

Remembering Jacqueline Wallace
Director, WCAA, 1983-2000

From the WCAA Director

Dear Westerners,

Happiest of holidays to you and yours! I write this in hopes that you are all in good health. I know that for many of us, family and friend gatherings will be extra special this year as for some it has been almost two years in the making.

Speaking of joyous reunions, we hope you are planning to join us back in person for Alumnae/i Weekend, June 10-12! I cannot even tell you how much joy it brings us to think about having our Western family back to campus after two years of being virtual. We cannot wait! The Board of Trustees and staff are working hard to plan a delightful reunion. Of course, the last two years of Zoom also offered many who have had not had the chance to come to campus to be able to visit their classmates virtually. We know what a success that was and there are plans underway to still have a virtual offering for part of reunion.



Mackenzie

In addition to planning reunion, each committee of the WCAA Board has been hunkering down and making sure that we are prepared for the dissolution of the WCAA Inc. in 2024. Equally important, they are preparing for what comes next with our affinity group. We have begun working closely with Miami and will have more to report on this soon. The Board also once again had the opportunity to meet (virtually) with some of the incredible student recipients of several Western scholarships at their last meeting. Wow, these students are going to change the world, in the name and in the Spirit of Western.

I am pleased to report that our own Sylvia Stanfield '65 received an honorary doctorate from Miami University on December 10. You can read more about this on page 44. Miami will also confer an honorary doctorate on Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins '74 on March 24, 2022. It is really invigorating to see Western alumnae being recognized by Miami for all of their contributions to society.

Finally, some of you may have had the chance to see the documentary Training for Freedom if you were on campus for reunion in 2019. Training for Freedom documents the transformation story of what was Freedom Summer of 1964. We are pleased to share that the documentary will debut on PBS in the Cleveland and Youngstown markets in February. It will also be live-streamed on the PBS website for viewers outside of those markets. It will be featured on the cover of the PBS program guide in February.

As you can see, Westerners are everywhere, making the world a better place one day at a time. Mother Theresa may have said it best when she said "I alone cannot change the world; but I can cast a stone across the waters to make many ripples." Western College certainly cast that stone many years ago, and the ripples are everywhere we look all these years later. It is, in no uncertain terms, simply remarkable.

Thank you for all you do for Western!

In the Spirit of Western,

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

Mackenzie Becker Rice

Director, WCAA

*Congratulations to our very own **Director Mackenzie Becker Rice HA**, a recipient of Miami's Prodesse Quam Conspici Medal, honoring university employees for their selfless leadership throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic: <https://miamioh.edu/news/2021/12/miami-honors-employees-for-accomplishments,-leadership-during-pandemic.html>*

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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.

Cover photo: Provided by the Wallace family

Back cover photo: Debbie Baker



BLUE CARDS (see page 46 DUE UPON RECEIPT!)

Don't wait for the deadline — send your news and pictures NOW.

Your dedicated Class Rep will thank you for making her job easier.

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Remembering Jacqui Wallace . . .

The second and longest-serving WCP dean (1980-'96, acting dean 1997-'98), Curt Ellison was exceptionally well positioned to observe and partner in the myriad achievements Jacqui presided over during her relentless course to ensure that "we shall not be erased": A number of residential conferences on campus, the \$4 million Campaign for Endowment, production of the documentary "A Time To Remember," restoration and conservation of the Duck Pond, restoration of Ernst Nature Theatre, dedication of Windate Writing and Rothermel Science for Discovery centers and Tappan Center for Computer-Assisted Learning, to name but a few. Especially dear to her heart were joining in Miami's Czech Exchange Program, mounting the first-ever Alumnae Weekend art exhibit, "Art from the World of Western," in 1996, and creating the Marder Children's Theatre Outreach Program.

Remembering Jacqui Wallace at Western

When I became dean of the **School of Interdisciplinary Studies (Western College Program)** in 1980, memories of the closing of Western College just six years earlier were intense among its loyal alumnae, and understandings of the program set up by Miami University on the Western Campus were often, ah, less than complimentary. I was a novice then at working with alums, and at development. Jacqui fixed that.

As Director of the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc., Jacqui took me under her impressive guidance. We began by traveling to alumnae clubs around the country to talk over what was happening back on campus with those who had loved the place, and to describe how "new" Western goals for liberal education in a small residential college were, in one sense, an extension of what made "The Western" special to all who knew it.

Then together, Jacqui and I devised an appeal for alumnae to memorialize their beloved Western College faculty by creating four endowed peer-learning centers for discovery science, writing, quantitative reasoning, and learning technology across the curriculum, plus a Western College Memorial Archives in Peabody Hall. Because alumnae warmed to the idea of these memorial projects, and to Jacqui, all were fully funded, as was Miami's first endowed visiting professorship in Interdisciplinary Studies. State of Ohio funding awards to the new Centers followed, and each of them would earn notable national recognition in Miami's "Public Ivy" era, as well as influence Miami's faculty development programs and liberal education reform.



Curt Ellison HA



That's the institutional story. The human story behind it was Jacqui's candor, infectious personality, passionate dedication to her former students, love for all things Western, and willingness to build new educational initiatives. By 1987, when I was named an Honorary Alumnus of the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc., Jacqui and the WCAA Board could give me a signed watercolor by **Peggy Kent Waln '50** of Cephas Burns' Western bridges that was inscribed to me as one "who built the bridge between old and new." Well yes, but if so, Jacqui Wallace was the contractor who knew just how to mix the mortar that made it stand. All alumnae/i of the Western College and of the Western College Program in her era should know of her crucial role in laying a firm foundation for their educational home.

— Curtis W. Ellison
Emeritus Professot
History & American Studies
Miami Universiy

On June 11th of this year, charismatic Western College French professor (1966-1974) and visionary WCAA director (1983-2000), **Dr. Jacqueline Sciaky Wallace**, passed away at her home in Coral Gables, Florida. It was Jacqui's 90th birthday. It was also the first day of our virtual 2021 Alumnae/i Weekend, "Westerners Worldwide." How perfectly apropos of her strong focus on preserving Western's global vision that we learned of her death as we were welcoming and celebrating Western's international students! In lieu of a single eulogy, we have invited alumnae/i, colleagues, and friends to share favorite personal memories as our Bulletin tribute. Jacqui published her memoir, *The Door Is Open*, in 2019 and signed a copy for our Western Archives. [The book is also available on Amazon.]

Thirty-nine years ago years, when we hired Jacqueline Wallace as Director of the Western College Alumnae Association (she was still "Jacky" then), I was on the committee that interviewed the several applicants for the position. All were impressive, but she was a shoo-in. She came to the interviews, brimming with enthusiasm and armed with ideas for projects and programs she thought would be a fit for our mission. Once she was hired (December 1982), she hit the ground running and never slowed down. It will be no surprise that the spring 1983 *Bulletin* (of which she was very much the hands-on Editor)* ran five features on theater (one of which, also no surprise, she wrote). It will be hard to do justice to her legacy in just one *Bulletin* issue but — with a little help — we'll try.

— Cathy Bauer Cooper '60
WCAA Bulletin Editor

Jacqui hired me 22+ years ago. I loved working with her and learned from her. She was a true champion of Western and made certain things got done and completed correctly. I know a couple of men in physical facilities that sighed with relief when she retired. Jacqui was very forward thinking and established many good relationships with alumnae and campus partners. She was very instrumental in laying the foundation that has allowed the organization to continue for so long. Like many of you, I feel blessed to have known her.

— Debbie Baker HA
WCAA Associate Director

*And in that same issue, she wrote: "[In June 1974] how could I have ever imagined ... that in 1982 there would be a vital Western College Alumnae Association? How could I have understood the paradox that even though Western College as an institution of higher education was 'dying,' its alumnae would keep Western alive through their energy and foresight?"



WCAA Director Jacqueline Wallace,
Spring '83 Bulletin

I'll go back to 1966 — freshman placement testing, remember that? There I was testing my French — placed at the 200 level, assigned to Madame Wallace's class. First few weeks review went ok but then we really got down to it. OMG there were way more tenses than I knew! I had notebook paper planted on my wall by my bed to practice tenses every night. I was spending more time on French than anything else, to no avail. After failing some quizzes and a test I withdrew, much to Mme. Wallace's relief, I'm sure. Ended up taking it in summer school, passing, and took French 300 and passed. Mme. Wallace was pleased that I stuck it out and succeeded. We were reunited later when I was on the WCAA board. I think she would have been very proud of Barbara and Debbie's hard work, mastering technology and bringing the international students into the spotlight and reconnecting us all. A smashing reunion, ladies!

— Pamela Watts Coates '70

Thank you. I loved her sense of humor and lively expression of her ideas.

— Charlotte Klein Varzi '57



Mme. Wallace with student,
'69 Multifaria

Like many of you, I hosted in Tulsa an area gathering, Jacqui spent three nights in my home. A delightful guest. We went to the Tulsa Opera. That's how I met **Bea Low Notley '42**, a generous friend of Western. That was my first experience with Jacqui. Then she kept encouraging me to become involved. I did and today I am so grateful. Thanks, Lynne, for sharing her rich heritage. Jacqui's story of departure from Germany is quite similar to that of my freshman roommate, **Sabina Sawert Freiburger**. How sad, yet somehow fitting, that Jacqui would depart during a Reunion Weekend!

— Judy Dudman Henderson '62

A life well lived. I didn't know her as a teacher, but she visited us in Brussels and we bonded immediately.

— Mieke Van Waveren Smit '54

I remember this great woman and I remember connecting with her by phone sometimes. Condolences to WCAA and her family!

— Julie Cook Downing '69

I'm so pleased to hear that the Bulletin will have a tribute to Jacqui Wallace as she was involved with Western for so many years in one capacity or another.. first as a French professor and then with the Alumnae Association. I have not seen Jacqui in several years nor have in been in touch although we both lived in Florida. Around 2001, she stayed with me a night or two (I live near Clearwater, Florida) when she had Western Alumnae business in Tampa and we caught up on one another's lives. We exchanged messages for a time but then I never had any responses. I was happy to learn that she had continued to live in South Florida to the age of 90. I have very fond memories of Jacqui in the mid to late 1960s when I and my roommate, **Carol Abarbanell**, were French majors at Western. Naturally I had many classes with her during that time and was often invited to her home. I always admired her enthusiasm and zest for life and learning along with her dedication to her family and students. In later years, she displayed these same qualities in her involvement with the Alumnae Association. She will be sadly missed but yes, she led a "life well lived"!

— Nancy Galbraith Karoll '69

Jacqui was a HUGE part of my Western College experience, and a precious one; I was privileged to have had her as a professor and, in time, a friend. In my first class with her, during my freshman year, there were only three other students — no place to hide! — and anyone who knew her can imagine how intimidating that was for someone just out of high school. However, she was always so generous with her time and so eager to share her enthusiasm and knowledge that I soon realized how lucky I was. Majoring in French (although by that time, Western didn't have formal "majors"), I saw a lot of Jacqui, both inside and outside the classroom, and it was clear that teaching French (language, literature, culture) to us anglophones was her mission.

Just as Jacqui was demanding of her students, she also set performance goals for herself outside the classroom. She studied other languages and stayed culturally inquisitive. She hoped to see all the Vermeers that were accessible to the public, although I don't know how far she got towards that objective. In a similar, but lighter, vein, she accompanied me and my husband to Cincinnati in 2000 during the "Big Pig Gig," which featured 400 huge fiberglass pig sculptures in public places, and she found great satisfaction in seeing how many of them we could tick off our list in one day.

I'm sure there was *always* more to do on Jacqui's list, because she never could sit still intellectually.

She and Jack were such a special pair, and in my "mind's ear" I can easily hear them, together again, bantering and laughing. That makes me smile.

—Joan Campbell '73

I majored in French at Western. I took many classes from Jacqui Wallace. Most of what I know about understanding and enjoying literature I learned from Jacqui. Her classes were demanding and small, so I always made sure I was prepared. The reading, writing, and speaking practice I had in her classes prepared me well for my junior year of study in France. By my senior year, I was fluent.

Twenty years later, when I was finishing up a master's degree in special education, I learned that, though the degree was typically a Master of Science degree, it could be a Master of Arts degree with the demonstration of competency in a foreign language. I came from an academic family and knew that the MA is the older and more valuable degree, so I told my advisor I knew French. He said to contact the French department (at Portland State University, where I earned the degree). They said to come right over and I could sit for a two-hour exam. I did, with no preparation, after twenty years of only occasional use of French. I enjoyed doing the test and passed with flying colors, thanks to what I learned with Jacqui. I still enjoy using French when I have the opportunity, and occasionally read a French novel.

I have not used French in my career, but my ear was trained to hear the different sounds of languages accurately. I needed that ability to help many dyslexic children learn to read in English, since dyslexia is primarily the inability of the brain to distinguish language sounds within word. I have many fond memories of my years at Western, and they were an important foundation for my adult life. I am grateful for Jacqui's many contributions to those years.

—Lyn Miller Neely '73

When we arrived in Oxford back in 1964, the first people we met were Jack and Jacqui Wallace, and from that time until Jacqui's death, we shared a warm and lasting friendship. Jacqui was the consummate hostess, welcoming you to their home not only for fine dining, but also for amateur play productions directed by Jack. We shared with them a love of fine dining and live theatre and film and spent many evenings with them at area theaters, entertained after a performance by Jacqui's astute analysis. Of her many accomplishments as Director of the Western College Alumnae Association, one of which we know she was particularly proud, was the restoration of the Ernst Nature Theatre. Miami University had neglected the site from the moment it had taken over the property, and it had become an unsightly mess, no longer recognizable as a natural theatre. Thanks to the Western College alumnae, it was beautifully restored and once again became a significant part of the beautiful Western College campus, the perfect setting for a memorable performance of "A Midsummer's Night's Dream."

— Marilyn and Bob Johnson, retired Miami University faculty and staff

We, who were lucky to live in Oxford while Jacqui and Jack Wallace were here, will remember them as our leaders in the joy of living. Jacqui gave numerous dinner parties in her French style, and helped Jack produce at home his "theatre of the absurd." She introduced Nancy and me to Paris, which she loved. After moving to Florida she continued to welcome us to her home. Jacqui was most inventive concerning her work for Western College and for living well.

— Jack Sommer, Miami University, professor of philosophy, 1962-90; Western College, professor of philosophy, 1972-74

I think this was taken in Cannes in the south of France where I sang for a summer and had the thrill of seeing Jacqui, her wonderful husband, Jack, and her parents. One of many special moments we shared — she loved music and loved to sing — our last visit



in NYC was singing *La Vie En Rose* together as loud as we could in a cab ride downtown. Her strong, vibrant, wise spirit will always be with me... she was a great teacher and friend. Bless you, Jacqui.

— Pamela Knowles '70

"In a gesture of gratitude for her nearly 17 years of service as director of the alumnae association, the board of trustees announced the naming of the 25-year anniversary fund in honor of Jacqui Wallace: the **Jacqueline S. Wallace Western College Program Senior Thesis Prize**. Several in attendance at the Saturday night banquet when the announcement was made were heard to comment that it was the first time they had ever seen Jacqui speechless."

— Fall 1999 Bulletin

In my many years of living abroad, and in my thirty years of teaching at Miami, I never met anyone more elegantly civilized and cultured than Jacqui. More than anyone else, Jacqui kept Miami in touch with the rest of the world through her magnificent support of international exchanges in all forms. Her influence remains, around the globe, through the countless students she and the WCAA sponsored. Very best to all of you,

— Howard Blanning
Emeritus Professor of Theater
Miami University

I definitely join all in celebrating her long, and very fruitful life. She was a wonderful Director of Alumnae relations, and I loved that she would call on the phone if she needed a response I had forgotten to make. I had mentioned to her how much I appreciated the alumnae calendar she sent each year, “The Year at a Glance booklet,” a format that I still use. She loved the Macadamia Nut candy that **Rowena Toomey** would send to her from Hawaii. The memorable day of June 11th is one of the most celebrated days in Hawaii. It is the day we celebrate King Kamehameha with huge island-wide parades, flowers, floats, and decorated statues. Our largest local celebration all year, every year! A very auspicious day! Aloha, Jacqui ... You will be forever remembered!!

— *Barbara Kong Vlachos '60*



Here's a photo of Jacqui, **Diana Koch Mascali '59** (middle), and me at a restaurant in Palo Alto in 2013. We used to meet regularly when Jacqui came out to visit her son Rick in Palo Alto. Great memories!

— *Susan Blake '68*

About a week before teaching my first class at Miami in September 1969, I met Jack and Jacqui Wallace at a party hosted by Mary and Roland Duerksen. The party was held at the Duerksens' then-residence on N. Locust. I could not have known that night that some of the more remarkable evenings I would spend in Oxford would take place just blocks away at the S. Locust home of the Wallaces.

Jacqui Wallace was the consummate professional. She was a tireless advocate for the Western College for Women when she directed the WCAA and, entirely on her own, created the Western College Alumnae Young Artist endowment. She never forgot her commitment to students, and she never forgot her friends.

Jacqui loved to travel, and on one of her many journeys I was her driver. Although I can scarcely remember details, I know that when Jacqui and I were, both of us, in Chicago, she asked if she could hitch a ride with me from Chicago to Oxford. I remember picking her up at her parents' apartment on N. Michigan Ave., but before we experienced the delights of the Dan Ryan Expressway, Jacqui directed me to a liquor store on Randolph Street. Oxford was dry in those days, and even if it were not, the chances of buying a French apple-based brandy called Calvados were unthinkable. So Jacqui bought her Calvados. Not one bottle, but two. Our trip took place so long ago that I-65 South had not yet reached Indianapolis, but that mattered little to us as we laughed through the entire drive.

To this day it appears that few residents of Oxford know that the Wallaces presented plays in their home on South Locust. Jack would direct, and Jacqui would assist as a director herself and as hostess for after-theatre drinks and snacks. Sometimes the plays were presented in their living room, and on one memorable occasion the entire audience sat on chairs in the Wallaces' basement. The play was Pinter's "The Dumb Waiter," and all of the ambiguities, ironies, double entendres, and, inevitably, Pinter's "silences," were played to the hilt by Jack and Jacqui's friends — some with acting experience, some with no experience at all, and all entirely devoted to Jack and Jacqui.

I count my friendship with Jack and Jacqui Wallace as one of the most remarkable experiences in my fifty-two years in Oxford.

— *William J. Gracie, Jr.*
Professor Emeritus of English and Dean

From the WCAA Board President

Mary Oliver is one of my favorite poets. I share her love of the natural world and I absolutely thrill to the exquisite ability she has to lift thought and feeling and understanding out of a moment. Her poem “The Gift” provides inspiration for this President’s Message.

THE GIFT

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.
Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow.

So, be slow if you must, but let
the heart still play its true part.
Love still as once you loved, deeply
and without patience. Let God and the world
know you are grateful.
That the gift has been given.

I believe that each of us, alumnae and friends of Western, that reads *The Bulletin* and our “E-newsletter,” that sends class notes, that contributes time or donates money to “things Western” recognizes such a gift. That gift that was Western and remains the Western within us, takes different forms — finding one’s own voice, the experience of being supported by an entire institution, befriending those from a wide range of cultures, developing leadership skills, feeling that you could do anything with determination and hard work. What gifts!

We all have examples, so many stories that bring those gifts to light and speak to the enduring impact of those experiences on the scope and quality of our lives. **Anne Adkins Weissenborn ’61** recently mentioned how powerful an experience it was living a door or two down the hall from **Halimeh Subhi** from Jordan. Halimeh and her family were Palestinian refugees from Bethlehem and their story opened up Anne’s world. In similar fashion, my daily education included brushing teeth while chatting with **Sarah el Mahdi**, a princess of Sudan; studying with **Neena Kapur** of Delhi, India, the only other chemistry major in my class; taking organic chemistry with **Hazel Williams** of Guyana (our classes ranged from two to five students!); learning about life and dance in Thailand from **Valyalada**

Silpabanleng, whose father was the teaching master of the Thai National Dance Company. And on another level, those of us who were Sophomore Counselors and Big Sisters, or who served in the college government association or on Judiciary — the tutelage by **Dean Hoyt** that equipped us with skills and a deeper understanding of our roles was remarkable.



Fran Hoffman

Yes, “time is draining from the clock” and our walk may have become a bit slower, but I know our Western spirit runs deep and strong. What we do now and in the future is important and vital. We are still being watched — in our interaction with others on individual and institutional levels, by Miami University, and by our better selves. Our time-weathered understanding of the importance of our Western gifts fuels the passion with which our Board of Trustees is addressing our closure, on behalf of our WCAA membership. It is obvious as we anchor our legacy, secure the transfer of our assets and prepare to fold our Alumnae Association into Miami’s structure.

Let’s identify those gifts, appreciate the impact they have had on our lives and those we touch, and actively “without patience” share what we discover. Share with your families, share with the communities in which you live, and we hope that you will also choose to express your gratitude for your special Western gifts by keeping the spirit of Western alive in Oxford, Ohio — at our institutional base-to-be — Miami University and its Alumni/ae Association.

Miami has a heightened appreciation of what we know our gifts to be. **President Greg Crawford** created the Spirit of Western Award and has honored Western alumnae by bestowing honorary degrees and invitations to speak at university events. He shines attention on Western’s hosting the Freedom Summer Training in 1964 and is expanding the international profile of faculty and students at Miami. **Dean Chris Makaroff** of the College of Arts and Science, along with strong support from the Miami Advancement Office, has formed the base for the Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation and has worked hand in hand with our fund-

raising efforts to establish the Western College Legacy Seminars.

There are ripe opportunities for you to be part of this transformation. And we are particularly fortunate to have staff that can facilitate almost anything! Let us know how you would like to be involved as we shift over to the Miami framework.

Here's to our Western spirit, past, present and future. I wish you all a happy holiday season.



Frances Hoffman '65
President, WCAA Board of Trustees

Meet Your New Trustees: Elected to serve three-year terms, 2021-2024

Ann Crowley Pagano '74 graduated from Western College with a major in psychology. During her years at Western, she worked at the Purity pub and the placement office in the lower level of Peabody, as well as other jobs around campus. After graduating she worked for Hamilton County juvenile programs as a counselor before accepting a job in sales in Chicago. Once her three sons were in school full time, she became involved in the music arts programs at their public school. Along with an acquaintance, she started a string instrument/orchestra program in their school system. With the orchestra secured as part of the offered curriculum in grades 5-12, she took on VP of Fundraising responsibilities for the high school bands and orchestras for more than 10 years. Following her fundraising position, she and another member of the instrumental music board started an endowment with the Community Foundation of Boone County (IN) to create long-term support for the programs — then created nonprofit Play On Zionsville to raise funds for the endowment. She also looks forward to helping Play On Zionsville provide financial support for the middle schools instrumental music and enlarging the Play On Zionsville board with new people with great new ideas.



Ann Pagano

Christine Lee Cowden '75 graduated from Wright State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance (Western announced closure prior to her senior year). After training at Western College with Jefferson James, Artistic Director David McClain at University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, and Josephine Schwartz at Dayton Ballet Company, she moved to New York City. She has performed with Cincinnati Ballet and Ensemble, Utah State University at the Chase Fine Arts Center, and New York Ballet Performing Arts summer tour. Teaching at Fred Astaire Dance Studios in New York City and Orlando led to competitive dance and exhibitions. She has taught ballet to skaters preparing for Nationals and auditioned for Disney Entertainment — performing daily at Disney World, Epcot, Disney Village, and outside corporate events, including the annual Bob Hope Golf classic. TV shows, commercials and magazines for the parks were also part of the job. Special shows and private parties with countless celebrities — such as Bob Hope, Dick Clark, Barbara Eden, Michael Jackson, Osmonds, Partridge Family, Cool and the Gang — made for constantly changing choreography. After dancing, she became licensed in real estate and worked in three states at 17 different properties — marketing and special events, her forte. Chris now resides in Lebanon, OH, with her husband, David Wehrung, in a home they built 15 years ago.



Chris Cowden

Western College Legacy Seminars: Update

GratITUDE! Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the tremendous financial support and response for the Western College Legacy Seminars. Just last March, the WCAA Board of Trustees launched an ambitious dream to fund our final legacy endowment for an annual seminar that was to focus on biennial topics that will address the pressing social issues of the day. The WCLS is an endowment designed to be a gift through Miami University's College of Arts & Science that will raise the social conscience of future generations of students, faculty, and community.

The Board targeted a goal of \$500,000 by the end of 2023. But, magical things have been happening and we now stand at 86 percent of that in just nine months! Amazing! And, in a profitable environment, we believe this goal will be met by the end of the year. This has happened because the WCAA Board had several opportunities to designate unrestricted funds

But, most of all, donations from our WCAA constituency have been steadily growing. The contributions through the Reunion and Annual Fund gifts have been most encouraging. As Western approaches the close of this chapter in our history, certainly each of us must be reflecting on our own Western experiences. At the June 2021 Reunion, we heard humorous, brave, inspiring, and even profound stories from some of our international students. Their Western experience — provided through scholarships — made a difference in their lives. What was your experience? Why did you choose Western and how has your experience informed your life? Perhaps you are a legacy family. Do you still hear the wisdom in the voices of your professors, still engage with your friends, learn from the international atmosphere, or better understand the world around you?

Then give back to Western with financial support for our lasting legacy. Perhaps it will be through your Annual Gift contribution, or an additional gift. Help us



Sharry



Judy

exceed our \$500,000 goal. The truth is the more money in an endowment fund, the greater the amount available each year to access renowned speakers to engage and motivate students, faculty and the community in these important social conversations.

Oh, yes, Legacy has been listening to you — our 1,800 member constituency. Such heart you have for scholarships — extraordinary! Isn't it amazing that in the last 47 years 3,554 scholarships have been awarded through 52 Western-established endowment funds? And, these scholarships will continue to be awarded even after 2024.

Since we appreciate our proud history of supporting education through scholarships, the WCAA Board approved the creation of one additional scholarship opportunity: the Western Center Scholarship for Experience-Based Learning. Within our Western Center legacy an endowed fund is being established to make monies available for students across the academic disciplines to participate in additional learning experiences: seminars, unpaid internships, travel associated with their educational passions that increase social awareness and understanding — *opportunities that otherwise would not be available*. The Board is really excited about this scholarship opportunity!

To use a gardening metaphor, Western College is not going away. Anything but! Every day our values and indomitable spirit continue to be grafted onto Miami University's campus through the Western Center Legacy efforts. Pulling together we can make this something really unforgettable and transformative.

— Sharry Patterson Addison '61

— Judy Dudman Henderson '62

Co-chairs, Legacy Committee

National Civil Rights Conference Honors Miami: Janet Dickerson-Stephens '65, Keynote Speaker

*June 20-22, 2021, Miami University hosted the 10th Annual National Civil Rights Conference on the Oxford campus. It was the first time the conference had been held in the Midwest, recognizing the strong ties to civil rights through Freedom Summer '64. It should be noted, however, that in 2017, MU President Greg Crawford and WCAA trustee **Fran Hoffman '65** attended the conference in Philadelphia, MS, to accept the NCRC's Social Justice Award on behalf of Miami University and the Western College Alumnae Association. The two-day event provided a wide range of topics related to the conference theme, "Rise, Advocate, Educate and Cooperate: The Challenge of Change." Our own **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65** was the luncheon keynote speaker. Here are excerpts from her address:*

The year I entered the Western College for Women, 1961, was a remarkable and hopeful year in the world. In January, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated President; he and Jackie Kennedy presided over "Camelot." The Peace Corps was established. Freedom Riders traveled across the South. In the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement, students sought to integrate lunch counters and movie theaters through nonviolent social action.

WESTERN: THE POWER, IDEA OF A PLACE

Those of us who bonded to become The Class of 1965 came to Oxford OH from many backgrounds and from across the world. While embedded in the very traditional village of Oxford, Western was not "of" Oxford—it was a place of powerful and progressive ideas. From what I recall, Western was not insular or "culturally encapsulated"; rather it was quite a cosmopolitan liberal arts college.

The college adhered to intentional principles of recruitment and admission and enrolled about 550 students. Ours was an international campus (10% of students were from other countries; as many as 60 countries were represented.) There were usually only one or two students from each country. Our domestic students came from 48+ States and very diverse backgrounds. Western welcomed daughters of executives, doctors, diplomats, other dignitaries and an occasional princess. Others of us were daughters of ministers or teachers or postal workers; some were first generation. Unlike many Southern colleges and universities at the time, Western was "integrated"—I was the only student from South Carolina and one of seven African-American students in the Class of 1965. Our Class included several African students as well.

Western had an Intercultural Studies curriculum and co-curriculum, a living/learning environment and engaged student governance including an Honor System. The majority of our faculty were women. Some Western faculty were targets of McCarthy-era condemnation, policies and threats.

Our 2021 Alumnae Reunion featured interviews with international students. Their stories evoked for me many of the takeaways from our education. Western had a strong moral

compass – it valued diversity, freedom, justice, peace studies, integrity. It was intentionally Multicultural from 1954 until its closing in 1974. It was a nurturing community, offering an International Student Orientation, Host Families, financial support. Our curriculum fostered a respect for global cultures and featured study abroad, Summer Seminar travel and cultural immersion. Each year the campus focused on one of four areas of study: Middle East, Far East, Africa, Central and South America.



*Janet Dickerson-Stephens '65,
speaking at NCRC luncheon
June 21, 2021*

We experienced diversity up close, in roommate and hall assignments and in campus programming and commitments. A Western education offer a broad and deep study of the liberal arts and sciences, with intimate classrooms, compassionate mentors and advisors who held us to high standards, who "knew us by name." They encouraged an appreciation for beauty and culture — through the arts, music, theatre, dance, nature. At the time, Western was committed to women's education--developing our confidence, leadership skills, courage (bravery!) and preparation for future roles and careers, whether traditional or new options.

The Western program encouraged a spiritual foundation--primarily Protestant Christian with weekly Chapel speakers; but open to hearing from all faiths and all points of view. It acknowledged the value of 'humble work'--all of us who were on scholarship (and I suspect many were!) worked together as waitresses in the Edith Clawson Dining Hall in our first year. Upperclass students were assigned slots as dishwashers and hostesses. I believe everyone also had a second assign-

ment, i.e., in an office or the Library or the Lodge; but we all experienced what it meant to serve others/our peers.

Students were encouraged to participate in bonding rituals and traditions--Class songs, plays and activities; sports; Class Day, Tree Day, etc. We learned our Alma Mater. We experienced training in etiquette. The deans and House Mothers established a gracious and hospitable environment, welcoming young women, their families, and visitors from all over the world! While not a perfect environment, most of us were able to thrive. We were indeed prepared to be "Masters of the situation, anywhere!"

OXFORD IN THE SPRING OF 1964

Racial violence in the US escalated dramatically in 1963. Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers was murdered in Mississippi in June 1963; the Birmingham Church bombing which killed four young girls took place in September; President Kennedy was assassinated in November. There was increased inter-group tension among Civil Rights groups over mission and strategy. By 1964, racial tensions were building across the country.

In Oxford, there was vague awareness of the Civil Rights activism that was roiling the Southern States. Greek culture dominated the social scene at Miami. The Oxford NAACP was a site of ongoing activism.

In February 1964, one other student and I represented Western College at a national conference, "The Second American Revolution", hosted in Philadelphia by Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges. About 200 student delegates convened with scholars like John Hope Franklin, Howard Zinn and James Farmer and Civil Rights activists including Stokely Carmichael (a/k/a Kwame Ture) and H. Rap Brown to discuss the course of the Movement.

On April 29, 1964, Dick Gregory and the Freedom Singers performed at Withrow Hall at Miami to raise awareness and money for SNCC and the Movement. Someone claiming to represent "NAACP" (National Association of White People) held counter-protests, allegedly led by 'outsiders' who used smoke bombs. A Miami Student article ran with the headline "Gregory Concert Yields No Violence."

WESTERN IN THE SUMMER OF 1964

President Herrick B. Young was out of the country, leading 43 members of the Western community, I among them, on a remarkable 10-week Seminar to the Middle East where we met King Hussein of Jordan among many others. We traveled to Spain, Italy, Greece; Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Iran; Turkey, Denmark.

Meanwhile, Dean Phyllis Hoyt and Western leadership responded to the appeal of the Commission of Race and Religion of the National Council of Churches to host the

Mississippi Summer Project's Orientation for 700 students on Western's campus after Berea College (KY) withdrew its support. Mississippi's Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), the sponsors, paid a fee to the College to use the space in June, 1964. The impetus, leadership and financing of the Summer Project came from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). SNCC Field Secretary Bob Moses and other activists planned the program and strategized the approach.

Western became a "Makerspace" for the Movement.

"A makerspace is a destination where students--sometimes alongside staff, parents, and mentors--can create, problem solve, and develop skills, talents, thinking, and mental rigor" ¹... Can also be a space for creating posters, banners, buttons, etc. (Envision--sewing machines, craft tools and supplies etc.)

CONSEQUENCES OF WESTERN'S INVOLVEMENT

Western experienced resistance from the surrounding community, including withdrawal of resources and support. The College faced severe consequences for its principled stance.

In her memoir *Where the Peonies Bloomed*, (pp. 126-127) Dean Hoyt wrote:

*"Western stood pretty much alone that summer... the community was cold, if not hostile; some alumnae withdrew their support."*²

"Each student who came in June had to provide enough money to take care of his or her needs during the summer months, Oxford, to and from his home to Mississippi, as well as guaranteed bail in his home community in case of an emergency. They heard clergymen, lawyers, doctors and civil rights leaders. They learned from these people what the situation was that they would be facing if they had the courage to follow their convictions to Mississippi... what the local ordinances were... about their rights under arrest... how to take care of their health... how to protect themselves from physical violence without retaliating. They were instructed in non-violent techniques, ways of response, means of communication, the real dangers that lay ahead..."

Those who went were mature, sober students. They knew they might die...

Any college which states in its catalogue that it is a Christian college would have disregarded that belief if it had refused these young people the opportunity for the orientation which they needed... what they have gone to do is not glamorous or romantic, and it may not accomplish anything... But the right to do it... may mean more to the history of mankind than all the battlefields of the world."

REFLECTIONS

From my experience of the early '60's, while some things have changed, other things remain the same...except we see disparities more clearly now.

Western College was a "Makerspace" for the Civil Rights Movement, the Women's Movement, Globalization, and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion).

Western leadership's brave decision to lease our campus to the Freedom Summer organizers was very unpopular. Miami University leadership did not participate in, endorse or support it.

The Theme of this conference is Rise. Advocate. Educate. Collaborate. To RISE—one needs Yeast! Yeast is a hard-to-define biological agent, but it is the leaven in a loaf of bread. An Admissions colleague I know described their strategy when assembling a selective College Class: he said, "You need people with diverse backgrounds, talents, interests and gifts; geniuses and quirky people who excel in one area; but then you need... "Yeast People"...people who are the connectors, the energizers, those who bring the magic. They make the whole Class (or group, or movement) rise. They will inspire people and institutions to stand up! ...People like Bob Moses, and Dean Hoyt, and Jacky Johnson, our Western College Archivist.

Western College Alumni Association Inc. is a "yeasty" association! WCAA Inc. has contributed over \$10M in scholarships to Miami University students; endowed a professorship; underwritten the Western Center for Social Innovation and Impact; Legacy Seminars, etc. We are proud of our commitments and contributions.

Several speakers here today are yeasty people, too!

CLOSING THOUGHTS: A ROLE FOR EVERYONE

Be Vigilant. "The metabolism of institutions is slow."

Tell your story with your truths; write your own narrative.

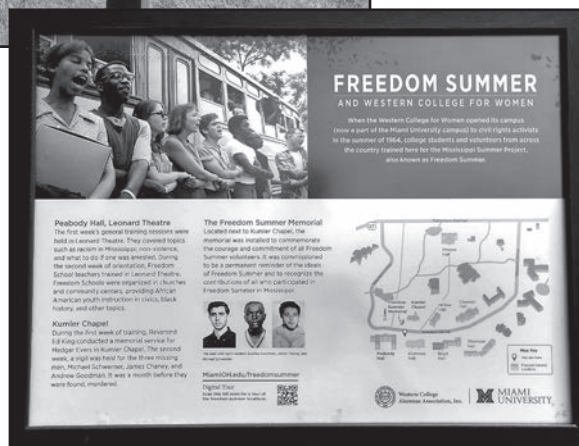
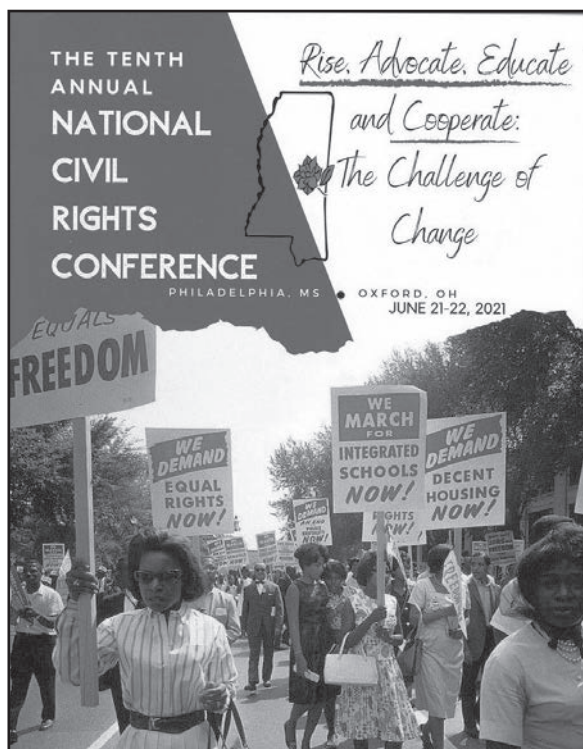
Recognize and value your assets.

Contribute wherever and however you can!

Let the trauma you may have experienced inform your projects and your passions

"Let your light illuminate your path." (Quaker quotation)

"You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget the errand." (Woodrow Wilson to Swarthmore)



“Still ____ (*insert adjective*) After All These Years”



It's so good to hear from so many of you and hope you'll keep me on your list for any future news. Travel has been out for many of us for the past year but I'm grateful for all your local news too. Sadly, many of the updates received included obituaries of your husbands. Sending our condolences to all.

Mary Jo Porter Brown lost her husband, Ralph, in May, soon after moving across town to Westminister Village (Terre Haute, IN). She easily made many new friends there by joining the community book club, choir and poetry group, and is involved in a group crocheting sleeping mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. What a great use of plastic! Her grandson, Brian, has CF, had a double lung transplant last year, and works from home caring for his 2 year old twin daughters while Mommy teaches. Another grandson, Alex, made her a great-grandma for the seventh time last spring. She just connected on Facebook with “Fergie.”

Speaking of ... **Ann Ferguson Zeigler** has recovered from knee replacement surgery but still suffers with arthritis. In June, she enjoyed a visit from her three children and all the grands. All are vaccinated so they could share memories ... and real hugs too! She is active in her book club and a church group studying racial justice.

Joan Crittenden Seiffert has recently moved to “The Last Stop Hotel” — her name for her new abode, a very nice but “way too costly” senior residence near her kids and grandkids in Durham, NC. She's still enjoying life and is still seeing a few clients.

Pat French Cook-Richardson and Bob took a nice trip in 2020 (after getting fully vaccinated), first to Texas, then Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah and South Dakota, with Bob driving the whole time. En route home to Florida they stopped in Oxford to visit our still-beautiful Western College, “much as we remembered it.”

Mary Baumer Baker wrote that they are “hunkering down and staying safe and fairly healthy.” She had a torn meniscus which has healed well. What a great email address: maryschoolmarm@gmail.com.

Speaking of teachers, **Judy Conant** has recently retired after 60 years teaching math and is still living in NYC and enjoying the advantages of living there. Last holiday she saw the Met Opera Chorus singing carols on

the steps of the Metropolitan Museum and she even sent me their photo. Judy and **Ruri Kawashima**, her senior year roommate, traveled together last year to Namibia and Lebanon.

Speaking of New Yorkers, **Jane Toy Thomason** wrote that husband, Bob, passed away peacefully of Lewy Body Dementia, and said “... his love of all people, work for social justice causes and great enthusiasm for adventures made our lives of 60 years together richer and fuller.” She is now adjusting to her new life as a widow, having restful days, reading much, and enjoying the company of a new cat while Zooming church services and book group discussions. And adds that once a month she and her daughter take a weekend getaway.

Another recent widow, **Peggy Mayer Hill**, lost Billy in March. Their son, Andy, came in from Tokyo and sister, **Sue Mayer Falter '57**, came from Dayton to be with her (in Greer, SC). Her three grandchildren live in Honolulu and attend the school where their mother teaches. Peggy is recovering from breast cancer treatment herself with eyelashes returning and hair coming in very curly. Thankfully, Peggy has a lot of friends, is doing well and looks good!

Betty Thebaud Sharr's husband, Joe, passed away in December. She still lives in Gold Canyon, AZ, and spends summers at their Big Bear, CA, cabin, which this year had smoky air from the wildfires. (Our California wildfires are getting bigger each year!)

Thalia Crane Sudnik left Western in '57 and graduated from Columbia Teachers College. She taught school for 10 years in New Jersey, then subbed two years more before going to work for the International Division of Western Union for 10 years. In 2015 she moved to Bridgewater, NJ, to be closer to her two children. She's still living independently and enjoying fitness classes and the library. She's recently been in touch with **Sue Marquis Gordon**. (Please let us know what you've been doing, Sue!)

Another classmate who hasn't stopped working is **Barbara Kolb** aka **Konnie Konheim**. She's an educational consultant and wishes she could recommend Western College to the students as her first pick for an outstanding college experience. Her granddaughters: Kayleigh has graduated from Dominican University and Sami from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Konnie's son and daughter, Tom and Gambi, still work as hard as their mom does so we know it's in their genes!

And from across the sea in Italy is news

from **Ellie Spittler Buford**, who “wears a mask and washes her hands like crazy!” She skipped her annual visit to see her friends and family on the U.S. East Coast due to the Covid pandemic. She says the Venice Airport is like a ghost town. But as I write this travel is picking up everywhere ... that is, until the next variant wave hits!

The past year and a-half was a deal-breaker for so many, but the family of **Janie Williams Andrassi** and her small condo community were fortunate to get through with no real trauma and only a few inconveniences: “A missed wedding in Israel (Jen and Mike); a 10th anniversary celebration in Europe (Dan and Kyle); a lost high-school freshman year (Ian); a missed kindergarten year (Wesley); postponement of second knee replacement (me). Our one great loss was not Covid-related: my brother, Tom Williams (whom some of you may remember — Gail, Annie, Cathy Bauer Cooper), died unexpectedly in December 2019. He had just returned home to New Orleans after spending Thanksgiving with me and my children and their mates (a rare occasion, for which in retrospect we'll all always be grateful). And the winding up of 2021 will be particularly joyous, with the North Carolina contingent (Matt's family) here for Thanksgiving; the California bunch (Claire, Ryan, Wesley, and Oliver) for Christmas. Safely, all together. Lucky us.”

John and I took our first plane “trip” in a year to visit our granddaughter in Pullman, WA, over last weekend. (Mackinsey is a senior at WSU so we arranged a mini-family reunion with Dana, arriving from Annapolis, and Tige and Carol from Danville, CA.) The weekend was fun and today John went to the VA Hospital to find out why he didn't feel well. The Covid test came back positive! Hopefully, he'll get over it quickly and, after a 10-day quarantine at home, he should be fine. Wearing masks in the house seems a bit odd, but whatever it takes to stay safe is good!

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



Although 2020 and 2021 have been challenging in many ways, this summer all of Western and the class of 1961 had a wonderful Zoom reunion, our sixtieth, including an amazing in-

terview of **Yoriko Konishi Meguro** by **Anne Adkins Weissenborn**. You can still see it by clicking on it in the recent *Newsletter*. Sadly, though, we have lost three more classmates: **Shirley Kretschman Purple**, **Gail Howell Litwiler**, and **Judy Buck**.

Sharon Botsford Moyer called in July to say that Judy had died, and for the Notes, wrote, "We came from very different backgrounds and spent our lives geographically very distant. She returned to NYC and I became the nomad moving every 2-5 years around



Sharon and Judy

the U.S.; yet we managed to stay connected. Rarely have I felt such a strong connection with someone. We may not have seen or talked with one another for years yet the moment we were together there were no gaps or uncomfortable moments." She visited Judy whenever she visited her son, Sean, in Brooklyn and last saw her in March 2020 before quarantine. Sharon had "known of her battles with cancers for almost 20 years and was able to celebrate her victories." This spring, Sharon had to spend time with daughter Jackie who had breast cancer, and said, "I spoke with Judy when I was in GA and learned her situation had worsened but she didn't indicate how quickly she was declining. Perhaps she didn't know. I was preparing to leave GA and go to NYC when I got [Judy's brother] David [Sheldon's] call. ... I am angry I couldn't spend time with her. It isn't so much that we had something specific to say; just that I wanted to be in her presence that one last time."

Sharon reminds us that **Ruth Limmer FF**, lived on Roosevelt Island and influenced Judy's move there. You can find Judy's extraordinary obituary, which includes pictures and a video honoring her for her work on the island, at <https://rooseveltislander.blogspot.com/2021/07/sad-news-roosevelt-island-woman-of.html>.

Jane Miller Brooks also expresses sorrow at Judy's death, saying, "She was an amazing person and a wonderful friend. She was in my wedding which was very special." She noted that she and Sharon visited Judy in

New York, and added, "I will always miss her." She misses Western, too, especially because she met her husband here. Finally, she has retired and enjoys more sleep, exercise, and reading now and hopes to do more traveling.

Co-chairs of their final WCAA Legacy project, the Western College Legacy Seminars, **Sharry Patterson Addison** announces that she and **Judy Dudman Henderson '62** have a goal to raise over \$500,000, and they are "actually doing quite well"! Sharry loves her Board involvement and says, "We continue to have a great group of loyal alumnae and our friendships keep growing." Thank you, Sharry and Judy!

Ann Bronaugh Kyle is "about to start my 16th year of teaching in the public schools." She keeps up her license and skills as well as doing Pilates for her health. Her growing family includes eight grandchildren and four greats. Sad about the death of Gail, she sends blessings to all.

The Arizona monsoon and extreme heat have not discouraged **Cecelia Ann Kendrick** at her new retirement lodgings near her son. "Not bad for 82," she still reads and manages with hearing aids. Ann remembers Gail as her freshman roommate and Judy as a fellow resident of Mary Lyon during their senior year. She wishes us safety and health.

Jane Brooks Leakey says she has no news but enjoys what classmates contribute. She sends good wishes.

"Glad this year is different from the last," **Julienne Mulette** is "sad to see classmates no longer with us." We are glad to hear that all is well with her.

Having "just returned home from a life-changing trip," **Marcia Jones Friddle** reports that around November 1, she will move near son Phillip's house in the Albany, NY, area "to watch my granddaughters, Zella, 4 years old, and Quinn, 1½ years old, grow up." Please send us your new address when you can, Marcia.

Flora Zimmerman Cohen and husband Richard, being careful, have cut back on volunteering but are able to see friends who are also careful. All four grandchildren attend college or graduate school. Congratulations! As to milestones, "We're hoping to have a family gathering here in December for Richard's 80th birthday – mine was last year so we had to celebrate on Zoom." Congratulations again!

As Hallowe'en approaches, **Susan Baarsch Button** reports that she and sister **Sandra Baarsch Baumgardner** put out children's books rather than candy. Susan maintains a bookstand in front of her house and has made many friends through that. She and partner Lori nurtured a garden that this year

consisted largely of sunflower "trees"; having taken pottery classes for five years, their cookware is shifting into homemade; and currently they are making blackberry and peach jam and enjoying rhubarb pies. Susan has recovered from knee surgery in April and now walks half-miles. The extended family is doing well, and although a great-grandson had surgery for cancer at 8 months, his prognosis is good. San has been supporting a granddaughter who's buying a home for herself and four children. She continues her commitments to the local farm market and library as well as maintaining a yard full of native species.

Enjoying Oceanview retirement colony in Maine as well as their summer cottage on Vinalhaven, **Jeanette Kirkpatrick Duvall** and husband Harry cope with being "wheelchair bound" (Johnnie) and other health issues (Harry), but maintain a very active life there. With many opportunities, including "lectures, study groups, and especially the music," plus Bible studies and social gatherings, they have many chances to meet new members and develop friendships. Their sons, daughters, and grandchildren are thriving, gifted, responsible, and impressive.

Anne Adkins Weissenborn may join daughter Elizabeth in Portland, OR, after June, 2024 and the dissolution of WCAA, Inc. In the meantime, friends from her church are fellow residents at Riderwood, to which she and Ernie moved in 2016 after 37 years in their home in Silver Spring. Her church has also given her ways to participate in her concerns, "mostly international (especially Middle Eastern and African) and U.S./locally-based issues re. racial justice and economic needs," including Afghan refugees. Anne is "very, very grateful" for her four years at Western, plus two years of teaching there (1969-71), as Western has so influenced the entire rest of her life. She is "very proud of Western's involvement in the civil rights movement in the 1960s (Freedom Summer!); its attention to non-western parts of the world before most other American colleges and universities had 'discovered' such, and its assumption that women could and can accomplish whatever they choose to do. These special gifts, plus a very good education — who could ask for anything more?!"

As to the Obuchowskis, Pete is coping with congestive heart failure, but tries to make life as easy for me as possible, and succeeds. Sons Tim and John and their children all live in Mt. Pleasant, a great source of help and comfort. I still remain active in Midwestern literature, mainly on the internet, sometimes via Zoom, and though our lives are quiet, they remain rich and we still feel grateful for every day. I love being in touch with you!

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

In June, **Liz Andrus Schoeberlein** invited us (**Jill Hartley Fulton**, **Brenda Litchfield Benson**, and **Bonnie McGowan Sammet**) to Zoom with her because Covid has kept us from our annual roommate reunions. Since that time we've loved our monthly Zooms together. It's a blast!

In November, **Liz Andrus Schoeberlein** will be fully retired from her private practice in Downers Grove. She has gotten much gratification from working with adults and couples. Her retirement plan is to play tennis three times a week and play online bridge three times a week. Once the pandemic subsides, she hopes to play bridge in person. Who remembers playing in "the smoker" in Clawson? She is looking forward to lots of fun.

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

Hello from your new class rep, **Kate O'Brian Lillich**, in Lexington, KY! I have enjoyed reading your notes and am including as many as I can here.

This came from **Betty Bohon Alexander** (my roommate freshman year!): After apologizing for her silence over the years, Betty writes that she has been retired for several years now. Her last job was teaching at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Before that she was very busy in private practice in Murray, KY, and loved it. She also headed the student health and counseling services at Virginia Tech and taught at U of L med school. Her three daughters live in Louisville. One is a judge, one a pediatrician, and one a "wonderful stay-at-home mom." Betty's husband, Kern, still teaches full-time at the University of Illinois and travels a lot. He has four sons that live from Wyoming to Switzerland. Together the Alexanders have seven children and 12 grandchildren, making for lots of birthdays to remember! She and I hope to meet up soon for lunch — it's been way too long (Betty transferred to Centre College after our freshman year at Western.)!

Margaret Warnock Carlough writes from Newtown, PA, that her husband, Gene, died in November during lockdown. During the last week of his life she was able to visit him as he was on Hospice. Fortunately, she

felt supported by the community she lives in. This summer their family had a reunion, which included three memorial services and a picnic. She also got in many beach walks in the Cape Cod Bay area.

Margaret also has been painting (Margaret-Carlough.com) in her free time, and hopes to visit cousins soon on a road trip that includes Iowa, Kansas City, MO, Alabama, South Carolina, Texas, and another to the West Coast. Please let her know if you would like to meet up. She hopes that next year will be safer for travel.

Her husband enjoyed writing poems such as this sweet one about wildflowers: "Painting Wildflowers," by Gene Carlough (1928-2020).

She came in a little late. "There was a slow-down near Exit 6," she offered. "A woman out there along the roadside, painting the wildflowers." "That's a crazy thing," I said. "She's in deep trouble." "No," she said. "She was well off the road. In the grass."

"Not for slowing traffic," I said. "More serious." "Doesn't she know that such work is in God's province?" "You don't understand," she said. "She had an easel, and a stool and was ..." "I know," I interrupted, "I understand but I prefer to think of her, whoever she was, as being out there, brush and palette, painting each colorless petal and bloom, and, one by one, bringing them to life with dainty dabs of color. Can't you see it? Doing God's work?"

Sandy Severson Harwood and husband Alden are enjoying retirement! They spend six months in Georgia, where their daughter and family live. Their "three handsome boys" are a joy! The Harwoods spend the other six months in Buffalo, NY. Their little cottage sits close to the beach on Lake Erie. It's the perfect place for their two Buffalo sons and "beautiful families" to visit. They bring their four little grandchildren out to play and rejoice



The Harwoods with handsome Georgia grandsons



"Painting Wildflowers," by Gene Carlough

in the summer fun. They feel blessed in so many ways. Sandy sends her love to all!

Alice Wilson Pilafidis says that the previous weekend she was at a gathering where a neighbor was talking about his mother. He stated that she went to school in Ohio. Alice asked, "What school?" He responded, "Western College for Women." Alice adds: "It appears that **Linda Wu** from Taiwan and I were there at the same time. I have been looking through my year books for a photo."



Alice Pilafidis and husband Emile

Since 1965, because of her husband, Emile's, work they have lived in multiple places including Singapore. Eventually they came to California, first to the Claremont area, where Emile got his Ph.D. and began teaching. During that time Alice taught, worked part-time, and continued to raise a family. In 2001, they moved to Newport Beach and Emile teaches at the University of California-Irvine. Their house overlooks the ocean, and they can see the sunrise, sunset, and walk the beach. WOW! Alice has been working at Williams Sonoma since 2004, and enjoys gardening and cooking 'excellent Greek cuisine'. She's also loving her third Mini Cooper, which she calls AliceCooper3. Alice also serves on the board of directors and landscape committee and the Newport Coast Wildfire Task Force. This fall she will volunteer at Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona Del Mar, a new adventure. She is blessed that her daughter, Laura, and grandsons, Marco and Leo, live just 20 minutes away. She closes by saying how much she enjoyed our 40th

reunion: "Not sure that it will happen again, but you never know!" She extends her best wishes to all!

Nancy Knight Godsil writes that they continue to enjoy their Colorado lifestyle — lots of tennis all year long and skiing as soon as the snow flies. They have a granddaughter, who is a junior at U of Colorado, studying to be a teacher. Their grandson is a junior at Nederland High School, so they get to enjoy his soccer and basketball games. They made a road trip in July to the Northwest to visit various relatives and friends — son Steve in Portland, her husband's sister in Vancouver, WA, and his sister-in-law in Seattle, as well as old friends. They had gorgeous weather and enjoyed some wonderful hikes in the plush Northwest forests. If Covid doesn't interfere, they are planning a trip to Nancy's hometown in Maine in October, to visit her brother, who still lives there. Her two younger sisters (one from LA and the other from Rhode Island) will join them there. It has been three years since they have all been together, so it should be a nice reunion. In her spare time, Nancy enjoys studying Spanish and has been taking classes for many years. They have traveled to many Spanish-speaking countries and hope to have the opportunity to experience more trips to make use of her "second" language. She hopes everyone is faring well during these challenging times.

Kathy Clark

Lord attended Western College her junior year only to study history and returned to the University of Wisconsin, where she graduated with a major in French. Her niece attended Miami and loved the Western campus after the merger! Kathy is married and has three children and six grandchildren ranging from 19 to 3 years old! Her husband, Tom, and she have lived in Houston for 50 years, and love



Kathy and Tom Lord



Janet Dickerson-Stephens and granddaughter Lucca

to summer on Cape Cod, where they share a house with her five brothers. Over the past year she found herself cooking creatively in the high rise she and Tom moved to after selling their house of 40 years! She is retired now, but serves on the Board of Hermann Park Conservancy and continues seeing her catering friends. She was the executive director of the nonprofit Trees For Houston & Bayou Preservation Association. Kathy writes, "Fortunately, we have escaped having Covid 19! Hope you are safe and well."

Janet Smith Dickerson Stephens says she and Paul are enjoying their life in Southern CA. "He's fully retired; I am still working full-time at The Claremont Colleges, overseeing consorial health, counseling, spiritual and cultural life services. Our students have returned to campus after 18 months away. One of my favorite visitors in Claremont is my granddaughter Lucca, who lives nearby with her family in Sherman Oaks. All three of our daughters are now on the West Coast! In other more mundane news, I will have cataract surgery next month — getting ready for the next life stage! I am grateful to have access to my family, a beautiful environment, a stimulating intellectual community, and excellent medical care."

Maryam Daftari writes a brief summary of what she's been doing during these difficult months of the pandemic. "I have tried to occupy my mind by continuing to write poetry. I'm editing my poems for a second book of poetry. Except for walking around the neighborhood once or twice a day for about an hour, I have kept busy reading at home or walking in our garden. I love nature photography, and relish taking pictures of all the beauty around us in San Diego — whether hummingbirds, flowers (especially roses), or

the various flowering trees — despite the years of drought. I continue to enjoy playing the piano, taking poetry workshops on Zoom, or playing with our sheepadoodle, Leo. I am in close contact with **Anne Adkins Weisenborn '61** and **Ann Walton '66**

— whom I had the joy of seeing before the pandemic struck. I have also stayed in touch with two former roommates, **Donna Bennert Conklin** and **Lynne Drucker Albuquerk '64**. I was delighted to have been on the last Zoom meeting of Western and honored to 'see' some of my friends there. It is now several years since I've given up traveling, and I guess I'm quite content to stay home."

Lily Cambouris Williams has been painting full-time since retiring from the World Bank in 1999. Her compositions, mostly in oil, are inspired by nature and the intricacies of flowers, plants, and landscapes (see her website at lilincambouris.com). She has exhibited her work in New York, Maryland, and DC, and participates in an annual fall exhibit at the American Painting and Fine Art Gallery in the District of Columbia. She is currently working on two landscapes for that show.

They were happy to have her daughter Christina spend a few days with them this summer during her visit to The Space Telescope Institute in Baltimore. Christina is an astronomer at the University of Arizona in Tucson studying how galaxies form and evolve in the very early universe. She is part of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) team at Arizona. Lily's other daughter, Elena, lives with her husband and two children, Niko (5) and Mila (2), in Darien, CT. She works for the Hospital for Special Surgeries focusing on fundraising for the hospital. Of course, both she and her husband have been working from home, commuting to New York City a couple of days a week.

Sophia K. Browne writes: "As I will be 78 next month I look back on my life and adventures. I worked for several magazine publishing companies here in New York City and Los Angeles. I married a man from California and moved and lived there and Texas for about 35 years before returning back to New York and family 11 years ago. I also worked for a chocolate company (See's) for 20 years in Northern California. I was fortunate to travel to China, New Zealand, the British Isles/Scotland, around the world and a good portion of the West Coast. It's been an experience. My husband passed away five years ago. I have five step-granddaughters and three step-children. That's my story so far."

I was glad to see **Becky Bartholomew Kraus** at our Oakwood HS (Dayton, OH) reunion this fall! She is doing well but shared sad news that her husband and twin brother died within a month of each other. She moved from Savannah to a retirement complex in Stone Mountain (GA) last year, and enjoys various activities (singing, painting, bowling, indoor croquet, outdoor petanque, and socializing!). She continues to travel a lot as well.



Becky Kraus



The Lord family summering on Cape Cod in 2021



Pastel by Becky Kraus '65

Tom and I are doing well as we try to cope with aging, ha! We're well into retirement now (since 2003), and enjoy spending winters in St Simons Island, GA (hello, **Sandy Severson Harwood!**) and the rest of the year in Lexington. All our family live out of state, and we usually end up going to visit them (NC, FL, England). Covid has of course made this challenging! My family (including six grandchildren, ages 2-25) are the lights of my life!! I still enjoy singing with The Lexington Singers and the University of Kentucky Women's Choir (in normal times), and am in two book groups. This summer's goal was to improve my pickleball game, and I did for a while — until straining some core muscles :(I hope to return to the courts soon!

I still keep in touch with my major adviser at Western, Mme Marie-Claire Wrage, who lives with her husband in Athens, OH, where they moved in late '60s to teach French at Ohio University.

We can be proud to have four from our class on the WCAA board: **Fran Hoffman, Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens, Sylvia Stanfield, and Brooksie Jacobs Harrison!** Thank you for your service!

If you all know of others from our class who are not on the WCAA listserv, please forward me their contact info, and keep me updated with any changes on yours. I enjoyed seeing



Kate and Tom Lillich with 5/6 of their grands over Labor Day weekend, Charleston, SC

many of you at our 55th Reunion on Zoom last year, and hope to keep hearing from you! Many, many thanks to those who communicated this fall! Be well, do well, always!

Kate O'Brian Lillich '65
15 Mentelle Park
Lexington, KY 40502
katelillich@gmail.com



It seems hard to believe that we will be heading to Oxford in June 2022 for our 55 reunion. I still have those horrid dreams that I have not finished a paper or studied for an exam. We are all saddened by the loss of our wonderful representative, **Kathy Ehrgood Sturm** in 2019. I will do the best to continue her great work. Congratulations to all those who celebrated anniversaries in the 50s this year. You do not see that so much anymore. We start with the sad news, the loss of two classmates this year.

Rosemary Gingrich Parks: May 12, 1945-June 23, 2021. "Love grows where my Rosemary grows" ... this is exactly how you can describe Rosie. She went through life with a positive outlook and a smile.

Carolyn Sparks Kokalis: June 14, 1945-July 24, 2021. **Carol Hoexter Mandel** shared the following: "Fifty-eight years ago I met a wonderful lifetime friend as we embarked on our college adventure. Her love of family, friends, community, and morality are her legacy."

Check out Western Facebook page for more tributes to Carolyn and Rosemary.

Stefanie Smith Siegfried: 2020 turned her world "upside down." She shared the sad news about her wonderful husband, Dave, who attended our last reunion. After taking a trip to Singapore and Bangkok in January 2020, Dave was diagnosed with brain cancer in May and lost his battle in February of 2021. She has been managing with the help of family, friends, and neighbors, i will send her address to anyone who would like it.

Jo Ann Brombaugh Wittmann and husband Jack are getting out more. Their latest cruise was canceled but they have been doing day trips to Virginia and West Virginia. They had a nice visit with **Carol Hoexter Mandel** and her husband, Steve, who were down for Carolyn's funeral.

Lynne Strothman Pilgrim (freshman year only) spends winters in Florida since she and Ron live in Minnesota. They have a son and daughter and five grandchildren. Lynne had a knee replacement in September 2021, seems to be recovering well, and adds, "I always will remember 1963-64 in Mary Lyon and the wonderful women I was fortunate to meet."

Diane Eby Ozbal and I spoke several times when she visited her son's family in Massachusetts this summer. Her experience with Covid in Istanbul was quite amazing: "In the first lockdown people over 65 were forbidden to leave their homes." Fortunately, her daughter, Rana, could shop for them. Diane had been fighting a bad knee and hip just when Covid happened. Instead of gaining weight like most of us did, she dieted and exercised and lost ?? kilos(we won't tell) and all the pain has improved. In August, the whole family was finally able to get together in Mass., including the four grandchildren. She wants all to know, "We own two wonderful Airbnb apartments in Istanbul. When travel opens up, come on over."

Muriel D. Gillette Alexander, who lives in Alaska, was able to get to their farm in Missouri this spring for three months. She has two sons and a daughter and several grandchildren and was able to visit with two of her children this year. She is married 20 years to Mike Alexander, whom she met in 1998 while on a temporary job in Alaska as a public health nurse. She states that they have five months of summer and seven months of winter. We must ask her at the reunion how she pressure cooks fish for the winter.

Joan Barenholtz got a new hip in August 2020 and named it "Barbie" because it needed so many accessories. Though Joan had to give up travel because of Covid, she had a hospital room with a view of the East River and "it felt like a cruise." She has been attending many museum Zoom programs for the partially sighted as well as a virtual writing course. Last October, Joan hosted us for dinner which we had on her apartment roof until we nearly got blown away by the wind.

Lola Schmidt Stanton continues to paint wonderful portraits. Before Covid, I attended many of her openings where I met **Maria Maldonado '70**.

Ann Vernon Leisenring and her husband, Jeff, moved from Maryland to Delaware in 2017 and have enjoyed making new friends. Their daughter from California was able to visit with her two girls this summer; their son and two children live close by. Though she was hoping for a mini reunion with **Ruth Kline Klepper** and **Pat Troyer Leipzig**, Covid intervened. Fortunately, lunch with **Jane Gayley DuBois** was pre-Covid.

Ruth Kline Klepper writes that they downsized to a condo 16 years ago in Tarrytown,

Class Notes continued on p. 29
The Bulletin

“...such stuff as dreams are made on...”

Happy 100th Birthday, Ernst Nature Theatre

“**T**he grounds ... are strikingly beautiful, comprising thirty acres, and including a charming variety of hill, dale, and woodland.” So said the Board of Trustees in the first publication by the Seminary, *The Circular of the Western Female Seminary*, published for the Benefit of its Friends and Patrons, July 28, 1853. On the cover was a sketch of the grounds of the Seminary, perhaps a little fanciful, but mostly accurate, showing what was there and what was to come.

The heavily wooded acreage set aside for the school was rolling land with ravines and streams, one of which fed a pond. The land rose toward the east to a low hill where the Seminary building was placed. **Miss Mary O. Nutting, teacher on the first faculty of the school in 1855-1856**, said in a description of the new school, “... the charming landscape and lovely grounds, the attractive Seminary building, with its airy verandas and cheerful rooms...”

From the beginning, the first daughter institution of Mount Holyoke College was concerned with the aesthetics of the grounds and landscaping and the siting of buildings. Nationally known landscape architects and prominent architects, whose buildings today are on the National Register, were consulted to create and maintain the vision of the campus through the years. The buildings of the campus were connected with the roads and winding paths across the streams and ravines crossed by wooden bridges that, beginning in the 1920s, were replaced with bridges of rounded river stones built by **Cephas Burns** and his crew.

This same attention was given at the beginning of the 20th century to the new project, an outdoor theater. Before the outdoor theater was built, plays and fetes were performed by the students on the green in front of the Seminary, now Helen Peabody Hall, and on the banks of the pond.

The idea for an outdoor theater was not a sudden one but one that, as **Gertrude Leonard, Class of 1904**, said, “...hovered over Western College” for some time, but was first seriously considered in the early 20th century. Miss Leonard, University of Michigan 1923,

Western faculty 1910-1947 and professor of English and speech, produced all the theatricals at Western during her tenure as faculty member. **Leila McKee, Class of 1877**, successor to Helen Peabody as principal in 1888 and in 1894-95 president of the college, brought to Western from her time at Wellesley College the idea of Tree Day. On this day, in the middle of May and first celebrated at Western in the 1890s, the students planted a tree and paraded with the class flags. The senior class also performed a play on the campus.

As their audience increased in size over the years, there was less and less space for the actors and guests. One or the other might be blinded by facing into the sun or, on a warm day when spectators sought the shade, they might wander into the shadier stage area, blocking entrances and exits and even going behind the stage area. Perhaps the professional actors of Shakespeare’s day did not mind, or at least could bear with the distraction of spectators sitting on or wandering about the stage, but difficulties such as these promoted the idea of a more permanent and somewhat more traditional arrangement for the outdoor plays. When U. S. senator from Kentucky, **Richard P. Ernst, Western trustee 1890-1932** and champion of women’s rights, was first approached with the idea of an outdoor theater toward the end of the first decades of the 20th century as WWI was winding down, he instantly welcomed it. Once the war was over, in 1920, the plan for a theater proceeded apace.

Senator Ernst wanted a cross between a Greek theater, a garden and a nature theater. There should be a natural slope for the audience with an orientation that kept the sun out of the eyes of both actors and audience and provided shade, especially for the audience. It had to have good acoustics and distance from traffic noise as well as a pleasant vista for the spectators. Mr. Ernst and Miss Leonard inspected the campus from one end to the other to select a site that met the requirements. The site chosen was the area where the old barn stood behind and slightly to the northwest of Peabody Hall, home to the college source of milk. The cows now had to find a new home, not difficult as the college had a farm on the southern edge of the campus, so they trotted on down the road and plans were underway.

First, a landscape architect had to be chosen. The firm of Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, MA, one of the many landscape architects used by Western over the years, was selected. They worked in consultation with Mr. Ernst, College President **William Waddell Boyd** and Miss Leonard. The theater was to be placed on the slopes of the two low hills behind Peabody Hall vacated by the livestock. It was President Boyd's idea to excavate at the bottom of the hill where the stage is now and haul the dirt up to the top of the other hill to increase the natural slope for the spectator terraces. This greatly improved the acoustics and the spectator's view of the stage and the Beech Woods. Thus the level ground at the top of the spectator terraces and entrance to the theater is man-made land. As the stage area was cut back into the hill, two stages were possible which permitted special effects, colorful processions, and a distinction between this mundane world and that of the immortals became possible.

All of the construction work was done by **Cephas Burns** and his crew of workmen using round river, or cannonball, stones for the stone work. The plans for the plantings around the theater to augment the trees and shrubbery already there were undertaken by the college and Mr. Ernst. The College wanted to retain the pleasant vista of the Beech Woods for the audience, but also to provide shrubbery dense enough to screen the actors off stage and provide stage entrances and exits screened by the "ivy curtains" as well as to further enhance the acoustics. All this had to be in harmony with the campus. **Mr. Shader L. Forbus**, who was at that time the campus gardener, planted the trees, shrubs, vines and flowers provided by the College and Mr. Ernst. The theater could seat about 1400.

A drainage system was provided to carry off water from the stage and the terraces so that it was possible to seat an audience an hour after a heavy downpour, and seat them they did. After all, rain or shine, the play must go on, and the students and their audience only retreated to the assembly hall in Peabody in a downpour.

In 1925, an underground system for lighting was provided for evening performances. The system supported lights for the audience as well as for the stage, allowing lights and spotlights to be plugged in as needed. As Mr. Ernst had stipulated that there be no permanent man-made structures in the theater, sockets for connecting light standards were all in the ground and all lighting

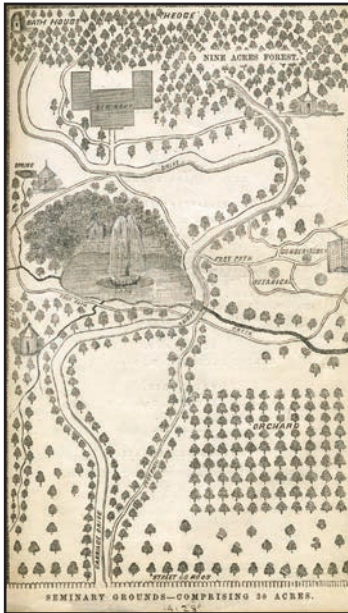
equipment could be removed after a performance as could any other large and weighty objects that might be needed for plays, such as the Greek pillars given by Mr. Ernst for a performance of *The Antigone* of Sophocles in 1928.

Senator Ernst not only paid for the theater but provided an endowment for its maintenance. He continued to take an interest in the theater and its plantings, sending plants and hundreds of shrubs, particularly those that attracted a greater number of birds to the area around the theater. In the fall of 1929, he gave money for the birds' winter feeding, feeding stations and more shrubbery to attract them, and work began on establishing a bird sanctuary next to the theater where the birds could find a congenial home.

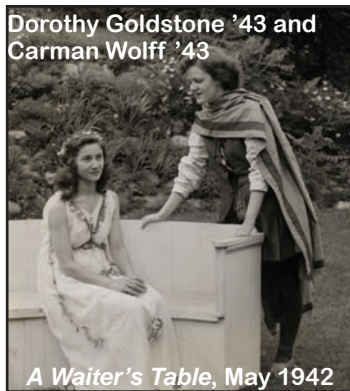
The theater opened for Tree Day activities May 23, 1922, but was dedicated at the June 6, 1922, Commencement with an afternoon performance, the first in the new theater, of *Prunella*, or *Love in a Garden*, by two English playwrights, Lawrence Housman and Harley Granville-Barker, with music by Joseph Moorat. Speeches were given by Senator Ernst, President Boyd and Charles Kettering of Dayton Engineering Laboratory Company, who spoke on "Appreciation of Out-Door Joys." A dance of Greek maidens playing ball followed the speeches and then the first performance in the new theater began under the direction of Gertrude Leonard.

Prunella had been produced in New York and ran October 1913 to January 1914, becoming a silent movie in 1918. The play, in three acts — all of which take place, appropriately, in a garden — tells the story of Prunella, who was brought up in the garden, and — we hope — a house attached thereto. She was chaperoned, by her aunts, Prim, Privacy and Prude, an appropriate custom to depict for a school that listed the chaperones for each class in *Multifarias* until 1937. In the story Pierrot, who heads a traveling group of players, steals into the garden and meets Prunella. They fall in love, run away to marry (she becomes his "Pierrotte") and they travel the countryside with the troupe for a few years. He, however, has a wandering eye, and Prunella leaves him to return to the garden. He repents, finding life miserable without her, and returns to the garden. All is forgiven and presumably they lived happily ever after.

A variety of plays from Shakespeare to Greek tragedies and contemporary 20th century dramas were presented in the theater over the years. On Tree Day 1923

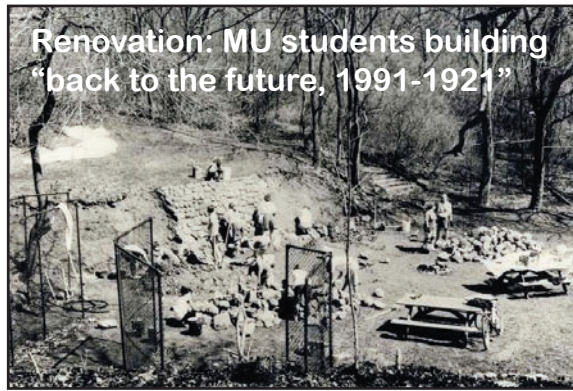


The Seminary grounds, 1853



Dorothy Goldstone '43 and
Carman Wolff '43

A Waiter's Table, May 1942



Renovation: MU students building
"back to the future, 1991-1921"



Miss Nellie of N'Orleans, 1923

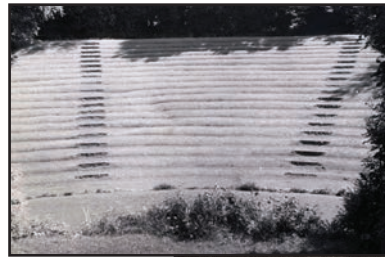


First performance: *Prunella*
or *Love in a Garden*, 1922

Isabel Wiley as Prunella



Norma Dunning as Pierot



Spectators on terraces, 1920s
Inset: view of original terraces, 1960s



Zoe Williams '38, Mariana Reed '33,
(unknown), Margery Pope '38
in *Twelfth Night*, 1936



A Winter's Tale, 1942



The Cardinal, 1931



Sophocles' *The Antigone*?

Always popular, ancient Greek tragedians and Medieval morality plays. Shakespeare needs no introduction ...

Below: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, WC theater professor Al Sugg in titular role



The 14th century *York Cycle*, recycled: performed (above) in the '60s and again (below) in 1970



A Midsummer Night's Dream



Commencement, May 1966
President H. B. Young at the podium



College Day 1964



Thrall Children's Theatre 2010



WCP Reunion 2013





Ernst meets pop culture!

Off Broadway comes to ENT:
Ives' *All in the Timing*, 2013



West Fest 2019



Senator Ernst's plaque
(There's one for Sandra
Abouzeid '57 too.)



the Senior Class presented *Miss Nellie of N'Orleans* a story about Natchez bordello owner Nellie Jackson by Laurence Eyre. It rained, and at the end of Act I, actors and spectators fled to Peabody assembly hall. This play was followed by romantic comedy *Smilin' Through* by Allen Langdon Martin, the pseudonym of two women playwrights, Jane Cowl and Jane Murfin, and *Sherwood, Robin Hood and His Merry Band* by Alfred Noyes. Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* and *The Admirable Crichton*, a comic play dealing with class issues by J. M. Barrie, were also performed in those early days.

After the new lighting system was installed in 1925, the first evening performance, Shakespeare's *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, was presented, the first of a number of performances of this ever-popular play. In 1926, when the college purchased a movie projector, the possibility of movies in good weather was announced. By the end of the 1930s, not just the seniors, but all the classes together presented the play on Tree Day and by 1941, the performance group, the Peabody Players, was organized.

Among the offerings in the 1930s and 1940s were *Peer Gynt* by Hendrik Ibsen, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Shoemaker's Holiday*, an Elizabethan play by Thomas Decker. Performances of *The Duenna*, an operetta by Richard Sheridan and the Thomas Linleys, father and son; *The Cardinal* by Louis N. Parker; *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, by Francis Beaumont; Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and *The Tempest*; and *Riders to the Sea*, by Irish playwright John Millington Synge continued the variety of offerings.

In the 1950s, after Tree day became Flag Day in 1953, there were modern dance performances and concerts as well as plays in the Nature Theatre. After Gertrude Leonard retired, the theater became the setting for other events such as College Day ceremonies and commencement. On College day October 9, 1954, **Herrick B. Young** was inaugurated as the thirteenth president of Western College in the Ernst Nature Theatre.

In the 1960s, the theater, under the direction of **Alfred Sugg**, chair of the Western theater department, again focused on plays with performances of Shakespeare's plays such as *As You Like It*, and Sugg's new translation, which he also directed and performed in, of *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus. In the early 1970s,

The York Cycle, a suite of medieval morality plays was produced at the theater and among the hills, streams and woodlands of the campus. *Jesus Christ Superstar* followed.

After Western College closed, the theater fell into disrepair as maintenance funds ran out. There were discussions in the 1980s about fund raising and repairs. In 1985 MU professor **Diana Neeb**, who "discovered" the theater when Miami students performed *Hair*, had her class in consumer behavior do research on the possible uses of the theater for the Miami and local communities. Nineteen eighty-six saw the beginning of Western's Campaign for Endowment that included Ernst Nature Theatre among the sites selected for attention.

In 1991, the Miami University senior class decided to present as its class project one that would benefit the university and the surrounding community, choosing a restoration of the theater. The class began with the renovation of the main stage. The remaining large stones of the original back wall of the stage were removed and the area was graded. Senior Class volunteers then cemented the original stones back into place with supplies donated by Ed and Joan Redpath of Redpath Implement Company in Oxford.

In 1992, renovations continued with the hiring of Burgess and Niple, a Cincinnati architectural and engineering firm, to make recommendations for further renovation. This assessment was underwritten by **Robert (MU '73) and Lee Esterly (WC '74) Richter**. Final agreement on what was to be included in the project — reconstruction, perpetual maintenance, use by the children's theater, the Miami theater and music departments and the surrounding community, and use by both the latter for meetings and for other approved events — occurred in 1994 and work began in 1995.

The work on these renovations was supported by a generous donation from **Sandra Grimes Abouzeid '57**, in fond remembrance not only of Tree Day events and dance performances, but also of the quiet meditative hours she had spent there during her time at Western. The stage areas were both completed in rusticated cement block. The lower seating area was re-terraced with concrete curbs placed between the seating levels and a handicap access ramp was installed. Underground piping and electric work, fence screening and other regrading as well as landscaping were also undertaken. These renova-

tions resulted in a theater somewhat more “Greek” in structure than “garden” but one that is easier to maintain and repair in the long term. A bronze plaque honoring Ms. Abouzeid’s support was placed on the right side of the entrance path to the theater and slightly down from the plaque honoring Senator Ernst for his original vision and support in providing the theater for Western College. A model of the theater was made at that time by **Cindy Beneventi Findley ’63**, and is still in the collection of Western College.

On Alumnae Weekend, June 14, 1997, the theater formally reopened with a reception, although a few items and some landscaping remained to be done. Ernst Nature Theatre became the home of the Miami University Thrall Children’s Theatre that same year on September 5 under the direction of **Howard Blanning, professor and chair of the Miami University Theater Department**, with the performance of an operetta, *The Girl Who Cried Wolf*. This was followed by *The Vocabulary Thief* and *The Girl Who Could Sing Three Notes*. Banning wrote, composed and directed these operettas as well as providing the music on his banjo. He continued to develop operettas for the Thrall Children’s Theatre that are performed by Miami students at the theater and on tours to schools in Ohio and sometimes abroad. Performances for children are supported by the **Ruth Rosenberg Marder (Class of 1949) Children’s Outreach Program** under a grant of funds in perpetuity from The Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation to provide all-expenses-paid field trips each year to children from disadvantaged schools.

The Children’s Theatre has also had performances by foreign theater companies’ artists and puppeteers. *Autumn River*, a Chinese Jingju opera was presented by the Dia Jia Company of Taiwan, and the Wandering Moon Shadow Puppeteers of Thailand performed *The Yellow O*.

The Nature Theatre has been the venue for a Miami student production of *Whispers of the River: a Mekong River Story* by Thai playwright Kamron Gunatilaka and a performance of *All in the Timing*, a collection of one act comedies of wit and word play by David Ives. Miami theater students have continued the performances of Shakespeare with *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and, of course, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Concerts and meetings of various organizations continue regularly in the theater. And the songbirds still sing,

providing a cheerful musical accompaniment for all events.

— *Elizabeth J. Johnson, Ph.D.*

Sources: Western College Memorial Archives, WCAA Patterson Place Files, Smith Library of Regional History Archives

Reprinted from the Spring 2012 Bulletin (with minor updates in italics):

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson was named Butler County Historical Society’s “Distinguished Historian” for 2011. In 2009, Dr. Johnson published *To Dwell with Fond Reflection: Families Who Lived in the McGuffey House, 1833-1958* — widely praised as one of the most outstanding local history books written in Butler County in recent years. A longtime docent at the McGuffey Museum, she is famous for her intense search for facts. So thorough is she that one observer remarked that he would not have been surprised “if Elizabeth discovered that McGuffey himself never lived in the house!” She insists she’s just “curious” In addition to the book, she has written articles for the Oxford Press, supplied massive amounts of background for the Smith Library’s series of historic walking tour guidebooks, curated several history exhibits locally, spent hours cataloging and photographing artifacts for the Oxford Museum Association and *Patterson Place Museum*, delivered lectures and led public tours — including a walking tour of the Western Campus during Alumnae Weekend 2013. Originally from Long Island, Elizabeth Johnson earned a Ph.D. in the history of art at UCLA and has taught in California and Wisconsin. It is our good fortune that she decided to retire to Oxford in 1999.

NY, where everything is walkable. She has a son and daughter and four grandchildren. The last 18 months have mostly been spent in their Berkshire house.

Penny Corcoran Decker is not traveling much because so many floral conventions which Penny ran or lectured or exhibited at where canceled. She is beautifying her Florida home instead. She has two sons, and a daughter with two grandchildren who live in Connecticut.

Heather Antell Abed enjoys living in Southern California near one of her sons. She has two sons and four grandchildren. The whole family had a celebration for a big birthday for her husband, Hytham. Heather used to do wonderful bike trips before Covid.

Annie Wu just wanted to say she misses everyone.

Gunvor Fink Moeller, with us 1964-65 from Denmark, wrote a very long email — here is a sampling. She and husband Poul Anker have been teaching for years, sometime running a school for students with dyslexia. They live in Northern Denmark. She has worked with refugees from Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq, teaching them Danish. She has three girls and many grandchildren. She has had frequent visits with **Barbara Williamson Wentz '68**, **Susan Blake '68**, and **Diane Eby Ozbai**. She hears from **Astrid Benteud** of Norway. She loves working in her garden of vegetables and fruit.

From Facebook posts by **Susie Jennings Wilson**: Wonderful pictures of her granddaughter Mille. **Gail Chatham Clifford** posts of the wildfires in Montana and the heavy snow at the end of May. **Gloria Tumino Molella** and Chick celebrated their 50th anniversary. She also posts many baking projects. **Susan Maderer** went on a trip to Italy that included Lake Como

Many of us visited on Zoom for the Virtual Reunion it was fun to see classmates that were on campus when we were. It became very evident in our talks how important meeting people from all over the world was to us at Western. Travel, which many spoke of missing during Covid, made us aware of other cultures and made us better citizens. We sold our house in New Jersey in 2020, a terrible experience during Covid. Thirty-two years of collecting art supplies and potential projects had to be cleaned out. We are being housed in Derby, CT, at an available family home, but still hoping to go to NYC for a year. In March 2021, my step-mother of 55 years died (she was at my graduation), a loss even at 98½ but it also means clearing out a summer family home of 75 years, since the next generation does not have the time or money to keep it. We did ski for a month in March since Vermont was very Covid safe and got to spend time with our daughter, who was teaching nearby, and we cooked

all our own meals. Son and family and two small grandchildren are in Massachusetts. I have been reading more and doing more fiber creations than baskets since my space is limited. I am finding it very hard to keep motivated.

I had to condense some of the email people sent. If you want the full emails just let me know, as well as any addresses. Please share this info with the friends you keep in touch with. Forgive me if I reported too many children or left out some grandchildren, as with everything else writing these notes is not that easy especially when fighting with the iPad/computer. Give me a pencil and lined yellow paper! See you all in June 2022 or 2024 ...

Elisa Kessler Caporale '67
59 Summit St
Derby, CT 06418
ekcaporale@gmail.com



Another year has whizzed past, and sadly another year in which we have all been impacted by the pandemic. Thankfully technology and ingenuity have helped us to survive, keep in touch, and look to the future with hope.

I think what **Karen Kling Plumb** wrote from her home in New Jersey reflects what we all are feeling. Karen wrote that she hasn't much news this year as she hasn't traveled in the last year and a-half. She and Larry try to stay healthy, and she hopes her classmates are well and that things will be back to something more normal in 2022.

Suzy James Duvillard wrote just before Reunion 2021 Weekend that she could not attend our Zoom meeting because she and Georges were finally de-confining themselves and heading for the Spanish sea coast. Her restaurant business was suffering. They still could not have indoor dining and there was a curfew, so she developed a take-out dinner service, and was looking forward to indoor dining soon. Most of the art exhibitions had been canceled and the galleries closed, but that gave plenty of time to paint and sculpt



Suzy Duvillard

Betsy Summers Solis wrote from the Big Island of Hawai'i just as she and her husband were about to return to California for a three-week stay to clean out their storage unit. She wrote: "After six months of weekly

chemo for ovarian cancer in California, I finished December 28th, and we were able to return home to Kona on January 28th. I continue with my cancer support group in California via Zoom and hope to get together with some of them while I am there. I was fortunate to have joined a group supported by Kaiser because all the support groups sponsored by the American Cancer Society shut down due to lack of donation funding. There are none here in HI. I feel great, but have an 85% chance of the cancer returning, so get tested every four weeks.

"The time has flown by since we returned and got back into our new normal routine. It was so nice being in the warm weather this past winter. I joined the reunion Zoom meeting, but was saddened that so few from our class were on it. I am riding my bike 30-40 miles three times a week. I ordered an E-Bike (electric). The group I ride with has mostly changed to riding them ... called assisted living ... the same amount of exercise, but I will be able to go further. Hawaii is little different from the mainland in that businesses are short of help and supplies are hard to get. Upon return, I found my butterfly garden had flourished while I was gone for 10 months. I continue to raise monarch butterflies and enjoy giving the chrysalis to friends for them to start raising them."

Annette Bevan Gallagher wrote that she had devoured the WCAA Summer 2021 E-Newsletter, but that is not the only internet amenity she enjoys. Annie said: "I am very grateful for video phone chats. Our daughter, Megan, connects us to grandson, 7-year-old Kaelan, in Pittsburgh. Our son, Glen, provides us with visits with 4-year-old Izzy in Rhode Island. On July 20, 2021, I got to long-distance bond with Izzy's little brother, Finn.

"Dick and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 28, 2021. Wow! I guess that is a lot of time, but it doesn't seem that long when you are still having fun together. We will be at work at the Sandusky Children's Museum on that special day and are waiting on doing anything special until the pandemic calms down. This fall our church choir hopes to resume our contributions to services, and I look forward to that. Community organizations are in the midst of reorganizing, so I am involved in how we can better serve our neighbors. For a while, I have used someone's answer to the question, 'What do you like most about retirement?' as my motto. 'Time to still make a difference.'

"Now, thanks to our Western sister, **Dr. Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins '74**, I have additional reminders to continue to contribute. Each time I listen to the Miami 2021 Commencement Speech she delivered, I hear another reason to get off my duff and get something done." <https://www.miamioh.edu/commencement/spring-2021/index.html>

Roberta Smith Hurley was thinking of her

classmates in these uncertain times and wrote: "I don't have much to relate. Tom and I continue to split our time between Ohio and South Carolina. Our immediate family is looking forward to celebrating our daughter's 40th birthday at Lake Norman in North Carolina. Family gatherings are our preferred celebrations these days. A good number of our children's friends have children attending Miami and living on the Western campus. I love letting them know I attended Western and it generally makes them happy."

Stephanie Bentzen Snook has been inspired by **Susan Hodge's** flag photo project to get her family photos organized. Stevie wrote: "Since the beginning of the pandemic, our lives (Fred's and mine) have been somewhat routine; we have canceled a couple of trips, but the cruise for Iceland, Norway, and Scotland in the summer of 2022 is still a GO. Our fingers are crossed. Keeping that trip in mind, I have been working on mobility. As many others have done, I'll have a hip replacement in November 2021. That should give me plenty of time to bounce back. On the plus side, our overall health is great, so this is just a little bump in the road. We have been enjoying time spent with the grandkids (3, 6, and 9), who are growing up so fast, it's hard to keep up. At the moment, the oldest is on a local girls' baseball team. The older two are currently practicing for "Shrek"; they really love being in plays and musicals performed by a local group."

I've wondered for a long time about **Linda Galantin's** yurt, and now I know more. Here is what she wrote: "This summer I rolled out of bed to meet up with a couple of other



Linda Galantin's luxurious yurt

early riser nature lovers. Now that the great blue herons have flown the coop, we look for beavers as we walk around the lake. The adults are skittish of people, so we scan the water for telltale signs of movement in the morning stillness of the lake. The babies, or kits, are not afraid of people so occasionally I have been able to capture images of them nibbling on wild greens. A new visitor to the lake is a lone partridge which hangs out with the Canada geese. None of us had ever seen a partridge in the wild before, so she has become a major topic of conversation. She looks so forlorn when the geese jump into the water or fly away.

"A couple times a month I try to get out to my 10 acres of rural land, adjacent to the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. My yurt there does not have electricity or running water; however, I do have a wood stove for the cold weather. My newest addition is limited solar, enough to power a small 3.2 cu foot fridge, a fan, and a lamp. To me it feels luxurious! Now I can comfortably spend the night even when the temperature gets above 90F. I had been hesitant about installing solar panels as I did not want trees cut down near the yurt. My contractor relieved my stress when he chose a site 100 feet below the yurt, so none of the trees I was attached to had to be removed. I will still need my supply of candles and votives for the dark days of winter, but for now one lamp and a couple of solar blow up lights suffice."

Cynthia Harrington Hochberg felt she had little news since COVID meant no travel and no visits from friends, but she does try to stay in touch virtually and has taken lots of online classes through George Mason University Life Long Learning Institute. The biggest thrill was getting together with family in early July when it looked like COVID was getting under control. She and Josh celebrated the event with a photo of them with their sons and all the grandchildren. "I hope everyone gets the chance to be with loved ones again soon."

Gretchen Schmidt Grezelak sent greetings from Wisconsin: "Things remain status quo. Tom and I continue to enjoy our time with our two dogs, Molly and Hannah. They keep us entertained and active. Main activity in the summer revolves around gardening and keeping the flowers in bloom. Last year I promised to have less, but somehow it all reappears. My son, Michael, moved to Florida in July and it's hard not having him nearby for an impromptu visit. We were good for coffee and conversation by the hour. Each stage of life has its unexpected perks. We did manage a family reunion this year on the Fourth of July. Nice to be able to be together again after so long. As Mahjongg remains a passion, I manage to play a couple times a week."

Trudy Muller Moore wrote from California: "2021 gave us hope (vaccines!), discouragement (Delta!), encouragement (dining outside with friends — Yay), despair (Dixie fire threatens our lake house), relief (6,000



Cynthia Hochberg's whole-family get-together

firemen saved most towns and our house was spared). I am beginning to feel that our lives are being played out on a board game. Roll the dice and see if you move ahead several spaces, or if you must go sliding down backward. Pull a card and hope, as your future is no more certain than the wording printed out on the back of the card.

"News from this end. While our main house, 20 minutes outside of San Francisco, just east of Berkeley, is fine, our beautiful summer house situated on Lake Almanor, outside of Lassen National Park, was seriously threatened by the Dixie fire. That is 4½ hours northeast of the Bay Area. The huge fire almost surrounded the entire lake. Sixty helicopters and 6,000 firemen fought the Dixie fire and protected many structures in the path of the flames. From mid-July on we could not go up to that area. When the fire moved on, and the air got better, routes were reopened and we visited our house. We were amazed that the house does not even smell smoky inside. The eastern slope of the lake, which we view across the lawn, never burned, so we have the illusion that all is well. But the mountain roads in are lined with black, burned forests. We heard reports of bears, deer and mountain lions roaming into town, looking for food, as their habitats had been destroyed.

"More locally, our grandchildren are thriving in school; one now a college freshman in San Diego, and three from our youngest daughter in elementary school. Our own three kids are happy in their marriages and live nearby. We ourselves are healthy. I play tennis two to three days a week and golf once a week. Sometimes I feel as young as 23; I still take no medicines of any kind; but some weeks I feel as old as 90; occasionally finding myself stooping or limping a bit. So it goes.

"After six years volunteering as a board member of our rental property's Home Owners' Association, I am stepping down in December from the board. Three years as the treasurer, and three more as the president,

gave me terrific experience as a property manager. Although I am flattered by the protests to my departure, I am tired and ready to hand over the reins. It is time to do less.

"My darling Gary reads Spanish, walks daily, and is back into both photography and playing the guitar. Old pleasures are rediscovered and new again. Together we play a lot of duplicate bridge as partners, both online and at our local bridge club, depending on the latest 'indoor yes, indoor no' Covid warnings. Both of us read a lot and over dinner we share what delighted or amazed us from our readings. My monthly book club is a delight. And adding Audible to the paper and hard-bound books has meant tripling the books I can read in a month. Now I can garden, walk, bathe, and do laundries with an author whispering into my ear. Wonderful!"

Beverly Rohlehr sent a quick note. She wrote that she and her husband have moved to the Southside in Pittsburgh, PA, and they have recorded a new album to be released sometime in the fall of 2021. I think you'll enjoy the music clips on their website. www.thecolbysband.net.

Betsy Philipson Kensinger wrote from Texas: "I've resumed some of my activities since vaccination, but I am still being very careful. My older brother died in December and I miss him a lot. He was only 13 months older than I, and we were very close. He moved to Texas about six years ago to be closer to me and my grandchildren (all eight of them live in the area), and I saw him often. It was not a result of Covid, but rather still very difficult as we had not been able to see each other for the nine months before his passing. I'm itching to travel again. My daughter, Katie, and I have a European cruise planned for next May and we hope we'll be able to go. Also I'm looking forward to the 2024 Western Reunion."

Francine Toss '68, who has adopted us as her class, wrote from Oberlin, OH: "I have news! After 49 years with the Oberlin public schools, I've retired. I'm prepping for a few interesting things to do. First of all I'd like to spend time visiting with my friend **Lynette Jones Turner**, my roommate at Western. Then I'm going to begin with a 'little library' on my front yard. My library will be in the shape of my house, buttercup yellow with delphinium blue shutters. I've been asked to continue the Grandparent Reading Club at the new Oberlin Elementary School. I began the group in 1977 when I was the principal at Eastwood School. Also, we hope to revitalize our Senior Center here in town and I hope to have some role in that process. I'm on a couple of committees collecting oral histories here in town and of course my sister and I still have the Carlyle Gift and Flower Shop. The shop is 86 years old, and we've had it for 34 years."

Kazu and I, **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi**, find



Susan with one of her favorite warbirds, Maid in the Shade

Susan Hodge sent her news from Indiana: "In the summer of 2019 I began my search for Western class flag photos. I had seen the variety of designs at my 50th reunion and grew curious about how they looked in real life. In other words, original art, not small reproductions. Along the way two things happened. I discovered the early class mottos and Covid hit. When I could not get to Oxford to dig through our archives, [University Archivist] **Jacky Johnson HA** emailed me bunches of class flag photos. Then I discovered the Frank Snyder online collection of early Western photos. As the months passed more Multifarias came online and I reviewed those as well. And I found a few more flags when I went back over the Western archives inventory. It is not an exaggeration to say I did a victory dance over some hard-to-find flags. For example, my grandmother's class of 1905.

"The good news is that I now have enough for a book. Other than the 1881 memorial book, Western students and their creativity have not had a voice. I plan to start with the story of how Leila McKee began the class flag tradition, and how the WCAA worked to preserve it. Every class will have a voice using the class mottos and photos of the class flags. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and our visual history is a unique delight. No other college has a tradition like our class flags.

"For the title of the book, short is probably best. *Bold and Beautiful: Western College Class Flags* was my working title, until I realized that this was also a soap opera. Perhaps *Bright and Beautiful*, or simply *Western College Class Flags*? If someone can come up with a better idea, please email me: hodgetravel@gmail.com. During 2021, I have been posting the mottos and flag photos on our Facebook group, and you are welcome to see them there. I took the photos of 1936, 1967, 1968, 1969 when I was on campus.

"The WCAA may be closing its doors, but, God willing, I am still hard at work, for a legacy that has been rewarding and fun to explore. With this work and three other writing projects in the pipeline, my life is full. But there is always time for play. One of my favorite things is warbirds. The photo is of the B-25J Mitchell bomber, *Maid in the Shade*, which I saw this summer.

"I am thankful for all the hard work the WCAA Board has done over the years; for **Debbie Baker**, **Cathy Cooper** and especially thankful for our class rep **Nancy Kobayashi**. I wish all of you fair winds and following seas."

the time slips by without our usual international travels, but this past year has been punctuated with a few events. In October 2020, our son, Dean, in Ohio, held his home wedding over Messenger, so we and our daughter, Christine, could attend. Then later in the autumn Covid-19 cases were falling and it seemed safe enough to take a short domestic trip, so we went across the country by Shinkansen to picturesque Kanazawa

for a few nights, and then in the spring we went to a ski resort for our anniversary. That last trip convinced me to officially give up skiing! For my birthday we spent a night at the fancy Tokyo Station Hotel. We got to see our daughter, Christine, and her family in the summer when they came to town for a day at the beach, and we've seen the grandsons on few other occasions. My usual activities, *The Shonan Post* and hula, continue plus

I've taken up drawing a bit. I meet some friends online once or twice a week to draw still-lives we take turns arranging. I had never drawn before and find the drawing and the conversation relaxing.

We have three more reunions including the last in 2024 that marks our 55th Reunion and the closing of the Alumnae Office. I'm wanting to be at all three and hoping to see you all there, too.

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



It's been a wild and crazy Covid-filled year. When the virus made itself known in March 2020, I decided it was time for me to retire from teaching, after 23 years.

I spent most of 2020 writing my memoirs, dealing with the death of my first-born son, and therapeutically working in my garden. I rarely went anywhere and was able to survive 4-5 weeks without a trip to the gas station. I became nervous behind the wheel, and when I had to venture onto a highway, it was a big deal!

I became very comfortable with being alone; certain sitcom characters became my new best friends. I found adjusting to retirement torturous, I had been working full time since I was 20, juggling multiple jobs and projects simultaneously. Eventually I became lazy, and neighborhood trips to the store were a major imposition on my time and energy. In December of 2020, I reconnected with a high-school boyfriend via Facebook. Divorced since early 2019, it was a pleasant diversion that by March 2021 had turned serious.

My book is almost finished, I have come out of retirement to direct a gospel choir at the performing arts high school here in Jacksonville, my community choir has started back up with a limited schedule, and the gardening thing is still going strong. I'm engaged (don't know whether I'll go through with it again) and learning to deal with a bum left knee.

Writing my book brought back some fun Western memories. It's one of the most dramatic chapters in the book, if you can believe that. I have reconnected with quite a few Western alums, and I look back with gratefulness and love to my years there. "Bridges to understanding" has become one of my favorite mottos.



*From the album of Deb McDuffie '71:
 Val Spooner and buddies in dorm*

I hope this novelette finds all of you well and safe. I look forward to sharing some book excerpts with you when all is said and done. Just to pique your curiosity, here is a picture from "back in the day." Wishing you love, peace and joy.

Debbie McDuffie Doby '71
1830 Holly Flower Ln.
Fleming Island FL 32003
msmcdmusic@gmail.com>



Greetings fellow classmates! It was wonderful to hear from several of you, despite the ongoing confusion and disruption of Covid-19.

Joan Campbell was also feeling unmotivated due to the pandemic. She writes, "Probably everyone is in the same boat — not much in the way of adventures to share in light of the, ahem, *strange* times we've been living through. Needless to say, Ben and I haven't been taking any monumental trips in either 2020 or 2021. Our BIGGEST travel foray since Covid was six nights in southern Ohio and the Red River Gorge area of Kentucky in June, for explorations and hiking. It felt extremely odd to be sleeping in a bed that wasn't my own, but nice. Otherwise, we've been taking short bike rides from home as well as hikes in parks and nature preserves, generally within an hour's drive from our house. That's been good, and we've been able to track the same

locations through the various seasons, which has proved, yet again, that no place is the same two times in a row.

"A couple of weeks ago we took a neat day trip in eastern Ohio to the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, which blew our minds. It was built from scratch in the early 2000s by a guy who owned his own freight railroad and had accumulated a lot of antique rolling stock that he wanted to restore and display. The resulting complex features many steam locomotives, passenger and freight cars, a comprehensive workshop, working turntable and a few miles of track. The basic guided tour held us rapt for nearly two hours.

"Beyond that, we read, watch the critters and birds in our backyard and woods, and try to be prudent in our dealings with the outside world." vjc@wideopenwest.com

Linda Li Ng, who calls herself "one of the 73 Western graduates for the class of '73" sent a lovely update as follows: "The last 40-plus years have kept me busy - more education, marriage, two children, and recently two grandsons. [Editor's note - one grandson is a year old and lives on the West Coast, and the other recently born, about 2 weeks old as of this writing! Congratulations, Grandma!] I really appreciated the Western College education and still keep in touch with Westernites from those days. It was great that Professor Dorothy Merrill supported my graduation after three years. This makes the class so unique. I retired from the FDA after 25 years in 2015. Since then, I have been working for an international pharmaceutical company, Fresenius Kabi. My current role allowed me to learn new cultures, make new friends, and visit many cities both domestically and internationally. With the opportunity given to me by Western, I feel that I am giving back to society at this stage of my life, i.e., contributing to making more medicines available to the U.S. consumer." nglinda2015@gmail.com

Lyn Miller Neely writes, "I retired from teaching special education six months before the pandemic hit. I have been so-o-o-o glad I have a pension check coming every month and not have to worry about working in schools during the pandemic! I have spent the time tending to my health and retraining for a new career. I lost 45 pounds and lowered my blood pressure. I have taken the *Anat Baniel Method NeuroMovement* practitioner training course, 100+ days of training. NeuroMovement uses gentle, slow movements to communicate with the brain. It helps the brain move the body more effectively. In the process, it can help with healthy aging, childhood disability, stroke recovery, improved athletic or musical performance and many other aspects of life. The training has improved my balance and memory, as well as general ease of movement. I am looking forward to working as an ABMNM practitioner (part-time!) when it becomes safe in



Christy's "tee hee" says it all!

terms of Covid." marylynneely@gmail.com [Lyn, I'm fascinated by ABMNM! I'm going to check it out for myself. Hmmm, what about my supposed retirement? Oh well!]

Nancy Pratt shared the following news: "Since graduating from Western, I earned an M.B.A. while working full-time in publishing. I edited and wrote for business publications. In 2007, I could foresee the changes the internet would be bringing to the publishing industry. With the clatter of the electric typewriter a distant memory, I retired from publishing, then took up a new profession as an import appraiser — which involves a lot of online work. My husband and I enjoy living in Rockville Centre, Long Island, NY, with our 30-something daughter whose return home was spurred by the covid pandemic. npratt4@verizon.net

Lissa Cook Coady gave me a phone update! She and husband Robert are still living on their 40-acre (I think I got that right) farm with middle aged sheep with individual personalities, whom she considers part of the family. Daughter Diana is a teacher, and daughter Rachel, a widow with two kids, is a social worker. I'm working on Lissa to get her down off the farm to our 50th! Right, Lissa? [717] 360-6455

Although the pandemic hit my business hard, I got back to California (after nearly six months with family in Florida) in September 2020 and was able to resume my business with a few changes. I gave up my business location and am now working out of my home; and got most of my clients back, as well as some new ones! Retirement is still in my immediate future, but not just yet. I am still planning to retire to FL — perhaps sometime in 2022 — by erecting a dome home on the back acreage of my daughter's property. I have a team of builders and sent my chief builder to get training in the particular style and materials. (If anyone is interested in what I'm planning, check out this website. DomeGaiaHome.com.)

For now, though, I'm maintaining my home in Chula Vista, CA, although at the moment am celebrating my 70th birthday (how is that

possible?) in Florida with my two older kids. (Gino is still living and working in the UK.)

The tee shirt says it all about my puzzlement of arriving at this advanced age! Tee hee.

Blessings to one and all!

Christy Wines '73
376 Center St Unit 303
Chula Vista, CA 91910
winescl@aol.com



Cris Arguedas reports that her primary news is that she has now retired from the practice of law. She wrote: "I found it surprisingly easy to make the transition. Covid helped. The part of working that I miss is hanging around with my partners and office mates, and they haven't been there; and I doubt if they ever will in the way it was before. Meanwhile, the idea that my time is my own, and my mind is not filled with working on my clients' problems has been a revelation. I'm reading, taking classes online, discovering classical music for the first time, doing way more yoga, and playing a lot of golf. **Ada Harrigan '73** is still a close friend, and we see each other regularly. And I'm in good touch with **Diane Bratcher '74** and **Biff Hough '73**. I still think of Western as one of the great and pivotal experiences of my life."

The continuance of snail mail is a wonderful thing, since it allows me to stay in touch with **Kay Thomas Berger** whose farm is basically off the grid near Willow Springs, MO. Kay writes that her family has all remained healthy during the pan'damn'ic, though she continues to be concerned for her granddaughter (first grade) and daughter-in-law teacher, whose schools do not have mask requirements. She invites us to check out CNN's report on Resistant Ozark Communities, which was filmed several miles down the road. Her family continues to love their farm and have a fabulous garden that supplies all their vegetable and fruit needs. They have good friends who share their values and bike riding is a passion that also keeps them on even keel. She is grateful for her creek, since it has had water most of this year. "One bright spot for us — we expect our first grandson in February. Heidi and Eric have a girl and Jake and Paige will have the boy. Both families live within three hours' drive.

Molly Logan Foard reports that she and her husband have been fortunate to remain healthy (vaccinated!) and active, continuing volunteer commitments even if remotely. She wrote: "It has taken creativity but it is worth it! A major effort for me as a board of trustees

member for a large nonprofit day care center has been the challenge of running safely, following state guidelines and even hiring a new director when our longtime director decided to retire! I have also been able to organize several successful blood drives at our church despite the pandemic, and to marshal a team of participants for the annual Crop Walk to fight hunger. Where there is a will there's a way! Our nation's renewed focus on racial and social justice has also brought opportunities locally for us to get involved in some old-fashioned community organizing, which has been both educational and inspiring. On the family front, we have recently welcomed two new granddaughters for a total of four — the more the merrier! We are grateful for the many sources of joy in our lives."

Maria Janavicius-Vasys wrote that her world has certainly changed because of the pandemic. She still works at the Space Science and Engineering Center at UW-Madison, but virtually since March. They study the wildfires affecting millions of people, the frequency of hurricanes, and the deterioration of ice shelves both in the Arctic and Antarctic areas. Maria is also on the Inclusion, Community, Equity and Diversity (ICED) Committee for their center, and their next focus will be getting folks to vote. She reports "On a personal level, my younger daughter was supposed to get married in Vegas in April; that has now changed to their hometown (Denver) in October. Three of my children live in Denver, the oldest in Columbus, OH. I haven't seen my granddaughters since last fall, so I'm hoping to visit Columbus soon. [She did in late September!] Travel is going to take much more courage than in the past, but I'm so excited about finally seeing my family again!"

I was delighted to get a note from **Betsy Kiel Ready '74**, as well. She had lived in Ann Arbor, MI, since 1975, but on October 1, she and her husband (10 year anniversary!) moved to live on the same street as her daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters (10 and 6 ½). She reports that they love Ann Arbor, but being close to family is more important at this stage of life. They are now in White River Junction, VT. After she left Western, her intention was to enter seminary, but she ended up a natural food cook and raised three kids with first husband Peter (who died in 2004). All three children are married and have kids of their own. Her daughter took up the dream, went to seminary, and serves as a chaplain at Dartmouth Hospital, Hanover, NH. Her two sons both live in Colorado. She reports that she hears from **Nancy Allison Owens '73** occasionally.

As for me, this year has been busy. I am still "pensioned but not retired," finishing up teaching an online course on worship for the Episcopal Diocese of WV — which went well, but way too much work. I won't do that again. I am finishing up consulting with a church in Wheeling, WV, (looking for a new

pastor) and am still traveling (in-person now) to two small churches (one north of me, one south of me) once a month, each for Sunday services. Helped put together an online conference in October 2020, "Listening to Indigenous Voices" and had great women presenters — representing Mde Wakatan Oyate, Yankton/Santee Sioux, Bad River Chippewa/Ojibway, and Annishinaabe/Lake Superior Band. Last Christmas was Covid restrained, so no trip to Arizona, but my youngest son and his wife came up from Chicago. Vaccinated in February-March and went to Arizona in May and Aug. My big trip was to Mesa Verde (driving), staying with friends along the way. It was hot hot hot, but glad I went. Then cooler weather for my trip to a cabin in Northern Minnesota the last week in September. The colors were much better than I expected, since they've been in a severe drought. It did rain twice just before I went. So my life has been full and blessed!

Faith Crook Perrizo '75
541 Deer Ridge Ln. S.
Maplewood, MN 55119
fperrizo@gmail.com



After a few challenging years I am pleased to be "back in the saddle again" — and even more pleased that I am able to share quite a few updates about so many of my classmates. As for myself, after undergoing chemotherapy and daily radiation treatments at The Cleveland Clinic for stage four cancer of the larynx, all is well and my fingers are crossed. The only issues I have as a result are a compromised voice (for which many people are thankful) and a loss of hearing (which often I am thankful for). By the time you are reading this David and I will be back from our fall trip to Cape Cod which is the high point of our year; we spend lots of time with friends and I eat my yearly quota of seafood. Please know that I am happy to hear from you any time of year; my contact information is listed below.

Dan Becker is still making beautiful music. While he still continues to play with a few bands, his focus is now teaching students how to master guitar playing at a School of Rock in Mokena, IL. He feels it's in his nature to continue to teach and as his children and grandchildren don't live close to him, it's a perfect fit. He's still remodeling his "old" house and in his spare time (what little he has of it) he's an avid gardener.

Branton Shearer's 66th birthday found him wrestling with retirement, and as a result he's actively looking into groups in Taiwan, Singapore, and The Netherlands for a group

to take over his work of the last 30 years. For more information on his work, which is both fascinating and life changing, see www.MIResearch.org. He's a first-time grandfather to 3-year-old Alan and spends time with him playing imagination games, blowing soap bubbles and building with Legos. Sounds like a fun grandfather to me! He's planning a trip to his ancestral homeland Germany to explore his roots, but in the meantime he's a living legacy and a wealth of information for Alan.

If you would like to see some lovely garden designs and landscaping, look no further than www.TLCGardening.com, **Sally Dinwoodie's** Company. She specializes in "horticultural gardening" and her gardens are both beautiful and sustainable. While that combination is difficult to master — she's done so. I would love to consult with her if I lived in the San Francisco Bay area, but I can always use her designs as inspiration — that's what I do with her lyrical poetry which she often posts on Facebook.

Andre Kreft lived in the San Francisco Bay area for many years where he worked as a graphic artist but he has returned to his home state of Connecticut. Drawing deeply from his personal experiences and his connection with the profound cultural variety that is found in California, he redirected his creativity towards food production when he returned east. Andre was raised to believe that meals are celebrations and that eating is an essential part of living that must be embraced with the utmost appreciation of all good things — things that we can take, give and share with grace. He's the founder and owner of Savor (www.SavorFineFoods.com) which produces, among other delicious things, cookies that sound very interesting and unique. While they all share a rich shortbread base many of his flavors are unfamiliar to me — such as tomato and onion cookies, and a floral and citrus cookie. I plan on ordering some to welcome in 2022.

When I order some of Andre's cookies, I will also have to order a pair of earrings from **Erica Zap** to give as a Christmas gift. That's if I can bear to part with them once I have them in my hot little hands. Erica's designs, which can be found on her web site (www.ericazap.com) are contemporary yet timeless. While she primarily works with silver, pearls, and leather, the ones I fell in love with are made of antiqued copper. She sells her jewelry in many galleries, but she also participates in craft shows and can be found in some specialty retail markets.

Marty Coleman, (www.napkindad.com) who started napkindad in 2008 — when he began



1: Here's what Karen James Cody, looked like ca. 1973.

2: With her two daughters in 2012:

3: And now:

publicly sharing the creative napkin art he put in his daughter's school lunches every day — now sells some of his contemporary drawings via his website. He's also available as a motivational speaker — dealing with, of course, creativity.

It's "hard to consolidate close to 50 years in a paragraph," wrote **Robin Green Sperling**, but she was able to do so! She recently retired from a lengthy career as an RN and public health social worker, and as her husband retired as well, they moved from New York to Denver. Between the two of them they have 12 grandchildren so they are looking forward to traveling to visit family and exploring more of the United States.

I don't think I have ever been able to share any news about one of my dearest friends at Western, **Paul Madsen**. After graduating from The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Science and serving his residency at St. Luke's Medical Center of Milwaukee in Diagnostic Radiology. Dr. Madsen now works for The Aurora Health Center in St. Francis, WI. He's been there close to 40 years and has a daughter, two step-children, four grandchildren and — by the time this is published — he'll be a great-grandfather. His daughter Sara followed in Paul's footsteps and is a radiologist too, and they are lucky enough to be working together right now.

Thanks to Facebook, I'm back in touch with **Karen James Cody** — after almost 50 years. She had chosen Western because of the emphasis placed on cultural exchanges with places she was interested in — Africa, and South and Central America — and her memories of Western are fond and intact. I wasn't surprised to hear that after Western, she and her Peabody Hall roommate, **Caryl Henry**, ended up on the West Coast, where

Karen embarked on a communications career that ultimately spanned both coasts. They remain best friends to this day. Karen is now a small business owner who runs a digital content writing firm based in the Washington, DC, and Baltimore Metro area. She considers herself to be blessed with her two daughters, Sierra and Savannah, and one grandson, Creigh Diallo, who just turned 3 in July.

Caryl Henry Kreft, an “Artist With Purpose,” continues to inspire me in so many respects it’s hard to put into words. Her creativity and art, her philanthropy, her spirituality, her desire to teach and nurture — all overwhelm me. Every time I visit her website (www.carylhenryalexander.com) I come away refreshed and feeling better about the world we live in. In addition to everything I have already mentioned she’s an avid gardener and herbalist, and she’s just launched a new line of goodies called Auntie Caryl’s Art and Herbs. You can purchase kits on her website along with her community driven artwork.

Gina Di Franco reports, “Here in Colorado, our Covid-19 vaccination rates are pretty good but unfortunately we have a long way

to go to get more than 90 percent of our eligible population vaccinated. It has been a hot summer with wildfire smoke from Colorado and California contributing to rather poor air quality. While ‘retired’ I continue to work in private practice as an academic tutor and cognitive strategist via remote learning sessions on a reduced schedule. Now I need to clean and organize only the parts of my office viewable in the webcam — the rest of the office not so much. Fond memories of fellow class of 1977 members (and others!) persist especially during challenging times. The memories and people are treasures.”

After 35 years of working as a paralegal specializing in government contracts and procurement, **GINNY BAXTER-CISSEL** retired and now has the time to pursue two hobbies she is passionate about: travel and her Bull Terriers, which she has ingeniously combined. She travels the entire country with her dog Chipper and his daughter, Sedona, along with her youngest dog, Star, in a Winnebago View. As her husband, Bob, is not fond of traveling, he stayed home with the dogs recently when Ginny spent two weeks in Galapagos, where she and two friends traveled through the islands on a small

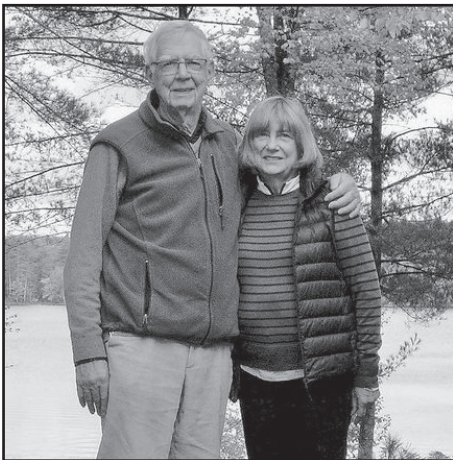
catamaran. As I write this, she is heading to Albuquerque to attend the Balloon Festival prior to camping near the Grand Canyon before returning to Virginia — by way of Florida! Her next big adventure is a trip to Alaska in her RV. Bob recently retired from his 30-year position as an administrative law judge on the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and supports her desire to travel the country. Ginny lost her mother last year, but luckily her mother had relocated to be closer and they were able to spend quite a bit of time together before her death.

So many of us are at the age where we are either taking care of someone, or someone’s thinking about having to take care of us in the future. The Covid pandemic we’ve been dealing with only shows how important it is for us all to stay in touch and take care of each other. Please be safe, be kind, and be good guardians and stewards of the legacy and spirit that is Western.

Kim Rotonto Dregalla '77
6971 Darrow Road
Hudson, OH 44236
kimdregalla@aol.com
kdregalla@aol.com

PostScript

NOT ... (as earlier reported)



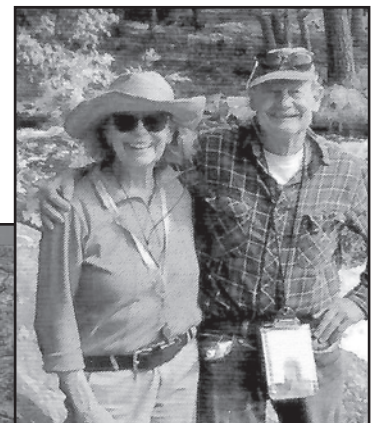
The senior Fords — David and “Mossy” — on one of their many walks

Actually, the handsome couple pictured here are **Janet Wood Beaven '64** and **Ron Anderson**. In her spring class notes, Jan wrote, in part, “My year has been made much happier by my having met Ron Anderson, with whom I have been ‘socially isolating.’ Although Ron had retired from his medical practice at Brigham Hospital, he has returned to be part of the bedside and clinical teaching program at Brigham.” [Jan’s gracious reply to Class Rep Evie Hohler: “One thing did make me laugh. That picture is not of the Fords — it is of Ron Anderson and Jan Beaven. I hope Mossy finds it funny.”]

Now, will the real **David and Carolyn Moss Ford** sign in, please! Evie had included the Fords’ Xmas card, which didn’t make it into print in the spring issue. [With sincere apologies, the editor hopes to correct that now.]

As you can see, the shot was effectively photobombed by one of their three sons (presumably Andrew). Cute as he is, it seems only fair to give Carolyn and David equal coverage. Thus, the cropped close-up. A partial recap from Class Rep **Evie Hohler’s** update: The senior Fords spent the summer months at their cottage, feeling much less vulnerable to Covid-19 there. Mossy kept busy playing online bridge several times a week, attending interesting garden club workshops, taking Later Learning in Retirement courses at Glendon College (also virtual), joining a

ladies golf league up north, and doing lots of walking with David and friends. Living in her “small bubble” since March 2020, Mossy felt that their relative isolation would have to continue for quite a while. Ontario was currently under a stay home order, which she hoped would continue to protect them from the virus variants. To revisit the rest of the story: www.miamioh.edu/University_Advancement/WCAA/TheBulletin.html



The Fords: Mossy & David



Christmas Joy 2020

In Memoriam

Mary Helen "Suzy" Allburt '41
Class Representative, 1998-2019
February 2021

Kathryn Severin Behm '42
August 2021

Gertrude von Lengerke Kimm '45
August 2021

Francile Caylor McClure '45
July 2020

Dorothy Warren Rinaldo '46
March 2021

Hilda Josefina (Perera Soto) de Diaz '48
July 2021

Anne Long Kroehle '48
December 2020

Ruth Lair Males '48
November 2021

Patricia Lawrence Chowning '49
May 2018

Maryland Black Belhorn '50
September 2020

Anne Deben Haynes '50
May 2020

Dorothy A. James Kanaris '50
May 2021

Phyla Martin Morton '50
February 2021

Claire Campbell Hanley '51
May 2013

Ann Luthy Stachelberg '52
August 2020

Annetta Mills Grove '53
December 2020

Nita Goodwin MacCracken '53
January 2021

Louisa C. Meyer '54
November 2020

Patricia Pearce Morey '54
September 2020

Elizabeth Dunham Gibbons '55
May 2021

Nancy Haas Osborn '56
May 2020

Judith McMillion Custer '59
October 2021

Constance Ralston Knecht '59
August 2017

Judy Buck '61
June 2021

Anne Frances Mahood '64
September 2021

Jill Whitman Graham '65
January 2021

Carolyn Sparks Kokalis '67
July 2021

Rosemary Gingrich Parks '67
June 2021

Jacqueline S. Wallace FF
Professor of French, 1966-1974
Director, Western College Alumnae
Association, 1983-2000
June 2021

*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 in the current or a subsequent issue. Deaths that occurred more than five years prior to publication are not included.*

Alumnae Service Awards: RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN CAREER,

AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY, HUMANITY, AND TO WESTERN

These three 2021 ASA recipients were honored at the virtual reunion, June 11-12, “Westerners Worldwide.”

Susan Blake arrived at Western College for Women in 1964 and graduated in 1968, having majored in art history. She spent her junior year in Athens, Greece. While at Western she sang in the college choir, served as president of the YWCA, and was a co-founder of the Foreign Student Discussion Group. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Teaching of English as a Second Language (ESL) from San Francisco State University, where she also taught ESL at the American Language Institute on the San Francisco State University campus. For twenty-three years prior to her retirement, Susan taught ESL at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, California. During her time with the College of Notre Dame, she also assisted with advising international students.



Susan Blake

Asked what was the greatest value of her Western education, Susan's response — years after graduation — would undoubtedly elicit a sense of satisfaction and bring a smile to the faculty and administrators who knew her on campus. She answered: “Education, self-confidence, discovery of my career, and maybe most important — *friends*.” The positive impact of Western's multicultural and international emphasis is reflected in her career journey and life: Susan's friendships span the globe!

The Class of 1968 has been well served by Susan's service as the Class Rep. Her newsy annual submissions for the *Bulletin* are a testament to the wealth of her ties and contacts with classmates in the U.S. and abroad. The reports draw upon correspondence as well as her meetings and visits with Western schoolmates during her extensive travel. We join her Japanese classmate Hisako Matsumoto Era in commending Susan's dedication to maintaining and strengthening ties with alumnae in countries around the world.

A member of the WCAA Board of Trustees since her election in 2018, Susan is currently the secretary of the Board, chairs the Curatorial Committee, and serves on the Finance, Legacy and Scholarship committees. She has also been actively involved with organizations and activities in her home state of California.

Susan Blake, Class of 1968, it is with great pride and appreciation that we present a 2021 Alumnae Service Award for your outstanding contribution to the worldwide Western College Alumnae community.*

Nancy Wilson Kobayashi is from the golden-plus class of 1969. A native of Canada, she came to Western as an international student and instantly caught the Western Spirit. She joined International Club, served as Library Council chairman in 1967, and volunteered at Cincinnati's Longview Hospital with the YWCA. Since graduation, she has served a term on the WCAA Board of Trustees (2005-2008) and has regularly attended WCAA Alumnae Weekends even though her residence is in Kamakura, Japan. A dedicated *Bulletin* Class Rep for 16 years, she continues to edit lively updates on classmates, never missing a deadline.



Nancy Kobayashi

Her fond memories of the Western campus are to be expected: classes, faculty, friends, dorm life, etc. However, a few individual experiences stand out: searching for the freshman class flag via the locked basement of Peabody; appearing before the faculty tribunal due to returning to campus after-hours, missing her first class; and becoming engaged in Mary Lyon parlor!

Post-graduate studies continued at the University of Cincinnati. Nancy received a master's in school psychology and did her internship in Hamilton County, OH. She has worked as an English crisis line counselor, phone counselor trainer, and school psychologist in private practice. A bio in the Institute of the Psychology of Eating directory references her familiarity with “the adjustment concerns and differences between North American and Japanese ways of life and eating.”

While her children were growing up, she volunteered at school events and with both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. As a board member of the College Women's Association of Japan, she served on the scholarship committee and still writes occasionally for the monthly volunteer-run English newspaper, *The Shanan Post*. Many other current activities are just for fun: Hawaiian hula dancing, reading, sewing, and swimming.

Over the years, travels have taken Nancy to Asia, Europe, and Africa with opportunities to explore diverse architectures, cultures, wildlife, and cuisine — not to mention the opportunity to meet up with former classmates along the way. True to Western tradition, she looks forward to more of both!

With pride in her achievements and gratitude for her devoted service to her alma mater, we are so very pleased to honor **Nancy Wilson Kobayashi, Class of 1969**, with this 2021 Alumnae Service Award.

Elizabeth Salt is a Western College graduate from the last graduating class of 1974 and has been an active Western College alumna ever since. “Betsy,” as she was known to her friends and classmates, was involved in alumnae activities early on, coming to Oxford with her mother, **Alice Schacht Salt ’47**, for Alumnae Weekends. Very much a family affair, Betsy’s father, Charles Salt, was made an Honorary Alumnus in 2014.

Betsy has participated in Western College club meetings, hosting many of them, and attended numerous campus reunions. She was the first and — continues to this day to be the *only* — *Bulletin* Class Representative for ’74. She has served two terms on the WCAA Board of Trustees (1976-79; 2015-18), holding the office of secretary during her first term. A side note: she was succeeded in that office by her mother!

Betsy credits fond memories of Western for giving her a broad perspective and outlook on life. Western’s values exposed her to cultural traditions through longtime friendships with several international students. At Western, she went on the South America travel seminar led Dr Fred Sturm. Since graduation, she has had the opportunity to travel around the world, cruising from the South Pacific, South Africa, Iceland and Norway, to Russia, New Zealand, and Hawaii. Through her extensive travels, she has been able to reach out to many former classmates.



Betsy Salt

Influenced by her Western advisor, biology professor Jean Cobbe, Betsy learned a great deal about Ohio woodland plants. She can still remember the Latin names of most of the common Ohio trees. After graduating from Western College, Betsy furthered her education by studying for and receiving a master’s degree in anthropology in 1975 from The Ohio State University. She did some study toward a doctorate in anthropology, but then decided to change directions and studied library science at Indiana University, where she received her M.L.S. degree in 1979. Betsy began her professional career as a librarian at the University of Northern Colorado in 1980, and at the end of 2014, she retired after thirty-one years as Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at Otterbein University, in Westerville, OH. From 1991 until her retirement, Betsy wrote reviews of both popular and scholarly books with anthropological themes for *Library Journal*. Her volunteer activities include service at the Inniswood Metro Gardens and at the Hanby House Museum, a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Her incredible personal accomplishments and contributions to society over the years have been manifold and generous. Clearly, **Elizabeth Salt, Class of 1974**, is filled with the Western spirit.

Excerpted from Betsy’s response:

... Receiving the Alumnae Service Award is a recognition that deeply touches me.

Western College has been a part of my life for a very long time. My mother also went to Western College and graduated in 1947. ... My mother was very involved in Western College alumnae activities, including a couple of stints on the Board of Trustees ... so our family made frequent trips to Oxford, and my father, brother, and I would hike in the Beech Woods or feed the ducks on the pond while my mother was involved in her Board meetings.

When it came time for me to choose a college to attend, I knew that Western College was the place for me – not only because my mother was so involved with it but also because of Western’s international and multicultural focus. ... I knew that I wanted to have the opportunity to meet other people from all over the world and get to know them as friends.

I had a wonderful four years at Western College. I did make a lot of friends both among American students and among international students. ... I studied mostly sociology, anthropology, and archaeology with Miss Barrier and Miss Reynolds, along with French with Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Wallace, and botany with Mrs. Cobbe. ...

After graduation and throughout the rest of my life up to this point, Western has remained near and dear to my heart. I still keep in touch with several of my American and international friends from Western nearly fifty years after graduation. ...

I am grateful that the Western College Alumnae Association has continued to operate for all of these years since the college closed after my graduation in 1974. I have enjoyed being involved with alumnae activities for many years and hope that I helped the alumnae association in a positive way as a result of my two stints on the Western College Alumnae Association Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees and supportive Western alumnae have done many remarkable things during the last fifty years including developing and providing for many scholarships and a professorship at Miami University. ... The Board of Trustees has been a dynamic force throughout its existence, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

I’ve also enjoyed organizing the Western College alumnae luncheon in the Columbus, OH, area for many years. ... Finally, writing the 1974 class column for the *Bulletin* each year has been a joy. It’s always nice to hear what other classmates and their families are doing.

Once again, I thank you very much for this wonderful honor. I love Western. Thank you.



Me first ... so what's happening in 2020-21? Our family got our Covid-19 Vaccinations in May 2021, and things started opening back up. We took a late spring trip to Black Hills, South Dakota, to visit Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse, with daily excursions to Deadwood, Sturgis, the Badlands and Wall Drug. Our daughter Sarah wrapped-up her sophomore year of high school online — we won't talk about the AP U.S. History exam, online school didn't quite get her ready for that, score another win (loss?) for the pandemic — and our U. Colorado freshman, Lilli, finished her first year of college at home in



Lilli's first apartment

her room at her parents' house. But not to worry, Lilli, with much excitement, and help from her parents, moved out in August, with her roommate, to their very own/very first near-campus residence in Boulder, CO.

Big adjustments for our family, getting used to our first child moving out — so many emotions, familiar feelings about the next phase of young adulthood, so much worry as a parent for her safety and well-being.



Gemma's first Parents Weekend

We attended our first on-campus "Parents Weekend" and CU Boulder football game with Lilli (in the white bucket hat) this past weekend. CU won BiG, defeating Arizona

34-0. And we are the proud owners of a new travel trailer, but were only able to make one trip this year with all the college moving and such, we went to Coaldale in southern Colorado, at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range, but we are looking forward to an exciting camping season next year!!

"Hello," from **Sarah P. Bernhardt**. She writes: "After living in Texas since 1997, I've moved! My family permanently relocated to Anchorage, AK, this summer to take advantage of an exciting job opportunity for my husband. I'm taking the first year off from working to help the family get settled and enjoy all of the awesome outdoors opportunities. This past year has strengthened our focus on gratitude and spending time outdoors. It was tough to say goodbye to my work in the Gulf Coast conservation community but I plan to find ways to use my experience in coastal planning, flood resiliency, watershed-based management, etc. here in Alaska once I'm done with my year off."

"Highlights of this year have involved reunions with fellow Western class of '97 alumni **Alicia Weaver** and **Isaac Watkins**. Alicia and I caught up in Richmond, VA, in June, and Isaac lives in Anchorage. My family and Isaac's met up in March for a couple snow hikes when we visited Anchorage before we moved. Now that we live here we see each other regularly to hike, let our kids hang out, and have even done a bit of fishing. And finally I had a visit from Architecture Class of '98 alumnus **Whitney Izor** (yay Mary Lyon residents '98-'99) for glacier tours, hiking, etc. in August. We love it here, and hope you'll look us up if you ever make it to Anchorage."

Gemma Robinson '97
jema.robinson@gmail.com



Gemma Robinson '97 and family look forward to more camping next year!

Do you know what helps with Covid stress? Unexpected visits from your WCP roommate! **Molly Myers LaBadie** visited campus earlier this semester with her mom (also a Miami grad) and we were able to get together for lunch.

Molly, by the way, is still taking the Delaware County (Ohio) library system by storm. She is Deputy Director for the library system, but she doesn't let her title go to her head. She still jumps at every opportunity to dress up in costume to encourage and inspire young readers.



Here is Molly LaBadie '99, dressed as a s'more for a recent BookMobile event.



As I was walking into my office this morning, I noticed the first hints of red and orange on the leaves of the trees outside of MacMillan Hall. It was a welcome feeling of normalcy



Roomies Karla and Molly

and nostalgia after a year that has been anything but normal.

Someone else who hasn't let Covid thwart her creativity is **Marni Shindelman**. I reached out to see what she has been up to and she writes: "Sheltering in Place in Athens, GA (my home now for 9 years!). Before quarantine I was traveling and making night landscape photographs outside of ICE detention centers across the U.S. In true Western fashion, I've been working with a colleague in human geography with her research on these private detention centers. I taught Human Geography and Art, and it was a dream course. I'm heading out in February to make some more photographs

in Louisiana. You can read about the work and my project here: (<https://instrument-sofmemory.com/2021/08/07/tell-me-how-it-ends-an-interview-with-marni-shindelman/>) I talk a lot about Western and how important it was for me.

"Over the past 18 months, I've spent lots of time swimming: rivers, beaches, pools. We discovered a new 4-mile tubing run that has kept us cool in the brutal heat. I took all my new graduate students out there this fall. We're lucky and cursed that we can swim 6+ months out of the year or more. My boyfriend of many years now, his 17-year old, and I have been cooking epic meals. Empanadas, dumplings, sushi, bread, anything to keep us occupied. We have a sweet life here. This spring, our quarantine family challenged us to watch all Fast and Furious movies before hitting the theater to see F9. We completed the challenge in June and celebrated by visiting the local drag way for street legal racing. Living the southern dream in some strange way a quarter mile at a time. If you find yourself in the area, there is always a guest room open."

Please reach out if you have any updates to share, and I'll be sure to get you into the next Bulletin. Coming to campus? Let me know and let's do lunch!

Karla Guinigundo '99
guinigkm@miamioh.edu



Annual Western gathering of friends was modified with COVID this year. Pictured top row are **Lauren Skirbunt Tabor '04**

and **Joey Gomborg McNamee '04**. Bottom photo is **Lyndsey Godwin '04**, **Megan Strobel '04**, **Kat Cochran-Yamaguchi '01** and **Amy Pierson Diaz-Barriga '01 (Architecture)**.

Lauren directs property management and has a gorgeous family in Cleveland. Joey manages programs and services for Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services and is raising two beautiful kiddos with fellow Miami grad Greg McNamee. Lyndsey just bought a new house in Carolina with her lovely spouse LP and runs affirming and powerful trainings and programs for LGBTQ+ folk at GLSEN. Megan runs product management and dances her heart out in Los Angeles. Kat is a program director for a women's career counseling org in Columbus and has three charming kiddos. Amy leads city planning in Franklin, TN, and has two spunky, wonderful kids.

This group of powerful, brilliant women have been high-fiving one another for over a decade of annual gatherings. We hope all of you are finding ways to similarly stay connected to your Western roots and soul.

Kat Cochran-Yamaguchi '01
katcyamaguchi@gmail.com



Greetings from the Western College Class of 2007! The updates this year highlight love in the time of coronavirus, full of hope and positive change. Enjoy the warm fuzzies that follow. May our fellow Westerners have fair winds and following seas for the present and future! Best always,

Christopher Kwarciany: "In 2019, I moved to the tropical island Saipan. I was planning to leave in 2020. Yet, COVID-19 nixed my plans to return to teaching English abroad like I have done before, or simply to return to my hometown of Cleveland. It's good that it did because I met someone on the island. In May 2021, I had a beautiful yet bitter-sweet beach wedding with my lovely bride Hazel, but no long-time friends or family in attendance. Soon after, I started teaching social studies at a private pre K-12 school on the island."

Willi Lempert: "I continue to enjoy teaching in the Bowdoin College Anthropology Department in Brunswick, ME. Most importantly, in September 2021, I married



Willi Lempert '07 and bride Anna

a wonderful woman named Anna, an epidemiologist who works for the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. We look forward to many happy years on the Maine coast."

Kara Love: "It was a long journey and a crazy rollercoaster ride as foster parents, but after two years in our home we were officially able to adopt Skylar into the Bruce/Love family! Watching Skylar grow, fiercely advocating for him, and getting to be his mother have been the greatest gifts in the world. After losing my job in 2020 due to COVID-19, I am lucky to be back at the Center for Social Impact at Miami in an expanded role. To top off 2021, I am thrilled to become an aunt, welcoming my niece right before Christmas."

Maureen Harter Mowl: "I am a mom of three girls (6, 5, and 2). I serve on the advisory council for the nonprofit Pause for Parents Inc. (<https://pauseforparents.org/>), the board of the local school board organization Lakota CARES (Championing Abilities, Relationships, Equity, and Strengths), and on the Parent Teacher Organization. My focus is



Mom of three: Maureen Harter Mowl '07



The Bruce/Love family

creating a partnership between the district and families with children in special education. I also work part-time as a health coach."

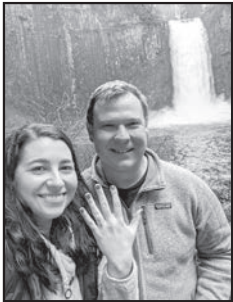
Jessica Ruff (right):

"Done with school, finally! Started a new job at the Cleveland Clinic, and got engaged. All in the last six months. Loving life."



Anne Smart (below):

"I've been living in Portland, OR, for the past few years. During the pandemic, I got engaged to my fiancé, Robert, during a hike to Abiqua Falls. We also adopted a coonhound-pitbull-mix puppy named Wren, who loves to cuddle and chase squirrels. I have led the global public policy for an electric vehicle charging startup for the past seven years and in March, we finally went public on the New York Stock Exchange. Looking forward to getting married and traveling again next year!"



I am now an official resident of Key West, FL, with going on two years living the tropical life. I still sail and scuba dive as much as I can, though sadly not as frequently as I wish. That's in part because I started my own consulting business this year. I support international development project teams with gender equality and social inclusion technical assistance. I love this weird little rock at the end of the continental U.S. Not going anywhere soon, come visit.

Emily B. Brown '07
browneb@gmail.com



Update from WAAMU (WCP Alumni)

I cannot believe another year is at a close. This year, we have been focused on building community. While at Western, I remember the incredible support and guidance I got from my Western family, and have wanted to continue to develop that community.



Audree Boggs

This year, we have played trivia, enjoyed wine together, and gathered with current students and alumni — both virtually and in person at Leonard Theatre — to share the strange and haunted tales that many of us experienced while at Western. We hope to include more Western Alum and students in our next storytelling event in 2022.

The Western community is dispersed, and the Board is working hard to bring us together and build community with each other and the new generation of Western. We look forward to continuing this work as we establish ourselves and on our legacy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Audree (Riddle) Boggs '10
WAAMU Board President
audreeboggs@gmail.com



Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation: *Changemaking and Repair*

The exciting work of the Western Center is in full swing this year as we explore multiple dimensions of what it means to be in “right relationship” with one another. Quakers understand “right relationships” as interacting in a way that is respectful to all and that aids the common good. But how do we get there?

We are working with our visiting scholar, Tracy Mack Parker, to explore the ways in which we can engage in the work of changemaking and address some of the challenges and solutions posed by the nonprofit/philanthropy ecosystem. We are also working with Dr. Rodney D. Coates, Miami Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies in the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies, to explore restorative justice initiatives in response to racial injustice.

Making the Nonprofit Ecosystem More Responsive & Sustainable

Tracy Mack Parker is an MU alum, who has more than 15 years of experience in philanthropy and nonprofit initiatives. After serving in senior advising roles for the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Philanthropy Workshop, she founded Citizen Philanthropy. She is based in New York and designs community-based immersion experiences that help philanthropists better understand community assets and needs. This involves partnering philanthropists with traditional nonprofits and grassroots organizations to learn about systemic challenges and strategies for redress.



Tracy Mack Parker

Her Western Center programming supports students preparing for careers in changemaking, by building an understanding of each economic sector’s role in social impact and discussing important evolutions in philan-

thropic giving. So far, virtual public talks have included Erin Williams at the Global Fund for Women and young Philanthropy Workshop members who spoke on the importance of using philanthropy to shift power to the communities most impacted by social and environmental problems, via tools such as trust-based philanthropy and multi-year general operating dollars. In November, we host leadership from the Body Shop and Hersheys to discuss their work in for-profit benefit corporations (B Corps) that pursue positive stakeholder impact alongside profit.

Reparations as Restorative Justice

From the unfulfilled promise of 40 acres and a mule for African Americans during Reconstruction to President Reagan’s historic enactment of reparations for Japanese Americans interned during World War II, the US has a long and complex history with efforts to repair racial injustice. The Western Center hopes to further this critical conversation on restorative justice, by examining the past and present impact of violence toward diverse racialized groups and to explore effective reparative efforts. Center programming will bring regional, national, and international scholars and practitioners to campus to share knowledge on the benefits and challenges of such initiatives.

Miami’s own **Dr. Rodney Coates** will serve as the Western Center’s Collaborating Scholar on its new biennial theme: Reparations as Restorative Justice. Dr. Coates brings decades of scholarly and practical expertise in the area of racial injustice, for which **President**



Dr. Coates

Greg Crawford awarded him the 2021 President’s Medal. Dr. Coates advises the Western Center on its public programming as well as co-instructs the spring section of WST 301 on the topic.

— *Jacqueline Daugherty*
Associate Teaching Professor, Western Program for
Individualized Studies,
Director, Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation

— *Nicholas P. Money*
Professor of Biology
Director, Western Program, Individualized Studies

Period Poverty: Publicly Engaged Research with the Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation

My name is **Aiyana White**. I am a third-year undergraduate student and this past summer I did research on *period poverty* and partnered with local community organizations to get period products to women, girls, and others who menstruate. I did this publicly engaged research with support from the Social Justice and Impact Undergrad Research Program at the Western Center. The program matched me up with a campus project called “Periods Rock!!” — part of MU’s Sexuality Education Studies Center. I met with my faculty mentor weekly to discuss root causes of period poverty, recent research on its effects, and how to solve this issue in our local communities. I am excited to share some of my work here.



Aiyana White

“Period poverty” is defined as being too impoverished and under-resourced to afford menstrual products, such as pads, tampons, and other necessary hygiene items.

Selected findings on the scope and scale of period poverty are as follows. Two-thirds of women surveyed in a recent Center for Global Women’s Health report did not have the resources to buy menstrual hygiene products at some point during the last year, and one-fifth struggle to afford period products on a monthly basis. Homeless women interviewed in a 2017 *YES! Magazine* article, report minimal access to feminine products, challenges in cleaning clothes during “accidents,” and general dehumanization, which contributes to the elevated anxiety, depression, and distress scores found in this population. As I found throughout my research, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem, with more people plummeting into poverty and the few organizations that provide period products being overwhelmed and unable to supply everyone in need.

Because taking action on this issue was important to me and the Western Center is interested in applying research to solution-making, I reached out to local community organizations to see what could be done to better support their clients. That is how I got connected with Mel Rodriguez, a coordinator from the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition (MVIC) in Dayton, to discuss this issue further and gain a real-world perspective on period poverty. Consistent with the research, Rodriguez’s clients are often low-income recent immigrants from Central America struggling with access, with no donors or period products available as well as an increasing number of those in need and increasing anxiety and danger with the pandemic. The issue is especially important to Rodriguez because of the research correlating period poverty with missed school, a problem that complicates the lives of young people

who already face enough barriers to schooling. I have continued this summer project into the semester, and am currently sending ask letters to possible donors for donations that will benefit MVIC and other local organizations, and have already collected 1,000 period products.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to research this pressing issue with the support of gift funds from **Karen Prah Voris ’68**. This mentorship experience with **Richelle Frabotta** (former Director of the MU Sexuality Education Studies Center) and **Jacque Daugherty** has been valuable to my career goal of becoming a school and community-based Sexuality Educator.

— Aiyana White ’23

Western Center Scholarship for Experience-Based Learning

Today, as we think about the legacy we want to leave and the Western story we want to tell, we ask you to think about a new scholarship initiative that ties together our desire to support students and The Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation.

Western College students have always found ways to enhance their academic experience. Whether it was in Ohio, the Midwest, around the country or even the world, the ability to take classroom lessons and apply them to the world outside of Oxford was an experience that solidified an academic or career passion or created a new one. Being part of the world beyond Oxford expanded our cultural, intellectual, and social horizons and made us more prepared for life beyond Western, experiences that have lasted a lifetime.

The Western Center Scholarship for Experience-Based Learning program has been established to provide Miami students the opportunity to seek funding to participate in social impact and innovation experiential learning programs. The scholarship will provide help with travel, housing, food, tuition, salary support, and other costs associated with these opportunities. The joy of this scholarship is that you can have the chance to learn about each student’s experience—it will be like going back and doing it again ourselves but through the eyes of today’s students.

The development of the scholarship program is part of the larger strategy of making the Center the hub of social impact and innovation across Miami University. You have already been generous donors in supporting the Center’s operation and programming. By supporting this scholarship effort, you are rounding out the impact the Center can have and increasing the Western College’s legacy not just at Miami University but in this country and world.

Honors College Dedication at Peabody



Photo by Caroline Bartoszek, *The Miami Student*

Miami President Greg Crawford cuts the ribbon in Peabody foyer as Helen Peabody looks on (from her portrait.)

Everything old is new again, as Peabody Hall becomes the home of Miami's recently launched Honors College. Or, as headlined on its own web page: "Deep Rooted Tradition. Impressive new Digs," with the added description, "Historic Peabody Hall is home to the Honors College, a hub of activity and a vibrant community including staff offices, classrooms, common spaces, and faculty-in-residence." Another echo of Peabody's past ...

The dedication ceremony, featuring several speakers in addition to the ribbon-cutting, took place August 26 in Leonard Theatre, having been moved indoors because of inclement weather. President Crawford shared, "We love those students that come here and want to write their first novel; or do their first publication; or start their first company; or compose their first music piece or play; we want them here."

In an August 27 article, *The Miami Student* defined the program thusly: "The Honors College is a program meant to give extra resources to high-achieving students during their time at Miami. Replacing the Honors Program, the Honors College aims to help students within the program succeed through grant money, enhanced research opportunities and honors-only classes."

And the mission statement reads: "Our mission in the Miami University Honors College is to foster

rigorous academic inquiry in a community of learners through innovative teaching and diverse leadership and service opportunities. Our engaging, interdisciplinary, and research-oriented curriculum directs creative and critical thought led by talented faculty. You'll explore your interests and individually design your path through distinctive academic and co-curricular experiences."

Finally, these comments from a current student in the program will also sound familiar to Western College alumnae/i: "Honors students get to enjoy more access to faculty and staff, and those relationships will help guide them through their time in college ... the Honors College would provide new opportunities for meeting diverse peers and learning about different cultures."

Honorary Degree at MU Commencement

With the words, "The efforts and accomplishments of these extraordinary individuals exemplify Miami's mission and values," Miami University President Gregory Crawford would award four honorary degrees at the December 10 fall commencement ceremony in Millett Hall. One of the honorees is our own **Sylvia Stanfield '65**. "Their contribution, passion, and commitment to advancing technology, mentorship, financial literacy, and inclusion and cultural understanding have had an indelible impact on Miami University, the community, and beyond."



Sylvia Stanfield

President Crawford's speech covers all bases, but one category stands out in regard to Sylvia, as he cites "*contribution, passion, and commitment to advancing ... inclusion and cultural understanding*." Her distinguished diplomatic service career of more than 30 years is well known to us but our WCAA Director and Honorary Alumna **Mackenzie Becker Rice** provides a more personal focus: "Sylvia has the unique ability to always see the bigger picture. She did it as a U.S. Ambassador and now for both Miami and Western. As an alumna of Western College, she loves Western with all her heart, and yet in her role at Miami [referring to her tenure on the Miami Foundation Board] she has been dedicated to ensuring Miami's long-term vitality. Sylvia is committed to finding a common ground that brings the best of the Western legacy into a bright future for Miami."

From the Archives

Grants Galore ... and More!

In the past six months, University Archivist/Principal Librarian *par excellence* **Jacqueline Johnson HA** has secured several significant donations in support of projects directly related to Western.

In March, The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation awarded Miami University in excess of \$20,000 to develop “Finding Freedom Summer,” a traveling exhibit to take the story and lessons of Freedom Summer to elementary school classrooms. Announced in August, a slightly smaller amount from Miami Initiative for Advancing, Mentoring, and Investing in Women (M.I.A.M.I. WOMEN) is underwriting digitization of the entire Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (’74) Collection, making it available online for research and study worldwide. Finally, Miami University Libraries recently completed an effort to digitize yearbooks from Western College for Women as part of a wider project funded by the W. E. Smith Foundation.

Carolyn had already donated her official papers — comprising 22 boxes of personal papers, voting rights paraphernalia, documents relating to the League of Women Voters, and papers and memorabilia from her years at Western — to the University Libraries in March 1998, when she was a keynote speaker during Miami’s Women’s History Month. In addition to digitizing the Collection, with the support of the M.I.A.M.I. Giving Circle, the Walter Havighurst Special Collections will build an educational website and fund two speaking opportunities for Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins to discuss her work and engage with students and alumni at Miami University.

Jacky and fellow librarians Kim Hoffman, Carla Myers, and Alia Levar Wegner are collaborating with faculty, staff, and students from the College of Creative Arts and the Miami University Art Museum on the “Finding Freedom Summer” project. The exhibit includes vinyl panels, each focusing on a particular theme, and accompanying lesson plans and website to help students reflect and process each panel. The lesson plans are aimed at fourth- and fifth-grade students. The group hopes to launch the exhibit locally with partners like the Talawanda school district in early February 2022 before expanding to other schools in the state and, potentially, beyond.

The panels will each center on a different image, either selected from the Libraries’ existing Freedom Summer collection or newly acquired for the exhibition. Robert Wicks, the



Jacky Johnson

director of the Art Museum and a professor of art, is lending his expertise to the project by identifying and acquiring new images and publishing rights. Informative text and graphics will join other elements from the collection like newspaper clippings and quotes to complement and provide context for each panel’s anchor image.

The third project, digitizing Western’s yearbooks, has been accomplished. Originally titled “The Western Multifaria,” 65 editions of the yearbook were published from 1910 to 1974, when Western College closed. The digitization was conducted in connection with a comprehensive periodicals digitization effort funded by a grant from the W. E. Smith Foundation.

To read more, visit the Libraries home page: *Miami University Libraries / Welcome to Miami University Libraries!* (miamioh.edu)

All in a Day’s Work ...

In addition to countless hours no doubt spent on grant writing, countless more were certainly spent on “routine” research. Jacky assisted **Elizabeth Johnson** with information for her major feature on the 100th anniversary of Ernst Nature Theatre [see page 21]. Of course, that involved culling dozens of pictures and scouring the files for identification — all too often nonexistent! Those that made the cut were scanned and sent to Elizabeth.

Last spring — archivist cum tour guide — Jacky came to the rescue of a caller seeking information about a “giant photograph found in an antique store in Northeast Alabama ... of the entire student body and staff of Western College for Women in 1928.” He was struck by its clarity and thought “it might be neat to see the grounds of the old women’s college next to Miami University...” Some months later, Chattanooga journalist John Shearer had occasion to visit Oxford. Jacky was able to figure out where the picture was posed — Kumler Chapel was in the background — and conducted him on a quick campus tour to the exact spot.

And one more thing ... Jacky also participated in and was interviewed for an undergraduate class project about the history of Peabody. International Studies major **Kenneth DeCrosta ’25** and senior **Will Thurmer** are filming: *The Search for Helen Peabody* (working title), the premise of which is that they will be “going on a ‘hunt’ for Ms. Peabody and attempt to capture her presence on video.” To provide background and context, they have been collecting a number of interviews from students and faculty related to Helen Peabody. *Beware her ghost, young men!*

Send your news — *and pictures!* — for the Spring 2022 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: Groundhog Day!

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

Jan Sandrock MacEwen '60
31 Wilton Crest
Wilton, CT 06897
janmacewen@optimum.net

Beth Cramp Dague '72
265 S. Cassingham Rd.
Columbus, OH 43209
beth@dague.com

Beth McNellie '86
emcnellie@bakerlaw.com

Andy Miller '88
millera@nku.edu

Catherine Ross Loveland '52
8159 Riverside Drive
Powell, OH 43065
614-889-1969
crloveland71@aol.com

Evie Small Hohler '64
301 Owasco Dr.
Port Jefferson, NY 11777
hohlerlj@aol.com

Betsy Salt '74
642 Mallard Dr.
Westerville, OH 43082
esalt@otterbein.edu

Michael Conaway '90
msconaway@hotmail.com

Johanna Smith '94
johanner@gmail.com

Nancy Ryan Rietz '52
100 Delaware Xing W Apt. 2012
Delaware, OH 43015
740-201-3880

Kathi Ramsey Bumblis '66
2230 NW Gerke Rd.
Prineville, OR 97754
bumblis@comcast.net

Pheetta G. Wilkinson '76
4500 Butterfield Pl.
Cincinnati, OH 45227
pheetta.wilkinson@hamiltondds.org

Kjirsten (Frank) Hoppe '98
kcf4489@hotmail.com

Sandra Franz Barnes '54
53 White Birch Way
Manchester, NH 03102
psjsjbar@gmail.com

Susan Blake '68
2900 Forest Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705
ssblake68@gmail.com

Western College Program 2.0

Larry Blankemeyer '78
blanks0330@gmail.com

Robyn MacConnell '06
robyn.s.mac@gmail.com

Cayla (Adams) Matsumoto '10
cayla.matsumoto@gmail.com

Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '58
106 Springer Ln.
Somerset, PA 15501
jlklim321@gmail.com

Kelly Felice '70
6121 Bob Galbreath Rd.
Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA 98236
noaprof@aol.com

Janey Drexler Sharp '80
janey@trusted-email.com

Western Program 3.0

WCAA, Inc.
wcaa@miamioh.edu

Dear Class Rep: _____

Your full name and class year: _____

Address: _____

Phone number and e-mail address: _____

Westerners Worldwide: Virtual Reunion 2021 Revisited



From survey of participants' responses to: *What did you like about the reunion?*

"Being able to connect with Western alumnae from all over the world. The international student interviews were very interesting, too."

"Everything ... program, layout, opportunity to hear from international students, see alumnae we never knew ... very heartwarming experience."

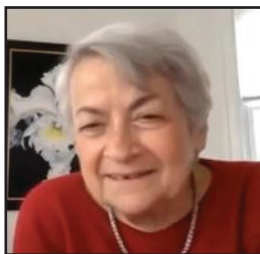
"I thought it was well organized, I loved the virtual tour of Western (brought back a lot of great memories), and it was wonderful to 'see' old friends."

"Up close and personal. Although it was not like being there, in some ways it was better because more focused and relaxed. Didn't have to worry about events in different buildings and where we had to be when. :)"

"I attended the opening and the class 1964 on Sat. I loved seeing the campus, learning more about the Legacy Seminars and the Western program as continuing to be part of the Miami program."



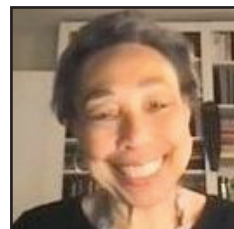
Persons of Interest: International and Domestic



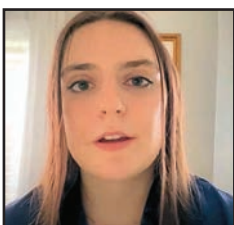
*Lily Williams '65, Greece (L)
interviewed by Janet
Dickerson-Stephens '65*



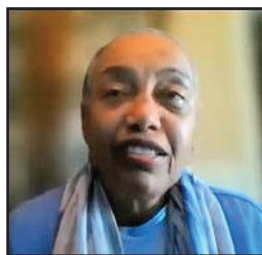
*Vicky Choy '68, Hong Kong (L)
interviewed by Sylvia Stanfield '65*



*Reunion Chairman
Extraordinaire,
Barbara Wentz '68*



*WCAA scholarship recipient
Alyssa Thrasher (L),
speaking at Annual Meeting*



Special guests, MU President Greg and Ambassador Renate Crawford

See also ASA recipients **Susan Blake '68**, **Nancy Kobayashi '69**, and **Betsy Salt '74**, pp. 37-38.

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.
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***Celebrate the Uniqueness of Western College:
Stories Through the Decades***