now that you've read the news I've gathered, why don't you send me news of you? I'll be waiting to hear from you ...

**Ardis Dechman Coninx '45**  
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*Jane Alexander Durrell has enjoyed a long career writing about the visual arts for a va-*



*Jane, celebrating their 70th solo at Reunion 2017*

riety of publications in hometown Cincinnati. Travel writing is relatively new — and has had a special focus on travel by bicycle. The editors asked her to contribute a highlight on her experience as a student in a recent travel writing workshop. When Anne did not hear from any other classmates, we decided to share Jane's reflection here:

"In June I had, oddly enough, two experiences virtually back to back that brought Western memories welling up. The first was on the Western campus, where I was — to my considerable surprise — the only member of the class of 1947 back for our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Where were you all? Miami does an admirable job of maintaining our individual identity and the classes gathering for their 50<sup>th</sup> etc. were well served, but I would certainly have welcomed someone from those of us who first appeared in Oxford in the fall of 1943! The campus looks beautiful, the buildings are well-maintained, and life moves on.

"But the following weekend found me in Gambier, Ohio, on the Kenyon College campus, beginning a week of Kenyon Institute and enrolled for a class in travel writing. Western seemed (to me) as alive there as in Oxford. We were only five, in my class, sat at a large table and conversed as well as being lectured to from nine to noon each day. Although the professor was no Miss Bliss, it was quite like being at that table at the back of her classroom where we all sat once the students winnowed down to majors. My generation was not much represented at Kenyon, either, but all those middle-aged folks were friendly. It's good to know that the Western-type experience, updated for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, can be had in both Oxford and Gambier."

**Anne Mack Dean '47**  
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**Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 70 years!**



What a memorable milestone to have reached as many of us celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> year, knowing that strength and forbearance have helped us overcome personal and medical problems. May we continue to be forward-focused and not past-possessed!

**Margot Freudenthal Kaufman** had a bad year with an upbeat ending. She suffered a mastectomy, but recovered and went on a river cruise from Berlin to Prague with her daughter, Lynn. She still lives alone in her big house in Sacramento, CA. Days at Western seem a long time ago!

**Nancy Suter Hull** reports the death of her husband, George, in July 2015. She is still living in their condo in Maryland, but spends the winter in Florida with her daughter, Donna. She would also like to report the death of her college roommate, **Marilyn Case Carollo**, in February 2017.

Life has gone pretty much the same for **Mary Jane Liggett Matson**, who is still active in the D.A.R., Colonial Dames, and church. An annual trip to Ohio for a family reunion began with a shuttle ride to the airport. In chatting, her fellow passenger asked, "Where are you going?" "To Ohio." She said, "I went to school in Ohio." "Where?" "Western College." It was **Nancy Alison Owens**, class of '73. It was a fun experience that shows Western alums can meet unexpectedly, anywhere.

**Sally Proper Lutz** still volunteers at St. Michaels Woman's Exchange in Dallas, in the paper department where she has always worked. She finds herself doing wedding invitations for girls whose birth announcements she did years ago! Sally spends time each summer on Nantucket, finding it good to get out of Dallas's heat. She would love to receive an e-mail from any classmate at [sally\\_lutz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sally_lutz@sbcglobal.net), or a text message at 214-274-3164.

Her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was a great occasion for a family get-together celebration for **Bunny Bartizal Proctor**. Bunny had planned to go to her Western reunion with **Betty Huttenbauer Heldman**, but had to renege, so Betty went alone. Bunny still plays bridge and volunteers at a retirement home, and attends a weekly Bible study with a group of very special ladies.

**Nancy Meiss McLaren** enjoyed a trip to Hawaii — also visited her son in Denver for his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her family is coming to be with her in October for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Nancy's freshman and sophomore roommate, **Barbara Loper Syme** died in July. They had remained in touch despite the miles between them, and Nancy will miss the conversations and family pictures.

A retirement community in St. Paul is the home of **Connie Van Valkenburg Innes-Brown**. She is so happy now to have a heated garage! She is chairman of the grounds committee. She also owns a small house in Asheville, NC, near her son, Robert. She drives to North Carolina several times a year, visiting her granddaughter and three great-grandchildren in Oxford en route. She visits Maine, too, visiting relatives on the way. Last year Connie took a cruise on the

Columbia and Snake Rivers, returning home by train. Coming up is a planned cruise to the Florida rivers, maybe swimming with the manatees! She greatly enjoys class news and keeping up with old friends.

**Elaine Culver Goodwin's** late husband was a city planner working at the state level, so they lived mostly in state capitals all over the U.S. She now lives with daughter Abby's family on Southport Island, out of Boothbay Harbor. This allows her to stay close to her 14-year-old grandson, Fox. Her son, Ed, is a doctor of microbiology, deeply interested in a startup program diagnosing cancers. His daughter, Jacqueline, graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, and has started a job with the Buildings Museum in Washington, DC. He also has 6-year-old twins, just starting school in Stratford, CT. An interesting summer started with a trip to Harrisburg, PA, for Jacqueline's graduation, followed by an emotional reunion with a family that had fled Cuba in 1962 and became her family's closest friends.

In June, her sister **Mary Culver Daniels '53**, and husband visited Elaine, followed by an unexpected trip to Port Townsend, WA. She returned home to host friends from Maine and Nashville. These trips and visits and her two years at Western were her life's "greatest hits."

**Anne Schiffmayer Bugbee** and hubby have moved to a beautiful brand-new first floor apartment. It faces a park surrounded by huge evergreens, million-dollar homes with a backdrop of the Indian Peaks of the northern Rockies. They are a mile from their older, single son, who had recent gastric bypass surgery. Anne helped out with cleaning, laundry, and shopping during his early recovery days. Their granddaughter, Ashlyn, a graduate of the U. of Northern Colorado, has her own yoga business and models yoga-wear for large area companies. Grandson Weston is a very recent graduate of the U. of Colorado School of Architecture, with an Environmental Design specialty. The Bugbees have been Colorado residents for 23 years, glad to be near family but sorely miss their Cape Cod living.

I, Jane, had a busy spring and summer, starting with granddaughter Lauren's wedding in May, only to leave two days later to drive to Brookline, MA, for the disposition of ashes service for my childhood



*Jane Tatge and first great-grandchild, James Fitzsimmons, at two weeks*



Class of '52: Joan Landenberger Trefts, Jo Dubois Shafer, and Betty Sipe Gerber link arms on their 65th anniversary.

next-door neighbor. During the summer Bruce and I had excursions to Chatham, NY, to see Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, to enjoy *Porgy and Bess* at Glimmerglass Opera, to Saratoga Performing Arts Center twice for the Philadelphia Orchestra (Yo Yo Ma and mostly Russian circus performers!), and to a dinner theater at Lake George for Neal Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. We enjoyed a respite from the church choir this summer, but it is starting up again following Labor Day. The highlight of the summer was a trip to Portland, ME, to meet our newborn great-grandson, James, and to celebrate the 16th birthday of his newly-minted uncle, Will! We had our fill of lobster, (including lunch and one breakfast!) and enjoyed our annual trip to Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth to watch the surf. We are grateful for our health, our children, our seven grandchildren, and new great-grandchild.

I am saddened to report that I have learned from the Alumnae Office of the deaths in 2016 of two of our classmates, **Grace Sherman Streb** and **Lorraine Tigh Dennerlein**. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers ...

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Thanks to **Barbara McGill Benson**, who actually clipped and mailed her *Bulletin* blue card with this update! "Enjoying home here in our retirement community for the past three years. Our grandchildren are all grown up and pretty much settled. Our oldest grandson, Alex, is a third-generation psychiatrist. Unfortunately, Jack has been diagnosed with rectal cancer and is in the midst of aggressive treatment. We pray for a

successful outcome. Luckily, I'm doing well. Regards to all.

From **Fran Claggett**: "I seem to have lost all contacts with Western, but I have lots of memories. Here's my news: Since the loss of my partner, my life has been focused more definitively on poetry; I am still involved in teaching poetry and memoir writing, and now have two poetry groups that meet in my home, which is wonderful. I am also still active in our university's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and its subsidiary Art and Poetry Club.

In May, my book *Moments with Madge: Lux Aeterna* was launched with an incredible gathering of some 70 friends, including three of our former students who were included in the program as they had written in memoriam poems for Madge. One, a musician, sang Leonard Cohen songs. I, of course, read from the book, which contains art and photos as well as the many poems that I have written during our 54 years together. With friends and family, some from great distances, gathered at the home and gardens of close friends, it was a beautiful tribute to Madge as well as to our life.

As so many of my classmates know, living without one's spouse requires a readjustment on many levels. I have been fortunate in having had so much beauty in my relationship that I continue to live within it although alone. In addition to a strong support group of friends, I also have my two sighthounds, a Saluki and a Whippet, and they keep me moving when I would probably be more sedentary.

I would love to hear from classmates! My e-mail is listed! [fran.claggett@gmail.com]

A "Short Note" from **Nancy Hon Krauth**: "Norm and Nancy are still living in the country near Cedar Rapids, IA, and still healthy and happy."

**WCAA, Inc.**  
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**Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 65 years!**

**Debra Cohen Kalodner** and her daughter, Liz Kalodner, visit Cape Cod each summer and have breakfast with former *Bulletin*



Debra Cohen Kalodner (right), visiting classmate Cary Kimbark Revere and husband Paul in Cape Cod last August

Class Representative **Cary Kimbark Revere** and her husband, Paul. Liz had been to campus in July to inspect her mother's Legacy Circle tile and returned home to entertain her with stories of the experience—including the part about the need to clean pigeon droppings from the tile before photographing it. (With Debbie Baker's help, of course)

**Sheila MacDonald Bailey** writes: "I live in Memphis, TN. Been here since '65 and love it! I decided to go back to school in '86. My mother was a famous artist who hung in the Smithsonian ... so I was really scared upon entering Memphis College of Art. Only one of a dozen such colleges in the U.S. Fortunately, my liberal arts studies transferred except for Art History and obviously spelling. Well, I persevered and graduated with a B.F.A. six years later. I had a double major in bronze sculpture portraits and oil on canvas portraits. I still do both on a commission basis. Have a wonderful studio in my home.

"I lost the love of my life four years ago and my art has saved my life. I also write children's books ... although adults seem to like to read them too. Who knows? I live in a big house with four bedrooms and three and a-half baths. The thought of moving makes me physically ill as I have something on everything. So me and my studio will stay together. I live alone and love it!! I have three children, and four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They are spread across the country from Palm Springs to Nantucket. They come to visit in shifts. Guess that's about all."

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I can't help but wonder if the class of '55 is as busy as I am in attending to doctors' visits for myself or for someone whom I love (in my case, my 87-year-old sister; more on that later) so that there is little time left for forwarding news of their lives.

Perhaps **Liz Dunham Gibbons** said it best: "Life in my '80s is not exactly what I expected. It is full of surprises, mostly learning to accept that I do not walk as fast as I used to, do not hear as well in one ear, my energy level fluctuates, and my body seems to have shrunk. Fortunately my curiosity and interest in many different things remains, so I am never bored."

**Charlene Ashing Barry** presents an amusing picture of herself going to the doctors, holding onto the back of the wheelchair for dear life while her portable oxygen tank and her heavy purse ride as passengers. I love that her sense of humor is as strong as it ever was.

**Madelon Operer Hall** and her husband, Dave, are still in good health. They have found their 6-year-old granddaughter, who visits them every week, is a dose of what they need to perk up.

A grandson's wedding was the big event for **Sara Babcock Burneson**, who is still enjoying her life in the retirement community she moved to four years ago. She walks and hikes and takes part in the community's activities as well as those of her church. This September she went to Iceland and later visited with **Kay Williams** in New York City.

An obituary notice was forwarded to me telling that **Barbara Fleischman Piolet** passed away on August 3, 2016. She had worked for 36 years as a special education teacher at West Aurora High School, Aurora, IL, and was also a longtime member of Temple B'nai Israel in Aurora. Our sympathies are extended to her family.

As for me, **Mary Sicer Moore**, my summer plans for visiting children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and traveling to Oregon to see the eclipse, were abruptly changed when my sister fell and broke her left arm (she is left-handed) in three places, dislocated bones in her wrist, and shattered the connection between arm and shoulder. I moved in with her and took over her care. Her daughter and step-daughter both came and relieved me for a while, but I was on the job from mid-June to mid-September. She can now do everything for herself except drive, but friends and People Who Care are taking her to her therapy sessions and giving me a break. I am so glad I moved to

Prescott so I could be here now when she really needed me.

May we all continue to have good health and good friends and family who can help us when our health fails ...

**Mary Sicer Moore '55**  
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We missed you at our Reunion in June and you missed a wonderful Reunion. I'm sure this *Bulletin* has lots of pictures and details about these exciting three days [see pp. 23-28] so I'll just note what especially impressed me.

My sister, Johanna Stout (we were going on to Asheville, NC, to visit our sister) and I arrived in time to drop our bags in Stonebridge Hall and catch the bus to Lewis Place, the home of Miami President, Gregory Crawford and Mrs. Crawford. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and punch. Our evening activity after dinner in the Western Dining Commons was trying to identify pictures of our younger selves posted around Stonebridge Hall.

I had a chance to see **Dru Zearley Clingman** and meet Dave. Dru explained that Paula had planned to come but had an issue with a knee and had to cancel her plans. We wish her a speedy recovery. The Clingmans are planning a trip to Antarctica; I thought they had said their "big travel" days were over.

**Charlotte Leary Ross '56** and Joe had come from West Virginia and we also got caught up on the past six decades.

Saturday morning a young woman, PE major at Miami, came to lead us in stretches and exercises. This prepared us for the Parade of Class Flags.

**Sue Mayer Falter** and **Mary Kay Droste Feller** drove over from Dayton for the Meily Luncheon. Mary Kay had just moved to a smaller, but, according to Sue, quite luxurious home where there is some care for Alan who has early Alzheimer's. She was working on a quilt to take to Seattle when she visits her son there. Sue has curtailed her many volunteer and cultural activities to be closer to home as Jim's health is not good. She and her sister, **Peggy Mayer Hill '59**, had visited **Ione Sandburg Cowen**.

The highlight of the Reunion was the afternoon Dedication of the Legacy Circle. All of us had spent a lot of time reading the inscriptions, looking for our names on bricks and taking pictures. There were speeches and a reception following the dedication. What I most remember is Miami President, Greg (as he prefers to be called) Crawford arriving by bicycle to extend his welcome from Miami University.

**Ellyn Talbott Bogan** with grandchildren and future Western students, Marissa and Eric, sat with Dru and Dave Clingman and me at the banquet. It was a memorable Reunion and I'm looking forward to the next one.

Sadly we were notified of the death of two classmates: in May, 2016 **Sandra Still Sakurai** died. She had been Assistant Dean of Students from 1964 to 1967 under Dean Phyllis Hoyt and spoke highly of her Western College associations. I learned from John Scott that **Suzanne Martin Scott** had died



The 60-year Class tries out a Legacy Circle bench at Reunion 2017  
(from left): Mary Kay Droste Feller, Charlotte Klein Varzi, Ellyn Talbott Bogan, Sue Mayer Falter, and Dru Zearley Clingman



Sisters (from left) Sue Mayer Falter '57 and Peggy Mayer Hill '59, meeting with Lone Sandburg Cowen '57 for a cup of coffee and chat in Greenville, SC

on April 1st of 2017. We send condolences to both Sandra's and Suzanne's families.

**Loretta Weygandt Robinson** provided an update on her granddaughter, Faith, who has leukemia. A bone marrow match has been found and she is being transferred to the City of Hope Hospital for the transplant. Loretta had to miss the Reunion as it conflicted with her duties as musical director of the Opera Unlimited Summer Youth Day Camp, which was to perform the Gilbert & Sullivan opera, *Ruddigore*. She is still the organist at her church.

**Freddie Barber Miller** had another fall (nothing broken) but didn't feel steady enough to make the trip to Oxford.

**Joan Mueller McNally** always sends a Christmas card and summary of their busy life and nearby travels.

**Ellyn Talbott Bogan** had an idea about making my job easier when her e-mail said: "I should just say, 'Use my news from the last *Bulletin*.' I do pretty much the same thing all the time." She and daughter Linda went to a family reunion and enjoyed seeing cousins and especially a 95-year-old aunt. She commented further, "I like my TV shows, but want entertainment, not lessons, so I'm getting pickier about what I like to watch. I like reading novels for enjoyment too. Guess I'm past the 'being educated stage.'" She dog sits once a week for three Chinese Pugs who don't listen very well "just like teenagers." She should know with three teenage grandchildren: Marissa, 16, Eric 19, and Cole 14. Marissa and Eric joined us at the Alumnae Weekend Banquet.

I, **Charlotte Klein Varzi**, am also dog sitting, in Irvine, CA, for two months. This afforded me a wonderful reunion with **Alicia Melendez McLaughlin**, who lives in Tustin, next door to Irvine. As we enjoyed Middle Eastern food, memories of classmates, professors, pranks (a couple) and buildings flowed freely. Alicia said that there used to be gatherings of LA alumnae and she misses those. She had considered going to the Reunion but had planned a trip to Chile at that time. She visited sisters and a brother there. Next November, her son Chris will be married in



'57 classmates Char Varzi and Alicia McLaughlin, catching up

Chicago. She keeps busy with her Delta Gamma sorority and work with the Santa Rita Domestic Violence organization. We hope to see each other many more times.

I visited Roxanne and family in Irvine for Thanksgiving last year and joined my Foreign Wives of Iranians in Memphis for a long weekend in April. An MRI showed a torn meniscus in my knee. In March I had an arthroscopic procedure to repair it. Even though the knees are weather predictors, I can still walk the dog. Looking forward to your news, hoping for your well-being ...

**Charlotte Klein Varzi '57**  
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*Editor's note: Ed Kenney, widower of Barbara Frazey Kenney '57, recently shared photos of fourth-generation Kenney Westerners. Barb was an involved and devoted alumna from graduation until her untimely death in May 1990. She faithfully supported Annual Giving, attended her five-year anniversary class reunions, and contributed to Bulletin Class Notes. In the spring 1989 issue, then '57 Class Rep Judy Chumlea-Cohan wrote, "Barb's wonderful light jumps off the page again as her letter is being reread." It was Barb's last update. Barb's family and many friends have continued to support the WCAA through the years, and so it seemed fitting to remember her on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Class of '57. (And, of course, we had these adorable pictures.) They're not twins, they're cousins: Gus (left) is the son of Barb and Ed's grandson, Stephen; Tad is the son of their granddaughter, Stephen's sister, Ellen.*



Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 60 years!



Thanks from all of us to **Jane Toy Thomason** for so many years of fine reporting, keeping us in touch with each other annually. We hope your shoulder problems are going away, Jane, so you can enjoy your retirement. I reluctantly accepted the job of being her successor because I couldn't stand the thought of not reading any '59 news ... so please be in touch!



Jane

"Konnie" **Konheim Kolb** was first to answer my plea for news with a nice L'Chaim New Year greeting card from her Long Island home, which I appreciated — but no news.

**Sis Moeller Horst** and Eric are enjoying traveling in their RV in the summer and cruising the world the rest of the year. After a heart valve replacement for Eric, they took a "geriatric booze cruise" to Canada and in December will be heading to Singapore to embark on a cruise to Indonesia. Bon voyage, Roomie, and keep enjoying those four adorable great-grandchildren!

**Ellie Spittler Buford** says "Ciao" from her Venice home, having just returned from leading a group of her Boston friends on a fabulous trip from Croatia's hill towns to the sea coast, Slovenia and Trieste, enjoying the truffles between concerts along the way. She is already planning next year's itinerary.

**Luci Bilsland Galloway** is anticipating the arrival of a great-grandson in November to join her three step-great-grandchildren. She stays busy singing in the church choir, book club, dinner with friends and letting her daughter's dog out at noon ... and in November will attend the Indy Western Alum meeting.

**Betty Thebaud Sharr** writes that she and Joe just returned from a wonderful trip to Australia. They keep busy playing golf and traveling, plus keeping up with their family and the six grandkids.

**Gail Budelman Nutty** writes for the first time ever from her Greensboro, NC, home

of 40 years that she enjoys reading these class notes but has never before written. To catch us up she writes that her husband, John, died in October, 2010, and both their sons live in North Carolina and bike (pedal kind) around the U.S. and Europe together in the summer. She has retired from teaching after 30 years and while communicating with our class for the memorial at Western, she gathered some additional class news for us: Konnie sent her the news clippings from our muumuu days in 1957 (remember those days?!). **Suzanne Rhodes Crankshaw** wrote that she is still living on St. Simon's Island, GA. **Sue Forester Kincaid** lives in Ohio and **Janie Williams Andrassi** is in Connecticut. (Thanks, Gail!)

**Peggy Mayer Hill** writes that she got together with **Judy Conant** in March in Washington, DC, where they both lived eons ago, for a visit down memory lane. Then in May, she celebrated hitting the big 8-0 with her siblings and in August she and Billy met their son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren for a week on The Big Island of Hawaii for their annual reunion. The children are 11, 9, and 6 so they had to reacquaint after a year apart. Son Andy and family live in Japan so Hawaii is a perfect meeting place every year. They were back home a week, then she and Billy drove to Dayton to celebrate her sister (**Sue Mayer Falter '57**) and brother-in-law Jim's 60th wedding anniversary, detouring through her hometown, Ironton, en route. Fortunately, the recent hurricanes missed them in South Carolina, but they had prepared just in case!

John and I were in Allentown, PA, for my high school class's 80th birthday party in October when the fires started in the No. California wine country. Our son has a winery in St. Helena so we watched the news and called home frequently. They were finishing the "crush" as the fires approached but although they all had to evacuate, the buildings and the wine survived. Then we arrived home to a wildfire less than five miles away in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Never a dull moment!

With our son, daughter-in-law and younger granddaughter, Mackinsey, we will be leaving for Florence in two weeks to visit older granddaughter, Madison, who is enjoying her junior year/first semester there. Then the five of us will fly to Stuttgart for Thanksgiving and stay with our daughter for the weekend. Dana works at the U.S. AfriCom Headquarters and loves living in Germany.

Our sincerest condolences to the family of classmate **Helen Jemison Springob**, who passed away on December 22, 2016. She was the 1957-58 GA secretary and 1958-59 GA president and after graduation went on to earn a master's degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University. Helen had a long history of volunteer and community service

and had received numerous awards for these activities. Helen is remembered by our former Class Rep, Jane Thomason, as "a wonderful person, very kind, attentive and quite the scholarly student. She was that rare someone whom we all admired and are grateful to have known. Thank you, Helen, for bringing such grace and kindness to our class of '59."

Writing this newsletter will be fun if I have something from you to write about. Everyone seems to love to read what we're all doing so please stay in touch ...

**Diana Koch Mascali '59**  
**18653 Woodbank Way**  
**Saratoga CA 95070**  
**dkmascali@aol.com**



Let's have a contest among the members of the class of '61! **Marcia Jones Friddle** would like to know if anyone has a younger grandchild than she does: Zella Bertie Friddle was born on July 10, 2017. Marcia declares herself, for the time, the winner, but we will be happy to recognize another classmate! Then let's find out about great-grandchildren. I will accept suggestions as to how many, how young, how old, or whatever strikes you as competitive!

To put this family in perspective, Marcia and Andy's son Phillip was married in July 2015 to Maura, and Zella (named for Andy's mother; Bertie comes from Maura's family) arrived this year. Son Peter was married also in July to Amy, who brought a sister, Sienna (9), to Peter's sons Ryan (12) and Sean (14). Phil and Maura gave Marcia and Andy an iPad so that they could have face time with Zella, who lives with her parents in Albany, NY. Marcia writes that "After 45 years of marriage and no little girls, we acquired two granddaughters in the one month of July 2017."

"As we get older and creakier," **Flora Zimmerman Cohen** reports, they have a grandson recruited to play baseball ("the love of his life") at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. She adds, "You know I love small liberal arts colleges ... I looked at their web site and I want to go there." An apple orchard in northeastern Ohio is home to their other daughter and her family. Flora and Richard plan to see the whales running in February on a trip to Hawaii. "Other than that we stay busy and out of trouble with our volunteering and trying to stay upright."

**Sharon Botsford Moyer** rushed a note ahead of Irma, from Georgia where she



*Sons and grandsons of Marcia Jones Friddle '61, with baby granddaughter Zella.*

was looking after her granddaughter Riley and various animals while daughter Jackie was teaching a course in Charleston. Later, she followed it up with a "recap of 2017": It "has been another year of great travels," with "a week early in January scuba diving in Roatan, Honduras ... and went directly to GA to help Jackie recover from a complete shoulder replacement. Mid-February through late March I traveled to northeast India, Nepal and Bhutan ... with the assistance of a great guide to trek to the Tiger's Nest in Paro, Bhutan ... Sean and family continue to live in Brooklyn. This June was Aiden's fifth grade graduation and lo's "stepping-up" ceremony from kindergarten to first grade. I see **Judy (Buck)** for lunch when I visit there. She is keeping busy and doing well.

In July, all my family gathered for birthday week in Sanibel Island ... In GA for Hurricane Irma ... I was the resident child and animal wrangler! We sheltered in the house because of the livestock. We sustained property damage — trees and fences downed, littered fields and blown down hay structure; however, all horses, cats, dogs, chickens, ducks and people are fine. Thanks for generators (for which she earlier said she needed a tutorial) because we had no power for four days!"

Greetings from Ontario come from **Jane Miller Brooks**, who has lived in Canada since 1962 and loves it, except for the cold winters. She has traveled with daughter Linda and son Mike to Europe, often hiking. She will spend a warmer-than-usual Christmas with Mike in Vancouver. Her favorite niece, Beth, whom she visited in Argentina, will be living in Ottawa for three years "as her husband is with the U.S. Embassy," adding, "I have avoided discussing the frigid winter they are about to endure." Though she is anticipating future travels, Jane is still teaching, saying, "Although people generally think I am insane I am still enjoying myself. I do have an exit plan." You are a model for us all, Jane!



*Sons and granddaughters of  
Bobbi Alman Lee '61*

Yet one more retiree, **Barbara Alman Lee**, is still teaching part time after 41 years of kindergarten. Bobbi's beloved husband passed away two years ago. One son, Casey, works for the government and the other, Corey, teaches, and each is married with two daughters. Although one family lives in Arizona and the other in Maui, they spend time together. She went with one family to Disneyland, "and with a little magic and lots of money," they made over the little girls into princesses. "We got to watch and I loved every minute of it." Feeling her age, she now invests in "makeup and creams," and reports that "Jenna — one of the granddaughters — has lived several lives. She told me my arms looked funny because they had all these lines on them. I told her I needed more exercise and she offered to help me. It was hard to keep a straight face but she was so sincere."

Another classmate who also continues to teach, **Ann Bronaugh Kyle**, says, "By staying active I am continuing as a special education teacher for sixth grade ... Because I am working I have some funds to travel. This summer was unusual with trips to Switzerland, Italy, Oregon, Florida. It was amazing." Ann is astonishing, too, and sends greetings to our classmates.

Equally amazing, **Gail Howell Litwiler** is in her "28th year on the Hampton Township (PA) School Board, and was convinced to run again in November for another four-year term!!" She is still deeply involved in church activities, too. In August, she and husband Tom visited daughter Trish, who has moved with her family from Greenville, NC, to Seattle. Son TJ has a railroad-focused law firm

thriving in Chicago. Gail adds, "My very best to all as we mark 56 years since graduation ... Age has its moments! I guess our role is to experience and savor them to the fullest as those 'moments' occur!" She signs off, "Western '61 (and still Mighty Proud of it — and grateful for how Western Matured and Shaped Me)."

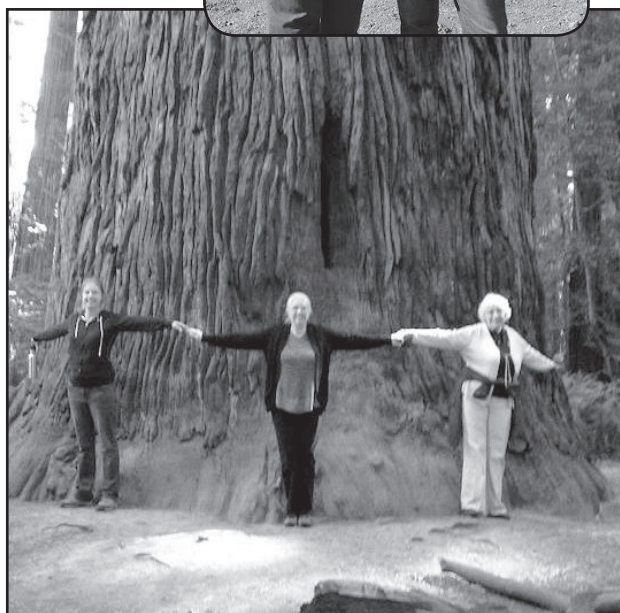
A fresh approach to class notes comes from **Susan Baarsch Button**, who writes, "You may know me best by the Books I have enjoyed over the years," and lists 15, comprised of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, topics ranging from the spiritual to current politics, by writers from many countries. A sampling includes *Earth Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amido; *In the Trenches with Jesus and Marx*, *Harry Ward and the Struggle for Social Justice*, by David Nelson Duke; *One Hundred Names for Love*, by Diane Ackerman; *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver; *Prague Winter*, by Madeline Albright; and *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Michaelson. What a rich gift to share! She wishes us "health and joy."

**Julienne Mullette**, turning to politics, pulls no punches expressing hers: "Well, the worst thing that happened this year is that Trump became president, thanks to the antiquated Electoral College system, and a heavy dose of misogyny which still exists in this country, where the ERA still hasn't been put into effect. The dark side of this country couldn't bear having a black man in the presidency — and to elect a woman, after that, was more than they could do." But she also shares her good news: "My sons are doing beautifully. My son Noah has now had about 14 books published, and my son Dhanny is still teaching and doing research at a university in Singapore — and he and his wife just had a baby! Although I couldn't be there, with the wonders of Skype, I saw my little baby granddaughter, Seri Zella, a few minutes after birth, still waterlogged — blowing a little bubble. Every day I am able to see her growing, and they will be back here in November so I can hold her."

Julienne is still counseling: "Pieces of me keep falling apart, and they piece them back together." She speaks for all of us on the aging process, finding it "unreal," then reminding us that as the youngest in our class, she'll be the last to hit 80. "Can't believe we're anywhere near it."

Although she is always upbeat, **Cynthia Ackerman Horne** sends the distress-

ing news that "In April I resigned from the Board of Trustees because my Parkinson's had progressed but the greatest problem turned out to be the return of my cancer. At first it was a small spot, [but] it seems I'm not a good candidate for surgery. I am now on oxygen 24/7. Everything happened so quickly — one day I was short of breath when I went upstairs, then I was short of breath walking and now I'm short of breath sometimes just sitting. One doctor thinks it is a lung infection, one thinks it is the chemo, another says it is probably the radiation. I'm finished with radiation, the oncologist has stopped chemo, and I completed the antibiotic. I start another round with my doctors next week. So far, I'm still fighting and I haven't lost my sense of humor. I am looking into a portable oxygen system that would let me get back to my life! I'm running out of things to read and there is nothing on television." She adds, "By the way, I saved the wig I had the first time through cancer and when I saw how gray it was, I bought a new one!"



*Top: Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61 with daughter Elizabeth on the Oregon Coast, summer 2016. Below: Anne (far right) with Elizabeth (far left) and Anne's sister Louise Adkins-Ellis '70 on the California Coast*

She still has compassion for the victims of the hurricanes. "Their stories make me realize that I shouldn't complain — someone always has it worse than you." We wish Cindy recovery and, as always, admire her spirit.

**Cecelia Ann Kendrick McCrillis** writes that her husband of 53 years, Paul, died in hospice care on October 22 after a long illness. Family and friends offered great support. She says, "We had a wonderful life together and I am grateful for the time I had with him." We offer Ann our deepest sympathy. She adds her new phone number: (260) 467-9792.

Just a few weeks after we received **Anne Adkins Weissenborn's** newsy update on the family, came the terribly sad news that her husband, Ernie, following a stroke, had passed away. Two years ago they had moved to what Anne described as "a large retirement community with multiple layers of medical and other services" in part because of Ernie's failing health. Ernie was 86. They had been married 47 years, having met when both were teaching at Western. Their daughter, Elizabeth, a freelance film editor in Portland, OR, was able to return home and be with Anne before Ernie's death.

As she gradually gets used to "living by myself again," she will no doubt resume her church activities, including reviewing finances, and such social action concerns as "the Israel/Palestine conflict and the whole white privilege/Black Lives Matter set of concerns in this country, plus immigration/DACA-related issues by which many folks here in the Washington area are affected."

As to Western, Anne says, "I've also been pleased to be able to remain on the WCAA Board as an ex officio member; this year I'll hopefully be able to attend the Board meeting in April but also be part of decisions regarding the ultimate homes for our remaining artwork and artifacts. As you all know, **Sharry Patterson Addison** of our freshman class is serving as president of the Board this year. What a gift to have her leading us!" Anne, Sharry, and Cindy contributed a great deal to our Alumnae Association this year. We are very fortunate to have classmates so generous with their gifts and time.

Like the Cohens, we **Obuchowskis** are "older and creakier," but Pete and I thrive on having both sons and three grandchildren in town. I continue with some volunteering and editing, a few social activities, and remembering you and Western with happy memories and gratitude ...

**Mary DeJong Obuchowski '61**  
1119 Kent Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
obuch1mc@cmich.edu



*Congratulations to 55-year Class of '62: Mary Jane Dillon Bohl, Miriam Bower Lamore, and Judy Dudman Henderson!*



#### **Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 55 years!**

Sad news arrived from **Debbie Hunt Perrin** that last year on July 17 her husband, Tom, died from Parkinson's disease. When she visited Ohio that September, friends took her to Miami University to the approximate place where she met Tom in January 1960 at the student union called the Rez. "What a wonderful treat that was!" she writes. "Then we visited Western and I fell in love with my alma mater all over again. Walking the halls of Peabody was an awesome experience. I have many precious moments of the time Tom and I spent on both campuses. We were married for 51 years."

In March of this year, Debbie started her own little business. "I love to cook so my business is Aunt Debbie's Delicacies. I am having a great time making coffee cakes, chocolate covered pretzels and chocolate turtles. The last highlight of my life was getting ordained as a minister in July 2017. I know that Tom would have been proud of me as he was an ordained minister when he passed away. Indeed the joy of the Lord is my strength." Debbie's address: P.O. Box 1195 Cedar Hill, TX 75106; perrindebbie@att.net

In September, **Brenda Litchfield Benson** and husband, Don, spent a week in Emerald Isle, NC, to meet Sara, who brings their "grand" total to six (three boys and three girls). In October, Brenda will welcome senior suitemates **Liz Andrus Schoeberlein**, **Jill Hartley Fulton**, and **Bonnie McGowan Sammet** for four days of fall color in Massachusetts. The good news from Bonnie is that she and John suffered only the loss of

one tree in Florida's recent hurricane.

**Sharon Williams Hansen** and her husband recently moved from California to Tennessee to Tellico Village on Tellico Lake, the dammed up Little Tennessee River. They are enjoying the village's groups for everything from hikes to wine — dining, boating, crafting, games, etc. New address: 204 Tigitsi Place, Loudon, TN 37774.

A photograph taken in Washington, DC, by **Judith Raices** is included in "Reformation," a fall art show (closing October 28) emphasizing personal change or reform at Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church in New York City. The exhibit commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

**Emma Sue Nave Wilson** says she "rarely" replies to these calls because she doesn't feel like she's had a "special" year. But she enjoys what everyone sends in, so decided to send a brief update of her "ordinary" year: "My husband retired from his retirement job and I envisioned lots of free time. But that was not meant to be. He leads a Disaster Response Team at our church and spends lots of time organizing trips to clean up and rebuild after disasters. I am his administrative assistant and I actually went on one trip to Baton Rouge. I was supposed to work in a kitchen truck but the truck was deployed to another disaster so I ended up hanging drywall! I have pictures to prove it. That was a one-time event; my drywall days are over. My volunteer passion is a local organization fighting human trafficking, and I spend about 20 hours a month working with them. Because Dick's mom is 97 and still lives alone (with in-home care), our traveling has been limited to weekend trips to visit our kids and grandkids. We are hoping to take a big trip next year. All in all, life is good and we are content. I had some health issues last winter but found the right doctor and right medication and I'm good now. Blessings to all of my classmates."



*Brenda and Don Benson, with "grand" no. 6*

*Class Notes continued on page 27*

# We Are Western Strong! Alumnae/i Weekend 2017

## Friday highlights ...

Welcoming all Westerners in open buildings ...

... returning for a joyous 50th or 65th ...



... kibitzing with Miami's First Family at the Crawfords' reception ...



... perusing Westerniana in Archives ...



... sharing Welcome Dinner with '67 classmates and Big Sisters ...



... making the most of photo ops after dinner at PictureThis.





Waking up and warming up for the Parade with "Let's Get Moving" on Stonebridge patio ...



## Saturday highlights, morning, afternoon ...

... doing business at the Annual Meeting, following Parade of Classes ...



... practicing the "wave" at the Meily Society Lunch ...

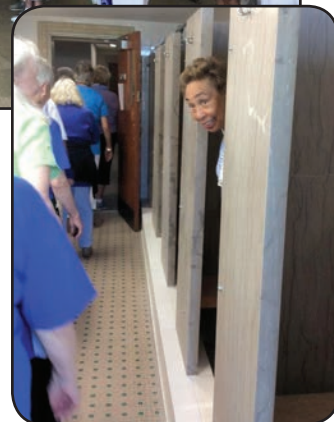


... and hearing from Mboya Scholarship recipient from Kenya, Yvonne Opuch ...



... and evening ...

... touring renovated Clawson Hall and attending the Legacy Circle Dedication ...



... recognizing the Dedication principals: Sharry Addison, Janie Liggett Mercurio, Judy Henderson, Sylvia Stanfield and Bob Keller ...

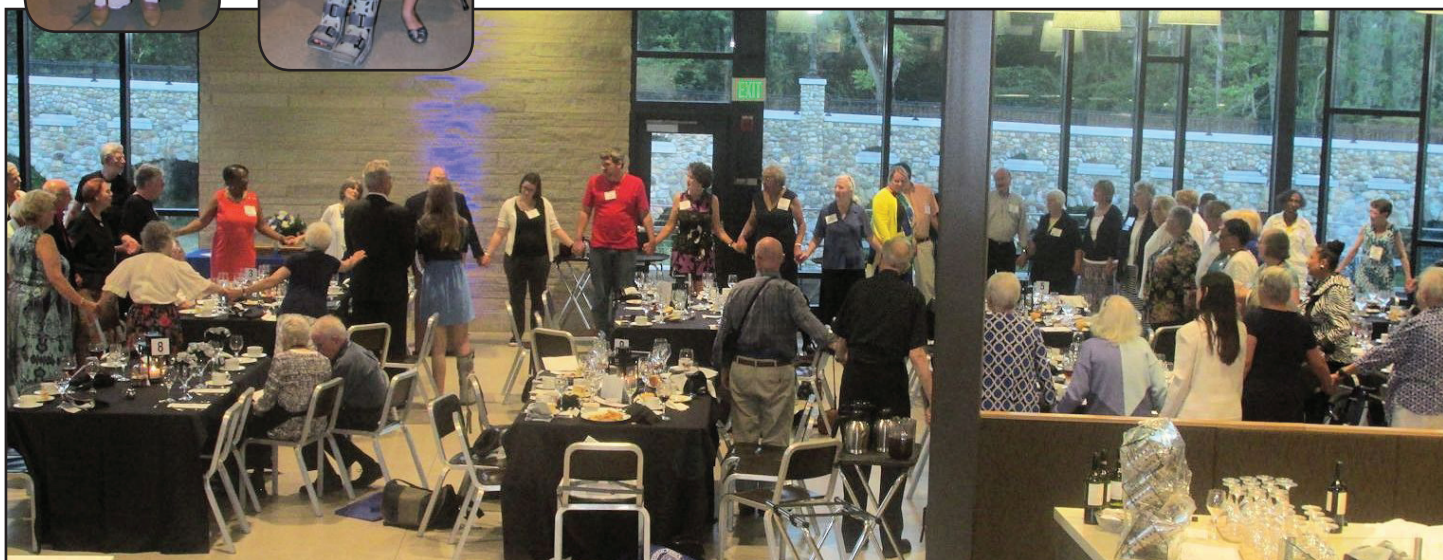


Kathy Sturm '67



Patricia Snowden '64  
with Jordan Perry

... accepting the Peabody Cup, making a fashion statement, toasting your class, and keeping the circle unbroken at the Celebratory Banquet.





## Sunday highlights ...



Closing reunion weekend in beloved Kumler Chapel, with the Alumnae Choir ...



Hayden Dennison  
MU '18



... and Ceremony presider Judy Henderson, speaker Elisa Caporale, and music director Loretta Ryder ...

... Bidding farewell at Brunch in the Western Dining Commons.



**All together now... "We'll see you next year — that's 2018 — June 8-10!"**

Thanks to contributing photographers John and Elisa Caporale, Dave Clingman, Pamela Coates, Fred Lehman, Suzanne Meyers, Dominic and Gloria Molella.



**ALUMNAE SERVICE AWARDS** were presented at the 2017 Celebratory Banquet to **Farida Abu-Shady '68** and **Beth Merrill Dixon '86**, in recognition of outstanding community and humanitarian service through their professional accomplishments. Farida was unable to attend, but sent a response; Beth accepted her award and responded in person. The citations read as follows:

**T**he Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize the outstanding achievements of **Farida Abu-Shady '68** with this 2017 Alumnae Service Award.

The first seeds of Farida's incredible career were sown at Western College, where she graduated in 1968 as an economics major. Born in Cairo, Egypt, of an Egyptian father, she graduated from high school and attended the American University of Cairo for a year before coming to the U.S. and entering Western as a sophomore (at age 16). She went on to earn a M.A. in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Georgia in 1975. A U.S. citizen since 1976, Farida is a dual citizen of Egypt and the U.S. — if not the world, since she speaks four languages: English, Arabic, French, and Italian.



*Farida Abu-Shady '68*

Her first job was in Washington, D.C., in the records department at the International Monetary Fund (1969-70). But in 1977, she was recruited as a Young Professional at UNESCO, in Paris, France, where she spent the next 27-plus years of her career.

Assigned to the UNESCO Youth Division as a Programme Specialist (1977-1993), Farida worked with policies and programs building skills for youth advocacy at the international level, in youth and peace issues, in youth exchange and mobility — in other words, basically promoting the importance of youth involvement in attaining social, economic, and cultural development globally, nationally, and locally.

Various assignments entailed serving as (among other things): Project Officer for the UNESCO Travel Grants for Youth Leaders Scheme (which became the blueprint for the European Union's ERASMUS program); Project Officer for the UNESCO publication entitled "A Plea for Peace: Messages from young people for the maintenance and strengthening of peace"; Project Officer of "Youth in Action" Encounters, which identified particularly notable youth leaders at the national and international levels contributing to the development of their communities; Project Officer for several UNESCO youth projects funded by the UNDP, the UNFPA and other donors.

Farida was chosen as one of 20 international experts consulted with a view to the drafting of the first "Youth and Population Policy" to be designed by the UNFPA. She was keynote speaker and UNESCO representative at the Youth Day for Peace and International Understanding organized in Florence, Italy, in 1992, and delivered a speech entitled: "Violence: The Negation of Peace? Or, Peace: The Negation of Violence?" In 1993, she authored an article whimsically titled "UNESCO, Youth Activities and Mobility: A Dream of Discovering Dissimilar Flowers" and the more straightforward "Women and Violence."

As Chief of the Fellowships Section and Senior Program Specialist the last 10 years of her UNESCO tenure (1994-2004), Farida was responsible for promoting UNESCO capacity-building programs and designing strategies for alliance-building in the attainment of sustainable human development in the 195 member states; and fund-raising and implementing a number of UNESCO fellowships programs — notably through those co-sponsored in several member states with the private sector, such as the UNESCO/L'Oreal Fellowships for Young Women in Science (in existence since 2000 and ongoing). Additionally, she was the author of a first-of-its-kind handbook, "UNESCO Fellowships: A Means to Empowerment," and was elected chairperson of the 2002 Inter-Agency Meeting of Senior Fellowship Officers of the United Nations System, held in Vienna, Austria.

During her entire career with UNESCO, Farida developed programs for educating and empowering young people and tapped corporations around the world to co-sponsor programs in support of young women in particular. She co-sponsored fellowships with governments in Asia and Europe, as well as with international institutions, for social and scientific studies at the graduate and post-graduate levels in developing countries.

Clearly, she has devoted her career to ceaselessly promoting all that Western College stands for. Thus, we are so very pleased and proud to present **Farida Abou-Shady** this 2017 Alumnae Service Award.

The Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize the outstanding achievements of **Beth Merrill Dixon '86** with this 2017 Alumnae Service Award.

Upon graduation from the Western College Program/School of Interdisciplinary Studies in 1986, Beth and her husband, Scott Dixon (WCP '85), settled in Springfield, OH, where they have lived, worked, and raised their three children.



*Beth Merrill Dixon '86*

As the State Coordinator for Power of the Pen, a creative interscholastic writing program her mother founded in 1986, Beth has worked for 31 years with approximately 500 middle schools statewide, coordinating 43 district and regional competitions that culminate in a state tournament at the College of Wooster, bringing together the best and brightest young writers across the state for competitive writing.

In 1999, she began her work with Project Jericho, a nationally recognized arts program for at-risk youth. Over 15 years, Beth successfully developed a Life Book Program for foster children, an After School Arts Program, and a Bucket Band for inner city youth — all of which continue to enrich the lives of Clark County youth today.

In July of 2006, she expanded the Project Jericho program by developing a unique partnership with the Clark County Juvenile Court and worked daily with incarcerated youth through the arts. Within a year of launching the program, the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center was commended by the Ohio Department of Youth Services for reporting a steady decrease in recidivism for youth involved in arts programming, and a dramatic decrease in incident reports, conflict among inmates, and episodes of self-mutilation in the female pods. One of her greatest accomplishments was securing funding to develop a space designated as a library in the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center; it now has hundreds of books in circulation for incarcerated youth. Beth's successes in Juvenile Justice Reform have yielded two presentations for members of the Ohio State Supreme Court.

Beth continues to work as a Lead Artist with Project Jericho when time allows, but in August of 2016, she accepted a position at Ridgewood School, the oldest, continuously co-ed, non-sectarian independent day school in Ohio. Working as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Beth has spent the last year establishing a distinguished alumni recognition program as well as developing unique community partnerships with Ridgewood School.

Currently, Beth is a member of the Springfield Rotary and on the Board of Directors for the Springfield Arts Council, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Project Woman, and Quest Inc.

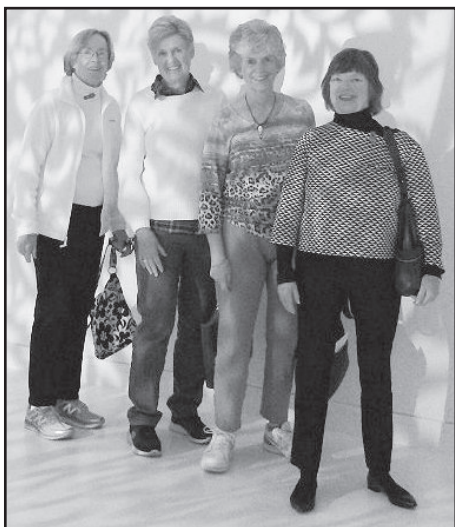
Through the years, her efforts have been acknowledged by many groups, including the Clark County Family & Children First Council, Clark State Community College, and Springfield City Federation of Women's Clubs. In 2015, she received the Lois Lenski Award for encouraging a love of reading and literacy in children.

Having brought together a tapestry of agencies and artists, parents and young people, community resources and struggling families, Beth has consistently produced a commitment to change—a change in habits, expectations, devotion and action

She embodies the progressive, transformational qualities Western represents. Her optimism and interdisciplinary thinking, nurtured in the Western College Program, have made a difference in a difficult urban setting facing severe socio-economic challenges.

Western is proud to honor **Beth Merrill Dixon** for the incredible vision and passion with which she continues to impact others.

**Alumnae Weekend 2018 honors Alumnae Service Award recipients:  
Esin Aka Atil '58, Donavon Auble FF, Judith Dudman Henderson '62, Frances Hoffman '65,  
Beatrice Low Notley '42, and Mary Kaye Wolke HA.**



*Roomie Reunion at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, October 2017 (left to right): Bonnie McGowan Sammet, Brenda Litchfield Benson, Liz Andrus Schoeberlein, and Jill Hartley Fulton*

"As usual," **Marj Keppel Gross** confesses, "I'm running a little late with my news." She started the year off with a "fleeting but wonderful visit" with **Loretta Ryder** and her sister in North Carolina, where they had lunch overlooking the ocean in Atlantic Beach. "Such a fun time!" Marj's big event of the year was a bucket-list item, when 20 family members spent the week of July 4 on a Caribbean cruise, with stops in Key West and Cozumel. Several of them toured the Hemingway House in Key West, and enjoyed the descendants of his six-toed cats. While in Cozumel, Marj's son and his wife, Kurtis and Lesley Gregg, spent the day with her touring the Mayan ruins at Tulum, which included a swim in a Cenote in the middle of the jungle (forest?). The rest of the family explored the beach and the town. Marj is still teaching math online and tutoring two days a week at Academic Support for their community college. She plans to continue as long as she enjoys it: "It keeps me young!" In addition, she still works part-time for her daughter, Andrea Anderson, in the Productive Environment Institute. Breaking news: "Before the first of the year, my great-grandson Easton will have a new sister! I can hardly wait to meet her."

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



From **Marie Iandoli**: "This year I closed my foundation because it had become too stressful. I distributed money to 20

charitable organizations. I am waiting for the kitchen to be completed at the St. Ambrose school. We hope to have the dedication in September so that the school children can have hot lunches. I was honored by the Ft. Lauderdale museum as a docent since I had devoted many hours there."

**Mary Biedler Williams**: "After 27 years of facilitating innovative programs for gifted students around the country, rearing three great kids, earning two more college degrees, etc., I retired in June 2016, and have been enjoying it, and designing the 'next chapter.' Spending time with children and grandchildren, yoga, hiking, circuit training, co-facilitating some adult transformation courses (like The Enneagram and A Course in Miracles) and travel keep me stimulated and active. My memories are still vivid about our classmates from around the world, loving Miss Limmer's and Dr. Micks's classes, benefiting from the many guest authors, poets, performers, and musicians visiting campus, pulling a few all-nighters studying, and all the good memories that made up our Western College life. Wishing everyone well as we enjoy this time in our lives!"

**Margaret Carlough**: "I think of our 50th with fond memories. I wanted to go again last year but had moved in April and this year I went back to Hancock Shaker Village in April. I had forgotten how much traveling took out of me — or maybe it is harder now. I find I am redefining myself as an artist. Our resident art gallery had a show on All Creatures Great and Small, and I entered *Rusty and Goose Taking Off*. This next week a new show will open, in which I will submit the *Rose and Mommy's and Mine* (her pots, my quilt, boxes, hook, hat that I spun and knit). I took a drawing class the first spring I was here, and discovered it was fun. Have a happy fall. May the new year bring us all more happiness than we now imagine. Hoping all is well with you and yours!"



"Rusty"



"Goose Taking Off"

**Kathy O'Brian Lillich**: "Well, I know it was an off-year for the Class of '65, but I was on campus for Reunion in June! Couldn't attend our 50th due to our granddaughter's graduation so decided to come back this year! Very glad **Sylvia Stanfield** was also there, as well as a few others from classes I remembered (e.g., **Patricia Spokes Snowden '64**, another Lexington, KY, Lafayette HS alum!!)!! I liked what I saw of the campus — except the



*A birthday party for Donna Conklin's four sponsored children in AFCECO orphanage, Kabul, Afghanistan*

wrecking ball that was about to take a swipe at Mary Lyon, where **Alice Wilson Pilafidis** and I enjoyed living senior year. Have had a hectic fall, mostly revolving around my 96-year-old father's unexpected death on Aug 2. Getting a home ready to sell (my parents' for the past 55 years) and settling the estate are not exactly fun or easy things to do!! But alas! C'est la vie just now ... Will take time off to do a previously planned trip to Cape Cod and the Massachusetts coast in mid-Oct (have never been there) — a break from the usual trip to North Carolina and/or Florida to see our five grands! Also still enjoying singing with The Lexington Singers and working on the Lex-Deauville (France) Sister City exchange program! My best to the rest of you in the Class of '65!"

**Donna Bennert Conklin**: "I still support five young ladies and two young men at the Afghan Child Education and Care Organization (AFCECO) in Kabul. Several of them are playing in the Afghan National Symphony and I hope they will make a U.S. tour again soon. They have been growing up over the past eight years and several are now seniors in high school and will be going on to universities in a year. It is very rewarding to see them having almost normal lives in the midst of all the chaos. I still have my Arabian mare, Fanci Free. Since we are both getting old, she is mostly just a lawn ornament. I've made several trips to New York to see my mom and sister. Mom had cancer and died at age 94 this summer. One of my Cambodian sponsored girls got married in Germany in September. This was the best trip! The wedding was great and I got to spend a wonderful day with classmate **Rita Gehlhoff** while I was there. Rita took a train to meet me in



*Rita Gehlhoff (left) and Donna Conklin, on the Rhine*

Dusseldorf, where we enjoyed sightseeing and a short boat trip on the Rhine River. Western friends are always willing to meet you. I'm off to Tulsa in mid-October for the Arabian Horse Nationals, then the holidays are upon us again. Life is good."

From **Sophia Karayannides Browne**: "This past year has been a new reality. Allen, my husband, died October 2016. We had been married over 40 years. In the past year, I returned to Southern California and Northern California, visiting family and friends. Also had the opportunity to spend time in Washington state. Fortunately, I have good family and friends in New York who have helped me through this transition. Facing the unknown is definitely a challenge."

**Elizabeth "Brooksie" Jacobs Harrison**: "My husband, Ian Harrison (who hails from Edinburgh, Scotland), and I moved from West Townshend, VT, on a mountain top to an over-55 community in Brattleboro, VT, May 15th this year. We have a one-level home and all the services we need. We are thrilled to be in a more commercial area. Ian's son just graduated from Jena Univ. in Jena Germany with his M.A. We went to Scotland to see Ian's family and to Germany to stand up for his son's graduation. Paul Harrison is now in a funded Ph.D. program in Edinburg. We both are semi retired. I am a health coach at Grace Cottage Family Clinic in Townshend, VT, and Ian is the volunteer coordinator. We enjoy golf and skiing and entertaining. Life is good and we are both healthy. Our best to all. Brooksie Jacobs, aka Liz Harrison." [www.NutriEd.com](http://www.NutriEd.com)

**Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens**: "I'm happy to be involved with the WCAA Inc. Board. This year I'm the 1st Vice President and I'm very proud to be involved with the Scholarship Committee, which has raised and distributed over \$9M in scholarships to Miami students over the past 30 years. I was also grateful to be able to attend the 2017 Alumnae Reunion and to contribute to and see the newly completed Legacy Circle. I'm looking forward to serving on a newly established M.I.A.M.I WOMEN Grants Committee, which is convening this year."

On a personal note, Paul and I have each had significant health challenges but we are

staying active and doing well. In September of this year, our family joyfully celebrated the wedding of our youngest daughter, Dawn Stephens, to Gregg Bowman. They live in Napa Valley — gorgeous wine country! — and the ceremony took place in St. Helena, CA. The reception was held at their home in Calistoga. Our older daughters are thriving, also: KC lives in Maplewood, NJ, and is an advertising executive in New York; Jill and her family live in Los Angeles and she is a senior executive at OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network. Our only granddaughter, Lucca, is in fifth grade this year. Thanks to **Sylvia Stanfield**'s amazing connections, we were able to take her to the new Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. It is awesome! As we age, we are really feeling tempted to make a move to the West Coast! Being close to grandchildren is definitely appealing."



*Sandy Harwood and family, in the Adirondacks*

**Sandy Severson Harwood**: "Alden and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in August. We took all our family, 13 of us, to the Adirondacks for a week at Moose Mountain Lodge. It was a great week of hiking, kayaking, swimming, biking, hugging and laughing! We ate lots of good food too! Soon we will be heading back to St. Simons Island, GA, for the winter. Come visit us!!"

For my family and myself 2017 has not been a good year. I am fighting a bad recurrence of my rheumatoid arthritis and, because of a fall I took in July, my memory and cognitive abilities have shrunk ... or maybe they were going to anyway. Bummer! My daughter Laura and her family found a new home in Newport News, VA. They are doing fine and enjoying the warmer [than Colorado] weather. Daughter Karen has gotten a divorce but things are still not settled. The event has been very costly (lawyers and such) and I have had to pay for it. He got the two kids and basically left her broke. I am still doing my newsletter for the local car club and playing bridge (badly). We went nowhere (expenses).

I wish you and your family well and also have a lovely Holiday Time. I still haven't been able to get on my Facebook account — maybe next year! (Ph. 386-530-0135)

**Pam Eggers Gill '65**  
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High praise and many thanks to the Alumnae office, staff, and trustees for putting together such a marvelous and wonderful weekend party for our 50th reunion. Your little touches of wine, fruit and cheese snacks in the lounge kitchen to the gourmet quality of our meals and the little gifts that magically appeared throughout our stay were much appreciated, as was the opportunity to interact with the architect renovating Clawson and with Miami's president. More importantly, the WCAA continues to provide a place where we can renew ourselves and our friendships with others who share in our collective memories and who have helped to make us the women of today. [See photo next page.]

To help us jog those memories, the Alumnae office sent in early spring a form requesting answers to favorite Western memories and basically for information on our lives since Western. Many did not bother to answer. But those of us who did found it an insightful exercise which we are sharing with you all. [Editor's note: Space did not permit us to include the 38 lengthy profiles in *Class Notes*. The full profiles — as edited by Kathy — and 11 pictures that accompanied them have been printed in a separate Bulletin Addendum and mailed to all class members.]

**Kathy Ehrgood Sturm '67**  
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Albuquerque, NM 87109  
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*Huge turnout for the 50-year Class of '67! Front row, from left: Murielle Gillette Alexander, Elisa Kessler Caporale, Blanche Kung, Kathy Ehrgood Sturm, Jan Chadwick, Martha Daily Alexander, Joan Barenholtz, Gloria Tomino Molella, Stephanie Smith Siegfried, Penny Corcoran Decker. Back row: Heather Antell Abed, Jane Gayley Dubois, Kathy Hanisko Jaffee, Rauni Pellikka, Carol Stone Lehman, Elaine Harris Gomperts, Carolyn Sparks Kokalis, Diane Eby Ozbal, Cheryl Christian Kugler.*

healing from eye surgery for both eyes, and now she is free from cataracts and astigmatism (via implanted lenses). September started with their grandson's first flight as they and his parents flew to Boston. Labor Day week they enjoyed visiting their granddaughter and her parents. "What a wonderful way to begin my seventh decade!"

**Susan James Duvillard** wrote from her home in the French Alps that as life goes on faster and faster she finds more and more reasons to paint and more and more ideas, and then exhibitions follow. Passion, love and positive thinking rule her family life and she is very happy to say that life is good to her, her husband Georges, her two daughters and her four grandchildren. She wishes us all the same, and is thinking of us all and Reunion 2019.



**Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 50 years!**  
Look for your class news in the spring issue, but meanwhile make plans to attend Reunion, June 8-10!



It was the travelers in our class who sent their news this year. It was a year of travel for me, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**, and husband, Kazu, too. In May, we went to South Africa for a safari experience. We loved Africa and would certainly return if it weren't so far! In August, we, our son and his wife from California, our daughter with the two grandsons who live in Yokohama, Japan, and my sister gathered at a beach house on Oahu, Hawai'i for five nights. It was a fun gathering that included ziplining and kayaking. I have lunched with **Hisako (Chako) Matsumoto Era '68** and **Suzuko (Susie) Kitagawa '59** a couple of times. We always chat the day away.

For **Karen Weber Carlisle** the biggest change this year was that she finally retired. It was hard for her to decide when to go since she had been a hospice social

worker since moving to Maine 15 years ago, but this past spring she realized she wasn't enjoying it as much and this wasn't fair to the patients and their families. She says it turned out, like everyone says, that suddenly you wonder when you had time to work. Karen is taking weekly voice lessons and singing in several choruses, auditing classes at Bowdoin College, and recently took training in ESL and has a Vietnamese student. She and her husband will have been married for 50 years soon and are planning a trip in France, an Impressionist artist riverboat cruise. Her two sons and families live about as far away as possible and still be in the U.S., Florida and California, but it makes for a good reason to travel.

**Annette Bevan Gallagher** wrote from her home in Sandusky, OH, where the 80 percent solar eclipse on August 21<sup>st</sup> generated excitement. The Sandusky Children's Museum was requested to provide activities to enhance the events at the Sandusky High School Frohman Observatory and Planetarium. Her husband, Dick, prepared for the day, and then had fun interacting with the people who had come to celebrate that awesome natural occurrence. Annie's 70th birthday was in November, but she received some special gifts early. In March, her son and daughter-in-law gave them their granddaughter, and the same month, Annie was honored as one of the Women of Inspiration in her community. Annie and Dick celebrated July 4th in Pennsylvania while visiting with their 3-year-old grandson, daughter, and son-in-law. Annie spent much of the summer

**Nancy Galbraith Karoll** and her husband, Richard, continue to enjoy good health. Richard retired from Wells Fargo Advisors in October and they are taking advantage of the fact that they can now spend more time traveling. Last year they spent time in Tuscany followed by a cruise from Venice to Barcelona. So far this year they have visited Aspen, New Orleans, Lake Tahoe (to visit her son, who is the airport manager in South Lake Tahoe), and the Napa/San Francisco area, where they had a great four-day visit with **Betsy Summers Solis** and her husband, Tom. They then flew to Vancouver to visit Nancy's daughter and family. There are now two young granddaughters there whom they wish they could see more often. "Thank goodness for FaceTime!" As Nancy was writing her news, she and Richard were on a river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam that began with a week in Prague, seeing beautiful scenery, cities, and towns along the way. Once back home in Florida in September, she was hoping to see her college roommate, **Carol Abarbanell**, who lives in the Tampa area.

**Louise Wiedmann Koch** still lives in Westlake Village in Thousand Oaks, CA, in a condo facing the lake, a lovely place, she says, with resident swans, a great variety of other waterfowl, lovely restaurants and even a yacht club. However, her big decision this year was to move back to her hometown of Rancho Palos Verdes. She grew up there and taught German and English in the high

school where she met her husband, and still teaches dressage (an equestrian sport) once or twice a week. Wonderful longtime friends live there, and she finally decided it was now or never. She found a lovely simple home overlooking the ocean with a view of Catalina and the San Pedro Harbor where she will move in January 2019. In the meantime she teaches dressage and judges at dressage shows across the country. She is also riding and training a new 6-year-old warmblood. He's a beautiful chestnut color and much like an overgrown puppy — into everything.

Louise is very excited about joining **Trudy Muller Moore** in May 2018 on a week's trip to Vienna. They spent their junior year there with the Institute for European Studies (IES). IES is planning a wonderful 50th reunion for their class, so they decided to join in and relive some of their days in that magical city. Louise goes to Germany about every two to three years, but has only been back to Vienna once when her husband received a NEA Grant to study Mozart. On that visit she was able to visit again the famous Spanish Riding School that originally sparked her interest in dressage and led to her second career. In September, she flew to San Francisco for an IES event staying with Trudy and meeting **Susan Blake '68**, who spent her junior year in Greece.

**Trudy Muller Moore** retired from being a docent at the Oakland Museum (22 years), but still plays tennis, golf, duplicate bridge, and knits. It was a good year for Trudy and her husband with a lot of South American travel, about half Road Scholar trips. They highly recommend Columbia, Chile and Argentina, among others. They are enjoying their newest grandchild, Isaac, born in April, and now have four grandchildren: 14, 7, 5 and 5 months. They have really enjoyed reuniting with **Susan Blake '68** (who has moved closer), attending music and theater events together. Trudy's senior year roommate and dear friend, **Louise Weidmann Koch**, came north from LA in September for an IES cocktail party in San Francisco in anticipation of the larger 50th anniversary gathering in Vienna in May of 2018. While Louise was in town they got together with Susan and her husband for a joint Western dinner out.

Since **Stephanie Benson Snook** wrote last year, she and husband, Fred, have been doing a lot of traveling. In October, they flew to Australia and New Zealand with friends for 22 days of fun and adventure. Having already been there, **Betsy Summers Solis** gave them some helpful information to maximize their experience. One of the highlights was having dinner in the home of a couple living in Christchurch.

One item on Stevie's bucket list is to visit every state in the union. So on a trip south to serve as judges at the national speech and



*'69 roommates Louise Koch (left) and Trudy Moore (right), enjoy getting together with Susan Blake '68*

debate tournament for high schools in Birmingham, AL, she and Fred extended their trip to include several more states. Highlights included a tornado that touched down less than a mile from the tournament location; the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson in Tennessee; St. Augustine in Florida; and the Asheville Ale Trail in North Carolina. Thanks to this trip, Stevie has only three more states to visit: Arkansas, Oregon and Alaska. There is an Alaska trip in the works for 2018. They enjoy spending as much time as possible with the grandkids. Mary has started kindergarten, and Lucas is 2½. As time flies by, they are hiring out some jobs that they used to do themselves, and they are hoping for an easy winter with little snow. Stevie is looking forward to seeing the campus again and all the changes since she was last there.

For **Betsy Summers Solis**, too, the years really are flying by fast. She has enjoyed turning 70 as she "aged up" in sports and now is at the bottom of the 70+ age group. She is finding it hard to do what she did a few years ago, but with fewer competitors she has managed to win five of her six races this year. She says it's funny how you can almost always tell who is in your age group by looking at necks.

Betsy is still very involved with DAR and AAUW in Kona. Other volunteer opportunities include support for their Huilee Palace as a Calabash Cousin. Huilee Palace is cared for by The Daughters of Hawai'i, similar to DAR. Calabash Cousin indicates she shares their purpose but is not eligible for membership. (Betsy thinks that our classmate **Pam Baldwin Lustig** could probably qualify as a Daughter.) Her other activities include the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii (VASH), People's Advocacy for Trails Hawaii (PATH) and various bike club and condo committees.

Betsy had a visit in June from **Nancy Galbraith Karoll** and husband Richard in California, where they enjoyed visiting wineries and catching up. Then at the end of August she went with her husband to Ireland for two weeks. It was especially enjoyable as she had found many ancestors through genealogy who came from there in the 1600s and 1700s.

It has been a year of travels for **Penny Earle Cook** and husband Rod. They went on a 16-day photographic safari in Kenya and Tanzania in March, and their images are now on view in New Haven and also at their website. This summer Penny spent two weeks in the Shetland Islands with her sister, a week on Block Island with family, and a week in Driggs, ID, for the eclipse. All provided additional photo opportunities. The Kehler-Liddell Gallery remains an important focus in their life, as does Penny's work with GVI (Green Village Initiative) focusing on urban agriculture in Bridgeport. They love that Geoff, their son, and his wife, Lucy, live not far away in Brooklyn.

I had a short note from **Donna Blodgett**, who survived Hurricane Irma, thankfully losing only her phone and Internet. Her father died a year ago and it has been a rough time that she has been weathering.

**Toni Vaughn Heineman's** husband, Alan, retired about three years ago and has been happily reading, listening to music, and catching up on movies. Toni took a three-month hiatus from all unpaid professional work for the fourth quarter of 2017. They will see how things look early in 2018. Both of their sons are in the Bay Area and in long-term relationships with young women they like very much. Their health is good which, as Toni says, "we all know, is not to be taken lightly at this age." Toni's mother died in July after a couple of years that could barely be counted as a life. Fortunately, it was a peaceful end with very little discomfort. They were to head to Mansfield, OH, for her memorial service in late October, and the awareness that this would most likely be the last time she would visit the town of her childhood was stirring lots of memories and competing feelings. Toni continues to enjoy her clinical work — these days confined almost exclusively to helping divorcing parents navigate the process of rearranging their families. She feels very fortunate to have had work that has offered so much flexibility and satisfaction for so many years.

Many of you wrote that you are thinking about our 50th Reunion that is coming up in 2019. I am too! In the meantime, keep in touch ...

**Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69**  
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Greetings all! The class of '71 is slowly getting it all together. I am in touch with quite a few Western alums. Two of my BFF's,



*Deb McDuffie '71 (left) has worked with "some of the most awesome musicians in the business"!*

**Valerie Dickson Horton, Lucretia Taylor,** and I are in constant communication through e-mail etc. I hope to re-connect with both of them this winter, as they pass through Jacksonville on their way to South Florida. I also talk regularly with **Stella Brantley '70**. She now resides in Woodstock, NY. I am excited about the possibility of her snowbirding in Florida at some point in the near future.

And we heard from **Nancy Stokes Saumsiegle**: "Just went back to my 50th H.S. reunion so decided to update Western too. Lots of memories of Western recently as I clean out boxes in the attic. Those four years were very special with great friends and experiences. Think often about the trip to India, Indonesia and Japan sophomore year. Remember our train trip to Benares (Varnasi), Barb B. and Sue K.? My daughter visited the same places last August! Bill and I just celebrated our 42nd anniversary. I am retired from teaching and Bill is working from home, probably retiring within the year. Looking to move to Hilton Head soon after. We have two children — Liz, who lives in the Boston area and works at Babson College as Associate Director of International Programs. Our son, David, and wife Trixie live in Brookfield, WI, where he is in the restaurant business. I seem to always be on the go! We have a lake house in Maine near Acadia where we spend a lot of family time. Sailing with our friends in the British Virgin Islands is always a special adventure. A big shout out to Sharon, Franny, and Robin. Talked to **Gail Praeger** a few months ago ... would love a mini reunion in NYC!"

For those who don't know, I, Deb, have been blessed with an incredible career in the entertainment industry, working with some of the most awesome musicians in the business. I am now in my 19th year of teaching high school choral music. I also am Artistic Director for Ritz Voices, an award-winning community choir. I married for the first time at the age of 60! I have two sons, Kijana, a former basketball coach turned analyst, and Kemal, who is a Sr. Vice President at BB&T Bank. Two grand-dogs, which is about all I can handle, and an impressive garden with all sorts of tropical plants, a citrus orchard and trees. If I ever retire I plan on turning my garden into a small business nursery.



*Renee Harris Yates (top) and Sharon Sullivan proudly represented the 45-year anniversary Class of '72!*

I think of Western more often than I thought I would. So many fabulous teachers, administrators and friends who helped shape my life. The memories linger on, and it is bittersweet whenever I return to campus.

I hope more of you from our class will reach out to me. I teach high school, so I e-mail, I text and I Facebook — I have to! Let's beef up the class of '71 page. Sending out wishes for peace, love, and joy to all of my fellow Western alums!

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### **Alumnae Weekend 2018: Celebrating 45 years!**

Greetings fellow classmates! I imagine all the natural, political, and astrological upsets this year have kept most of you from communicating! This time around, I heard only from **Ann Meeker Beardsley**. I am also in frequent contact with **Margaret (Millie) Odede**, so can update you on our friend in Kenya.

**Ann Beardsley** writes, "Elliott retired in May and we now have a 37-foot sailboat, which we are learning to sail. We took her up to Charleston for the eclipse and got to see its totality from her decks. It took us six days to get there. But we came home with stories (running aground, bailing, sailing in the dark), and learned so much, it only took us three days to get home. Our next venture is probably south to Jacksonville — maybe the winds will be with us! I'm still working part-time at editing, and training for my first ultra (31 mile) race in October, and quilting. That about sums it all up — sail, run, quilt, eat, repeat. It probably sounds much more exciting than it really is.



Here's Ann, with one of her many quilts, albeit in black and white. Picture this (in her words): "Sharon's quilt is reminiscent of New Mexico, where she lives. The colors evoke the desert in summer — warm browns, beiges, and burgundies — and the sunflowers are like those seen all around the state. A combination of traditional block piecing with layered applique as well as traditional appliqued green leaves gives the quilt an interesting blend of styles as well as colors." i

**Margaret (Millie) Odede Adongo** continues to promote her beautiful book (*Proudly Kenyan*) about the wonderful artisan work of her native land and lobbying to have Kenya adopt a national dress. She is hoping to find a publisher to print and market it, perhaps by having someone sponsor the printing of 10, 20, 50 books, or whatever. If you, or any one of your acquaintances, know of someone who might like to sponsor this project, please contact me, or Millie directly at nyodesh@yahoo.com. She carries on with her t-shirt venture that, though not fully fledged yet, occasionally earns her a few shillings to support the larger project of getting her *Proudly Kenyan* book published. Again, if anyone feels inspired to help Millie — please contact her. You can check out her flyer for the t-shirts by writing to me, and I'll send you the document link.



*Blast from the past:  
Twins Millie (right) and  
Janet Odede*

As for me, I continue to love my career as Holistic Health Practitioner, (with a side gig of officiating at weddings and other ceremonies); although I have started to gradually slow down in preparation of possibly retiring in four or five years. I decided to go ahead and apply for my Social Security, and got my first payment in early October. My goal is to save that — since I don't yet need it as "income" — and finally get a chance to visit my son, Gino, in Somerset, England, in May (or September) of 2018. He just signed on for a third year as social worker for the Somerset Council, although he's moving from the Child Protection Team to the Foster & Adoption Team, which he believes will be less stressful.

I am also an Airbnb host, for a little over a year now, renting out the bedroom and private bath that was Gino's before his move to UK! That's been a great side income, with the added benefit that I get to meet fascinating and lovely people. If any of you is thinking of hosting with Airbnb, contact me, and I'll tell you all about it! My other two kids and their families and I had planned a seven-day cruise to four Caribbean islands over the Thanksgiving holiday this year, but we had to cancel that because every port of call — including their hometown of Naples, FL — was horrifically slammed by hurricanes this season. So, I probably won't visit them until early 2018, and give Florida a chance to recuperate from Irma. My 13-year old grandson, Jean-Paul Belliard, came out to San Diego for a month to visit this summer, and a week before he was due to fly

home, his mom (my daughter Allegra) and younger brother Antonello came out for his final week. We had a blast!

Please consider making plans for our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion next year. The WCAA will be winding down as we approach 2024, so we really have very little time to reconnect with Western and our school mates, and honor our friendships, our education, and our lives! Many blessings to you all! I'm still waiting for some of you to visit me in San Diego!!! [619-701-7264]

**Christy Wines '73**  
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*After 37 years of serving as our Class Rep, Cyndie Cole has hung up her hat! Many thanks to Cyndie for trying to get us to respond (which we were not very good at over the years!) So, in my semi-retirement, I (Faith Crook Perrizo) have agreed to try to reconnect with folks. Since I started right when I was scheduled to go on my retirement trip to the UK for a month, I was not able to track everyone down, but many thanks to those who received my message and wrote back! I will continue to work on getting the word out to everyone for next time.*

Direct from **Cris Arguedas**: "In the more than 40 years since I left Oxford, I have often thought of how lucky I was to have gone to Western. I met friends that are very important to me to this day (**Ada Harrigan '73, Diane Bratcher '74, Biff Hough '73**). More recently, I had a wonderful re-connection with **Alison (Nancy) Owens '73**. During my years there, I had a chance to think and learn with high quality teachers and mentors (**Dean Micks, Dean Hoyt, Paul Schnur, Dan Weiner**). In its own way, it provided a safe place to come out of the closet just two years after Stonewall, when the gay rights movement was brand new.

"In the last four decades, I have spent most of my time being a criminal defense lawyer. I have a law firm in Berkeley. We defend cases all over the country, some high profile (Barry Bonds, FedEx) and plenty of ordinary, but still important, cases. I've been in a very happy relationship with my partner Carole Migden for 32 years. Carole was an elected California state legislator for many years, so we have always been immersed in politics. Strong Hillary supporters, we are still in mourning. And I play golf as much as I can. Current handicap: 8.7. We're traveling more these days. Just got back from safari



*'73 Class Rep Christy and daughter Allegra, "having a blast" during Allegra's San Diego visit*

in South Africa and Botswana. Life is good. I'd be glad to hear from any Western friends if you are in the neighborhood."

After Western, **Mohammad Barwani** went next door to Miami, graduated in December 1975. Going back home to Oman, he joined an oil company, was sent to Holland for six months' training with Shell, then worked for three years on drilling rigs as Petroleum Engineer. Mohammad was married in 1979, to a girl from Oman, and together they moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he did a master's degree in Petroleum Engineering at Heriot Watt University. His wife took courses in English language and they went back to Oman a year later. The next six years he worked as a reservoir engineer, and his wife as an English language instructor. One fine day he decided to quit and they started their own business. The beginning was difficult but after some years the business took off.

Mohammad and his wife, Sharifa, have five children, two sons and three daughters. They all live in Oman, travel a lot on business and pleasure, and all the children work in the family business, MB Holding. MB is the parent company of a number of subsidiary companies operating in several countries and its main business lines are oilfield services, oil exploration, mining, hotels, and super-yacht construction with operations in several countries. Three of their older children now manage different subsidiaries of MB Holding. One daughter is responsible for corporate communications, one daughter manages the family's foundation. Its mandate is philanthropy and helping the less fortunate, women's and children's development. She twice organized trips to the Syrian refugee camps, with the help of the UN, to give out shoes and blankets. This activity is separate from corporate social responsibility which is done by business.

The Barwanis now have grandchildren, which are their pride and joy. On vacation in Zanzibar this summer, Mohammad taught them to fish, as well as having patience when nothing bites!

**Debbie Hantman** (now **Deborah Briggs**) went to LA after her one year at Western to finish school, met her husband in Big Sur, CA, traveled to China, Australia, and Japan, and moved to NYC, where she raised two kids (now living in Phoenix and NYC). She started two successful businesses, got divorced and now lives in NYC and Florida. She's a proud grandmother of a 2-year-old. Debbie started a non-profit, ran a theater group, and provided counseling to new business owners. She is currently a Certified Sage-ing Leader, just starting to offer Sage-ing Workshops — programs that offer participants new (more conscious and inspiring) ways of looking at ageing.

After mostly staying home to raise four wonderful children, nearly 20 years ago **Maria Janavicius Vasys** started working at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Go Badgers!) in the field of satellite meteorology. She says that she finds it amazing how much fun it is to go to work each day — these scientists love what they do. Maria has three more years until retirement, and faces another knee replacement later this winter. Her son Peter and his wife have two girls, and her granddaughters have added another layer of joy to life! The other three kids are all in Denver: Kristina has her own custom pharmacy and is married to Doug; Victoria, her vagabond, is settling down with Sean and just finished coding school, where she was hired as an instructor; and Alex, has started working for an Amazon contractor.

Thanks to the wonders of Facebook, she reconnected with me (Faith), **Janice Con-douris Forsyth**, and **Susan Johnson Cummings**! Maria and I share trips from the upper Midwest to Columbus, OH, where her son Peter lives. She also traveled down to St. Louis for the eclipse this summer and managed to finally catch up with Janice and her husband, Bill. They share a fabulous home in the Central West End.

**Jay Griswold** graduated from Colorado State with a master's in Creative Writing in 1979. Currently retired, he taught creative writing at Colorado State, Colorado University-Boulder, and the University of Alabama. He writes that he "had more fun" working as a ranger for 10 years for the Colorado Division of Natural Resources! He has traveled extensively throughout the world and has published works in *Literary Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *New Mexico Humanities Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Pulp-smith*, *Washington Review*, and *Colorado Review*, among others. His first chapbook was published in 1986 *Meditations for Year of the Horse*, and a volume of poetry, *The Landscape of Exile*, came out in 1993. In retirement, he says he "fishes a lot, and writes a little, chases exotic peacock bass around the Everglades, and tries to fool tarpon in Boca Grande Pass." He also reports he gets chased by alligators, and has a guest house in N. Ft. Myers, where anyone who is pass-

ing through would be welcome. (Hopefully, sans alligators!)

I (**Faith Crook Perrizo**) finished my degree at Macalester College (St. Paul), worked as a newspaper reporter, went to seminary, and served 37 years in the Episcopal Church. Some of my positions were to be in charge of a local church (Chicago and Ohio), and twice I worked as an administrator on a Bishop's staff (Chicago and West Virginia). During that time, I got married, had three sons and — after 14 years — was divorced. My oldest son is a therapist and college instructor in psych in Phoenix, my middle son is in title insurance in Ohio, and my youngest works for the Chicago Cubs. (Go Cubbies!) I recently retired to Minnesota to be near my sister, who lives in a group home. I do work part-time doing Sunday supply and have a consulting gig in N. Michigan. I love to travel. This year, I have visited friends in Montana, Oregon, and Colorado; and family in Arizona, Ohio, and Colorado. I just completed a month in the UK on a pilgrimage with seminary classmates and friends. We visited Iona, Edinburgh, walked 60 miles of St. Cuthbert's trail, visited Holy Island, Durham and York. I finished the trip near Manchester, where I finally met a pen pal I've been writing to for 50+ years! Finally, visited a friend in Wales. Whew! Now that I'm home, I'm hunkering down for winter and hope that my new dog finds me (we lost our beloved Mau two years ago).

Back at the ranch, I reconnected with **Maria Janavicius Vasys** and we have seen each other several times. At Christmas, I correspond with a few other wonderful women from our class. I look forward to hearing more from all of you in the future ...

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**Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77**  
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We last heard from **Jim Royster, Western College Professor of Religion, 1970-**

**74**, in 2014, when he sent an update on his family (who had, in his words, "made WC their larger family" during his teaching years). After working on it for 27 years, he had just published his first book, *Have This Mind*. He concluded the update by saying "had Western College not moved into the Miami University program in 1974 — with the necessary reduction in faculty — I might have happily finished my teaching career right there." Jim passed away August 31, in the Villages in Lady Lake, FL, after a short decline in health revealed an inoperable tumor. And so it seemed fitting that we share a portion of the obituary that his family kindly submitted: "Author, teacher, scholar, spiritual practitioner, adventurer, farmer, sailor and beloved husband, father, grandfather, Jim was completing his second book, *Undoing*, now to be published posthumously with invaluable help from two colleague/friends. ... Jim leaves his wife, Liz Royster of the Villages; children Joti, Sam and Steve with Steve's wife Janya; seven grandchildren, and innumerable friends, colleagues and students in all parts of the world. Jim's family will scatter ashes to the seas as requested and a memorial celebration of his life is planned."



**Eloise Gompf '42** was one of many Western College alumnae who came back



to their alma mater to teach. Fewer also served in the administration. Eloise taught history from 1950 to 1959, and was executive secretary of the original Western College Alumnae Association. She passed

away December 5, 2016, in Pensacola, FL, having moved there from Naples, where she had retired. Originally from Lawrenceburg, IN, she went on after graduation to attain her M.A. and Ph.D. while teaching in higher education in various locations in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In June 2007, she published *From the Mediterranean to the Jordan: Murder for Survival*, a condensed presentation and analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Eloise is survived by her nephew Michael Patterson, of Lawrenceburg, two great-nieces and a great-nephew. Condolences to them from her Western family.

# In Memoriam

**Marydale Marsh Mahar '41**  
May 2017

**Jane Roos Schaefer Le Roux '41**  
December 2016

**Eloise Gompf '42**  
Ass't. Professor of History 1950-59  
Executive Secretary, Western College  
Alumnae Association  
December 2016

**Margie Gasche Ewing '45**  
WCAA, Inc. Trustee 1974-76, 1983-85  
June 2017

**Elizabeth (Betty) Buell Baldwin '46**  
March 2017

**Carolyn West Barry '46**  
April 2017

**Margaret Frazier Bridges '47**  
November 2016

**Dorothy Mershon (Bajak) Armistead '48**  
May 2017

**Jane Niehaus Higgs '48**  
August 2017

**Josephine Moore Becker '49**  
October 2014

**Elinor David Elder '50**  
October 2017

**Barbara Lintern Gehring '50**  
January 2017

**Madelyn Houtzer Glass '50**  
September 2016

**Juliet Atkinson Howard '50**  
April 2017

**Margaret Harvey Kozusko '50**  
March 2013

**Ruth McVicker Rhodenbaugh '51**  
*Bulletin* Class Representative  
July 2017

**Joanna Bullard Hills '54**  
October 2017

**Nadia Kelada '54**  
February 2016

**Barbara Fleischman Piolet '55**  
August 2016

**Marlena Majzels Gelboin '56**  
October 2016

**Odette Hofer Scott '56**  
October 2017

**Suzanne Martin Scott '57**  
April 2017

**Helen Jemison Springob '59**  
December 2016

**James E. Royster WF**  
Professor of Religion 1970-74  
August 2017

**Ernest W. Weissenborn WF**  
Instructor in German 1967-71  
October 2017

*Correction. The 2017 spring Bulletin "In Memoriam" failed to note that Sandra Still Sakurai '57, who died in May 2016, was an Instructor in Psychology at Western College and also served as Assistant Dean of Students, 1964-67. We sincerely regret the omission.*

*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. Deaths that occurred more than five years prior to publication are not included.*

# The Western College Program

## Western Alumni, Greetings from Oxford!

As the weather gets increasingly colder and the leaves are full fall foliage, I write to you with several updates and happenings of the Western Alumni Association at Miami University (WAAMU).

I continue to be inspired by the dedication and commitment of so many of our alumni from Western 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0. As both alumni and the WAAMU Board, we have definitely been busy. We also continue to look for alumni who want to be more involved with moving Western and Individualized Studies forward. Our main initiatives for the coming year are focusing on the Mega Reunion in fall 2018, supporting the WCAA, supporting the Individualized Studies program, and engaging alumni.



*Mike Loeffelman*

First, I am excited to report to you that the WAMMU Board met on June 10 during Alumni Weekend at Miami. It was amazing to interact with alumni from very different parts of the Western experience who came together under a common purpose. The board members who are supporting a variety of alumni initiatives include: **Irene Bell '82; Audree Boggs '10; Mike Conaway '90; Beth Dixon '86; Laura Dobbins '86; Karen Dollinger '90; Katie Gibson '06; Karen Gotter '05; Katherine Hayes '10; Alan Kalish '81; Kara Love '07; John Mack '86; Tim Matune '81; Beth McNellie '86; Hannah Mills '13; Joy Usner '03; Eric Weaver '04; Randy Wilson '04; and Diane Wright '86.** Each of these alumni brings a unique perspective to the alumni board and we all should be appreciative of their willingness to devote their time and energy to supporting Western/Individualized Studies.

Items that we discussed during the summer 2017 board meeting included the current state of the Individualized Studies Program, potential future initiatives of the College of Arts and Science, the needs of alumni, the fall 2018 Mega Reunion, and ways to engage current students. After the board meeting, we supported the Western College Alumnae Association (WCAA) by attending the official dedication and completion of the Western Legacy Circle as well as some general socializing. A good time was had by all and it was great weather!

One of the initiatives that I am also eager to report on is our continued collaboration with the Western College Alumnae Association (WCAA). We have had several productive meetings and have continued conversations about how our

organizations can work more collaboratively in supporting our missions. I will be serving as liaison on the WCAA board and I was very honored to speak with the WCAA Board during their meeting on-campus in October. I would also like to recognize **Barbara Williamson Wentz '68.** Barbara has volunteered and will be serving as the WCAA liaison to WAAMU. We are looking forward to working with her and gaining new insights regarding the great work of the WCAA.

Regarding supporting the current Individualized Studies Program, there are also several updates that I would like to share. The Board continues to have productive collaborations with both Nik Money and Zach Hill, the leadership team of Individualized Studies. (Please take a look at Nik's message, page 39, regarding a great spotlight of a current student.) We are also supporting the work of current students and considering new innovative ways to bring more students into the program.

In the coming months, please be on the lookout for continued communications regarding the fall 2018 Mega Reunion as well as other alumni initiatives. As the president of the board, 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 don't hesitate in contacting me with your thoughts, concerns, and interests — it is so vital that we continue the dialogue on how we can all work together to move Western/Individualized Studies forward.

— *Mike Loeffelman '03*  
*Board President, WAAMU*



*Mary Lyon Hall, 1925-2016*

# '81 WESTERN

First in, **Chris Kerosky** sent this great group picture and wrote, "Our informal group of 10 friends from Mary Lyon [N.B. photo preceding page], classes of 1981 and 1982 try to meet up every year. This year's venue was Mentor-on-the-Lake and seven of us attended. A surprise host was 89-year-old Mrs. Roos, who probably had more energy than all of us. We took in a Tribe game at the Jake and tasted some fine Ohio wines. Mike and Chris came from California, Mark from Egypt. The others live here in Ohio. A(nother) good time was had by all."



Mary Lyon good-timers (left to right): Ken Vincent, Steve Roos and Michael Kent (front row) and Rick Edmiston, Van Viney, Chris Kerosky, and Mark Gizzi in the background. (Missing: Steve Sphar, Tom Gordon, Jim D'Andrea)

**Dean Payne** and his wife, Lauren, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a trip to Oregon. They traveled extensively



Dean and Lauren, on the occasion of her 62nd birthday celebration

through the state enjoying the scenery, most notably, Crater Lake, Multnomah Falls, and Bend. Dean and Lauren also enjoyed the state's multifarious restaurants, wineries, and microbreweries. Their son, Tyler, recently graduated from Ohio University having majored in wildlife biology with a minor in geology. Dean works for the Geauga Medical Center component of University Hospitals in its IT Department with numerous

responsibilities for that facility's computer system. Dean's senior project, entitled "Language and Culture," explored the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, which holds that the structure of a language affects its speaker's worldview or cognition. So, too, with computers. The structure of one's ability to understand different computer languages controls their ability to gain utility from them. Dean enjoys these many different languages.



Dean Payne, on the occasion of his last day of long hair: June 25, 1984, the anniversary of George Custer's scalping

He lives in Bainbridge (Geauga County) a short walk from the home in which he was raised. As of the publication of this *Bulletin*, Dean will have enjoyed his annual backpack trip with his brother. This past trip was to one of their favorite destinations, the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Most enjoyable for Dean are his family's regular get-togethers with his brothers, sister, and his 93-year old mother (quite the square-dancing enthusiast!).

It is my sad duty to report that Chris Mercer, husband of **Laura Zappia**, passed away on September 27, 2017, after a short illness. Chris and Laura were married for 28 wonderful years making their home in Hubert, NC, near the coast. As with Laura, Chris appreciated and nurtured a variety of natural wonders. Chris had been a zookeeper at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, which is a part of the Smithsonian Institution. Chris's assignments included great apes, giant pandas, and elephants. Subsequently, Chris became an award-winning landscaper and greenskeeper. In addition to helping Laura with her horses and menagerie, they enjoyed camping, fishing, and hiking. While maintaining her animal care business, Laura was elected to a two-year term as the Democratic Chair of her local precinct. Laura's primary goal is to increase voter registration.

**Tim Matune '81**  
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# '83



**Laurette Bennhold-Samaan** had an unexpected surprise in December when her dream job which she had been in for five

years ended. She was working for a cross-cultural consulting and training company. She took some time to gather her thoughts and job hunt and after a few very long months without the return she had expected, she decided to take a bold leap and go to volunteer with refugees for a month. (Yes, only a month as she supports her daughter Catalina in college at George Washington University!) She landed on the beautiful island of Samos, Greece, and had an amazing experience. You can read more and see photos in her first blog:

[medium.com/@laurettebennhold/laurette-bennhold-samaan-in-samos-greece-working-with-refugees-3ea5c56da27e](https://medium.com/@laurettebennhold/laurette-bennhold-samaan-in-samos-greece-working-with-refugees-3ea5c56da27e)

She returned back home and within a few weeks had job offers. She is now working with an international NGO on democracy and governable (yes, we could use it here too!).

**Karen Kilbane** writes: "Hello Western friends. Pat [Pat Callahan '83] and I have been residing on Bainbridge Island, WA, for almost 16 years. We moved here when the youngest of our four, Keara, was an infant. She has Trisomy 21 and is thriving. This year she is a high school cheerleader, just made the local paper, and is quite the celebrity around town. Thanks to her, I have developed a career in teaching fitness and dance classes to children and adults with special needs. I taught adapted P.E. in our school district for seven years, then left the district to work on writing a book. I'm collaborating with a neuroscientist to write about a personality/brain theory I developed after 30 years in education. I have found our psychological theories of personality to be woefully inadequate and harmful when applied to teaching and raising our developing children.

I still teach fitness/dance to individuals with special needs in a community program. I also coach a soccer team every fall for players with special needs through a nationwide program called TOPSoccer. Pat and I get back to Ohio quite often to visit family, friends, and our beloved Kelleys Island."

**Jim Boyer '83**  
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Congratulations to **Robin Hart Ruthenbeck**, who became dean of students at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, on August 1! She had been assistant dean of students at Macalester College, in St. Paul, MN. In her new role, Robin will oversee Kenyon's



Dean Robin Hart  
Ruthenbeck

that liberal arts colleges play in our country" and that she is "excited to join the purposeful community that Kenyon promises to be."

After graduating with her WCP classmates, Robin earned a master's in college student personnel services from Miami in 1993 and a doctorate in education from the University of Minnesota in 2015. Before landing at Macalester, she was an adjunct faculty member at the University of St. Thomas, associate lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and for nine years director of campus activities at Carleton College.

health and counseling services, as well as the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, managing individual student issues and conflict resolution with students and families. In June, she told the *Kenyon News* that she has "long had a great appreciation for the role



Riley, Nic, and  
Maddow, the dog

attorney and have my office in Upper Arlington. I use my background in mediation and negotiations to help people find a more peaceful resolution to often terrible situations. I also have been working on SIJ cases (special immigration cases) for youth who come from primarily Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador by themselves. I fight to help them get permanence here in the U.S. so they aren't forced to return to their home country. They are often fleeing gangs, slave labor, sex trade, etc. I truly love what I do and am honored that people trust my office during their most vulnerable times.



**Gemma Robinson '97**  
jema.robinson@gmail.com



New '97 Class Rep Gemma (left), with  
wife and daughters

I was **Fred Robinson** while at Western; I transitioned a few years ago. I am still married to my wife, Amy; we celebrated our 24th anniversary this year. We have two daughters, Lillian, 15, and Sarah, 12. I manage a group of Systems Engineers at West Safety Services, where we engineer and implement a Voice over IP Emergency 9-1-1 call routing system that serves Public Safety Offices across the U.S.

**Dave Essinger** is still teaching at The University of Findlay, and still lives in Bluffton, OH, with wife **Alice (Nelson, WCP '99)** and kids June and Levin. Alice's business, Fresh Modern Fabric, is still doing lots of business. His new novel, *Running Out*, was released in June, and he's doing everything he can to promote that, including a reading in Oxford with MU alum **Brendan Kiely '98** — planned for early October. More at dave-essinger.com/

**Elizabeth Warren** writes, "Hello! Here is my "late" update. I am married to Clara Platt; we have two children, Nic and Riley, and one dog, Maddow. I am a family law



Greetings, WCP Class of 1999! Fall is starting to arrive in Oxford, which means I'm taking every opportunity to walk through Western to enjoy the changing of the leaves. Nothing beats Western in the fall!



"Old" '99 Class Rep Karla

It has been a great year for me! I was selected for the Fulbright International Education Administrator Grant for India, which was a two-week travel seminar in March 2017 focused on Indian higher education. Aside from visiting 15 colleges and universities in 16 days, we were also able to see the Taj Mahal and visit Gandhi's ashram. Truly a remarkable experience!

Good things are also happening for **Michaela D.E. Meyer**, who was recently named Academic Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities at Christopher Newport University. Her work on the identity politics of pregnancy loss was also recognized with the National Communication Association's Best Book Chapter in Ethnography Award this year.

Please let me know what exciting things are happening with you for the next edition of the *Bulletin*.

**Karla (Schneider) Guinigundo '99**  
guinigkm@MiamiOH.edu



The 2007 Western graduates featured below are both travel-ready and ready to settle in; are exploring new work opportunities; and are otherwise sounding successful in their own rights.

In her second year rounding up these class notes, **Emily Brown** is starting to learn to reach out to classmates earlier! She thanks those who responded on short notice and provides this quick update: Uncertain times in the era of Trump have not yet deterred me from Washington, DC, where I've reached the 10-year mark. In my role for the international nonprofit FHI 360, I traveled to Mali

and Jamaica this year to conduct qualitative assessments for our projects and proposals. I'll be refreshing my scuba diving skills in Belize this fall, where I'll be attending a long-time friend's wedding. I'm looking forward to unwinding by swimming with sharks, rays, and turtles, oh my!

**Nikki Etter** sends her greetings and an update: "Hi friends! After Western, I moved to Lexington, KY, to complete my master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders then a doctorate in Rehabilitation Sciences. I had the awesome opportunity to do a post-doctoral at the University of Sydney, working with people with speech disorders after stroke. I have now settled in Bellafonte, PA, where I am an assistant professor at Penn State University in Communication Sciences and Disorders."

From the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, **Dylan Daney** says, "I've now been in Texas for about nine years, and I feel lucky to have found a home, building the labor movement. Right now, I am leading our union of airport and hotel workers in Houston. I live with my girlfriend, her sister, and my cat, Moses. I still miss summertime in Ohio."

From the other side of the world, **Laura Parrott** tells us: "I'm working my dream job with

the U.S. Agency for International Development in Nepal on education. Took a while to get here, but the journey was worth it. Say hi if you stop through Kathmandu!"

Former 2007 Class Representative, **Denise Cheng** fills us in for the first time in a few years. She writes: "In atonement for my lack of class notes submissions, here's a flood of updates! I received a social science master's from MIT, where I focused on the future of work. My career always seems to be either a continuation of my undergrad or graduate degree. After moving to San Francisco, I advised on workforce innovation for the Mayor's Office. I'm about to begin a job at YouTube, which is in line with my Western senior project on participatory media. In my personal time, I co-organize a semi-regular civic tech happy hour. In 2016, I visited my extended family in Taiwan — it was the first time I'd gone back in 16 years. San Francisco is now the place where I have lived the longest in my adult life, but I am still hit by waves of wanderlust from time to time."

"Major life-gains have further delayed my inevitable return to Cincinnati as I close out a seventh year in Chicago," **Anne McLean** writes. She is "up one yard, a one-eyed Doberman, a second horse, and a partner for

life (Huzzah!). I'm generally hyped to make this my Best Year Yet.™"

**Leo Sack** resurfaced from a stint in the West to give us his news bite: "After four years bouncing around Colorado, I have just moved to Ithaca, NY. My partner, Patricia, is starting a Ph.D. at Cornell. I am getting to know the local education nonprofits."

The resident doctor-in-training at Peabody Hall during our college years, **Jessica Ruff**, is finally completing her educational training this year — just 10 years after graduating from college. She enjoyed the last three years in Nashville as a preventive medicine resident, and then decided now was a good time to leave the U.S. Jessica is looking forward to spending the next year as a Fogarty Fellow in Eldoret, Kenya, where she will lead the development of a mobile personal health record application. While abroad, she hopes to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and visit the Seychelles. Visitors and travel adventurers are welcome to join."

**Emily B. Brown '07**  
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## *Many Generations of WCPers Enjoyed the 2017 All-Western Alumnae/i Weekend!*



Front row, from left: Zach Moning '07, holding Lettie, Mandi Moning, Kara Love '07, Diane Wright '86, Mike Conaway '90, Karen Dollinger '90, Celia Ellison. Back row: Scott Dixon '85, Beth Merrill Dixon '86 (ASA recipient), Thad Kerosky '07, Kat Hayes '10, Muriel Blaisdell FF, Karen Gotter '05, Beth McNellie '86, and former deans Bill Gracie and Curt Ellison.

# The Western Program

## Message from the Director

The message that I wrote last spring described a handful of the senior projects completed by our graduating class of Individualized Studies majors. That Class of 2017 seemed remarkable in its accomplishments, but, looking back farther, it is evident that we have enjoyed working with many talented students since the rebirth of the Western Program in 2010. Last week, I enjoyed meeting with one of our earlier graduates, who entertained me with stories of his international travels and plans for the future. He was among a group of students that I had taken on a weekend trip to Hocking Hills and I was surprised to discover during our conversation that this excursion, which seemed a recent memory to me, must have happened in 2013. *The arrow of time is in ceaseless flight.*



Nik Money

**Tasha Anderson** is one of the seniors I am mentoring this semester. When Tasha entered the program as a freshman, she expressed a love of fantasy as a genre of creative writing as well as a passion for paleontology. These interests had led her to think about investigating the relationship between mythological creatures and real but extinct animals that might have stimulated legends about dragons and other beasts. This is an intriguing topic but can lead to all manner of wishful and fuzzy thinking that is classified as cryptozoology.

Pliny the Elder, who died during the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79, was devoted to this pseudoscience. In his encyclopedic *Naturalis Historia*, he described the basilisk as a serpent so deadly that when one was speared by a man on horseback, the venom “rising through the spear killed not only the rider but also the horse.” (Incidentally, Pliny’s modest plan for this classic of Roman literature was to record “all the contents of the entire world.”)



Tasha had no time for basilisks in her freshman year, and, indeed, as her undergraduate career has unfolded, she has become more interested in the science

of paleontology and less in the beasts of our imagination. Using gift funds, the Western Program supported her participation in a recent paleontology conference in Alberta. (Alberta, Canada, is one of the premier sites for dinosaur fossils.) Like all of our majors, Ms. Anderson is finding her niche.

And with this snippet of student biography, I will leave you by sharing the warmth of the afternoon sun streaming through my windows into Peabody Hall. Best wishes from this best of places.

— Nicholas P. Money

Western Program Director/Professor of Botany

## Update from the 39°84° West Student Center

Greetings, Western Alumni! From Halloween celebrations to group hikes, this semester has been full of engaging events that are building camaraderie between students and faculty. Starting the year off without the Class of 2017, we definitely felt their absence. However, the current Western students are dedicated to the tradition of community and learning involvement that the previous class embodied.

This semester’s first major event was a bonfire planned by the 39°84° employees and hosted by **Professor Hays Cummins**. There was great enthusiasm for this event, with many students and a majority of the faculty joining in the festivity.

Halloween was celebrated with vigor in 39°84°, with events occurring over the course of two weeks. Students got together with treats before watching *The Nightmare Before Christmas* in Leonard Theatre. Stu-



Student-painted pumpkins



*Arcadia and Aubrey, painting in the 39°84° West Center*

dents also painted pumpkins while drinking apple cider and telling ghost stories about Peabody Hall, Miami University, and Oxford.

In addition to our events, 39°84° is home to many weekly gatherings. This semester students and faculty are participating in a book club, where we are reading

and discussing *The Mycologist* written by our own **Nik Money**. Additionally, every Tuesday faculty and students get together for Tea and Conversation.

Despite busy schedules, students continue to make time for community-building events such as Western Wednesday when we gather together at Skipper's for good discussion in a relaxed environment.

Western seniors are also hard at work preparing their project proposals. We are excited to see the vast array of disciplines they will be presenting on in the upcoming weeks! With impending finals and the busiest part of the semester on its way, we are happy to provide a great place for seniors and other Western students to collaborate on ideas, relax, and hang out with friends.

— Aubrey Klosterman, Class of 2018

— Arcadia Davies, Class of 2019

39°84° Employees

*For more information, contact Lisa Iams, Program Associate: [iamslm@miamioh.edu](mailto:iamslm@miamioh.edu)*

### **Project Dragonfly Wants You**

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2018 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 16 countries throughout the world. [EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu/17-18\\_news](http://EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu/17-18_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 so that students can complete the GFP master's part-time from anywhere in the United States or abroad. GFP. [MiamiOH.edu/17-18\\_news](http://MiamiOH.edu/17-18_news). Deadline for both: January 28, 2018.

Project Dragonfly also offers the **Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP)** master's degree that combines web instruction from Miami University with experiential learning and field study through several AIP Master Institutions in the U.S. Applications for Miami's 2018 cohorts are being accepted now with place-based experiences provided at zoos in Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, New York, San Diego, and Seattle. [AIP.MiamiOH.edu/17-18\\_news](http://AIP.MiamiOH.edu/17-18_news). Deadline: February 28, 2018.

Graduate tuition for all programs is greatly reduced because of support from Miami University.

## Trustees on the Move: At King Library . . .

As a feature of October Archives Month, Dr. Sharon Herbers, Professor, Dreeben School of Education/The University of the Incarnate Word, and author of *Tennessee Women*, which contained a chapter on Western's third president, Lilian



Dr. Herbers says, "It is a joy to share the story of Dr. Lilian. She has inspired me."

Wyckhoff Johnson, was invited to speak at Miami. Since the event coincided with WCAA fall Board meetings, trustees were able to attend the lecture, "The Challenge of Following the Steps of a Trailblazer," and have lunch with Dr. Herbers and University Archivist **Jacky Johnson**, who arranged for Dr. Herbers' appearance.

## In the Regionals . . .

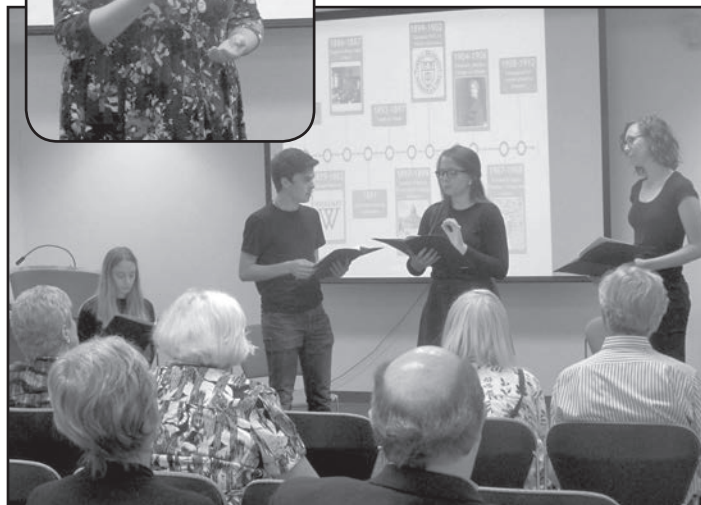
On a field trip as part of their three-day spring agenda, trustees toured Miami's Hamilton Campus as a result of an invitation from Cathy Bishop-Clark, Interim Associate Provost



Gail King, from the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services, describes the mission of their office and shares information regarding particular events and activities.



In addition to the lecture, trustees enjoyed a "Theatric Scene," based on incidents from President Lilian Johnson's life after Western (1932-1935). [See related story in the fall 2015 is-



sue of the Bulletin.] The dramatic readings were taken from Dr. Herbers' original play, *Aunt Lilian's Deed*, which deals with her support of efforts to start a folk school near her home in Grundy County, TN, to address socio-economic inequities and preserve Appalachian culture. Student performers Kevin Garcia, Gabriella Sanchez, Holly West, and Katelyn Nevin (above) were directed by graduate student Stormi Bledsoe (top photo), and advised by Dr. Ann Elizabeth Armstrong — all from the Miami University Department of Theatre.

and Dean, Miami University Regionals. Since the WCAA sponsors so many non-traditional scholarships, Cathy thought they would appreciate seeing the campus where most of these students attend.



Ellen Paxton, senior regional director of advancement, briefs the group prior to the tour.

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## Remembrance of Things Past

### A TALE OF A CHAIR ...

It started with a message sent to the WCAA office and forwarded to New England alums by ever-alert Senior Program Assistant Debbie Baker HA:

*WCW Chair free to a good home! My mother treasured her Western College for Women's chair and wished that it would be passed along to someone who would appreciate it. A graduate of the class of 1950, **Susan (Ott) Faulkner** passed in February. The chair is structurally sound but in need of refinishing. It is in Wallingford, Connecticut, and transport within a reasonable distance is possible. For a photo or to get directions, please contact Sarah Faulkner at [sffaulkner@comcast.net](mailto:sffaulkner@comcast.net) or 860-543-1280.*



Sarah, left, and Cece — hands firmly planted on the chair back

It didn't take long for **Cece Peabody '68** to respond:

*Happy Labor Day! Today was an exciting one for me. I responded to Susan Faulkner's daughter about the Western chair, and picked it up today in Wallingford, CT, about a two-hour drive from Wayne, NJ. I'm thrilled to get it and carry on the Western tradition with a "living piece" of furniture!*

*Sarah, Susan's daughter, told me that her Mom received the chair as a graduation gift from her parents (1950), and her sister (**Jeanne Ott Saunders '40**), 10 years older than Susan, had received one as well. The older sister passed away and her chair may also become available, and I happily shared my desire to enjoy another one.*

We eagerly await the end of the story ...

### A TARDY RSVP ...

WCP alums share a standing inside joke about perennially running late. They call it "Western time." So they will especially appreciate this from a much-loved former professor:

*Subject: Opened mail 10 years late...*

*To: [wcaa@miamioh.edu](mailto:wcaa@miamioh.edu)*

*Gentlepersons,*

*My apologies for not replying sooner, but a 2007 letter by Campus Mail was scooped into a pile by me as I retired. As a scientist, I can describe its fate as "residence time" in layers of things I've had to sort. Belatedly! That said, the letter contained a lovely note from Judy Waldron inviting me to the Banquet as a speaker. Please extend my apologies to all of you. The Western experience of interdisciplinary education has been a shining star; a Connection Compass, in a fragmented world. Its Compass was and is, more than a pointer. It has fostered diverse, courageous Connections to real world issues. Western's dedication to humane relationships dated well before I came in 1975: it has, among other efforts, been marked by its remembrance of those who risked everything in the cause of civil rights. Thank you all for your continued kindnesses.*

*Nancy Nicholson*

*Professor Emerita, Miami University Ohio*

What a beautiful tribute! Apologies accepted ...



Here's Nancy today, astride her Azteca mare Rosita, performing a dressage movement called "piaffe." She is active in the local and national riding community, is a certified U.S. Dressage Federation judge, and has published a number of biomechanical horsemanship works. She came to WCP in 1975 and retired in 2007, having taught in all three sections of the program, with Natural Systems as "home base."

**Send your news — *and pictures!* — for the Spring '18 Bulletin NOW.**

**E-mail, or clip and mail the form below to your Class Rep. If your class does not have a Rep, send your update directly to the WCAA. Beat the deadline: MLK Day, January 15!**

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

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

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

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

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